



CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 22, 2007

Contact: Monica Valencia (213) 473-7001  
Tony Perez (213) 761-2281 (cell)

## **MAYOR, AD HOC RIVER COMMITTEE ANNOUNCE PUBLIC'S LAST CHANCE TO WEIGH IN ON L.A. RIVER MASTER PLAN**

*Supervisor Gloria Molina, Congressmember Lucille Roybal-Allard join officials to announce last public workshops on Feb. 24, 27, and 28*

**LOS ANGELES (February 22, 2007)**—Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River today called on the public to weigh in on 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.

“For the last 18 months, there has been a buzz throughout the City that people are finally beginning to recognize that Los Angeles has a river,” said Reyes, who joined with the Mayor during a walking tour along the River with Ad Hoc Committee members, County Supervisor Gloria Molina and Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.

“This Master Plan is a direct result of their vision,” Reyes said. “The public comment period ends March 19, so we are calling on all Angelenos to give us their final thoughts on a plan we have created for them.”

The LARRMP is a 20-50 year blueprint to revitalize 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,” said Council President Eric Garcetti, the Ad Hoc Committee Vice-Chair. “With the release of this report, it takes center stage in our city's destiny.”

-more-

The \$2 billion-plus LARRMP consists of 239 projects to renew the River and its surrounding communities. These projects include 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.

The Master Plan is coupled with the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIR/PEIS), which analyzes the environmental effects of the LARRMP.

“Revitalizing the Los Angeles River is key to enhancing all of Los Angeles County, from the San Fernando Valley through metropolitan Los Angeles and all the way to the bay,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. “That's why these public workshops are so critical. If we're going to get the kind of river we all want, we need to hear straight from you: The public. Revitalizing the Los Angeles River may be a project of immense scope and size but the public's voice can -- and will -- be heard.”

“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. 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,” said Councilmember Jan Perry, an Ad Hoc Committee member.

“We encourage the public to participate in these workshops as we enter the final phase of Los Angeles' very exciting plan to revitalize our greatest underused resource, the Los Angeles River,” said Councilmember Tom LaBonge, an Ad Hoc Committee member.

“I am thrilled at this collaborative process that has resulted in the integration of the community's ideas and visions into the draft Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan,” said Councilmember José Huizar, an Ad Hoc Committee member. “The Master Plan outlines the vision and the guidelines of how we will transform the river from a cold, concrete channel to a lush, inviting destination that will change the face and perception of our City in a way never before seen.”

City Engineer Gary Lee Moore said, “The Bureau of Engineering is excited to be part of this comprehensive Plan that will transform the Los Angeles River into a treasured landmark. We look forward to working with the surrounding communities to create a spectacular river corridor together.”

“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.”

"The River will no longer be a barrier, it will be a new corridor to bring people together and move them between their parks, their homes, and their workplaces," said Councilmember Wendy Greuel, a former Ad Hoc Committee member.

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:

**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 can 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](http://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](mailto:engrplan@lacity.org). All comments on the PEIRS/PEIS must be submitted to [engrpeirs@lacity.org](mailto: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.

###