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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 11, 2012

### **CITY OFFICIALS AND LINCOLN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY BREAK GROUND ON NEW STORMWATER GREENWAY PROJECT** *Riverside greenspace is the site of the future Ed P. Reyes Riverway*

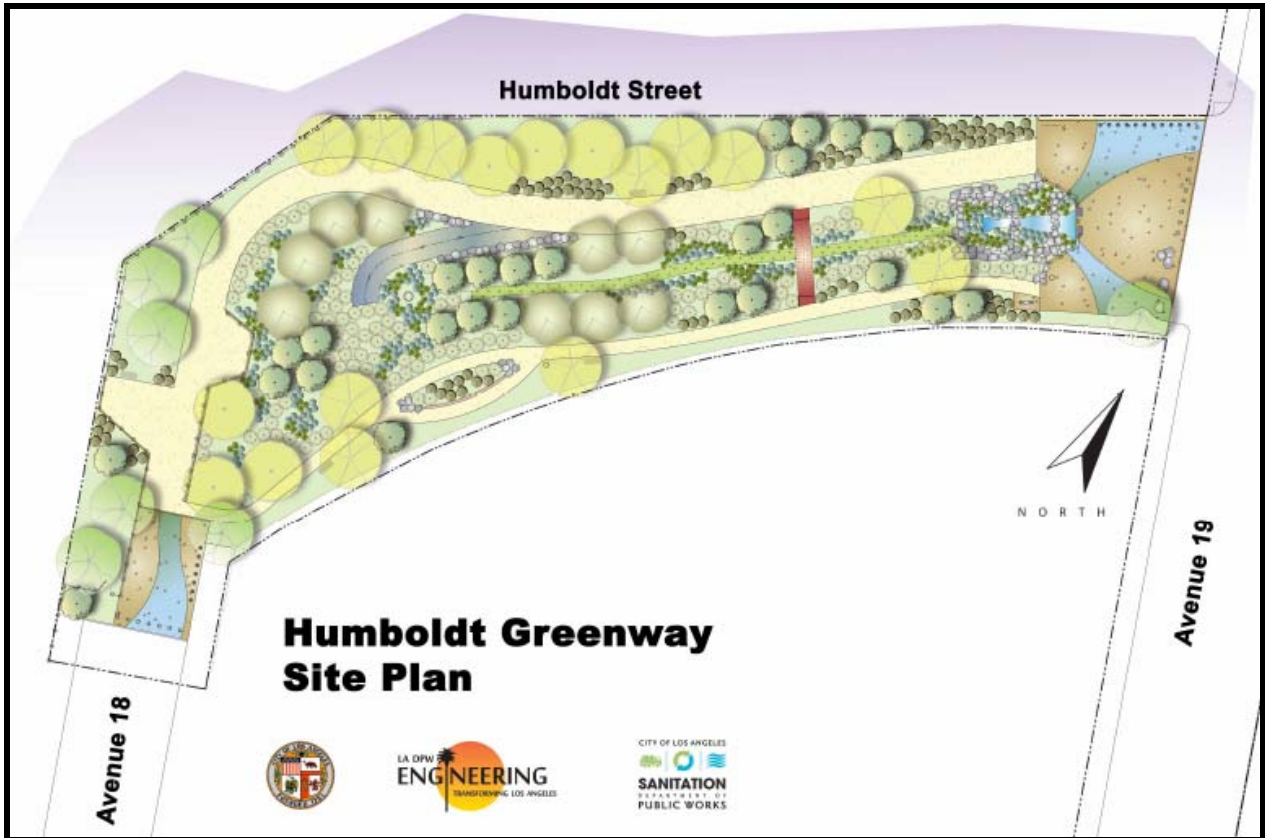


**(LOS ANGELES, CA)**--- Los Angeles City Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes (1<sup>st</sup> District) and Tom LaBonge (4<sup>th</sup> District) joined Public Works officials, community members and Los Angeles River enthusiasts today to celebrate the start of construction of the Lincoln Heights riverside greenspace named “The Ed P. Reyes Riverway.” Officials broke ground on the \$4-million stormwater project originally called the Humboldt Greenway but renamed as a surprise to Councilmember Reyes to recognize his efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River. The event also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River.

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In announcing the greenspace dedication to Councilmember Reyes, Public Works commissioner Jerilyn Lopez-Mendoza said, “With your vision and ability to inspire, you have changed the way we regard the Los Angeles River. You have helped Los Angeles realize that what was once a neglected, graffiti-scarred concrete channel is truly the lifeblood of our city. For that, we thank you and honor you with this project.”



The Ed P. Reyes Riverway project will convert into a stormwater greenway a one-acre space between Avenue 18 and Avenue 19 described by Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council representative Sevin Riley as “decrepit.” The site will take runoff from a 135-acre subwatershed through a storm drain beneath Humboldt Street, and allow stormwater to run through landscape features that will cleanse it of oils, bacteria, trash and other pollutants before flowing out to the Los Angeles River. The stormwater elements will be complemented by native vegetation, trees, and an irrigation system. Recreational features like solar lights, pedestrian bridges, drinking fountains and a bike stop will also be added. Riley said, “When this project was presented to our neighborhood council in April this year, I thought it’s like manna from heaven! On behalf of the Lincoln Heights community, thank you for this project!”

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Councilmember Reyes, who spearheads the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, emphasized the value of the public works improvement to his district and his vision for L.A.'s main tributary: "This project is important to the health of the Los Angeles River, the health of the environment, our neighborhoods and our families who live, work and play here."

According to City Engineer Gary Lee Moore, "This innovative project is a vivid example of converting underutilized City owned land to create visible connections to the Los Angeles River and its vast watershed. It combines the most current technical approach to stormwater quality improvement, with the creation of publicly accessible open space. In this way, it absolutely implements the goals of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan."

"In order for us to reconnect with our Los Angeles River, we must implement projects like this that achieve multiple benefits—a clean river and waterways, better communities, a healthier environment," added Bureau of Sanitation director Enrique C. Zaldivar. "Through the green infrastructure showcased here, we are pushing towards our clean water goals while providing opportunities for our Angelenos to experience it up close."

Construction of the Ed P. Reyes Riverway will be performed by contractor PPC Construction and will transpire through mid 2013. Work is funded by the Bureau of Sanitation; project design and construction is provided by the Bureau of Engineering.

For more information about this project, please visit <http://eng.lacity.org/iuprs/> or call the Dept. of Public Works Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333.

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