Welcome and Introductions
Christopher Stone, Assistant Deputy Director of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, welcomed the members of the committee and attendees.

Approval of January 9, 2017 Meeting Summary
Meeting Summary approved.

Items for the Committee’s Consideration and Recommendation

River of Beauty – Unycyn Civic Arts
Cynthia Hirshhorn (Unycyn Civic Arts) and Amalia Merino (City of LA) presented the River of Beauty Project.

Ms. Merino provided background and context for the River of Beauty Project. There are three existing murals on channel walls along the Los Angeles River or major tributaries: the Frank Romero mural on the LA River, the SPARC “Great Wall of Los Angeles” mural along Tujunga Wash, and the LA City-commissioned “Red Car” trolley mural on the LA River. The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan calls for the incorporation of public art in Recommendations #5.15 and #5.16. Ms. Merino informed the committee that Unycyn Civic Arts proposes to enact a mural on the City-owned east/north wall of the Los Angeles River, just north of the Verdugo Wash confluence (across from Ferraro Fields in Griffith Park).

The Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee (LARCC) Staff Focus Group recommended the following modifications to the proposal:
- Length of the mural limited to 100 feet
- Mural will not extend below the dry-season water line
- Mural will be placed several feet below the top of channel wall
- Mural will be temporary in nature (up to 5 years’ longevity)
- Artists to use environmentally friendly materials

Ms. Hirshhorn presented a map of the proposed location, pointing out that the mural could be placed such that it would be viewable from both the 134 Freeway and the LARiveryWay bike path. Ms. Hirshhorn presented several photos of the existing channel walls in the area. Ms. Hirshhorn stated that the project would commence upon receiving all necessary permits and approvals, with a goal of beginning in Summer 2018. Unycyn Civic Arts anticipates needing the following permits and approvals prior to beginning work:
- City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs and Public Art Committee Approval
Ms. Hirshhorn stated that Unycyn Civic Arts will be responsible for all operation and maintenance for the project, including paint sealant application and graffiti abatement. Unycyn Civic Arts will bear all project costs and management of in-kind donations of materials. The funding model is yet to be determined, but may include crowdfunding, corporate sponsorships, and donations. An advisory board has been established for the project, including representatives from various LA-based cultural institutions.

Ms. Hirshhorn indicated that the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs is considering becoming an implementation partner, but is unable to commit until funding is identified. Both Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and River LA have stated their support of the project.

Questions and Comments:

- Deborah Weintraub mentioned that due to the number and complexity of permits needed, the Summer 2018 start goal may not be feasible.
- Darryl Ford clarified for the committee that although the land may be owned by City of Los Angeles RAP, the channel wall may be owned by another entity.
  - David Van Dorpe commented that the channel wall is likely owned by USACE
- David Van Dorpe asked if the artwork is proposed on the channel wall or non-channel wall on RAP property.
  - Ms. Hirshhorn replied that the project is proposed on the channel wall
- David Van Dorpe mentioned that the City of LA will be responsible for removing the artwork after its 5-year life due to concerns about permanence.
  - Deborah Weintraub responded that the City believes that Unycyn Civic Arts will be responsible for maintenance and removal and the City will allow it by non-objection.
  - Ms. Hirshhorn responded that it is understood that the mural will not be permanent
- Wing Tam stated that spill containment measures will be needed to keep water from being contaminated.
  - Ms. Hirshhorn acknowledged this need.
- Deborah Weintraub and David Van Dorpe agreed that the applicant needs to specify how the mural will be removed.
  - Discussions will continue between USACE, City of LA, and Unycyn Civic Arts to decide.

