

June 28, 2011

Lisa Sandoval, Realty Specialist,
Asset Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017
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RE: EA11-10 - License for Pilot Non-Motorized Boating Program LA River, Sepulveda Basin

Dear Ms. Sandoval,

This letter stands in support of the application by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority to receive a license for a pilot non-motorized boating program on the Los Angeles River in the Sepulveda Basin which is in line with Friends of the Los Angeles River's (FoLAR) mission: to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River and its riparian habitat through inclusive planning, education and wise stewardship.

In January 2011 Friends of the Los Angeles River released the attached document, ***Recommendations for Near-Term Recreational Access and Use of the Los Angeles River*** which stated: Our overall recommendation for the long-term is a policy of open public access and use of the entire Los Angeles River, compatible with essential safety considerations. In the near-term, the policy should recognize current realities and focus on those sections of the River which are already used extensively: The Sepulveda Basin, the Glendale Narrows/Elysian Valley and the River estuary in Long Beach.¹

We also support the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee's call for a biological survey of the proposed course to assess the

¹ Recommendations for Near-Term Recreational Access and Use of the Los Angeles River, Friends of the Los Angeles River, January 2011, page 1.

FoLAR

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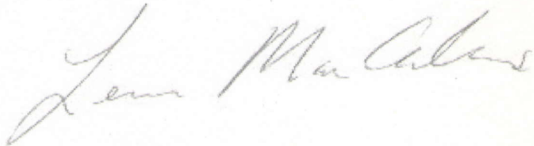
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impact on the breeding and nesting birds, and on the other life-forms in the vicinity, before the program begins.

We commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for being the first agency to consider sanctioning this pilot program that will certainly prove that kayaking and canoeing in the Los Angeles River can be conducted in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner.

Access and use of the River by the general public for approved activities is a fundamental right which members of the public should be able to exercise without the need for a permit or approval, just as they do for other public lands or waters, subject to reasonable and necessary restrictions, while themselves bearing the risk of these activities². This program is a good, if partial start to affirm that right.

Sincerely,



Lewis MacAdams
President and Founder

Cc: Irene Lopez, Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Walt Young, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Steve Hartman, Chair, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee

² Ibid, page 10.