RCC Agency Representatives in Attendance:

Mark Pestrella, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Gary Lee Moore, Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles

Kelli Bernard, Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles

Gary Hildebrand, Watershed Management Division, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Rudy Lee, Flood Maintenance Division, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Josephone Axt, Non-Voting Member, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

Christopher Stone, Water Resources Division, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Adel Hagekhalil, Bureau of Sanitation, City of Los Angeles

The Co-chair, Gary Lee Moore, opened the meeting, facilitated introductions, and informed the RCC and the public attendees of Brown Act requirements. Specifically, a majority of the RCC members cannot discuss projects prior to the Committee’s consideration of those projects.

Item for Committee’s Information: California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)

Presentation of proposed alignments and crossings over the Los Angeles River, and progress on the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is expected in fall of 2011. The Authority will go before MTA Board on March 3, 2011 to present alignments. The CHSRA team agreed to attend the next RCC meeting to provide an update.

Items for the Committee’s Consideration and Recommendation

Tori Kjer with the Trust for Public Land delivered a presentation of the LA River and Aliso Creek Confluence/Reseda River Loop Project. This project proposes to create a park at the confluence of the LA River and Aliso Creek. The project site is located on an LADWP power easement, an LA County Flood Control District easement, and on a portion of a vacated street, east of Wilbur Avenue and Kittridge Street. The Heschel Day School has raised $10,000 for a mosaic to be placed in the project area and students from the school continue to do periodic water quality testing. The Community Redevelopment Agency and Council District 3 are working on acquiring a parcel on the eastern/downstream end of the project area; they anticipate having the future development make a connection to the LA River and Aliso Creek Confluence project.

It is suggested that the gates that were chosen from the gate design competition follow existing TMDL requirements for the LA River and not be made of copper. Concern was raised that the projects have adequate fencing to keep people out of the River; it was confirmed that safety fencing will be included in the project.

The project was recommended as proposed by the committee.

Agency Updates
Los Angeles County Flood Control District: The LACFCD sees the US Environmental Protection Agency’s designation of the Los Angeles River as a “Traditionally Navigable Waterway” (July 2010) as a regulatory issue, but many are viewing this as a declaration that boating is allowed. The LACFCD and US Army Corps of Engineers are discussing the consequences of this designation and will report their conclusions in the coming months.

US Army Corps of Engineers: Major General William T. Grisoli, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, will be visiting January 20, 2011. The next phase for the LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study will include a cost-benefit analysis of the alternatives.

City of Los Angeles: The Low Impact Development ordinance was approved (December 17) and will go before the City Council in the coming year. The Bureau of Sanitation is working on a TMDL related project, Elmer Street Paseo. The Bureau of Engineering held the North Atwater Park Groundbreaking on October 28 and the Elysian Valley Bikeway Grand Opening on December 4. The new Executive Director for the River Revitalization Corporation is Omar Brownson—announced December 14. The Mayor’s LA River Day of Service will be April 30, 2011.

Public Comments

- More funding is needed for weed mitigation, at least 3 to 5 years after a project has been completed. The Army Corps should also consider areas along fences when weed mitigation is performed.

Potential Agenda Items for Next RCC Meeting

- Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) presentation on Access and Uses of the Los Angeles River
- Discuss possibility of a State LA River Day in mid-March since the Mayor’s Day of Service has been rescheduled to April 30, 2011.
- Update on CA High Speed Rail Authority
- Los Angeles River Access: Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) Perspective
- LACDPW’s Sedimentation Plan

Action Items

1. Confirm agenda items for next meeting
2. Make meeting materials available online at www.lariver.org/rcc
3. Continue coordination for the Mayor’s LA River Day of Service on April 30, 2011, which is expected to generate thousands of volunteers in support of River-related projects/activities.
4. Identify projects for the Committee’s review and consideration at the next meeting.

Next RCC Meeting

- April 4, 2011, 1:00-3:00pm, LACDPW Room A, 900 S. Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803