

Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan

Informational Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Los Angeles Zoo - Witherbee Auditorium

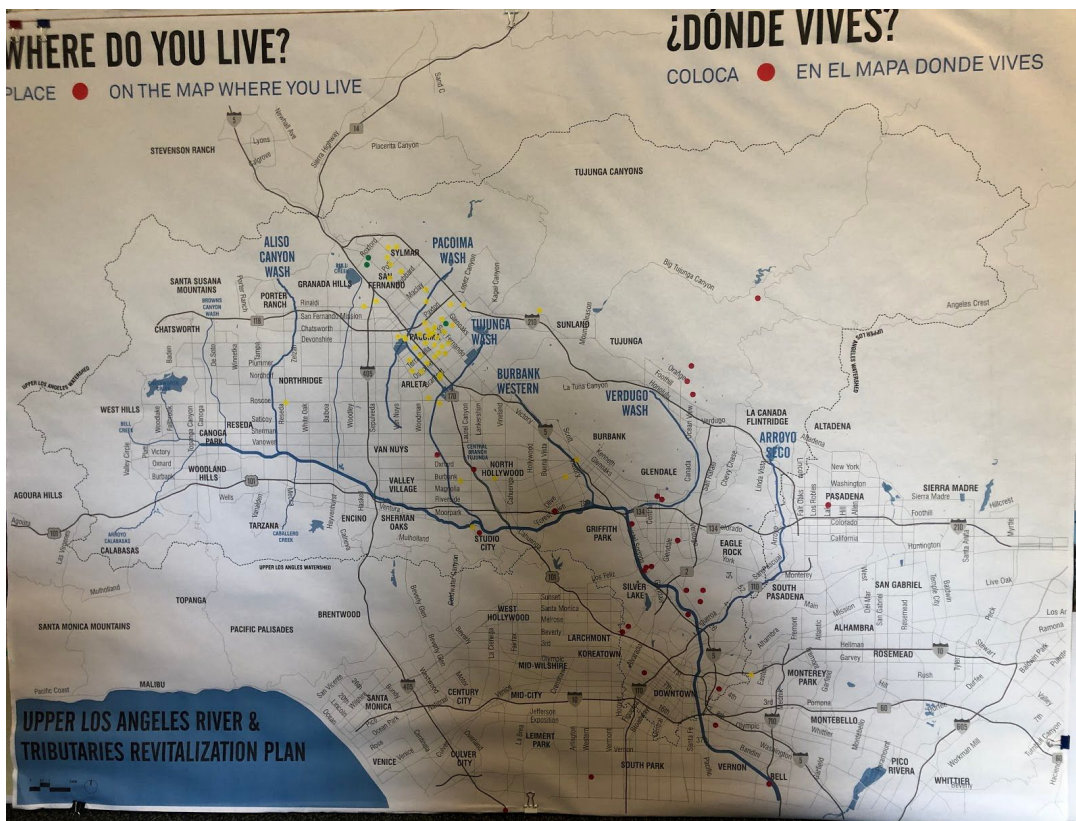
SUMMARY

Introduction

On March 20, 2019 The River Project hosted an informational community meeting to solicit input into the Upper LA River & Tributaries (ULART) Revitalization Plan. The role of The River Project is to conduct community outreach for this planning effort. Prior to the meeting The River Project used a variety of communication methods to promote the meeting. Approximately 30 community members signed in to the meeting.

Station 1: Tell us where you live

Community members placed dots on a map of the study area to show where they live.



Station 2: Tell us what you do at the River

Participants responded to a series of questions related to the tributaries and sections of the LA river that are being studied. The following is a synopsis of the responses.

Did you know there is a river?

Yes: 17

No: 0

Do you know what a tributary is?

Yes: 13

No: 0

What do you do when you visit the river?

Walk/Run: 9

Kayak: 1

Bike: 9

Go to a park: 7

Other: 3

Write-ins:

Bird watching: 5

Fishing: 1

Dog Walking: 1

Boating: 1

If not, why?

