

**Comment Summary and Responses**  
**Retaining the Recreational Uses of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed**  
**Comment Deadline: November 6, 2014**

1. Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR)
2. City of Burbank
3. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
4. Heal the Bay (HTB)
5. Joyce Dillard (Private Citizen)
6. Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)
7. Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan
8. California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)
9. Los Angeles WaterKeeper

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1.1	Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR)	As President and Founder of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR), I fully support the California Regional Water Quality Control Board to adopt a resolution retaining the current recreational beneficial use designations for the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed.	Comment noted.
1.2	FOLAR	Since Senate Bill 1201 (DeLeon) was signed by Governor Brown, the interest in the Los Angeles River has grown. Not only a win for the recreating public, it is a win for the environment of the Los Angeles River Watershed as tremendous awareness was created, resulting in several projects/grants benefiting the environment.	Senate Bill 1201 and its effects were amongst the factors considered by the Regional Water Board in evaluating recreational uses in the Los Angeles River's engineered channels.
1.3	FOLAR	The movement to restore the Los Angeles River has changed a lot over the last quarter century. We are finally witness to results, and FOLAR will continue our education on stewardship to keep the recreation zones in harmony with habitat.	Comment noted.
2.1	City of Burbank	<p>The City of Burbank (City) opposes the retaining of the current recreational beneficial use designations of the engineered channels in the Los Angeles River watershed for the following reasons:</p> <p>The Final Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Except Those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4 require the Los Angeles basin permittees, including the City, to develop and implement a low impact development ordinance, and a green streets policy, with the objective to have private property and transportation corridors retain as much storm water runoff on-site as possible in order to</p>	<p>The RECUR report clearly documents existing recreational use in the Los Angeles Rivers engineered channels.</p> <p>With respect to the potential uses, the US Army Corp of Engineers in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles conducted long-term feasibility studies for restoration and revitalization projects along the Los Angeles River and its confluence with major tributaries, and have deemed these projects to be viable. Revitalization and restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed's engineered channels is underway and is justifiably given adequate</p>

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		<p>prevent the runoff and pollutants from entering local waterways. Furthermore, the City has elected to participate in the Upper Los Angeles River Enhanced Watershed Management Program, whereby a combination of local-scale and regional-scale projects will be required to capture, and either retain or reuse the storm water runoff. Finally, the City is also maximizing its recycled water. Given these efforts, combined with the on-going drought conditions the Region is experiencing, the engineered channels in the Los Angeles River watershed will not have sufficient water to support recreational use(s). Therefore, the existing, potential and intermittent recreational use designations should not be supported.</p>	<p>consideration and weight in the evaluation of recreational beneficial uses. As an example, a significant number of the projects identified in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, which is geared towards increasing recreational opportunities in and along the Los Angeles River main channel as well as at some confluences with its major tributaries, are slated to receive federal funding through the US Army Corp of Engineers with the City of Los Angeles as a funding partner</p> <p>Finally, for waterbodies designated as intermittent REC-1, the RECUR report acknowledges the absence of flow for significant periods in these waterbodies; in these cases, the REC-1 use and the associated water quality objectives only apply during the periods when water is present.</p> <p>The existing, potential and intermittent recreational use designations are therefore supported.</p>
2.2	City of Burbank	<p>One of the City's main goals and objectives is to provide for the health and safety of its citizens and visitors. Recreational activities throughout the City are no exception. The City would like to clearly distinguish between a "fixed" waterbody (i.e., swimming pool, spa) versus a "moving" waterbody (i.e., all engineered channels). First, a "fixed" waterbody is generally safe due to its boundaries which prevent an individual(s) from being swept away. On the contrary, a "moving" waterbody, even in low-flow conditions, has the potential to sweep an individual(s) off their feet and possibly downstream at any moment. Second,</p>	<p>With regard to beneficial use designations, neither federal nor state law distinguishes between "fixed" or "moving" waterbodies. Beneficial uses are designated based on past, present, and potential future uses regardless of whether a waterbody is considered "fixed" or "moving."</p> <p>The Regional Water Board's adoption of the High Flow Suspension of Recreational Uses during and immediately following certain storm events was done to address</p>

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		<p>recreational activities at local beaches and public swimming pools typically provide a stationed lifeguard in the event an individual requires rescue and recovery assistance. Recreational activities in the Los Angeles River engineered channels would make retrieve and rescue efforts very challenging. Finally, Los Angeles River engineered channels with vertical perimeter walls and fencing along the rights-of-way are not accessible. Safe and compliant access would be required to support recreational activities and when necessary, rescue/recovery response efforts. For these reasons mentioned, the existing, potential and intermittent recreational use designations should not be supported.</p>	<p>the issue of recreational use of engineered channels during unsafe periods such as described by the commenter.</p> <p>With regard to accessibility, vertical walls and fencing are not always a deterrent to entry by the public. Also, limited access to some of these engineered channels can no longer be considered a fixed or static condition in light of the passage of Senate Bill 1201 and increasing efforts by stakeholders and communities to put these channels to recreational use.</p>
2.3	City of Burbank	<p>A recent study done by the Council for Watershed Health revealed that recreational (human) activities in the forest (natural) areas had led to increased bacteria levels, with bacteria levels in the Los Angeles River down. It is no coincidence that not allowing people in the Los Angeles River and allowing people in forest areas has led to clear distinguished levels of bacteria. With the MS4 permit receiving water limitation requirements and the Los Angeles River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load, permittees must meet stringent water quality standards. Allowing recreational activities in the engineered channels would impair the waterbodies with bacteria. For these reasons mentioned, the existing, potential and intermittent recreational use designations should not be supported.</p>	<p>Beneficial uses are designated based on past, present, and potential future uses of a waterbody. Senate Bill 1201 (DeLeon) directed the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to allow access to the Los Angeles River's engineered channel for the purpose of recreation and/or education. Since then, the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone has been in operation permitting access to the river for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. Recreation in these channels is a reality, which makes it even more important that the already existing recreational water quality standards be maintained in the interest of public health.</p> <p>That notwithstanding, many of the projects contained in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan and other sub-watershed management plans serve a dual purpose of improving water quality while</p>

