

PLS

Motion

The Los Angeles City Council adopted the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan in 2007 to transform a 32-mile stretch of the concrete-corseted Los Angeles River into a continuous greenbelt of parks, open space, recreational amenities and trails. The Master Plan includes recommendations for River improvements to allow people to recreate in and around the river

Fishing, non-motorized boating, and other water contact activities are prohibited in the River. Such forms of sport and recreation must be carefully assessed to address lack of easy ingress and egress, poor water quality, and sensitive habitat.

The Environmental Protection Agency's recently ruling that the Los Angeles River is navigable, and thus entitled to Clean Water Act protections, presents an unprecedented and timely opportunity to engage the public, agencies and others who have been seeking to restore the River and its environs. President Obama's launch of the Great Outdoors Initiative further encourages community efforts to expand and conserve open spaces, such as those along the River, for recreational uses.

With this in mind, the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) should be directed to work with the City's Bureaus of Engineering and Sanitation, Department of Water and Power and other City entities to report on recommendations to establish a pilot non-motorized boating program for the Los Angeles River. As part of this report, the RAP should collaborate with external agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, County of Los Angeles, and river and wildlife advocacy groups.

The report should address a variety of matters associated with the development of water contact activities at the River. In this manner, an implemented program can help accomplish the Los Angeles River Master Plan goals to revitalize and protect the people, animal and plant life of the Los Angeles River and its surroundings.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) be instructed to work with the Bureaus of Engineering and Sanitation, Department of Water and Power, Fire Department, Department of General Services, in consultation with the City Attorney, Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, United States Army Corps of Engineers, County of Los Angeles, and river and wildlife advocacy groups to report to the Ad Hoc River Committee in 90 days on the feasibility of establishing a pilot non-motorized boating program for the Los Angeles River.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report address the following matters with respect to water contact activities at the Los Angeles River

- Any legal, financial issues;
- Potential locations for public access;
- Infrastructure needs and staffing;
- Sponsorships; and
- Education/training that emphasizes public safety, wildlife conservation, water quality and youth involvement.

PRESENTED BY:

ED P. REYES
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:
