



**NEWS RELEASE**

October 12, 2006

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**Reyes Seeks Youth Vision for Los Angeles River – *Hundreds of high schoolers participate in first L.A. River youth conference***

LOS ANGELES, CA – Councilmember Ed P. Reyes welcomed hundreds of high school juniors and seniors to the First Youth Workshop on the Los Angeles River Project today at the Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 S. Figueroa St.

“As the people whose future is most at stake, our youngest leaders must be at the forefront of the Los Angeles River movement,” said Reyes, who chairs the City’s Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River. Reyes was joined by representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City’s Bureau of Engineering and other environmental experts.

The event drew students, pre-selected by their teachers, mostly from high schools near the L.A. River. During the daylong conference, the students participated in workshops conducted by environmental and engineering professionals on topics such as renewing the L.A. River, watershed planning, environmental justice and the government process.

Then students then weighed in on the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan which is scheduled for completion in January 2007. The objectives of the master plan, a 20-year blueprint to green 32 miles of the river, include enhancing water quality, recreational spaces, natural habitat and economic development.

The young Angelenos also spoke with environmentalists, engineers and architects about volunteer projects and career opportunities in their respective fields.

Reyes created the First Youth Workshop on the Los Angeles River Project after recognizing a significant youth interest and presence - about 50% of the participants - at the ongoing L.A. River community workshops. The workshop was developed mostly by youth, student interns from Reyes’ office.

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