



# Update

February 2015

Dear Friends of the Discovery Center,  
It's been a while since you've heard from us at the San Gabriel River Discovery Project and high time you received an update. The news is all good!

First, thank you for endorsing a project that will greatly enhance the San Gabriel Watershed—and create a gateway for young people and adults alike to explore the local San Gabriel river environment.

The Discovery Center Project creates a place to learn about local plants and animals—and about Southern California's precious resource, water, where it's coming from and where it's going. How important is that? We all know pretty darn important and that we need to safeguard it.

## **Now the news:**

Hundreds of leaders from throughout Southern California who value equitable environmental education have endorsed the Discovery Center Project: teachers, principals, elected officials, school boards, city councils along with community environmental champions Amigos de Los Rios, Earth Justice, Heal the Bay and the Natural Resources Defense Council, among many others.

EcoVoices—the Discovery Center educational program on-site at Whittier Narrows—teaches young Southern Californians to appreciate and protect the ecosystem. It offers students in the San Gabriel Valley and greater LA metro area a first-class educational institution close to home that meets science, technology, engineering and math (known as STEM) standards—skills for future stewardship of natural resources.

Since EcoVoices launched in March 2013 more than 60 schools and 6,600 students have hiked the trails to explore the local watershed, participate in hands-on environmental science projects and learn about the relationship of California's indigenous peoples to the river that gives life to the San Gabriel Valley.

Two key funding decisions in the fall worth \$5.2 million have given the Discovery Center a big push forward—\$2.2 million from the Regional Water Quality Board and \$3 million from the LA County Board of Supervisors. Development is set to begin at the end of the year.

The Discovery Center development plan creates the Discovery Center from the ground up—stage one of the project revitalizes 11 acres of habitat, trails and water resources, creates wetlands for migrating and local birds, re-plants native trees and provides other eco-system support. Finally—and this is important!—we need your help. The Discovery Center Authority is re-working its website.

**Please send us pictures**, reflections on the environment, the drought, any wonderful pictures you have of the San Gabriel River, and your reasons for supporting the Discovery Center vision. If your kids or students have participated in EcoVoices please tell their stories.

Please send pictures and comments to Gina Guglielmotti at [gguglielmotti@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:gguglielmotti@rmc.ca.gov)

Thank you for your support. Looking forward to working together in 2015!