

DATE: March 21, 2019

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: WCA Staff

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 09: 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 3/06/19

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 WCA. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

PARKS AND WATER

AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program

Introduced: 1/4/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Summary: This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes the program envisioned in this bill can help to underwrite these positions.

AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Status:** May be heard March 23

Summary: Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal of developing and implementing watershed improvement plans aligned with multiple statewide and regional

objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes.

AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee

Summary: Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025.

AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation: California Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Account

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Status:** May be heard March 24

Summary: This bill replicates the language contained in last year’s vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in state government. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office.

AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Status:** May be heard March 24

Summary: Would authorize the City of El Monte to sell or dispose of specified park property, in whole or in part, for transit-oriented development, as defined, as long as specified conditions are satisfied, including that the city adopts a park relocation ordinance and approves a public park development plan and a park relocation budget. The bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to approve these items, as provided.

AB 1549 (O’Donnell D) Wildlife: Catalina Island

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Status:** Waiting to be referred to Committee

Summary: Current law vests the Department of Fish and Wildlife with jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitats necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. Current law designates the department as the trustee for fish and wildlife resources. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to address the condition of wildlife on Catalina Island.

AB 1694 (O’Donnell D) Water Supply Improvements

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Status:** Waiting to be referred to Committee

Summary: Under current law, various state and local agencies engage in water resource planning. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to water supply improvements.

SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Grant Program

Introduced: 2/7/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to private property land owners to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire, as specified. The bill would require the agency to provide technical resources to the private property land owners seeking assistance with watershed restoration, as provided.

SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: Current law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy and prescribes the membership, functions, and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified coastal lands in the state. Current law authorizes the conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose.

SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: Current law designates all parks, public campgrounds, monument sites, landmark sites, and sites of historical interest established or acquired by the state, or that are under its control, as the state park system, except as specified. Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to seek opportunities for acquiring land to expand open space for Chino Hills State Park.

CLIMATE CHANGE

AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization

Introduced: 12/3/2018, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee Hearing on March 25

Summary: The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaptation to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it

allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy, projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation.

AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols

Introduced: 1/28/2019, **Last Amend:** 2/26/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the state board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development and adoption of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands. To the extent that lands in the upper watersheds remain in private hands this bill may serve to assist in enhanced protections for public benefit.

AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Fund: Investment Plan: Transformative Climate Communities Program

Introduced: 2/4/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Summary: Would, beginning July 1, 2020, require state agencies administering competitive grant programs that allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to give specified communities preferential points during grant application scoring for programs intended to improve air quality, to include a specified application timeline, to allow applicants from the Counties of Imperial and San Diego to include daytime population numbers in grant applications, and to require grant eligibility and scoring criteria to define disadvantaged community consistent with specified allocation requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund so as not to preclude low-income communities, as defined, from applying for or being awarded a grant. This bill would include "community access" as a potential co-benefit when scoring GGRF grant applications.

AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health

Introduced: 2/5/2019, **Status:** Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Summary: Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the department to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined

geographical area covered by the group's plan.

SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Act of 2020

Introduced: 12/3/2018, **Last Amend:** 3/5/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Hearing is anticipated to take place on March 26

Summary: Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific.

SB 576 (Umberg D) State Coastal Conservancy: Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Status:** May be heard March 27

Summary: Would require the State Coastal Conservancy to develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program designed to, among other things, improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat, as prescribed, and host an international conference on coastal climate change not less than once every 2 years.

PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument: Forest Service released the Final version of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan and Land Management Plan amendment on April 20th, 2018, initiating the 45-day Objection Period. A 45-day Objection resolution period (where changes would be incorporated into the final EIS) was extended through September 2018 due to delays caused by fire season and changing of FS staff.

According to Forest Service's Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), a Record of Decision (ROD) is expected on the Monument Plan in April of 2019.

