



The Los Angeles River:

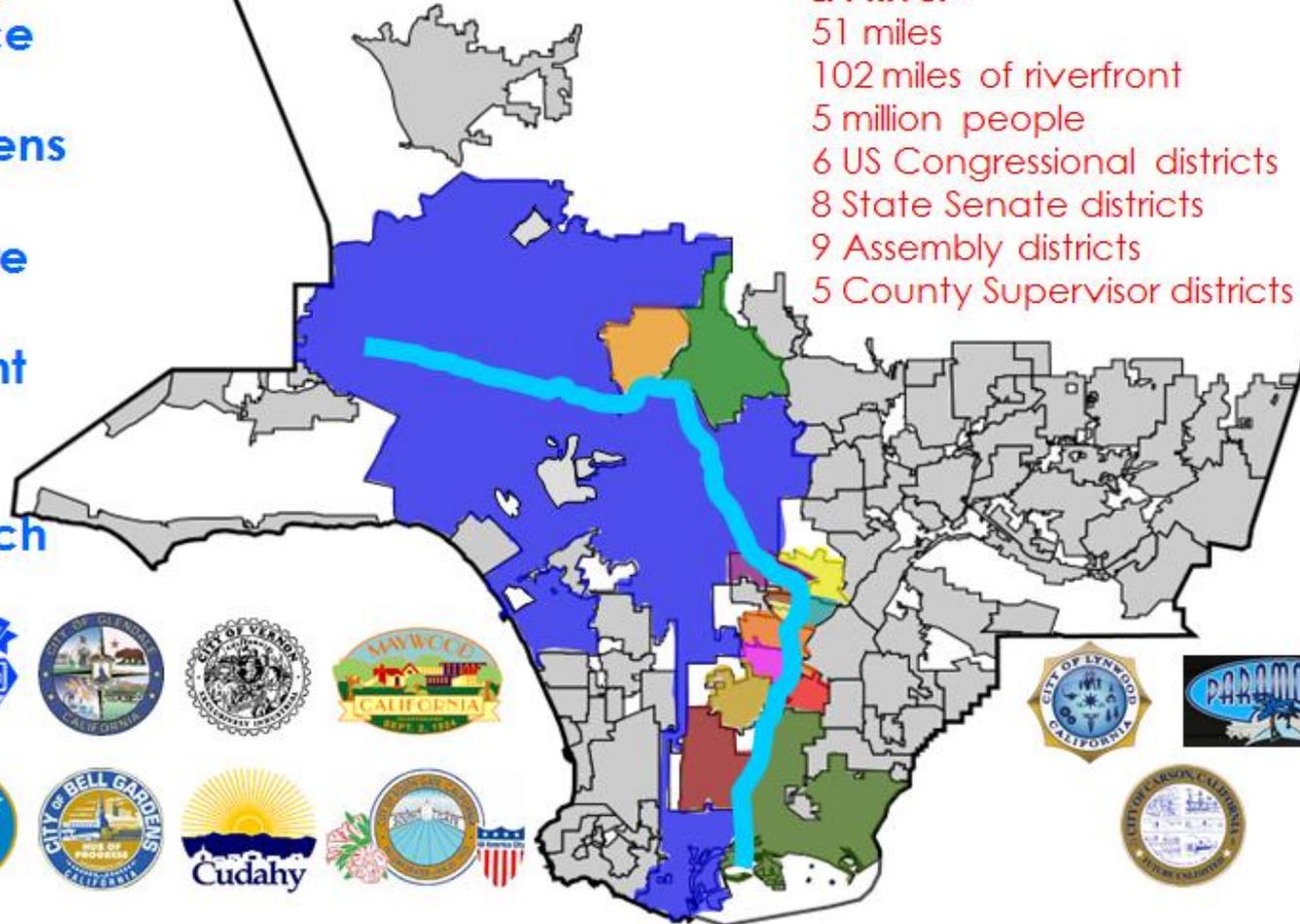
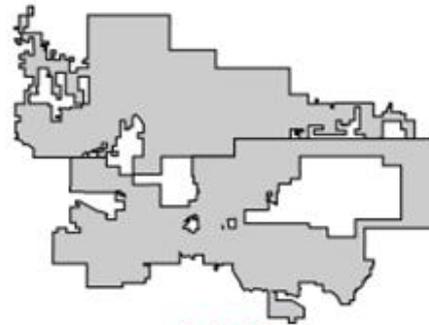
Progress
&
Opportunities
in the
San Fernando
Valley

Deborah Weintraub, AIA,
LEED_{AP}
Interim City Engineer

*Testimony: CA Senate
Committee on Natural
Resources & Water
12.13.2013*

Los Angeles River Cities

Los Angeles
Burbank
Glendale
Vernon
Maywood
Commerce
Bell
Bell Gardens
Cudahy
South Gate
Lynwood
Paramount
Compton
Carson
Long Beach



LA River=
51 miles
102 miles of riverfront
5 million people
6 US Congressional districts
8 State Senate districts
9 Assembly districts
5 County Supervisor districts