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			increasing recreational opportunities.
3.1	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)	The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commends the Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board (Regional Board) for conducting a water quality evaluation process in the Los Angeles River Watershed by conducting the Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR) of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Part II-Assessment and Staff Recommendation.	Comment noted.
3.2	MRCA	We have reviewed the Part II report and are providing comments in support of Board staff's recommendation that the current recreational beneficial use designations be retained for the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The data and analysis presented in the draft Part I of the assessment are insufficient to justify any modifications to recreational beneficial uses in the Basin Plan.	Comment noted. Part I and Part II of the RECUR Report must be considered together. The Regional Water Board agrees that the information presented the RECUR assessment does not support modifications to recreational beneficial uses in the Basin Plan at this time.
3.3	MRCA	The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been revitalizing the Los Angeles River system for more than twenty years by building park projects along the River, enhancing access to the River, implementing regional plans to promote the social and ecological benefits of the River system, providing recreation and education programs to connect people to the River. The MRCA is a joint powers authority with the Conejo and Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks Districts and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy). As an institute at the forefront of science-based open space preservation and habitat restoration in the second largest metropolis in the nation, our park building and planning are guided by key planning documents:	Comment noted.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan (1979)</i></li> <li>• <i>Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan (1990)</i></li> <li>• <i>Common Ground from the Mountains to the Sea, San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan (2001)</i></li> </ul> <p>The Common Ground plan sets goals for our work, and chief among them is the creation of River Parkways along the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Rio Hondo Rivers and their tributaries. River Parkways are a continuous ribbon of open space, trails, active and passive recreation areas, and wildlife habitat. MRCA has been a lead agency in the design, construction and operations of Los Angeles River Parkway projects in conjunction with the Conservancy and other local government agencies for over twenty years.</p>	
3.4	MRCA	<p>The nature education programming provided by the MRCA serves thousands of children and their families each year. These programs include public campfire programs at pocket parks along the River, 12-week Junior Naturalist Programs with community-based partners, field trips for local schools and organizations, and interpretive programs for all ages. Many of these programs are focused on the natural resources of the Los Angeles River Watershed, and their popularity illustrates a widespread interest and engagement on the part of the public.</p>	Comment noted.
3.5	MRCA	<p><i>The Board Should Follow the Staff Recommendation to Retain the Current Recreational Beneficial Use Designations.</i></p> <p>Using RECUR to delist or redesignate stretches of the water body would not reflect currently underway or yet to be planned revitalization projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. If the Board does not</p>	Comment noted. The purpose of RECUR was to re-evaluate the designated recreational uses in the Los Angeles River's engineered channels. This evaluation included consideration of the more recent developments, programs, and projects geared towards increasing

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		<p>follow the staff recommendation to retain the current recreational beneficial use designations, this action would undermine efforts capable of providing enormous environmental, economic, and social benefits to the watershed.</p> <p>Maintaining a REC-1 designation for the Los Angeles River and its tributaries is aligned with the following State and Federal programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors initiative;</li> <li>• Presidential Proclamation regarding the 20th Anniversary of the Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice;</li> <li>• The First Lady’s Let’s Move program;</li> <li>• California Senate Bill 1201 that encourages additional use of the River; and</li> <li>• US EPA’s inclusion of the Los Angeles River in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.</li> </ul>	<p>recreational uses of these channels. Results of the RECUR effort indicate that changes to the designated recreational uses are not warranted at this time.</p>
3.6	MRCA	<p><i>Updates on Status of Current River Recreation Projects</i></p> <p>Since the draft Part I report was open for public comment, the following river recreation projects have occurred, all of which support recreational beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A second successful season of the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone occurred during summer 2014. Approximately 3,000 visitors enjoyed kayaking in the Los Angeles River in both Elysian Valley and in the Sepulveda Basin.</li> <li>• The Pacoima Wash Natural Park opened to the public in May 2014. The park is directly adjacent to the wash, increasing public access to these resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. The Regional Water Board appreciates being kept informed of current river recreation projects.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marsh Park Phase II opened to the public in August 2014. This three-acre park expansion includes the first public restroom to serve nine miles of the Los Angeles River Bikeway, and is expected to be frequently used as a starting point for visitors to the River.</li> <li>• The design and planning process for the Pacoima Wash Bikeway commenced. This 3.25-mile bikeway will connect the Angeles National Forest to the communities of the San Fernando Valley. Project partners for the Bikeway project include the City of San Fernando, the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, and Pacoima Beautiful.</li> <li>• The design and planning process for Phase II of the Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington Elementary continued. Phase II of this project will feature a public restroom for users on the Compton Creek Bikeway. Construction completion is expected in 2015.</li> <li>• The design and planning process for the Pacoima Wash-El Dorado Park continued with several public meetings. This park will provide visitors with direct access to the future Pacoima Wash Bikeway.</li> <li>• MRCA and the National Park Service completed a study entitled “Safe Routes to the River”. Working with a cohort of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students, the study analyzed four high schools near the Los Angeles River and public’s access to, and experience of, the Los Angeles River and developed concepts and an implementation plan to enhance each school’s direct connectivity to the River and its recreational resources.</li> <li>• MRCA was awarded funds from the US EPA for a “River Ambassadors” program, which will introduce</li> </ul>	



