



CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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REYES, COUNCIL RELEASE L.A. RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN DRAFT

Public will have 45 days beginning today, through March 19, to review and comment

LOS ANGELES (February 2, 2007)—Councilmember Ed P. Reyes and the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River today released to the public the draft Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP), a plan that proposes creating a linear park, a continuous greenbelt along a 32-mile stretch of the Los Angeles River from Canoga Park to Boyle Heights.

"The most significant part of the draft Master Plan is that it's community-driven," said Reyes, who chairs the L.A. River Ad Hoc Committee. "It's taken more than a year and a half, and thousands of Angelenos, to get to this point. This is their plan. And that's what I'm most proud of."

The City presents the LARRMP as a 20-50 year blueprint to implement revitalization of the Los Angeles River by providing improved natural habitat, water quality and flood protection, as well as recreation, open space amenities and economic development opportunities.

"The Los Angeles River lies at the beginning of our City's history. With the release of this report, it takes center stage in our City's destiny," said Council President Eric Garcetti.

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2-2-2-2 LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN

The LARRMP will guide development of a variety of greening projects, including parks and open space, pedestrian and bicycle trails, bridges, enhanced connector streets, channel modifications, ecological restoration and revitalized riverfront communities in key Opportunity Areas. The Plan also includes recommendations for a River Improvement Overlay (RIO) district, and a collaborative River management system designed to address cross-jurisdictional issues, such as River access, maintenance, and public safety.

City officials also released today the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIR/PEIS), which analyzes the environmental effects of the LARRMP. The public will have 45 days, beginning today, to review and comment on the draft documents.

"The L.A. River is one of our City's most under-utilized assets; it has the potential of developing into a major center for recreation and for increased green space," said Councilmember Jan Perry. "The draft Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and EIR highlight these opportunities and take us one step further toward our ultimate goal of revitalizing our Los Angeles River."

"Restoration of the Los Angeles River will be one of the most important achievements of the 21st Century," said Councilmember Tom LaBonge. "When we consider revitalizing this great waterway, we're really considering something much bigger than finalizing a master plan. We're talking about leaving a legacy for future generations of Angelenos."

"As we enter the final stages of the Master Planning process, I am appreciative of the tremendously important collaborative partnership between the City departments and the citizens of Los Angeles," said Councilmember José Huizar. "This Plan can and will change the face of Los Angeles, not only aesthetically, but also socially by making integral connections between neighborhoods which have previously seen the River as a concrete barrier between themselves and other communities."

"We are excited to share the results of this public, extremely collaborative planning process. With its focus on greening projects, open space, ecological restoration, and community revitalization, the Plan will catalyze all kinds of exciting development along the River--the Bureau of Engineering is proud to be part of this historic event," said City Engineer Gary Lee Moore.

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3-3-3-3 LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN

"Today's release of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan blueprint is a critical step forward in transforming the river and its surroundings into a shared community space, while maintaining its critical function of flood control," said Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34), who represents the Downtown/Chinatown area along the Los Angeles River. "At the federal level, I am pleased to have secured more than \$3 million for revitalization projects toward this worthy goal. I commend Councilman Ed Reyes and Mayor Villaraigosa for their hard work and leadership on the local level and I pledge to continue working with all of our city, county, state and federal partners to make our vision for a renewed and thriving Los Angeles River a reality."

"This plan's not going to gather dust. All the great work that went into it will further our study efforts to find the best potential for ecosystem restoration," said Colonel Alex Dornstauder, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We're pleased to be able to partner with the city, county and non-governmental agencies to move forward in the process with a vision. And we're happy the public is involved."

The draft PEIR/PEIS will be available during the review period at the following 16 libraries:

- Atwater Village Library, 3379 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039
- Benjamin Franklin Library, 2200 E. First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033
- Burbank Central Library, 110 North Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, CA 91502
- Canoga Park Library, 7260 Owensmouth Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91303
- Chinatown Library, 639 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Cypress Park Library, 1150 Cypress Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90065
- Encino-Tarzana Library, 18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356
- Glendale Central Library, 222 E. Harvard St., Glendale, CA 91205
- Lincoln Heights Library, 2530 Workman St., Los Angeles, CA 90031
- Little Tokyo Library, 203 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
- North Hollywood Regional Library, 5211 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91601
- Robert Louis Stevenson Library, 803 Spence St., Los Angeles, CA 90023
- Sherman Oaks Library, 14245 Moorpark St., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
- Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark St., Los Angeles, CA 91604
- West Valley Regional Library, 19036 Vanowen St., Reseda, CA 91335

In addition, those interested in learning more about the draft LARRMP and draft PEIR/PEIS may attend any of three public hearings scheduled as follows:

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3-3-3-3 LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN

Saturday, February 24: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Hollenbeck Middle School, 2510 E. 6th St., Boyle Heights

Tuesday, February 27: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Canoga Park High School Auditorium, 6850 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Canoga Park

Wednesday, February 28: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Metropolitan Water District Board Room, 700 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles

Members of the public may provide verbal or written comments during the hearing portion of each meeting listed above. Copies of both documents can be viewed online at www.lariver.org. For direct questions concerning the drafts, please call Carol Armstrong at (213) 485-5762.

All comments on the draft LARRMP must be sent to engrplan@lacity.org. All comments on the PEIRS/PEIS must be submitted to engrpeirs@lacity.org. Comments on both can be sent by postal mail to:

Carol Armstrong,
City of Los Angeles
Bureau of Engineering
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90015

All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 19, 2007.

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