- **Adopted by the LA City Council in 2007**
- **Recommends 240+ projects along/within the first 32 miles of the river**
- **Calls for network of trails, parks, habitat areas, recreational amenities, green/climate adaptive infrastructure and community revitalization**
- **Prioritizes the LA River Greenway**
- **Proposes changes to the LA River channel**
- **Recommends new governance structure**

LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION: Some Key Milestones Since 2007

- 2007:** US Congress includes \$25 million for LA River Demonstration Projects in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007
- 2007:** The City sets aside \$25 million of local Proposition O funds for acquisition of LA River-adjacent sites
- 2008:** The LA River Corps of the LA Conservation Corps starts work—www.lacorps.org
- 2009:** City and County Establish LA River Cooperation Committee with US Army Corps commitment as advisory participant—www.lariver.org/rcc
- 2009:** City Establishes LA River Revitalization Corporation—www.larivercorp.com
- 2010:** US Environmental Protection Agency reaffirms the LA River is a “traditionally navigable waterway”
- 2011:** CA Legislature LA River Joint Hearing in the San Fernando Valley
- 2011:** US Army Corps approves 1st LA River boating program—www.paddlethelariver.org
- 2011:** LA River selected as 1 of 7 pilots in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership—www.urbanwaters.gov
- 2012:** US Department of the Interior prioritizes LA River Trail System in the President’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative—<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov>
- 2012 & 2013:** The President includes the US Army Corps of Engineers’ LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (ARBOR Study) in his budget

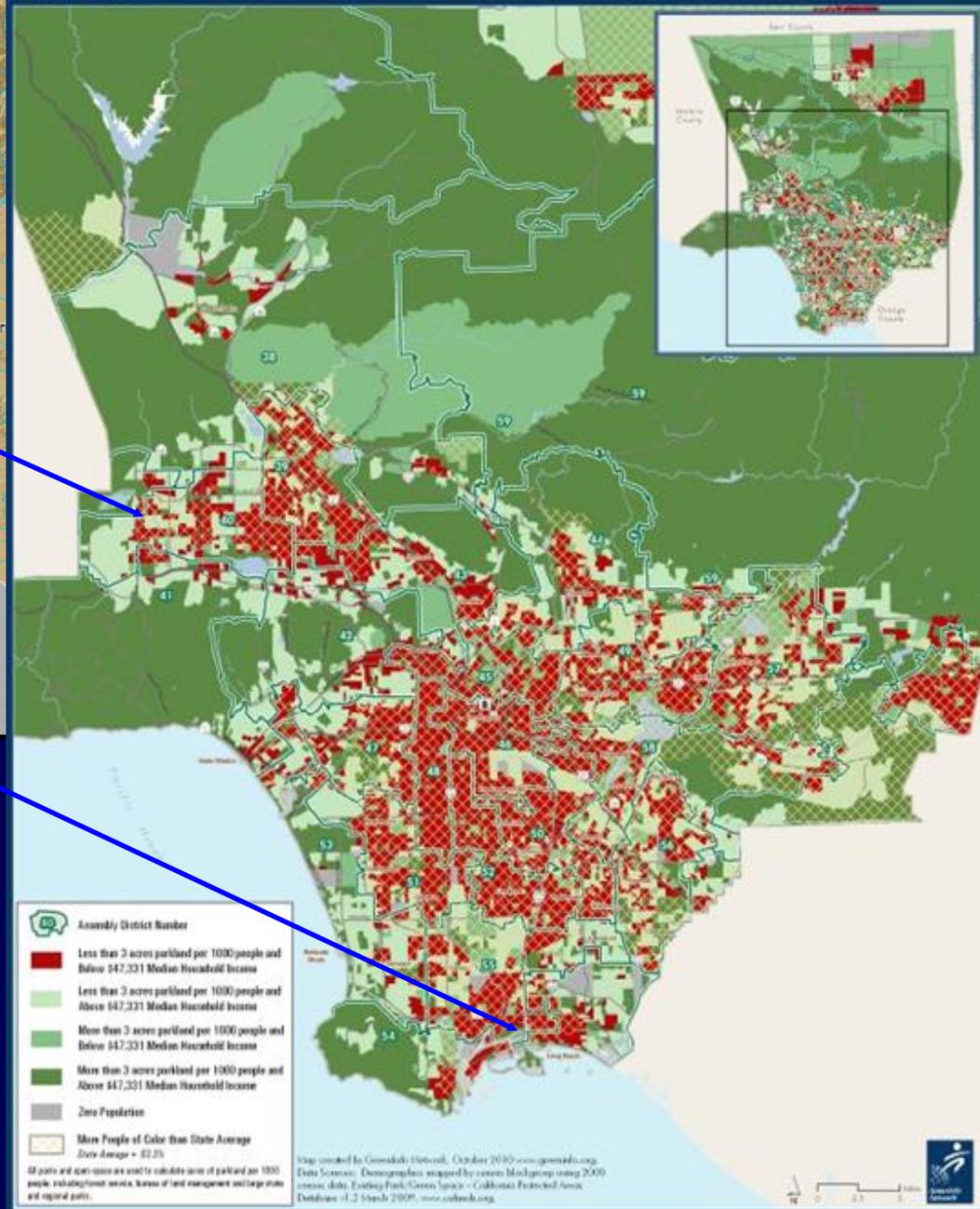
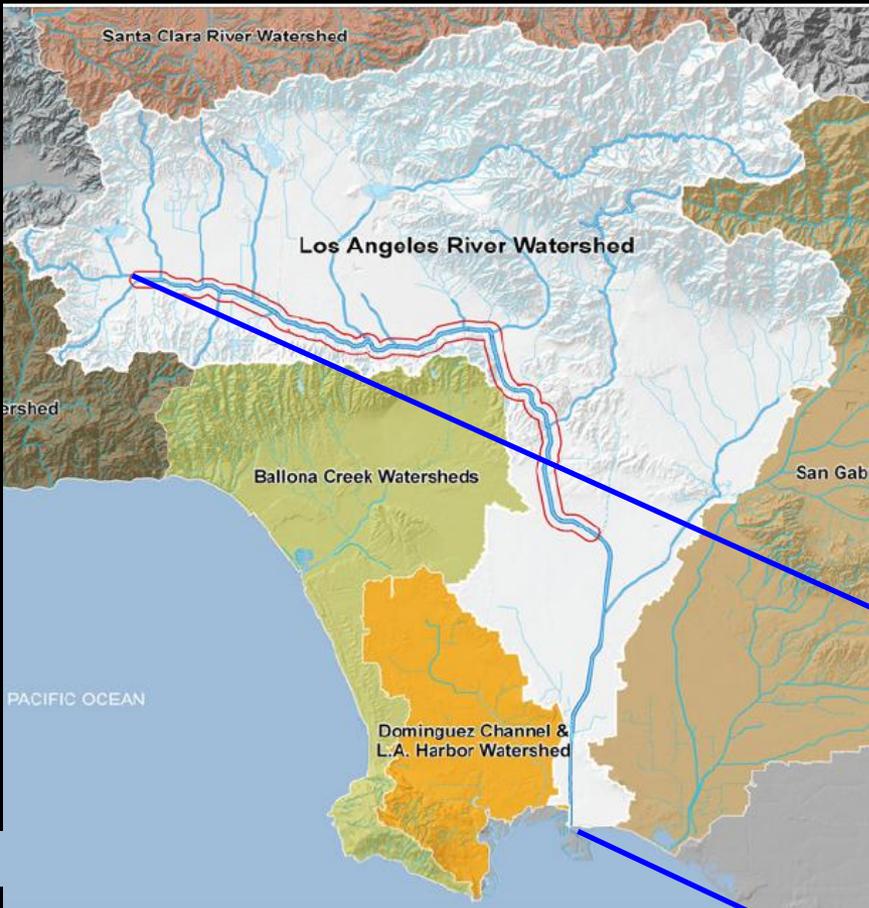
LOS ANGELES RIVER COOPERATION COMMITTEE



