



# CITY OF CARSON

## Legislation Text

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### Report to Mayor and City Council

Tuesday, September 06, 2022

Consent

#### **SUBJECT:**

#### **CONSIDER AN UPDATE ON 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 2022, 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. Committees in DC are still deciding if Dominguez Channel will get funding for WRDA. The City and County should know in September.

On August 2, 2022, the Director of LA County Department of Public Works made a presentation to the City Council. His presentation included a commitment to the City of creating a greenway along the Dominguez Channel with bikeways, walking space and trees. They will also look at the feasibility of creating a pocket park on property they already own and is within their Right of Way. Design meetings between Carson's engineering division and the County's design team have begun. In addition, a community engagement and outreach meeting is being developed specifically for the pocket park for a September meeting to encourage input from Carson residents, businesses, and community leaders.

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.

In addition, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board recently announced it intends to impose an administrative civil penalty of \$17 million on the business owner and its landlord that caused the release of pollutants into the flood control channel in September, which resulted in the odor incident. The City Council approved a letter to the Water Board supporting the levy of the fine and requesting consideration of a portion of the fine revenue to be allocated back to Carson for additional clean water projects.

## **II. RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE.

## **III. ALTERNATIVES**

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

## **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.

The City of Carson and LA County Public Works continue to work together on technical issues and grant funding on a regular basis. 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.

## **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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