



## OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT: AN “OUR COUNTY” WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

### Summary

The following are comments from the “Open Space, Recreation, Habitat, and Biodiversity and People” workshop held at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College in downtown Los Angeles on September 17, 2018. 65 attendees representing 50 nonprofit organizations (see Appendix A) participated throughout the 5-hour workshop via three morning breakouts, afternoon focus group discussions, and a dot-voting prioritization activity. This compilation represents all of the comments that we were able to capture through butcher paper notetaking and computer laptop transcription. Written comment cards were also collected throughout the day. Because participants were asked to share their respective organization’s perspectives and opinions, in some cases comments may conflict or be duplicative.

## Morning Breakouts on Cross-Cutting Topics:

### Housing and Land Use Comments

#### Discussion on Goals and Strategies

Goal A: Ensure the region's landscapes and ecosystems meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Limit development in hazardous areas, alternatively, maximize these places as resource areas
- Ensure future generations of the community can benefit improvements without being displaced by preserving multifamily housing and additional funding for acquisition and rehabilitation, ensuring Low Income/Extremely Low Income households are included
- Fund the purchase of lands
- Transfer of development rights has to be applied in urban development not just edges
- Implement developer fee for nearby open space creation/preservation

Goal B: Increase and enhance native biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity.

- Better connect strategies/topics into heat island effect and biodiversity
- Include language on native/climate plants
- Equitable distribution of climate resiliency tools
- Include explicit language on soil health and native plants in projects
- Uplift indigenous people to promote "public pedagogy" that makes indigenous knowledge accessible to everyone
- Promote environmental justice by doing land remediation
- Prioritize pedestrian (ADA) needs even when we talk about trees
- Increase educational awareness around habitats (bees/birds)
- Develop urban forestry plan
- Preserve connectivity of areas using zoning
- Develop alleys
- Develop strategies around agroforestry

Goal C: Ensure parks, open space and natural areas benefit human and ecosystem health in the context of a changing climate.

- Ensure clean soil is added where necessary
- Include "population health" or "community health" to make sure focus is on group not individual
- Need for better data that looks at emerging intersections between biodiversity, urban environment, and community health
- Recognize native resources in ecosystems
- Develop guidelines for flooding
- Incorporate Green Zones initiatives throughout the county, not just incorporated areas
- Mandate for 100% water capture on all new construction

- Educate on water capture
- Prioritize riparian habitat, especially considering tree density, healthiest trees are close together in riparian zones
- Invest in programs that deter crime in parks without criminalizing

Goal D: Ensure parks, open spaces, and natural areas are resilient in the face of drought, wildfire, climate change, and gaps in maintenance.

- Include floods
- Take action on areas identified to experience extreme heat
- Build multicultural resiliency hubs
- Build resilience for man-made disasters (toxic spills, flare-ups, etc.)
- Allocate funding to address gaps in maintenance
- Localize control of spaces to communities who use them
- Recognize role that wildfire plays in ecosystem maintenance and put development in urban centers instead of high hazard areas
- Prioritize vegetation rather than cool pavement
- Consider development when planning for fire risk
- Address homelessness without criminalizing to help prevent fires from encampments
- Strengthen and expand coordination with agencies on initiatives

Goal E: Create and manage the built environment's nature based infrastructure to optimize multiple benefits and ecosystem services.

- Increase resources to fund current measures around clear cutting trees
- Include measures to also include other plants that support climate change, carbon sequestration, and cooling streets
- Identify trees that can be below power lines or raise power lines higher to reduce fire risk
- Incentivize/promote/build community around edible gardens
- Develop strong agroforestry programs for residents
- Find ways to encourage landlords to support gardening
- Ensure all streets are walkable by adequately maintaining sidewalk infrastructure
- Shift away from auto centric plan
- Reward programs and parks that have multiple benefits for community
- Be intentional on types of trees to be planted
- Incorporate other types of vegetation besides trees
- Allow communities to design their communities to promote ownership of space
- Ensure soil testing and remediation
- Incentivize rooftop greenhouses

Goal F: Ensure all residents have access to parks, beaches, and other recreational open space.