- **In 2009, the LA River MOU was adopted by the LA City Council & LA County Board of Supervisors.**
- **It established the LA River Cooperation Committee, a partnership to prioritize LA River projects.**
- **The US Army Corps of Engineers participates as a non-voting member.**
- **The Committee has reviewed and endorsed a number of projects since its inception:**
 1. Anza National Trail in Griffith Park (Friends of Griffith Park)
 2. LA River Greenway Tree Planting (Community Conservation Solutions)
 3. Forest Lawn-Sennett Creek LA River Greenway (North East Trees and FoLAR)
 4. Bending the River Back Into the City: LA Noria Waterwheel (Metabolic Studio)
 5. LA Riverfront Greenway Phase II (City of LA)
 6. LA River TIGER Bikeway Network (City of LA)
 7. North Valleyheart Riverwalk (LA County Flood Control District)
 8. Caballero Confluence Park (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority)
 9. LA River Headwaters Greenway (LA County Flood Control District)
 10. La Kretz Crossing (LA River Revitalization Corporation)
 11. LA River and Aliso Creek Confluence (Trust for Public Land)
- **A key future task of the Committee is to finalize the LA River Master Use Agreement to streamline the implementation of projects in the public right-of-way along the LA River.**
- **See: www.lariver.org/rcc for more information.**



- **The LA River is 51 miles long.**
- **Its watershed is 870 sq. mi.**
- **The first 32 miles are within the City of LA.**
- **The longest portion of the river within the City of LA is in the San Fernando Valley.**
- **The most appropriate soils for infiltration to increase local groundwater supply are in the river's watershed within the San Fernando Valley.**
- **Most of the river bike paths and trails (Greenway 2020) are located in the San Fernando Valley.**
- **One of the City's most vibrant commercial corridors is located one block from the river for miles in the San Fernando Valley: Ventura Boulevard.**



The LA River flows through many low-income communities of color that lack access to parks and recreation.

