

Date of Hearing: July 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 832 (Allen) – As Amended May 21, 2026

Policy Committee: Water, Parks and Wildlife Vote: 11 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill increases the number of members of the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (ULART) Working Group and requires the ULART Working Group to meet regularly to evaluate the implementation of the ULART revitalization plan.

Specifically, this bill, among other things:

- 1) Increases the maximum number of members of the ULART Working Group from 23 to 25 and requires one of the representatives appointed to the ULART Working Group to represent the Los Angeles City Council district with the greatest number of Upper Los Angeles River miles.
- 2) Requires the ULART Working Group to meet at least annually to evaluate and report on implementation of the revitalization plan to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and to propose amendments to the revitalization plan to SMMC for adoption, as specified.
- 3) Requires the ULART Working Group to submit proposed amendments to the revitalization plan to SMMC for approval; requires SMMC to take action to adopt the proposed amendments within 60 days of submission; and provides that the amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption by SMMC.

FISCAL EFFECT:

SMMC and the California Natural Resources Agency report minor and absorbable costs to implement the requirements of this bill.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

The [ULART Working Group] has done commendable work developing a plan for revitalizing waterway areas in Los Angeles, identifying opportunities for multi-benefit projects to restore natural habitat and increase outdoor access for nearby communities. However, current statute does not accurately reflect the ongoing nature of their work, and does not allow for the addition of more members to the working group to reflect post-redistricting changes. [This bill] would

update the working group's statute and ensure appropriate representation on the working group.

- 2) **Background.** AB 466 (Bocanegra), Chapter 341, Statutes of 2017, established within SMMC the ULART Working Group and charged the working group with developing a revitalization plan for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and any additional tributary waterway the working group determines to be necessary. Appointees to the working group include representatives from the State of California, Los Angeles County, and cities adjoining the Upper Los Angeles River.

The 2021-22 Budget Act allocated \$10 million to SMMC for ULART-related projects and authorized the ULART Working Group to meet at least twice per year to evaluate and report on implementation and to propose any amendments to the revitalization plan. The 2022-23 Budget Act allocated \$6.7 million to SMMC for projects that improve the climate resiliency or the protection of the Los Angeles River Watershed or are a part of the revitalization plan. The ULART Working Group met three times between 2021 and 2023 to consider and recommend ten projects to SMMC and to hear updates on implementation of the revitalization plan. The Proposition 4 climate bond provides \$40 million to SMMC for climate resiliency and protection of the Los Angeles River watershed. Of this total, the 2025-26 Budget Act allocated \$20 million, and the Governor's 2026-27 budget proposes an additional \$6 million.

This bill requires the ULART Working Group to meet at least once per year and creates a different process for amending the revitalization plan. Current law requires that amendments be submitted to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water and become effective 30 days following submission. This bill requires that amendments be submitted to SMMC for approval and allows SMMC 60 days to approve the amendments following submission.

This bill is sponsored by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), which writes:

While the current composition allows for City of Los Angeles representation, the City's 2021 redistricting process caused substantial shifts in council district boundaries. SB 832 is a district bill that is necessary to allow for an additional city council member whose district now encompasses a large area of the upper Los Angeles River, as well as updating the number of annual meetings to provide more flexibility.

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