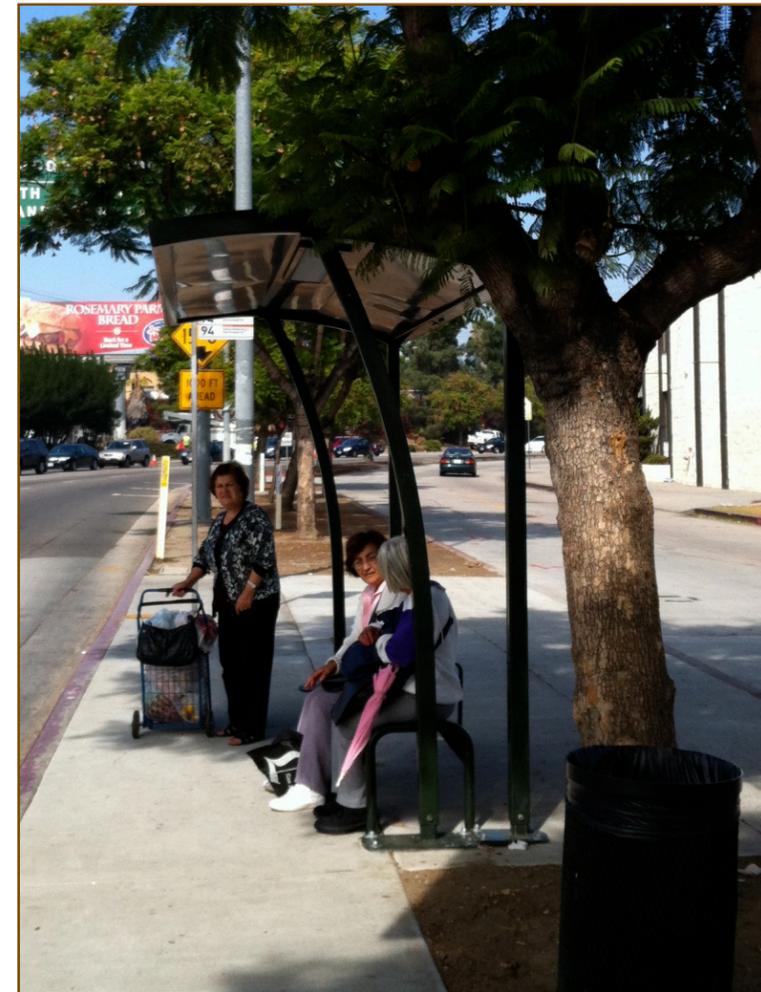


NOVEMBER 2013

# GLASSELL PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS



Thanks to CD I Deputy District Director, Jose Rodriguez, and the determination of GPIA & GPNC members, there is finally a bus shelter and bench across from Super King market on San Fernando Road!



The GPIA General Membership meeting is **November 20th.**

East Area Representative **Patricia Alarcón** and a team from the Mayor's office will show us how to use **MyLA311** the city's new website and app for requesting city services and finding citywide information.



To keep in touch between meetings, join us on **Facebook:** GPIA-Glassell Park Improvement Association

## ★ GPIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11/20/13 ★

The next GPIA General Membership meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 7pm** at the Glassell Park Community & Senior Center  
3750 N. Verdugo Road, L.A. 90065



The Community Center is located behind the Public Storage building. The parking lot entrance is on Verdugo Road between the Public Storage building and the Glassell Park Recreation Center pool.

## What's going on in Glassell Park?

### ✓ GPIA changes General Membership meeting days

In order to eliminate conflicting community meeting dates, and therefore increase attendance, the GPIA has decided to change its general membership meetings to the third Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November. The change takes effect immediately, with the November 2013 meeting on Wednesday, the 20th.

### ✓ City Council to consider a ban on GMO seeds & plants

Councilmembers Mitch O'Farrell and Paul Koretz have introduced a motion that would ban the growth, sale and distribution of genetically engineered seeds and plants. The measure is intended to protect local gardens and homegrown food and would not affect the sale of food containing genetically modified ingredients.

### ✓ CD 13 brings back GP Farmers Market possibility

Representatives from CD 13 have met with SEE-LA, and are exploring options for a Glassell Park Farmers Market at one of two sites near the corner of Fletcher and San Fernando Road—the future Goodwill (former K-Mart) or Van de Kamps.

### ✓ Fletcher Drive beautification

The City is moving forward with a plan to improve Fletcher Drive's streetscape from San Fernando Road to Marguerite. CD 13 will host a public input meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 5th, at Fletcher Elementary School at 6pm.

### ✓ CEQA survives dismantling attempts

Thanks to CEQAWorks (<http://ceqaworks.org>), a coalition of Californians formed to prevent the legislature from weakening the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), our state's landmark law narrowly escaped dismantling during the recent legislative session in Sacramento.

### ✓ City Council will not appeal ride-share rules

The Los Angeles City Council will not pursue a lawsuit against the California Public Utilities Commission that would have appealed the PUC's recent action to regulate ride-sharing firms such as Lyft, Uber X and Sidecar at the State level. Instead, the City will ask the PUC for changes to the regulations that already require criminal background checks, driver training and a minimum of \$1 million insurance.

### ✓ DWP increases rebate for replacing lawns

The DWP's California Friendly Landscape Incentive Program now offers a rebate of \$2.00 per square foot (up to \$4000) of residential turf replaced with "California Friendly" plants, mulch and permeable pathways. Customers must apply in advance. Go to [www.dwp.com](http://www.dwp.com) and click on "rebates" for links to the program's forms, FAQs and examples of water efficient landscaping.

### ✓ Glassell Park Elementary has new flags

The faded and tattered flags at Glassell Park Elementary School have been replaced with new U.S. and California flags.

### ✓ Monument is dry due to theft

As many as 50 backflow devices have been stolen from medians throughout Los Angeles, including two on Eagle Rock Blvd. CD 14 provides details on page 9.