- Prioritize preservation of affordable housing now instead of waiting for open space
- Create fund for mission-driven housing organizations

- Expand LA City's programs to create funds for acquisition and rehab to the County level
- In last strategy, replace "amount" to "percentage" of affordable housing
- Include target for park need: Park within 5 or 10 minute walk of affordable housing
- Ensure relocation funds available
- Find ways to have parks that don't displace
- Make better use for shared use agreements, i.e. schoolyards
- Change language of affordable housing to ensure deep level of affordability levels are met
- Cannot just prioritize disadvantaged communities for projects but also prioritize their voice and decisions
- Support rent control to stop displacement
- Require housing for poor in developments, especially those with public open space
- Do not place additional burdens on most vulnerable, i.e. Measure W fees can be passed on to rent controlled units
- Consider housing and workforce development
- Promote "job trails" like LA River bike path - things that will be used by people in the community to promote transit
- Make parks accessible 24/7 - gated parks promote 'soft criminalization' of the homeless
- Ensure that parks don't have unintended criminalization
- More robust inclusion of communities in development process
- Need to think about high hazard spaces and anti-displacement
- Protect communities from speculation means protecting them from disaster. Strong social bonds can be the difference between survival and not surviving

Goal G: Improve ecological literacy.

- Educate redevelopers and residents
- Have more vegetation to support clean air
- Fund system to have maintenance
- Ensure there is increased walkability in disadvantaged neighborhoods so parks are accessible, especially in unincorporated areas, by fixing sidewalks
- Work with transit agencies to make sure there is access to parks and open space

## Economy and Workforce Development Comments

### Discussion on Goals

Goal B: Increase and enhance native biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity.

- Improve access to buying more nursing stock for native species and increase biodiversity/resilience, buy local/native plants

Goal C: Ensure parks, open space and natural areas benefit human and ecosystem health in the context of a changing climate.

- Strengthen language and include measure goals around watershed resilience, City of LA has a goal of using 50% by 5 years, County Measure W will also be critical

Goal D: Ensure parks, open spaces, and natural areas are resilient in the face of drought, wildfire, climate change, and gaps in maintenance.

- Include soil and organic matter in relation to carbon sequestration and workforce dev
- Regulate where houses are located in edge area, landscape clearance isn't the solution

Goal E: Create and manage the built environment's nature based infrastructure to optimize multiple benefits and ecosystem services.

- Diversify botanical approach to resilience, not overemphasizing trees, recognizing things like age of trees, native plants both provide economic and environmental benefits

Goal F: Ensure all residents have access to parks, beaches and other recreational open space.

- Be explicit about improving access to transit to open space

Goal G: Improve ecological literacy.

- Work with existing systems and workforce to retrain and add training for land stewards around regenerative practices

Across all Goals:

- Focus on disadvantaged communities

New Goals:

- Address food insecurity and resilience with workforce development, i.e. smaller land cooperatives like hydroponics, healthy food options
- Internal County training for staff across agencies
- Partner with higher education and other training entities to update curriculum, certifications, and trainings on these sustainability issues
- Provide Chief Sustainability Office resources and own funding stream or authority to marshal other agencies in order for Plan to be actionable
- Assess jobs created by sustainability, adaptation, and resilience initiatives
- Education initiatives starting at Kindergarten – we need to connect people to resilient practices: schools, low-income housing, etc.

## Discussion on Strategies

- Have disadvantaged communities lead ecological literacy trainings and be paid
- Follow LA City model for green infrastructure jobs (through mayor's office), bringing together multiple necessary entities together to create a pipeline from training to jobs, different levels of government: identify jobs, provide alternate pathways to circumvent civil service exams, partner with organizations from training and outreach
- Train youth to go into environmental/policy work by partnering more with schools to cultivate systems change work
- Promote cleaner technology and implement public health/safety training for workers

