Open Space, Built Environment, and Biodiversity: An ‘Our County’ Workshop

October 23, 2018
Stakeholder Process and Today’s Agenda
Stakeholder Engagement
Equity Statement

Equity

Goal
Reduce disparities across geographies due to race, class, gender, and other social differences

Strategy
Commit resources to include those often left out of policy and planning discussions

Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distributional</th>
<th>Actions that repair current and historical imbalances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procedural</td>
<td>Participatory decisionmaking with vulnerable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformational</td>
<td>Strategies securing future benefits for at-risk populations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Stakeholder Engagement Timeline

Prepare Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Nonprofit, Public, and Private Sector Workshops

Prepare Discussion Draft

Sustainability Summits

Summary Report

Plan Finalization

PREPARE
Spring 2018

LEARN
Summer-Fall 2018

CREATE
Winter 2018-Spring 2019

FINALIZE
Summer 2019
Today’s Team Leaders

Stakeholder Engagement
• Liberty Hill: Michele Prichard & Ben Russak
• UCLA: Laurel Hunt & Ari Simon
• Estolano LeSar Advisors: Andri Tai-Ward

Data & Analysis and Topic Teams
• UCLA: Stephanie Pincetl & Sean Kennedy
• BuroHappold: Adam Friedberg & Christopher Rhie
• Studio-MLA: Mia Lehrer, Claire Latane, Kat Superfisky
Today’s Agenda

9:10  Welcome
  •  Laurel Hunt & Ari Simon, UCLA
  •  Mia Lehrer, Studio-MLA
  •  Gary Gero, CSO of the County of Los Angeles
  •  Sean Kennedy, UCLA

9:45  Breakout #1: Goals

10:40  Break

10:50  Breakout #2: Strategies

12:10  Breakout #3: Cross-Topic Collaboration

12:20  Closing Remarks
  •  Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office

12:30  Survey and Adjournment
Studio-MLA Welcome
SOLITARY BEES
have moved into this hotel
BEE QUIET
BABIES ARE IN THERE!
STUDIO-MLA
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION + STUDIO-MLA
LOS ANGELES
URBAN wildlife

PURPOSE

METHODOLOGY

1 REVIEW
2 ANALYZE
3 SELECT
4 MAP
5 IDENTIFY
6 RE-IMAGINE

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION + STUDIO-MLA URBAN WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY STUDY
SANTA MONICA BEACH RESTORATION
The Team
Consultant Team

Topic and data collection and analysis leadership and stakeholder engagement co-leadership

Stakeholder engagement co-leadership

Topic expert: **open space**

Topic expert: **housing and economy and workforce development**

SE support

Topic expert: **health and wellbeing**

Topic expert: **transportation**

Topic expert: **air quality**
The Chief Sustainability Office provides comprehensive and coordinated policy support and guidance for the Board of Supervisors, County departments, the unincorporated areas, and the region to make our communities healthier, more liveable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable.
The Plan
The County’s Aims

The plan should be:

- Aspirational, Comprehensive, Long-Term, Regional, Actionable

The task:

- Develop a comprehensive framework for County and City sustainability initiatives
- Serve as template for local cities when preparing sustainability/climate action plans
- Prepare the region to be competitive for funding
The County’s Sphere of Influence

Support

Influence

Direct Control
County operations
Unincorporated areas

Regional Agencies

State Policy and Programs
Countywide Sustainability Plan Framework

- Water
- Energy
- Climate
- Air Quality
- Land Use and Transportation
- Open Space, Recreation and Habitat/Biodiversity
- Resource Recovery and Waste Management
- Public Health and Well-Being
- Economy and Workforce Development
- Housing

Equity & Resilience woven throughout
Organizing Principles

Nurturing Healthy Communities

Cultivating a Just Economy

Fostering a Healthy Relationship with the Environment

Making It Happen
LA County Landscapes & Ecosystems Overview
Landscapes and Ecosystems of the L.A. region

- Urban ecosystems are dynamic combinations of natural, social, and constructed features
- L.A. County’s landscapes comprise social and ecological features and serve multiple functions:
  - Recreation
  - Habitat
  - Agriculture
  - Water filtration
  - Flood control
Protected Areas

- Protected public lands account for 34% of the total L.A. County area (886,443 acres)
- 41,807 acres of marine protected areas
- Mostly limited to mountainous areas and pockets along the coast
Parks

- Parks have been linked to a range of social, environmental, and economic benefits
- The L.A County Department of Parks & Recreation Park Needs Assessment found that more than 50% of L.A. County’s population lives in areas of high or very high park need
- Access to open space extends beyond availability and proximity
  - Need to re-imagine conventional notions of open space, as well as potential trade-offs

Source: L.A. County DPR Park Needs Assessment
Beaches

- Over 50 million residents and visitors enjoy swimming, surfing, and other water recreation at L.A. County’s beaches every year
- Lack of public transportation, affordable parking, and affordable lodging present significant barriers to beach access
- Maintaining high levels of water quality is vital for public safety and enjoyment of these iconic landscapes