Access: 4

Safety (lighting, trash, other): 7

Other: 6

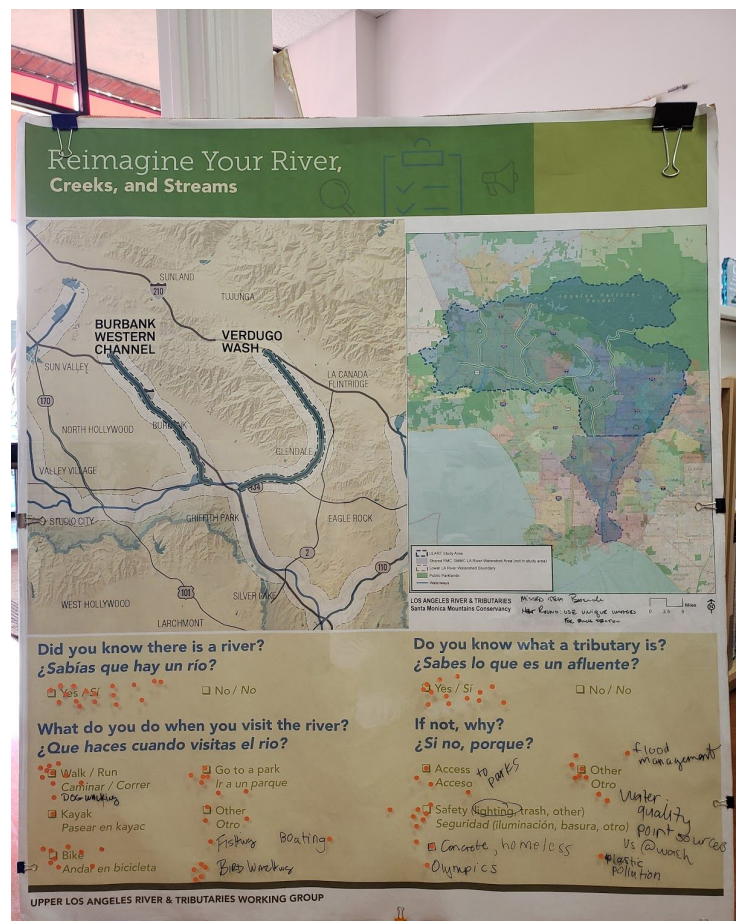
Write-ins:

Concrete, homeless: 2

Water quality: 2

Flood management: 1

Plastic pollution: 1



Olympics: 1

Write-ins overall:

Missed item: bioswale; next round use unique images for each section

Station 3: Share your vision for the tributaries

Community members viewed examples of opportunities for the tributaries. The following is a summary of the results across the 5 themes.

Poster 1 Aesthetics

Lighting

Ex. 1

Love it: 5

Like it: 3

Neutral: 5

Ex. 2

Love it: 5

Like it: 4

Neutral: 3

Ex. 3

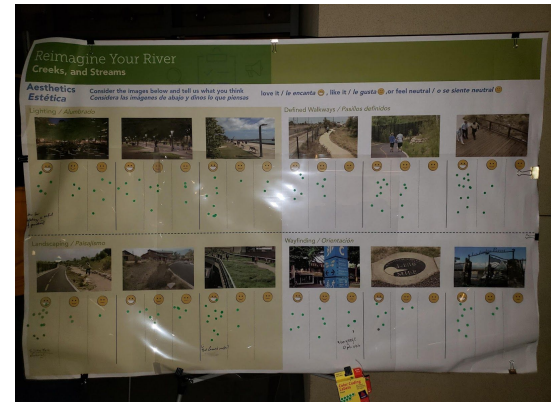
Love it: 8

Like it: 1

Neutral: 2

Additional Comments:

*Lighting is useful & protective



Defined Walkways

Ex. 1

Love it: 5

Like it: 4

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 8

Like it: 5

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 11

Like it: 3

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

Landscaping

Ex. 1

Love it: 12

Like it: 2

Neutral: 1

Ex. 2

Love it: 2

Like it: 4

Neutral: 5

Ex. 3

Love it: 11

Like it: 2

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

*Like things more natural

**Groundwater? :D

Wayfinding

Ex. 1

Love it: 4

Like it: 4

Neutral: 4

Ex. 2

Love it: 5

Like it: 2

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 8

Like it: 2

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

*Language Options

Poster 2 Access

Community Amenities

Ex. 1

Love it: 7

Like it: 2

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 4

Like it: 4

Neutral: 1

Ex. 3

Love it: 5

Like it: 5

Neutral: 1

Additional Comments:

