Subject: Support of a Glendale-Hyperion Bridge Pedestrian Underpass (East Bank)
Email your letter to: ClosetheLoop@atwatervillage.org

Date:

Dear Leaders,

I'm writing to you in support of a Glendale-Hyperion Bridge east bank pedestrian underpass. As a resident of Los Angeles and a LA River user, I want a safe connected crossing along the Los Angeles River to complement the Red Car Park Pedestrian Bridge, which is soon to begin construction. The original Sunnynook Park design included a pedestrian underpass at the Hyperion bridge, creating a loop to the park, and a connected east bank path. Inexplicably, this underpass was eliminated from the design.

The Glendale/Hyperion structure is 8 lanes of traffic, which is unsafe to cross, even if there's a future crosswalk close by. The addition of an underpass is urgent for safety and connectivity, top among river revitalization goals.

This improvement would provide connectivity, primarily for pedestrians and other river users on the east side of the LA River. Additionally, this would provide non-bike users a connected safe alternative to the west bank bike path. An additional benefit is increased connectivity for maintenance, operations and safety patrols. It would also accomplish connectivity goals laid out in the LARRMP and ARBOR Study, as well as begin to create a 4-mile recreation trail (the Atwater Village Riverway Project) connecting Atwater to the new Taylor Yard/G2 Parcel Park.

Because construction of the Red Car Park multi-modal bridge will precede the Glendale-Hyperion bridge retrofit, there is still plenty of time to add the east bank underpass back into the design, and I urgently request that you do so. Failure to add pedestrian connectivity into the design when a retrofit is already in the works would be an extreme oversight that would have repercussions for decades to come. For the City, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create this fiscally prudent and socially responsible continuous river path. Not to do so would be extremely shortsighted, since alteration of a newly retrofitted bridge is extremely unlikely. Were it to be undertaken in the future, it would clearly be at a much greater cost.

I request that the City take a leadership role in LA River restoration and revitalization efforts, and take this opportunity to incorporate a pedestrian underpass into the Glendale-Hyperion Bridge design.

Sincerely,

Name*:

Zip Code*: