



# LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER®

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 11, 2013

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## **Los Angeles Waterkeeper Executive Director Liz Crosson Presents at *State of the Los Angeles River Watershed Symposium***

October 11, 2013 (Los Angeles, CA) — On Thursday, October 10, over 200 stakeholders met to discuss the present condition of the Los Angeles River Watershed and how to ensure sustainability and resilience of the region for the future. Hosted by The Council for Watershed Health, Los Angeles Waterkeeper Executive Director Liz Crosson presented at the conference along with top decision makers, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, in an effort to provide policymakers, planners, resource managers and others with the tools and perspectives needed to adaptively manage the Los Angeles River.

The Los Angeles River Watershed supports a population of more than 4.5 million people and countless plants and animals. Due to pressures of urbanization, the watershed has been highly modified over the years with dam and concrete channeling, resulting in a loss of habitat and human access to the river. Diversions of water for use in groundwater recharge, significant discharges of wastewaters including sewage treatment plant reclaimed waters, and point and non-point source contributions such as urban runoff have dramatically changed the natural hydrology of the river.

These current conditions were discussed in depth, along with planning for significant changes of water quality and recreational opportunities over the next decade. Liz Crosson focused on the importance of monitoring the success of our efforts moving forward to change the course of the LA River and its watershed.

“Los Angeles Waterkeeper tracks success, as a public interest organization, by analyzing public documents, investigation, and participating in stakeholder groups, including collaborative efforts with other organizations, cities, industries, and elected officials,” said Liz Crosson, Executive Director of Los Angeles Waterkeeper. “We also track success through our public outreach campaigns as we inform Angelenos and they inform us about the issues in their neighborhoods and the pollution problems they face. We fill a regulatory gap by focusing on citizen enforcement; we target the worst polluters in the region and use law and science to protect the river and public health.”

Other topics of discussion included the LA River Revitalization efforts, TMDLs for bacteria and metals, fire management in the Angeles National Forest, stormwater ordinances, green infrastructure projects, and MS4, general construction, transportation and industrial permitting. More than anything, the conference displayed a unified effort to save the health of the watershed and ensure a positive future for our LA River.

For further information, please contact Rachel Stich at (310) 394-6162 x108.

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ABOUT LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER

Founded in 1993, LA Waterkeeper's mission is to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay, and adjacent waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action. We work to achieve this goal through litigation and regulatory programs that ensure water quality protections in waterways throughout L.A. County. LA Waterkeeper's Litigation & Advocacy, Marine, and Water Quality teams conduct interconnected projects that serve this mission.