

Department of Public Works

Bureau of Engineering
Report No. 1

February 16, 2022
CD Nos. 3, 5, and 6

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Executive Officer
Board of Public Works

LOS ANGELES RIVER VALLEY BIKEWAY AND GREENWAY (VANALDEN AVENUE TO BALBOA BOULEVARD) PROJECT – ADOPTION OF THE FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND PROJECT APPROVAL BY THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL (WORK ORDER No. E190752B) (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE No. 2021100118)

RECOMMENDING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Following the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, ADOPT and FORWARD this report and transmittals to the Los Angeles City Council with the following recommendations:

1. REVIEW and CONSIDER the Los Angeles (LA) River Valley Bikeway and Greenway (Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard) Project (Project) Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final MND) (Transmittal No. 1).
2. FIND that, on the basis of the whole record, with the imposition of mitigation measures, there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Final MND reflects the City of Los Angeles' (City)'s independent judgment and analysis.
3. ADOPT the Final MND for the Project.
4. ADOPT the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Project (Transmittal No. 2).
5. APPROVE the Project, as described in the Final MND.
6. SPECIFY that the documents constituting the record of proceedings in this matter are in the custody of the City Clerk located at 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, and in the files of the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) located at 1149 South Broadway, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90015, and any other relevant City Department.

TRANSMITTALS

1. The Final MND for the Project, dated December 2021, including Initial Study/MND and responses to comments.
2. The MMRP for the Project, dated December 2021.

DISCUSSION

Background

The BOE has prioritized the completion of the LA River trail system per Mayor Eric Garcetti's Executive Directive No. 07 (the Sustainable City pLAN), the LA River Revitalization Plan, and other planning documents. The LA River is an approximately 51-mile channelized river that begins in the Canoga Park Community of the City and ends in the Long Beach Harbor. Approximately 19.5 miles of the LA River runs through the San Fernando Valley. The BOE has previously completed three miles of bikeway along the LA River in the San Fernando Valley. Of the remaining 16.5 miles of bikeway gap in the San Fernando Valley, the BOE is tasked with completing 13 miles, while other agencies will complete the other three miles. The BOE is in the process of managing the design of a 3-mile segment of bikeway and greenway along the LA River in the West San Fernando Valley, from Vanalden Avenue to the west and Balboa Boulevard to the east.

Project Description

The proposed Project is an approximately 3-mile bikeway and greenway facilities project located along the LA River in the West San Fernando Valley. The proposed Project includes the installation of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, including landscaping, lighting, and retaining walls; construction of undercrossing and river parks; as well as on-street improvements to increase access to the LA River Bikeway in this area. The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide recreational opportunities along with pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in the Encino-Tarzana Community Planning Area. The proposed Project would connect the existing LA River Bikeway and close the existing bikeway gaps along the LA River. The proposed Project would also connect to the active transportation network throughout the region, and provide new pedestrian and bicycle access, and connectivity to transit, residential homes, schools, jobs, parks, and other community-serving amenities for the surrounding areas. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in the late Fall of 2022 and last approximately three years.

Public Participation and Public Review

The Draft Initial Study/MND was circulated for public review and comment from October 7, 2021, to November 6, 2021. A notice of intent/availability was published in the Los Angeles Times on October 7, 2021. The notice of intent/availability was also mailed to interested parties and filed with the City Clerk and County Clerk. The Draft Initial Study/MND was available for review at the BOE Environmental Management Group's Office, and online at the BOE's website.

Six letters commenting on the Draft Initial Study/MND were received during the public review period. Copies of the correspondence along with responses can be found in the Final MND (Transmittal No. 1). None of the comments received necessitated changes to the Project, or the conclusion or findings of the Initial Study, or the mitigation measures of the MMRP (Transmittal No. 2).

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Project Schedule

The Project design is anticipated to be completed by the Summer of 2022. The above recommended actions are necessary steps before completing the design of the Project.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Project has a construction budget, including contingency, of approximately \$46,000,000. Funding for the design and environmental documentation was provided by Los Angeles County funds, as well as City funds. Funding for the construction will be provided by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Measure M funds, Active Transportation Cycle 4 funds, as well as other sources to be identified. The General Fund is supporting the City's project management staff costs.

(MEM SF RMK JF)

Report reviewed by:

BOE (ADM and ARC)

Report prepared by:

Environmental Management Group

Maria E. Martin
Group Manager
Phone No. (213) 485-5753

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Questions regarding this report
may be referred to:

Nur Malhis, Project Manager
Phone No. (213) 485-4737
E-mail: nur.malhis@lacity.org
and/or

Chris Adams, Environmental Specialist III
Phone No. (213) 485-5910
E-mail: christopher.adams@lacity.org

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
City Engineer