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Dear Ms. Jones,

The Joint River Oversight Committee, a standing committee of both Boyle Heights and Downtown LA neighborhood councils, held an open public meeting Mon Oct 28, 2013. The two neighborhood councils represent both sides of Downtown LA and the accompanying bridges.

The four main proposals from the 500 page Draft IFR were presented to the public in a manner similar to your multimedia presentation on Oct 17 at FOLAR. We showed the Southern California ecosystem and explained the reasons you support Alt 13 and the Mayor supports Alt 20.

Our committee collected public comments and a neighborhood "vote". Here are our findings for your review:

- 1) After seeing the complexity of the review materials, the public felt that the comment period is prohibitively short and did not allow for a proper assessment of the 4 plans. Therefore, we agreed to focus on Alt 13 and Alt 20.
- 2) We noted that Alt 13 does not come to Downtown LA; therefore there would be no direct impact on our area. We noted that the 6th street Bridge project is a companion federal project, and will have GREAT impact on this area-- therefore we noted there is a troubling disconnect between Alt 13 and the "local" River (bridge) project. Even Alt 20 barely addresses Downtown LA's complex situation.
- 4) We noted that Alt 20 is the only plan which ties together a true, connected ecological restoration of the Southland AND the remarkable social capital and 2nd hand benefits of increased tourism and media activity along the proposed restored areas. We also noted that "social capital" was NOT listed as an ecological benefit, meaning your graphs and cost breakdowns were unintentionally weighted *against* it and therefore inaccurate.
- 5) We noted that the matching funds in the larger proposal correspond more closely with the typical 50-50 fed/local splits that happen in other projects of this type. That said funding will take place over time, giving LA and Federal Government opportunities to "grow back" the money and make this a true infrastructure investment.
- 6) The committee also was in unanimity that the consensus to support the broader Alternative 20 best represented all communities and the political leadership and environmental groups.
- 7) We also discussed that Alternative 20 is the only proposal that would enhance the ties between the river and Los Angeles State Historic Park by creating wetlands and a marsh that connect the river to the park.
- 8) After reviewing the materials, we voted in favor of supporting Alt 20. We feel that Downtown LA, and the entire Southern California area, would benefit from the increased flood control and wildlife activity. This is in addition to the social capital that would indirectly be accrued.

With this in mind, the Downtown LA Neighborhood Council Board and the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council Board jointly support the Mayor's office, and River Proposal Alternative 20.

This letter was approved by the DLANC Board of Directors on November 12, 2013.

Thank you for your time.

Patti Berman  
President  
DLANC

Joint River Oversight Committee  
Geza Gedeon, Chair