Committee Action: **Recommended with Modifications**

**Items for the Committee’s Information**

**Sixth Street Bridge Project PARC Elements – City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering (BOE)**

Gary Lam (BOE) presented the Park, Arts, and River Connectivity (PARC) elements of the Sixth Street Bridge Project. The Sixth Street viaduct spans the Los Angeles River from Mateo Street to the 101 Freeway. To construct the bridge, the City of LA needed to acquire many properties, which resulted in the City’s ownership of land below the bridge. The City decided to use this land to create park space, which will result in a 12-acre linear park. The park space has 3 distinct sections: West Park, Arts Plaza, and East Park.

BOE engaged the community to garner input on the landscaping project, which is scoped to include pathways, lighting, a soccer field, and an arts plaza. Two community meetings were held in February 2017 on both the east and west sides of the river. Over 1000 surveys were collected with information on the community’s priorities for the park, how they plan to get to the park, and what time they would likely visit. In response to the community feedback, three options were conceptualized for the park space: Promenade, Canopy & Objects, and Episodic. The Promenade option envisions a linear park to mirror the linearity of the
overlying bridge. The Canopy & Objects option creates a meandering public space to reflect the architecture of the overlying bridge. The Episodic option imagines a sequential compartmentalized park space, separated by the bridge’s columns. Mr. Lam presented conceptual images of each design option and indicated that each provides the same types of programming with differing geometries. The Arts Plaza is intended to be a gateway to the LA River. The community has shown the most interest in the Canopy & Objects option.

Grant funding of $1.9 million has been awarded for the Arts Plaza section of the park. Funding for the youth soccer field will be provided by Prop K and Metropolis Grant awards. The total construction cost is estimated at $13 million.

BOE is currently working towards a 30% design concept as well as the Environmental Impact Report for the project. LABOE is also beginning talks with USACE due to the project’s proximity and connection to the LA River.

Questions and Comments:

- Christopher Stone asked about the project schedule.
  - Mr. Lam responded that the project is expected to begin construction in 2020 with an 18-month implementation timeline.
- Sree Kumar asked if the tunnel leading from the Arts Plaza to the LA River will modify the channel.
  - Mr. Lam responded that the channel will not be impacted because the tunnel is existing.
  - Deborah Weintraub mentioned that the tunnel is currently open and being used by USACE to access the riverbed.
  - David Van Dorpe asked whether the tunnel is currently fenced-off.
  - Deborah Weintraub responded that the tunnel is not usually fenced off. It is only fenced now for the Sixth St. bridge construction. Deborah mentioned that the tunnel is meant to connect to the planned METRO in-channel bike path.
  - David Van Dorpe responded that the USACE has not commented on the METRO bike path.
    - Deborah Weintraub mentioned that the bike path’s feasibility study is pointing towards the path on the banks of the river, rather than the invert.
    - David Van Dorpe voiced his concern about inviting the public into the tunnel and channel and that flood warnings would be needed.
      - Deborah Weintraub responded that the City is intent on encouraging public access to the river.
- The City and USACE agreed to continue discussions later.

CURRENT:LA Water – City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
Becky Snodgrass (DCA) presented an overview and recap of the CURRENT:LA Water public art installations which were located at fifteen sites around the LA River Watershed. The installations were open between July and August 2016. Ms. Snodgrass presented a video with photos and facts about the exhibition. The project received $1.5 million in public funding and $1 million in grant funding. Sixteen artists participated in the project and displayed over 85 articles during the installation. The project saw over 33,000 visitors. Over 300 public events were held during the 4-week project timeframe.

Questions and Comments:

- Deborah Weintraub asked which events were the most successful.
  - Ms. Snodgrass replied that a 3rd-party evaluation team is currently developing a final report to determine the effectiveness of the events.
  - Ms. Snodgrass mentioned that the most popular events were the nightly in-park screenings of original films.
- Kecia Washington asked where the tangible art pieces ended up after the exhibit concluded.
  - Ms. Snodgrass responded that art pieces were returned to the artists. The video recap was the only item available after the exhibition.
- Deborah Weintraub congratulated the team for their hard work and success.
• David Van Dorpe requested an encore.
  o Ms. Snodgrass replied that the team is considering another exhibit in 2019. They would like to further integrate the topic into the art to create more of an awareness campaign.
• Deborah Weintraub commented that people seemed to like the projection art pieces and that Ms. Hirshhorn (Unycyn Civic Arts) may be able to consider that as an option.
  o Ms. Snodgrass commented that there was an incident of theft with the projection equipment.