San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative: The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) will hold its next meeting on Thursday March 28th, 2019, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. At the previous meeting on January 24th, 2019, there was a request to have members give very short, 3-minute "lightning talks" at future meetings so that SGMCC can learn more about each other's organizations, missions, and priorities. These are going to be built into the meeting agendas for the rest of the year. The plan is to do approximately six lightning talks per meeting.

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. Meeting occur every other month.

WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES

Duck Farm Project: Construction contract has been executed with Fast Track Construction Corporation and a notice to proceed has been issued. A construction kick-off meeting will be held at the Duck Farm site on Monday, March 18, 1 – 3pm. Construction will last for up to seven (7) months. A ground-breaking event is planned for March 21, 2019, the day of the WCA Board Meeting.

On March 9th, staff opened the future entry park portion of the park to the public for a community event to announce and answer questions related to the park and the pending construction activities. The event was announced through bi-lingual flyers hand-delivered to each house in the immediate surrounding neighborhood, a bi-lingual banner located on the construction fencing at San Fidel, WCA website and Facebook page, in addition to direct notification emails. The event was very well attended and received by the public who expressed their overall excitement to know the park was going to start construction and would be open for them to enjoy this year.





Children of all ages creating clay animal sculptures facilitated by artist/instructor Nohad Sabbagh of Sculpture by Nohad.

STEP 2 – PARK DEVELOPMENT



The Phase 1A Duck Farm 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.

Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project: Staff is preparing an RFP to forward the implementation of the project. In February, Atlas Green Works, working with WCA staff, applied to Prop 68 funds from the California Natural Resources Agency—Cultural, Community, and Natural Resources Grant program—to fund the renovation of the farmhouse. Additionally, staff will draft grant application(s) for other Prop 68 grant programs in Spring/Summer 2019, as call for projects come available, to complete the funding need for the project which includes exterior building renovations and an indoor resource visitor center.



In March, as part of a community event to kick off Duck Farm River Park construction, staff solicited feedback from local community members about the kinds of activities they would like to do at the renovated Farmhouse. 30 community members participated in the activity by voting on potential activities as well as writing their own suggestions.



Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes. The Farmhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community resource / visitor center to compliment these conservation gardens and provide additional programming opportunities.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: WCA submitted an initial Task Order in late January, which was subsequently updated and submitted in February to span March – June 2019. The draft Task Order proposal includes various tasks associated with the development of a community outreach framework. WCA will continue to work with LACFCD to refine the Task Order, as needed.

Emerald Necklace: On March 28, 2019, Supervisor Hilda Solis’s office hosted an Emerald Necklace meeting to discuss the forwarding of priority projects. The meeting was attended by staff from the Supervisor’s office, various Los Angeles County agencies, and non-profit partners. WCA staff updated attendees on the Duck Farm project, as well as notified them of upcoming potential opportunities for grant funding. The team meeting was the first of what will be an ongoing discussion on forwarding Emerald Necklace priority projects, the meetings will happen very other month.

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 plan is to build the trail with a mix of terrain and user groups. The trail will be a mix of paved and unpaved sections.

