

DATE: May 19, 2022

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: WCA Staff

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 08: Liaison and Activities Report

Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>

State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

Current as of 4/27/2022

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the RMC and its respective Joint Powers Authorities. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

PARKS AND WATER

AB 30 (Kalra D) Outdoor Access to Nature: Environmental Equity

Introduced: 12/7/2020, **Amended:** 1/24/2022, **Status:** In Senate. Waiting for committee assignment.

Summary: Would declare that it is the established policy of the state that all Californians have safe and affordable access to nature and access to the benefits of nature, among other things. The bill would require all relevant state agencies, including the Natural Resources Agency, state departments, including the Department of Transportation, and their respective departments, boards, and commissions to incorporate this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria, or making expenditures, pertinent to the uses of outdoor access to nature, as provided.

AB 1624 (Ting D) Budget Act of 2022

Introduced: 1/10/2022, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Budget Committee

Summary: Would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2022–23 fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1789 (Bennett D) Outdoor Recreation: California Trails Commission: Trails Corps Program: Grant Program

Introduced: 2/3/2022, **Amended:** 4/6/22, **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Current law establishes within the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Parks and Recreation, which is under the control of the Director of Parks and Recreation. Current law requires the director to cause to be prepared, and continuously maintained, a comprehensive plan for the development and operation of a statewide system of recreation trails, which is known as the California Recreational Trails System Plan. Current law requires the plan to be continuously reviewed, revised, and updated by the director. Current law requires the director to submit a report every 2 years to the Legislature describing the progress in carrying out the plan, as provided. This bill would require the director, on or before January 1, 2024, to prepare and provide to the Legislature a full update of the plan.

Funding from this bill could be applied to both natural surface and impervious recreation trail projects. Such trails could help to connect people to parks and other greenspace opportunities, including connecting communities to the extensive existing trails system along the San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers.

AB 2346 (Gabriel D) Outdoor recreation: Outdoors for All Program

Introduced: 2/16/2022 **Last Amend:** 4/19/2022 **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Would establish in the Natural Resources Agency the Outdoors for All Program to support access to natural or cultural resources for at-risk youth, outdoor environmental educational experiences for underserved and at-risk populations, and equitable access to parks and outdoor spaces for all Californians. This program would encompass the existing Outdoor Equity Grants Program and Youth Community Access Program, as well as the Californians Outside Program, established by this bill, to provide grants to an eligible entity, as defined, for projects that provide transportation to outdoor spaces, outdoor-related recreation, outdoor physical activity programming, outdoor education, natural resources workforce development, and communications related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits.

This bill adds another funding program, the Californians Outside Program, for outdoor programming to improve transportation to outdoor spaces and outdoor physical activity and learning. As a JPA, WCA would be an eligible applicant.

AB 2387 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022

Introduced: 2/17/2022, **Amended:** 3/21/22, **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,430,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 1500 and if, approved by the voters, will provide nearly \$100 million in direct allocation to the RMC.

AB 2463 (Lee D) Public Works: Exemption

Introduced: 2/17/2022, **Amended:** 3/21/22 **Status:** Assembly Second Reading File on floor.

Summary: Pursuant to existing law, all workers employed on public works projects are required to be paid not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work, except as specified. Current law exempts, until January 1, 2024, from these requirements work performed by a volunteer, a volunteer coordinator, or a member of the California Conservation Corps or a community conservation corps. This bill would extend that exemption until January 1, 2031.

AB 2633 (Cooley D) Protection of parklands: removal of unpermitted campers and campsites

Introduced: 2/18/2022, **Last Amend:** 4/19/2022, **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Current law authorizes the establishment of a regional park district, regional park and open-space district, and regional open-space district, as provided. This bill would authorize the board of supervisors of a county and the governing body of a parkland or open space to order the removal of unpermitted campers or clearing of unpermitted campsites from its special parklands, as defined, to protect and preserve sensitive natural habitat, critical wildlife, flood infrastructure, recreational activities, public facilities, public safety, or the adjacent community from significant environmental or other degradation. The bill would require the board or governing body, at least 72 hours before removing an unpermitted camper or clearing an unpermitted campsite, to provide written notice to the camper or campsite occupant of its intent to take that action, except when there is an imminent danger to human health or safety or an emergency. The bill would require the board or governing body, consistent with applicable law and any applicable agreements, to preserve, store, and make easily accessible to the owner, as close to the special parkland as possible, any personal property that is removed or cleared if the owner of the personal property, or the owner's designee, is present when the personal property is removed or cleared.

