



# Meeting Minutes

**Project Title:** San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan

**Meeting Title:** January 2023 Steering Committee Meeting

**Purpose of Meeting:** Present schedule update, environmental documentation update, plan update, 3D renderings preview, small group discussion, and next steps.

**Meeting Location:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**Date:** January 11, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 PM

## Attendees:

### Steering Committee Members

Carolina Hernandez, LACFCD  
Ramy Gindi, LACFCD  
Wesley Reutimann, Active SGV  
Sally Gee, RMC  
Arturo Gonzalez, RMC  
Belen Bernal, Nature for All  
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All  
Edna Robidas, Trust for Public Land  
Johnathan Perisho, WCA

### Project Team

Julian Juarez, LACPW  
Jennifer Aborida, LACPW  
Robert Gomez, LACPW  
Soledad Tlamasico, LACPW  
Sarah Ahmed, LACPW TPP  
Michelle Montano, LACDPR  
Natasha Krakowiak, LACDPR  
Sheela Mathai, LACDPR  
Loretta Quach, LACDPR  
Ariana Villanueva, LACPW SWQD  
Grace Komjakraphan, LACPW SWQD  
Laureen Abustan, Brown and Caldwell  
Jesse Scolavino, Brown and Caldwell  
Jeff Herr, Brown and Caldwell  
Christopher Jones, Brown and Caldwell  
Kevin Johnson, Studio-MLA  
Jan Dyer, Studio-MLA  
Megan Schwartz, Catalyst Environmental  
Emily Merickel, Catalyst Environmental

## Summary

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### Meeting Format

The January 2023 Steering Committee Meeting was held virtually over Microsoft Teams. The meeting consisted of a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the schedule update, followed by updates on the environmental documentation and the plan, a preview of the 3D renderings, a group discussion about funding sources and the 3D renderings, and an overview of the asks and next steps for the Steering Committee members. The presentation concluded with closing remarks.

#### 1. Introduction

- a. Welcome Remarks from LACPW
- b. Roll Call

#### 2. PowerPoint Presentation

##### a. Schedule Update (Brown and Caldwell)

- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) provided schedule updates on the Plan development and the status of the tasks and deliverables.
- Continuing to complete the deliverables for the Plan, including the Final Conceptual Designs, Opportunities and Constraints Maps, and Design Guidelines and Standards.
- Draft Greenway Network Plan is in development and will be submitted on January 19, 2023, to the County for review.
- Environmental documentation is in progress with the County reviewing the Project Description and Alternatives and the Draft PEIR in development. The Public Scoping Meeting was completed on October 4, 2022, and the AB 52 letters were mailed to the tribal contacts.
- Community Engagement Report and Survey Summary were submitted as draft deliverables to the County for review.
- 18 of the 25 Community Pop-Up Events have been conducted, the remaining 7 Pop-Up Events will be designated during the public comment period of the Draft Greenway Network Plan.
- SGV Greenway website continues to be ongoing and live.

##### b. Environmental Documentation Update (Catalyst Environmental)

- Preliminary Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
  - Project Description and Alternatives is under review by the County.
  - Draft PEIR will be prepared in Spring 2023.
- Public Scoping and Public Comment Period
  - Scoping period was conducted from September 20, 2022, through November 18, 2022.
  - Scoping meeting was held virtually on October 4, 2022. County is reviewing scoping comments received.
- AB 52 Letters and Tribal Consultation
  - AB 52 letters were mailed to the tribes on September 20, 2022.
  - No responses were received that required formal consultation.