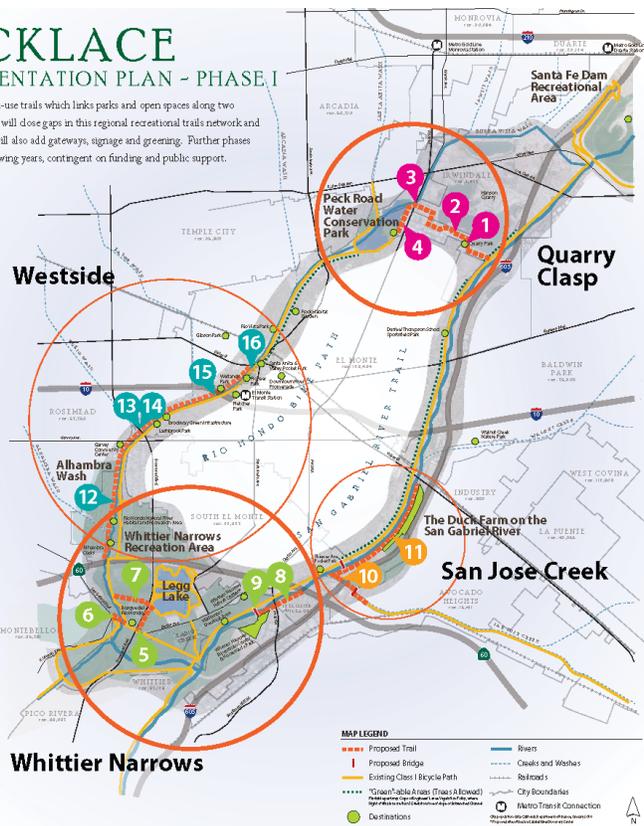
- 12 Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gate, Signage, etc.
- 13 Underpass at Rosewood Blvd.
- 14 Street Access Ramps at Rosewood Blvd. with Gate & Signage
- 15 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosewood Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

Whittier Narrows Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect existing park resources and provide a link to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Alhambra to Rosewood Blvd. to Logg Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Bosque 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 Logg Lake through the Scotts in California Edison Easement
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Puller's Village from State Highway 60 to Horsman's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Horsman's Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trail from Peck Road Water Conservation Park to the San Gabriel River with Gate, Signage, and Wayfinding

- 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 section of the trail will provide a link to the San Jose Creek Regional Access and provide a link to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

- 10 Multi-Use Trails and 2 Class I Bicycle Paths: 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.

San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities: WCA staff is currently applying some elements of the in-progress plan to pursue acquisitions in the foothills. Limited staff capacity at project partner Trust for Public Land has delayed finalization of the draft report, although TPL has continued to advise on acquisition prioritization and processes. WCA plans to meet with TPL in the next month to schedule and advance next steps and will report updates in the next Liaison and Activities Report.

The RMC grant funding the Master Plan also supports acquisition activities including negotiation, legal counsel, due diligence review, and procurement of reports including appraisals and title review. WCA, in consultation with TPL has planned to acquire recreation and habitat open space from the Glendora Community Conservancy totaling over 600 acres in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains above Glendora. At the January 2019 WCA Board Meeting, the Board accepted staff's recommendation to accept donation of the 128-acre Easley Canyon property. The Board considers the acquisition of the 143-acre Colby Trail property in March.

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project, will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve critical habitat and open space, improve watershed health and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Roberts Canyon Acquisition: WCA is funded through a Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant to conduct due diligence for the potential acquisition of the properties collectively known as Roberts Canyon. The target property is located adjacent to WCA's River Wilderness Park and within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near the vicinity of Roberts Canyon in the city of Azusa. It surrounds the single-family residential development known as the Mountain Cove Community. It includes predominantly steep rocky slopes as well as the opening of the wet-season creek in the mouth of the canyon. Characterized as chaparral, the approximately 130 acres of open space is dominated by undisturbed areas of laurel sumac and Mexican elderberry. Also located on the property are areas of riparian and oak woodland habitat

WCA staff is engaged in an analysis of the property to determine the natural resources benefit to Authority or like agencies. Consideration has included the assessment of the physical state of the property, the property's ownership history, review of a recent preliminary title report, discussion with the adjacent home owners' association, and an evaluation of the benefit of the property to advance the conservation and recreation goals of the agency.

Early results of the analysis indicate the property is at very low risk of development, as it has no public ingress or egress and is very steep. The adjacent parcels are either already developed, as in the case of Mountain Cove, are part of the publicly-owned San Gabriel River wash, or are part of US Forest Service territory. The site's potential to increase public open space recreation opportunities is also limited. The terrain connecting the parcels to future River Wilderness Park area is rough and steeply perched above the San Gabriel River. The purpose of such a proposed trail would be to connect the public to the interior of Robert's Canyon, which tightly hugs the existing residential development and to which the HOA is opposed. The acquisition, especially if improvements are made, will expose the agency to liability in the event of a fire or debris slide, anthropogenic or otherwise. This risk is increased by the large and active collection of persons encamped along the south-west property line.

