

Memorandum

To: The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Date: May 23, 2019

From:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 8: Consideration of resolution approving prioritization methodology.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Working Group adopt the attached resolution approving prioritization methodology for proposed projects in the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries study area.

Legislative Authority: Section 33220 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The legislation establishing the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (ULART) Working Group, Assembly Bill 466 (AB 466), Chapter 347 of the Statutes of 2017, requires a master planning process for a Revitalization Plan (Plan). Legislation also requires that the Plan address the unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash, Arroyo Seco and any additional tributary waterway that the working group determines to be necessary, thus necessitating the addition of the Aliso Canyon Wash and the Burbank Western Channel. The plan shall be consistent with and enhance, and may be incorporated into plans that include, but are not limited to, the County of Los Angeles' Master Plan. The revitalization plan shall require a master planning process that includes community engagement and a prioritization of disadvantaged communities.

Opportunity sites for improvement projects within the ULART study area have been identified by Working Group Members, members of the public, the Literature Review, staff, and technical analysis by the Plan's consultant team. While the list of opportunity sites is still under development, it is clear that the amount of opportunities will exceed available funding. For maximum utility, the Plan should establish criteria by which project proposals can be prioritized. A common method for prioritization is to score proposals with a numerical system based on the project's qualities and expected benefits. A draft methodology for scoring, based on legislatively mandated priorities and the Working Group and its committees' goals and objectives is attached.