

MOTION
BUDGET & FINANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY
ENRICHMENT

PUBLIC WORKS

Encompassing over 2,000 acres and nearly eight miles of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, the Sepulveda Basin is the second largest open space in the City of Los Angeles and serves as a regional asset for the entire San Fernando Valley. Home to multiple City parks, a host of recreational facilities, and Lake Balboa, the Basin is incredibly important to surrounding communities. It is also a biodiversity hotspot with a wildlife reserve and natural sections of the Los Angeles River, providing a critical habitat for many native plants and animals. The Basin is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is first and foremost a flood risk management facility. The City leases areas of the basin for City use.

In February of 2022, recognizing the Basin has not been living up to its full potential, the City released a task order solicitation (TOS) seeking proposals for comprehensive master planning and design consulting services for the development of a world-class Vision Plan for the Sepulveda Basin. On November 18, 2022, the Board of Public Works approved the selection of the highest ranked consulting team to execute the services requested in the TOS with an initial Notice to Proceed of \$1,949,654.

A number of environmental and community groups have signed onto a joint resolution¹ urging the City to employ nature-based solutions in the redevelopment of the Sepulveda Basin, focusing on floodplain reclamation, watershed restoration, and revitalizing the ecosystem functions of the river, while at the same time expanding access to the parkland and its amenities for surrounding communities.

In this early stage of the Vision Plan process, the City should affirm the primary objectives of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan, ensuring that nature-based solutions, large-scale habitat restoration, increased recreational access, and environmental justice remain at the center of this effort.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Sanitation's Biodiversity Team, the Department of Transportation, and any other City departments, to update the scope of work (and budget, as needed) for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project as follows:

- Utilize The River Project's Sepulveda Basin Restoration Feasibility Study and Vision Plan (April 2022), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan 2020, and the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan 2007 as foundations to shape the development of the Vision Plan;
- Affirm, where possible, that Attachment 5 of Task Order Solicitation (TOS) No. 054 for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project Feasibility/Conceptual Study (Work Order No. E1908913) sets out opportunity area locations and possible projects to be considered in the Vision Plan development process, but that the projects are not binding and that the community will be able to give input on the proposed projects;
- Ensure that the Vision Plan:
 - Evaluates current access, and improves and expands access and mobility to and within Sepulveda Basin and its amenities for immediate surrounding communities and underserved communities;

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¹ Resolution: Supporting the Re-Envisioning of the Sepulveda Basin, available at:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dd6yMlzIG-HmSTyIW1b-ORUx8qDd_6Qe/view?usp=share_link.

- Employs nature-based solutions and principles of fluvial geomorphology to mitigate climate change and restore ecosystem functions to the Los Angeles River and tributaries in the Sepulveda Basin;
- Optimizes floodplain function for ground water recharge to maximize local water supplies and buffer against periods of drought;
- Increases retention capacity to reduce flood risk for downstream and surrounding communities;
- Protects and expands wildlife habitat and biodiversity within the Sepulveda Basin;
- Elevates transit, walking, biking, and other non-private vehicle modes of transportation and proposes methods to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled and private vehicle trips with a clear timeline and benchmarks;
- Proposes strategies to protect the affordability and social fabric of surrounding communities;
- Incorporates indigenous stewardship principles and peoples through inclusive consultation; and
- Prioritizes the aforementioned principles in any preparation or use of the Sepulveda Basin for the 2028 Olympics.

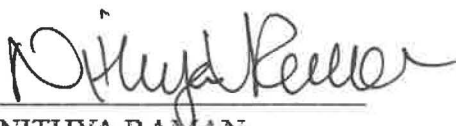
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks and any other City departments, as needed, to report back within 30 days with the following:


- The status of the projects and opportunity area locations set out in Attachment 5 of Task Order Solicitation (TOS) No. 054 for the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project Feasibility/Conceptual Study (Work Order No. E1908913), including which projects can be relocated or redefined as the Vision Plan is developed;
- Recommendations for the possible inclusion of a topographic survey, a geotechnical soils study, and a groundwater infiltration study in the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project Feasibility/Conceptual Study scope of work, including any additional funding required; and
- Report back to the relevant council committees on project activities every quarter.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Sanitation, the Department of Transportation, and any other City departments, as needed, to report back to Council within 30 days on the State, Federal, and private grants, programs, and partnerships that may be available to help plan and fund the redevelopment and ecological restoration of the Sepulveda Basin—including the criteria these grants and programs utilize—to ensure that the City aligns the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan with these funding opportunities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of Recreation and Parks to report back within 30 days with recommendations for the establishment of a Park Advisory Board for the Sepulveda Basin, similar to the Griffith Park Advisory Board, to provide guidance and stewardship for the Sepulveda Basin.

PRESENTED BY:


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL