

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator, USEPA
USEPA Ariel Rios Building (AR)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Nancy H. Sutley
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President
730 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Salazar, Secretary Vilsack, Administrator Jackson and Chairwoman Sutley:

We are writing to recommend that the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) program establish a federal task force on Los Angeles River revitalization with high-level partnership from all of the key agencies involved in the program to build on the work that is already taking place on this extraordinary project. We believe that the Los Angeles River Revitalization effort would be a perfect match to the stated goals of the AGO program.

We strongly support the AGO initiative and were pleased that EPA Administrator Jackson, CEQ Chair Sutley and other AGO representatives visited Los Angeles last July to emphasize the importance of urban parks and waterways and share our excitement about the potential of Los Angeles River revitalization. As you heard during the visit, the project is a crucial priority for the many diverse stakeholders in Los Angeles. In line with the major goals of AGO, River revitalization will ensure that our urban youth have the chance to experience a natural environment and green space and understand the importance of becoming stewards of our nation's natural resources.

Much progress has been made on the revitalization effort. Since the adoption of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan in 2007, stakeholders, NGOs and government agencies have mobilized, and millions of dollars in state, local and federal funding have been directed to the implementation of the plan. The City of Los Angeles has acquired parcels of land along the River to prepare to implement the Revitalization Plan. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion of the Los Angeles River Feasibility Study which is a key stepping stone towards beginning construction along the River. Congress has already appropriated money for one U.S. Army Corps demonstration project along the Los Angeles River which will prove the concepts in the Revitalization Plan. Now the AGO program, can serve as the crucial catalyst to continue the momentum building for the revitalization of the River.

A revitalized Los Angeles River has the potential to transform the quality of life for millions of people by guaranteeing their access to a natural environment in an urban setting and spur economic development within communities adjacent to the River. A project of this magnitude requires the collaboration of many different agencies and we believe AGO is the perfect vehicle to bring green space and development to countless Angelenos. Thank you for your interest in revitalization efforts and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lucille Roybal-Allard
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Grace F. Napolitano
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Henry A. Waxman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Laura Richardson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



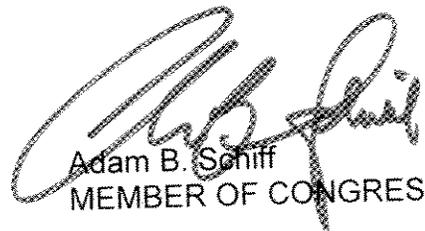
Brad Sherman
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Adam B. Schiff
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Judy Chu
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