LOS ANGELES RIVER COOPERATION COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Los Angeles County Public Works HQ, Alhambra
April 4, 2011

Attendees

Angela George (LACFCD)  Darryl Ford (RAP, City of LA)
Gary Hildebrand (LACFCD)  Tom Erb (DWP, City of LA)
Terri Grant (LACFCD)  Kelli Bernard (LADWP, City of LA)
Rudy Lee (LACFCD)  Shahram Kharaghani (Sanitation, City of LA)
Mark Pestrella (LACFCD)  Adel Hagekhalil (Sanitation, City of LA)
Steve Sheridan (LACFCD)  Megan Whalen (LAR Project Office, Tetra Tech)
Gary Lee Moore (City Engineer, City of LA)  Carol Armstrong (BOE, City of LA)

Welcome and introductions

Diego Cadena, Los Angeles County Public Works Deputy Director, welcomed the members of the committee and attendees.

Items for the Committee's Information

CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

Michael Gillam provided an overview of the California High Speed Rail project by discussing design options and alternatives for three sections. The Palmdale to Los Angeles section begins in Palmdale and runs southwest to Sylmar and ultimately south to Los Angeles Union Station. The alternatives cross the LA River either in aerial configuration just NE of LA Union Station (LAUS) or in tunnel configuration just north of LAUS near the Rio de Los Angeles State Park. The next step is to prepare a draft EIR/EIS by winter 2011/2012.

The Los Angeles to Anaheim section begins at the Los Angeles Union Station and runs to the planned Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center via the existing Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor. This section crosses the LA River in aerial configuration adjacent to Redondo Junction (next to the existing railroad bridge). The next step is to continue to refine the phased implementation approach and address community concerns in 2011.

The Los Angeles to San Diego section begins at the Los Angeles Union Station and then travels east to the Inland Empire and ultimately south to San Diego along the 1-215 of 1-15. This section has a number of tunnel alternatives that would cross the LA River just NE of LAUS or between 4th and 6th Streets south of LAUS. The next step is to hold public open meetings and continue to work with the community on alignment refinements.

The committee recommended that more-detailed drawings/diagrams be provided in order to clearly indicate the areas that may be impacted by the project.

Items for the Committee's Consideration and Recommendation

LACFCD — LA RIVER HEADWATERS PROJECT

Richard Gomez provided an overview of the LA River Headwaters project, which is located at the confluence of Bell Creek and Calabasas Creek. As part of this greenway project, pedestrian trails will be created along both sides of the River (1.25 mile reach), with additional amenities including native landscaping, improved fencing, rest areas, and interpretive signage. In addition, undercrossings (Canoga Avenue and De Soto Avenue), a pedestrian bridge (Brown Creek) and bioswales are also included in the project scope.
There has been significant stakeholder outreach and LACFCD is coordinating with the City of Los Angeles as they design their bike path along the south bank.

The topics of whether or not fencing would be included and who would be responsible for maintenance were discussed. It was mentioned that implementing both the City bike path and the Headwaters project together would be ideal; however, if this ends up not being the case, maybe an interim solution should be considered to accommodate cyclists until the City bike path is constructed (Gary Moore).

There was a motion to approve and the Committee approved the project.

**LA RIVER REVITALIZATION CORPORATION: NORTH ATWATER PARK MULTI-MODAL CROSSING**

Steve Chucovich provided an overview of the North Atwater Park Multi-Modal Crossing project, which proposes to create a pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian bridge (230-280' long, 27-30' wide) spanning the Los Angeles River from the area south of Atwater Park to the existing bicycle path on the west side of the river. The project has a budget of $2.8-3.8 million and should be completed within a three year period.

The LA River Revitalization Corporation will work with several agencies and hold numerous outreach meetings to inform the community and gain feedback. It was mentioned by an attendee at the meeting that the final design should possibly be more rustic in order to be in line with the historical aspect of Griffith Park (Marian Dodge).

It was also mentioned that the proponent may want to revise its answer on the Project Evaluation Form (PEF) regarding water quality since the bridge could result in quality improvement by removing horses from contact with Los Angeles River's water (Adel Hagekhalil).

There was a motion to approve and the Committee approved the project.

**Agency Updates**

Updates from various agencies were discussed. The LACFCD provided an update on Big Tujunga and the Sun Valley Watershed. For Big Tujunga, the contractor is finalizing work on the valves, finishing up the control house and pulling and powering up the electrical raceway. The dam safety instrumentation and miscellaneous metal work is on-going and should be completed by the end of May, 2011. Construction is anticipated to be done by the end of June, 2011.

In regards to the Sun Valley Watershed, the Strathern Wetlands Park Project proposes to convert an inert landfill into detention ponds and wetlands that will retain and treat flood water from the upstream portion of the watershed. Stormwater runoff will be conveyed through the constructed wetlands to provide water quality enhancement. The treated flows will then be pumped to the adjacent Sun Valley Park for infiltration into existing infiltration basins, providing recharge into the groundwater. The wetlands will also enhance native vegetation and create opportunities for wildlife habitat. Recreational enhancements and educational signage will also be incorporated into the project.

Through a friendly condemnation process, the LACFCD negotiated with the property owner for acquisition of the 46-acre property in order to implement the project. The City of Los Angeles is contributing $17.8 million through Proposition O for the acquisition and construction of the project, and will be sharing in maintenance and operation responsibilities. The LADWP is also contributing funds for the design of the project. The project is currently in the design phase and construction is scheduled to begin in 2013.

The City of Los Angeles stated that the Los Angeles River Day of Service, an event that will give volunteers an opportunity to participate in a variety of community service projects, will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2011. This event will coincide with the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) event.
Next Meeting

- The next staff focus group meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.
- The next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5, 2011. (1:00 pm, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060 (10th Floor), 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012)

Action Items

1. LACFCD and the City of Los Angeles will provide comments to the project proponents to consider and incorporate into the project scopes.

Please note any corrections to the meeting summary and notify Tona Avalos (tavalos@dpw.lacounty.gov)