

Dear Ms. Howard,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles River Project Office of the City of LA's Bureau of Engineering.

This office is supportive of the updated Significant Ecological Area (SEA) maps and ecosystem protection in general throughout Los Angeles County. We applaud the great deal of work LA County is doing to ensure responsible development in sensitive areas.

We suggest the Los Angeles River corridor be included on LA County's SEA maps in its entirety, from its beginning in Canoga Park at the confluence of Bell Creek and Arroyo Calabazas to the mouth of the River in Long Beach where it meets the Pacific Ocean. The LA River and its watershed are regionally significant the watershed is approximately 870 square miles and includes major portions of the Angeles National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The River empties into the world's largest water body, the Pacific Ocean, and therefore its waters interact with both nearby coastal and deep-water ecosystems.

The River contains valuable functioning habitat for many plant and animal species, even in LA's highly urbanized environment, especially in the River stretches that retain a natural "soft" bottom in the Griffith Park, Glendale Narrows, and Elysian Valley areas. Even in the parts of the River that are completely built of concrete, the River remains a valuable connectivity pathway for the mobility of plants and animals between the areas major ecosystem areas and mountain ranges.

We recognize that the City of LA must adopt the County's SEA maps for them to be applicable for the LA River within the City, and the first step toward that will be the County including the LA River on its maps.

Please note that in comments to the US Department of the Interior National Park Service we have recommended that the LA River be included in the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study area.

I will further inform you that in an 11-mile section of the River that includes the soft-bottom portions, the City is engaged with the US Army Corps of Engineers in an ecosystem restoration feasibility study (LA County Flood Control District is also a cash-contributing partner). Among other priorities, the study is highlighting restoration at the confluences (Verdugo Wash and Arroyo Seco in particular) as a way to enable and enhance habitat connectivity between the

Santa Monica, Verdugo, and San Gabriel Mountains. A map of the study's general footprint is attached for reference.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We are available to advise on the precise location of boundaries to include the most important sections of LA River habitat.

Best,

Carol Armstrong  
Michael Affeldt  
Megan Whalen

LA River Project Office

For questions contact:

Michael Affeldt

Civil Engineering Associate

phone: [213.485.5733](tel:213.485.5733) | fax: [213.847.0656](tel:213.847.0656) | email: [Michael.Affeldt@lacity.org](mailto:Michael.Affeldt@lacity.org) | [www.lariver.org](http://www.lariver.org)

LA River Project Office

Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering

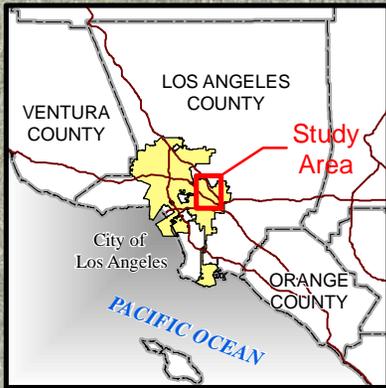
1149 S Broadway Suite 600 | Mail Stop: 939

Los Angeles, CA 90015

**DRAFT**



- LEGEND**
- Local Freeways
  - Alternatives Extent: HC-15



 Downtown Los Angeles



Data Source: City of Los Angeles, USACE; 2011  
Aerial Source: LARIC 2008