Source: Heal the Bay, 2018
Working Lands

- Farms, ranches, forests, and other extractive land uses support economic activity and land-based livelihoods across L.A. County
- In 2013, the value of agricultural production across L.A. County exceeded $200m
- Solar facilities and groundwater recharge basins are the main contributors to the conversion of agricultural land to urban land in L.A. County
- Conversions from non-irrigated land uses and other land to urban land between 2014-2016 were primarily due to the construction of new homes and businesses and solar facilities

Lancaster Dry Farm Ranch, Lancaster CA
Source: sPower
Biodiversity and Habitat

Biodiversity

- **Significant Ecological Areas (SEA)** are officially designated areas intended to conserve genetic and physical diversity.
- **Habitat linkages** are critical to maintaining healthy populations of many species yet are largely absent outside protected areas.

Source: National Park Service, 2014
Biodiversity and Habitat

Habitat loss and restoration

• L.A. County has lost 73% of its total tidal wetland area from 1850 to the present, from 8,181 acres to 2,229 acres
  • State purchases play a key role in wetland protection and restoration
• Kelp forests provide habitat and protection for hundreds of species of fishes and invertebrates
  • Restoration efforts along the Palos Verdes Peninsula have reduced sea urchin population density to allow the recovery of giant kelp

Source: The Bay Foundation: Kelp Forest Restoration
Changing Landscapes: the Future of L.A. County

- **Urban development**
  - Trade-offs between housing and habitat fragmentation

- **Climate change**
  - Hotter temperatures, reduced snowmelt, and increased wildfire risk likely to affect human health and biodiversity

- **‘Green gentrification’**
  - L.A. River: potential trade-offs between urban greening and displacement
  - Whose river will it be?

The G2 parcel at Taylor Yard was acquired by the City of Los Angeles to develop a new park and restore lost riparian ecosystems on the Los Angeles River in an area once dominated by industry. Source: CityLab
The Role of the County in Landscapes & Ecosystems

• Over 100 public entities manage landscapes and ecosystems across L.A. County
  • federal, state, regional, county, city park departments; special recreation and park districts; water agencies; utilities; land conservation organizations
• L.A. County Department of Regional Planning
  • performs all land use planning functions for unincorporated L.A. County
• L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation
  • manages over 70,000 acres of parkland (local and regional parks, arboreta and botanic gardens, wildlife sanctuaries, golf courses, and multi-use trails
• Department of Beaches and Harbors
  • responsible for the operation and maintenance of all County owned and operated beaches
• Municipal parks in L.A. County are managed by their respective city departments and agencies
### A Sampling of Local and Regional Landscapes and Ecosystems Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Policy Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td><strong>Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure (2016)</strong> implements an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of development, which will generate approximately $94 million a year to be used on local parks, beaches, and open space areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td><strong>Cal FIRE Funded Park Inventory</strong> granted funds to L.A. County to determine overall health and spatial needs for twenty-eight County parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Los Angeles</td>
<td><strong>L.A. City Biodiversity Motion (2017)</strong> set biodiversity goals for the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation by implementing the Singapore Index of Cities’ Biodiversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td><strong>California Environmental Quality Act</strong> requires California local and state agencies to analyze and disclose, and consider the environmental impacts of proposed discretionary project approvals, before approving a project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td><strong>California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (2018)</strong> reallocates $100,000,000 of funds to finance programs affecting drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key Terms

#### Vision
A core value or values at the heart of the plan – the “why”

#### Goals
Broad, aspirational statement of what we want to achieve

#### Strategies
Approach or approaches that we take to achieve a goal (strategies may support multiple goals)

#### Actions
Specific policy, program, or tool we take to achieve a strategy

#### Indicators
Quantitative measures used to assess performance on a regular basis

#### Targets
Levels of performance that are sustainable
Key Terms

Vision
A core value or values at the heart of the plan – the “why”

Goals
Broad, aspirational statement of what we want to achieve

Strategies
Approach or approaches that we take to achieve a goal (strategies may support multiple goals)

Today’s Focus
Goals

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.

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

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

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

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

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

G. Improve ecological literacy.
Workshop Feedback
Nonprofit Stakeholder Engagement

Water
June 28, 2018

Energy
July 20, 2018

Transportation
July 27, 2018

Open Space
September 17, 2018

66 individuals
55 NGOs

48 individuals
37 NGOs

55 individuals
42 NGOs

65 individuals
50 NGOs
Public / Private Stakeholder Engagement

**Water**  
July 23, 2018  
41 individuals  
31 ORGs

**Energy & Climate**  
July 31, 2018  
49 individuals  
36 ORGs

**Transportation**  
September 26, 2018  
71 individuals  
54 ORGs

**Waste & Resource Management**  
Nonprofit and Public / Private  
September 28, 2018  
48 individuals  
41 NGOs / ORGs

**Public Health & Air Quality**  
October 3, 2018  
45 individuals  
33 ORGs