### ✓ New law cultivates urban agriculture

Legislation recently signed by Gov. Jerry Brown will allow municipalities to lower the assessed value—and property taxes—on plots of three acres or less if owners pledge to dedicate them to growing food for at least five years.

### ✓ Southwest Museum is open (briefly)

"Four Centuries of Pueblo Pottery" are on display at the Southwest Museum, but the free show is only open on Saturdays from 10a-4p, and an Autry National Center of the American West spokesperson said "no other future exhibitions are planned at this time".



With happiness and sadness I am writing my last letter to you as President.

Serving as President has been a joy. The GPIA and its 45 years of activism is something I am truly proud to be a part of. Sadly not only have I termed out, but I have also moved out of Glassell Park. I will still be a member and participate as needed, as so many of our members do. It seems one can move out of GP, but one cannot take GP out of one's heart.

And Glassell Park is the heart of Northeast LA. Our longevity and the commitment of our members to improve the daily lives of all who live and work here proves it. As we have reached our 45th year, we are in the thick of our middle age, and what comes with middle age, is the need for more support.

It is also a time of assessment.

Our organization has never been needed more in this City of Los Angeles in order to maintain an independent voice--necessary for the health of our community (not to mention democracy)--within the political system here, in LA. Our city has been declared the second most corrupt city in our country, and in the GPIA we have a history of stalwart integrity, which those in City Hall have even listened to, on occasion.

I hope you will consider stepping up your contributions, either financially, or with your ideas, or support for our projects, or best of all as a GPIA Board Member!!

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service, and thank you for all of the support you have offered me for the last two years, I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Alisa



### Editor's note:

The GPIA thanks Alisa for her two terms of strong leadership, and we wish her well in her ongoing efforts as an advocate for student welfare and education reform.

## 2014 GPIA Board

Nominations and applications are still open for positions on the GPIA's Board of Directors for 2014.

Please email the GPIA at [gpia90065@gmail.com](mailto:gpia90065@gmail.com) to nominate someone or volunteer yourself!

## Councilmember O'Farrell announces gift to GPIA

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, CD13, a former President of the GPIA, did not bring a certificate or proclamation from the city to the 45th annual GPIA Anniversary dinner on October 19th. Instead, he announced a donation of \$500 from CD13.

The GPIA thanks Councilmember O'Farrell and looks forward to greater improvements and membership outreach in the coming year.

## City Council changes Neighborhood Council voting

The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion introduced by Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD14, that limits who can participate in Neighborhood Council elections.

The new rule will eliminate the "factual basis stakeholder" category that has been interpreted to allow occasional visitors to a neighborhood to cast votes and/or run in elections. A new category, "community interest stakeholder", defined as people who can demonstrate "substantial and ongoing" ties to a neighborhood, will be added instead.

## Councilmember Cedillo looks at L.A. River safety

Hector Huezo of the Alliance of River Communities brought concerns about safety along the Los Angeles River Bike/Walk/Jog Path to the attention of the City of Los Angeles's Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee. In response, Councilmember Gil Cedillo, CD1, introduced a motion that asks for recommendations for installing street signage and markers as well as identifying possible sites for emergency call boxes.

## Yellow Fever mosquito could be heading our way



A mosquito that can carry dengue and yellow fever has been found in California's Central Valley and the Bay Area's San Mateo County. The polka-dotted bug, *Aedes aegypti*, bites during the day and can lay eggs in a tiny amount of water. Tim Phillips of the Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control District said, "It could change the way we live in California....Imagine not feeling safe to sit out in your backyard...."

An intense eradication effort is underway, and officials ask all Californians to help by emptying even the smallest amounts of standing water. None of the mosquitos have been found in Los Angeles, where traps were already being monitored for the Asian Tiger mosquito.

## Councilmember Huizar is on a public art mission

Councilmember José Huizar, CD14, a leader in getting the City Council to adopt its recent mural ordinance, has commissioned artists to paint murals on utility boxes in Boyle Heights. "Utility box murals are an easy and affordable way to beautify our neighborhoods," Huizar said. Anyone interested in participating in the program, should call the CD14 Northeast Field Office at 323-254-5295 for information.

## City Controller unveils L.A. finances in new website

Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin launched a website that gives users ready access to data on taxpayer expenditures for most city services, city employee salaries and more than 1,000 payments to vendors and contractors. The website, "Control Panel L.A." at <https://controllerdata.lacity.org>, immediately provides information that previously would have required formal records requests and weeks of waiting. Though there are information gaps, this first phase of the site is a strong effort to make our City government more transparent.

**Reports from the State Capitol and the Mayor's office**

California Senate District 22 report from **Senator Kevin de León**

As the co-chair of Proposition 39, I'm happy to report that LAUSD is eligible for over \$26 million in energy efficiency retrofit grants. Used wisely, schools that are most in need will be able to put a big dent in their energy bills and direct more money to classroom needs. Everyone wins with energy retrofiting – the students, the environment and construction workers. 2014 is the first year of the five-year retrofit awards program.

I continue to stand with the community in strong support of the comprehensive plan detailed in Alternative 20 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Study (also known as the ARBOR Study). The Corps is currently working with the City of LA to consider four proposals for remaking 11 miles of the river, from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles. Alternative 20 includes all the elements of the other three alternatives with extensive work at Taylor Yard, Piggyback Yard and Bowtie parcel, as well as the restoration of the Verdugo Wash and the wetlands of the Los Angeles State Historic Park. For help in submitting your comments in support of Alternative 20, please call the Friends of the LA River at (323) 223-0585.

As the holidays near, I'm working with the Boyle Heights Technology Youth Center (BHTYC) to provide food baskets for at least 300 families. If you or your business would like to donate, please call my office.