Open Spaces

Ex. 1

Love it: 9

Like it: 3

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 2

Like it: 4

Neutral: 2

Ex. 3

Love it: 7

Like it: 1

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

Recreation

Ex. 1

Love it: 4

Like it: 3

Neutral: 2

Ex. 2

Love it: 7

Like it: 1

Neutral: 3

Ex. 3

Love it: 4

Like it: 3

Neutral: 2

Additional Comments:

*Inviting for community

**Love (illegible) of (illegible)

Defined Points of Access

Ex. 1

Love it: 5

Like it: 5

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 6

Like it: 3

Neutral: 0

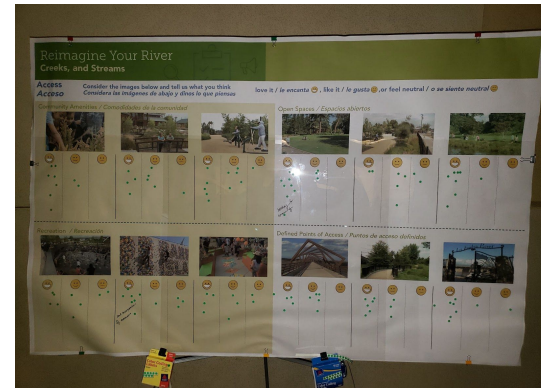
Ex. 3

Love it: 7

Like it: 1

Neutral: 1

Additional Comments:



Poster 3 Safety

Safety

Ex. 1

Love it: 4

Like it: 1

Neutral: 3

Ex. 2

Love it: 2

Like it: 4

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3*

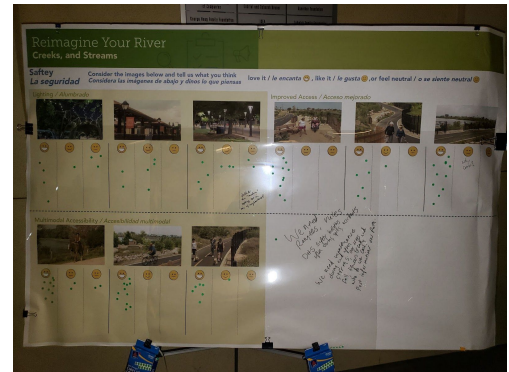
Love it: 4

Like it: 3

Neutral: 2

Additional Comments:

*The “modern” lighting not in line with neighborhood



Improved Access

Ex. 1

Love it: 11

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 6

Like it: 1

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 11

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

*Why Fence?

Multimodal Accessibility

Ex. 1

Love it: 10

Like it: 2

Neutral: 2

Ex. 2

Love it: 11

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 6

Like it: 1

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

*We need rangers, rules DHS safety bulletins after storms, spills accidents.

**We need maintenance during and after storms, our trees fall, fences break and who do we call?

***Post information on path.

Poster 4 Environment

Resource Conservation

Ex. 1

Love it: 10

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 12

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 11

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Additional Comments:

Sustainability

Ex. 1

Love it: 8

Like it: 1

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 6

Like it: 1

Neutral: 1

Ex. 3

Love it: 8

Like it: 2

Neutral: 1

Additional Comments:

Habitat

Ex. 1

Love it: 10

Like it: 1

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 12

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 11

Like it: 0

Neutral: 0

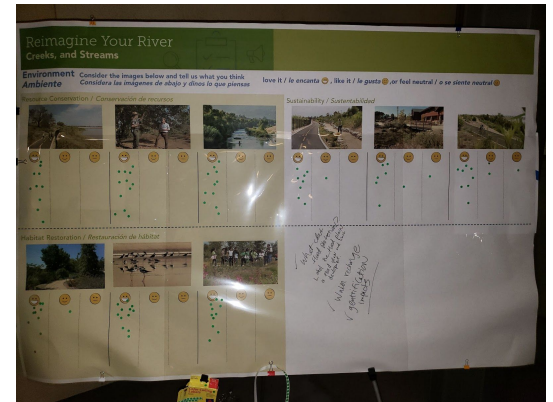
Additional Comments:

*What about flood protection?

