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**Report to Mayor and City Council**

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Consent

**SUBJECT:**

**CONSIDER AN UPDATE ON THE DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL**

**I. SUMMARY**

This item transmits an informational update to the City Council and the Carson community on the status of the Dominguez Channel odor incident.

Since January, staff has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers, LA Office, as well as Los Angeles County Public Works on evaluating grant funding opportunities regarding the Dominguez Channel improvements in the City of Carson. In partnership with LA County Public Works, the City worked on language and scope for a Water Resources Development Act (“WRDA”) grant with the Army Corps of Engineers that can fund up to \$30M. On March 31, 2022, LA County Public Works submitted a Letter of Intent to the LA Office of the Army Corps of Engineers requesting funds from the Corps’ Section 1135 which funds aquatic ecosystem restoration projects. This letter was reviewed by Carson and approved prior to being submitted. Funding from this program is up to \$10M and is a local (Los Angeles Corps District) decision that does not have to go through committees in Washington, D.C.

The City of Carson and LA County Public Works continue to work together on technical

issues and grant funding. Currently, a core group meets to consider the gaps in knowledge and studies that would assist in developing a feasibility study for the Dominguez Channel. This study would help to inform the alternatives and potential decision for the future. If received, the Army Corps funds should assist in various studies for the Channel.

On June 19, 2022 both Carson's and LA County's Department of Public Works presented a strategic approach to Community Engagement and outreach for the Domínguez Channel. The goal of this approach is to encourage input from Carson residents, businesses, and leaders. Examples of other projects that LACDPW has completed were presented as well as the San Antonio Riverwalk.

The City will continue to advocate for the interests of Carson residents with respect to the restoration of the Channel. While the Channel is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the City will continue to work with its government partners and elected officials to help ensure the crisis associated with the Channel does not occur again.

## **II. RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE.

## **III. ALTERNATIVES**

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate and that is consistent with applicable laws.

## **IV. BACKGROUND**

In October 2021 there was an odor incident in the Dominguez Channel caused by anaerobic conditions in the water. The LA County Public Works addressed the odor by using an odor neutralizer and aeration bubblers. Ultimately, the rainy season helped but introducing oxygen-rich water into the channel and helping to increase the flow of the channel, which helped speed the recovery.

## **V. FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no direct fiscal impacts associated with this staff report as it is intended for information only. The City will continue to advocate for state and federal funding in collaboration with multiple agencies that could contribute to the long-term restoration and improvement of the Channel for the benefit of Carson residents.

## VI. EXHIBITS

None.

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