



# LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN UPDATE



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## A GOLDEN SHORE OPPORTUNITY



In 1997, the City of Long Beach, through its Department of Public Works, created the Golden Shore Marine Reserve, a wetland habitat located at the mouth of the Los Angeles River in Long Beach Harbor. The project was completed as mitigation for the loss of habitat at the former Shoreline Lagoon, now known as Rainbow Harbor.

Golden Shore Marine Reserve, which covers 6.4 acres of land once used as a boat launch ramp and parking lot, now serves as one of the major gateways to the Los Angeles River. In an effort to make this gateway more recognizable, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) awarded the City of Long Beach a \$100,000 grant in May 2005 to provide new signage, native landscaping, decorative fencing, and related amenities to the area where Golden Shore and the Los Angeles River Bikeway meet.

This project will provide signage identification to the southern entrance of the Los Angeles River Bikeway Trail and the transition to the City's bike path around Queensway Bay. The project will also provide interpretive signage to inform visitors of the importance and function of the Los Angeles River watershed, the impacts on the Golden Shore Marine Reserve and all other components of the ecosystem of the San Pedro Bay. All signs shall be designed and fabricated in accordance with the adopted Los Angeles River Master Plan Sign Guidelines.

The goals of this project are: to develop the visitors awareness of the history of the Los Angeles River, and the Los Angeles River of today; to educate visitors about the water quality of the Los Angeles River, the restoration of the area and the wildlife that inhabits that area; to enlighten visitors about the Los Angeles River Bikeway Trail and the Los Angeles River Watershed; and to develop among visitors an awareness of the ecosystem of the Lower Los Angeles River and the San Pedro Bay ecosystem.

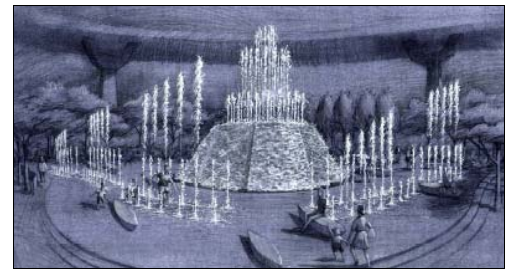
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
*Continuing Task Force Efforts*

The City of Los Angeles continues to move towards the revitalization of the 30 miles of River within the City through the proposed developments:

- The City of Los Angeles received 50 proposals for water quality improvement projects as the first funding cycle for Proposition O closed on December 16, 2005. The Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee announced the projects that will move forward as City projects approved for Proposition O funding at their February 15 community meeting.
- The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Community Outreach meetings took place in January. The next series of meetings will begin in March 2006.
- The City submitted four projects for Prop 50 funding: Pacoima Wash Greenway-First Street Acquisition, Bell Creek Riverfront Park, Los Angeles River Greenway, and North Atwater Park.

## UPDATE ON CONFLUENCE PARK

Confluence Park, a community gateway project being led by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), will be located on a 3/4 acre site at the corner of Figueroa Street and San Fernando Road. Phase I of the project will include a paved plaza area, fountain water feature equipment, planters, built-in seating, native planting, and irrigation.



Construction documents and specifications for Phase I improvements, which are being prepared by landscape architect consulting firm, Mia Lehrer & Associates, are almost complete. A contract for fabrication of the fountain equipment has been awarded to WET Design, Inc., a locally based company that specializes in the design of water features worldwide. Construction of Phase I may begin in the near future at a cost of approximately \$900,000 to \$1 million.

## *Breaking Ground at Avenue 19*



A groundbreaking ceremony for the Avenue 19 Bridge Replacement project took place on October 20, 2005. Avenue 19, which spans the Arroyo Seco near its confluence with the Los Angeles River, is one of about 80 bridges being replaced or retrofitted through the City of Los Angeles' Bridge Improvement Program. Construction is expected to take approximately 22 months with one lane in each direction remaining open for traffic until project completion.

The \$10 million Avenue 19 Bridge Replacement project is funded by the City of Los Angeles' Seismic Bond and a Federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation grant.

The new bridge, which was designed with input from the local community, will have a traditional design in keeping with the historic character of the neighborhood. The bridge will complement existing efforts to develop parks and recreational amenities in the area.

## NOT A CORNFIELD

The Not A Cornfield project, undertaken by artist Lauren Bon, is a living sculpture in the form of a field of corn. Not A Cornfield, which is funded through a grant from the Annenberg Foundation, is located on the 32-acre site commonly referred to as the "Cornfields". This project, which began in Summer 2005, has resulted in the site being cleaned, leveled, augmented with 1,500 truckloads of good dirt, irrigated, powered with electricity, and planted with corn. During the Gold Phase of the project, October 23 to December 3, 2005, the corn was harvested. Once harvested, the corn stalks, leaves and husks were processed into recyclable materials. The majority of the ears will likely be used to produce ethanol, and the rest will be saved for seed stock. Following the Gold Phase, Not A Cornfield entered into its final phase, the Blue Phase. After the corn was harvested, the field was lit by a blue light symbolizing reverie, yearning, faithfulness and distance. Overall, the Not A Cornfields project's interpretive improvements are temporary and will be removed when the new state park is completed.