- Train workers for transitioning industries
- Provide incentives for businesses to work with the green workforce
- Reimagine what a sustainable urban city could look like; do solar better by distributing, since large solar farms a big reason for loss of ecosystems
- Move towards target around water, urban agriculture, diversifying ecosystem
- Example from City Parks & Rec: Stewardship for nature-based infrastructure, design and maintenance. Transition municipalities away from grey systems to green systems beginning in community colleges
- Establish rent control for businesses and addressing the issues of small business displacement as we preserve and expand green infrastructure, training around transitioning and giving businesses opportunities around integrating practices
- Expand access to growing job opportunities and training for disabled communities
- Spell goals out explicitly around improving access to parks/open space, specify target populations like disabled community
- Identify diversity targets in workforce including gender, disciplines (to include biological and climate expertise to counter business-as-usual engineering and tools)
- Parks Dept. should look internally at procurement practices, Food Policy Council has recommendations and made progress on this
- Take public lands off speculative market and promote community ownership
- Perform comprehensive workforce development analysis across plan and initiatives (Measure A, Measure W, Prop 68) to guide recruitment, training, hiring needs
- Develop workforce development component to the Plan
- Leverage private dollars that have been sitting on the "side-lines" for solar and energy efficiency programs
- Development at outskirts is disinvesting from existing DACs, Implement policy around land use/development in the core populated areas to promote investment in existing neighborhoods and strengthen jobs/affordable housing nexus
- More funding allocated for inner city schools, education for students to expose early, fellowship programs
- Economic risks and impacts like floods, drought, fires; massive destruction to insurance industry, more cost effective to take preventative measures, can't wait for disaster and need to be economically sane
- Develop strategies to support co-op and land ownership models like the South Central farm

#### Bike Rack:

- What kinds of expertise and indigenous knowledge should be elevated in public space (history, storytelling, improvements led by residents)? How can community have more ownership of these spaces and making community improvement?

#### Language suggestions:

- Natural and working lands support economic development (p. 30 of Briefing)
- Land stewardship instead of land management (p. 30 of Briefing)

- Add "nature-based and" green infrastructure projects (p. 30 of Briefing)

## Public Health and Safety, Air Quality, and Resilience Comments

### Discussion on Goals

Goal B: Increase and enhance native biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity.

- Add "preservation"

Goal C: Ensure parks, open space and natural areas benefit human and ecosystem health in the context of a changing climate.

- Add a "healing-focused" component in parks and open spaces in terms of environmental remediation
- Add "and air quality concerns" at the end

Goal F: Ensure all residents have access to parks, beaches and other recreational open space.

- Remove institutional barriers to make parks and open spaces culturally and socially accessible, including hiring culturally competent staff
- Add "Prioritize disadvantaged communities (DACs)" to the beginning of Goal F
- Change Goal F around prioritizing DACs, also important to include them into the planning and development process

Goal G: Increase ecological literacy.

- More specific language that encourages education on soil health, carbon sequestration, and other climate resiliency initiatives

Across all Goals:

- Work towards reducing the disparities in public health, safety, and air quality in LA County
- Make wording more appropriate to refer back to indigenous land and remediation practices
- Better coordination amongst all funding entities/agencies as a strategy across all goals
- County can weigh in as a unified voice can advocate for natural recreation, San Gabriel Mountains, and increase funding as lobbying in Federal and State policies for a number of policies
- Prioritize areas most impacted by air quality and heat

New Goals:

- Improve public engagement/involvement in parks and open space
- Make parks and public spaces safer and healthier by making them drug and alcohol free
- Provide open spaces and parks that are safe and healthy by improving environmental quality (air and water)
- Improve park programming to be more regular/ongoing and culturally relevant
- Safety should be included or be a new goal
- Better cooperation among agencies to accomplish goals
- Work with community-based organizations (CBOs) to advance public health and air quality goals
- Include something about urban forests

Bike Rack:

- Recognize parks and open space as places that promote climate resilience - through shade, hydration, and other qualities

### **Discussion on Strategies**

Goal B: Increase and enhance native biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity.

- Use LA River as a strategy to enhance connectivity between different areas
- Build upon, preserve, and protect riparian areas, and implement a “no net loss”

Goal C: Ensure parks, open space, and natural areas benefit human and ecosystem health in the context of a changing climate.

- Promote community and urban gardens in park spaces to grow food as strategy
- Consider cumulative impacts
- Address soil quality, also amortization of green zones - when transitioning industrial areas to green areas, good and careful remediation practices

Goal D: Ensure parks, open spaces, and natural areas are resilient in the face of drought, wildfire, climate change, and gaps in maintenance.

- Use public facilities as cooling centers as a strategy

Goal E: Create and manage the built environment’s nature based infrastructure to optimize multiple benefits and ecosystem services.

- Add more trash and recycling bins in residential and park areas
- Provide funds and training to provide composting infrastructure at parks
- Make 1st draft strategy under Goal E (“develop policies to support street trees programs”) more actionable
- Require mulch to stay local as a strategy
- Diversify structures of plants and soils for better air quality and carbon sequestration

Goal F: Ensure all residents have access to parks, beaches and other recreational open space.