Source: The City Project, www.cityprojectca.org



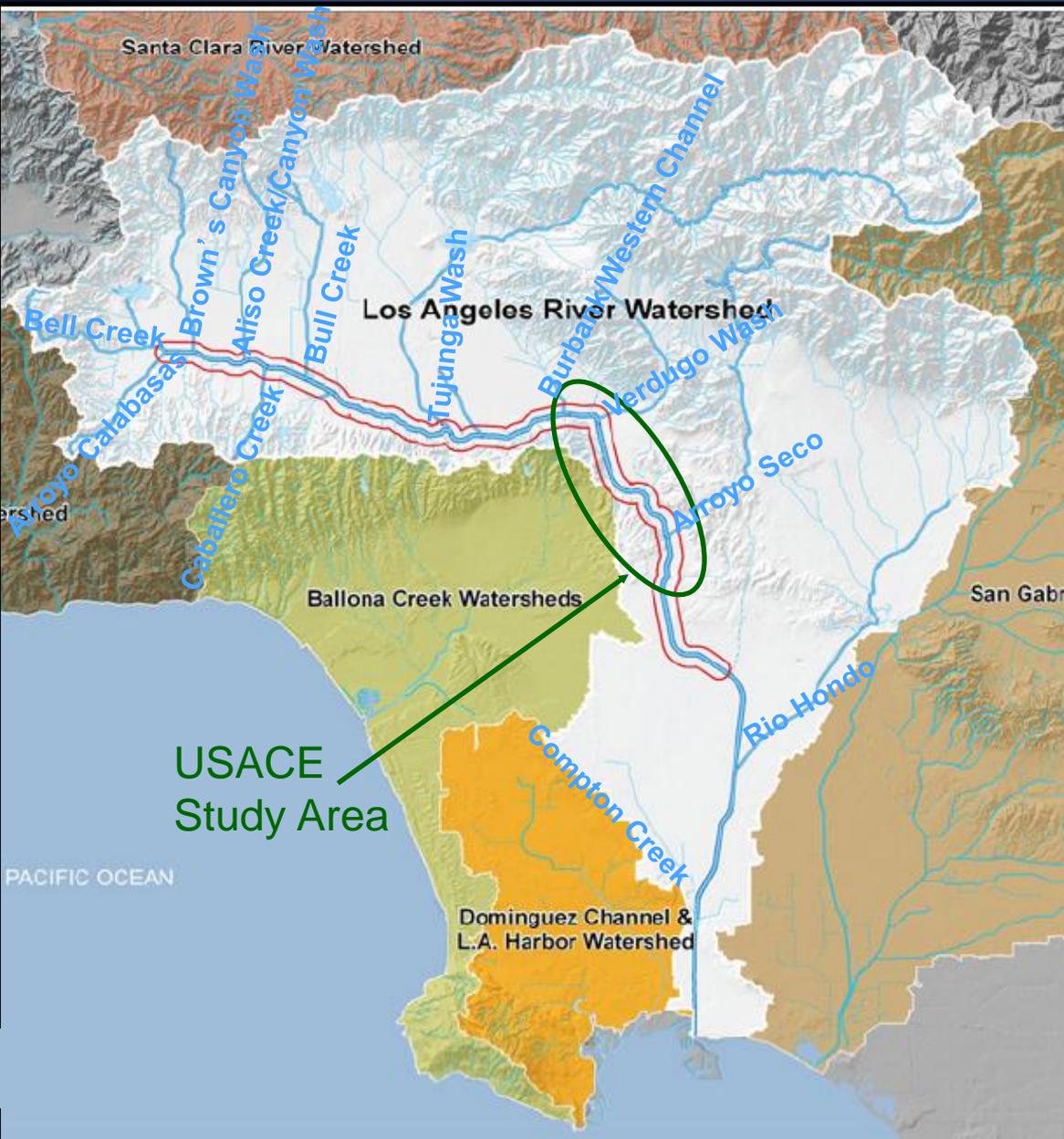
- **Headwaters Greenway:** Owensmouth to Mason (both banks): LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD): In construction
- **Headwaters Bike Path:** Owensmouth to Mason (south bank): LADOT: In design
- **West Valley Greenway/Bikeway:** Mason to Vanalden (south bank): LA Bureau of Engineering (BOE)/Bridge Program: In construction
- **LA River & Aliso Creek Confluence Park/Reseda River Loop:** Vanalden to Reseda (south bank); Wilbur to Reseda (north bank & west bank of Aliso Creek): The Trust for Public Land: Finalizing design; \$1M+ received
- **Caballero Creek & LA River Confluence Park:** At Lindley (south bank): Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA): In design
- **LA River Veteran Tribute Park & Gardens:** Between White Oak & Louise (north bank): LA Conservation Corps: Grant awarded for public outreach—underway
- **LA River Pilot Boating Program:** Between Orange Line Busway bridge & Balboa: Many partners: 2 summer seasons (2011, 2012)

Photo:
August 2013, City's West Valley Greenway/Bikeway facing downstream to Corbin Ave.