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		LAUSD students to local river and watershed issues, and facilitate youth to be capable to launch river awareness and stewardship in their community.	
3.7	MRCA	<p>Each of these projects also includes water quality treatment BMPs, directly resulting in improved water quality in the Los Angeles River and tributaries. The improvements to the water quality also support continuing recreational beneficial uses. These additional resources are direct proof that recreational use of the River and its tributaries is increasing.</p> <p>It is clear that current revitalization efforts occurring along the Los Angeles River have changed how Angelinos view and use the River. The staff recommendation to retain the existing designations will help protect these recreational uses along the River.</p>	Comment noted.
3.8	MRCA	<p><i>Continued Study and Support is Needed</i></p> <p>The Board should continue to document the recreational uses of the Los Angeles River and tributaries, establishing even more precedent for these designations. Expansion of current recreational use is clearly desired by the residents of the watershed, and many public agencies and non-profits already have plans and projects in place to facilitate it. Improving the water quality in the River and tributaries will greatly benefit these recreational uses, as well as supporting native habitat and environmental health. Funding for constructing physical improvements for beneficial uses, monitoring use, researching the effectiveness of BMPs, developing new BMPs and technologies, and watershed planning efforts is critical to accommodate the rising demand for river recreation.</p>	Comment noted. While the RECUR study has been completed, the Board supports continued documentation of recreational uses of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries by agencies and other stakeholders.
4.1	Heal the Bay	On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit the following comments to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality	Comment noted.

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		Control Board (“Regional Board”) on tentative resolution R14-0XX: <i>Retaining the Current Recreational Beneficial Use Designations of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed</i> (“Tentative Resolution”). Heal the Bay is an environmental organization with over 15,000 members dedicated to making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds safe, healthy, and clean for people and aquatic life.	
4.2	Heal the Bay	Heal the Bay strongly supports staff’s recommendation to retain the current recreational beneficial use designations in the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. We acknowledge the Regional Board’s efforts in gathering information and data for the Los Angeles River watershed, as this is an important step in cataloguing historic, current, and future recreation in the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The <i>Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR) of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed</i> Report (“RECUR”) is helpful in reaffirming already designated recreational beneficial uses along the waterway. However as discussed below and outlined in previous testimony and written comments using RECUR to remove designated recreational beneficial uses is inappropriate and would set bad precedent for engineered channels and water quality standards, create dissimilar water quality standards along connected stretches of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and greatly diminish current and future revitalization efforts along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The engineered channels of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries are a valuable recreational resource, and the recreational beneficial use designations for these channels are appropriately established and justified. Thus, we support the Regional Board’s Tentative	Comment noted. The Regional Water Board agrees that the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries are a valuable recreational resource. In addition, the RECUR efforts demonstrate that the existing recreational beneficial use designations are appropriately established and supported.

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		Resolution to retain current recreational beneficial use designations of engineered channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed.	
4.3	Heal the Bay	Recreational beneficial uses and opportunities of the Los Angeles River Watershed are likely to increase in the future from recent federal, regional, and local revitalization efforts. USEPA's designation of the Los Angeles River as a navigable water of the United States, Senate Bill 1201 establishing Los Angeles River as a river instead of a flood control channel, and the City of Los Angeles' adoption of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan are a few of the many efforts that will enhance the Los Angeles River in coming decades. These efforts will not only transform how the Los Angeles River looks and functions, but will also provide a suite of benefits to the region (social, economic, aesthetic, flood, environmental, etc.). Using RECUR to remove designated recreational beneficial uses does not compliment federal, regional, and local actions to improve the waterway and can significantly undermine potential benefits these actions can produce.	Comment noted.
4.4	Heal the Bay	Further, the timing and duration of RECUR does not capture all beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River Watershed. The 18-month data collection period used for the study occurred before most public outreach efforts and projects launched for revitalization along the Los Angeles River. Public perception of the River has dramatically shifted since the original data collection period ended and more Angelinos are now viewing the River as recreational space in contrast to a flood control channel. Moreover, the study only captures a snapshot in time of recreation occurring along the River and may not capture all current uses. Therefore, the study should not be used to influence Basin Plan	The Regional Water Board disagrees with the comment that the RECUR study is not adequate to "influence" Basin Plan decision making. The RECUR effort was conducted with strong adherence to USEPA regulations and guidelines. Part I of the assessment was a comprehensive look at current conditions in and along the engineered channels, as well as a compilation of past, present, and planned future use of these channels for recreational purposes. Part I also documented developments related to

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		decision making.	increasing recreational opportunities. EPA applauded this thoroughness in their comment letter on Part I of the RECUR effort. Part II of the assessment further evaluated recent revitalization efforts. Part I and Part II of the RECUR report must be considered together. The thorough information provided in the RECUR study demonstrates that the existing recreational use designations remain appropriate and supportable.
4.5	Heal the Bay	There is strong public desire to keep the current recreational beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. As you may recall, numerous stakeholders submitted comments on RECUR Part I expressing concerns with diminution of current recreational beneficial use designation of the watershed. Several of the groups are intimately involved in revitalization projects along the watershed. Removing designated recreational beneficial uses may create fewer incentives for stakeholders to pursue revitalization projects and subsequently expand recreational uses. It may also create fewer incentives to improve water quality in the region as less stringent water quality standards would be established for River reaches. Removing designated recreational beneficial uses does not align with the current revitalization movement occurring around the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and should not be pursued.	Comment noted.
4.6	Heal the Bay	Lastly, removing designated recreational beneficial uses from Los Angeles River and its tributaries does not follow the Board's own vision and water quality goals for the Los Angeles River as noted in staff recommendations from draft <i>Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR) of the Engineered Channels</i>	Comment noted.