- Include strategies that prohibit displacement such as rent control
- Use County’s resources to increase access, such as better transportation, into open space, “open space shuttles” as a strategy
- Have County do an inventory, collect and share data on underutilized lots throughout the County - encourage LAUSD and Metro to use their land resources to promote public space and green infrastructure
- Diversify parks to be more multi-beneficial for different uses (not just baseball parks) - advocate for multi benefit use of space that can engage more people
- Consider small business displacement
- Work with CBOs for better programming and training on food waste diversion and composting

Goal G: Improve ecological literacy.

- Increase and ensure public notification of conditions, especially water quality in beaches and lakes, also maintenance and pesticides being used



New:

- Improve public engagement, working and creating a demand and constituency for more open space - outreach on park policy as strategy
- Investigate strategies to find ways about incentivize reduction in housing costs near open space
- Train park staff on healthier environmental maintenance - no toxics
- Develop non-toxic guidelines for maintenance of parks and open space
- Increase knowledge and better training of maintenance staff on how to manage diverse landscapes
- Convert former superfund sites in resiliency hubs such as solar panels arrays - capture as an opportunity for public education as well
- Increase programming at parks - active program that is interactive, use healthy concessionaires
- Increase parks operations funding for better, more regular programming
- Implement more diverse engagement strategies that get more people involved, door-to-door
- Soil quality remediation and increase organic matter and plant life to increase carbon sequestration and biodiversity
- Strategize around plant type and plant locations to deter environmental hazards
- Emphasize community benefits in biodiversity section - make connections better on why biodiversity improves public health and other community benefits: across all goals
- Address polluters near open spaces

Bike Rack

- Not much on air quality

## Afternoon Breakout ‘Focus Group’ & Voting Activity:

### Comments on ‘Parks, Beaches, Recreation and Access’

#### Priority Goals (Votes)

- Make commitment to reassess data and ensure accountability in metrics (4)
- Ensure transportation and access is affordable and equitable (8)
- Ensure remediation is thorough and emphasizes community health (5)
- Emphasize universal access (11)

#### Priority Strategies (Votes)

- Look at amount of land county owns and convert into pocket parks
- More bike racks at parks, beaches, etc.
- Subsidize transportation or free transit rides to beaches parks, etc. with an emphasis on equity
- Look into research on transit and open space
- Provide funding to community based organizations who work on park access to programming
- Incorporate equitable engagement where neighborhood is part of the process to address buy-in and maintenance, enduring neighborhood is knowledgeable on the process of creating/maintaining parks/open space
- Support affordable housing and homeless services - smart strategies for temporary homeless housing utilizing Measure H (1)
- Implement mobile shower program throughout County
- Reconnect disadvantaged communities and youth of color to nature, beach, and open space (1)
- Lead hikes, organizing, and facilitation of process to educate people on nature and open space
- Utilize LA County Department of Public Health funds to talk to youth about nature (2)
- As access increases, ensure we are increasing maintenance, budgeting to ensure parks are reliably funded (2)
- Ensure disabilities are a priority when we are looking at access to beaches, parks, etc., including language (4)
- Make hosing incorporate universal design to ensure accessibility (4)

#### Bike Rack

- Influence cities to put green space first
- Look at larger social issues, such as homelessness, and what services are offered
- Prioritize funding for a multi benefit project (LA River) in East San Gabriel Valley
- Connect LA County Department of Public Health into parks/beaches with funding to address inequity/access

## Comments on ‘Natural and Urban Biodiversity & Habitat, and Climate Resilience’

### Discussion on Goals (Votes)

- Cool down LA County
- Require 50% native plants in new construction and retrofitted landscapes with incremental targets (1)
- Increase habitat health in LA County, measure and document health both residential and large scale (3)
- Prioritize diverse disciplines in County agencies with different concepts of development 6
- Joint use projects with schools (2)
- Utilize alleys for open space - green alleyways (1)
- Create resilient landscapes of the future where native plants will change as climate changes, taking into account vector control (1)
- Increase ecological literacy (3)
- Prevent destruction of habitat vis pesticides, bugs are good for habitat, especially parks
- Implement holistic watershed management - controlling downstream effects
- Address heat and air quality holistically
- Focus on mitigation in frontline communities
- More specific goals for biodiversity