- **Sepulveda BEAR Project:** LA River, Encino Creek, Woodley Creek (in Basin): USACE/City of LA Recreation and Parks: USACE CAP funds awarded for study
- **LA Riverfront Greenway in Studio City:** Sepulveda to Kester (south bank): LA BOE/Prop. K: In construction
- **Future Valley Bike Paths/Greenway 2020:** Vanalden to Lankershim/Cahuenga & Vanalden to Balboa: LADOT applied in 2011 & '12 (TIGER) & '13 (FLAP), but not awarded; pre-design underway; River Revitalization Corporation & partners
- **Valleyheart Greenway in Studio City:** Fulton to Coldwater (north bank): LACFCD: In construction
- **LA Riverfront Greenway in Studio City:** Coldwater to Whitsett (south bank): LA BOE: Fully funded; design complete; pending agreement approval
- **LA River Natural Park:** Coldwater to Whitsett (north bank): Community Conservation Solutions, MRCA: 16-acre site must be acquired; Greenway awarded \$
- **NBC/Universal Studios Bike Path:** Construct Lankershim/Cahuenga to Barham; design for Radford to Riverside/Zoo (south bank): LACFCD & NBC/Universal: In design; \$13M awarded by NBC/Universal

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

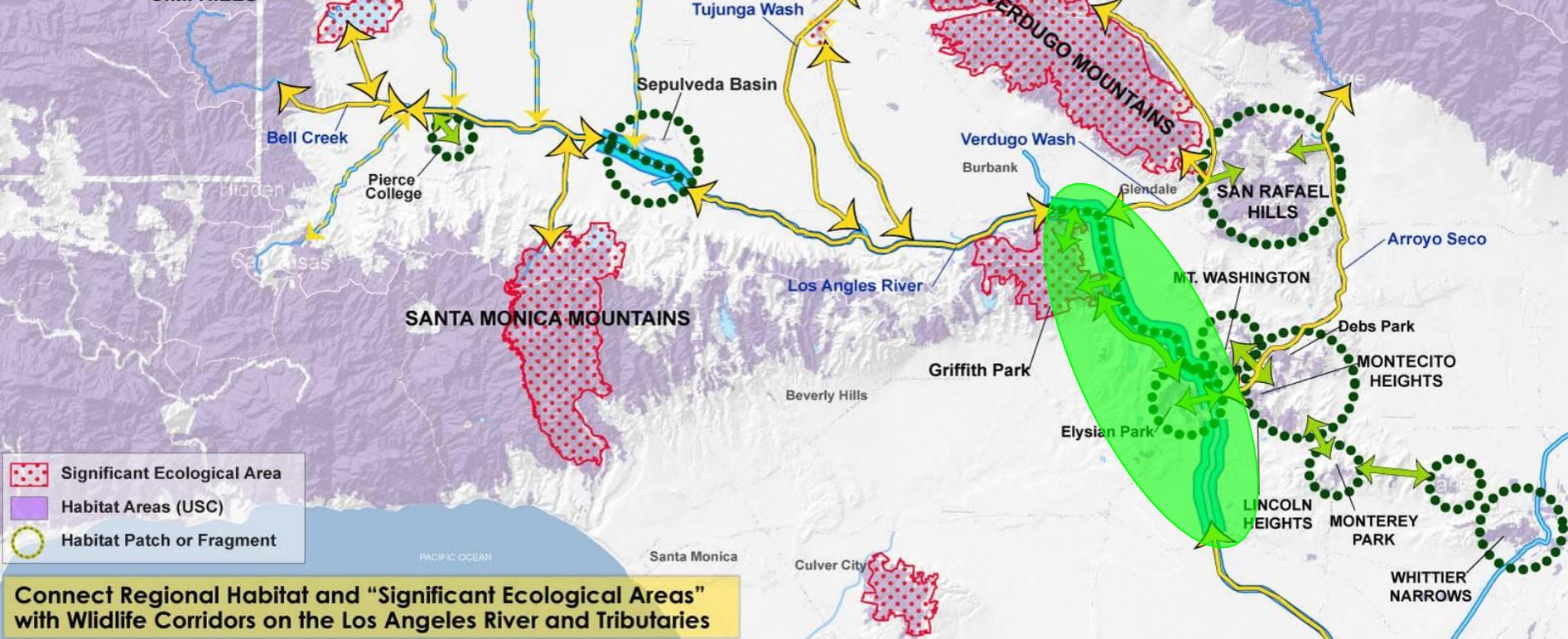


- Started in 2006
- City is local 50% cost-share partner
- Cost is \$9.71 M
- FoLAR donated \$1M in 2012
- 11 miles
- Mission is ecosystem restoration
- Project will be cost-shared (% must be determined)
- Project footprint must be authorized
- Federal funding will be appropriated in phases over many years—as local lands/fund matches are available



SIMI HILLS

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS



- Significant Ecological Area
- Habitat Areas (USC)
- Habitat Patch or Fragment

Connect Regional Habitat and "Significant Ecological Areas" with Wildlife Corridors on the Los Angeles River and Tributaries

- City recommended entire 32 miles
- USACE saw greatest ecosystem potential in "soft-bottomed" channel area
- Includes existing riparian habitat
- Includes 2 major tributary confluences w/ potential connections to existing SEAs
- Includes 3 large State park sites
- Includes large adjacent open spaces in single ownership

LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

or ARBOR Study...