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		<p><i>of the Los Angeles River Watershed, Part II: Assessment and Recommendations</i> technical report. In addition, at the December 5, 2013 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting, board members discussed how removing recreational beneficial use designations would not align with current efforts the Board is taking to enhance the watershed. Furthermore, the Board acknowledged the ongoing efforts entities have taken to revitalize Los Angeles River and its tributaries-a component that is grossly underrepresented in RECUR due to the timing of data collection.</p>	
4.7	Heal the Bay	<p>We acknowledge the efforts by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for the RECUR study, as it is a step in cataloguing beneficial uses along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. However, the study is greatly limited in its ability to inform decision making. Due to the limitations of the RECUR study, we strongly support the recommendation from staff that the Regional Board should not pursue changing existing recreational beneficial use designation along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. We urge the Regional Board to follow staff recommendations to retain the current recreational beneficial use designations in the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and adopt the Tentative Resolution as proposed.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Also, as explained in response to Comment No. 4.4., the Regional Water Board disagrees that the RECUR study is limited in its ability to inform decision making.</p>
5.1	Joyce Dillard, Private Citizen	<p>Appendix is missing comments letter listings. These same missing comment letters are not addressed in the staff report. Please correct.</p>	<p>All comment letters received on Part I of the RECUR Report are available in the appendix to the Staff Report (Part II) at <a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/bpa/docs/ben_uses/Appendix%20to%20Staff%20Report.pdf">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/bpa/docs/ben_uses/Appendix%20to%20Staff%20Report.pdf</a></p>

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5.2	Joyce Dillard	<p>US Army Corps needs to revise the Flood Plain along the river due to USACE 1992 Study and the LA River Ecosystem Restoration Study. They and the City of Los Angeles presented at the Los Angeles Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee on October 27, 2014 (Agenda No. 7). You may wish to listen to the audio at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.lacity.org/government/ElectedOfficialOffices/CityCouncil/CouncilandCommitteeMeetings/CouncilCommitteeMeetingAudio/index.htm?laCategory=1814">http://www.lacity.org/government/ElectedOfficialOffices/CityCouncil/CouncilandCommitteeMeetings/CouncilCommitteeMeetingAudio/index.htm?laCategory=1814</a></p>	Comment noted.
5.3	Joyce Dillard	<p>The levee system conditions should be included. Please refer to the USACE National Levee Database:</p> <p><a href="http://nld.usace.army.mil/egis/f?p=471:1">http://nld.usace.army.mil/egis/f?p=471:1</a></p>	Physical conditions of the engineered channels were presented in Part I of the RECUR Report.
5.4	Joyce Dillard	<p>Our comments were not taken seriously, as your summary is short. Public Health and Safety need to be key concerns. Without encompassing the area in general, designations can cause strife in quality of life issues concerning accessibility and parking. Elysian Valley is experiencing the gentrification issues currently.</p>	All comments received were considered, and revisions were made to Part I of the report where the Regional Water Board deemed appropriate.
5.5	Joyce Dillard	<p>We are also concerned that ecosystem restoration is not the driving factor, but development is, including hotels and tourism and billionaire interests. Please consider all creatures living including animals, plants, birds and wildlife. We are fortunate to enjoy that wildlife in the area, but see its diminishment by the fracturing of the planning processes, by all agencies.</p>	The RECUR effort only re-evaluated the recreational beneficial uses of the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River watershed. Other beneficial uses, such as those for wildlife habitat, were not evaluated. However, the revitalization plans for the Los Angeles River and its tributaries have ecosystem restoration at its core, as evidenced by the multi-faceted

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			<p>proposals that include elements such as habitat restoration, creation/protection of wildlife corridors, water quality improvement projects, and wetlands creation/enhancement in conjunction with opportunities for recreation in and along the channels. With regard to concerns about a fractured planning process, the Los Angeles River watershed is one of the pilot locations of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, which fosters agency coordination for restoration/revitalization projects. The partnership includes eight federal agencies, state and county agencies, four cities within the watershed, and over 15 non-profit and non-governmental organizations.</p>
6.1	Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)	<p>The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) strongly supports the efforts of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to reconsider the application of recreational beneficial uses in the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River system, however, we do not support the Tentative Resolution (Resolution) as proposed.</p> <p>The District owns and operates many engineered channels within the County of Ventura, and is named Principal Permittee and Co-Permittee in the Ventura County Municipal MS4 Permit. The Resolution pertaining to the Los Angeles River Watershed may set a precedent for potential future resolutions in watersheds in the County of Ventura which also fall under the Los Angeles Region Basin Plan.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>The resolution is specific to the engineered channels in the Los Angeles River watershed. This resolution clearly states that it does not preclude any future reconsideration of beneficial use designations for the Los Angeles River system or any other waterbody in the Los Angeles Region, which includes watersheds in Ventura County.</p>
6.2	VCWPD	Reducing bacteria concentrations to levels below water	The Regional Water Board supports the

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6.3	VCWPD	<p><b>Comment No. 1:</b> The District supports the comments made by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), provided in a separate letter to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Specifically, the District finds that Regional Water Board staff is proposing to resolve that all engineered channels within the Los Angeles River Watershed are essentially equal in terms of existing or potential recreational uses, even though the data contained in Part I of the technical report "Recreational Use Reevaluation of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed" clearly indicate this is not the case. A telling example has been included in the CASQA comment letter as well. The continued broad application of recreational use designations across all waterbodies, as proposed in the tentative resolution, appears to forgo the necessary analysis of individual waterbodies and their conditions in order to make that determination, and precludes targeting the investment of resources to areas where the uses exist (e.g., the</p>	<p>The Regional Water Board disagrees that it is treating all engineered channels within the watershed as equal. In fact, recreational uses of the Los Angeles River are applied specific to the engineered segment in question. Several of these channels are designated as either potential or intermittent. Part II of the RECUR effort goes into further detail regarding the implications of these two particular types of designations and demonstrates that these designations have been appropriately applied. In order to get a complete view of the evaluation, Part I must be considered in conjunction with Part II.</p>