This bill would grant LA County or the governing body of park or open-space lands (Cities) added authority to remove unpermitted campers from sensitive properties.

AB 2897 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island

Introduced: 2/18/2022, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: Current law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency and prescribes the functions and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified areas of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located along the San Gabriel River and the lower Los Angeles River and tributaries along those rivers. Current law, defines "territory", for purposes of those provisions. This bill would additionally include the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island, as described, within that definition of territory, and would make various related changes to the boundaries of that territory.

This bill serves as a reintroduction of last year's AB 1694 (O'Donnell) and is one of the two bills this year on the topic of expanding the RMC's jurisdictional boundaries.

SB 624 (Hueso D) Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act

Introduced: 2/18/2021, **Amended:** 6/21/2021, **Status:** 2-Year Bill

Summary: This bill would establish the Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act, which sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources. The bill would provide that the Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state to, among other things, promote inclusivity and representation and improve competency, as specified, among staff of the agency and each department, board, office, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to ensure all Californians and visitors of the state feel safe and welcome in the outdoors. The bill would authorize the Natural Resources Agency, and each department, board, office, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to take targeted actions, including those that prioritize communities of color, economically disadvantaged communities, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, women, and individuals belonging to more than one of these groups, to reduce elevated barriers to access and increased exposure to environmental health risks that disproportionately impact these communities and people to ensure equitable environmental protection and outdoor access is achieved. This bill would require the agency to prepare a report and submit it to the Legislature with information related to implementation on or before January 1, 2024.

SB 840 (Skinner D) Budget Act of 2022

Introduced: 1/10/2022, **Status:** In Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

Summary: This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2022–23 fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 1052 (Kamlager D) Baldwin Hills Conservancy: Urban Watersheds Conservancy Expansion

Introduced: 2/15/2022, **Status:** Senate Appropriations Suspense File

Summary: The Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act establishes, until January 1, 2026, in the Natural Resources Agency, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, created with the purpose, among other purposes, to acquire and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area, as defined. This bill would expand the area covered by the conservancy to include the southern Ballona Creek Watershed, as defined, and the Upper Dominguez Channel, as defined. The bill would rename the conservancy the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy and make conforming changes.

SB 1122 (Allen D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory

Introduced: 2/16/2022, **Amended:** 3/7/2022, **Status:** Senate Appropriations Suspense File

Summary: Current law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency and prescribes the functions and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified areas of the Counties of Los

Angeles and Orange located along the San Gabriel River and the lower Los Angeles River and tributaries along those rivers. Current law, for purposes of those provisions, defines “territory” to mean the territory of the conservancy that consists of those portions of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located within the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, as described. This bill would additionally include the Dominguez Channel watershed, the coastal watersheds of Manhattan Beach to the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and Santa Catalina Island, as described, within that definition of territory, and would make various related changes to the boundaries of that territory.

This is WCA’s sponsor bill. Latest amendment includes language found in AB 2897 (O’Donnell) with additional language that incorporates Rancho Palos Verdes in to the RMC’s boundaries.

CLIMATE CHANGE

AB 897 (Mullin D) Office of Planning and Research: Regional Climate Networks: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Action Plans

Introduced: 2/17/2021, **Amended:** 7/14/2021, **Status:** 2-Year Bill

Summary: Current law requires, by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency to update, as prescribed, the state’s climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan. Current law establishes the Office of Planning and Research in state government in the Governor’s office. Current law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered by the office to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as prescribed. This bill would authorize eligible entities, as defined, to establish and participate in a regional climate network, as defined. The bill would require the office, through the program, to encourage the inclusion of eligible entities with land use planning and hazard mitigation planning authority into regional climate networks. The bill would authorize a regional climate network to engage in activities to address climate change, as specified.