**c. SGVGN Plan Update (Brown and Caldwell)**

- Plan Timeline
  - January 2023 – Draft SGV Greenway Network Plan
  - March 2023 – Steering Committee Review Period Starts
  - April 2023 – Steering Committee Review Period Ends
  - July 2023 – Draft SGV Greenway Network Plan and PEIR Public Release
- SGVGN Plan Purpose and Goals
  - The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan will:
    - a. Improve mobility and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, youth and the aging population, bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians.
    - b. Reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions.
    - c. Integrate stormwater capture and water management opportunities.
    - d. Enhance natural habitats and enrich community well-being.
  - Create a countywide network of interconnected, multi-use community greenways by transforming the storm channels, washes, and creeks that feed into the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers into a modernized network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways in the San Gabriel Valley.
- SGVGN Plan Draft Sections
  - Jesse Scolavino and Christopher Jones (Brown and Caldwell) gave an overview of the Plan sections.
  - Tribal Land Acknowledgment
  - Director’s Message
  - Executive Summary
  - 1. Introduction
    - Plan Goals
    - Project Partners and Planning Team
    - Background and Introduction to the Project Area
    - Approach to Plan Development
    - How to Use this Document
  - 2. Existing Conditions Summary
    - Compilation of Efforts and Studies
    - Early Implementation Projects
    - Data Research and Digital Database Development
    - Channel Characteristics and Dimensions
    - Tributary Narratives
  - 3. Engagement Strategy and Results
    - Community Engagement Plan
    - Engagement Leadership
    - Engagement with Municipal Stakeholders
    - Engagement with Other Stakeholders
    - Community Engagement Report and Integration of Community Feedback

4. Project Opportunities Analysis
  - Tributary Prioritization
  - Tributary Opportunities and Constraints
  - Gaps Analysis
5. Greenway Concept Design Development
  - Tier 1 Greenway Alignments
  - Crossings and Intersections
  - Potential Project Opportunities on Tier 1 Reaches
  - Conceptual Design Projects
6. Strategies for Implementation
  - Project Development
  - SGVGNSIP Resources for Project Development
  - Approvals Process
  - Advancing Partnerships
  - Funding Sources
7. Limitations
8. Resources
  - Acronyms
  - Definition of Terms
  - Endnotes
  - Table of Figures
  - Acknowledgments
  - References
  - Appendices
- Introducing Our Project Partners in the SGV Greenway Network Plan
  - Project Team requested the Steering Committee members provide:
    - Most up-to-date logo
    - Short blurb about constituency and mission
- d. Funding Sources (Brown and Caldwell)**
  - Jesse Scolavino (Brown and Caldwell) mentioned the various potential local, state, and federal funding sources included in the Strategies for Implementation section of the Plan and invited the Project Team to provide additional funding recommendations.
  - Local
    - Measure W
    - Measure H
    - Measure A
    - Measure M
  - State
    - Proposition Funds
    - Caltrans Grants

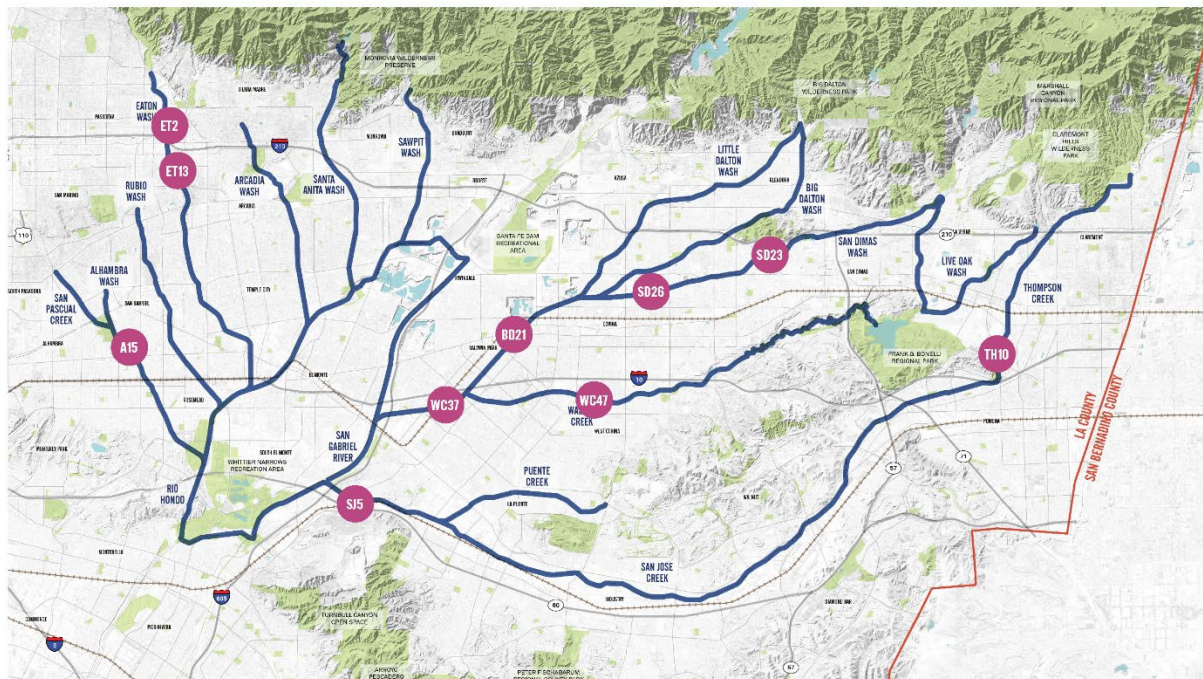
- State Conservancies
- State Agency Grants
- Federal
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - National Park Service
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Department of Transportation