**Field Deputy Adrian Vazquez**  
1808 W. Sunset Blvd., LA 90026  
213-483-9300  
[adrian.vazquez@sen.ca.gov](mailto:adrian.vazquez@sen.ca.gov)

State Assembly District 51 report from **Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez**

Greetings, AD 51! With the end of the year fast approaching, I wish to thank each and every one of you for making it a very special one. My first legislative session ended in success with Governor Brown signing into law all ten of my bills that passed the Legislature. It's been wonderful to see hard work pay off and receive so many of your calls, and witness the amazing advocacy work that's done daily in our district. My team and I have engaged in constructive conversations with all of you, whether they've been through our Neighborhood District Office Hours, Breakfast Club Meetings, Tree Adoption Events, Flu Shot Clinics, Health & Community Fairs, Small Business Seminars, Senior Service Events, or the various community gatherings held on issues we hold close to heart.

Speaking of events—my office, in conjunction with the offices of Congressman Xavier Becerra, State Senator Kevin De León, Councilman Jose Huizar, LA County agencies, and over 85 local service providers, organized the Northeast LA Health & Community Fair, serving hundreds of families on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all those involved in making the health & community fair possible through a collaborative effort. With your continued engagement, I look forward to multiplying these successes. I'd like to wish you and your loved ones a safe and prosperous holiday season and invite you to our open house and toy drive at my district office, located at 1910 W. Sunset Blvd, Suite 810 in Echo Park, on Thursday, December 12th! Hope to see you there!

**Sr. Field Rep. Stephanie Romero**  
1910 W. Sunset Blvd. #810, LA 90026  
213-483-5151  
[stephanie.romero@asm.ca.gov](mailto:stephanie.romero@asm.ca.gov)

From the office of Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti**

Mayor Garcetti recently completed his first 100 days in office, during which he began to reorganize the Mayor's office and city departments. He also previewed a website [www.lamayor.org/performance](http://www.lamayor.org/performance) that details his new performance metrics tracking the city's progress toward key priorities, put his weight behind restoring the L.A. River, and opened a Mayor's help desk to help residents solve problems.

The reorganization concentrated on his back to basics agenda to create a stronger economy and more efficient and effective city government. Highlights included cutting the number of deputy mayors from a dozen to four and requiring every department manager to reapply for their job.

Mayor Garcetti's performance tracking website identifies priorities for city departments and their functions and tracks progress to help focus all of City Hall on economic development and problem solving.

One of Mayor Garcetti's economic priorities is revitalizing the L.A. River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering four plans to rehabilitate the river but only one does the job right. That plan integrates the river into our city's green space and provides support to endangered species and struggling ecosystems. It also provides four times the number of jobs as the other options. GPIA readers can sign Mayor Garcetti's petition that will be submitted as part of the official federal record at the following website: [http://www.lamayor.org/restore\\_the\\_la\\_river](http://www.lamayor.org/restore_the_la_river)

Mayor Eric Garcetti also unveiled the Mayor's Help Desk on the third floor of City Hall. Staffed by his constituent service team, the desk offers help with the full range of city services and is the only such service point in City Hall. People can get help from the Mayor's Office at [lamayor.org](http://lamayor.org), by calling 213-978-0600, or via Facebook and Twitter (using the hashtag #lamayor).

**East Area Rep. Patricia Alarcón**  
200 N. Spring St., LA 90012  
213-978-0725  
[patricia.alarcon@lacity.org](mailto:patricia.alarcon@lacity.org)

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers's plan for the Los Angeles River falls short of region's hopes--we can change their minds!**

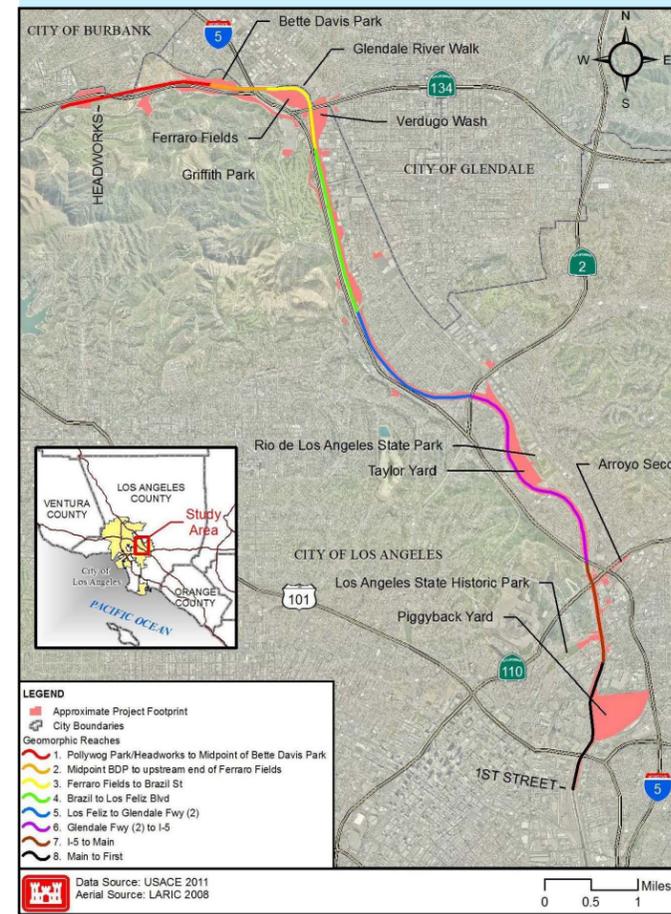
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a study for restoration of the Los Angeles River, and released their recommendation in September. The agency began with a list of 152 possible plans and narrowed that list down to 21 alternatives. Of those, four options were deemed most feasible--Alternatives 10, 13, 16 and 20.

The Corps's selection, Alternative 13, is the second least expensive plan and would restore 588 acres of habitat along several key areas of the river from Griffith Park, through Glassell Park, to downtown Los Angeles. It would remove concrete from the river bottom at its confluence with the Arroyo Seco, restore a historic wash at Piggyback Yard, and widen the river by 300 feet to form a freshwater marsh in Glassell Park's Taylor Yard.

