



Meeting Notes - Community Workshop #5

Date: February 24, 2009
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Location: Wilmington Senior Citizen Center
Topic: Community Workshop No. 5
Attendees: See Attachment A

On February 24, 2009 the Bureau of Engineering held its fifth community outreach meeting for the Lake Machado Ecosystem Rehabilitation and Wilmington Drain Multiuse Project. Approximately 29 people were in attendance; see Attachment A for the attendance list. Mr. Alfred Mata, Bureau of Engineering, opened the meeting by welcoming the public to the meeting and initiating a round of self introductions. See Attachment B for the slide presentation.

Mr. Mata gave a brief overview of the projects and provided a recap of the previous outreach meetings. Mr. Mata stated the project team is looking at the park needs and gathering information from the community. He stated that, at future community meetings, they will present more detailed designs and solicit feedback.

He provided an overview of the general project elements for the Machado Lake Ecosystem:

Riparian Woodland

- Sediment removal at lake inlets
- Recontouring to improve dispersion of flows
- Exotic plant removal and replanting with native enhancements

In-Lake

- Nutrient reduction strategies
- Sediment removal from bottom
- Aeration system
- Lake edge and near-shore improvements
- Dam improvements

Freshwater Marsh

- Low flow channel
- Sediment removal at inlets
- Exotic plant removal and replanting
- Wetland treatment systems
- Harbor outfall structure repairs

Stormwater BMPs

- Trash removal at storm drains
- Pervious paving in parking lots
- Bioswales
- Smart irrigation controllers

Machado Lake and Parkland Area Improvements

Tom Muñoz and Perry Cardoza (Nuvis), were introduced to provide an overview of the Machado Lake and parkland area improvements. They presented three preliminary landscape plans: Park Landscape Improvements; Proposition O Parkland and Lake Core Elements; and Master Plan Amenities. (Please see Attachment C for these three plans.) The park landscape plan and the Proposition O Parkland and Lake Core Elements plan presents the proposed necessary improvements that could be funded through this project. The third plan represented the “wish list” of full amenities improvements that would be aligned with the Park Master Plan and implemented as funding becomes available in the future. Both Mr. Muñoz and Mr. Cardoza walked the community through the various improvements.

The community had the following questions/concerns [*response by various project team members*]:

- What are the islands made from? [*At this time we don't know, most likely it will not be a floating island, it will be something that is contoured and vegetated for targeted species*]
- Do you envision pathways for pedestrians in the Riparian Forest? With or without pets? [*We are considering adding pathways through the Riparian Woodland. They would be at least 10 feet wide to allow access for maintenance.*]
- The Riparian Forest area is currently inaccessible, will invasive trees be removed and area reconfigured? Removing non natives can address issues. [*Need to allow for maintenance access, will have 10 foot wide path. The design will include removal of invasive non-natives.*]
- You are proposing to refurbish the camp grounds at the south end of park; isn't it outside the scope of Prop O? If out of scope should consider seeking funding from entities such as ConocoPhillips. [*No, refurbishing the camp grounds is not included as part of this Prop O project, instead we are including this on the master plan wish list to be developed as funding becomes available.*]
- Will the open water be removed from the Riparian Forest? [*We are developing several plans to develop wetlands in that area for treatment, including recirculation of lake water. In wet season it will be more like a pond, in summer might be drier. Need to keep water moving for mosquito control. Ideas will come forward in future workshops.*]
- Are you no longer considering using water from the treatment plant? [*The use of recycled water for irrigation will be discussed later on today's agenda.*]
- Will the contiguous tulle bands close to the trails and walkways in the north and southeast ends be maintained or replaced? [*Yes, wherever we have good tulles, we will seek to protect in place, as well as seek to remove invasive plants to create better habitat.*]
- Will there be coordination with the golf course to address possible runoff from fertilizer use? Should also coordinate with owners of driving range and the maintenance yard as both of these areas have the potential for toxic runoff that will negate the work trying to be

accomplished. *[Looking at BMPs to control erosion and runoff from these areas. The golf course is designed to prevent runoff and over irrigation, since that could damage the greens.]*

