# Appendix G: Greenway Alignment Alternatives

In this first step of characterizing greenways for future planning, all possible segments of Tier 1 channel adjacent ROW that could support greenways were identified on both sides of the channel, and off-channel, where required, to maintain connectivity between on-channel segments. This set of greenway alignments exhibit possible greenways and may be used as a tool to identify future greenway projects in areas where greenway path projects have not already been identified.

Existing bike paths and the EIP were included to add context to potential greenway alignments identified as part of the SGV Greenway Network Plan. EIP are in varied stages of design, construction, and completion, which are noted in the Greenway Alignment Alternatives, which provides information on channel adjacent ROW availability. Alignments specified in this plan exhibit numerous connection points to existing greenways, EIP, and other destinations, which present opportunities to maximize connectivity across the SGV.

# SANGABRIEL VALLEY GREENWAY NETWORK STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

APPENDIX G: GREENWAY ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES



January 2025

# PREPARED FOR: LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS



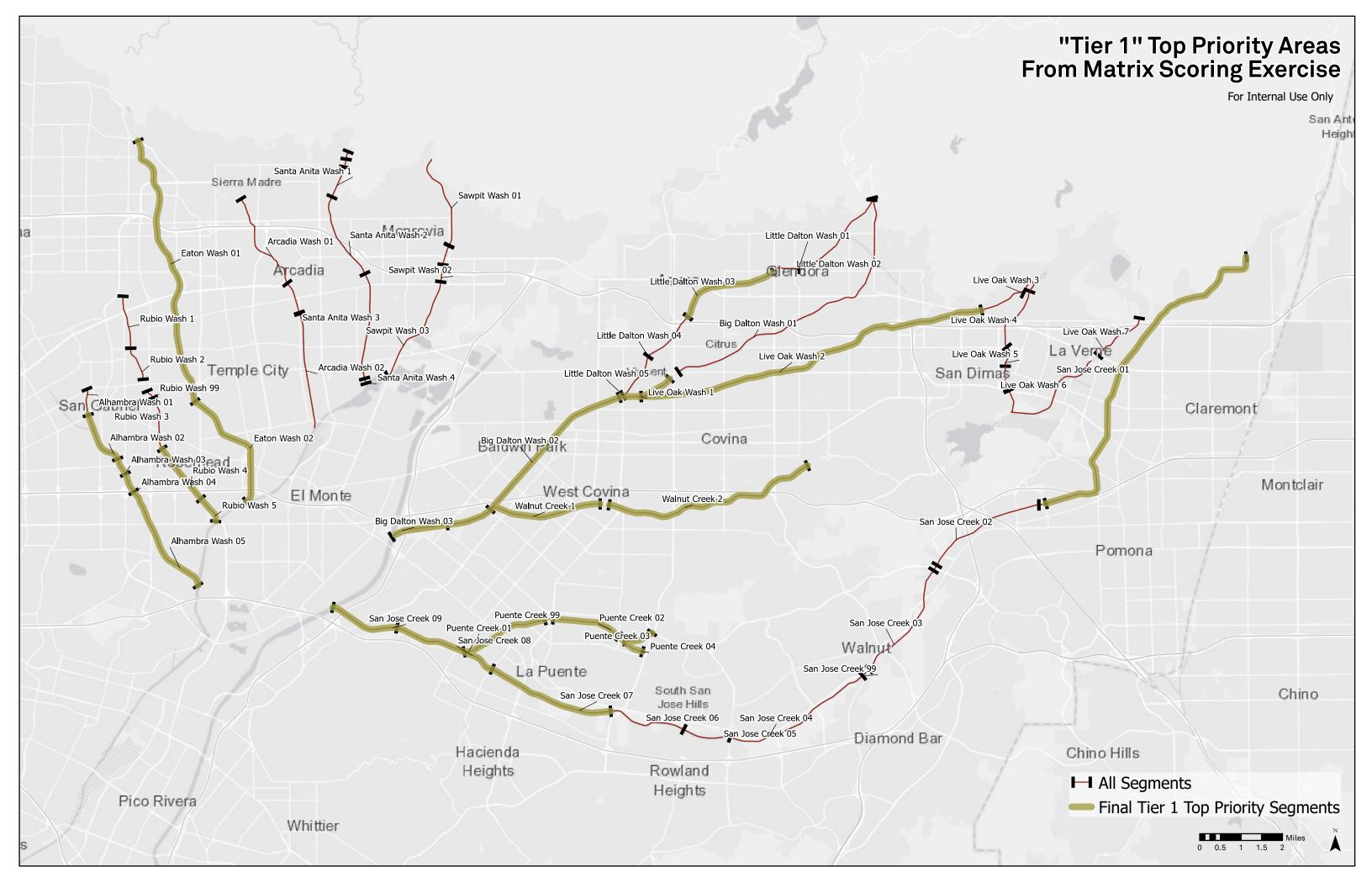
# THIS BOOK IS APPENDIX G FOR THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GREENWAY NETWORK STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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Existing bike paths and the Early Implementation Projects (EIP) were included to add context to potential greenway alignments identified as part of the SGV Greenway Network Plan. EIP are in varied stages of design, construction, and completion, which are noted in the Greenway Alignment Alternatives, which provide information on channel adjacent ROW availability.

