

Memorandum

To: The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Date: July 25, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 8: Consideration of resolution supporting recommended design areas per tributary.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Working Group adopt the attached resolution supporting recommended design areas per tributary 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, which prompted the addition of the Aliso Canyon Wash and the Burbank Western Channel, as determined by the working group. 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, which is ongoing. For maximum utility, the Working Group adopted contingent criteria in May 2019 by which project opportunity sites were identified. A scoring methodology will be applied towards a comprehensive list of opportunity sites based on legislative priorities as well as the Working Group and committees' goals and objectives and will be included in the Plan. In addition, other opportunity sites that are identified, but do not meet prerequisite scoring criteria will also be recognized in the Plan. Opportunity area sites that offer maximum impact based on community needs and impact are as follows:

- 1) Aliso Canyon Wash: Wilbur Debris Basin
- 2) Pacoima Wash: San Fernando High School-Spreading Grounds connector (Pacoima Junction)
- 3) Tujunga Wash: Hansen Dam Revitalization
- 4) Verdugo Wash: San Rafael Ecological Connection
- 5) Burbank Western: Green Network
- 6) Arroyo Seco: Heritage Square

Staff recommends the six design areas which encompass various opportunity sites for further concept design. The six design areas, one per tributary, offer benefits unique to each tributary yet are applicable throughout the ULART study area. Design areas offer a vision and concept that encompass the desires of the community, working group, as well as the study area needs analysis by the technical team. Although not every opportunity site will have a design associated with it, designs are general enough that they are configured in a manner to include typologies that are universally adaptable, yet may be modified and applied throughout the study area.