- Concerned with the maintenance yard traffic using bike path for access, gradually taking bigger trucks across it. This provides an environmental and safety issues. *[Recreation and Parks staff has been ordered to not drive on path except for golf cart size vehicles. Now 90% of the time its locked to vehicular traffic.]*
- If the plan is to make lake clean enough to fish in and eat the fish that is caught, will need to take into consideration factors that come into play with fishing: fish gutting, etc. Can this be done through a phased introduction? *[Yes, the goal would be to have the lake clean enough to have fishing, through a phased approach. We are looking at all possible measures to meet water quality requirements.]*
- How does satellite irrigation work? *["Smart" irrigation devices rely on weather data to control irrigation. For example, the sprinklers won't turn on when it's raining. These devices can be sophisticated, also allowing customized watering depending on the plant type and soil characteristics.]*
- How will the plans for the new Vermont storm drain influence this project? In the Wilmington Drain will you simulate sheet flow; low flow channels or change elevation, you need an influx of water on north for sediment dispersal. Don't see this accounted for on the project boards. *[We will make sure we adequately reflect the new Vermont storm drain attributes on the plans. The team is also investigating sediment removal options and hydraulic changes which will be presented at future meetings.]*
- Will there be an educational facility incorporated into this project? *[It's on the master plan wish list, not funded through Prop O.]*
- Will fencing be installed on Figueroa Place or in back area of the lake; need to restrict access to camping area. *[RAP working with Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Sanitation on this issue, they will check on hours of operation, safety, etc.]*
- There is tremendous flooding off of Anaheim during rainy season, water ponds here. *[We will investigate where this ponding is occurring at P2747 (outfall).]*
- The diagrams show pits, can you explain what those are? *(Those are old mitigation areas that were never completed)*
- How will golf course feel about people walking on trails closer to the golfers, from safety standpoint *[Noted: team will consider safety issues from proximity to golf course (and stray golf balls).]*
- Bridge to Wilmington Drain may be a concern. *[Noted.]*

Recycled Water at the Park and Lake

Jesus Gonzalez from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was introduced to provide an overview of the City's water sources. Mr. Gonzalez reported that the City of Los Angeles depends on external sources for the majority of its water supply. However there are a variety of ongoing water supply challenges contributing to this issue. The City released a report last year detailing steps the city will pursue over the next 20 years to meet new demand. New demand is expected to be met via use of recycled water and increased conservation measures. An aggressive water recycling program will require an expanded distribution system. A pipeline is proposed from West Basin Water Reclamation Plant in Carson to the Los Angeles city limits. The City would then build a pipeline to deliver to customers.

Richard Corneille (CDM) indicated that the Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project Recycled Water Feasibility Study will evaluate water quality and habitat impacts and the benefits of using recycled water in three areas:

- Irrigation (Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park and Harbor Golf Course)
- Wetlands enhancement (e.g. in Riparian Woodland and/or Freshwater Marsh)
- Lake make-up water

It was stated that the use of recycled water in the park and lake could save up to 440 acre feet of water a year.

The community asked the following questions:

- Salt tolerant plants exist in some locations, could we selectively add types of water to wetlands, vegetation, vernal marsh? Wild card will be what impact feral animals have on water quality, without control of that, improvements won't make a difference in water quality. *[Comment noted.]* Would like to see how much on-site contribution to nitrogen (street run off, etc) there is. In the summer time, the lake produces huge amounts of algae. *[The team is considering a variety of lake options to improve lake health and prevent algae growth in the summer. The difference in water quality between recycled water and our potable water is less than a percentage point, which would have a negligible effect on lake quality.]*
- What would the savings be if refineries used recycled water? *(Four large refineries use 9000 acre-feet of potable water per year. Note that 1 acre-foot of water is enough water to supply two typical families in Los Angeles for a year. LADWP is working with them to convert to recycled water.)*
- What is brackish water? Have you considered recycling sea water? *[It would not be feasible to introduce salt water, as the area is functioning as a vernal marsh. To reintroduce salt water would change the habitat.]*

Wilmington Drain Hydraulic Options

Stephanie Bache (Parsons) was introduced to discuss design objectives for the Wilmington Channel. Over the past few months, the design team has been conducting a hydraulic analysis to ensure the channel meets flood control objectives. The project is expected to improve the existing flood control capacity. The project objectives are as follows:

50 year storm conveyance

- Minimize flooding north of 110 freeway
- Minimize overtopping of Lomita Blvd.