ARBOR=

approx. 11 miles
along the LA River
from Griffith Park
to Downtown LA,
near Union Station



ARBOR=
Area with
Restoration
Benefits and
Opportunities for
Revitalization

\$450M to \$1B+
ALTERNATIVES

- 13, 16, & 20** Key Sites
- Key Additions in Alt. 16
- Key Additions in Alt. 20

Verdugo Wash Confluence with the LA River

Only included in Alternative 20

Downtown LA

Elysian Hills

City of
Glendale

City of
LA

Griffith Park

San Fernando Road

I-5 Freeway

LA River

Verdugo Wash

City of
Glendale



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION

Verdugo Wash Confluence with the LA River

Only included in Alternative 20

Downtown LA

Elysian Hills

In-channel-to-outerbank and upstream-to-downstream habitat connections are made

City of Glendale

City of LA

Griffith Park

San Fernando Road

I-5 Freeway

LA River

134 Freeway

Verdugo Wash

City of Glendale




LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



Alternatives 13, 16 & 20 include:

LA River at Taylor Yard



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION

Alternatives 13, 16 & 20 include:

LA River at Taylor Yard



Draft Concept: July 2013



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION

Alternatives 13, 16 & 20 include
Arroyo Seco Confluence with the LA River



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION

Alternatives 13, 16 & 20 include
Arroyo Seco Confluence with the LA River



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION

Draft Concept: July 2013

LA River at the Cornfields/LA State Historic Park

Only included in Alternative 20



LA City Hall

Downtown LA

1st St. Viaduct

César Chávez

Union Station

Chinatown

William Mead
Public Housing

LA State
Historic Park
(Cornfields)

Piggyback Yard

Main Street

Elysian
Park/Hills

Spring Street

Broadway

Albion
Park
(underway)

Lincoln
Heights

Downey Pool
(existing)



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION

LA River at the Cornfields/LA State Historic Park

Only included in Alternative 20



Draft Concept: 2013



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Alternatives 13, 16 & 20 include:

LA River at the Piggyback Yard



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION



Alternatives 13, 16 & 20 include:

LA River at the Piggyback Yard

However, only Alts. 16 & 20 include a river connection w/ trestle (shown here)



LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION



Draft Concept: July 2013



FINAL ARRAY OF ALTERNATIVES

Habitat Outcomes and Cost

ALTERNATIVE	TOTAL FIRST COST	COST SHARE (Fed/Local %)	RESTORED ACRES	HABITAT UNIT VALUE INCREASE	KEY FEATURES ADDED
No. 10 ART	\$ 375 M	17/83	528	5,321	Daylighted tributaries, side channel in Griffith Park, widening at Taylor Yard, historic wash restoration at Piggyback Yard
No. 13 ACE	\$453 M	31/69	588	5,902	Includes 10, adds substantial widening at Taylor Yard, restoration at Arroyo Seco Confluence
No. 16 AND	\$ 804 M	53/47	646	6,509	Includes 13, adds expansion of soft bottom in Reach 5, removal of concrete in Downtown and marsh restoration at Piggyback Yard
No. 20 RIVER	\$ 1.08 B	54/46	671	6,782	Includes 16, adds Restoration of Verdugo Wash Confluence, Reach 2 widening, connection of river & wetlands in historic wash in LA River State Historic Park



- \$5M to City from State for Albion Dairy park
- \$2M to City from State for the West Valley Bikeway on public land
- \$4M to City from State for North Atwater Park on public land
- \$1.7M to City from State for Sunnynook River Park on public land
- \$1M+ to County from State for Headwaters Greenway on public land
- \$1M+ to Trust for Public Land from State for Aliso Confluence on public land
- \$500K+ to MRCA from State for greenway in Elysian Valley on public land
- \$11M from State to acquire the Bowtie Park
- \$100M+ from State to acquire Río de LA State Park & LA State Historic Park

