

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 19, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

As you prepare the Water Resources and Development Act of 2016 (WRDA), we strongly urge you to include authorization for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project. Earlier this year, President Obama made an enduring commitment to the project in his final budget by making critical investments in preconstruction engineering and design activities. Recently, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee built upon this commitment by authorizing \$375,773,000 for the project in its own version of WRDA. We are encouraged by this important step forward and remain hopeful the House will demonstrate equally robust leadership in the coming weeks.

Aquatic ecosystem restoration is one of the most significant aspects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission. Many of our nation's once pristine waterways are damaged and distressed, not only affecting our ecological health, but also those who live in the surrounding areas. By restoring neglected ecosystems like the Los Angeles River to their original condition, we can protect our natural resources, promote environmental sustainability, and spur local economic and job growth around these spaces.

From our nation's heartland all the way to Los Angeles, our lands and waters are truly breathtaking. All Americans should be able to appreciate firsthand the value of profound environmental stewardship. By authorizing this transformational project, we seize that opportunity and validate several years of tireless, collaborative work by citizens, stakeholders, and elected leaders to reestablish the Los Angeles River as a source of regional pride and vitality.

As such, we respectfully urge you to include the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 as you continue to draft this critical piece of legislation in the coming weeks. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact Kwabena Nsiah with Congressman Xavier Becerra at [Kwabena.Nsiah@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kwabena.Nsiah@mail.house.gov)

Sincerely,



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XAVIER BECERRA  
Member of Congress



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LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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BRAD SHERMAN  
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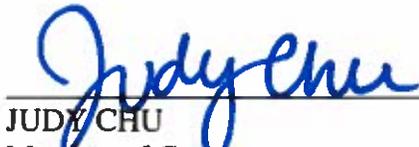
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