Welcome and introductions
Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, welcomed the members of the committee and attendees and recognized the presence of Board of Public Works Commissioner Heather Repenning.

Approval of April 4, 2016 Meeting Summary
Meeting Summary approved.

Items for the Committee’s Consideration and Recommendation

Albion Riverside Park Project – Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles
Kendrick Okuda (Prop O Manager, Bureau of Engineering), Naushin Kamal (Project Manager Albion Riverside Park, Prop O, Bureau of Engineering) and Richard Fisher (Landscape Architect, Architectural Division, Bureau of Engineering) presented the Albion Riverside Park Project. Jane Adrian and Gary Lam of BOE were present to answer questions.

Mr. Okuda provided background on the property’s previous uses and an overview of the demolition and remediation of the site from 2011 to 2013. Ms. Kamal presented the project design, which was completed in April 2016. Several community meetings were held to inform the project’s scope. The Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners approved the design on May 1, 2016. Construction will start early 2017 and is expected to be complete by December 2018.

The project includes both above ground park amenities as well as underground stormwater improvements funded by Prop O. The project will use recycled water for irrigation. Irrigation water will be supplemented by Metabolic Studios’ Water Wheel project, pending permit approval. Ms. Kamal reviewed Prop O water quality treatment benefits. Mr. Fisher provided an overview of the park design and reviewed the park amenities to show how the below ground and above ground are connected. The park amenities are funded through various sources including Prop 84 and a Proposition K grant. This project is designed in compliance with the Cornfield Arroyo Specific Plan (CASP) and adheres to Department of Recreation and Parks design standards. The website for this project is www.albionriversidepark.com

Questions and Comments:

- Kecia Washington asked if solar was considered in existing structures and atop the shade
structures, if there will be EV charging stations for the existing public parking, and will the existing basketball court use recycled materials?

- Mr. Fisher responded that EV parking stations are included as required by the CASP. It would be worth looking at solar for the Rec Center but it was not within their funded scope. The preference for RAP and the preference of the basketball players is asphalt. Mr. Fisher added that there were lots of opportunities in the park to use permeable materials but all water in the end will run off into the planned bioswales.

- Gary Lee Moore asked, is there any run off for the first quarter of an inch for the whole site?
  - Mr. Fisher replied it will be 100% capture for the entire site.

- Cathie Santo Domingo commented that the Board of Rec and Parks reviewed this project at the Task Force and the Commission levels. All RAP Commissioners and department staff are very supportive and the plans have been approved by the Commission. Downey Rec Center is one of RAP’s most heavily used facilities in this area and RAP is looking forward to the park extension.

- Gary Hildebrand congratulated and thanked the Albion Riverside Park project team for the presentation and stated it was a good example of a multi-use project.

- Joyce Dillard offered public comment on the voting item, raising her concerns about City water rights being given to private hands on general obligation bonds and not being appropriately discussed. She contended that Metabolic Studio Water Wheel water rights are not what Prop O was intended for and objects.

Committee Action: **Recommended**.

**Items for the Committee’s Information**

**LA River Valley Bikeway/Greenway Design Completion Project - LARiverWorks/ Bureau of Engineering (BOE):** Michael Affeldt (Assistant Director, LARiverWorks, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti and BOE) and Marcelino Ascensio (Civil Engineering Associate, LARiverWorks, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti and BOE)

Mr. Affeldt and Mr. Ascensio presented an update on the City/County partnership to complete design on the 12 miles of gaps in the LA River Bikeway & Greenway in the San Fernando Valley. The partnership was announced on October 15, 2015 to co-fund the design of those 12 miles of bike path gaps to position the project for future construction funding through grants and budgeting. The City’s Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the County’s Los Angeles River Master Plan both set as an objective a continuous multi-purpose path along all 51 miles of the Los Angeles River.

Mr. Affeldt reviewed the current 11 miles of bike path that are completed and the approximately 20 miles that must be built. This project will help in part to make the path be effective and regionally significant. Mr. Affeldt pointed out its federal significance, with the National Park Service recently naming the path in conjunction with the City as part of the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail in October 2015. Mr. Affeldt reviewed the BOE-managed path projects that are active now.

