Welcome and Introductions

Mark Pestrella, Los Angeles County Public Works Assistant Director, welcomed the members of the committee and attendees.

Items for the Committee's Information

LOS ANGELES RIVER ACCESS

Charles Eddy from the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) presented on FoLAR's report for access and use of the Los Angeles River. The Report stems from the EPA’s designation of the Los Angeles River as a Traditional Navigable Water, and the implications of public uses of the river. The report recommends that a policy should be developed in the near-term that recognizes current uses of certain areas, such as the Sepulveda Basin, the Glendale Narrows/Elysian Valley, and the estuary at Long Beach. FoLAR recommends that the mission of the RCC can be extended to develop a comprehensive set of policies until a joint powers authority is established.

The report also includes specific recommendations with regards to user safety, signage, education, and permitting and enforcement. FoLAR recognized that there has been progress towards these efforts in the past year, with the Pilot Boating Program and FoLAR receiving funding for their educational efforts. The City of Los Angeles BOE reported that they are working on signage for the Los Angeles River at the direction of the City Council. In addition, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps will be submitting a River Parkway Grant application for the LA River Helping Everyone Access the River Today (HEART) Project, which will add educational signage in the Glendale Narrows area (Carol Armstrong). Maintenance of signage can be expensive, and should be considered when implementing these types of projects (Mark Pestrella).

FoLAR also suggested a concept for the Forest Lawn Greenway, which would involve riparian habitat, infiltration basins, and a bikepath to connect between Griffith Park and the Headworks Project. FoLAR was advised that permits may be necessary for the project, and to work with staff to discuss the project further.

Items for the Committee's Consideration and Recommendation

LACFCD: NORTH VALLEYHEART RIVERWALK PROJECT

Anthein (Jay) Thomas provided an overview of the North Valleyheart Riverwalk Project, which is located along the north side of the river between Fulton Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue. This project will create an approximately half mile river parkway trail of decomposed granite, improved pedestrian access, native vegetation landscaping, rest areas, and educational signage. The Project is being coordinated with the Village Gardeners of the Los Angeles River. The appropriate council offices are aware of the
Design of the Project is scheduled to be completed by February 2012, with construction beginning in August 2012 and ending in January 2013.

The Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) are in support of the Project (Barry Johnson). The Land-Use Committee of the SCNC is also in support of the Project (Marilyn White-Sedel). The Village Gardeners of the Los Angeles River will continue to partner with the LACFCD and will maintain the Project enhancements once constructed. The Village Gardeners expressed support for the Project and mentioned that community support for the Project continues to build (Rick Rabins). The LACFCD is appreciative of their support and mentioned that the best way for these types of projects to occur is for the community to take ownership (Mark Pestrella).

The project was recommended as proposed by the committee.

**MRCA: CABALLERO CREEK CONFLUENCE PARK PROJECT**

Melissa Guerrero of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) provided an overview of the Caballero Creek Confluence Park Project. The project will convert a 1.5 acre parcel at the confluence of Caballero Creek and the LA River in the Community of Reseda into a publicly-accessible natural park with habitat, trail, water quality improvements, waterfront-access, and educational amenities. Water from Caballero Creek will enter an intake grate and then be pumped to a wetland for water quality treatment and habitat enhancement. The Project will also divert street stormwater runoff into a bioinfiltration basin. Additional enhancements include an open-air classroom, a wildlife observation overlook, and fitness stations.

The MRCA will be submitting an application for the Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant Program for the Project. The parcel is owned by the City of LA and the LACFCD. The MRCA is working with the City of LA Recreation and Parks Department to assist with design and maintenance of the Project. The MRCA has also garnered support from the City Council’s Office, and community outreach will be done. It was suggested that a contingency plan be considered for water in the wetlands in case there is not enough water in the Caballero Creek (Josephine Axt). The MRCA will be moving forward with obtaining the appropriate permits and agreements for the project.

The project was recommended as proposed by the committee.

**Agency Updates**

- **City of Los Angeles:**
  - The Bureau of Engineering recently granted a right-of-entry permit to Jenny Price for tours along the Los Angeles River.
  - The Department of Transportation will be applying for a TIGER Grant for the Los Angeles River Bikeway Network, which will develop a seamless connection for cyclists along the LA River.
  - David Pettijohn was announced as the replacement for Thomas Erb for the Department of Water and Power.
  - The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) announced that there was a kick-off ceremony for the Albion Park Project, which would demolish an abandoned dairy plant and create a park with storm water BMP's that treat and re-use water from nearby storm drains that feed the Los Angeles River.
  - The Elmer Paseo Project has been awarded $800,000 in Prop. O funds to add surface swales with underground capacity to capture, treat, and recharge stormwater as well as incorporate native and drought-tolerant plants.
  - The Glenoaks/Sunland Stormwater Capture project, also funded by Prop. O, would capture stormwater from the 300 acre drainage area that floods the intersection of Glenoaks and Sunland Boulevards and divert it to dry wells and a series of bioswales.
  - The LADWP is completing Phase I of the Headworks Project, which would install a new reservoir tank; Phase II, comprised of restored natural wetlands with hiking trails, streams, and natural landscaping will be completed in 2017.
The City Council adopted the Low Impact Development Ordinance on September 28, 2011, and it will become effective in April 2012.

**US Army Corps of Engineers:**
- The recent non-motorized boating program in the Los Angeles River was a success. An assessment of the program and the lessons learned will be completed by the Corps. The Corps is interested in possibly implementing the program in the future, but has not received any formal applications.
- The Corps is working to get funding for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Study for FY12. This is a large study that could bring about bigger changes to the Los Angeles River.

**LACFCD:**
- The Lake-Alameda Greenway Project, a $1.4 million dollar Project along the Burbank Western Channel between Victory Boulevard and Alameda Avenue, is scheduled to be completed in October 2011.
- The Big Tujunga Dam Project, which included a seismic rehabilitation of dam and increased water conservation, was completed in July 2011.
- A community meeting was held for the Strathern Wetlands Park Project in September 2011. The construction of Phase I will occur between Fall 2013 and Fall 2016, and Phase II will be constructed from Fall 2017 through Spring 2019. The LACFCD is partnering with the City of Los Angeles for this Project.
- The Los Angeles River Headwaters Project, a greenway enhancement project between Owensmouth Avenue and Mason Avenue, was awarded $1.9 million through the California River Parkways Grant Program, and construction is scheduled to begin in May 2012.
- The Tujunga Wash Ecosystem Restoration Project Phase II will extend the naturalized stream further north on the west bank of the channel; heavily plant both banks with native trees, shrubs, and perennials; and construct pedestrian pathways. The Project is being completed in partnership with the Corps, and design is currently underway.

**Next Meeting**
- The next general meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012. (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 contact Tona Avalos (tavalos@dpw.lacounty.gov) with questions.