

## TUJUNGA WASH Project Plan

### Project Site Description

The Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration project is a **nine-acre** park along the channelized portion of the Tujunga Wash in Van Nuys. The area is owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and has long been a blight to the surrounding neighborhood. Most of the one mile long project was previously covered with asphalt. The project is adjacent to approximately 120 single-family residences and 10 apartment complexes. This improvement project has taken the area and transformed it into a green corridor, planted with native trees and shrubs.

The Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration is also the first project along the Los Angeles River or its tributary system to divert water from the concrete channel into a naturalized stream. This one mile streambed runs along the east side of the project and will provide wildlife habitat, ground water infiltration and an opportunity for residents of an under served community to experience a more naturalized waterway. The stream will take up to 25 cubic feet per second of water from the channel and infiltrate it into underlying aquifer.

This project was publicly bid in 2006 and Powell Constructors was the low bidder with a bid of \$3,735,234.

The project was originally conceived of as primarily a storm water diversion project combined with introduction of natural vegetation along the streambed. The public amenities were limited to a recreational bike and walking path with occasional seating opportunities. During construction of the project, it became apparent that public use would be much greater than anticipated. Grant High School is directly South of the project and this, combined with a dearth of community recreation space, has greatly increased the demand for additional public use areas and further accommodation of pedestrian uses in the area along the West side of Coldwater Canyon Blvd and South of Oxnard Street.

The stone pilasters at the park entrance at Coldwater Canyon Blvd. have been relocated to provide additional space for a new grass area for recreational uses. Two stone picnic shelters were also constructed in this area. Additional trees were added to provide a barrier between the park and the adjacent residential areas.

Once construction of the park was substantially completed in October 2007 it was determined that some slight adjustments must be made to keep the stream in good operating condition. During the design phase of the project, the engineers could not predict the unusually high amounts of sediment that would come into the stream from the Wash. Due to the excess sediment, the stream required additional work to prevent it from filling with sediment. Additional boulders, changes to the height of the weir structure and adjustments to the stream course were made to prevent excess sediment from creating an overflow situation at the stream.

## **Government Agencies with Jurisdiction Over Project Area**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**  
**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy**

## **Planning Objectives and Principles Sought to be Achieved by the Project**

**The project provided additional recreational space for area residents. In addition, a water quality improvement feature was included in the design of this project.**

Environmental Goals:

- Provide for watershed protection in the urban environment.
- Implement the “Common Ground” plan and utilize it in an ongoing management process.
- Improve quality of surface water and groundwater in accordance with the “Common Ground” plan.
- Optimize water resources to reduce dependence on imported water in accordance with the “Common Ground” plan.
- Encourage multiple-objective planning and projects in accordance with the “Common Ground” plan.

## **Proposed Land Uses**

This area is intended for passive recreational uses. Access trails are provided for walking and biking; grass and picnic shelters are provided for picnicking and relaxation.

## **Detailed Site Analysis of Tujunga Wash**

The Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration project is located the park poor neighborhood of Valley Glen. All areas of this project are open for public use. The project location is convenient for students at the adjacent Grant High School and other schools in the area to use and is in close proximity to residential areas as well.

**The subject property is within District 43 of Assemblymember Paul Krekorian, District 20 of Senator Alex Padilla, the Third District of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and District 2 of Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Gruel.**

## **Government Agencies, Organizations and Private Parties Consulted**

Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Los Angeles County Public Works

**City of Los Angeles**

Neighboring property owners

**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**

**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy**

Valley Glen Community Council

**Hon. Alex Padilla, California State Senator**

**Hon. Paul Krekorian, California State Assemblymember**

**Hon. Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor**

**Hon. Wendy Gruel, Los Angeles City Councilmember**

## **Analysis of Economic Feasibility of Proposed Project**

A total of \$5,835,000 was secured for the capital improvements. **The funding sources included. State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) - Urban Streams Restoration Program (Proposition 13). Resources Agency via County of Los Angeles (Proposition 12), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Proposition 84), Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (Proposition A), and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Proposition 50).**

Attachments

Project location maps, site photographs and conceptual drawings.



