

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2534**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian**

February 19, 2016

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An act ~~relating to the Los Angeles River~~, *to add Section 33213.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2534, as amended, Nazarian. ~~Los Angeles River~~. *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; working group: Los Angeles River Greenway.*

*Existing law establishes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and prescribes the membership and functions and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection and preservation of lands within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, as defined.*

*This bill would require the conservancy to establish the Los Angeles River Regional Access and Economic Sustainability Working Group to evaluate and make recommendations for conservancy action pertaining to public access and business integration needs, opportunities, and constraints in areas along and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley, as prescribed.*

~~Existing law, the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act, establishes the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and authorizes the district to control and conserve the flood, storm, and other wastewater of the district. Under existing law, the act includes in the objects and purposes of the district to provide for public use of navigable waterways under the district's control that are suitable for recreational and educational purposes, when these purposes are not inconsistent with the use thereof~~

by the district for flood control and water conservation. Existing law also establishes various plans and programs intended to preserve, protect, and rehabilitate lands adjacent to rivers in the state.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to promote the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*  
2     *following:*

3     *(a) The Los Angeles River Greenway Trail system in the San*  
4     *Fernando Valley continues to expand and provides an*  
5     *unprecedented opportunity to establish a green, natural open*  
6     *space, with recreational, environmental, and economic amenities,*  
7     *that can serve all residents of the San Fernando Valley and other*  
8     *areas in Los Angeles County, as well as visitors from around the*  
9     *world.*

10    *(b) River restoration and revitalization efforts throughout the*  
11    *United States have successfully reunited urban rivers with both*  
12    *the natural environment, surrounding communities, and area*  
13    *businesses and have served to establish vibrant, regional,*  
14    *visitor-serving resources that contribute to the quality of life, public*  
15    *health, and regional economic sustainability.*

16    *(c) There are hundreds of visitor-serving businesses adjacent*  
17    *to and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando*  
18    *Valley, but these businesses primarily face away from the river*  
19    *with limited or no established connection to the river or visitors*  
20    *to the river.*

21    *(d) A planned regional bicycle network is being implemented*  
22    *that includes the Los Angeles River, wherein the river is intended*  
23    *to serve as the backbone of the network, and a plan is needed to*  
24    *ensure that businesses adjacent to and in the vicinity of the river*  
25    *are bicycle friendly and able to attract and serve visitors to the*  
26    *river.*

27    *SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to accomplish all of*  
28    *the following:*

29    *(a) Advance the revitalization of the Los Angeles River in the*  
30    *San Fernando Valley by addressing the need for regional public*

1 *access to the river and connectivity between businesses adjacent*  
2 *to and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River with the Los Angeles*  
3 *River Greenway, river trails, and bicycle networks.*

4 *(b) Enhance both the economic sustainability of businesses*  
5 *adjacent to and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River Greenway*  
6 *in the San Fernando Valley and the experience visitors to the Los*  
7 *Angeles River by linking those businesses with the Los Angeles*  
8 *River Greenway.*

9 *(c) Identify the needs, opportunities, and constraints related to*  
10 *regional public access and the establishment of permanent*  
11 *connections between area businesses and the Los Angeles River*  
12 *Greenway in the San Fernando Valley.*

13 *SEC. 3. Section 33213.5 is added to the Public Resources Code,*  
14 *to read:*

15 *33213.5. (a) The conservancy shall establish the Los Angeles*  
16 *River Regional Access and Economic Sustainability Working*  
17 *Group.*

18 *(b) The working group shall focus its efforts on the geographic*  
19 *area from the headwaters of the Los Angeles River at the*  
20 *confluence of Bell and Calabasas Creeks to Griffith Park and its*  
21 *southern boundary along Ventura Boulevard in the San Fernando*  
22 *Valley.*

23 *(c) The working group shall do all of the following:*

24 *(1) Review and evaluate the integration needs, opportunities,*  
25 *and constraints with respect to regional public access and the*  
26 *connectivity among businesses along and in the vicinity of the*  
27 *river, visitors to the river, and the Los Angeles River Greenway,*  
28 *river trails, and bicycle networks, including the use of the public*  
29 *parking garage located at \_\_\_\_\_ Ventura Boulevard and adjacent*  
30 *to the river.*

31 *(2) Develop practical recommendations for establishing*  
32 *permanent connectivity between area businesses, bicycle networks,*  
33 *and the river.*

34 *(3) Prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for*  
35 *implementation by the conservancy, including geographic scope,*  
36 *financing, and specific projects.*

37 *(d) To assist the working group in carrying out its duties, the*  
38 *conservancy shall do both of the following.*

39 *(1) Retain experts to conduct necessary technical economic and*  
40 *other studies and analyses, as requested by the working group.*

- 1     (2) *Provide necessary staffing for the working group.*
- 2     ~~SECTION 1.—It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
- 3     ~~legislation to promote the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.~~