Advocacy groups and politicians--local, state and federal--have endorsed Alternative 20, which would restore 719 acres and widen the river to provide terracing along its eastern banks. Importantly, this plan would also connect the river to Los Angeles State Historic Park near Chinatown and restore its confluence with the Verdugo Wash where Los Angeles borders Glendale.

After a **45-day public comment period** (ending November 18th, see page 8), the Army Corps of Engineers will reconsider its recommendation and issue its final determination in Spring of 2014. The project must then be authorized and funded by Congress.

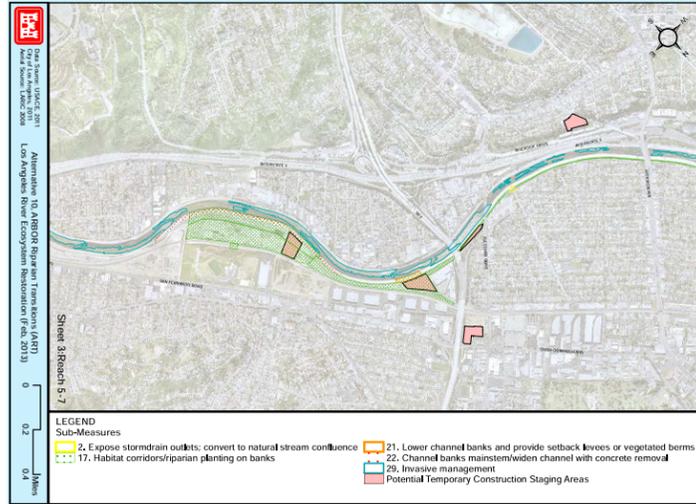
To read the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers's full report, that took 7 years and almost \$10 million to complete, ask for a copy at local libraries or go to: <http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Media/PublicNotices/tabid/1320/Article/17994/spl-2013-003-nlh-draft-ifr-for-la-river-eco-rest-study.aspx>



**The 11 miles of river under consideration were divided into 8 areas called "reaches" referenced in the USACE study excerpted on the following pages:**

- Reach 1: Pollywog Park Area to Bette Davis Park/ Griffith Park**  
The upstream segment of the study area, approximately 1.5 river miles in length
- Reach 2: Midpoint of Bette Davis Park to upstream end of Ferraro Fields**  
Approximately .75 mile from end of Reach 1 to the upstream edge of Ferraro Fields (public soccer field facility).
- Reach 3: Ferraro Fields to Brazil Street/Verdugo Wash**  
Approximately 1 mile in length from end of Reach 2 to near Brazil Street, including a 90-degree curve to the south around Griffith Park. SR134 crosses the River at Verdugo Wash
- Reach 4: Brazil Street to Los Feliz Boulevard**  
Approximately 1.75 miles long, from end of Reach 3 to the Los Feliz Blvd. bridge
- Reach 5: Los Feliz Boulevard to Glendale Freeway**  
Extends 1.55 miles from Los Feliz Blvd, under Sunnynook pedestrian bridge & the Hyperion Ave bridge, downstream to Fletcher Dr bridge and ends at the SR2 bridge.
- Reach 6: Glendale Freeway (SR2) to I-5 Freeway**  
Approximately 2.4 miles long, with 3 bends, extending from SR2 bridge to the downstream crossing of Interstate 5
- Reach 7: I-5 Freeway to Main Street**  
At the Arroyo Seco confluence, extends approximately 1 mile to the Main Street bridge. Three bridges cross within this reach—a railroad bridge, the North Broadway bridge and the Spring Street bridge
- Reach 8: Main Street to First Street**  
Downstream end of study, running approximately 1 mile from the Main St bridge to the First St bridge with rail lines along both banks, and two railroad bridges. US-101 crosses the river in this reach

# A brief synopsis of the four options the Army Corps of Engineers deemed most feasible:



## Alternative 10, or ART (ARBOR Riparian Transitions)

This plan is the minimally acceptable alternative that costs \$346 million. It would result in a 93 percent increase in habitat. Work includes: minimal restoration at Taylor Yard, but not at the other confluences, widening of Taylor Yard by 80 feet with a small terraced area by the Bowtie parcel, restoration at Piggyback Yard.

From the USACE report:  
Alternative 10 consists of a corridor of 528 acres along the approximately 11-mile stretch proposed for restoration on the LA River. The plan consists of restoring valley foothill riparian wildlife habitat, freshwater marsh aquatic habitat, and native fish habitat (though currently native fish no longer exist in the Study area). Alternative 10 has the least cost of the four proposed plans in the final array and partially meets planning objectives.

## Alternative 13, or ACE (ARBOR Corridor Extension)

This option is a \$453-million project that include all the features of Alternative 10, and will increase habitat by 104 percent. Work includes adding a side channel behind Ferraro Fields, widening of over 300 feet in Taylor Yard, and tributary restoration on the east side of the Arroyo Seco watershed. The Army Corps currently supports this alternative.

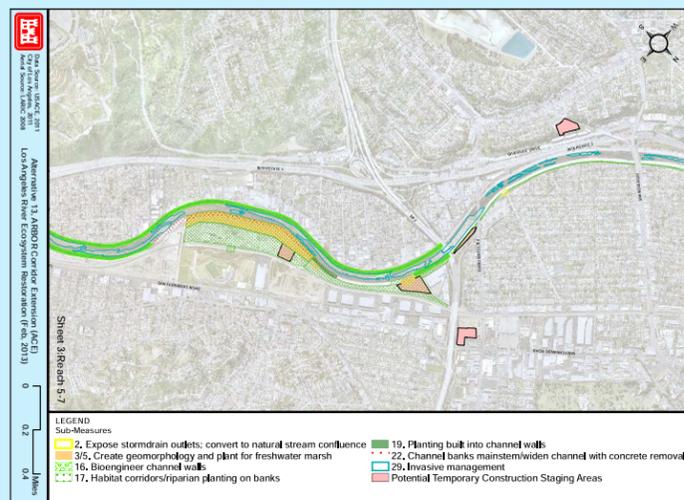
From the USACE report:  
Alternative 13 adds to the regional connection through Griffith Park to the Santa Monica Mountains with addition of a side channel at Ferraro Fields, and restores a natural hydrologic connection between the river and historic floodplain at the Arroyo Seco confluence, which restores natural ecosystem processes as well as improved nodal and regional habitat connectivity. In addition, the increased widening in Reach 6 and modified bank allow for more habitat and hydrologic connectivity in this reach.