**e. 3D Renderings Preview (Studio-MLA)**

- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) provided a preview of the 3D renderings with brief descriptions of the selected project sites, the rendering process, and the draft birds-eye, aerial view renderings.

**PROJECT SITES**

SGV GREENWAY STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN—RENDERINGS



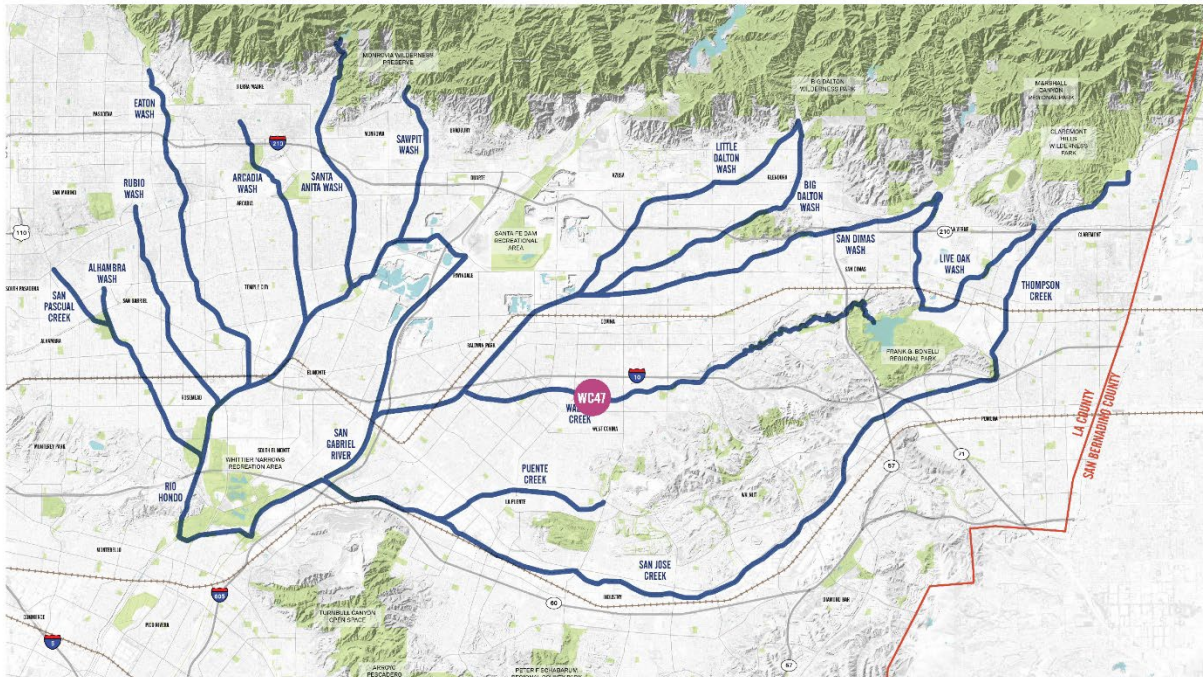
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SGV GREENWAY STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN—RENDERINGS



