

Possible discussion questions for developing feedback on the Los Angeles River Master Plan EIR

Master Plan Objectives:

The 2020 LA River Master Plan identifies nine goals, referred to as objectives under CEQA:

1. Reduce flood risk and improve resiliency.
2. Provide equitable, inclusive, and safe parks, open space, and trails.
3. Support healthy, connected ecosystems.
4. Enhance opportunities for equitable access to the river corridor.
5. Embrace and enhance opportunities for arts and culture.
6. Address potential adverse impacts on housing affordability and people experiencing homelessness.
7. Foster opportunities for continued community engagement, development, and education.
8. Improve local water supply reliability.
9. Promote healthy, safe, clean water.

The 2020 LA River Master Plan is founded on a community and data-based goal-driven framework that closely ties the plan's recommendations to their potential to achieve the broader master plan's nine objectives. This comprehensive evaluation of criteria identified in the plan's existing conditions inventory and analysis for assessing each goal along the 51 miles of the LA River, subsequently identifying areas of general to very high need relative to that objective.

NOTE: PIER Does not include project-specific or site-specific analysis while it promotes 4 core values: Revitalize the LA River, increase green spaces in neighborhoods, capture community development opportunities and creating value.

Analysis: The LA River Master Plan as it stands will never be able to alleviate any of the Housing shortages or support real needs of the communities it is currently impacting. Here is the reason, "Almost half of all new housing built in L.A. between 2012 and 2019 was located in lower-income communities, according to an analysis by a coalition of housing, social justice and environmental groups. But about 90% of the new homes built were unaffordable to working class Angelinos. Much of the development is happening in poorer neighborhoods, but the homes are priced for wealthier households." (LA Times)

This concept is flawed in its intent to serve the 18 cities along the river, promoting green spaces without taking into account how to insure to provide at least 40% or more affordable housing will not make any changes in the rate the homeless population has been expanding. The new programs or investments must come guided from our Elected Politicians to solve the safety and home shortages now. Public Agencies need to be leading the effort to solve our essential needs, such as clean water and affordable housing.

A current housing project adjacent to the River in Long Beach has 226 houses planned with 11 only set aside for affordable housing. Starting date is Oct. 2022 to June 2026. It will take 44 months to provide only 11 new affordable units in this project referred to as the RiverPark in Long Beach.

Questions:

Goal #1

New projects along the River will need to consider long-term impacts of climate change and develop infrastructure to manage extreme events (i.e. Earthquake or Flood) How can we guarantee that is being done?

Goal #2

51 miles of Safe and Connected open space, while in we are mostly dependent on cars to be able to move in Los Angeles? How is the public transportation going to help to achieve this goal?

Goal #3

Must create large habitat areas to support native functioning ecosystems? How is noise pollution from adjacent communities affecting this goal?

Goal#4

Enhance opportunities for equitable access to the river, while most of the development will be done by private organizations and not by public agencies?

Goal #5

LA River can be a major destination for ARTS and CULTURE?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 records, Hispanic/Latino was the largest ethnic group in the County, with 48.6 percent of the total population identifying themselves as such, how will their input be used to reflect and expand Culture Atmosphere?

Goal #6

Housing, overcoming the shortfall of gentrification?

LA County still being able to secure access to affordable housing ?

Measures to ensure residents are not displaced while addressing the Homeless crisis along the LA River encampments?

Goal #7

Community groups being used to promote community engagement and public education? Ways to ensure that the majority of the community is being considered and not just interest groups?

Goal#8

Ways to move towards decreasing the reliability on imported water supplies? Various water providers serve the 17 cities and unincorporated county along the LA River? With current water supplies, what benefits can we rely on from water conservancy programs along the LA River?

Goal # 9

How can we reach the goal of being able to promote healthy, safe and clean water?

Make available list of regulated pollutants? What are water quality requirements on complicated water projects?

Source of funding and timeline for implementation? Private or Public agency will be enforcing regulations?

Source: pw.lacounty.gov/go/larmpceqa