The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Los Angeles District, issued a task order September 1, 2016 under an existing contract to BJD Services, for strategic in-channel, non-native vegetation, trash and debris removal in the Los Angeles River for work in the area adjacent to Elysian Valley and south of Gilroy Street. Work was initiated on September 19, 2016. The current status of our efforts includes removal of approximately 4,800 cubic yards of non-native vegetation and 1,200 cubic yards of trash and debris from the area. 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) installed a bike path detour and signage around the construction zone. 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. from October 17, 2016 through March 15, 2017.
USACE Los Angeles District wishes to remind the public that the area is only available for public use Monday through Friday after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends. A number of individuals continue to use the bike path on a daily basis ignoring the posted signage and barriers, a number of which have become hostile. In order to avoid future incidents, USACE contractors have met with their employees to provide communication training, including standardizing messaging provided to individuals who enter into the construction zone and need to return to the access road entry point. In addition, the contractors are including additional dialogue during their daily safety briefings to be mindful and respectful when interacting with the public and are now utilizing video equipment to document future interactions with the public to ensure that communications between all parties remain professional and respectful.

For those individuals that are unfamiliar with the area, USACE has provided our contractor with copies of the LA DOT bike path detour maps, which they will share with members of the public who are in the construction zone and may be unfamiliar with alternate routes as a measure to ensure safe passage out of the construction zone and a means to travel to their final destination. The USACE Los Angeles District staff recently conducted a walk-through in and around the construction zone as well as the maintenance access road entry points to ensure signage and chain link closures are employed and clearly marked.

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.

The USACE Los Angeles District is committed to providing flood risk management initiatives to keep the public safe while being attentive and respectful of the community it serves. 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 questions regarding the Corps maintenance activities within the Los Angeles River please call (213) 452-3294 or leave a comment at AMoperations.Branch@usace.army.mil.