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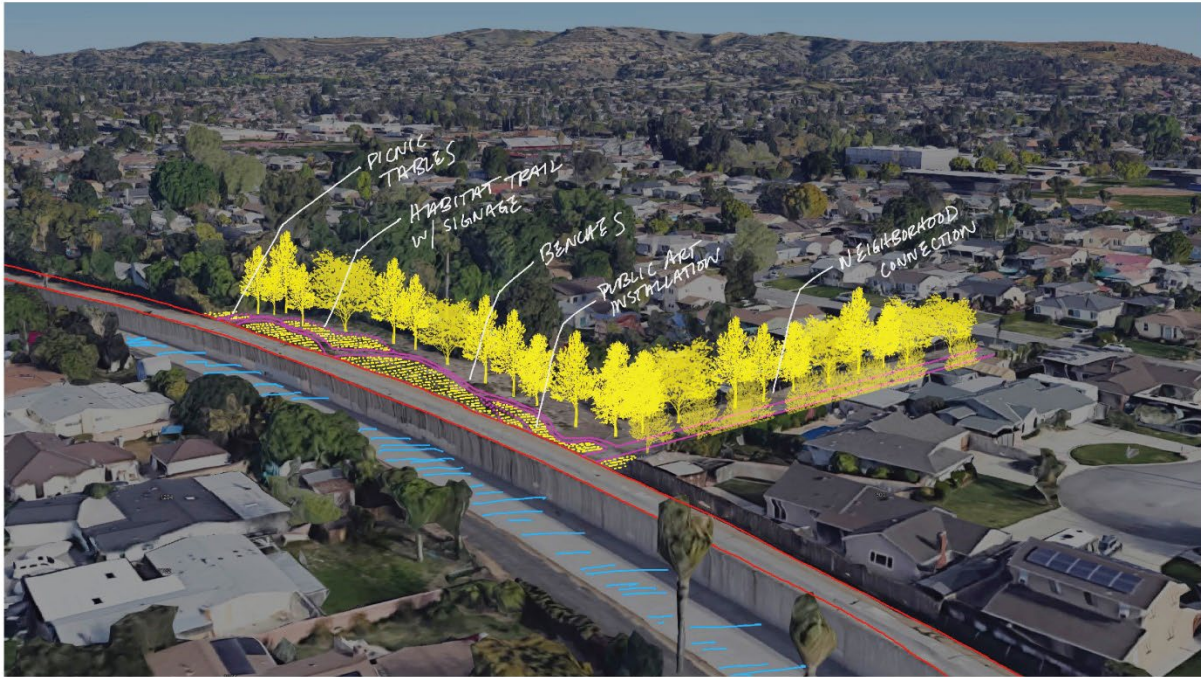
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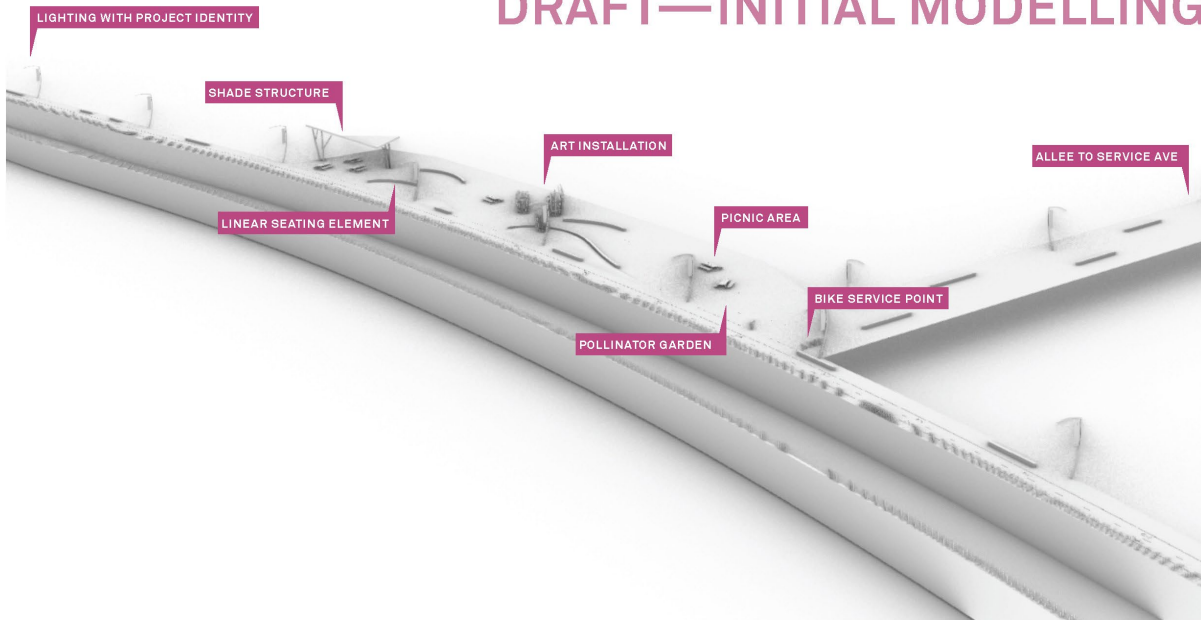
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