Welcome and Introductions

Mark Pestrella, Assistant Director, welcomed the members of the committee and attendees.

Approval of January 7, 2013 Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary approved.

Items for the Committee's Information

Piggyback Yard
Lewis McAdams provided background information on Piggyback Yard (LATC) site and its potential to become one of the largest areas of restoration adjacent to the Los Angeles River. The 125-acre railroad yard built at the end of the 19th century, is owned by Union Pacific, and located on the east bank of the river in Downtown LA. Studies funded by FoLAR and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy envision the 125-acre rail yard site to be transformed into an 80-acre floodwater detention basin, wetlands and parkland; with the remaining 45 acres to be reserved for new development.

Questions and Comments: None

Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement

Terri Grant provided a status update on the progress of the Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement. For the past few years, both the LACFCD and City of Los Angeles have been closely working together toward establishing a Master Use Agreement (MUA) with the goal of expediting the review and permit process for projects to be constructed on Los Angeles County Flood Control District right-of-way within the City of LA. Currently, there are a few issues that have yet to be resolved concerning content and extent the MUA should cover. The City and LACFCD will have a separate meeting to discuss these issues in the near future.

Questions and Comments: None

Northeast Los Angeles (NELA) Riverfront Collaborative

George Villanueva provided information on the newly-established Northeast Los Angeles (NELA) Riverfront Collaborative and their goal of creating a riverfront district as a focal point of community revitalization, recreational activities, environmental stewardship, sustainable civic engagement, and
economic growth for the entire city. The NELA RC looks to engage the communities of Atwater Village, Glassell Park, Cypress Park, Elysian Valley, and Lincoln Heights in defining the NELA Riverfront District. Currently, the NELA RC is in the process of drafting the signage required for the Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program.

Questions and Comments: None

**Items for the Committee’s Consideration and Recommendation**

**North East Trees and FoLAR – Forest Lawn – Sennett Creek Los Angeles River Greenway**

Mark Kenyon, project manager (North East Trees), provided a presentation on the proposed Sennett Creek Park Project. The project is located at a critical linkage point between the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles that connects the communities of Glendale and Burbank on the north side of the river to Griffith Park and Los Angeles on the south side via Barham Boulevard and the Warner Bros. Studios Bridge. The proposed project will develop a public park, green space, Class I bike path, natural walking trail, public access, shaded seating and picnic areas, and riparian area.

Committee discussion:

The project was recommended with modifications as proposed by the Committee. The project proponents are to coordinate with LADWP for the operations and maintenance of the water and power facilities in the Transmission Line Right-of-Way. After approval of plans, LADWP will require a responsible party to enter into an agreement to provide for the facility installation, necessary maintenance, and operation of the proposed park on LADWP’s property.

**Friends of Griffith Park – Anza National Historic Trail in Griffith Park**

Bernadette Soter (Friends of Griffith Park) provided a presentation on the proposed Anza National Historic Trail in Griffith Park Project. The project is located in the City of Los Angeles and involves a 4-1/2 mile stretch of Griffith Park that parallels and connects to the Los Angeles River. The project is a segment of the 1200-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (http://www.nps.gov/juba/index.htm) managed by the National Park Service as directed by Congress in 1990. The trail starts in Arizona and ends at the San Francisco Bay. The proposed project is a planning initiative to identify, preserve and enhance this 4-1/2 mile stretch with the additions of public facilities such as parking, water, restrooms, and food. Along with the benefits of improved recreation, the project will expand the public’s understanding of the river’s role in the early history of Los Angeles.

Questions and Comments: None

The project was unanimously recommended as proposed by the Committee.

**Community Conservation Solutions – L.A. River Greenway Tree-Planting Project**

Esther Feldman, project manager (Community Conservation Solutions), provided a presentation on the proposed L.A. River Greenway Tree-Planting Project. The project will restore native habitat along one half-mile section of the Los Angeles River in the heavily-urbanized San Fernando Valley between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett Avenues on the river’s north bank. This project will plant nearly 4,000 native trees, shrubs, and plants to convert nearly 70% of the site to a sustainable native ecosystem of oak woodland, mixed scrub and chaparral forest. The entire project will be on river right-of-way (LACFCD owned in fee) and no public access will be allowed in the initial phase of the project.

Questions and Comments:

The project was unanimously recommended as proposed by the Committee.
Agency Updates

- **US Army Corps of Engineers (Col. Mark Toy and David Van Dorpe)**
  - WRDA 2013: Senate Committee approved new provisions allowing public and private partnership.
  - Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Study: the Corps executed a contributed funds agreement to allow contributions from FoLAR to be transferred to the Corps to continue the Study.
  - District office had meetings at Headquarters to expedite the study and have it finished by the end of the year; schedule of Study to follow.
  - Sepulveda Basin – Vegetation clearing: Col. heard concerns of all parties with vested interested in the LA River. The next step is to come up with a list of alternatives and restoration plan is in the works.
  - Recreational Zoning: Will be in place by Memorial Day in the Glendale Narrows portion of the Los Angeles River. Public notice to be sent within the next few weeks.

Questions and Comments:

- **LACFCD (Terri Grant):**
  - Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study:
    - Kickoff Meeting was held on February 6, 2013.
    - Task 2 – Water Supply & Water Demand will start within the next month.
    - Task 3 – Downscaled Climate Modeling & Hydrologic Modeling is underway. Reclamation is performing the projected climate change modeling while the LACFCD performs the future hydrologic modeling.
    - Draft Task 3 Report anticipated to be released in August 2013
  - Sun Valley Watershed – Strathern Wetlands Park Project
    - 60% design plans are complete and currently in review by the Technical Advisory Committee
    - Construction of Wetlands Park estimated to be $40 million
    - Construction of Conveyance storm drain estimated to be $46 million
    - Prop. O contributing $17.8 million
  - Los Angeles River Headwaters Project
    - Project Plans are complete and Environmental Permits have been acquired
    - Construction for Part 1: Landscaping and Pedestrian Path Improvements is 30% complete
    - Construction for Part 2: Undercrossing/Bridge is scheduled to start first week of April 2013
    - Construction is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2014
  - North Valleyheart Riverwalk Project
    - This project was approved by the RCC at the October 3, 2011 meeting
    - 100% Design Plans have been completed and plans have been sent out for Bid
    - Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2013 and completed by February 2014

Questions and Comments:

- **City of Los Angeles (Carol Armstrong and Michael Affeldt):**
  - RRC & NELA Collaborative bike-in movie event on April 27th
  - FoLAR LA River Clean Up on May 18th
  - LA River Pilot Recreational Zone from Memorial Day through Labor Day
  - Sunnynook Grand Opening June 20th

Questions and Comments: None

Public Comments/Other Items

- FoLAR: 1st clean up since SB 1201 with no requirements to obtain a permit.
- Governance of the river needs State representation
- Corps is looking at how to budget projects by watersheds.
- North East Trees: April 17th LA River Center to give award to Mayor’s Million Trees Initiative 1:00 pm
Next Meeting

- The next RCC meeting (tentative) will be hosted by the City of LA on Monday, July 1, 2013, from 1:00-3:00 pm, LA City Hall, Room TBD, 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012.

[This meeting was canceled]

Comments regarding this meeting summary should be directed to Cung Nguyen, CUNGUYEN@dpw.lacounty.gov, Richard Gomez, RGOMEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov, and Haris Harouny, HHAROUNY@dpw.lacounty.gov.

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