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		<p>mainstem of the Los Angeles River). This approach disincentivizes the ability of the stormwater community to develop innovative solutions in the tributaries to protect uses where they occur. Rather, each individual outfall in the tributaries will have to be considered for retrofit, a cost difference of many millions of dollars.</p>	
6.4	VCWPD	<p><b>Comment No. 2:</b> The District is currently considering a variety of multi-benefit projects for treating or infiltrating dry weather urban runoff and stormwater in Ventura County. However, a blanket REC-1 designation in all mainstem and tributary waterbodies, similar as the resolution proposed for the Los Angeles River, creates a significant disincentive to fund these projects. Replacing current REC-1 designations in tributaries where no REC-1 use occurs, by more appropriate designations (e.g. REC-2), would help these projects move forward. For example, Camarillo Hills Drain is a major watercourse in the City of Camarillo in Ventura County, and portions are owned and maintained by the District. The channel flows through the City of Camarillo and discharges into Revolon Slough. The channel was inadequate to contain the Q100 flows, and a 30 Percent Design Study was conducted to determine flood related issues, but also to evaluate environmental concerns and recommend a preferred alternative.<sup>1</sup> A regional 225 acre-foot detention basin was investigated for reducing flow to Revolon Slough as part of an overall watershed strategy.</p> <p>The basin would reduce improvements needed to Revolon Slough downstream of Camarillo Hills Drain, and could be used for multi-benefit opportunities such as water quality or wetlands improvements. However, outside funding for the multi-benefit project has not yet been secured in part because of concerns that water quality benefits would not apply to Reach 1 of</p>	<p>As mentioned above in response to Comment No. 6.3, there is no blanket REC-1 designation in the watershed. Further, the Resolution does not make any changes to the current REC-1 designations in Ventura County. The REC-1 designations that apply to waterbodies in Ventura County have been identified in the Basin Plan since 1994 and earlier. Current beneficial use designations should be taken into consideration when planning multi-benefit projects for treating or infiltrating dry-weather urban runoff and stormwater in Ventura County.</p> <p>Also, while the Regional Water Board supports efforts to address water quality impairments from urban dry-weather runoff and stormwater, they should not come at a cost that marginalizes other waterbody segments.</p>

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		Camarillo Hills Drain, an approximately 3 mile-long soft bottom channel with some improvements, upstream of the proposed detention basin/wetland. Other recommended improvements in Reach 2, related to increasing capacity, have already partly been completed.	
6.5	VCWPD	A second example relates to the recently updated integrated watershed management strategy for Calleguas Creek, setting guiding principles for future stream protection, including promoting more natural stream conditions and providing multiple benefits and opportunities. Stakeholders ranked highest a management strategy that includes regional basins, and will provide significant opportunity to incorporate multiple-benefit projects for environmental restoration, recreation, groundwater recharge, water quality, and sediment management. Through several refinements and discussions with stakeholders, five basins were selected out of 156 potential sites. Replacing current REC-1 designations upstream of these basins, by more appropriate designations where applicable (e.g. REC-2), would be a major incentive for including flow diversion and treatment/infiltration in the planning process.	See response to Comment No. 6.4.
6.6	VCWPD	<b>Recommendation:</b> Given the above considerations, the District recommends that the Regional Board <b>not adopt</b> a resolution at this time so that Board staff, in partnership with interested parties, can complete a more detailed analysis of the tributaries via a stakeholder process. Alternatively, given the significant distinction between the findings for the mainstem and the tributaries, the District recommends limiting a resolution to the Los Angeles River mainstem reaches, and postponing a resolution for the tributaries until the	Sufficient consideration has been given to the engineered tributaries of the Los Angeles River. Part I and II of the RECUR Report contain a detailed evaluation of these tributaries. Also, the RECUR effort was conducted via an extensive process that was open to all interested persons and stakeholders as detailed in Part I of the report.

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		analysis can be completed.	
7.1	Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP)	The Stakeholders Implementing TMDLs in the Calleguas Creek Watershed appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Tentative Resolution Retaining the Current Recreational Beneficial Use Designations for Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed (Tentative Resolution). As stated in our March 14, 2014 comment letter on the “ <i>Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR) of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed</i> ” (Technical Report), we remain interested in recreational beneficial use designations. In that comment letter, we strongly supported the use of the significant technical information gathered to support modifying recreational beneficial uses in the Los Angeles River Watershed. We requested, during the 2011 triennial review comment period, that a reevaluation of recreational uses similar to those, then underway, in the Los Angeles River and engineered channels in Los Angeles County be considered in Ventura County.	Comment noted.
7.2	Calleguas Creek WMP	We are concerned that the Tentative Resolution does not fully consider the technical information presented in the Technical Report in concluding that recreational use changes are not needed. As such, we request that the Board postpone considering the Tentative Resolution until a policy is drafted that clearly links the technical data to the policy. We make this request based on our conclusion that the Technical Resolution is not supported by the Technical Report, and that designating reaches as REC-1 or REC-2 should be better justified.	The Regional Water Board disagrees. The resolution is supported by the information provided in both Part I and Part II of the Recur Report. Part II of the RECUR Report links the information contained in the technical report (i.e. Part I of the RECUR Report), along with other considerations, that support the Board’s determination to retain the current recreational beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River watershed’s engineered channels. Part II of the report expands on the planned projects for those

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			<p>channels that are designated as potential REC-1 and concludes that the current designations remain appropriate and supported. It also for those waterbodies designated as intermittent REC-1, the absence of flow for significant periods and that the water quality objectives only apply during periods when water is present.. These considerations, in conjunction with the Regional Water Board's policy/goal to protect and preserve the region's waters for the beneficial use of the people of the state, and the ever-growing public desire to put these channels to greater recreational use are sufficient justification to retain the current use designations.</p>
7.3	Calleguas Creek WMP	<p>The Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR) process was initiated as a result of concerns raised about the Los Angeles River Bacteria TMDL by MS4 Permittees that tributaries to the Los Angeles River with low flows and inaccessible channels may not support contact recreational uses like those present in the main stem of the Los Angeles River. The Los Angeles Regional Board acknowledged this concern and directed staff to conduct a process to evaluate recreational beneficial uses in the watershed. This process resulted in the RECUR study.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Regional Water Board agrees that the RECUR effort was initiated due to municipal stakeholder concerns. As such, the Board directed its staff to initiate the RECUR effort as part of its triennial review.</p>
7.4	Calleguas Creek WMP	<p>As evidenced by the Technical Report, the RECUR study has resulted in meaningful information about the current and future ability to recreate within the watershed. The Technical Report presents information that suggests that a range of conditions occur in the various tributaries to the Los Angeles River. However, the spectrum of accessibility, water depth, and/or potential revitalization were not considered in making</p>	<p>The Regional Water Board agrees that the Recur Report, both Part I and II, have resulted in meaningful information about the existing and potential future recreational uses of the watershed.</p> <p>The Regional Water Board disagrees that the resolution is not based on a careful</p>