PREPARED BY:





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### List of Abbreviations

AASHTO American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

ATSP Active Transportation Strategic Plan

BMPs best management practices

CA MUTCD California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

CPUC California Public Utilities Commission

ft foot, feet

HAWK high intensity activated crosswalk

HVC high visibility crosswalk

LACPW Los Angeles County Public Works

Plan San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan

ROW right-of-way SGV San Gabriel Valley

SGVCOG San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
USACE United States Army Corps of Engineers



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### **Section 1: Introduction**

The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan (SGV Greenway Network Plan) is a multi-objective effort to transform the existing Los Angeles County Flood Control District right-of-way (ROW) in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) into a world-class Greenway Network. The SGV Greenway Network Plan will provide a roadmap to design and prioritizing projects for Los Angeles County (LA County) and serve as a guide for future development along Greenway Network corridors. The SGV Greenway Network Plan incorporates efforts and interests of partnering entities, implementing agencies, and other stakeholders in the SGV.

The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Implementation Strategy integrates multiple previous planning and design efforts focusing on parks and open space, flood control, green infrastructure and water quality and transportation projects. The strategy expands on the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) ongoing Active Transportation Planning Initiative - Greenway Feasibility Study and prioritizes planned projects, proposes new projects and creates an implementation framework for creating multibenefit projects that advances the goals of the various stakeholder and partner agencies.

A tiering framework was developed to identify areas of greatest need and potential benefit when considering factors that align with goals established by the SGV Greenway Network Plan: Circulation, Equity, Community, Synergy, Environment. The following steps were completed to advance the prioritization framework and identify areas for plan implementation:

- 1. Analyzed and mapped previous efforts and studies in the 130-mile SGV plan area.
- 2. Collected and mapped ROW availability adjacent to channels to establish existing conditions throughout the 130-mile SGV plan area.
- 3. Used existing datasets to score and identify "Tier 1" reaches based on metrics for benefits to Circulation, Equity, Community, Synergy, and Environment.
- 4. Completed a constraints and opportunities analysis including vacant land, publicly owned properties, and ROW.
- 5. Mapped channel ROW constraints to determine the potential greenway area available within the Tier 1 segments.
- 6. Delineated a proposed greenway path alignment for each of the Tier 1 segments.

Methods used to identify Tier 1 reaches are detailed in Section 2 of this technical memorandum. While these areas were not necessarily the most feasible or practical projects to implement, the resulting higher priority Tier 1 segments were identified as a starting point for the Plan Team to evaluate for constraints and opportunities and consideration during conceptual design of ten projects. Proposed greenway path alignments for Tier 1 segments are presented in Attachment A.

This task will support coordination activities for the overall SGV Greenway Network Plan by supporting the "Develop Greenway Network Plan" step as shown in Figure 1.



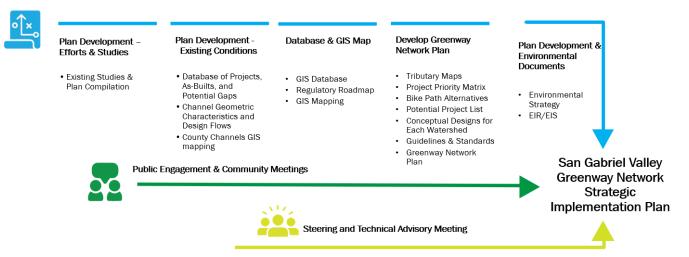


Figure 1. San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan Overview

### **Section 2: Tier 1 Reach Identification**

A prioritization framework was developed to identify locations or areas with the greater need and higher potential for beneficial impact, as determined by criteria established by LA County and the Plan Team to support the Plan vision and goals. The framework was built by segmenting each SGV tributary based on existing conditions such as flood control channel typology, available existing ROW, and jurisdictional boundaries. It then considered other factors that align with the Plan's goals for: Circulation, Equity, Community, Synergy, and Environment.