GREENING ELYSIAN VALLEY

One Park at a Time

BICYCLE PARK AT CRYSTAL STREET

On July 21, 2005, North East Trees (NET) hosted a dedication ceremony for the Los Angeles River Bicycle Park at Crystal Street. The new mini-park, located along the southern bank of the Los Angeles River where the river meets Crystal Street can be enjoyed by patrons in the

neighboring communities of Elysian Valley, Silver Lake and Atwater Village. The area features native landscaping, a decorative bench, and river map signage with decorative herons attached. The map identifies river and community locations and landmarks and also shows

four fun local bike routes in and around the Los Angeles River. Planting of the site took place on April 2, 2005. The volunteer planting event was attended by students from local colleges and high schools, NET's River Stewards program, and other community members.



Marsh Street Park

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is working to design a new park where Marsh Street meets the Los Angeles River. The intention of the project is to create a stormwater detention Best Management Practice (BMP) within the proposed park area that will both improve the condition of the site and decrease sheet flow into the River. In addition to the stormwater detention BMP, the project, which is in the conceptual phase, will include recreational amenities and artistic elements designed for enjoyment by River patrons.



ELYSIAN VALLEY STREET ENDS

The Elysian Valley River Access Improvements project, which is under design, is being led by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The project, located along the west bank of the Los Angeles River between Fletcher Drive and Barclay Street, will provide

access points to the proposed City of Los Angeles' River bike path at Newell Street, Shoredale Avenue, Harwood Street, and Duvall Street. The project will promote passive recreation and improve accessibility to the Los Angeles River Bikeway for the local community. Addition-

ally, this effort will help to establish native plant habitat for sustaining wildlife throughout the River corridor. Finally, amenities such as decorative fencing and seating areas will help to give the River area a sense of place. The project is scheduled for construction in 2007.



RIVER DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

**Dominguez Gap and Deforest Wetlands:** County Public Works completed environmental documentation for both projects in January 2006. The design of the Dominguez Gap Multiuse project is currently being finalized to begin project construction in Spring 2006 and the 30 percent design for the DeForest Wetland project has been completed.

**Los Angeles River Headwaters:** County Public Works applied for a Proposition 50, Chapter 5 grant in the amount of \$3.5 million for construction of Phase 1: Jordan Avenue to Mason Avenue.

**Arroyo Seco Bikeway - Phase I:** County Public Works received comments on the draft Negative Declaration during the public review period in May 2005. As a result, Public Works is in the process of investigating the possibility of constructing the bike path outside of the channel. The advertising and construction schedules for this project are pending the results of the feasibility study.

**Tujunga Wash Restoration Project:** County Public Works recently completed the construction of the piping and associated hydraulic intake and outfall structures related to the naturalized streamcourse. MRCA is nearing completion of the landscaping design plans. MRCA will administer the landscaping and stream construction contract which is anticipated to begin in Spring 2006 and is expected to be completed in Winter 2006.

**Bell & Cudahy Riverfront Projects:** County Public Works completed 100% design and environmental documentation for the projects in January 2006. A combined set of construction documents for both projects is scheduled to be advertised for bids by March 2006.



## WATCHING PAINT DRY

### *The Paramount Murals, The Great Wall of Los Angeles, & Revisit the Red Car*

Now it is more exciting than ever to watch paint dry! Why? Because with each passing year, more and more artwork is being added to the Los Angeles River corridor! With all these projects, who isn't excited to see paint dry!?

Here are a few River mural projects, both old and new.

#### *The Paramount Murals*

In the late 1990's and early 2000's, the City of Paramount commissioned artist, Adel Rakhshani, to paint three marine murals along the east levee of the Los Angeles River. The first mural entitled, Whales, depicts a pod of whales traveling where Alondra Boulevard and the River meet. The second mural, referred to as the Happy Sharks, shows a school of sharks joined by a group of orange Garibaldi swimming at Somerset Boulevard and the River. The final mural, known as Turtles, is located where Rosecrans intersects the River. These murals were part of an effort to beautify the City of Paramount's entry points.

#### *Revisit the Red Car*

On July 11, 2005, the City of Los Angeles and Friends of Atwater Village (FAV) announced "Red Car River Park" with the official installation of signage designating existing green space abutting the river at Glendale Boulevard where the historic Pacific Electric Railway once entered Atwater Village. The area was further enhanced in October 2005 when FAV organized and completed the "Revisit the Red Car" project, a mural effort funded by the City of Los Angeles Community Beautification Grant Program which features an historic Red Car traveling over the Los Angeles River.

In the future, FAV plans to build on these efforts through the installation of walkways and native vegetation at the park. FAV's overall goal is to increase safety and access for residents seeking recreation and a

connection to the River.