Further study of the acquisition property is expected to be minimal. WCA staff will confer with legal council and then issue a report documenting the body of due diligence material collected and a recommendation to accept or to refuse the donation.

Vasquez Acquisition: In 2016, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) acquired the “Vasquez” property [AIN 8684-024-907], approximately 40 acres of undeveloped land in the San Gabriel Mountain Foothills above the City of Azusa, for the purpose of watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and potential for low-impact recreation.

Remaining acquisition funds will support the formulation of a land management plan that protects existing natural and scenic resources, preserves landscape connections to adjacent conservation lands such as River Wilderness Park, and restore coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and walnut woodland burned in the 2014 Colby Fire.

A request for proposals for a Spring Biological Survey and Report was issued on February 15, 2019. This survey and report will document biological resources on site, assess their quality and significance, recommend approaches for restoration and management of such resources, and evaluate the feasibility of uses such as public access and/or mitigation banking. The RFP was emailed to about 200 biological consultants. The RFP was also posted on the WCA “Notices” webpage, the online RFP board of the California Society for Ecological Restoration (SERCAL), and online “Botany and Wildlife Job Announcements” forum of the California Native Plant Society, where it received about 200 views.

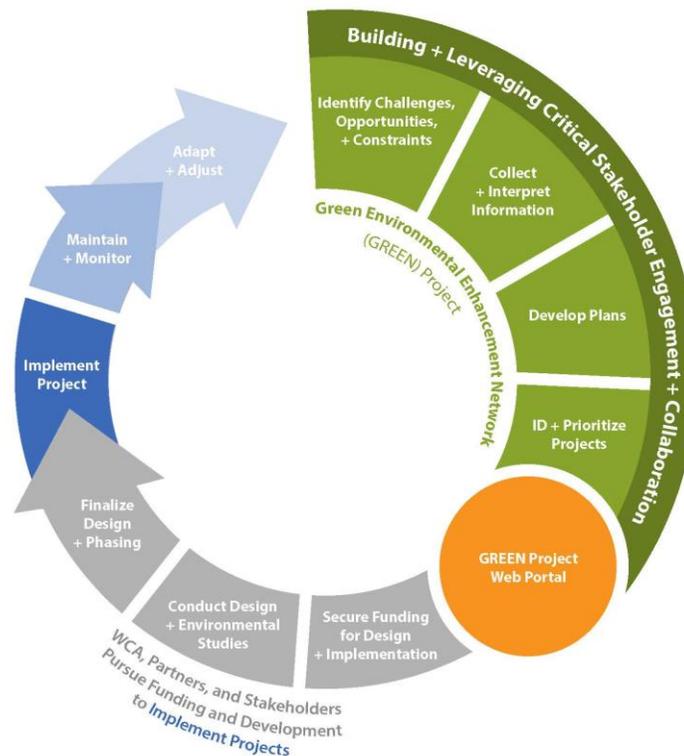
14 proposals were received, of which 11 were complete and received on time. Each complete proposal was evaluated for general quality of the overall proposal, scope of services, and qualifications and experience of the proposing entity. Selection of a contract is on the March 21, 2019 WCA Board Meeting agenda.

Lower Los Angeles River – Implementation Advisory Group: WCA staff prepared and provided an update on Parque Dos Rios to The Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) at their quarterly meeting held on February 20, 2019 at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works headquarters in the City of Alhambra. WCA, will continue to participate as a member of the Public Realm, Water, Environment, and Infrastructure Subcommittee with the next meeting scheduled for April 9th where the group will hear project presentations from proponents and will provide feedback. As well as, review and have as reference 1-page summaries of the RMC projects that have been presented to other committees.

