

Moore, Katharine

From: Stirdivant, Marc <MStirdivant@ci.glendale.ca.us>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 1:34 PM
To: Seward, Kara; Moore, Katharine
Subject: L.A. River Hearing
Attachments: REMARKS - PAVLEY HEARING.doc

Kara and Katherine,

Thank you both for the opportunity to inform the Senator about our work along the L.A. River here in Glendale. Please include the attached remarks into the record, since I was unable to present them in their entirety at the hearing do the interests of time.

Feel free to contact me any time in the future when you have questions about Glendale and the River.

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GLENDALE NARROWS RIVERWALK

12/13/13

Senator Pavley, thank you for the opportunity to join you this morning. I'm Marc Stirdivant from the City of Glendale's Community Services & Parks Department. And I want to take just a couple minutes to bring you up to date on Glendale's contribution to the progress that is being made along the L.A. River.

Many people don't realize that Glendale has about a mile of river frontage on the north and east banks of the river – just across from Griffith Park. It is in Glendale where the river makes its dynamic turn from east-west to north-south. And it is only in Glendale where one can stand and look upstream into the San Fernando Valley and then turn and look downstream into the Los Angeles Basin.

Our project is the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk. It is a project in three phases.

Phase I of the project opened to the public in December 2012 and includes an entry park on the west end of the site, a picnic area along the river, an equestrian facility, and half mile of pedestrian and bicycle trail. It runs from Betty Davis park on the west to Flower Street on the east and it immediately became a popular destination for walking, cycling, and for commuters who work in Glendale's Grand Central Creative Campus, including employees from Disney and DreamWorks.

Phase II of the project will continue the multi-user trail from Flower Street to the Verdugo Wash. A large portion of the trail has already been built as part of an adjacent transportation project and funds have been secured for construction of a small bridge across a storm drain outlet to connect Phases I and II of the project.

A grant from Proposition 84's California River Parkways program will fund the remaining Phase II elements including an entry park at Flower Street, the final leg of the recreational trail, and a confluence park where the Verdugo Wash meets the River.

Phase III of the project is perhaps the most exciting. It will provide bridge connections for pedestrians and cyclists from Riverwalk across the Los Angeles River into Griffith Park and across the Verdugo Wash into the areas of North Atwater currently designated by the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan as the River Glen Opportunity Area.

When the three phases of the project are complete, Riverwalk will include about a mile of recreational trail for bicyclists and pedestrians, four small parks, an equestrian facility, interpretive signage, bioswales for stormwater capture and recharge, extensive landscaping with native plants, and bridges connecting Riverwalk to Griffith Park and North Atwater.

Glendale Narrows Riverwalk

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Glendale will be the only city along the entire Los Angeles River to devote one hundred percent of its river frontage to recreation. And Riverwalk will play a significant role in connecting people – not only from Glendale, but from Los Angeles as well – once again with their river.

Senator, I've provided your staff with a copy of our Riverwalk Master Plan, and I hope you'll find some time to take a look at the exciting work we're doing in Glendale.

Thank you.