The prioritization framework integrates data collected by the Plan Team and by previous planning and design efforts focused on parks and open spaces, environmental burden, park pressure, flood control, green infrastructure, water quality, and other factors. The Plan Team prepared channel scores for each segment based on a variety of datasets that were weighted based on plan goals to select Tier 1 channel segments. These ratings are not specific to the project subcomponent parcels but instead provide a general assessment of the surrounding area. The framework for prioritization, including scoring, ranking, selected data, criterion used, and categories are included in Task 615 – Final Greenway Network Plan.

The initial 130 miles of tributaries within the SGV area were segmented into three tiers based on similar characteristics and conditions, with 55 miles of Tier 1 priority segments identified as higher need and greater opportunity to target for implementation, as illustrated in Figure 2.

While these areas may not necessarily provide the most feasible or easily implemented projects, the Tier 1 segments were identified as priority areas to focus initial implementation efforts in a manner that has the greatest potential to meet LA County's goals for the SGV Greenway Network Plan.

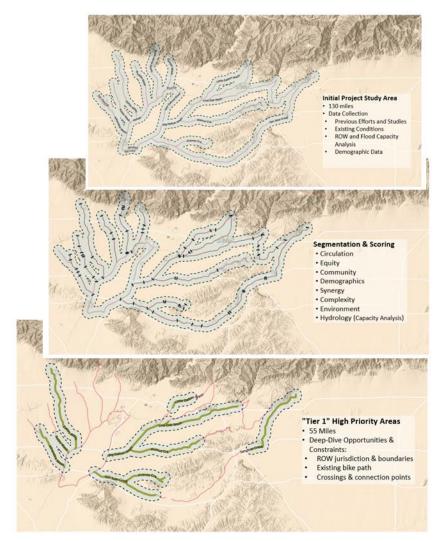


Figure 2. Workflow for delineating channel segments and Tier 1 priority areas

Conceptual greenway path alignments were formulated prioritizing, whenever possible, use of existing ROW, maintain continuity and connection with the flood control channel and SGV Greenway Network, serve to connect with existing or planned greenway paths or trails, separate bicycle paths and roadways, and limit the use of private land or surfaces routes (Attachment A). Where conditions indicated physical limitations, such as available or existing ROW would not accommodate a greenway, alignments or access was diverted to off-channel routes. The most direct off-channel routes were highlighted as part of this effort, but these routes may need to be altered to avoid high volume roads. Ownership and land use of channel-adjacent properties were considered by the Plan Team, and parcels not owned by LA County were avoided. Where proposed use of non-LA County owned property was necessary, preference was given first to use of other public lands; privately-owned land was given the lowest priority.

Access was also prioritized for locations where existing District ROW could be utilized. If necessary, preference was then given to locations where access from existing public space or community areas were identified; access through other areas was given lowest preference. The Plan Team acknowledges that alternatives that do not include existing access points can be more difficult to implement.



Off-channel routes and greenway path classes will need to be evaluated for case-by-case considerations of road type and traffic conditions. Off-channel alignments were proposed where channel crossings by freeways do not provide sufficient vertical clearance or where the channel is covered or below ground. Proposed greenway paths not adjacent to the channel were also used in cases where the channel-adjacent ROW is privately owned or when precluded by current use or development. There are some places where land is owned by LA County, but people have encroached with their homes and businesses. The Plan Team was instructed to assume these areas would not be "available" for SGV Greenway Network projects or other uses and, for purposes of conceptual design, to exclude occupied land from calculations of available ROW width based on current condition or existing encroachment.

The Plan Team also identified greenway options for a range of ROW widths (i.e., <8 ft, 8-13 ft, 13-17 ft, 17-19 ft, 19-24 ft, and >24 ft). The most appropriate greenway path will be subject to site-specific details and will include the proper land cover to support various greenway activities (e.g., bike paths, equestrian paths).

### **Section 3: Recommendations and Next Steps**

The following presents recommendations and next steps for the Plan.

### 3.1 Greenway Path Alignments

For the proposed Tier 1 greenway path alignments shown on the figures provided with this Task 606 evaluation, opportunities and constraints were evaluated based on need and potential to meet the SGV Greenway Network Plan goals but did not factor in other constraints based on the ease of implementation, desirability, or other feasibility-based criteria, such as for maintenance or construction. Further evaluation of parcel-specific or segment-specific constraints and opportunities for synergy, complexity, or feasibility are considered as greenway path alignments and paired with potential project subcomponent opportunities, identified in the Task 608 – Channel Adjacent and Safe Crossing Subcomponent Opportunities for the San Gabriel Valley Network Strategic Implementation Plan Technical Memorandum.



## **Attachment A: Greenway Path Alignments**

