
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

Senator Robert Hertzberg, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: SB 1126 **Hearing Date:** April 16, 2018
Author: Portantino
Version: March 20, 2018
Urgency: Yes **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Dennis O'Connor

Subject: Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW

Current law establishes within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group. The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the conservancy, and, to the extent that they wish to consult, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles, shall consider requests from local agency representatives to participate in the working group and may appoint no more than 23 representatives to the working group. The working group may include, but is not limited to, representatives from the conservancy, the County of Los Angeles, the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles, and San Fernando, elected officials of the cities riparian to the Pacoima Wash and Tujunga Wash, and nonprofit organizations serving the Upper Los Angeles River, San Fernando Valley, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash.

By March 1, 2019, the working group is to develop a revitalization plan for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and any additional tributary waterway that the working group determines to be necessary. The revitalization plan is required to address the unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and the communities through which they pass, and to include watershed education programs.

PROPOSED LAW

This bill would:

- 1) Add the Flint Wash and Arroyo Seco Tributary to the list of waterways that must be included in the revitalization plan.
- 2) Authorize, but not require the working group to include three members, one each from the Cities of La Cañada-Flintridge, Pasadena, and South Pasadena, unless their inclusion results in a geographical imbalance of representation.
- 3) Be an urgency measure, the urgency being the necessity to ensure the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group has ample time to include the Arroyo Seco Tributary and the Flint Wash in its revitalization plan in order to protect the watershed's resources and its vitality to their communities.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT

According to the author, “Both the Arroyo Seco and the Flint Wash are of significant importance to the Los Angeles area as they attract many locals, tourists, and families year-round. It is imperative to include the Arroyo Seco and Flint Wash in the Upper LA River and Tributaries Working Group revitalization plan, and to do so urgently so as to ensure the area is revitalized immediately given that we are likely facing a drought in the state.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received

COMMENTS

The Arroyo Seco is a major tributary to the Los Angeles River. It is nearly 25 miles long, drains an area of over 46 square miles, and contributes over 17,000 acre feet of water to the total outflow of the Los Angeles River to the Pacific Ocean. This represents about 4.8 percent of the total flow of the Los Angeles River. This compares to the contributions of the Verdugo wash of 3.1 percent and the 5.1 percent provided by the combined flows of the Tujunga and Pacoima Washs.



Los Angeles River and its major tributaries

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:LA_Rmap.jpg, last accessed 04/06/18)

The Flint Wash is not. Flint Wash is a tributary of the Arroyo Seco. It drains most of the City of La Cañada Flintridge, approximately 6.7 square miles, or about 14% of the Arroyo Seco watershed.

Major Tributaries Only? The named waterways in the section creating the working group are all major tributaries to the Los Angeles River. For consistency, it might make sense to continue that with this bill. It will also remove the temptation to add additional sub-tributaries to the bill. Further, the working group can already consider any other water way that working group determines necessary, such as the Flint Wash.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT:

On page 2, lines 25 & 29, and on page 3, line 6, delete “Flint Wash,”
On page 4, beginning on line 2, delete “and the Flint Wash”

SUPPORT

Arroyo Advisory Group
City of Pasadena

OPPOSITION

None Received

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