AB 1384 (Gabriel D) Resiliency Through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Act of 2022

Introduced: 2/19/2021, **Amended:** 4/19/22, **Status:** Senate Floor Third Reading

Summary: Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to release a draft of the state’s climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan, by January 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, to update the plan by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, and to coordinate with other state agencies to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. Existing law requires, to address the vulnerabilities identified in the plan, state agencies to maximize specified objectives. This bill would instead require the agency to release the draft plan by January 1, 2024, and every 3 years thereafter, and to update the plan by July 1, 2024, and every 3 years thereafter.

FEDERAL

The Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act (H.R. 803)

Sponsor: Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1] (Introduced 02/04/2021)

Cosponsors: (3)**Committees:** House - Natural Resources; Armed Services Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 03/02/2021 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

This package of bills, is championed in California by Reps. Carbajal, Chu, Huffman, and Schiff, and will protect one million acres of public land and more than 500 miles of rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains, the Santa Monica Mountains, the Central Coast and Northwest California, in addition to public lands and rivers in Arizona, Colorado, and Washington. It is a key step forward to ensuring equitable access to public lands and achieving California's and the nation's goals to conserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030.

The bill also includes the Outdoors for All Act (Rep. Barragán), which codifies the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program. The ORLP program provides grants for outdoor recreational opportunities in urban and low-income cities nationwide. Together, these efforts are key to addressing the climate crisis, ensuring equitable access to public lands and supporting public health and economic recovery in California.

This legislation is also critical to achieving the goals outlined in President Biden's and Governor Newsom's recent Executive Orders to protect at least 30% of our land and waters by 2030 to address the climate and extinction crisis and build resilience. The White House supports the bill and stated it is consistent with these climate goals.

Last year, similar legislation to protect California public lands and rivers passed the House twice. Then-Senator Kamala Harris and Senator Dianne Feinstein also previously championed similar efforts in the Senate. Advocates are urging the Senate to move quickly to pass these protections this year. The bill includes protections for the following special wild places in California:

In the **Los Angeles area**, the bill would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by over 109,000 acres to include the western Angeles National Forest. The bill would also designate over 30,000 acres as protected Wilderness and over 45 miles of Wild and Scenic rivers throughout the San Gabriel range. The bill would also establish a National Recreation Area in the San Gabriel Valley. (HR 693- Rep. Chu)

The bill would add more than 191,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The Rim of the Valley stretches from the Simi Hills and Santa Susanas to the Verdugos and on to the San Gabriel Mountains. This is a vital wildlife corridor for animals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and golden eagles.

Protection of public lands and rivers in **Northwest California**, including in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity counties. This includes protecting about 317,000 acres of public lands as wilderness, designating 379 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and requiring management plans for an additional 101 miles of existing wild and scenic rivers to help ensure these watersheds continue to safeguard endangered salmon and steelhead populations, recreational opportunities, and drinking water for downstream communities.

Protection of special places in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, located in the **Central Coast region**. This includes approximately 245,000 acres of Wilderness, two scenic areas encompassing 34,882 acres, and about 159 miles of Wild and Scenic rivers. This would be the first wilderness protection on the Central Coast in twenty years, and is particularly important as many of these areas are currently under threat from extractive industries. The measure also includes the designation of a 400 mile-long trail, the Condor National Scenic Trail, which would connect the northern and southern portion of the Los Padres National Forest by a single hiking route.

PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

River Ranger Program (AB 1558—C. Garcia): COVID-19 surge cases decreased and it is safe to convene in person again. The Project Team identified April 30, 2022 as the new date for the LA River Ranger Pilot Program Kick-off celebration.

The WCA kicked off the River Ranger Pilot Program with a land acknowledgement by Gabriella Lasso from Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, City of South Gate Councilwoman and RMC and WCA Board member Denise Diaz and City of South Gate Mayor Al Rios, and our project partners. Conservation Corps of Long Beach introduced our River Ambassadors, River in Action talked about their K-5 STEM Education Program, and Nature for All shared their Lower LA River Leadership Academy Program and then conducted a tour of the Lower LA River and Rio Hondo Confluence right after the program ended. RMC Project Development Analyst Joe Gonzalez did a great job emceeing the program. Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia provided remarks and cut a cake to celebrate the kick-off the River Ranger Pilot Program.