The IAG provides a public venue for discussion of proposed projects/programs related to the Lower LA River; ensure proposed projects/programs are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan; and maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits by encouraging collaboration among the many project proponents and organizations in the project area. In its role as an advisory body, the IAG will provide guidance on issues presented before them, but ultimately, individual entities with jurisdiction along the river corridor including the LA County Flood Control District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities will continue to have decision-making authority. The IAG members and sub-committees will work together to further define the roles and guidelines of the IAG in the upcoming months. The IAG includes sub-committees for: Programs/ Policies & Community Engagement; Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure; Public Advisory; and Future Committee TBD (as-needed).

GREEN Project: WCA staff has been developing the functionality and structure of the GREEN project portal in conjunction with the content of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory. The GREEN portal website will be a tool that documents, complements, and amplifies these efforts. Most recently the Authority has been working towards consistent visual design elements on the site as part of a closeout of a

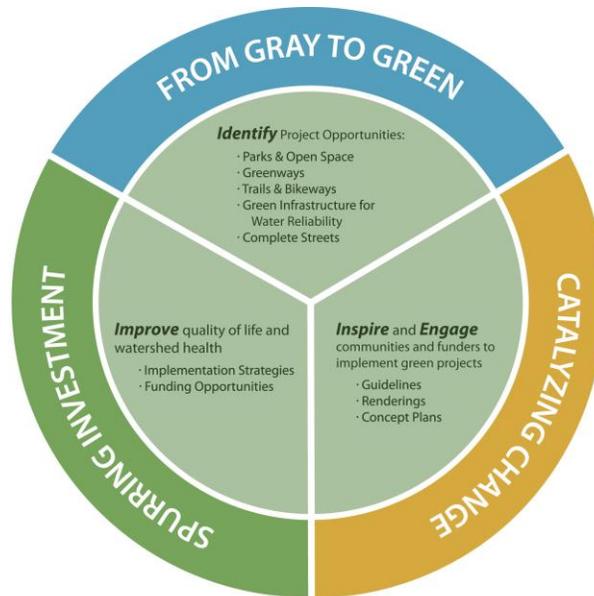
web design consultant's work. Future additional web mapping consultants have been considered for the next iteration of the portal.



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. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.

Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan: Conceptual design and imagery for the Greenscape tool is underway with all 12 greenscapes in production. Staff are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. Staff is currently incorporation consultant data analysis into city-specific profile and region-wide recommendations. The design and development of the web portal is also ongoing in coordination with consultants who are expected to complete work in March. The WCA and RMC recently coordinated to bring an additional \$130,000 to the Gateway Greening Project to support staff labor and outside contracts and contributions. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2019.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held April 16th 2019.



With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the work of the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.

Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve: The Boy Scout Branden Negrete, working to complete his Eagle Scout project, managed Troop 32 and volunteers in the install of a new kiosk and permanent setting of the Dedication sign on January 26, 2019 at the site. WCA staff thanks Brenden and all that came out to support his project. We wish him well and look forward to becoming a full-fledged Eagle Scout.





Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority's territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.

Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning: After completing the collection of existing resources and data, the Crystal Lake project team, including US Forest Services, WCA, BlueGreen, and other consultants held the first major stakeholder meetings in November 2018. These meetings at Angeles National Forest Headquarters and WCA presented existing conditions and engaged stakeholders to identify opportunity areas. With existing data collection complete and outreach ongoing, including user surveys, the team is also moving forward with analysis to better understand the lake water dynamics.

The partial shutdown of the US Government has impacted the Forest Service and Angeles National Forest severely as did damage to the highway accessing the project sites during the 2019 rainy season. WCA staff will re-engage Forest Service, consultants, and other project team members to complete the plan.