Alternative 13 would remove the bank and widen the river channel bed at the Taylor Yard site more substantially than in Alternative 10. This alternative restores a natural hydrologic and habitat connection between the river and the site. This would allow for natural in-channel geomorphology and habitat to establish and for the currently confined river to spread into its historic floodplain. This natural hydrologic connection between the river and the floodplain restores key processes that exist in a native river ecosystem such as a more natural disturbance regime, scour and deposition of sediment and vegetation, nutrient cycling, biotic interactions, and colonization of new habitat areas (Stromberg et al 2007).

The restoration of the Arroyo Seco confluence restores natural in-channel geomorphology and riparian and aquatic habitat in the currently channelized tributary at the confluence with the river. This natural hydrologic connection between the river and tributary also restores key ecosystem processes that normally exist in a native river ecosystem. The restored habitat at Arroyo Seco would also improve local connectivity for wildlife by serving as a new habitat node, with a connection to Taylor Yard via the river channel as a vegetated corridor (Figure 6-5). Improved nodal connectivity promotes wildlife movement within the study area and prevents inbreeding depression and local extinction of wildlife populations.

Nodal habitat connectivity would increase 309% within the study area over Alternative 10, through restoration of natural hydrology and habitat at the Arroyo Seco confluence and its extremely close proximity to habitat at Taylor Yard.

On a regional scale, restoration at Arroyo Seco confluence provides future opportunities to restore aquatic habitat connectivity between the river at the Study area and the San Gabriel Mountains via the Arroyo Seco tributary (Figure 6-6). Additional opportunity for connection in this area exists via the Corps' ongoing Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Study. Urbanization has eliminated the historic habitat corridor that once existed on the Arroyo Seco tributary, and without restoration of the confluence reconnection of the river to the San Gabriel Mountains could not be realized in the future. Additional neighborhood habitat in the communities of San Rafael Hills, Mount Washington, and Montecito Heights could eventually be incorporated into the movement corridor as regional habitat nodes.



## Alternative 16, or AND (ARBOR Narrows to Downtown)

This plan is a \$757-million project that includes the features of both Alternative 10 and 13 with extensive work on the Piggyback Yard.

From the USACE report:  
Restoring the hydrologic interaction between the river and the Piggyback Yard site allows for removal of concrete in the bed of this reach that would otherwise be unacceptable from a flood risk standpoint. The interaction between the river and historic floodplain would increase sustainability and diversity within this resource scarce reach. With this removal of concrete, a natural hydrologic connection between the river and the site would be restored. The incremental modifications at Piggyback Yard included in Alternative 16 would allow the site to function as a natural wetland area [and] would allow for development of more structurally diverse habitat while maintaining a direct connection with the river. Restoration of the channel bed at Piggyback Yard would provide an additional 41 acres of native fish habitat.

The restored floodplain connection to the river in Alternative 16 would allow the 108 acre habitat node to support high populations of wildlife in Reach 8, which is currently completely built out and resource poor. The restored channel bed at Piggyback Yard in also provides a habitat corridor that connects to other nodes in the study area. Alternative 16 additionally widens the river for a length of 1.6 miles in Reach 5. This widening allows for expansion of in-channel river habitat, which supports wildlife movement corridors. Restoration of in-channel geomorphology, including riffle/pool complexes, would also support 25 acres of increased habitat for native fish. In Alternative 16, local habitat connectivity would increase 85% within the study area over Alternative 13.

## Alternative 20, or RIVER (Riparian Integration via Varied Ecological Introduction)

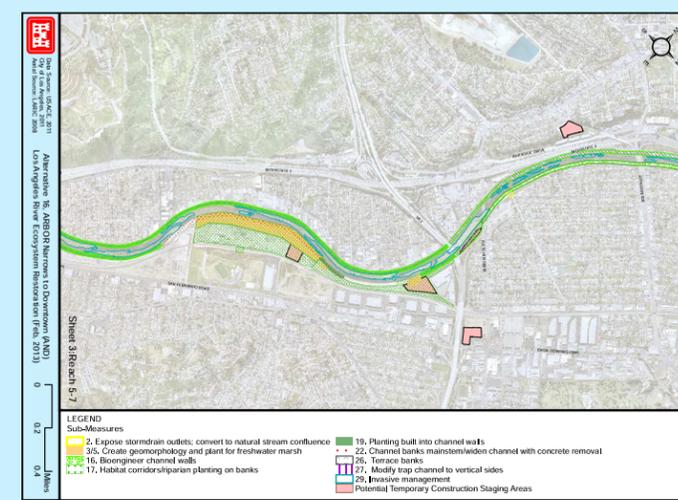
Alternative 20 includes all the elements of previous alternatives, but adds the restoration of the Verdugo Wash and the wetlands of the Los Angeles State Historic Park at a cost of \$1.04 billion.

From the USACE report:  
In addition to the features in Alternative 16, Alternative 20 restores a natural hydrologic connection between the river and the historic floodplain at the Verdugo Wash tributary, which increases local habitat connectivity within the study area as well as opportunities for widespread regional habitat connectivity. This alternative also restores a hydrologic connection to the LA River State Historic Park (Cornfields) site, which provides additional opportunity for regional habitat connectivity, and widens the natural channel bed in Reach 2, which provides additional in-channel marsh and riparian habitat.

