PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**
February 7, 2017

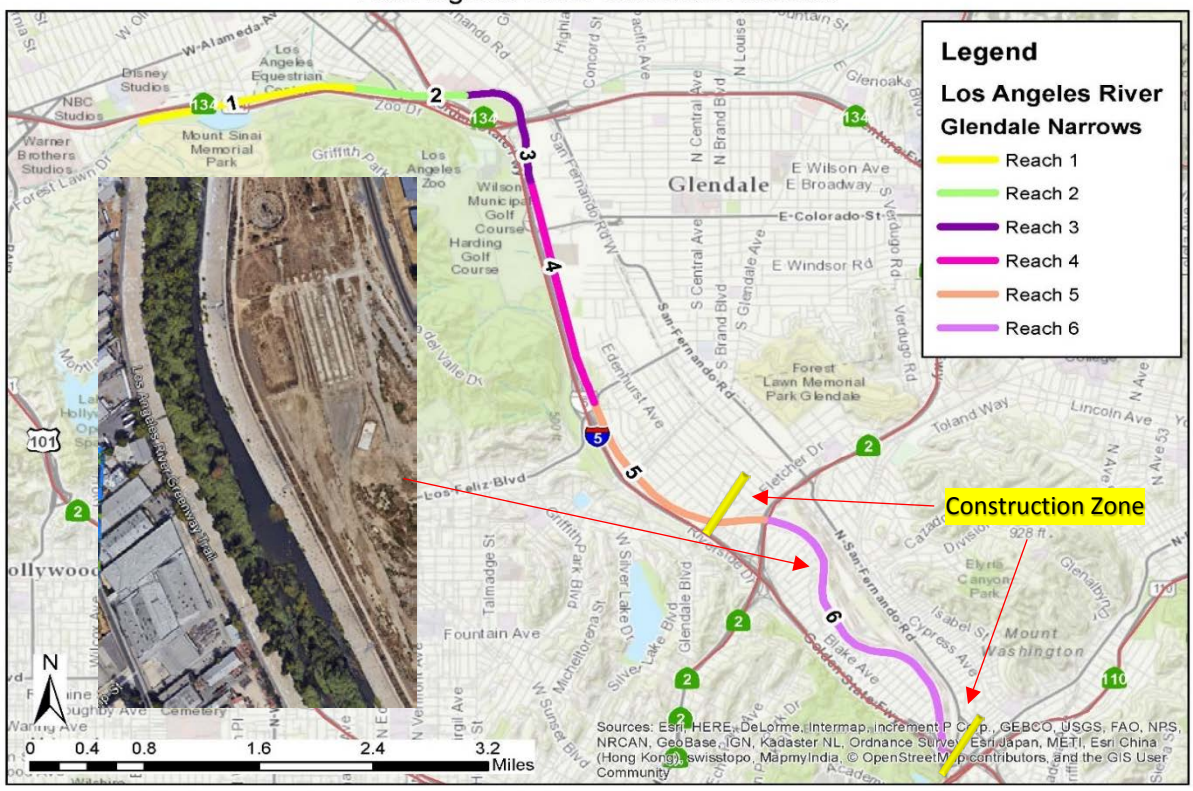
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
ISSUES A PUBLIC NOTICE

UPDATE #2: Incident along the Los Angeles River

As a continuation of the efforts to restore capacity to the Los Angeles River during large storm events, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a task order on Sept. 1, 2016 for strategic in-channel, non-native vegetation, trash and debris removal in the Los Angeles River. Work was initiated in September of 2016 and is anticipated to continue through March of 2017. The primary focus of the work is to manage by hand removal the largest strands of continuous non-native vegetation in the Los Angeles River. In order to facilitate safe non-native vegetation, trash and debris removal from the construction zone, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation (LA DOT) closed the LA River bike path from Gilroy Street (west of SR-2) to Riverside Drive (at I-110), Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. LA DOT installed a bike path detour around the construction zone.

On January 25, 2017, USACE Los Angeles District was notified of an incident that occurred between a cyclist who entered the active construction zone and the USACE contractor. The interaction resulted in physical injury to the USACE contractor due to emotional and physical escalation of the situation by the cyclist. This is very concerning given that operations and maintenance activities support the long-term flood risk management to reduce the risks to property and life safety for communities adjacent to the Los Angeles River. The closure of the bike path is necessary to facilitate restoration of the Los Angeles River channel capacity. Because environmental restrictions limit the process for vegetation removal, non-native vegetation removal occurs by hand and vegetated debris is carried from the bottom of the channel to the top of the bank. In the area in question, water generally flows adjacent to the east or north banks which limits the potential work area to the bike path side.

Los Angeles River Glendale Narrows



Given the legal and physical constraints of working in the Los Angeles River, it is important that the public acknowledge that the USACE contractor is not responsible for the closure, but is working as quickly as possible to carry out the requirements described in the USACE task order. We ask that the public remain patient while the work is completed and to respect closures along the Los Angeles River, which are put in place for the safety of the public and those that work to operate and maintain the Los Angeles River. USACE is dedicated to continue to work in a manner that minimizes impacts to the environment and balances the desires of the public for recreation with the need for flood risk management.

While we remain empathetic that the closures on the bike path are affecting bike path users, we ask the public to remain courteous and respectful toward our employees and contractors as we are all working toward the same goal: safety; security; and maintenance of our flood risk infrastructure for the benefit of our City residents. For members of the public that desire to be placed on our mailing list or to submit inquiries or comments, we invite the public to communicate with us at our e-mail address: AMOperations.Branch@usace.army.mil.

We greatly appreciate your patience!

The USACE Los Angeles District will post additional informational public notices on the USACE Los Angeles District Operations Branch web page: www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Operations/ as well as on social media outlets, including Facebook and Twitter (www.facebook.com/ladistrict and www.twitter.com/corpsladistrict), informing the public of the maintenance activities and closure dates. We encourage the public to follow us on our social media sites and to visit our website for the most up to date information.