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		the findings in the Tentative Resolution. The current Draft staff report does not contain summary analysis of the data presented in the Technical Report or comparison of the data collected in various waterbodies to provide a clear link between the study and the Tentative Resolution. As a result, the Tentative Resolution is not based on a careful consideration of all available information.	consideration of all available information. See also response to Comment No. 7.2.
7.5	Calleguas Creek WMP	When strong technical information is gathered through a collaborative process that includes all interested parties, as was done with the RECUR study, the technical work should clearly be the basis for policy for the region studied. The Tentative Resolution should be postponed until it is revised to fully consider the technical information.	The technical information gathered for the RECUR effort was fully considered in the drafting of the Resolution. Also, see response to Comment No. 7.2.
7.6	Calleguas Creek WMP	The primary justification found in the Draft Staff Report for maintaining the existing beneficial use designations appears to be to support future revitalization efforts in the watershed. While Calleguas Creek agencies support future efforts such as this, the Draft Staff Report does not appear to distinguish between contact recreation (REC-1) and non-contact recreation (REC-2) revitalization efforts in the analysis. For example, there are potential revitalization efforts identified within certain tributaries classified as REC-1 that would only support non-contact uses, therefore justifying a REC-2 reclassification. Therefore, it seems insufficient to justify maintaining a REC-1 designation based solely on the potential for revitalization. The specific technical information gathered in the RECUR study alongside the discussion of potential uses would better justify the consideration of the appropriate REC-1 or REC-2	Beneficial uses are designated for a waterbody in a number of ways. Uses can be designated, whether or not they have been attained, in order to implement either federal or state mandates and goals (such as fishable and swimmable) for regional waters. Beneficial uses can also be designated as "potential" for several reasons, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plans to put the water to such future use,</li> <li>• potential to put the water to such future use,</li> <li>• designation of a use by the Regional Water Board as a regional water quality goals, or</li> </ul>

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		designation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public desire to put the water to such future uses.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the compilation of physical conditions and past, present, and planned recreational opportunities in and along the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed, the report also presents several current developments that clearly indicate a significant growth in both contact and non-contact recreational opportunities. Notable among these is Senate Bill 1201, which directs the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to provide public access to these engineered channels for the purpose of recreation and education. Plans such as the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, the Arroyo Seco Watershed Assessment, and the Pacoima Vision Plan are clear about their intent to provide greater access to the channels for recreational purposes.</p>
7.7	Calleguas Creek WMP	<p>We request that the Regional Board postpone consideration of the Tentative Resolution and, furthermore, postpone consideration of any recreational beneficial use resolution that does not include a clear link between the policy and the technical data, including potential future uses, along with specific engagement and concurrence of stakeholders on the same.</p> <p>We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and to provide our thoughts as you consider important policy matters.</p>	See responses to Comment Nos. 7.2 and 7.6.
8.1	California Stormwater Quality Association	The California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on	Comment noted.

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	(CASQA)	<p>the review of beneficial uses in engineered channels in the Los Angeles (LA) River Watershed. CASQA is California's largest professional, non-profit association dedicated to stormwater quality issues. CASQA is composed of stormwater quality management organizations and individuals, including cities, counties, special districts, industries, and consulting firms throughout California. Our membership provides stormwater quality management services to over 22 million people in California and includes most every Phase I and many Phase II municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) programs in the State. CASQA's primary purpose is to assist regulators, municipalities, and others in implementing national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) stormwater requirements.</p> <p>Please accept these comments and recommendations submitted by CASQA on behalf of its members</p>	
8.2	CASQA	<p>Although CASQA typically refrains from commenting on individual regional basin planning or resolution processes, the tentative resolution by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is potentially precedent setting. CASQA is commenting in this instance because this timely triennial Basin Plan review process is concluding that recreational use designations for highly modified channels are appropriate when a comprehensive report prepared by Regional Water Board staff presents clear evidence to the contrary in numerous instances.</p>	<p>See responses to Comment Nos. 7.2 and 7.6. The RECUR results are documented in both Part I and Part II of the RECUR report, which must be considered collectively.</p> <p>Further, the resolution is specific to the engineered channels in the Los Angeles River watershed. This resolution clearly states that it does not preclude any future reconsideration of beneficial use designations for the Los Angeles River system or any other waterbody in the Los Angeles Region.</p>
8.3	CASQA	<p>The designation of beneficial uses within waterbodies is foundational to all of our efforts to protect of water quality since it ultimately drives all of the regulatory programs, including stormwater that must be</p>	<p>The Regional Water Board agrees that the beneficial use designation process, and any re-evaluations thereof, should be based on all available information. The</p>

