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Contact:
Monica Valencia (213) 473-2395

RESIDENTS WEIGH IN ON FIVE L.A. RIVER REVITALIZATION AREAS

Saturday workshop marks halfway point in 18-month development of Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes joined about 100 residents, environmental groups and community leaders today to review five Los Angeles River revitalization areas at a workshop at Goodwill Workforce Center, 342 N. San Fernando Rd. The five sites are: Canoga Park High School, Verdugo/North Atwater, Taylor Yards, Cornfields and Downtown Industrial.

“We’ve reached the halfway point of 18 months of working with the community to shape the L.A. River Revitalization Master Plan,” said Reyes, who chairs the Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River. “These five opportunity sites were picked based on public input. Today we’re asking the public to apply their understanding of community needs to these locations so we can improve neighborhoods, environment and recreation.”

Today’s highly interactive meeting featured a presentation of the five nodes, as well as maps of possible opportunities for enhancing water quality, restoring natural habitat, recreation and neighborhood revitalization. Afterward, participants broke up into small groups and, using markers and post-it notes, labeled maps with the best land uses and River-related activities. This information will be used to help planners determine factors related to environmental reviews and funding.

Saturday’s event kicked off the fourth round of community workshops designed to ensure the public has an ongoing process in the development of the Master Plan. The goal of the plan is to transform a 32-mile stretch of the River corridor from the backyard of the City, to Los Angeles’ front yard with restored wetlands, parks and trails, flood protection and economic development. The Master Plan is scheduled for completion in January 2007.

In addition to Saturday’s session, additional workshops will take place in the **San Fernando Valley on Tuesday, June 27, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Oakwood School, 11600 Magnolia Blvd. in North Hollywood**, and the **Greater Los Angeles area on Wednesday, June 28, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center, 2844 E. 2nd St. in Boyle Heights.**

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Councilmember Ed P. Reyes
200 North Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012