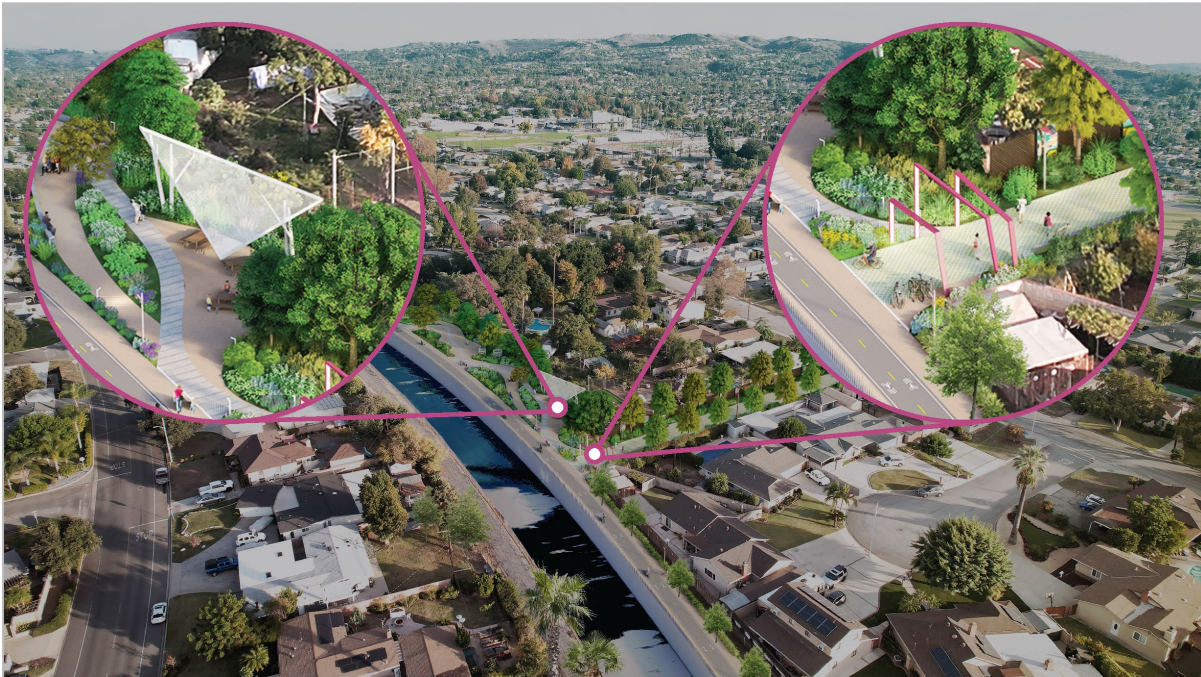
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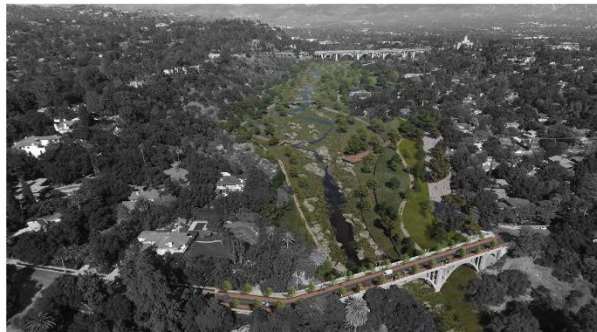
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### NEXT STEPS: RENDERING CONTEXT