Mr. Ascensio reviewed the design challenges of the project, which will be addressed in a BOE feasibility analysis. The project will include street interface points (SIPs) with stormwater treatment and public access improvements. Mr. Ascensio reviewed the project timeline: proposals were submitted in March 2016; a notice to proceed for the consultant is anticipated in summer 2016; and completion of the feasibility study in 2017. Mr. Affeldt acknowledged the work of Project Manager at BOE, Nur Malhis, and thanked the County for being partners on the project.

Questions and Comments: None

**USACE ARBOR Update:** Eileen K. Takata, RLA (Watershed Program Manager, Lead Planner, Public Involvement Specialist, Los Angeles District, USACE) and Erin Jones (Biological Sciences Environmental Manager, Los Angeles District, USACE)
Ms. Takata and Ms. Jones presented the status of the 11-mile Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project feasibility study and project area, ARBOR (Area with Restoration Benefits and Opportunities for Revitalization) reach. Project Manager Captain Eugene Y. Park, US Army Assistant Civil Works Branch Chief, and Michael Affeldt (Assistant Director, LARiverWorks, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti and BOE) were in attendance and recognized by USACE RCC member David Van Dorpe.

Ms. Takata provided background and an overview of key updates since presenting to the RCC in October 2015. The Chief of Engineers completed his recommendation report on December 18, 2015, and it was transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, for her consideration and eventual signing of the Record of Decision. Ms. Darcy shared the report with Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Takata congratulated the City for receiving a unanimous City Council approval on ARBOR CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).

Ms. Jones provided an overview on the 11 miles of the River ecosystem area to be restored between Griffith Park and downtown Los Angeles. It includes the Verdugo Wash Confluence, Arroyo Seco Confluence and key sites including Los Angeles Trailer and Container Intermodal Facility, Taylor Yard and Cornfields. The purpose of the project is to restore historic riparian aquatic and wetlands habitat, reestablish connectivity to the confluences and historic floodplains, provide opportunities to reconnect to historic wildlife zones and provide recreation that is consistent with the restored ecosystem. The project provides a holistic watershed approach by linking to other core Los Angeles River revitalization projects and Los Angeles watershed projects.

Ms. Takata reported that upon signing, Ms. Darcy will submit the report to U.S. Congress for congressional authorization to move into construction. USACE is working with City of Los Angeles, its local sponsor, partners on a design agreement that includes the USACE project management plan, the scope of work for ecosystem restoration and floodplain protection design. There will be extensive hydrologic modeling, geotech testing and a detailed design with plans and specs. The first reach to be implemented will be Reach 6 that includes the Taylor Yard area.

Questions and Comments:

- Gary Lee Moore acknowledged the County and Friends of the Los Angeles River’s financial contributions to this project. He also acknowledged USACE’s hard work on the 3,300 page report, stating this was an incredible effort starting with the County and City’s Master Plans and this goes to the next level with hydrologic studies. He stated that it will get project specific moving forward and it will be a team effort on funding. Mr. Moore also recognized the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Water and Power and Kecia Washington for project funding.

- David Van Dorpe commented that it has been a fantastic partnership with the City and all engaged stakeholders. He stated that the project is at a critical time now in the environmental process and anticipates a vote by September on the Water Resources Development Act for construction authorization.

**Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) Projects Update:** William Preston Bowling (Special Projects Manager, FoLAR)

Mr. Bowling provided an update on FoLAR projects and commemorated FoLAR’s 30th anniversary. Lewis MacAdams, the founder of FoLAR, started the organization as a 40-year old artwork in 1986 and was celebrated as a River Hero at the 2016 LA River Day in City Council Chambers.