Alternative 20 would remove concrete and widen the confluence of the Verdugo Wash in Reach 3 to support reconnection of the tributary to the historic floodplain. Alternative 20 creates a third reach of the river with a large natural connection to the floodplain and restores a direct geomorphic connection between the River and the bed and banks of the Verdugo Wash. Restoration of the channel bank at the LA River State Historic Park (Cornfields) provides an additional hydrologic connection within reach 7. Terracing the bank of the river at this location provides a hydrologic connection on the west bank of the river. Alternative 20 also widens the river for a length of 0.5 miles in Reach 2 [allowing] for expansion of habitat and geomorphology, including riffle/pool complexes, which would support 5 acres of increased habitat for native fish.

Restoration of the Verdugo Wash confluence would also provide a 34 acre habitat node, with connectivity to the Los Feliz Golf Course via existing habitat in the Glendale Narrows and connectivity through the downstream reaches. In Alternative 20, local habitat connectivity would increase 120% within the study area over Alternative 16.

Alternative 20, in addition to the regional connectivity in Alternative 13, adds the Verdugo Wash tributary, which provides a future connection between the LA River and the Verdugo Mountains, a connection that also historically supported a habitat corridor for movement of wildlife. Urbanization has eliminated this habitat corridor, and without restoration of the confluence at Verdugo Wash, reconnection of the river to the Verdugo Mountains could not be realized. Restoration at the Verdugo Wash confluence would restore opportunity for passage to the Verdugo Mountains, a 26 square mile area serving as a stepping stone to the western San Gabriel Mountains. Additional habitat in the community of San Rafael Hills could also be incorporated into the movement corridor as a regional habitat node. Regional habitat connectivity is further improved by restoring connections between the river and the 575-acre habitat node at Elysian Park via restoration of the Cornfields site.



**LA Times editorial endorses Alternative 20 (see excerpted opinion below):**

"The only remaining issue is whether the Army Corps will be content to go only halfway and leave the rest of the job to some future generation, or whether it will instead restore a greater amount of ecosystem and provide a greater amount of human accessibility, so that Angelenos now living will see the full benefit of the dreams, the plans and the work."

**Let the Army Corps of Engineers know which plan you support!**

Written comments may be directed to: Josephine R. Axt, Ph.D., Chief, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, P.O. Box 532711, ATTN: Ms. Erin Jones, CESPL-PD-RN, Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325 OR [comments.lariverstudy@usace.army.mil](mailto:comments.lariverstudy@usace.army.mil).

For further information contact: Ms. Kathleen Bergmann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, [Kathleen.M.Bergmann@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kathleen.M.Bergmann@usace.army.mil), 602-230-6904 and Ms. Erin Jones, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, [Erin.L.Jones@usace.army.mil](mailto:Erin.L.Jones@usace.army.mil), 213-300-9723.

The Friends of the L.A. River will gladly answer your questions. Call them at 323-223-0585.

In addition, Mayor Garcetti has issued a petition that can be signed online, asking the Army Corps of Engineers to recommend Alternative 20 in their final report. The petition is at: [http://www.lamayor.org/restore\\_the\\_la\\_river](http://www.lamayor.org/restore_the_la_river)

**The period for public comments ends November 18, 2013.**

"...The Army Corps should reconsider its initial nod toward a smaller-scale (and less costly) plan known as Alternative 13, which meets the minimum objectives of the revitalization and does far too little to make the years of planning and the level of government support worthwhile, and instead embrace Alternative 20 and send its recommendation of that more expansive plan to Congress. Angelenos should attend Thursday [10/24/13] evening's public hearing and express their support for the better plan.

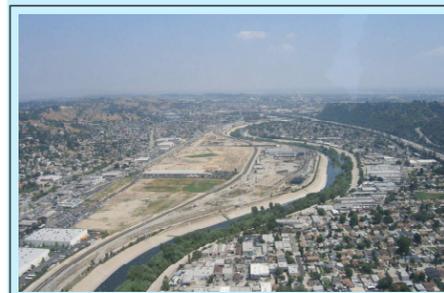


Figure 4-27. Reach 6. Taylor Yard. Looking Downstream. Existing and Rendering of Proposed Restored Reach.

Both plans would widen a portion of the channel and increase habitat, the Army Corps' primary objective. Only Alternative 20 melds the restored river into Los Angeles State Historic Park, the area north of Chinatown perhaps better known as the Cornfields. It was here that 19th century rail travelers to Los Angeles disembarked, saw the works that lifted water from the river to quench the thirst of a growing city, and likely spent their first night in town. It is here that activists blocked a warehouse project and won funding for park space at the beginning of the current century, and envisioned a heritage parkway with the express goal of linking urban dwellers not just with open green space but with the natural wildlife corridor that a restored river will become. It would be a foolish waste of an opportunity to revive the river but leave it unconnected to the park.

The broader plan also incorporates the so-called Piggyback rail yard in Lincoln Heights and the Verdugo Wash near Glendale. It includes more terracing of the channel, allowing more public access. And public access is crucial; the Army Corps' task is to maximize ecosystem restoration, but local and federal backing is premised as well on the fact that the Los Angeles River is an urban waterway, and revitalization is intended to provide access to the one-quarter of the city's population, much of it economically disadvantaged, that lives within half a mile of the river.

It is also worth noting that Alternative 20 calls for greater federal participation, with a mix — about a third in contributions from local sources, the rest from the federal government — that more closely mirrors the traditional role of Washington in ecosystem restoration projects. The option that the Army Corps prefers for now reverses that balance and, if adopted, would undermine the commitment that the U.S. says it wants to make in restoring urban waterways." --from the LA Times 10/17/13



Figure 4-26. Reach 6. Looking West, with the Bowtie Parcel in the Foreground and Marsh Park in the Background. Existing Channel and Rendering of Proposed Daylighted Stream and Vegetated Walls.

