



## AB 530

Assembly Bill 530 provides a comprehensive plan to support the restoration and revitalization of the Los Angeles River. The bill calls upon the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint a local working group for the purpose of developing a plan to revitalize the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed. Council for Watershed Health is proud to be a part of this group, officially called the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group, along with various other municipal and nonprofit entities.

The group will collaborate to develop a plan that uses watershed-based planning methods to address the unique needs of the Lower LA River by March 1, 2017. These needs include focusing on water quality and creating and maintaining healthy open spaces specifically for low-income communities that are most in need of access to these areas. The plan will also include watershed education programs for communities through which the River passes, in efforts to encourage these communities to prioritize continued stewardship of the valuable resources and benefits that a healthy watershed allows for.

## WHO

Appointed by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group includes representatives from nonprofit organizations like Council for Watershed Health, including LA County Bicycle Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Heal the Bay, and Friends of the LA River, among others. The group also includes representatives from the Cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Huntington Park, and others, as well as Assembly Member Anthony Rendon, who authored the Bill.

## WHAT

The Lower LA River flows south from Downtown LA to Long Beach, covering a span of 21 miles and passing through a diverse range of communities along its path. The location of the River in the heart of a metropolitan area has both pros and cons: it serves as a needed source of nature in the otherwise concrete-laden city, but as such is especially vulnerable to suffering the effects of human activity. The River passes through many low-income neighborhoods, which tend to have the most need for increased access to parks and open spaces as a way of increasing the health and wellness of these communities. Working together to find solutions to mitigate the effects of human activity and increase water quality of the River is essential to ensure a healthy waterway and benefit these communities.

## WHY CWH IS INVOLVED

The objective of the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group aligns strongly with Council for Watershed Health's mission to advance the health and sustainability of our region's watersheds, rivers, streams and habitat – both in natural areas and urban neighborhoods – through science-based research, education and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The working group strives to do just that: integrate science with policy and community education and engagement.