Mr. Bowling gave an overview of FoLAR’s 30 years of LA River advocacy work for a swimmable, fishable, and boatable river. FoLAR’s work has included outreach, educational projects, running the Frog Spot along the Upper River, scientific studies and policy work. Mr. Bowling discussed the projects FoLAR is currently working on, including a third LA River Recreational Zone in Long Beach, opening its Long Beach office,
serving on California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon’s AB530 Lower LA River Working Group, a virtual reality (VR) film of the Los Angeles River and other community engagement efforts.

Questions and Comments:

- Gary Hildebrand commented that he appreciates all the work FoLAR has done over the past 30 years and that it pushed the bar to get things done on the LA River.
- Gary Lee Moore echoed Mr. Hildebrand’s comments, stating it’s a great partnership that FoLAR has with the community. He commented that River Rover is spectacular and the Frog Spot is a great place to stop by when you’re biking on the LA River bike path.

“Creating a Complete Los Angeles River Greenway: Stories and Guidance” - UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation: Ms. Kelsey Jessup (Project Manager, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation)

Ms. Jessup presented UCLA Luskin researchers’ analysis of 14 successful LA River greenway projects and their lessons learned for applicability to future efforts. This guide aims first to recognize the achievements of those who have successfully implemented projects along the LA River Greenway and second to provide advice to those interested in advancing a continuous greenway in their community. UCLA chose to undertake this because they saw a gap in documenting successful projects.

Ms. Kelsup provided a brief overview of what can be found in the guide. The guide is organized into four archetypes that cross over into each other: Pathways along the River; Parks along the River; Access Points to the River; Bridges across the River. Important findings listed in the Guidance section include: Projects should be integrated; Prioritize project sites based on where people already use the River; Break projects up into phases to keep community involved and show benefits early on; Community engagement and empowerment are key; and Bridge projects are expensive therefore it is very important to highlight co-benefits of bridges for buy-in. The draft of the guide is online and the final guide will be available August 2016.

Questions and Comments:

- Terry Grant commented that the guide is a valuable tool to develop projects along the River. Ms. Grant asked if there is a marketing plan to distribute the guide. Ms. Kelsup responded that they are working on a marketing plan and are open to suggestions, stating this was a big reason why it was important to present to the RCC. It will be sent out via the Luskin listserv and made available online. She offered to have Luskin come to community meetings and other opportunities to share the guide as a resource.

- Keith Lilley asked does it intend to be a living document? Ms. Kelsup responded no it is not and the hope the lessons learned will continue to be relevant. As a research center, Luskin is interested in conducting more work along the LA River and Ms. Kelsup offered to connect if there are areas of interest for research.

- Shahram Kharaghani asked if it would be valuable for the guide to look at green corridors going upstream along the watershed. Ms. Kelsup responded that the guide is framed to say that the LA River is not in and of itself but a part of the watershed, however, its scope only focused on the greenway along the LA River. They hope the guide can be applicable to other rivers in the watershed.

Cathie Santo Domingo thanked Ms. Kelsup for the presentation and commented that she is glad that lessons learned pertaining to maintenance were included, which is very important.

- Gary Lee Moore commented this guide is a great success and looks forward to seeing it online.
LA Basin Stormwater Conservation Study - Los Angeles County Flood Control District: Mr. Lee Alexanderson (Associate Civil Engineer, LACFCD)

Mr. Alexanderson presented on a water supply and demand study covering 1,900 square miles in the region's watersheds through a partnership of the Bureau of Reclamation, LACFCD, and local agencies (USACE, LADWP, Council for Watershed Health, TreePeople, UCLA among others). The three-year Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study was undertaken to bridge the gap between current and future water supply and demand and looked at climate change in order to be properly prepared. It was funded with $1 million from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program, $1.36 million from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), and $60,000 from other local partners. The Study area is home to approximately 10 million people, or about one-quarter of California's population.

Key findings of the study: There will be little or no change to stormwater supply in the long-term therefore the region can rely on stormwater supply into the future. There is 1.5 million acre feet of supply right now, however, if nothing is done and climate change impacts, the current supply will decrease and demand could outpace the supply we have. Supply does not need to be increased right now but infrastructure needs to be improved and water management policy is needed for worst case scenarios. The current water supply can be increased just less than 2.5 million acre feet and there will be enough of a buffer for population growth within the region.