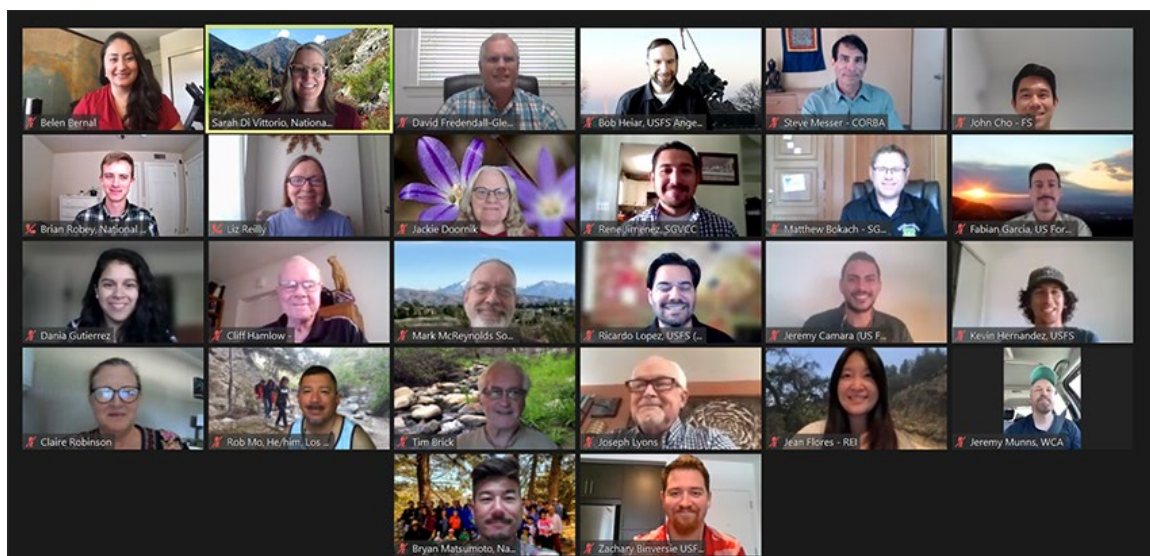
Meanwhile, the Project Team consisting of Conservation Corps of Long Beach, River in Action, and Nature for All continues with its program planning and development. Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People continues to provide technical assistance to the Project Team with feedback on program planning and development that are culturally relevant and appropriate to indigenous people and Native Americans.



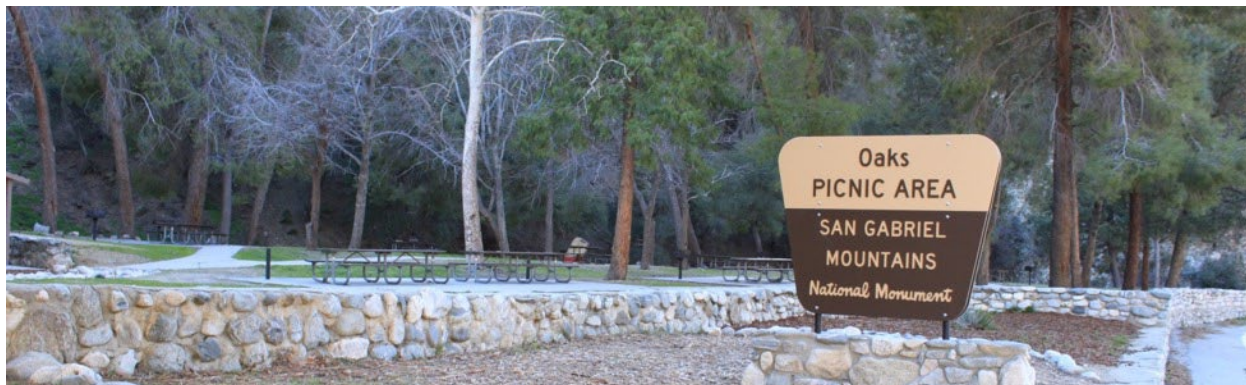


On May 31, 2019, the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was delivered to the State Legislature. The full report and supplemental documents may be downloaded at www.rmc.ca.gov

San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative: At the collaborative meeting held March 24, 2022, Fabian Garcia shared updates from the Angeles National Forest, including announcing new Acting Forest Supervisor Tom Torres. The Collaborative discussed its role in helping the Forest Service plan visitor reception efforts for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The Ad Hoc Committees reviewed their goals and identified next steps for their work in 2022.



