



March 19, 2021

Honorable Robert Garcia
Mayor of Long Beach
411 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mayor Garcia:

The City of Long Beach has a long and vibrant history of protecting the Los Angeles River and access to open space along its banks. Today, I write in support of the City's long-standing policy for recreational open space along the River and our community members, including the Riverpark Coalition, who advocate for that open space. Seven of the nine cities I represent include the River as part of their community, but enjoy only limited access to open space for community members to experience and enjoy.

Access to open space remains critical to the livelihood of our Los Angeles River communities. Many of our communities suffer disproportionate impacts from pollution related to the goods movement corridor from the ports to the railyards. Access to open space in our River corridor therefore provides a critical community resource. Open space along the River helps our communities take ownership of the River as a valuable environmental resource, today and in the future. We can re-imagine the River's future, to give our communities access to open space.

My Assembly Bill 530 (2015) created a Lower LA River Working Group, which engaged our communities in developing the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (2018). The City of Long Beach played an active role in the Working Group to help develop the plan. The plan identifies opportunity areas for open spaces, social spaces and areas for recreation and cultural purposes along the river.

The City adopted a plan for its segment of the LA River in 2007, with the "Long Beach RiverLink." It also envisions possibilities for an integrated open space system for the west side of Long Beach. Long Beach has already made progress in the past few years to provide park space that connects the community to the Los Angeles River, in areas like Deforest Park and the Dominquez Gap Wetlands to name a few. I hope to see more in the years ahead.

Honorable Robert Garcia
March 19, 2021
Page 2

I commend your continued partnership with community members and others, to promote open space along the LA River. I strongly support the Riverpark Coalition's ongoing efforts to create more space that is open for our community members to experience and enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A R', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

ANTHONY RENDON
Speaker of the Assembly