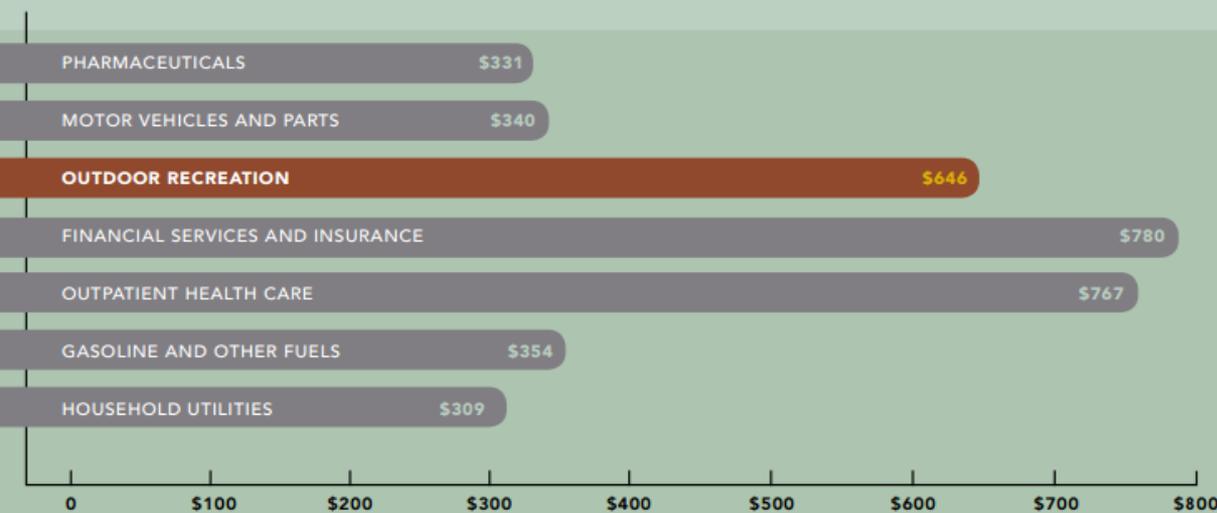
\$125 Million +

**JUST SOME OF THE STATE INVESTMENTS IN LA RIVER
REVITALIZATION SINCE 2000**

More than 140 million Americans make outdoor recreation a priority in their daily lives – and they prove it with their wallets. Each year, Americans spend \$646 billion on outdoor recreation.

An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Product, based on available 2010 data.

Untapped Value in Recreation

The outdoor recreation economy grew approximately 5 percent annually between 2005 and 2011 – this during an economic recession when many sectors contracted.

The outdoor recreation economy generates \$80 billion in national, state, and local tax revenues each year.

Outdoor Industry Association, 2012

Trails consistently remain the number one community amenity sought by prospective homeowners.

National Association of Homebuilders, 2008

Parks increase a city's direct income: Increased property tax arises from increased property value because of proximity to parks (hedonic value) and increased sales tax arises from spending by tourists who visit the parks (these bolster the collective wealth of residents through property appreciation and new revenue);

Parks increase direct savings: **Public access/public use** of parks with free/low-cost recreational opportunities; **health benefits** (savings in medical costs) due to exercise and relaxation; and **community cohesion**—strengthens civic vigilance and builds social capital (saves \$ on police, fire, etc.); and

Parks generate environmental savings: Cleaner water (rain retained by natural systems mean that less \$ is needed for treatment) and Cleaner air (parks are carbon sinks, particulate buffers, and they lower temperatures)

The Trust for Public Land, 2003

Untapped Value in Stormwater

More than 300 “Tributary Streets” interface with the LA River in the City of LA

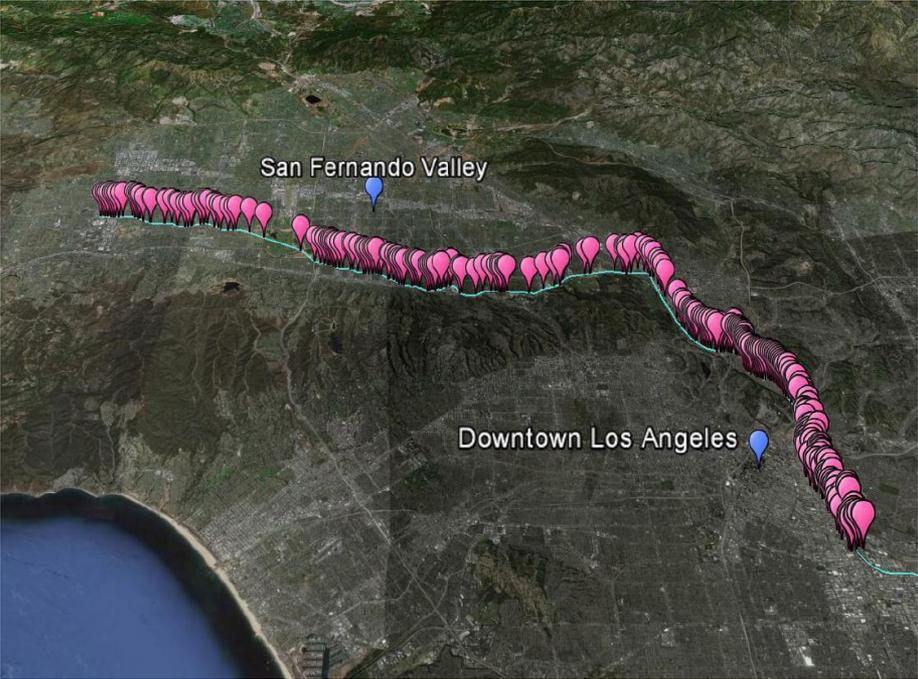


Photo: December 2012, MRCA’s Dallas project in construction in Elysian Valley

Council District	Number of Tributary Street Interfaces
1	15
2	43
3	45
4	36
5	3
6	3
13	62
14	68
Multiple	9
Burbank & Glendale	21
Total	305



