



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 17, 2014  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager for Public Affairs  
**Subject:** Request by Councilmember Mirisch to have the City of Beverly Hills formally endorse the 'Alternate 20' proposal from the US Army Corps of Engineers to restore the Los Angeles River.  
**Attachments:** 1. Communication from Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti

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### INTRODUCTION

After extensive efforts in past years – and through the support of Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti – the Army Corps of Engineers is recommending an ambitious \$1 billion ecological restoration program for 11 miles of the Los Angeles River upstream from downtown Los Angeles.

While this initiative does not directly impact Beverly Hills, Councilmember Mirisch is seeking Council support to provide regional support for this proposal. If approved by the Beverly Hills City Council, a formal letter of support will be provided to Mayor Garcetti, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City's representatives in Congress.

### DISCUSSION

The selection of 'Alternate 20' – one of several options available to the Corps of Engineers – will remake the concrete river channel into a more eco-friendly and inviting feature of the City of Los Angeles. Goals of the program are to restore the River's habitats, provide more open space to an underserved area of Los Angeles, and create vibrant public spaces that residents can use for hiking, cycling and other activities.

### FISCAL IMPACT

None to the City of Beverly Hills. This 'alternative' will hopefully result in over \$1 billion in investment funding, with approximately half to be provided by the federal government, and the other half by local sources.

Cheryl Friedling   
Approved By

# **Attachment 1**

John --

We did it! The LA River is coming back!

Last fall, I asked Angelenos to join me in calling on the US Army Corps of Engineers to select Alternative 20, the most comprehensive plan to restore our Los Angeles River. The odds were stacked against us, but thanks to thousands of people who signed our petition and spoke out at hearings, *the US Army Corps will recommend the expansive \$1 billion Alternative 20 restoration plan.*

*We need you NOW more than ever. The Corps recommendation has to gain approval at higher levels, so I need your support TODAY to take this across the finish line.*

With your help, our children's Los Angeles will include a vibrant LA River, the river that gave birth to and named our city. Its 51 mile course unites us from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor and can provide vital green space to communities along its entire expanse. In short, our river reflects who we are as a city.

But we have to finish the job. Now's the time to stand with me and show Washington that together, we can rebuild the backbone of Los Angeles.

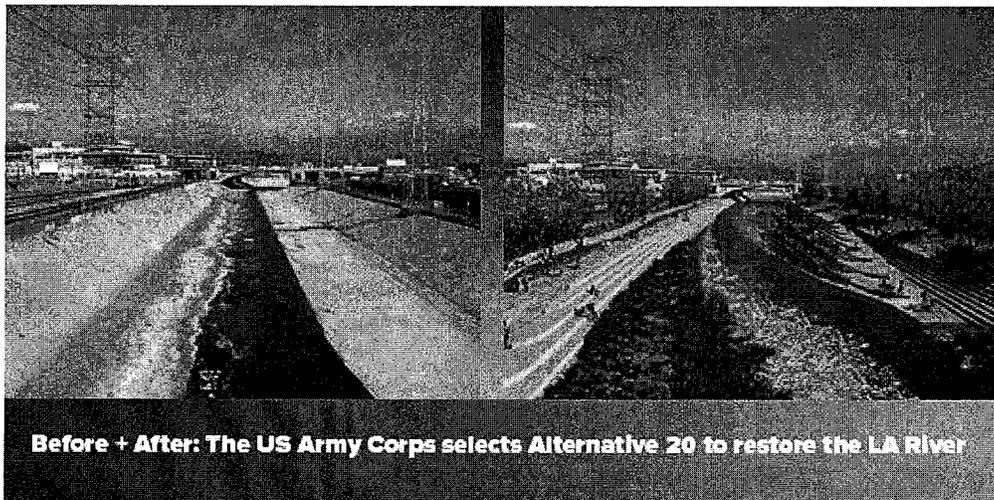
Let's give Los Angeles a river worthy of a great city. Join me in committing to finish the job and support the Army Corps' selection of

Alternative 20.

Thank you for all you do.

Mayor Eric Garcetti

P.S. We came together as a city in telling the US Army Corps of Engineers to select Alternative 20. Now, let's bring it home.



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