**Label the floodplain a floodplain and limit development.

***Water Recharge

****Gentrification Impacts



Poster 5 Infrastructure

Sidewalks

Ex. 1

Love it: 2

Like it: 4

Neutral: 4

Ex. 2

Love it: 6

Like it: 1

Neutral: 0

Ex. 3

Love it: 4

Like it: 2

Neutral: 2

Additional Comments:

*Not natural

**The more natural, the better

*** Path too close to river

Drainage

Ex. 1

Love it: 5

Like it: 6

Neutral: 0

Ex. 2

Love it: 6

Like it: 4

Neutral: 3

Ex. 3

Love it: 2

Like it: 5

Neutral: 6

Additional Comments:

* Naturalized good!

**Why is there nothing about helping homeless people?

Pedestrian Lighting

Ex. 1

Love it: 4

Like it: 2

Neutral: 4

Ex. 2

Love it: 5

Like it: 2

Neutral: 3

Ex. 3

Love it: 3

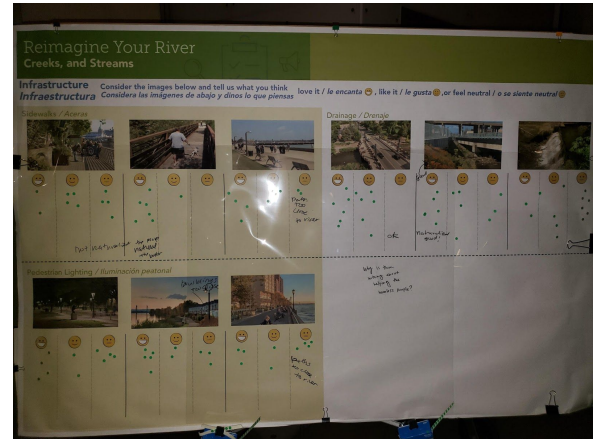
Like it: 2

Neutral: 4

Additional Comments:

*Buildings too close

**Paths too close to river



Station 4: Storytelling

Community members were asked to share a memorable experience along/in the river. Below is a summary of key ideas taken from the videos that were recorded and stories that were written on the comment cards.

Some key ideas taken from comment cards had to do with the overall lack of watershed management along the river and tributaries, as well as interest in shifting the focus of the plan to having more of a watershed perspective. This included things like poor flood management, floodplain reclamation, groundwater recharge, infiltration and addressing water quality (before reaching the river or its tributaries). Someone was concerned about water pollution and its impact on animals. They use to see a lot of birds migrating in the spring and fall, and now isn't seeing them anymore and would love to have them come back. Under this umbrella was also the lack of acknowledgement of all tributaries and the macro problem of climate change on ALL infrastructure as well as wildlife, birds, rivers, and our life on earth. Some suggestions were planning for appropriate infrastructure, more security and better signage (especially during the rainy season when the river systems starts to fill up).