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, as well as, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
FINAL CONCEPT SITE PLAN
 JANUARY 30, 2017

DESCRIPTION:
 This reconstruction is enhanced by a continuous 2.0-mile "East Fork Scenic Trail" that is located adjacent to the river with views of the river and provides access to overlooks, river access trails and recreational trailheads. Loading/unloading stops are provided.

PROJECT AREA TOTALS

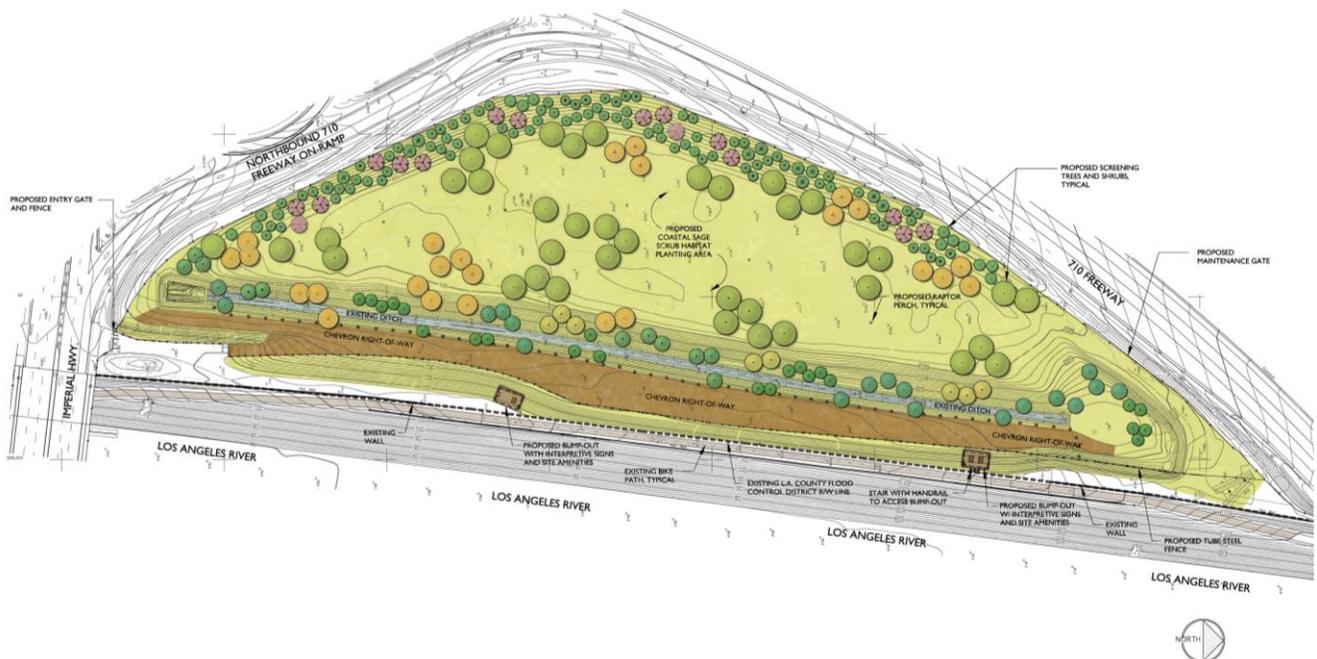
Trailhead	4
Restrooms	18
Designated Picnic Area	7
USFS Visitor Kiosk	4
Trail and/or Maintenance Access Road	2.0
East Fork Scenic Trail	2.0
Other Access Points	3
USFS Access Point	3
Trailhead Sign	279



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.

