



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 22, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1374-Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 1374. This bill will help to promote the development of open space and parks for the benefit of communities along the Lower Los Angeles River. The Los Angeles River flows through many disadvantaged communities, where residents are disproportionately impacted by poor air quality from local heavy industry and congested transportation corridors and suffer from a severe lack of access to recreational opportunities and outdoor space.

While the Los Angeles River serves an important purpose as a flood control channel, it also presents a unique opportunity for open space development, urban greening, and is a relatively untapped recreational resource for the region. With the recent establishment of numerous groups, including the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and multiple conversations about a new vision for the Los Angeles River, there is growing need for action along the Los Angeles River.

Through the formation of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District, SB 1374 will promote the development of open space and parks along the Lower Los Angeles River. In addition, SB 1374 will establish a Board of Directors for the District, which will include two public members appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, as well as one representative each from nine different cities, including the City of Long Beach. Long Beach has a vested interest in making sure the Lower Los Angeles River receives adequate funding for the development and revitalization of open space and parks.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 1374.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District
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