Group photo at the July 2021 SGMCC meeting, held virtually over Zoom.



The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meetings occur every other month.

WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES

River Park Project: Construction work has been temporarily suspended while WCA works to resolve contractor terms and obligations unfulfilled to date. WCA continues to work with LA County Parks and Recreation to prepare for County operation and management of the approximately 30-acre first step of the park property implementation following substantial completion of construction work.





Photos of River Park construction progress.



The Phase 1A River Park project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.

San Gabriel River Center (River Park House) and Gardens Project: In April 2022, the Design Team completed a 50% CD package and initial cost estimates. The Design Team will continue working on the Construction Document (CD) package and permitting throughout the month of May. WCA staff is reviewing and providing feedback to design documents as well as continuing to help coordinate permitting activities.

WCA staff held a meeting with stakeholder groups on April 11th to discuss the project and present conceptual plans. Staff from Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, LA County Trails, LA County

Public Works, and LA County Supervisorial District 1 were in attendance, as well as the Design Team and RMC and WCA staff. WCA and the Design Team presented plans and facilitated a discussion about the design and future programming and operations. Following the meeting, WCA send out a survey for additional feedback.



The San Gabriel River Center and Gardens Project will transform a 1929 Spanish colonial revival farmhouse into a water-wise educational resource and visitor center for the public. The surrounding demonstration gardens will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Implementation Plan: The Plan is a multi-objective effort to transform existing Los Angeles County Flood Control District right of way in the San Gabriel Valley into a world-class Greenway Network in conjunction with identifying ways to upgrade and enhance the District's existing flood control facilities. The Plan will build upon the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) ongoing Active Transportation Planning Initiative and will highlight connectivity with other planned active transportation components and green urban infrastructure projects throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

In support of plan development the WCA is facilitating community engagement at the local level as approved by the WCA Governing Board January 2021 through an agreement with the LA County Flood Control District October 2018.

The Plan will accelerate development of greenway design standards and create cooperative agreements with other agencies to expedite project delivery for shovel ready projects. This approach will enable

simultaneous implementation of high priority greenway projects while ensuring consistency with the broader master planning of the Greenway Network.

Emerald Necklace: The working group last met on May 5, 2022. WCA staff provided updates on its Emerald Necklace projects in both construction and planning stages, including River Park, San Gabriel River Center and Gardens, San Gabriel River Walk, and River Park Equestrian Center. The group will continue to meet quarterly in an effort to identify funding, prepare grant applications and seek to partner to develop projects identified in the Emerald Necklace Plan.

EMERALD NECKLACE

FEASIBILITY STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PHASE I

The Emerald Necklace is an extraordinary 17-mile loop of bicycle and multi-use trails which links parks and open spaces along two waterways, the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Phase I's 16 projects will close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to hundreds of thousands of constituents. Ongoing efforts will also add gateways, signage and greening. Further phases identified in the feasibility study will continue to expand the system in following years, contingent on funding and public support.

Westside Multi-Use Trail:

A Trail for All User Groups

The purpose of this trail is to create a continuous loop around the Westside area, linking existing trails and open spaces. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians.

- 12 Multi-Use Trail: A Bambera Wash from State Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13 Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
- 14 Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage
- 15 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