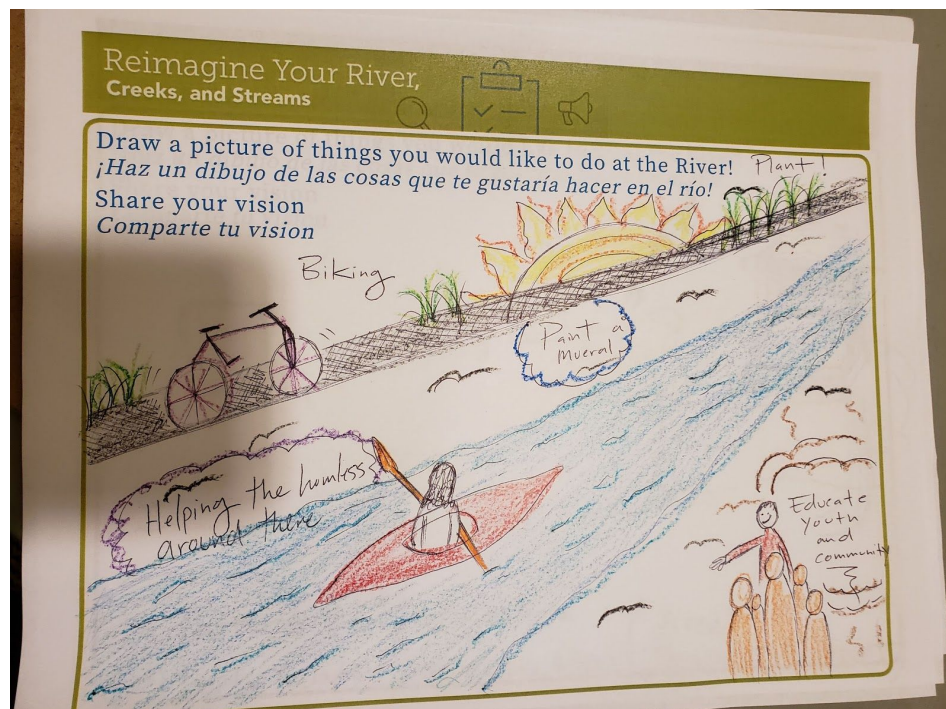
Other things that were noted both on the comment cards and video clips, were wanting more recreation on/along the water, more educational opportunities, and more native habitat restoration. People specifically want more exposure to the river through kayaking (kayaking is transformative for people), being able to view wildlife, having more open space and overall just more natural recreational activities like you would have along a real river. Someone even mentioned not wanting it to look like Disneyland, "I just want it to look like a river".

More educational programs so people can understand more about what's native and what's not and start recognizing patterns to better appreciate our resources. One lady mentioned growing up in South LA and moving to the Sunland Tujunga area to be close to nature. Something she felt passionate about was saving an area called the Verdugo Hills golf course. She felt that area would be perfect to keep as open space for water reclamation and youth recreational space.

A big one was the need for more access points on both sides of the river. Someone said they had to "drive to the other side to access [the river]" leaving them with a feeling of disconnect. Another mentioned using the river almost every day as a bike path and as leisure with family at nearby parks like Rio de Los Angeles and Marsh Park. They too, wished more people would have access to it so they could explore and enjoy the river too.

People also felt that the photos used for the interactive posters were "too non-descriptive and lacked specific context". Someone even felt that this plan should not be called a revitalization plan because Latino communities would not want to be included as they felt that the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan contributes to gentrification. They felt that there were too many of these types of community meetings and not enough action.

Finally, more comments were heard as people visited station #5: The LA River Rover. Our partners, Friends of the LA River brought along the river rover making the last station interactive for all. People enjoyed having descriptive visuals about the river and learning about its history and native habitat. The rain did not stop people from wanting to visit the rover and the overall comments for the rover were positive.



Reimagine Your River,
Creeks, and Streams



Draw a picture of things you would like to do at the River!
¡Haz un dibujo de las cosas que te gustaría hacer en el río!

Share your vision
Comparte tu vision



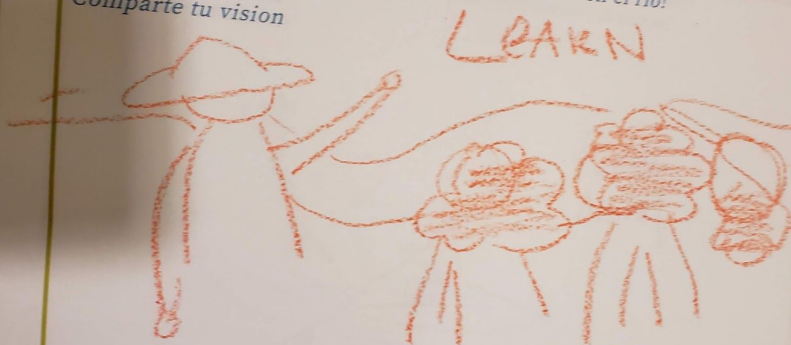
Current ^{closed} Verdugo Hills Golf Course
vision park / water reclamation (Area 1 - Japanese Monument)

Reimagine Your River,
Creeks, and Streams

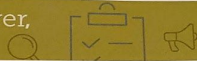


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Habitat for wildlife.
Clean water. Restoring natural waterway for wildlife.
Better access to both banks. Walking.
Cleanup of trash.



