



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Los Angeles River Channel Bending the River Back into the City

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

**Public Notice No.:** SPL-408-PN-2020-0033

**Permit No.:** SPL-408-2020-0033

**Comment Period:** 2020-09-14 to 2020-10-13

---

**Requester:** In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, Metabolic Studio has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Los Angeles River Channel.

**Location:**

The proposed action would construct a low flow intake channel and a subgrade intake pipeline parallel to the Los Angeles River upstream of Spring Street Bridge in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. The proposed features are in-river, which will require construction within the channel.

**Requester's Proposed Action:**

Metabolic Studio is proposing to install a low flow intake channel (approximately 16 feet wide x 6 inch deep x 4:1 side slopes), and a subgrade intake pipeline (approximately 48 inch diameter, approximately 36 inch below channel surface), both to divert low flows from the Los Angeles River Channel to drive a proposed water wheel. This action is the same as recently permitted action for permit no. 408-SPL-2019-0009 with the following minor modifications: (i) add a terracotta colorization to the replacement concrete, (ii) add text phrases in standard concrete coloring to be embedded in the colorized concrete via raised lettering, (iii) use a 42-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP) installed beneath the channel bottom to convey flows from an intake structure (previously called a diversion structure) to the outlet structure instead of a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) intake pipe, (iv) increase the approximately 2,100-foot-long intake trench width change from approximately 6.5 feet (78 inches) to approximately 7 feet (84 inches) to allow for use of standard shoring techniques, (v) change the number and spacing of the dowels from approximately 6" to approximately 12", (vi) modification to the slurry/backfill detail to accommodate the VCP, and (vii) extend time of construction up to October 2022. The purpose of the project is water conservation and sustainability by providing a local source of water to irrigate nearby Los Angeles State Historic Park.

**Authority:** The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE Civil Works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 USC 408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary

determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The Secretary of Army's authority under Section 408 has been delegated to the USACE, the Chief of Engineers. The Chief of Engineers has further delegated the authority to the USACE, Directorate of Civil Works and Division and District Engineers, depending upon the nature of the activity.

**Limits of Section 408 Authority:** A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC Section 1344), and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 USC 1413). The compliance determination for any Section 10/404/103 permit decision associated with the proposed alteration will also address the Section 408 compliance determination. In addition, an approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

**Consideration of Comments:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties. Comments will be made part of the record, and they will be considered before permission is granted to proceed with this action. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration described in this public notice.

**Submission of Comments:** Interested parties may submit, in writing, any comments concerning this proposal. Comments should reference public notice no. SPL-408-PN-2020-0033 and be forwarded by the comment due date of October 13, 2020. Comments must be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Engineering Division, ATTN: Priyo Majumdar, 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930, Los Angeles, California 90017-3409. Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to [Priyodarshi.Majumdar@usace.army.mil](mailto:Priyodarshi.Majumdar@usace.army.mil).

---

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers  
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930  
Los Angeles, California 90017-3401  
[WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/SECTION-408-PERMITS/](http://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/SECTION-408-PERMITS/)



408-SPL-2020-0033 LA River Bending the River Back into the City