Stormwater concepts were developed working with 40 different stakeholder organizations and members of the public. USACE co-facilitated two hosted charrettes. 500 different stormwater concepts were developed and it was found that a diverse portfolio of small-scale and large-scale projects is needed. One hundred and twenty-six concepts were placed into four categories: Local Solutions, Regional Solutions, Storage Solutions, and Management Solutions (Policy). Trade-off analysis was conducted to quantify dollar-value of stormwater supply, flood control, recreation and habitat. Other categories were qualitative, such as, urban heat island impacts and environmental justice. The study assigned five top concepts to inform their next steps: Stormwater Capture, Flood Risk Mitigation, Water Quality, Climate Adaptation, and Flood Control Dams. These inform two other major collaboration efforts: Enhanced Watershed Health Management Program and the LADWP Water Capture Master Plan.

Questions and Comments

- Gary Hildebrand thanked Mr. Alexanderson and commented that the study is a good resource and helps set the stage to support more detailed local and resilient efforts; and he appreciates the partnerships and looks forward to future collaboration.

- David Van Dorpe commented it was a great partnership and asked what are some of the barriers from getting a plan in action?
  o Mr. Alexanderson responded barriers are resident buy-in, implementation of cohesive programs, and land constraint, which means a distributor approach must be relied upon.

- Mr. Van Dorpe asked of the 1.5 million acre feet supply what is the breakdown of the supply.
  o Mr. Alexanderson responded that about two-thirds is imported water and one-third comes from local ground water for the general Los Angeles Region, however, different cities have different proportions.

- Mr. Van Dorpe commented when we get to the 2.5 million the goal is to rely more on groundwater sources.
  o Mr. Alexanderson concurred, in addition to the implementation of stormwater capture, recycled water projects, and some desalination efforts.

- Mr. Van Dorpe stated the goal here is to better use local water supply in Southern California so it does not import more.
Project Evaluation Form Update

Evelyn Cortez-Davis, P.E. (Manager of Special Projects & Groundwater Planning, LADWP) reported back to the RCC on an item requested by the Committee. Ms. Cortez-Davis presented the draft final project evaluation form on behalf of the RCC Staff Focus Group and the Water Focus Group, a newly created subset of the SFG consisting of 13 agency representatives and the Office of the Mayor. Ms. Cortez-Davis provided background on why the form was being updated. The project evaluation form was revisited to include questions about water supply, flood management, better identifying groups that will benefit from the project, any potential right of way issues, and impacts on local economy. The goal is to make the project evaluation more accessible to the lay person.

The RCC was given a Purpose and Objectives document and revised draft of the project evaluation form to review. LADWP volunteered to coordinate the Water Focus Group, which met on June 2, 2016 and will meet quarterly/as needed until the project evaluation form is final. Eleven questions were added for a total of 36 questions. The SFG recommendation was to receive feedback from the committee on the revised project evaluation form as submitted for consideration for approval at the next RCC on October 3, 2016.

Questions and Comments

- Gary Lee Moore thanked Ms. Cortez-Davis and the team at LADWP for their leadership on adaptive water management working closely with the Office of the Mayor and many departments and he thinks it’s excellent to have this subset committee.
- Shahram Kharaghani asked if numeric questions would be added. Ms. Cortez-Davis responded that it was not considered because it is an information gathering process.
- David Van Dorpe requested that the substantive changes to the project evaluation form be circulated for review. Ms. Cortez-Davis described to the Committee where the substantive changes were made and agreed to provide the requested highlighted document.
- Gary Lee Moore stated comments should be received by the end of the month and it will be reviewed to be voted on at the October 3, 2016 RCC.
- Ms. Cortez-Davis thanked all the agencies and departments at the City, County and USACE who are participating in launching this effort.

