

**APPROVED**  
OCT 09 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

NO. 09-242

DATE October 9, 2009

C.D. 13

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY/ELYSIAN VALLEY - BIKEWAY PROJECT - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS, THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE BUREAU OF ENGINEERING, AND THE BUREAU OF SANITATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A GREENWAY ALONG THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

R. Adams \_\_\_\_\_

V. Israel \_\_\_\_\_

H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_

S. Huntley \_\_\_\_\_

J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_

F. Mok \_\_\_\_\_

K. Regan \_\_\_\_\_

\*M. Shull \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreement (Agreement), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the Board of Public Works (BPW), the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), and the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) for the development and maintenance of a greenway along the Los Angeles River, subject to the approval of the Mayor, and the City Attorney as to form;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement concurrently to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
3. Authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

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### SUMMARY:

The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project is located within the City of Los Angeles right-of-way along the west bank of a natural-bottom section of the Los Angeles River from Fletcher Drive to Barclay Street in the Elysian Valley community of Council District 13. The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project will be implemented by the MRCA to complement and enhance the Department of Transportation's (DOT) 2.5-mile Los Angeles River Bike Path Phase 1C (DOT's 2.5-mile Elysian Valley Bikeway) Project; which is part of the City's planned 32-mile Los Angeles River bikeway. The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project will provide pocket park access points, water quality best management practices (BMPs), and native plantings at key locations. Specifically, the Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project will create two new access points and pocket parks at Gatewood and Fernleaf streets, a BMP at Dallas Street, and approximately 23,000 square feet of native landscaping, with irrigation, in the form of a linear greenway at various points along the bike path.

The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project offers the opportunity to simultaneously meet the objectives of the City's 2007 Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, Los Angeles County's 1996 River Master Plan, and the California Resources Agency's 2001 Common Ground: From the Mountains to the Sea Open Space Plan for the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers. The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project will transform underutilized, largely vacant and unimproved easement space by restoring native woodland, riparian, and riverine habitats, where possible, to support terrestrial and avian species. The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project will provide an important passive recreational amenity in a dense, urban area that will offer psychological respite and physical exercise to residents in the surrounding residential communities. The project will also provide an important green linkage along the planned 32-mile River bikeway with connections to existing, but disjointed, parks and open spaces along and adjacent to the Los Angeles River.

DOT's 2.5-mile Elysian Valley Bikeway Project is currently scheduled to start construction in June 2009 and be completed by December 2010. The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project will be implemented by MRCA either concurrently with or immediately following the construction of the bikeway.

As described in the proposed Agreement, the Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway the project would be cooperatively maintained by City agencies, with RAP responsible for the pocket parks and the linear greenway, BPW responsible signage, community relations, for graffiti control and removal of trash and recycled materials, and BOS responsible for maintenance of the water quality BMP at Dallas Street. RAP's proposed role is consistent with its commitments to maintain other portions of the Los Angeles River greenway, including the Los Angeles River Greenway Phase I in Studio City and the Los Angeles River Parkway-West Valley Phase I in Canoga Park.

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In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), BOE prepared and filed with the County Clerk a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for DOT's 2.5-mile Elysian Valley Bikeway Project on May 16, 2006. Therefore, no additional CEQA documentation is required for approval of the project.

The Assistant General Manager of Operations East, the Superintendent of the Metro Region, and Council District 13, support the recommendations set forth in this report.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The construction of the Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project should not impact RAP's General Fund, as the costs of construction and installation of the proposed Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway will be funded and contracted entirely by MRCA and DOT at their sole expense. The Los Angeles River Greenway/Elysian Valley Bikeway Project would have an, as yet undetermined, effect on future maintenance costs, which would be requested through the Department's regular budget process.

This report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Management Analyst II, Planning and Development Division.