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		<p>implemented to protect those beneficial uses. Thus, it is critical that beneficial use designations are made using available technical information, take into account the suitability of the water body for that use, and reflect the actual existing or potential uses within waterbodies to ensure environmental protection programs, such as the stormwater program, are able to target resources in a meaningful and cost effective manner within a watershed. If the beneficial use designation process disregards available information, local governments will be required to expend limited resources protecting uses that do not exist and are not attainable to the likely detriment of restorative projects that are attainable and have broad and enthusiastic public support such as the proposed revitalization of the Los Angeles River mainstem.</p>	<p>RECUR study was based on all available information. Further, while the Regional Water Board supports the approach of applying resources where they would have the most impact (as evidenced of its approval of the phased implementation plan for the Los Angeles River Bacteria TMDL), the Board does not agree that waterbodies with lower intensities of a beneficial use should be marginalized over the long-term. The ultimate goal of such an approach should be the eventual attainment of water quality to support beneficial uses in all designated waters. Several of the waterbodies in question are located in communities with limited recreational opportunities and these channels, in their modified state, are of significant value to them.</p>
8.4	CASQA	<p>CASQA is encouraged the Regional Water Board has taken it upon itself to reevaluate beneficial use designations as part of a triennial review. The Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR) is especially important, since it was born out of the LA River Bacteria TMDL (page 9) as a mechanism to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Address the concerns raised by MS4 permittees that not all waterbodies had existing and attainable recreational uses.</li> <li>2) Potentially provide an opportunity to utilize downstream-based/regional solutions (see page 57 of the LA River Bacteria TMDL) to protect beneficial uses where they occur.</li> </ol>	Comment noted.
8.5	CASQA	The implementation of the RECUR process has resulted in a significant amount of information about	See response to Comment No. 6.3. The Resolution does not resolve that all



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		<p>the existing and potential ability to recreate within the watershed. This information provides the ability to differentiate between waterbodies in terms of existing uses, ability to access channels, and potential revitalization efforts. However, the Regional Water Board staff is now proposing the Los Angeles Regional Water Board resolve that all engineered channels within the LA River watershed are essentially equal in terms of existing or potential recreational uses. <b>Table 1</b> presents an example comparison of some of the summary information contained in Regional Water Board staff reports that provides a contrast between a mainstem LA River reach (Reach 3) and secondary tributaries. This contrast is also highlighted in <b>Figures 1 and 2</b>.</p>	<p>engineered channels within the LA River watershed are essentially equal in terms of existing or potential recreational uses. However, it does recognize that proposals to remove or modify beneficial use designations of these waters based on their characteristics as engineered channels should take into account the potential for such actions to further limit the water resources available to the public for recreation.</p> <p>That said, the waterbodies being compared to Reach 3 of the Los Angeles River – Halls Canyon, May Canyon, and Las Tunas Canyon Creeks - are all part of a larger reach that consists of natural streams draining wilderness areas. In addition, these waterbodies are designated as intermittent, which clearly acknowledge the absence of water contact recreational use in the absence of water.</p>
8.6	CASQA	<p><b>Table 1</b> summarizes the contrasts between the waterbodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach 3 had multiple observations of contact recreational uses during the study period whereas the tributaries had zero observations.</li> <li>• Water depth in Reach 3 is on average over 1-foot, whereas the tributaries generally have less than 1 inch of water.</li> <li>• Reach 3 has a major revitalization effort underway that will continue to support opportunities for contact and non-contact recreational uses whereas the tributaries have no efforts planned.</li> </ul>	See response to Comment Nos. 8.5 and 7.6.

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		<p><b>Figures 1 and 2</b> provide another example contrast of the options available for existing contact recreation and potential opportunities. While Reach 3 has slopes allowing access and the ability for contact recreation. The same opportunity for contact recreation does not present itself in May Canyon Creek. It is clear from the evidence that no one would be able to safely recreate within May Canyon Creek. Therefore neither Water Contact Recreation (REC-1) nor Limited Water Contact Recreation (LREC-1) are existing uses or reasonable potential uses, and Non-contact Water Recreation (REC-2) is a highly speculative existing or potential use.</p>	
8.7	CASQA	<p>There are additional tributaries that also fall along the spectrum of accessibility, water depth, and/or revitalization. For example, some tributaries have identified revitalization efforts that may be undertaken, but these opportunities will only affect non-contact use opportunities. This information provides a robust basis for meaningful recreational use designations. However, the decision being proposed is a simple default to the continued broad application of recreational use designations across all waterbodies. The tentative resolution therefore appears to not be based on the necessary analysis of individual waterbodies and their conditions that should be the basis of any beneficial use designation. CASQA is concerned for both the integrity of the triennial review process and the likely misdirection of resources that will occur if investment cannot be targeted toward areas where the uses exist (e.g., the mainstem of the LA River and the downstream solutions identified in the LA River Bacteria TMDL).</p>	<p>See response to Comment Nos. 6.2, 6.3, and 6.6. Parts I and II of the RECUR report have established that revitalization of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries is a dynamic process where one event/project begets another. The evaluation of recreational uses in this watershed must take into account the full revitalization potential of these waterbodies.</p>
8.8	CASQA	<p>Evaluating and reconsidering recreational uses to ensure implementation efforts target areas where uses</p>	<p>Comment noted. Also, see response to</p>

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		occur is not solely a challenge for the LA Region. The Santa Ana Region also went through a stakeholder based use evaluation process. One result of that effort was a very limited removal of contact recreation uses (e.g., REC-1 uses but not REC-2 uses) where the use was found not to exist or be attainable. That outcome will now allow responsible parties to move forward with water quality improvement projects protective and/or restorative of genuine water contact recreational use opportunities and ensure that <b>limited resources will be used efficiently.</b>	Comment No. 8.3.
8.9	CASQA	<b>Recommendations:</b> CASQA recommends the Regional Water Board not adopt a resolution at this time so that Board staff, in partnership with interested parties, can complete a more detailed analysis of the tributaries via a stakeholder process. Alternatively, given the significant distinction between the findings for the mainstem and the tributaries, CASQA recommends limiting the resolution to the LA River mainstem reaches and postponing a resolution for the tributaries until an analysis can be completed.	See responses to Comment Nos. 7.2 and 7.6.
8.10	CASQA	Our comments are intended to provide you with a constructive approach to focus limited public resources on achievable outcomes.	Comment noted. The Regional Water Board appreciates the intent of the commenter's comments.
9.1	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") regarding the Tentative Resolution No. R14-0XX to retain the current beneficial use designations of the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed. Los Angeles Waterkeeper ("Waterkeeper") has been engaged in efforts to improve the water quality of the entire Los Angeles River watershed for over two decades through	Comment noted.