Agency Updates

Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Richard Gomez)
• LACFCD will continue to provide updates on the Los Angeles River Master Plan through LARCC. On April 4th, 2017, LACFCD was given authority to enter MOU agreements with other agencies for information sharing. A steering committee will be formed by October 2017, and a kickoff meeting is tentatively planned for December 2017.
• The Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Working Group continues to meet monthly. Three community kickoff events were held in November. The plan is anticipated to be complete in early 2018.
• LACFCD send a Letter of Intent to partner with the USACE on a federally-funded reevaluation of the LACDA system. LACFCD intends to be the study’s lead local sponsor, if the study receives federal funding.
• City of LA continues to lead the feasibility study of the 13-mile LA River Valley Bikeway and Greenway gap closure project. LA County has committed to providing $3 million in funding towards the study and design.
• LA County Measure A will replace Prop A, which will end in 2019. Measure A will have an annual revenue of $97.4 million. Winter 2019 will be the first competitive grant opportunity through Measure A.

City of Los Angeles (Evelyn Cortez-Davis and Amalia Merino)
• LADWP shared information on the Wastewater Change Petitions filed by the Cities of Burbank and Glendale. Wastewater Change Petitions are required by the State Division of Water Rights to change the volume of treatment plant releases into the river. The State will consider the required environmental documents and any filed protests when deciding. Dry-weather flows in the LA River depend largely on water reclamation releases and many projects along the river influence the water balance. Flows are likely to decrease in the future due to cumulative impacts of projects and planning efforts, which have not been studied cumulatively. The City of LA is interested in the cumulative environmental impacts of the petitions, which have not been addressed by Burbank or Glendale. City of LA filed a letter of comment to petitioners about environmental document and filed protest to the petitions. Protest periods for both petitions are closed. Ms. Cortez-Davis stated that protested petitions can take months or even years to be resolved. Burbank received a single protest from the City of LA, while Glendale received two: from the City of LA and the LA Waterkeeper. LADWP intends to engage both Glendale and Burbank to determine the next steps.
• The Taylor Yard G2 Parcel task order solicitation has been released for site remediation and planning. Contract award will be in September 2017. Deborah Weintraub commented that this is a big step for the project.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (David Van Dorpe)
• A USACE contractor is currently working on repairing the toe of slope along the river, upstream of Los Feliz Blvd. River waters have undermined this area. The grouted stone repair is expected to take approximately 5 months.
• Non-native vegetation removal work is complete. Approximately 2000 yards of trash and debris were removed from the river. A hydraulic assessment is being conducted to calculate the channel
capacity following this cleanout effort. The results of this assessment may lead to further sediment removal contracts.

- Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations have been received for the LACDA system for vegetation and sediment removal and electrical work along the river.
- Michael Affeldt (City of LA) asked whether there are plans to revisit areas of regrowth. David responded that regrowth areas will be revisited next year as part of routine maintenance. This maintenance will include removal of graffiti, non-native vegetation, and trash.

**Call for Projects for Future Meetings**
Applications requested by July 29th. Application forms can be downloaded at www.lariver.org/rcc. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

**Public Comments/Other Items:**
- No public comments

**Next Meeting:**
The next RCC meeting will be hosted by the City on Monday, October 2, 2017, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, LA City Hall (200 N. Spring Street – Room TBD).

**Closing Comments**
Christopher Stone thanked all committee members and attendees for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

Comments regarding this meeting summary should be directed to Armando D'Angelo, ADANGELO@dpw.lacounty.gov.

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