### Discussion on Strategies (Vote)

- Implement invasive species removal as an after school/recreation program (2)
- Implement urban forests with more intentional opportunities and management, use bio char to help through droughts, and emphasize not just trees but other vegetation too (plants, soils) (3)
- Implement cool roofs with more insulation and/or 6 in walls (2)
- Add and incentivize landscape efficiency to retrofitting regulations
- Promote native plant education
- Expand greywater irrigation (2)
- Integrate Public Works and Planning and implement new Significant Ecological Areas ordinance (2)
- Leave enough room for trees on sidewalks or use other material for sidewalks (3)
- Prioritize vegetation in plaza spaces in new developments
- Increase permeable surfaces
- Maximize water capture in new projects (i.e. grading soil)
- Focus on coastal habitats
- Disperse information through effective methods, such as public education, providing examples
- Include urban forest management plan that is specific and includes deep soil watering (7)
- Develop financial resilience and long term financing of public projects (public bank, etc.)
- Include urban wildlife projects

- Promote environmental education via social media and more opportunities for citizen science (youth)
- Fund sustainable landscaping for low income residents and seniors
- Utilize two pronged approach to implementation: county and residential
- Increase labelling for pesticides and other products and leverage county purchasing power (1)
- Educate policymakers on Southern CA ecology
- Localize control of public spaces
- Increase accessibility of County government
- Require developers to pay for recreation spaces

### **Priority Goals and Strategies (vote count)**

- Create resilient landscapes of the future (50% native plants, increase urban forests, cool roofs, downstream planning, invasive species removal) (11)
- Prioritize diverse disciplines in planning process - different concepts of 'development' (2)
- More effective and expansive education (labelling, social ecology, etc.)
- Document and assess biodiversity to set specific goals for future (6)
- Holistic habitat management, including financial sustainability of projects (11)

## Comments on 'Land Use (Infill-Exurban-Agriculture) and Displacement'

### **General Discussion 1 (Votes)**

- Promote community involvement by funding competent mission-driven organizations and CBOs in frontlines by providing stipends for residents and engaging immigrant communities (2)
- Identify places and develop a set of criteria for infill development to make them successful and community-led that includes accountability for Board of Supervisors (3)
- Incentivize residents to get community involvement and make meetings accessible
- Distinguish between affordable vs. non affordable
- Fast track LA County General Plan update to identify areas at risk for wildfire and flood and areas of opportunity to mitigate risks
- Ensure transparency on ownership of land, allowing tenants to know who are the owners of the property (5)
- Make accurate list on who owns what in county and cities available (ex: Los Angeles Regional Open Space & Affordable Housing Collaborative) (1)
- Expedite environmental review for good projects that fit created "criteria" (1)
- County planning should do proactive planning
- Good projects should help low-income, "affordable" does not necessarily reach intended people5
- Provide technical assistance to low-income communities to achieve strategies
- Build a culture of awareness and involvement for people who are disconnected (1)
- Build political power such as creating neighborhood councils in unincorporated areas (2)

- Create a standard funding allocation percentage to disadvantaged communities
- Eliminate lobbying for developmental interests
- Require Environmental Impact Reports to be written by a third party (1)
- End corruption (3)
- Set up aggressive metrics to reduce impervious surface in the County year by year (8)
- Monitor affordable housing in each district and allow this information to be transparent to hold Board of Supervisors accountable
- Create diverse stakeholder groups (community based organizations, non-governmental organizations, residents)
- Create whole set of anti-displacement policies
- Identify areas of high risk, collaborate with frontline agencies and stakeholders to address displacement, climate change and resilience, and disaster planning

## General Discussion 2 (Votes)

- Prohibit the selling of gas powered vehicles in LA County and repurpose car dealership lots for housing (1)
- Give more power to pedestrians in communities for development, street infrastructure, etc.
- Create culture shift from single family housing to denser family housing
- Increase political education for immigrant communities to increase involvement
- Increase zoning categories for accessory dwelling units and other types of housing
- Equitable code enforcement that takes into account limited resources in disadvantaged communities (1)
- Create "right-to-stay" tenants Bill of Rights (7)
- Incentivize developers to increase and maximize food growth, sun capture, and agriculture-architecture design (1)
- Use code enforcement to help and protect families living in inadequate homes that can be a hazard but be more lenient and flexible on smaller offenses
- Include Measure A language used to use as a base for housing policy
- Create anti-displacement Task Force (5)

