



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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February 27, 2013

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **WM-5**

Ms. Lupe Vela, Policy Director, Ad Hoc River Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Vela:

LOS ANGELES RIVER RECREATIONAL ZONE PILOT PROGRAM COMMENTS

As requested, on behalf of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, we have reviewed the draft proposal from the Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles, regarding the proposed Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program and attached are our comments and concerns. Please note, the comments provided pertain only to nonmotorized boating in the designated zone of the Los Angeles River mentioned in the proposal dated January 15, 2013, and discussed on a site visit between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on February 14, 2013.

We look forward to working with the City of Los Angeles and Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority in resolving any issues with the program. If you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 458-4300 or ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov or your staff may contact Mr. Cung Nguyen at (626) 458-4341 or cunguyen@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

GARY HILDEBRAND
Assistant Deputy Director
Watershed Management Division

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Enc.

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (David Van Dorpe)

Comments:

Program Signage

- All signage must be provided to both the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for review and approval.
- Signage should clearly warn of all known hazards, specify ingress/egress locations, state rules and regulations, and state health and safety disclaimers as well as identify the beginning and end of the designated Recreational Zone and should prohibit access to any portions of the River that are outside of the designated Recreational Zone.
- All signage after review and approval must be installed before the start of the Pilot Program.
- Signage must provide contact information (name and phone number) for complaints, concerns, and emergencies including, but not limited to: vandalism, injuries, theft, and any drug activity.
- All signage including any temporary signage in the river must be removed at the end of the Pilot Program (excluding any "Recreational Zone Closed for the Season" signage).

Notifications for Thunderstorms/Flash Floods/Dam Releases

- Notifications for any LACFCD Dam release will be given to the Mountains Recreational and Conservation Authority (MRCA) through the LACFCD notification process. After notification, the MRCA will patrol the designated recreational zone and do their due diligence in warning and evacuating people off the River.
- Any dam release notifications by the Corps is the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers and City of Los Angeles.
- It is our understanding, the MRCA will be responsible for notifying the users of any unexpected or sudden events including, but not limited to: thunderstorms, flash floods, or any other events that may result in damage or harm. In such events, MRCA will post "Recreational Zone Closed" signage at the specified ingress/egress locations as well as patrol the area, warning users to get out of the river. The MRCA will be responsible for enforcing the closure of the recreational zone due to circumstances including, but not limited to: notifications of construction and maintenance activities. The MRCA will post "Recreational Zone Closed" signage at the specified ingress/egress locations as well as patrol the area, warning users to get out of the river.

Patrol of the Designated Zone

- As discussed on the site visit, MRCA will be responsible for daily patrol of the two and half mile designated zone including during storm events, dam releases, and any other events that may cause safety concerns for the users of the area.
- The LACFCD will not be responsible for any patrol or enforcement for any complaints, concerns, or emergencies including but not limited to any swift water rescues resulting from the use of the Recreational Zone.

- All patrol or enforcement issues and concerns should be directed to the MRCA or the proper authorities.

Other Recreational Uses

- Other recreational uses mentioned in the proposal including but not limited to fishing, bird watching, traveling, hiking, walking, and related activities are not going to be included as discussed on the site visit.
- If any other uses are included in the program or conducted by users, the MRCA will develop notification procedures applicable to these other uses.
- Any other uses proposed by other organizations shall follow the permitting process through both the Corps and LCFCD for review and approval.