



**Long Beach Water Department**  
The Standard in Water Conservation &  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Gateway Cities Group Awarded Economic Stimulus Funds to Clean Up Los Angeles River**

PARAMOUNT, CA - With a \$10 million grant of stimulus funds to prevent trash from flowing into the Los Angeles River, the LA Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (LA Gateway Authority) will be creating at least a hundred jobs in the gateway region over the next two years. LA Gateway Authority will be using these funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) in cities whose storm drains flow into the river: Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park, Long Beach, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Signal Hill, South Gate and Vernon.

In addition to creating jobs through this grant, the LA Gateway Authority will help to achieve significant improvement in the water quality of the Los Angeles River. Project construction is expected to commence this fall, and be complete by the summer of 2011.

"This is fantastic news for our Gateway Region," said Kevin Wattier, chair of the Gateway IRWM Authority. "Desi Alvarez from the City of Downey worked tirelessly to put this project together, and he deserves all the credit." The \$10 million grant will defray 100% of the cost of designing and installing the trash-capturing devices. The individual cities will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the inserts once construction is complete.

"Currently, more than 800,000 pounds of waste accumulate in storm drains that wash out to flood control channels and eventually into the river," said Mr. Alvarez. "This \$10 million dollars will be of significant help in cleaning up the river," he said.

The LA Gateway Authority is a joint powers authority of the cities of Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon and Whittier, the Southeast Water Coalition, and the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

The Authority is currently pursuing a similar project for the San Gabriel River watershed.

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