

Memorandum

To : The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Date: August 16, 2018

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

Agenda Item 7: Discussion of working group mission, decision making process, and role of committees.

Staff Recommendation: That the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Chairperson to appoint Working Group members to up to three subcommittees to provide planning efforts supporting the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group Revitalization Plan.

Legislative Authority: Section 33220 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Assembly Bill 466 (AB 466), Chapter 341 of the Statutes of 2017, signed by the Governor on September 28, 2017 establishes, within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group (Working Group). In accordance with legislation, the Working Group shall consist of no more than 23 representatives. AB 466 requires that the Conservancy provide any necessary staffing to assist the Working Group. AB 466 also requires through watershed-based planning methods and community engagement, the Working Group to:

- develop a Revitalization Plan (Plan) for 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.
- address the “unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and the communities through which they pass, and to include watershed education programs”.

Staff recommends that Working Group meetings occur bi-monthly. However, given the short time frame for a Plan to be developed, and in order to meet the mandates of the legislation, staff recommends the formation of subcommittees to convene and work through the substantial areas necessary for a comprehensive planning process, required by AB 466. Subcommittees would meet bi-monthly on months alternating the regular Working Group meetings. Should subcommittees not be formed, Working Group meetings would either be more frequent and/or longer in duration. Subcommittees allow for in depth discussions and planning, where additional time and resources may be allotted, to develop a thorough product.

Agenda Item 7
August 16, 2018
Page 2

As the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has successfully assisted the Conservancy through planning and project development along the Los Angeles River for over two decades, MRCA is therefore a good fit to assist the Working Group and subcommittees with the development of the Plan. Subcommittees would present their work product and recommendations to the larger Working Group for discussion and inclusion into the Final Plan, upon community engagement and public review.