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Birding
Rec Activities
Biking
Cleanup
Restoration of Habitat
Supporting good planning of River + Tributaries
Clean Water from point Sources > Tributaries >
River > Ocean
Sharing Vision for Verdug. Wash

Reimagine Your River, Creeks, and Streams

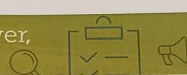


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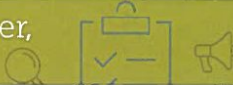
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A verbal picture. To do: swim!
Listen. I want to sit by the river edge, and listen to the water flow, and ~~be~~ at
the edges that are trying to constrain its energy.
I want to feel the water run between my fingers and on a hot summer day
take off my shoes and socks and soak my feet and feel the coolness.
I want to close my eyes and say a prayer to the river gods and goddesses
that I hope they can stay strong, and healthy and let the river run free.

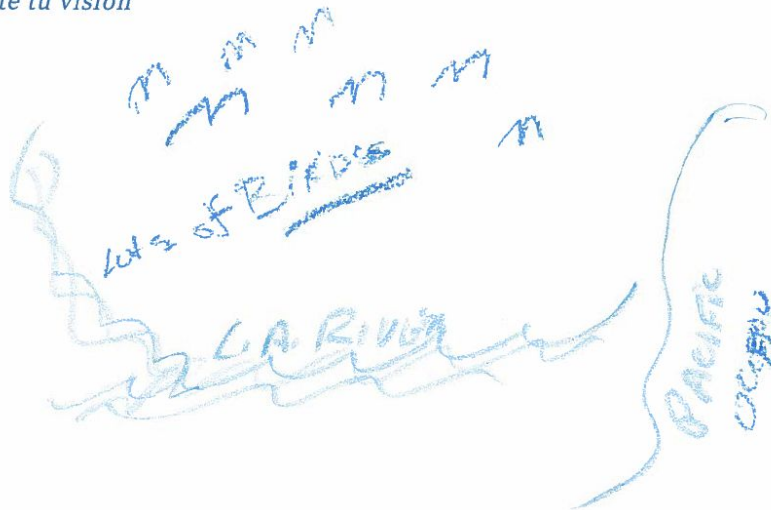


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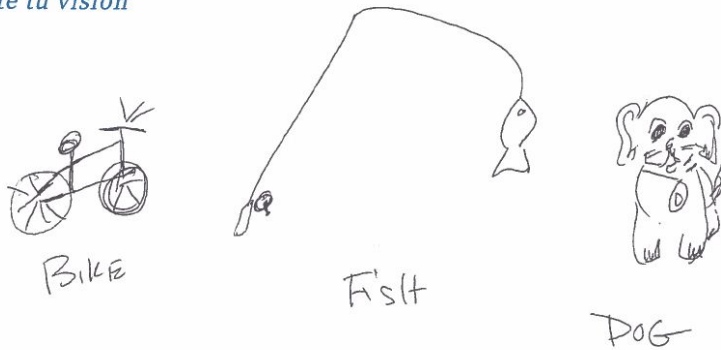
Austin Roldan