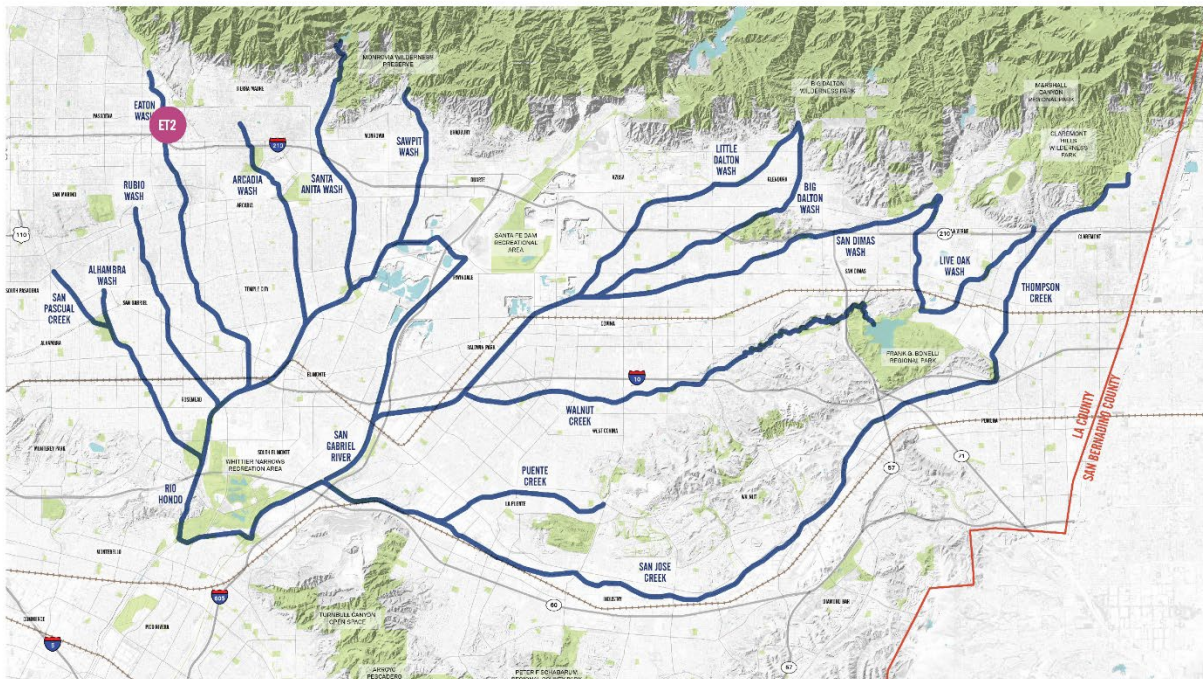
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### ET2

