

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 13, 2018

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 18, 2018

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 2018

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1126**

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**Introduced by Senator Portantino**

February 13, 2018

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An act to amend Section 33220 of the Public Resources Code, *and to amend Section 2 of Chapter 452 of the Statutes of 2017*, relating to the Los Angeles River and tributaries, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1126, as amended, Portantino. Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working ~~Group~~. *Group: river ranger program.*

Existing law provides for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of rivers in this state. Existing law establishes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and prescribes the membership, functions, and duties of the conservancy with regard to the acquisition, preservation, and improvement of real property within the Santa Monica Mountains zone, as defined. Existing law establishes within the conservancy the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group and requires, by March 1, 2019, the working group to develop, through watershed-based planning methods and community engagement, a revitalization plan for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and any additional tributary waterway that the working group determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the revitalization plan to address the unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River, Pacoima

Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and the communities through which they pass, and to include watershed education programs.

This bill would specify the Arroyo Seco ~~Tributary~~ as a waterway for the working group to include in the revitalization plan and watershed education programs. The bill would authorize the working group to include ~~3 members, one each~~ *representatives* from the Cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, and South Pasadena, ~~unless their inclusion results in a geographical imbalance of representation.~~ *Pasadena. The bill would authorize a representative appointed to the working group to designate an alternate in his or her place. The bill would instead require the revitalization plan to be developed on or before June 30, 2020, and the conservancy to provide a copy of the plan to certain legislative committees by that date.*

*Existing law requires the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program, as prescribed. Existing law requires the conservancies, no later than June 30, 2018, to develop a plan for the design and implementation of the program and to provide a copy of the plan to certain legislative committees by that date.*

*This bill would instead require the plan to be developed and a copy to be provided to the legislative committees by March 30, 2019.*

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 33220 of the Public Resources Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 33220. (a) There shall be within the Santa Monica Mountains  
4 Conservancy an Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working  
5 Group. The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, in  
6 consultation with the conservancy, and, to the extent that they wish  
7 to consult, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the  
8 City of Los Angeles, shall consider requests from local agency  
9 representatives to participate in the working group and may appoint  
10 no more than 23 representatives to the working group. A

1 *representative appointed to the working group may designate an*  
2 *alternate in his or her place.* The working group may include, but  
3 need not be limited to, representatives from the conservancy, the  
4 County of Los Angeles, the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, ~~Los~~  
5 ~~Angeles, and San Fernando, La Cañada Flintridge, Los Angeles,~~  
6 *Pasadena, San Fernando, and South Pasadena,* elected officials  
7 of the cities riparian to the Pacoima Wash and Tujunga Wash, and  
8 nonprofit organizations serving the Upper Los Angeles River, San  
9 Fernando Valley, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo  
10 Wash. ~~The working group may include three members, one each~~  
11 ~~from the Cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, and South~~  
12 ~~Pasadena, unless their inclusion results in a geographical imbalance~~  
13 ~~of representation.~~

14 (b) On or before ~~March 1, 2019, June 30, 2020,~~ the working  
15 group shall develop, through watershed-based planning methods  
16 and community engagement, a revitalization plan for the Upper  
17 Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga  
18 Wash, and Verdugo Wash, the Arroyo ~~Seco Tributary, Seco,~~ and  
19 any additional tributary waterway that the working group  
20 determines to be necessary. The revitalization plan shall address  
21 the unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River,  
22 Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash, and Arroyo ~~Seco~~  
23 ~~Tributary, Seco,~~ and the communities through which they pass.  
24 The plan shall be consistent with and enhance, and may be  
25 incorporated into plans that include, but are not limited to, the  
26 County of Los Angeles' Master Plan. The plan shall include  
27 watershed education programs that help the Upper Los Angeles  
28 River, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash, and Arroyo  
29 ~~Seco Tributary~~ communities recognize the value of the waterways  
30 and the importance of protecting the river's watershed resources  
31 and its vitality to their communities. The revitalization plan shall  
32 require a master planning process that includes community  
33 engagement and a prioritization of disadvantaged communities,  
34 identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

35 (c) The conservancy shall provide any necessary staffing to the  
36 working group to assist in the development of the plan.

