

# Memorandum

To : The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Date: March 28, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 8:** Consideration of resolution adopting universal typologies for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries revitalization plan.

Staff Recommendation: That the Working Group adopt the attached resolution adopting universal typologies for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries 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 a master planning process from which a Revitalization Plan (Plan) is developed. The Working Group previously established two committees to efficiently carry out the planning process. During multiple Working Group and committee meetings from August 2018-December 2018, goals and objectives for the Revitalization Plan and committees were proposed, discussed, amended and adopted, guided by the AB 466 legislation and incorporating input from Working Group members and the public.

The geographic extent of the study area is so extensive that it is infeasible to provide site-specific design recommendations for more than a handful of parcels. It is anticipated that custom, site-specific design will be conducted for, at most, only six parcels. To continue planning efforts and achieve plan deadlines, the concept of using typologies as a planning tool was introduced at the February 2019 committee meetings, guided by goals and objectives for the Revitalization Plan, and as recommended by the consultant team, Working Group, and public input.

The inclusion of several universal typologies in the Revitalization Plan will increase the Plan's utility and relevance. For land uses and parcel types that are fairly common in the study area, and that tend to have similar characteristics, the typology will recommend one or more significant attributes that future projects should incorporate. The intent is that these concepts may be universally applied throughout the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, at any site that falls into one of these categories.

Without inclusion of universal typologies, it will be more difficult to interpret how the Plan should apply to a specific parcel, unless that parcel is one of the few signature projects. The

universal typologies will serve as a useful shorthand for applying the Plan to a future project.

Some of the typologies that have been discussed in prior committee meetings and align with committee goals and objectives include Ecological Connection; Channel Right-of-Way; Stormwater Basin; Existing Park; and Urban Barriers. This is not intended as a final and comprehensive list, and additional categories may be added (as budget allows) if necessary to fulfill the requirements of the AB 466 legislation, or respond to public input. Existing resources for property owners will also be considered. For example, many watershed advocacy groups publish recommendations for residential properties, and several existing planning documents include design recommendations. If the existing resources for a typology adequately address the goals and objectives of the Plan, it may not be critical to prioritize such typologies in the Plan.

Attached are sample diagrams illustrating a few of the more prominent typologies. The final Revitalization Plan would include more detail for each type and prescribe solutions that advance the Plan's goals and objectives.