March 29, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONG BEACH STARTS RETURN TO THE 17th ANNUAL
LOS ANGELES RIVER RIDE ON JUNE 4TH

Bicyclists ride in support of completing the 51-mile bike and pedestrian path along the Los Angeles River from Canoga Park to Long Beach.

Long Beach, Calif. –

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) hosts its 17th Annual Los Angeles River Ride on Sunday, June 4th, and after a brief hiatus, the three routes starting in Long Beach are back. Over 2,000 bicyclists from all over Southern California and beyond are anticipated to participate in the L.A. River Ride. Seven routes (100-, 70-, 50-, 36-, 25-, and 15-mile rides, plus a kids ride) for different ages and abilities start at The Autry in Griffith Park and three routes (100-, 70-, and 25-mile rides) begin at Marina Green Park in Long Beach.

The River Ride raises awareness of the need to close the gaps in the Los Angeles River Bike & Pedestrian Path, which will eventually extend from the river’s headwaters in Canoga Park to the ocean in Long Beach. The event is also LACBC’s largest fundraiser, supporting year-round advocacy to make Los Angeles County a healthy, safe, and fun place to ride a bike. From 2012-2015, the L.A. River Ride included a start location in Long Beach for certain routes, but due to proposed construction in 2016, the L.A. River Ride could not host a Long Beach start last year.

“The L.A. River Ride is our premier event and our chance to show off all the progress that has been made along the Los Angeles River in recent years,” says LACBC Executive Director Tamika Butler. “This year, we are excited to welcome back three routes beginning in Long Beach, where hundreds of riders from the Long Beach area, South Bay, Orange County, and the Southeast Cities have joined us in the past.”

Participants have 10 rides to choose from, starting at either the Autry Center in Griffith Park or Marina Green Park in Long Beach. The event takes place on Sunday, June 4th, with staggered start times depending on the ride length. Online registration closes on Wednesday, May 31st, or riders can sign up on the morning of the event. Registration fees now range from $30 to $70, with family rates available and free registration for all children 12 and under.

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Founded in 1998, The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition is a membership-based,
volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that works to make all communities in Los Angeles County into healthy, safe and fun places to ride a bike. Through advocacy, education, and outreach, LACBC brings together the diverse bicycling community in a united mission to improve the bicycling environment and quality of life for the entire region.

In Long Beach, LACBC has been active with its local chapter, Walk Bike Long Beach, working to make the city more bike-friendly through advocacy, outreach, and community events. The City of Long Beach has also sponsored LACBC’s Operation Firefly bike light distributions for the past three seasons to help people ride more safely at night in the area.

The L.A. River Ride will include ride pit stops on the lower portion of the L.A. River at Dills Park in Paramount and Riverfront Park in Maywood. LACBC is a member of the Lower L.A. River Working Group and has been coordinating a multi-city active transportation plan in Southeast Los Angeles County (Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Maywood and Vernon), a dense subregion where many people depend on walking, biking and public transit every day. The L.A. River Path features prominently in improving connectivity to the south towards Long Beach and to the north towards Downtown Los Angeles, where there is a gap in the path from Elysian Valley to Maywood.

For more information about the Los Angeles River Ride, go to [www.la-bike.org/riverride](http://www.la-bike.org/riverride).

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