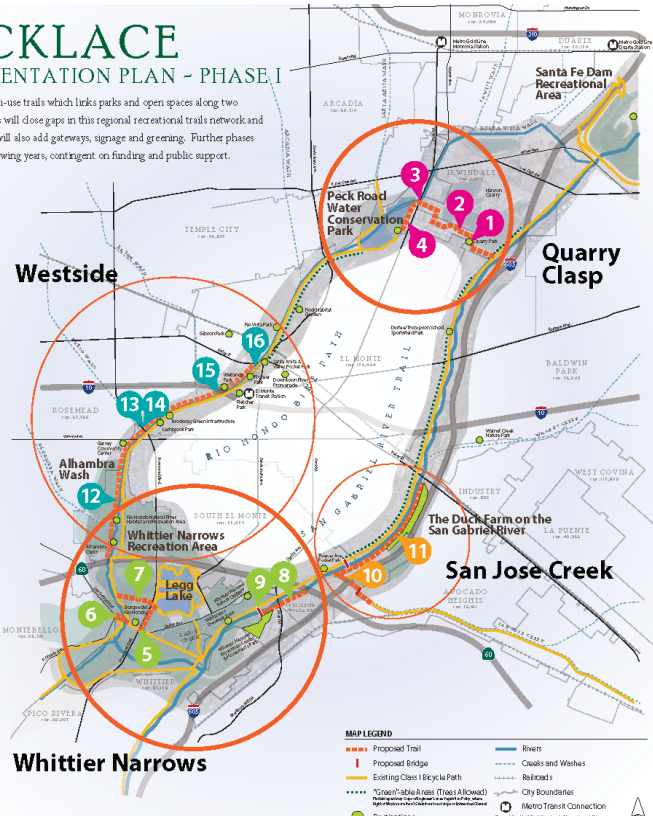
Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect existing trails and open spaces, providing a continuous loop around the Whittier Narrows area. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Legg Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Bousque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signalized Crossing, Signage & Wayfinding
- 7 Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Legg Lake through the Southern California Edison Encasement
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Puller's Village from State Highway 60 to Horseman's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Horseman's Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp:

Completing the Loop

With the Trail segment between Peck Road Water Conservation Park and the San Gabriel River, the trail will connect the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail and Bike Paths
- 3 Signalized Crossing at Peck Road with Signage and Wayfinding
- 4 Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path: Connection in Peck Road Water Conservation Park

San Jose Creek Regional Access:

Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

This segment will provide a continuous loop around the San Jose Creek area, linking existing trails and open spaces. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians.

- 10 Multi-Use Trails and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail
- 11 Multi-Use Trail: From San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River



The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreational Area in the south.

The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

Foothills Open Space Planning: WCA has been meeting with potential partners to forward engagement and alternatives to development on key parcels identified in the plan. Currently, WCA is preparing an Adobe format presentation of the Plan which will facilitate dialogue with potential partners.

Vasquez Acquisitions and Interim Land Management Plan: Two RFPs were issued to forward Land Management Guidelines for WCA's Azusa Foothills Open Space. The first RFP seeks proposals from qualified entities to produce Invasive Species Management Guidelines to be used to contract for invasive species removal as needed. The Guidelines will detail goals, including species to prioritize, targeted areas of removal, timing and methods of removal, methods and frequency of monitoring, other considerations, and desired qualifications for parties contracted to conduct such activities. The selected Consultant shall refer to the biological survey reports and management recommendations made by Tidal Influence (2019) and Cooper Ecological Monitoring (2020), which discuss invasive species present and factors to consider in invasive species management on these lands. An Integrated Pest Management approach that prioritizes non-chemical means of invasive species removal is preferred. The requested services are to occur during the summer and fall of 2022. This RFP was distributed by email, posted on the WCA website, and sent to the online RFP board of the California Society for Ecological Restoration.

A second RFP seeks to identify workshop leaders to partner with on a series of planning workshops on the topic of Stewardship and Engagement in relation to WCA's Azusa Foothills Open Space lands. Selected consultants will serve as guest conversation leaders on topics of their interest and expertise in relation to Azusa Foothills Open Space, and will collaborate with the WCA Project Manager to organize and conduct walking tours and field workshops that promote appreciation and dialogue about conservation lands in Azusa in relation to their areas of interest. Workshop leaders will also produce a written report on workshop results. Themes and content developed in the workshops will be incorporated by WCA into stewardship guidelines, prototypes of interpretive signage, and web content. Workshop leaders shall additionally provide feedback on draft interpretive materials produced by WCA staff and collaborators. The contracted activities shall take place between August 1, 2022 and February 18, 2023.

The selection process for both RFPs will occur in late June.