Permittable

- Minimize loss of occupied habitat
- Enhance native habitat
- 50 year storm conveyance
- Habitat/permittable water quality

Water Quality Management

- Incorporates trash net structures wetlands and other BMPs where feasible
- Consider feasibility of sedimentation basin
- North of Lomita Blvd.

There are key design constraints for the channel.

50-yr. Storm Conveyance Constraints

- Impervious cover in contributing watershed has increased from 1977 condition
- Long-term sediment load has diminished storage capacity throughout Wilmington Drain including culverts
- Vegetation has decreased conveyance ability
- No additional acreage available for storage or conveyance capacity; > 50-yr. storm may flood

Permitting Constraints

- Reducing impacts to high quality habitat
- Habitat improvement and onsite mitigation
- Impacts to habitat from maintenance activity

Water Quality Management Constraints

- Sedimentation basin North of Lomita Blvd. could impact high quality habitat
- Trash net structures may result in head loss

Ms. Bache presented a longitudinal profile of the channel, along with plots of where potential flooding would occur. There are three recommended alternatives under consideration; however they are not ready to be shared with the audience because they are being reviewed by the County and the City. Ms. Bache was able to discuss elements and indicated that the recommendations would not affect the island in the middle of stream. The channel would be cleared on both sides of the island through excavation, increasing conveyance capacity.

The community had the following questions/concerns:

- They liked excavation and the removal of Eucalyptus and sick willow scrub (e.g. dredging of the channel and rebuilding of channel) *[Noted.]*
- Need a continuous low flow to lake to avoid vector control issues. *[Noted.]*

- Is there a possibility of long term interagency cooperative effort to decelerate storm flows up-stream? *[We will invite the County to present watershed management plans in the area at a future meeting.]*
- What is long term maintenance plan? *[Will provide more information by next meeting. Issue has come up before]*
- Is area north of Lomita excluded? *(Still on table. County working with City)*
- Vector Control would like to see budget tied to long term maintenance. If Prop O can't fund maintenance, then additional funding must be sought. *(Will be providing recommendations for maintenance)*
- How much funding allocated ?*(Lake Machado \$99 million, Wilmington drain \$17 million)*
- Is this funding threatened during financial crunch? *(No, funds are allocated through a bond measure for storm water pollution cleanup projects only. The funds can't be used to offset other funding crunches.)*
- Are all drains that drain into lake being studied? *(Yes, will try to incorporate WQ improvements to them all)*
- Would like to return lake to canoe and boat use, make the park usable for public. Concerned with certain interests pushing a bird habitat, as there is not currently one there, why add? There is currently more wildlife there than ever before, proof wildlife can cohabitate with humans. *[Noted.]*
- The Luiseno Band of Indians submitted proposal to create a Tongva Village in the lower part of lake to create a blend of nature and recreation. Proposal is currently pending with Recreation and Parks. *[No response.]*

Next Steps

Mr. Mata indicated that the next meeting would be held in April, not in March. At that time the project team would revisit Wilmington Drain alternatives, recommend park concepts, and potential wildlife relocation implications.

Attachment A - List of Attendees – February 24, 2009

Stephanie Bache, Parsons
Jennifer Barrick, LADWP
Martin Byhower, PV/South Bay Audubon
Perry Cardoza, Nuvis
Dick Corneille, CDM
Diana Diankoff, City of LA/RAP
Donne Ethington
Laura Espinoza
Jesus Gonzalez, LADWP
Jacob Gutierrez, Ho'ooka Moompei Mahhay Sutimiv-pa'alai
Mark Hall, Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control
Daniel Hughes
Marvin Holmes, LACSD
Dan Hoffman
Reza Iranpour, City of LA/BOS
Wendy Katagi, CDM
Susan Kluh
Nicolas Koniski, Parsons
Roxy Lowe
Rachel Malarich, TreePeople
Alfred Mata, City of LA/BOE
Ron Mendez, member of Machado family
Tomas Muñoz, Nuvis
Grant Reed, Harbor city Neighborhood Council/PAB
Pat Rome, Resident
Susan Prichard
David Sundstrom
Heather Boyle VanMeter, CDM
Michelle Vargas, City of LA/PAO

Attachment B – Powerpoint Presentation

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Attachment C – Draft Machado Lake and Parkland Area Improvements

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