Agency Updates

- Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Richard Gomez)
  - The Arroyo Seco Feasibility Study, in partnership with the USACE, is following a similar path to that of the LA River. The costs of the study have increased from $2.7 to $4.8 million. The USACE is now working to complete a Tentative Selective Plan (TSP) by October of 2016.
  - The County is working closely with the AB530 Lower River Working Group, meeting on a monthly basis. The RMC is leading this effort.
  - Mobilization on the Tujunga Wash Spreading Grounds Enhancements project has begun. The project will increase stormwater capture by deepening and widening infiltration basins to increase the spreading grounds from 4,000 acre feet annually to 12,000 acre feet. The County is partnering with LADWP, which is the owner of the property, through an agreement.

- US Army Corps of Engineers (David Van Dorpe)
  - LA City Council voted unanimously to take the next step on CEQA for the USACE ARBOR feasibility study.
  - There is change in USACE leadership. There is a new Chief of Engineers. General Thomas P. Bostick will be replaced by Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, who is coming to Los Angeles in early 2017. The USACE Division Commander Mark Toy will be replaced with Colonel Pete Helmlinger, coming from USACE headquarters.
  - USACE is continuing to work with City and County departments on the USACE flood work
and are pressing forward to conduct more vegetation removal to clear out non-native in Fall 2016. USACE received funds in its 2016 and 2017 fiscal year budget geared towards vegetation and trash removal and appreciates everyone’s help on that as they press forward
  o USACE is hoping for Authorizing Bill (Water Resources Development Act) approval later this year and there is a very good chance that the LA River will be in it for construction authorization

- City of Los Angeles (Amalia M. Merino)
  o The public is encouraged to visit CURRENT:LA Water, L.A.’s first public art biennial, open July 16-August 14, 2016. A City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs project recommended by the April 4, 2016 RCC, it will take place throughout the LA Watershed with temporary art installations and programming in each of the 15 Council Districts and a hub located at 3306 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027. This project is in line with the LARRMP recommendation to establish public art on the LA River. For more information on site locations and about the artists, visit: www.currentla.org.

Call for Projects for Future Meetings
Applications requested by July 22nd which can be found at www.lariver.org/rcc.

Public Comments/Other Items:
  o Joyce Dillard commented on the LA Basin presentation, stating that stormwater capture at this level is not realistic based on cost. Ms. Dillard would like weather to be studied with regard to how it affects the LA River and suggests connecting with JPL who is conducting studies to see where water will fall. Ms. Dillard would like to see science applied to these types of studies.
  o Anthea Raymond spoke on behalf of LA River Expeditions, a kayaking organization, about the 3rd Annual LA River Boat Race taking place on September 17, 2016 in partnership with River LA and other organizations. 100 participants are expected and there will be two tracks. They see it as a way for community engagement and education about the LA River. She invited the LARCC members to take part in the honorary boat parade. Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell (CD-13) will be kicking off the event. Ms. Raymond handed out flyers for registration. (This event is on lariver.org calendar of events)
  o Karin Flores commented that the Lower River Working Group is open to the public (rmc.ca.gov); Johnny Carson Park in Burbank is opening on July 21, which received a Prop 84 Rivers and Parkways grant for almost $2 million for stream restoration and connects to the LA River; Pokémon Go has tremendous potential for bringing people to the River and referred to the New York Times article about sponsored locations. She thinks it would be great to use technology like this to chase illegal dumping and woodpeckers.
  o Sheryl Roberts commented that she is concerned about future flooding and High Speed Rail being located in spreading grounds like the Tujunga Wash. Gary Lee Moore responded that there are various agencies in the City working with HSR and her comments will be shared and considered.

Next Meeting:
The next RCC meeting will be hosted by the County on Monday, October 3, 2016, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, LA County Department of Public Works Conference Room A 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803.

Closing Comments
Gary Lee Moore thanked all committee members and attendees for their participation.

Comments regarding this meeting summary should be directed to Amalia M. Merino, amalia.merino@lacity.org, and Michael Affeldt, michael.affeldt@lacity.org.

For more information about the LA River Cooperation Committee, and to access meeting documents, please visit: www.lariver.org/rcc.