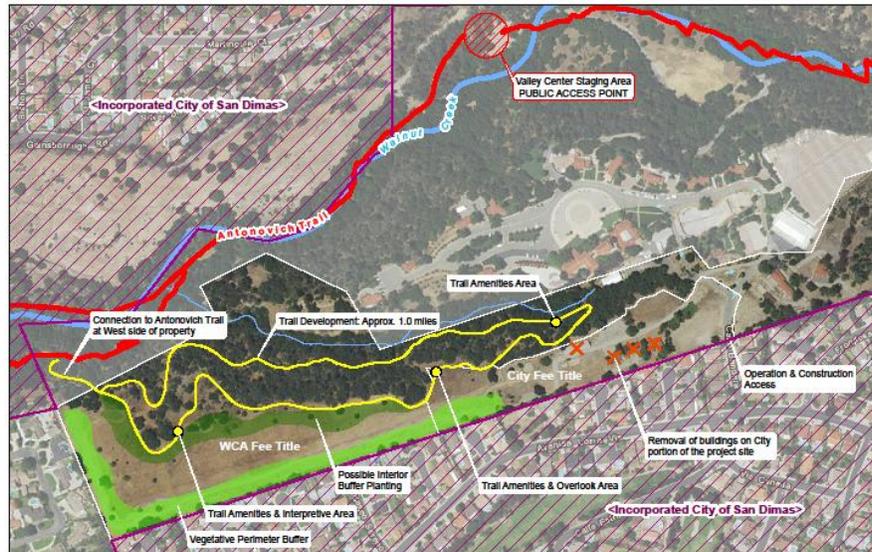
South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: WCA anticipates entering into the Construction Contract with CCLB and issuing a notice to proceed in early April with construction to commence soon thereafter. The above items resulted in a delay to the start of construction. Once the CCLB contract is executed, CCLB will begin to pull permits and schedule a ground-breaking event Spring 2019.

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: Landscape designers BlueGreen have submitted 50% draft documents and a meeting is being coordinated between WCA, the City of San Dimas, and consultants to review the 95% draft. Meanwhile, the City of San Dimas began trail construction in February and is expected to finish in 4-6 weeks.

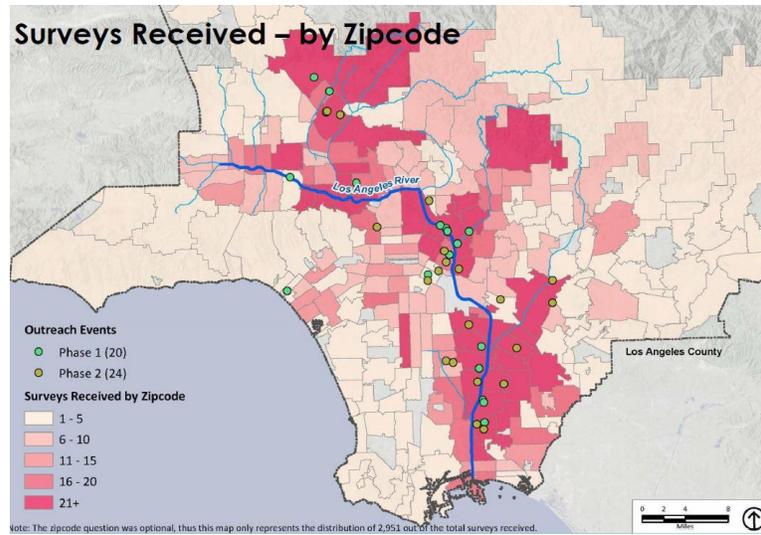
WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.

City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors and connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.

River Ranger Program Implementation Project: The final River Ranger Stakeholder Meeting #6 was held on February 27th. The meeting provided stakeholders with the project overview and background, results of the outreach efforts, and the outcomes of the stakeholder interviews. Additionally, stakeholders were introduced to the key components of the River Ranger draft report and conducted a group activity soliciting stakeholder feedback for project rollout. The next steps to complete the plan include completing draft layout and design and final draft reviews by program staff and stakeholders. The final report will be submitted to legislature and posted on Conservancy websites by March 30th, 2019.



This map shows the total number of outreach surveys received per zip code for Phase I and II program outreach.