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Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering Prepares for Soil Testing at Taylor Yard G2 Parcel on LA River Project is “Crown Jewel” of Los Angeles River Revitalization

LOS ANGELES – The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) has begun preparing for soil testing at the Taylor Yard G2 property. The 42-acre parcel in the Cypress Park neighborhood was acquired by the City in 2017. The site, which will be designed for open and recreational space, has long been targeted as a key LA River revitalization project.

Soil testing is expected to take approximately six months and preliminary results will be shared at a summer community meeting, as part of the City’s ongoing community engagement process.

Site Assessments and Remediation

Engineering is working in close collaboration with the State’s Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which has approved the Phase One of testing. This phase will focus on 14 acres of the site that previous studies found to be less contaminated. Initial assessments will include geophysical investigations to locate buried structures, and will also sample and test groundwater in existing monitoring wells around the site. Starting in May, Phase One work will also include drilling and sampling to determine levels of soil contamination.

“We are doing testing in areas that are believed to be less contaminated to determine if these can be opened to the public for early access,” said Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer. “The City’s goal has always been to get people safely on the site as quickly as we can.”

Throughout the duration of the site assessment, the City expects to collect soil samples from nearly 100 points, ranging from 5-to-80 feet deep. The City will also drill 325 soil gas wells 15 feet into the soil.

“The work we are doing will allow us to confirm data from previous studies and gather new information on what we need to do to make the site accessible,” added Moore. “Our first priority is to ensure the property is safe for public use.”

Phase One testing will take three months and Phase Two, consisting of analyzing the remaining 28 acres of the site, is expected to be completed in the Fall.

Community Engagement

Engineering is conducting an extensive community engagement process to generate preliminary design and programming ideas for the site. In January, Engineering held a pre-design workshop attended by more than 300 people and hosted a community tour day, which allowed area residents

to walk the site for the first time in decades. Also, more than 1,300 community members filled out a survey asking for feedback on what they would like to see and do on the property.

Staff is also attending community events throughout the area to share information on the project and gather input from residents.

Project Background

The parcel was purchased in March of 2017 for \$60 million and is considered the “crown jewel” of the City’s LA River Revitalization efforts. It was previously owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and was used for more than 80 years for rail maintenance and fueling. The parcel is located adjacent to Rio de Los Angeles State Park. Soil testing is funded by a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy.

For more information, go to: www.taylor yardg2.com.

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