

# 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 9:** Consideration of resolution adopting the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan.

Staff Recommendation: That the Working Group adopt the Community Engagement and Outreach 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) “...address the unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and the communities through which they pass...” and further requires that the planning process include community engagement and prioritization of disadvantaged communities.

The Community Engagement and Outreach Plan (attached) will offer opportunities for local residents, community-based organizations, environmental advocates, and other community and civic leaders to be involved in the development of the Revitalization Plan. In particular, outreach will target the involvement of disadvantaged communities, including but not limited to: low and moderate income residents, communities of color, people with disabilities, youth, seniors, and other hard-to-reach groups. The objectives of the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan include the following:

- \* Reach diverse communities in the planning areas that have traditionally not been engaged in environmental planning processes.
- \* Encourage community members to become long-term stewards of the environment and the Plan outcomes.
- \* Create authentic community dialogue by leveraging local networks.
- \* Deliver an inclusive, flexible, and tailored approach to engagement.
- \* Provide opportunities for “high touch” engagement.

The Community Engagement and Outreach Plan serves as the guiding document to ensure that local disadvantaged communities and stakeholders are meaningfully engaged throughout the

process to develop the Revitalization Plan. It also outlines objectives, methods, tools, key audiences, and success metrics.