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### ET2

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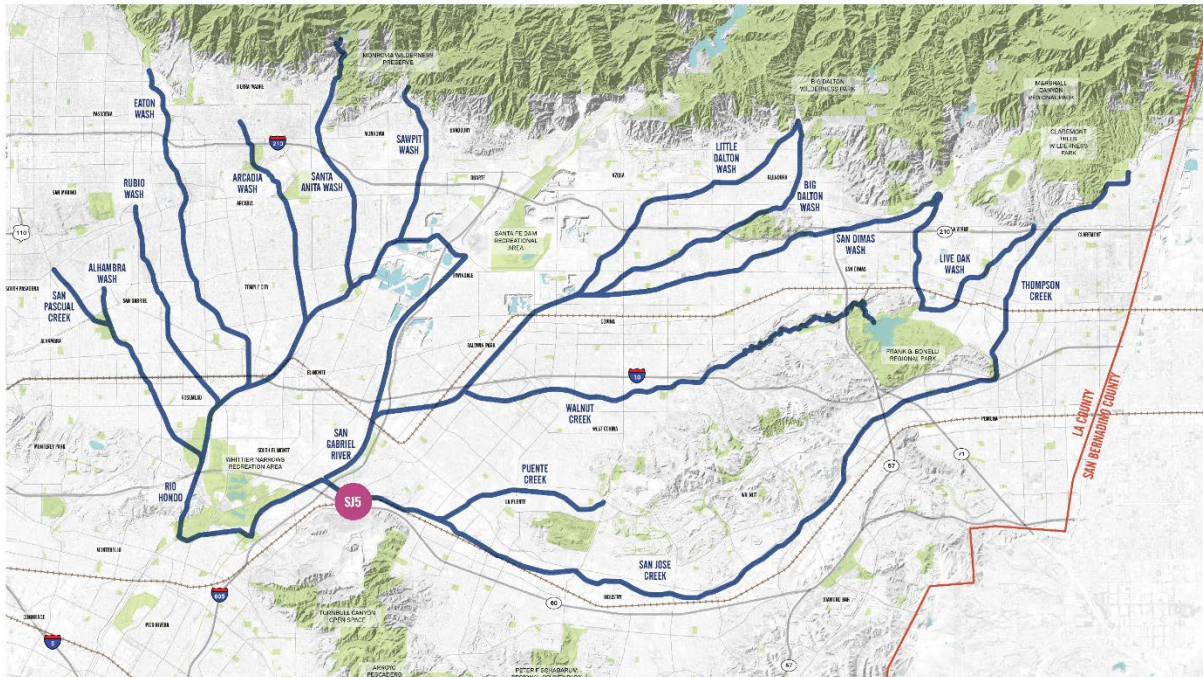
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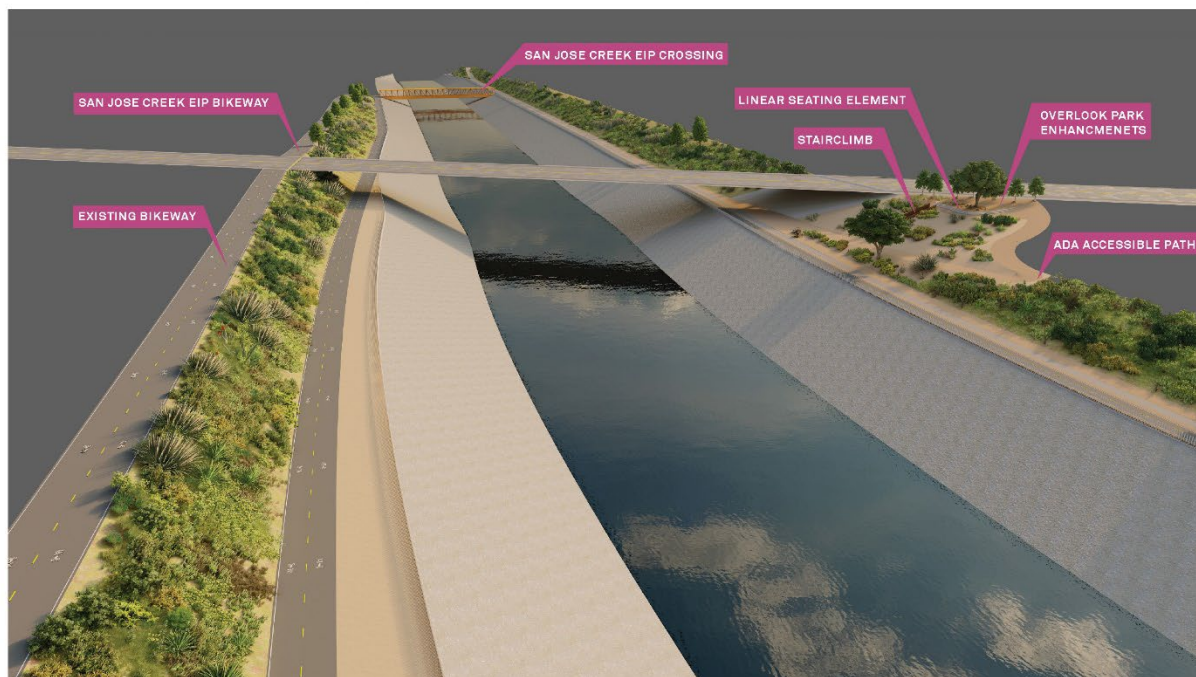


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SGV GREENWAY STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN—RENDERINGS



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#### f. Group Discussion

- Lauren Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) opened up the discussion by inviting the Steering Committee to provide recommendations for funding sources, feedback on the Plan sections, suggestions for the 3D renderings, or to share any questions or comments.
- Jennifer Aborida (LACPW) mentioned that the team wanted to focus on the discussion about the funding sources and asked the Steering Committee to share ideas on the call, chat, or to email after the meeting.
- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) shared that what has been really interesting about this Plan is the way that the conceptual designs are set up as greenways with adjacent parks that are really teed up for a lot of different funding sources. They are not only applicable to active transportation planning grants or green infrastructure and blue infrastructure grants but can really check a lot of those boxes. The Project Team is looking for feedback on how the funding sources could be compiled together and move forward some of the programs.
- Julian Juarez (LACPW) mentioned that in the past RMC has given updates on Proposition 68 grant funding opportunities and wondered if there is any potential for those opportunities on greenway type projects.
- Sally Gee (RMC) said that there are still proposition funds but there has not been a new proposition through the state since 2018, and funding has been decreasing. State budget funding is still considered under the state conservancies funding category. Funding sources have changed over time. Keeping the category a little bit more broad to state conservancies funding or state agency grants would be acceptable. Or, if you wanted to list specific state agencies like state parks could be another good entity. If there are more