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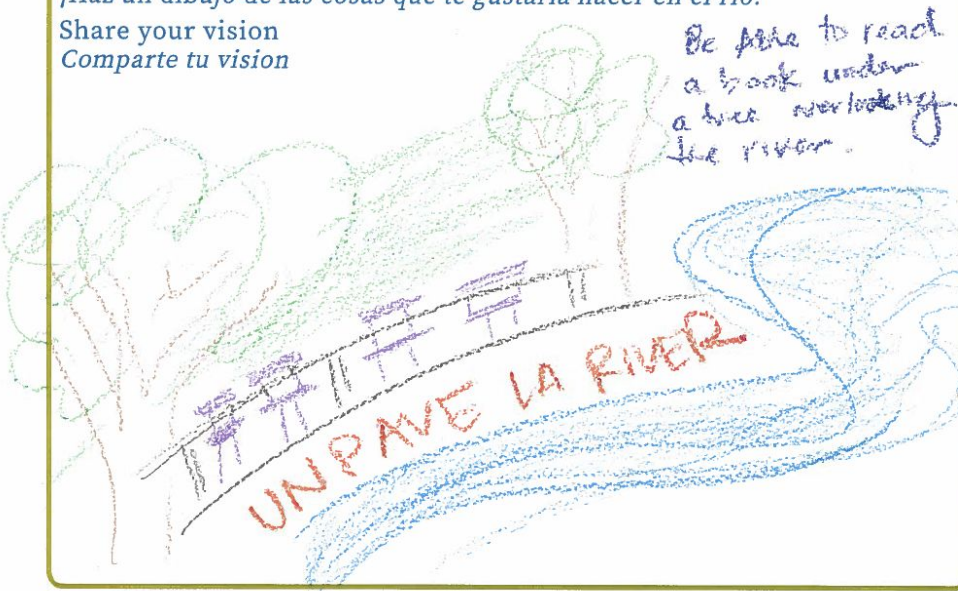
What I'd like to see is more community-
sponsored/promoted social events: picnics,
hiking, entertainment

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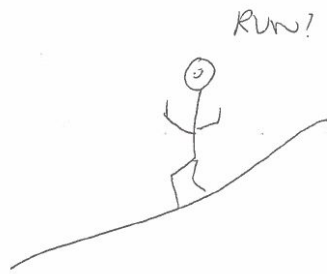


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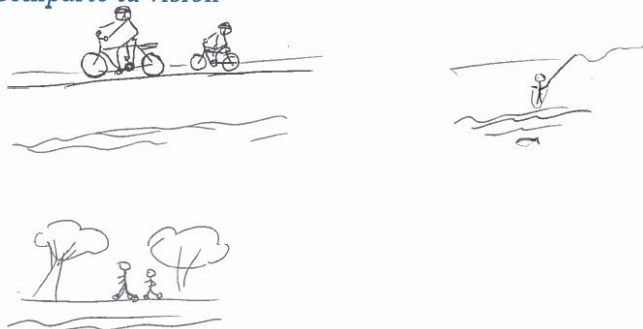


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Flood/Watershed management ✓

Share additional comments or ideas:

Flood plain
reclamation

ON main stem
Keep it simple

Please go east - and

include the Hazard Street Watershed / Asrott Hills

off Soto / which is a tributary to the LA River
those communities are disadvantaged!

trash cans
of River!

Please don't call your plan a revitalization

plan; Latino communities will not want to
be included. LA River Revitalization Master

plan = gentrification. Focus on making
it a watershed plan please.

Share additional comments or ideas:

More recreation on the water and by the water

More education opportunities

More habitat restoration

Ground water recharge

Water cleanup to lessen burden on Santa Monica Bay

Share additional comments or ideas:

Major consideration is effects of
climate change on all infrastructure plans

Share additional comments or ideas:

My Vision Station: I felt the photos in the exhibit
were too non-descript and lacked specificity & context, Reusing
photos muddled the message further.

Share additional comments or ideas:

I think it's important for the RiverPlan to include access on both sides of the river to connect people to it. One issue I've noticed is that we need to drive to the other side to access it.

Also, I'd like focus on cleaning up the water before it reaches the river or its tributaries.

River Dreams

I have river dreams.

I dream of a river that is wide and narrow and
deep and shallow—a river that can be whatever
It wants and needs and was born to be.

A river clean and fresh, born of waters from the sky,
carried down the mountains and spreads itself out
and replenishes the lands as it share its life giving soul
as it makes its way to the sea.

I have river dreams and I know the river does too.
Amen.