37 (d) The development and implementation of the revitalization  
38 plan may be eligible for funding from any public or private source,  
39 including, but not limited to, funding available pursuant to Section  
40 79735 of the Water Code. Entities that are eligible to implement

1 the revitalization plan include, but are not limited to, state agencies,  
2 local agencies, and nonprofit organizations, and may be eligible  
3 for state funding. An entity receiving funding to implement the  
4 revitalization plan shall submit progress reports to the conservancy  
5 that include the status of funding.

6 (e) The working group shall submit the revitalization plan to  
7 the conservancy for approval. Upon adoption by the conservancy,  
8 the revitalization plan shall be considered an amendment to the  
9 Watershed and Open Space Plan for the San Gabriel and Los  
10 Angeles Rivers. To the extent that the city or county wishes to  
11 consider the revitalization plan, the conservancy shall submit the  
12 plan for adoption to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
13 for inclusion in the Master Plan of the County of Los Angeles and  
14 to the Los Angeles City Council for inclusion into the Los Angeles  
15 River Revitalization Master Plan.

16 (f) *No later than June 30, 2020, the conservancy shall submit*  
17 *a copy of the plan to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks,*  
18 *and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and*  
19 *Water.*

20 *SEC. 2. Section 2 of Chapter 452 of the Statutes of 2017 is*  
21 *amended to read:*

22 *Sec. 2. (a) For purposes of this section, “conservancies” means*  
23 *the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains*  
24 *Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.*

25 (b) The conservancies shall collaborate with the Department of  
26 Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the  
27 State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to  
28 provide a network of river rangers who provide assistance to the  
29 public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The  
30 conservancies shall solicit the participation of representatives of  
31 local governments that have jurisdiction over segments of the river,  
32 including the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles.  
33 The conservancies, in cooperation with the Lower Los Angeles  
34 River Working Group, no later than ~~June 30, 2018~~, *March 30,*  
35 *2019*, shall prepare a plan for the design and implementation of  
36 the program, including recommendations regarding ways to finance  
37 the establishment and ongoing implementation of the program,  
38 and shall ensure that the plan is developed to accomplish all of the  
39 following objectives:

1 (1) Establish an identity for the Los Angeles River as a place  
2 for its communities to enjoy recreational opportunities and learn  
3 about the river’s history and environmental resources.

4 (2) Improve public safety for visitors to the Los Angeles River.

5 (3) Foster collaboration among state and local government  
6 entities and other public agencies with jurisdiction over the Los  
7 Angeles River, and coordinate the work of these entities and public  
8 agencies with regard to the development, maintenance, and  
9 enhancement of the river and its resources.

10 (4) Protect the parks, open space, and other public places  
11 adjacent to the Los Angeles River.

12 (5) Engage communities along the Los Angeles River in the  
13 protection and preservation of the Los Angeles River and its  
14 resources.

15 (6) Promote equal access and equity among all communities  
16 along the Los Angeles River with regard to the development and  
17 placement of improvements along the river.

18 (7) Monitor the physical conditions, environmental health, and  
19 development of green space along the Los Angeles River.

20 (8) Provide a system for coordinating the work of river rangers  
21 with programs and services offered by local governments and  
22 conservation corps.

23 (9) Incorporate the findings and principles expressed in the  
24 “Presidential Memorandum--Promoting Diversity and Inclusion  
25 in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands  
26 and Waters,” dated January 12, 2017.

27 (c) No later than ~~June 30, 2018~~, *March 30, 2019*, the  
28 conservancies shall submit a copy of the plan required to be  
29 prepared pursuant to subdivision (b) to the Assembly Committee  
30 on Water, Parks, and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural  
31 Resources and Water, in compliance with Section 9795 of the  
32 Government Code.

33 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2019~~,  
34 *2020*, and as of that date is repealed.

35 ~~SEC. 2.~~

36 *SEC. 3.* This act is an urgency statute necessary for the  
37 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within  
38 the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall  
39 go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

1     ~~Due to low precipitation amounts this year and the expectation~~  
2     ~~that California may be back in a drought, it is necessary to ensure~~  
3     ~~the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group has~~  
4     ~~ample time to include the Arroyo Seco Tributary in its revitalization~~  
5     ~~plan in~~*In* order to protect the *Los Angeles River* watershed's  
6     resources and its vitality to ~~their communities. Therefore, the~~  
7     *community*, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

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