The Vasquez open space acquisitions protect some of the last undeveloped private holdings along the foothills from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses. WCA acquisition of these lands augments an existing cluster of contiguous public conservation lands in the Azusa Foothills that includes WCA's River Wilderness Park, Azusa-RMC Open Space, and City of Pasadena Open Space.

GREEN Project: Work under this project has been completed, including support and advancement of several major regional initiatives since 2016, including the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network, initial work on the LA River supplemental flows study, participatory design and planning along the Lower LA River, concept development, and digital inventories and resources leveraged in WCA and RMC efforts throughout the territory.

Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Vision Plan: The plan is now available online:
<https://greenportal.wca.ca.gov/>

Please share with anyone that may be interested and direct any questions to Johnathan Perisho at jperisho@wca.ca.gov. Final presentations were made to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Planning Directors and joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee April 13 and May 4, respectively. WCA staff will continue to leverage plan material and share more widely through agency efforts and communications.



The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area.

Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis: The Flood Control Rental Agreement that will allow the Heal the Bay's Lower Los Angeles River Stream Team to install digital temperature loggers at ten testing sites that will enable more systematic data collection over both the Upper and Lower Los Angeles River has been executed. The data collected will be provided to Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to summarize. This will conclude the Supplemental Analysis.

Cooper Ecological Monitoring's report on current vegetation communities in both the Upper and Lower Los Angeles River channels, funded by the Supplemental Analysis, was presented at a meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences at Cal State Fullerton. The biological study will also be incorporated into interpretive signage at Parque Dos Rios.

The purpose of the Supplemental Analysis is to supplement the State Water Board funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include a more robust analysis of the potential impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Lower Los Angeles River from reduced instream water flows resulting from increased wastewater re-use upstream. An RMC grant funds WCA's participation in the Stakeholder group and adding outreach and third-party review of the analysis.

Mt Baldy Wilderness Preserve Fuel Modification: WCA anticipates posting an RFP for removal of invasive broom at the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve this week. Activities will follow the practices outlined in the Invasive Species Management Plan for Mount Baldy Wilderness Preserve prepared by Inland Empire Resource Conservation District in 2020.

Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning: Work has been substantially completed on the demolition of an abandoned Warehouse, site clearance, and area development improvements at the Crystal Lake Visitor center for an outdoor courtyard with seating. Final punch-list elements are in-process.

Additionally, WCA and USFS have finalized a Phase II Master Agreement to continue the partnership and collaborative planning and implementation of projects within the forest between the WCA and USFS. Projects identified so far include construction of camp host sites at Crystal Lake campground.

Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning, authorized by U.S. Forest Service under a Supplemental Project Agreement with WCA, to implement a redevelopment and enhancement conceptual planning effort for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles National Forest, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources. The implementation of maintenance and site improvements has been approved by USFS.

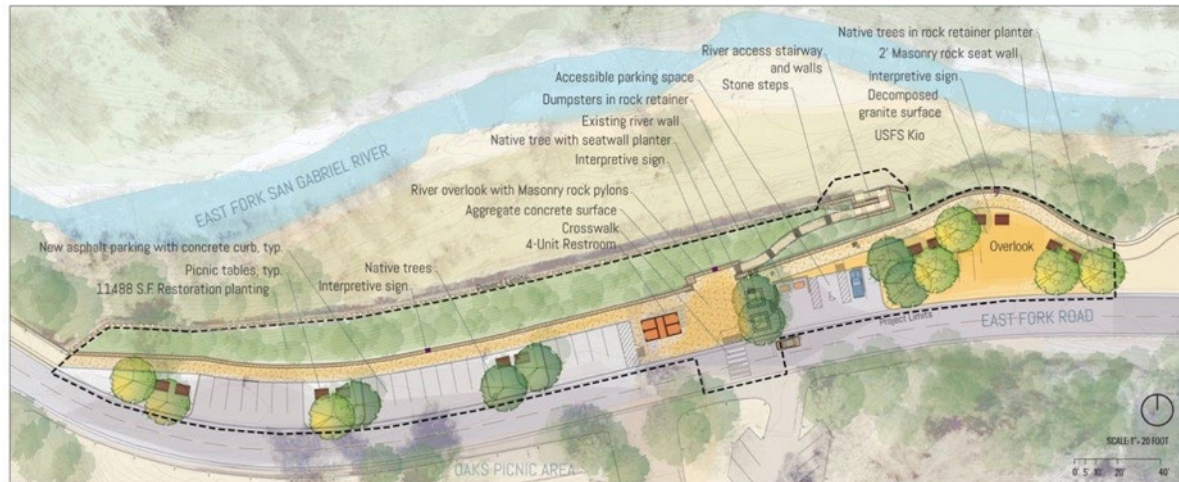
River Wilderness Park: The Construction Drawing package is now at 100% and remaining work concerns specific entitlements—approvals are anticipated by Fall this year to be ready to start construction outside the street and highway ROW. Notably additional entitlements still include Caltrans approval requiring additional geotechnical borings moving forward and a lead compliance assessment and plan, as well as work concerning ownership over Old San Gabriel Canyon Road. WCA staff also continues to seek funding for complete implementation of plan elements.