## Priority Goals and Strategies (Votes)

- Facilitate success of good infill projects with strong equity
- End corruption, enhance accountability/transparency with new lobby and campaign finance rules (2)
- Enhance meaningful community engagement and increase educational opportunities (11)
- Do proactive County planning instead of reactive with a focus on deep affordability (3)
- Create a Tenants Bill of Rights - right to stay in your neighborhood (1)

## Comments on ‘Multi-Benefit Projects: Green Infrastructure, Landscaping, Jobs, and Community Benefits’

### General Discussion 1 (Votes)

- Work with communities & CBOs directly in project development and implementation (ex: TCC model) (7)
- Comprehensive funding for community engagement across initiatives in ways that don't deplete but rather sustain engagement (ex: LACSP model) (1)
- Expand engagement models beyond cities to schools, vocational trades and pathways where students can build their own places (1)
- Make ecological literacy strategies more interactive and engaging that help people understand climate resilience
- Fund local capacity building to develop projects and also engage in process (1)
- Larger funding issues at play - how can this document support broader need and asks
- Study what biodiversity and native plan changes will thrive in the future, addressing invasive pests (1)
- More explicit language on prioritizing disadvantaged communities
- Provide more land access, resources, and opportunity to grow for CBOs and programs that already exist (1)
- Incorporate strategies that include ownership of project/land to promote financial empowerment and independence in the long term, local hiring and self-sufficiency and local investment, and economic development for small business (6)
- Expand homeownership and business ownership in key areas (ex: DC, Detroit) (1)
- Allocate more funding for programming and multi-benefits
- Develop comprehensive funding streams that fund not only infrastructure, but community engagement, maintenance, and amenities (4)
- Incorporate community engagement that is sustained and empowering communities (5)
- Include more detail on connection between mental health and green space development
- Include communities at onset of planning of green infrastructure and other multi-benefit projects comprehensively (1)
- Cross-agency cooperation, public-private sector needs to be explicit strategy
- More coordination and communication between agencies
- Use data from parks assessment
- County should play a lead role in shifting funding guidelines for multi-benefit projects to prioritize projects that address cumulative impacts (2)
- Use apprenticeships and high-road training partnerships in County-funded projects (1)
- Prioritize trees and landscaping that are edible, investing in growing food, which provides health, economic and environmental benefits
- Be more specific in strategies
- Add clarity around storm water, soil health, and other areas in sustainability guidelines (1)

- Streamline solutions (joint powers authority) for inter-agency collaboration around issues of resilience, adaptation, water, etc. (1)

### **General Discussion 2 (Votes)**

- Invest and incentivize projects on private property (2)
- Training and certification for landscaping programs
- Education programs that teach sustainability, resilience, and cost-saving strategies (8)
- Multi-benefit projects that recognize benefits beyond pre-defined notions of resilience, including and prioritizing deeply affordable housing, community safety, addressing racial and social inequity, tenant organizing. (3)
- Require developers to engage with community to define community safety and develop strategies that do not criminalize low income communities of color near new infrastructure investments (1)
- Develop equity scorecard for multi benefit projects: rate projects and ensure multi benefit projects are prioritized for funding (1)
- Fund community land trust models or subsidize land cost or transferring land (16)
- County should score (similar to restaurants) new development projects across multi benefit indicators of equity (1)
- Include alternative strategies at multiple size/scales to provide new housing for homeless across the County
- Increase percentage of affordable housing
- Tweak/modify existing developments to incorporate multi benefit projects
- Allow home over 5000 sq. ft. to turn to multifamily at change of ownership
- More on accessory dwelling units
- Provide financing mechanism to help fund multi benefit projects
- Use green bonds and identify necessary funding partners
- Address gap in capacity of communities to engage in development and funding of green infrastructure projects
- Perform co-analysis of parks and housing equity when developments are proposed using interagency board that assesses displacement potential
- Maximize landscape grading and climate resilient plant projects
- Convert brownfields and existing noxious land uses (like oil wells near residences) to parks (10)
- Include job quality in multi benefit project rating (2)
- Incorporate community benefits agreements for new development (ex: Lorenzo project) that create multiple benefits for impacted
- Use participatory budgeting strategies to ensure communities' priorities are reflected in multi-benefit projects (6)

