

# Memorandum

To : The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Date: October 25, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9: Consideration of resolution adding additional tributary waterways to the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries revitalization plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Working Group adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of the Burbank Western Channel and Aliso Canyon Creek tributary waterways 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) includes "...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.

At the request of the Working Group, 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. The complete matrix showing the metrics, source of

statistics, and scoring is attached.

Overall, the tributaries already included in the plan scored first, second, fourth and fifth overall. Among these four waterways are the highest population density, highest community burden (CES 3.0's measure of social and environmental impact factors), and the lowest household income. The Burbank Western Channel ranked the third highest score, and staff recommends that it be included in the revitalization plan for that reason. This tributary has the highest percentage of nearby residents that are more than half a mile from park space, the most amount of impervious land cover, and the most opportunities to connect to significant ecological areas.

The sixth ranked tributary is Aliso Canyon Wash. Several members of the Working Group suggested its inclusion during the September committee meetings, and staff recommends its inclusion as well.

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.

Consideration: The inclusion of additional tributaries 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, but as a relative measure this impact will increase as more waterways are added.