The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project: WCA consultant, BlueGreen, has substantially completed its work on the site design for the project's first access point on the East Fork across from the Oaks Picnic Area. Due to the dissolving of the BlueGreen partnership in December 2021, work on the

design of an additional access point which extends the footprint of the design, as well as completion of the full CD package, is currently on hold. WCA is engaging with the remaining constituents of the dissolved BlueGreen Consulting to individually complete the remaining design work and move into permitting.



Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project

Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.

South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque Dos Rios: The RMC has awarded funding to address site appropriate improvements and site hardening for heightened risk and property damage at this location. This funding also includes exploration of necessary steps for additional work on site, and to make improvements to the overlook areas within the existing hardscapes of the LA County Flood Control District easement.

Findings of subsurface legacy waste disposal not previously identified in the original 2008 environmental site assessment have suspended construction across the wider WCA property. The WCA has been in contact with the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) under the County Department of Public Health to identify requirements for further work. The new scope includes significant steps to meet regulatory requirements and to determine feasibility of the wider vision for the park and neighboring property.



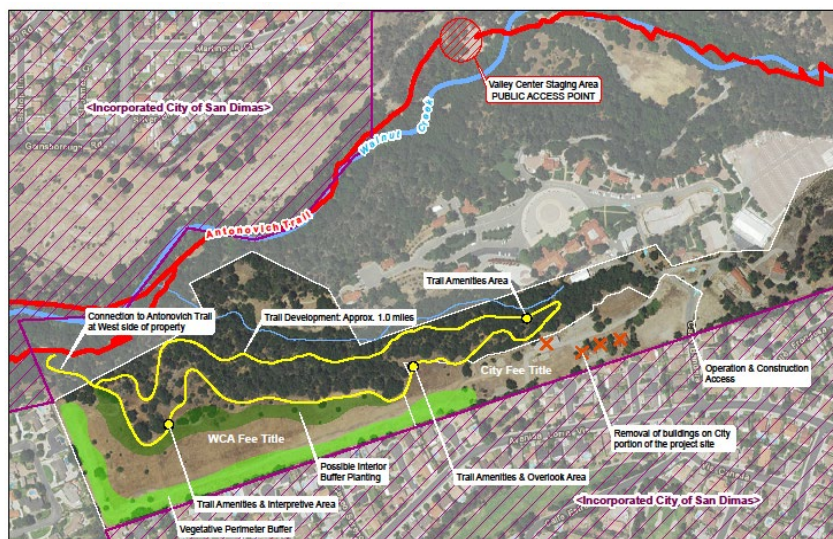
Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.

Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: The City of San Dimas is in the process of completing the remaining items of their RPOSD Prop A grant related to the Trail project. WCA staff has been assisting in the delivery of the final elements for the project. Additionally, WCA Staff has designed and had fabricated interpretive, funder dedication, operational, wayfinding, and botanical plant ID plaques and signage. These elements are awaiting installation by City of San Dimas.

WCA has submitted an application to the County for a Certificate of Compliance, a prerequisite of applying for a Lot Line Adjustment. WCA and the Tzu Chi Foundation are now seeking proposals for survey and legal description to complete the application for a Lot Line Adjustment.



One of the trail's completed interpretive signs awaiting installation.



WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY

Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.