

Memorandum

To : The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Date: January 24, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12:** Consideration of resolution adding the Burbank Western Channel to the revitalization plan.

Staff Recommendation: That the Working Group adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of the Burbank Western Channel tributary waterway to the revitalization plan.

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 that the Revitalization Plan (Plan) include “...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.” Legislation that introduced the addition of the Arroyo Seco to the Plan (SB 1126) was approved on September 28, 2018. On October 25, 2018, the Working Group approved the addition of Aliso Canyon Wash to the Plan, and discussed the potential addition of Burbank Western Channel.

A comparative analysis was conducted of the River’s tributary waterways to examine areas of focus and provide context for discussions about adding additional tributaries. All thirteen tributaries were included in the evaluation, including the four already in the revitalization plan, for a complete comparison. The analysis included only quantifiable metrics to compare representative statistics related to three subject areas:

- 1) Goals, objectives and subject matter discussed by the Water and Environment committee;
- 2) Goals, objectives and subject matter discussed by the People and Recreation committee; and
- 3) Disadvantaged community measurements (as identified by CalEnviroScreen 3.0) per the legislation’s directive to prioritize such communities.

In all, ten metrics were used to compare a 0.5 mile buffer area around each tributary (1 mile total width), Each metric received a ranking of 1-13, with a higher rank indicating more applicability to the revitalization plan. These ten ranked scores were combined to reveal a total score out of a maximum of 130 points. A few metrics were recalculated after the Working

Group's October 25, 2018 meeting, to better reflect AB 466's focus on disadvantaged communities. The updated matrix showing the metrics, source of statistics, and scoring is attached.

The Burbank Western Channel ranked the third highest score overall. This tributary scored highly in the population density, community burden, and impervious land cover categories. The remaining tributary waterways are all areas of opportunity, but do not require immediate prioritization, based on the analysis completed at this time. Future projects on those tributaries may still be analyzed for consistency with the final goals, objectives, and recommendations of the revitalization plan, even if the tributaries are not directly studied at this time.

It should be noted that the ultimate disposition of water that is currently being discharged into the river and tributaries is a matter of considerable debate. Any planning effort, including the Revitalization Plan, needs to take this issue into consideration and note where the desired outcome is reliant upon such water. The City of Burbank has already begun planning for their discharged water. The analysis of project opportunities for Burbank Western Channel will take this into account.

Consideration: The inclusion of an additional tributary will either increase the cost of the revitalization plan study, or reduce the amount of funding for studying the four tributaries already included. A dollar amount is not known at this time.