- The LA River watershed in the San Fernando Valley is critical to Southern California's and therefore the State's water supply.
- The LA River within the San Fernando Valley offers an incredible opportunity to provide a safer, non-motorized commuting path between homes, jobs, schools, community institutions and commercial areas that will reduce regional dependence on automobiles and fossil-based fuels.
- A revitalized and restored LA River with strong federal participation via the ARBOR Study will ensure a more resilient, sustainable urban region for generations to come.
- Implementing *climate adaptive infrastructure* within the LA River watershed and along the LA River corridor is an important near-term investment of the State of California.

Save LA River Open Space  Working to save the San Fernando Valley's Last Remaining 16 Acres of Unprotected Open Space on the L.A. River

www.slaros.org [Donate](#)

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[Join our email list to stay informed!](#)  

OPEN SPACE THREATENED!



[PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION](#) to preserve 100% of the open space at Weddington Golf & Tennis in Studio City!

What You Can Do to Help:

PLEASE ADD YOUR SIGNATURE TODAY BY [CLICKING HERE](#) - SLAROS SIGNATURE SUPPORT to sign our petition and tell local elected officials to preserve this precious open space for future generations.

NELA Riverfront Collaborative

Join the mailing list for updates.
email address [Go](#)

About News I Want Food... Map

www.mylariver.org

I want food in my neighborhood to be...

Join us for a morning of engaging activities and discussions around food access and policy.

Saturday, July 27th, 10am-12pm
Elysian Valley Community Garden
1816 Blake Ave., L.A. 90039

Refreshments will be served and all participants will be entered to win gift cards to local eateries.

Watch 

How would you envision a Riverfront District?

Summer Policy Engagement Schedule

August 10
August 24
Planning & Mobility

LA River Identity

Alliance of River Communities Monthly Meeting Announcement

Thursday, July 25th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

The Glassell Park Senior & Community Center
3750 N. Verdugo Rd Los Angeles, 90065

Please join us for our regular monthly meeting of the Alliance of River Communities- Los Angeles's Alliance of East and Northeast Area Neighborhood Councils and community leaders.

A special guest joining our July 25th meeting will be the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and they will present an update on their Los Angeles River Rover Mobile Visitor Center.



The Alliance of River Communities represents a diverse swath of neighborhood leaders from Los Feliz to the east city border and from Eagle Rock down to the Hollywood freeway. The Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco serve as a symbol of what ties our communities together. ARC seeks to enhance and empower neighborhood council leaders and to increase the voice and influence of the communities it represents.

- The neighborhood councils that make up the ARC area include the:
- Arroyo Seco NC | Atwater Village NC | Boyle Heights NC
 - Eagle Rock NC | Elysian Valley Riverside NC | Glassell Park NC
 - Greater Cypress Park NC | Greater Echo Park Elysian Valley NC
 - Historic Highland Park NC | LA 32 NC | Lincoln Heights NC
 - Los Feliz NC | Rampart Village NC | Silver Lake NC

[ARC Los Angeles](#) | [@ARCLosAngeles](#) | ARC@EmpowerLA.org



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www.laraba.org



LA River Artists and Business Association

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Advanced Search

The purpose of the Los Angeles River Artists and Business Association (LARABA), a 501(c)(4) community betterment association, is to improve the quality of life and enhance opportunities for all Arts District stakeholders by encouraging a lively and healthy social, cultural and economic environment.

LARABA also seeks to preserve and promote the Arts District as a true creative community for the cultural and economic benefit of all Angelenos.

Further, the Association strives to provide a community forum to develop common goals and engage in cooperative strategies to guide the evolution of the Arts District as it meets future challenges.

Sunday, June 9, 2013 - 7:00am

 PRESENTS THE

13TH ANNUAL LOS ANGELES RIVER RIDE

LIVE MUSIC. TSHIRTS. GREAT FOOD.

ALL AGES & ALL ABILITIES!

THE ANNUAL L.A. RIVER RIDE



la-bike.org

River Warrior Award Winner  River Hero Award Winner Green Paddle Award for Waterway Conservation

L.A. RIVER EXPEDITIONS

PUTTING THE RIVER BACK IN THE RIVER

ABOUT EXPEDITIONS COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWS ACTIVISM CONTACT STORE

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HOT OFF THE PRESS!
SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST

SIGN UP FOR A RIVER EXPEDITION!!



The Village Gardeners
of the Los Angeles River

thevillagegardeners.org

Thank You



Photo Source: Tom LaBonge

Contact

Deborah.Weintraub@lacity.org
(213) 485-5499



Photo Source: MRCA