**Council Districts Reports**

Council District 1 report from Councilmember **Gilbert Cedillo**

Dear Friends,

On October 23, the Cedillo Listening Tour heard from the communities of Glassell Park and Cypress Park. Participants were encouraged to share ideas and concerns on the following issue areas: Public Safety, Environment, Arts & Culture, and Economic Development. The shared concerns were: bulky items/trash, inadequate street lighting, the need for economic development in the area, and the opening of the Southwest Museum.

Over 700 volunteers joined me this month to kick-off of our "Keep It Clean" Campaign at CD1's Community Clean Up. Through a pilot project with the Bureau of Sanitation and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, we have cleaned 287 alleys, collected 400 tons of trash, and introduced solar powered trash compactors. Our "Keep It Clean" Campaign is transformational. At the inception of this program, we could not drive through certain alleys because they were filled with couches, mattresses and masses of trash. The Bureau of Sanitation has conducted the first round of clean ups throughout the district.

New bus stop furniture was installed on San Fernando Road across from Super King Market. The new shelter, bench, and trash receptacle will provide bus riders, most of whom are seniors, greater comfort and protection from rain and sun. The need for the bus stop furniture was brought to our attention by the GPIA and GPNC, and through the Bureau of Street Services Street Furniture Program, Jose Rodriguez worked to get this done.

My office is here to listen and work with the community on identifying needs and resources. Know that my door is always open to help.

Please contact my office for assistance to keep our district moving forward making it #1.

Sincerely,  
Gilbert Cedillo  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

**Dep. District Dir. Jose Rodriguez**  
3750 Verdugo Road, LA 90065  
323-341-5671  
[jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org](mailto:jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org)

Council District 13 report from Councilmember **Mitch O'Farrell**

Dear Friends,

As we mark the first 100 Days in office as your Councilmember, I want to thank you for your help in laying the groundwork for great things to come in the 13th District.

In addition to work I've begun, or even accomplished, in Atwater Village, East Hollywood, Echo Park, Historic Filipinotown, Hollywood and Silver Lake, nearby, in Elysian Valley, we convened a working group with the Neighborhood Council, as well as City departments and state agencies to begin the process of improving transportation around the 2 and 5 Freeways. This effort was organized in the wake of the fiery tanker crash that happened in July.

In Glassell Park, itself, I am thrilled to announce a major streetscape improvement project along Fletcher Drive. The \$750,000 project will begin in early 2014, but first we are planning a public hearing to solicit input and ideas from the local community. The meeting will be held on November 5, at 6 p.m., at Fletcher Elementary, 3350 Fletcher Drive. Please join us at that meeting, or contact my field deputy Adam Bass, [whose contact](#)

As Chair of the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and LA River Committee, I am committed to revitalizing our natural resource that is the Los Angeles River. I am pushing for a plan that will pump \$1 billion dollars worth of improvements along the waterway.

In addition to initiating policy that will improve our communities, my staff as well as teams of volunteers continue to work to cleanup our neighborhoods. You can read about those stories on [my blog](#), and read about the policy I've been directing on my website [cd13.com](#).

Folks, we're off to a great start and this is just the beginning. I'm looking forward to building an even better 13th Council District over the next four years.

Regards,  
Mitch

**Field Deputy Adam Bass**  
5500 Hollywood Blvd., LA 90028  
323-957-4500  
[adam.bass@lacity.org](mailto:adam.bass@lacity.org)

Council District 14 report from **Lauren Ballard**  
Field Deputy for Councilmember **José Huizar**

Hello Glassell Park!

First, an update on the sprinkler issue. At the September 21st Glassell Park Pride Day Clean Up, community members noticed that the sprinkler system was not working properly on an Eagle Rock Blvd. median and notified our office. As it turns out, a brass part called a backflow had been stolen, which incapacitated the system. This was not just a problem in Glassell Park—as of May 2013, 50 units were stolen from medians throughout LA. At our request, the Bureau of Street Services will replace the stolen units soon.

In other news, the York Park planning and design process is in full swing! Over the last couple of months, our office has held, in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks, three community workshops and two student workshops at Burbank Middle School and Buchanan Elementary School. At each workshop, attendees divided into groups and developed basic concepts for the future park. The city will break ground on the new park early 2014.

Finally, we encourage you to attend the Northeast LA Veterans Day events. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Veterans Parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the Glassell Park Recreation Center. Then, on Monday, November 11th, our office will hold a Solemn Ceremony at Eagle Rock City Hall at 11 a.m. This is the eighth year that our office, in conjunction with the Veterans Day planning committee, will host this event on the lawn. Please join us as we honor our Veterans in this traditional ceremony.

**Field Deputy Lauren Ballard**  
2035 Colorado Blvd., LA 90041  
323-254-5295  
[lauren.ballard@lacity.org](mailto:lauren.ballard@lacity.org)

**GPIA Welcomes you to the Walnut Canyon Wildlife Preserve and Dog Walk**

The GPIA is reviving the effort to establish the Glassell Park open space known as Walnut Canyon as a Wildlife Preserve and Dog Walk area.

This effort was started many years ago by the GPIA's beloved President Joan Lundy, and the hope is that--with the economy picking up--now is a good time to renew our push to preserve this important wilderness area in our community.

One of the largest open spaces in Northeast Los Angeles, Walnut Canyon is home to many native California Black Walnut trees, a protected species; and is a critical habitat for many birds and animals that depend on the preservation of natural open space for survival.

A close neighbor of the Canyon for more than 20 years, Linda Haines, has graciously agreed to be the point person for this effort.

There will be a Walnut Canyon Facebook page, and the GPIA is looking into interim signage for the future preserve.

A GPIA meeting about Walnut Canyon will be scheduled early next year. In the meantime, neighbors

are encouraged to call upon State Senator Kevin deLeón, Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, County Supervisor Gloria Molina, Mayor Eric Garcetti and Glassell Park's City Councilmembers to ask for their support in acquiring Walnut Canyon as public open space.