#### *The Great Wall of Los Angeles*

In 1974, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contacted Judy Baca about creating a mural in the Tujunga Wash. Begun in 1974 and completed over the course of six summers from 1976 to 1983, Judy Baca and the Social and Public Arts Resource Center (SPARC), led hundreds of at-risk youth in an endeavor to paint a tribute to California and the people, particularly the minorities, who have shaped its history from prehistoric times to the 1960's.

Now, more than twenty years later, the Great Wall of Los Angeles, currently the world's largest mural, is in the process of being restored. Restoration efforts began in 2004 and continued this past summer. To date, SPARC has received about \$310,000 to restore the mural, including \$100,000 from Los Angeles City Council in 2000. Most of the money has gone to coating the mural with a protective resin, although a small amount was used for producing outreach materials and fundraising. Restoring the remainder of the mural will take approximately \$340,000 with all work expected to be completed in 2008.



*River Trivia*

In the late 1700s, Captain Gaspar de Portolá, governor of Baja California, led an expedition from San Diego to San Francisco.

Two participants in the expedition kept diaries which served as the first detailed written descriptions of California.

Name these two participants.

Engineer Michael Costanso & Father Juan Crespi

THE RIVER FOLLOW UP  
**THE GREENING  
INSTITUTE**



In 2001, the 1st Supervisorial District hosted a series of community resource workshops to train communities in park development, encourage community awareness and participation in park planning, foster networks, and encourage public-private partnerships. The ultimate goal of this effort, referred to as the Greening Institute, was to increase recreation and open space opportunities in park-deficient communities.

These workshops also served as a chance to inform the public about funding opportunities that were available through Proposition A. The workshops were attended by non-profits, local neighborhood groups, local cities, state agencies, transportation agencies, and school districts.

Los Angeles River projects either completed or in development through Greening Institute efforts include the Los Angeles River Bikeway Improvements from Glendale Boulevard to Barclay Street completed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in October 2005 and North East Trees's Los Angeles River Greenway—Taylor Yard to Sunnynook II, which should be completed by April 2006.

**MEET OUR STAKEHOLDERS**

**Friends of the Los Angeles River**

Friends of the Los Angeles River, or FoLAR, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization founded in 1986 whose mission is to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River and its riparian habitat through inclusive planning, education and wise stewardship. FoLAR was founded on the belief that effective advocacy, education, collaboration and imagination can accomplish great things. Their goal is to realize the vision of a Los Angeles River Greenway that stretches from the mountains to the sea with 52 miles of parks, bike paths, gathering places and wildlife habitat; a waterfront park that runs from Canoga Park to the Queen Mary.

Events and activities sponsored by FoLAR include:

- **La Gran Limpieza** - An annual clean up event that mobilizes thousands of volunteers along the Los Angeles River to remove trash from the banks of the river. In 2004, FoLAR's *La Gran Limpieza* became the largest urban river clean up in the country and the largest multi-cultural, multi-ethnic volunteer effort in California.
- **The Los Angeles River Awards Dinner and Fiesta** - An annual fundraising event where those who have made contributions along the river are recognized.
- **RiverWatch** - A water quality and bio-monitoring program that is designed to enable citizens to be active caretakers of the Los Angeles River as they measure and assess the effects of contaminants on selected species and habitats along the river.
- **The River School** - A comprehensive educational curriculum created in collaboration with the Los Angeles Coalition of Essential Schools and UCLA that works mostly with high school and junior high students to introduce the Los Angeles River's many facets.
- **River Walks** - Regular walks for interested community members which focus on the natural beauty, surrounding architecture, and the local bird and plant life of the river and its tributaries.

For more information, visit: [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org).

**What's New on the Web?**

In previous years, the Los Angeles River Master Plan Newsletter included a listing entitled, *Status of Los Angeles River Master Plan Projects*. This information is now available on the Los Angeles River Master Plan website. Please visit [http://ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/LA/LA\\_River\\_Plan.cfm](http://ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/LA/LA_River_Plan.cfm) and click on Project Listing to get information about scope, status, proponents, and other facts about each Los Angeles River Master Plan project.

**HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS COMPLETE!**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), County Public Works (County), and the City of Los Angeles recently completed a hydraulic analysis for the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash. This analysis utilized the HEC-RAS (Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System) hydraulic modeling software that was developed for the Corps.

This hydraulic model will be used as a basis to evaluate changes to the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash. Physical modifications to the river system (i.e., bridge widening projects, river restoration projects, new storm drain connections, etc.) can now be modeled to ensure that the current authorized level of flood protection within the LACDA Project reaches will not be compromised. Assessing impacts and updating the hydraulic model, as appropriate, will be performed through the County and Corps' permit review process.

The Corps and County have also begun the development of a hydraulic model for the San Gabriel River. However, funding limitations has put this model development on hold at this time.