## Comments on ‘The Los Angeles River’

### Discussion on Goals

- Acknowledge Tongva and other indigenous historical, cultural, and spiritual ties with the land and water of LA River
- Return to indigenous practices, including natural plant-based pesticides
- Include development that benefits communities and prevent green gentrification
- Use and acknowledge indigenous restoration/stewardship practices
- Integrate historical and neo-colonial implications into educational literacy, need to recognize and place in context to learn from
- Critical thought around flood plains, utilize and reclaim land where possible so the LA River can be a more functioning ecosystem and natural resource
- Engage in constant dialogue with the community residents and businesses, to prevent and prepare for displacement
- Regulate polluters along the River in conjunction with restoration
- Incorporate access for homeless and transient individuals, acknowledging open space is used by these populations; safety does not equal gating or more policing.
- Include language for disabled and homeless.
- Consider implications of light rail along LA River
- Provide resources and funding to vulnerable communities at risk from floods and fires
- Educate cities on watershed management
- Preserve and maintain existing healthy habitats
- Develop strategic relocation plans in partnership with frontline communities

### Discussion on Strategies

- Provide mobile showers, water access, campground, Wi-Fi, 24/7 access to parks, decriminalization, emergency solutions for homeless
- Ensure policies don't criminalize, be thoughtful about our solutions
- Be responsive to street vendor/informal uses and needs
- Provide free bus pass/fare
- Prohibit new development within floodplains, identify vacant lots, businesses or industries where they can be reclaimed
- Remediate LA River, cleaning and filtering due to runoff and ocean connection
- Better balance between mitigating flood risk and habitat restoration
- Transparency on cumulative water quality due to runoff
- Check developer power, make the City/County accountable to public
- Acknowledge 710 expansion contradicts LA River revitalization



- Develop broad comprehensive goals for the whole river, taking into account complexity of LA River (housing, industries, parks)
- Respond to the historic needs/issue of communities (homelessness, pollution, housing)
- Treat LA River as a watershed that needs to function rather than a design, architecture, gentrification opportunity
- Identify where underdevelopment should occur
- Consider urban water runoff, soil health, and water supply
- Think historically of LA waters, its potential ecological benefits
- Recognize Arroyo Seco and tributaries
- Focus on nature-based storm water management
- Focus watershed investment in upstream solutions for safety downstream
- Restore native landscapes and letting go over colonial leftovers like lawns, our rivers are ephemeral
- Prioritize function over design
- Improve connectivity and building local knowledge

#### **Priority Goals and Strategies (Vote Count)**

- Promote awareness and educate on indigenous connections to LA River (8)
- Advance watershed education with cities and local neighborhoods
- Incorporate anti-displacement strategies, such as rent control, no net loss, and affordable housing preservation, to combat green gentrification (12)
- Decriminalize and provide 24/7 access for homeless (3)
- Regulate polluters along the River by coordinating enforcement agencies (2)
- Plan for flood risks, including relocation plan for residents, engaging communities, and providing services to residents/homeless displaced from flood risk mitigation (8)
- Preserve function of LA River rather than design (9)

## Appendix A: “Open Space, Recreation, Biodiversity and Habitat” Workshop Attendee List

- Audobon Center at Debs Park
- Ballona Network
- Bike San Gabriel Valley
- Black Women for Wellness
- California Native Plant Society
- City Project
- Climate Resolve
- Communities for a Better Environment\*
- Community Partners
- Conservation Corps of Long Beach
- Council for Watershed Health
- Day One\*
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice\*
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Environmental Defense Fund
- From Lot to Spot
- Heal the Bay
- Hunger Action Los Angeles
- LA Compost
- LA Conservation Corps
- LA Food Policy Council
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Mujeres de la Tierra
- National Forest Foundation/ San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative
- Nature Conservancy
- Nature for All
- North East Trees
- Pacoima Beautiful\*
- Prevention Institute
- Proyecto Pastoral
- Pukuu Cultural Community Services
- The River Project
- SCOPE LA\*
- Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
- Sierra Club Central Group



- SoCalCross
- Social Eco Education
- Social Justice Learning Institute
- SLATE-Z
- Southern CA Resource Services for Independent Living
- Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
- Theodore Payne Foundation
- Trust for Public Land
- TRUST South LA
- Union de Vecinos
- The Wilderness Society
- US Green Building Council
- William C. Velasquez Institute
- Youth Policy Institute

\*Community based organization anchor