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		advocating for the adoption of TMDLs and stronger water quality permits to protect the River, and pursuing Clean Water Act citizen suit enforcement actions to eliminate sources of pollution to the River.	
9.2	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	Los Angeles Waterkeeper strongly supports the staff's recommendation to adopt the Tentative Resolution to retain the existing recreational beneficial use designations of the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River and tributaries. We appreciate the effort put forth by the Regional Board staff in conducting the <i>Recreational Use Reassessment of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed</i> ("RECUR"). However, after close review of the RECUR Report, we feel the methodology of the recreational use assessment is flawed and the results do not fully represent the historic, current and potential for recreational use of the Los Angeles River Watershed. Consequently, the data collected during the RECUR assessment is not suitable or sufficient to downgrade or revise the recreational beneficial uses in any section of the Los Angeles River, including the engineered channels. More importantly, we believe using RECUR to downgrade beneficial uses of the River would impede efforts to improve water quality for recreational use sets a bad precedent during a time when there is increasing momentum to revitalize the Los Angeles River and tributaries. For these reasons, further discussed in our previous written comments and below, we believe removing beneficial uses of any segment of the River would be unfounded and counterproductive.	The Regional Water Board disagrees that the methodology of the RECUR report is flawed. See response to Comment No. 4.4.  The resolution does not propose modifying any recreational beneficial use designations based on the RECUR report.

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9.3	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	<p>The RECUR report, while useful, is not representative of current recreational use of the Los Angeles River and tributaries and therefore does not provide a credible basis for Use Attainability Analysis (UAA). The RECUR study's sample size is too small and limited in duration to capture all beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River Watershed. During the 18-month data collection period an average of six site visits were made to each of the 31 tributaries to observe recreational use and administer recreational use questionnaires, totaling only twelve hours on average spent at each river segment. Also, most of the site visits during the reconnaissance stage were conducted between the winter months of November 2010 and February 2011 when outdoor recreation is at its lowest and when recreational uses may vary from those of other months of the year. Due to the very narrow timeframe of the visits, the monitoring data collected only captures a fraction of the recreational uses occurring in and along the River and is inconclusive at best. Further, although the questionnaires collected during site visits were meant to capture current and historic use of the river segments, for most tributaries no questionnaire data whatsoever was obtained. Such unrepresentative and inconclusive data should not be used for the purpose of removing use designations.</p>	<p>See response to Comment No. 4.4. The resolution does not propose removing any recreational beneficial use designations.</p>
9.4	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	<p>One conclusion that can be drawn from the RECUR surveys is that a desire to enter and use the river exists. Several of the survey respondents of the site visit questionnaire clearly indicated a desire to use the River for activities including swimming and wading if</p>	<p>Comment noted. Also, see response to Comment No. 4.4.</p>

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		<p>the integrity of the water quality could be assured. RECUR Report at 44. The timing of the data collection period also occurred prior to public outreach and the launch of significant projects to revitalize segments and areas along the Los Angeles River. Even during the three years since RECUR was initiated, significant changes to how Angelinos view the River have occurred due to the huge success of the “Paddle the River” program. Positive public perception and interest of the River has continued to grow. It is likely that more Angelinos view the River as a recreational space now than when the RECUR surveys were conducted, and therefore the study should not be used to influence Basin Plan decision making.</p>	
9.5	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	<p>Furthermore, the public’s desire for improving recreational access to the Los Angeles River is amply demonstrated by the passing of SB 1201, which added public access for recreation as one of the key goals for the management of the Los Angeles River by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Moreover, several non-profit organizations, including Waterkeeper, and municipalities, along with federal agencies including the USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers, have been working to restore urban rivers in the region to provide greater access and recreational opportunities to urban residents and visitors. USEPA’s designation of the Los Angeles River as one of seven watersheds in the nation to participate in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and the City of Los Angeles’ adoption of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan are further examples of the many ongoing efforts to enhance recreational use of the River. This speaks to the importance of urban</p>	Comment noted.

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		waterways, and in particular the Los Angeles River. Re-designating engineered channels of the Los Angeles River watershed to downgrade the recreational beneficial use at this time could set a bad precedent and incentivize limiting access and channelizing more segments of the water body at a time when public sentiment is to remove concrete and increase recreational opportunities.	
9.6	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	Lastly, we are very concerned that removing beneficial use designations of the engineered channels of the Los Angeles River would impact water quality of the entire watershed. USEPA regulations direct states to take into consideration the water quality standards of downstream waters and shall provide for the attainment and maintenance of the water quality standards of downstream waters. 40 CFR 131.10(b). Relaxing water quality standards of secondary and primary tributaries to the River would directly impact the water quality of downstream segments. From a regulatory and human health standpoint it does not make sense to give protections to lower portions of the River while allowing pollutants to flow freely just upstream.	The resolution does not propose any removal or relaxation of recreational beneficial use designations. Further, the RECUR effort was conducted with strong adherence to USEPA regulations and guidelines. Also see response to Comment Nos, 3.5 and 4.4.
9.7	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	We acknowledge the efforts by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to study and document recreational use along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. However, due to the study's limitations, the RECUR assessment is not suitable or sufficient to downgrade or revise the beneficial use designations currently in place. To afford the appropriate protection to the Los Angeles River and	See response to Comment Nos. 3.5 and 4.4.

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		allow the plans for restoration and increased recreational access to the River to come into full fruition, Waterkeeper strongly supports the recommendation from the Regional Board staff to not pursue changes to the beneficial use designations of the Los Angeles River and tributaries. We urge the Regional Board to adopt the Tentative Resolution not to pursue any Basin Plan Amendments that would re-designate the recreational beneficial uses for any section of the River.	
9.8	Los Angeles WaterKeeper	Waterkeeper commends the Regional Board's continued efforts to restore river functions and habitat, improve water quality, and promote riverside recreation as we feel these actions best serve the environment and the community. We thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.	Comment noted.