**45th Annual GPIA Anniversary Dinner**

Members of the GPIA and their guests enjoyed drinks, dinner, dessert and comradery on October 19th as we celebrated 45 years of service to our community. Once again, we thank Taix for their great food and hospitality!

Former GPIA president, Mitch O'Farrell, now the Los Angeles City Councilmember for District 13, noted in his remarks that the GPIA is the oldest neighborhood improvement group in the city! In addition, Mitch announced a gift of \$500 from CD13 toward continuing the GPIA's work in Glassell Park.

It was a great evening, and we hope to need a much bigger room next year!

**Do you have ideas for general improvements in Glassell Park?**

If you would like to see improvements in our community, a great way to make them happen is by joining the GPIA. It's what we do.

For example:

- Do you want the monuments marking entry to Glassell Park to look better?
- Would you like to see bike lanes on our streets?
- Are you interested in preserving--maybe reclaiming--our views?
- Did you recently trip on a buckled sidewalk, or see a sidewalk that was poorly repaired?
- Is there a business or service you'd like to have in our neighborhood?
- Do you wonder what ever happened to the planned Farmers Market?
- Would you like to know your City Councilmember, Field Deputies and/or SLO?

These are the kinds of things in which we are involved, and we welcome you and your ideas!

**IF YOU GIVE SOMEONE A FISH, THEY EAT FOR A DAY.**

**IF YOU TEACH SOMEONE TO FISH, THEY CAN FEED THEMSELVES UNTIL THE WATER IS CONTAMINATED OR THE SHORELINE IS SEIZED FOR DEVELOPMENT.**

**IF YOU TEACH SOMEONE TO THINK CRITICALLY AND BE POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS, THEN WHATEVER THE CHALLENGE, THEY CAN ORGANIZE WITH THEIR PEERS AND STAND UP FOR THEIR INTERESTS.**

**ADVERTISE in the GPIA NEWS**

Advertise your business to over 300 households in Glassell Park! Your ad in the "Glassell Park Improvement Association News" will be targeted to consumers who care about their community and want to patronize and support our local businesses. Many sizes & rates are available--single issue or six consecutive issues, full color or black & white. For example, your black & white, business card-sized ad will run in six consecutive issues for \$125.00. Email us at [gpiaNews90065@gmail.com](mailto:gpiaNews90065@gmail.com) to request a rate sheet.

**Members receive a 10% discount on all ads.**

**A Few Handy Phone Numbers:**

Abandoned Vehicles	800-222-6366
Abandoned Shopping Carts	800-252-4613
Animal Services	888-452-7381
Blocked Driveways	213-485-4184 x2
Fire Dept (non-emergency)	213-485-6185
Gas Leaks	800-427-2200
Graffiti removal	800-675-4357
LAPD (non-emergency)	877-ASK-LAPD
Poison Control	800-876-4766
Rape Hotline	310-392-8381
Restraining Order	213-974-5587
Sanitation/Trash/Recycling	800-773-2489
Street Resurfacing/Potholes	800-996-2489
Tree Trimming	800-996-2489
Water & Power	800-342-5397

**As always, in an emergency call 9-1-1**  
For all city services, call 3-1-1

The GPIA Newsletter is published on the 1st of January, March, May, July, September and November. Designed and edited by Marge Piane. Submissions welcome. Contact the GPIA at: [gpia90065@gmail.com](mailto:gpia90065@gmail.com)  
Contact the GPIANews at: [gpiaNews90065@gmail.com](mailto:gpiaNews90065@gmail.com)

**JOIN the GPIA!**

Become engaged in our community! For your annual dues, you will receive our newsletter, invitations to our meetings & special events, and the opportunity to participate in our improvement projects.

The GPIA meets on the third Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November at 7pm at the Glassell Park Community and Senior Center (3750 Verdugo Road, behind the Public Storage building & next to the Glassell Park Recreation Center).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home / work / cell) (circle one)

Please check all that apply:

- Individual membership (\$15)
- Senior (60+) (\$12)
- Household membership (\$25)
- Business membership (\$25)
- New membership
- Renewal membership
- Please email my newsletter

Please send this form, along with your check, to: GPIA / P.O. Box 65881 / Los Angeles, CA 90065  
OR bring the completed form and your check to our next meeting!

## Neighborhood information at hand:

### Council Field Offices

#### Council District I

Gil Cedillo  
3750 Verdugo Road  
L.A., CA 90065  
323-341-5671

#### Council District 13

Mitch O'Farrell  
5500 Hollywood Blvd  
L.A., CA 90028  
323-957-4500

#### Council District 14

Jose Huizar  
2035 Colorado Blvd  
L.A., CA 90041  
323-254-5295

### GPIA Board Members

#### President

Alisa Smith

#### Vice President

Janis McCarthy

#### Treasurer

Jim Kiehl

#### Secretary

Elizabeth Gallardo

#### Improvement Chair

Joan Potter

#### Area rep #1

John Geary

#### Area rep #2

Mark Quiroz

#### Area rep #3

Brian Frobisher

### Upcoming Events

#### November 2

Community Meet'n'Greet with Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, 10a-12n, Von's--Figueroa & Colorado

#### November 5

Fletcher Streetscape Public Input meeting, 6pm, Fletcher Drive Elementary, 3350 Fletcher Drive

#### November 9 & December 14

NELA Art Walk, go to <http://nelaart.org>

#### November 14

Downtown outdoor ice-skating rink opens, go to: [laparks.org/pershingsquare](http://laparks.org/pershingsquare)

#### November 18

Final day to comment on LA River Alternatives, see pgs 5-8

#### November 20

GPIA meeting, 7pm, see cover

#### December 7-8

Holiday Lamplight Celebration, Heritage Square, [heritagesquare.org](http://heritagesquare.org)

Glassell Park Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 65881  
Los Angeles, CA 90065

### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.  
-- Margaret Mead



**Taking pride in our community since 1968**