habitat-based projects, then the Wildlife Conservation Board might be another potential source.

- Wes Reutimann (ActiveSGV) messaged asking if the Plan would be listing specific Proposition or Caltrans grants. Some of these projects should also be eligible for ExpressLanes Net Toll Revenue Return funding. Eaton Wash previously was awarded funding via the ExpressLanes program. Ditto on any funding for the Olympics. Projects connecting to Bonelli Park and/or other Olympic venues in the region might be competitive for Olympic funding. City of Glendora recently received an earmark for some of their greenway work.
- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) responded the earmark was from congressional appropriations.
- Wes Reutimann (ActiveSGV) confirmed that it was a Congresswoman Judy Chu earmark for a significant amount of approximately \$6 million or \$7 million.
- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) asked if Bonelli Park is the most relevant future Olympic venue in our area.
- Wes Reutimann (ActiveSGV) assumed the Rose Bowl will be a venue again. Olympic mountain biking is slated for Bonelli Park, and the park has already been selected as a venue. Whittier Narrows was used for trap shooting in the 1984 Olympics.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) messaged SCAG funding, GoHuman funding, and Congressional Appropriations: "Community Project Funding" – need to approach specific Congressmembers. Nature for All has been successful securing CPF funding from Representative Chu; each Congressman is able to receive applications. Look at the SCAG grants too.
- Belen Bernal (Nature for All) clarified saying that Congresswoman Chu or the local representative is who would need to be approached for earmarks, or also called appropriations for community project funding.
- Wes Reutimann (ActiveSGV) messaged that he did not think that SCAG does much on the end of infrastructure implementation, mostly planning and some demonstration work.
- Sally Gee (RMC) messaged to similarly look into LA County Board of Supervisor funding. She asked if the team is also looking into mentioning any private funding sources or only public funding sources. Regarding private funding, there are certainly foundations who would be interested in healthier communities or climate resilience and other resources. A partner like Kaiser might do some kind of healthy community mobility funding.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) messaged that there may be some more grant opportunities on the SCAG website: <https://scag.ca.gov/get-involved-grant-opportunities>.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) messaged funding opportunities through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):
  - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/earmark-programs>
  - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/grant-programs/community-project-fundingcongressionally-directed-spending#:~:text=Over-view,FY%202022%20Consolidated%20Appropriations%20Act>
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) messaged information on Congressional Community Project Funding – many agencies (appropriations):
  - <https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/transparency>



- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) messaged that the 3D renderings are really nice and very helpful for community members to visualize. Community members want to see as many trees along the greenway as possible - unshaded. Need as much canopy as possible to make the channels more pleasant. He agreed with Kevin's ideas on color improvements versus desaturated surroundings to clarify what is new versus existing.
- Wes Reutimann (ActiveSGV) messaged we love renderings; the more the better! They are great to engage folks. He recommends they include all the available options, especially the features that received a lot of public comment and support, such as shading, seating, water stations, native trees, etc. A more accurate rendering would probably not have much water in the flood control channels or less water. Adding a few birds might be nice too.
- Belen Bernal (Nature for All) messaged that she loves the renderings and, just in case, assume these amenities and renderings include what would be approvable, which is important in terms of setting expectations.

**g. Asks of the Steering Committee**

- Send most up-to-date logo and small introductory text.
- Provide feedback for the Draft SGV Greenway Network Plan.
- Aid in promotion of the SGV Greenway Network.

**h. Next Steps**

- Meeting minutes summary after the meeting.
- LACPW to continue Municipal Stakeholder Engagement by meeting with various cities in the SGV.
- Continue to provide SGVGN Plan updates.
- Continue to provide Environmental Documentation updates

**3. Next Meeting Date**

- a. Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM