



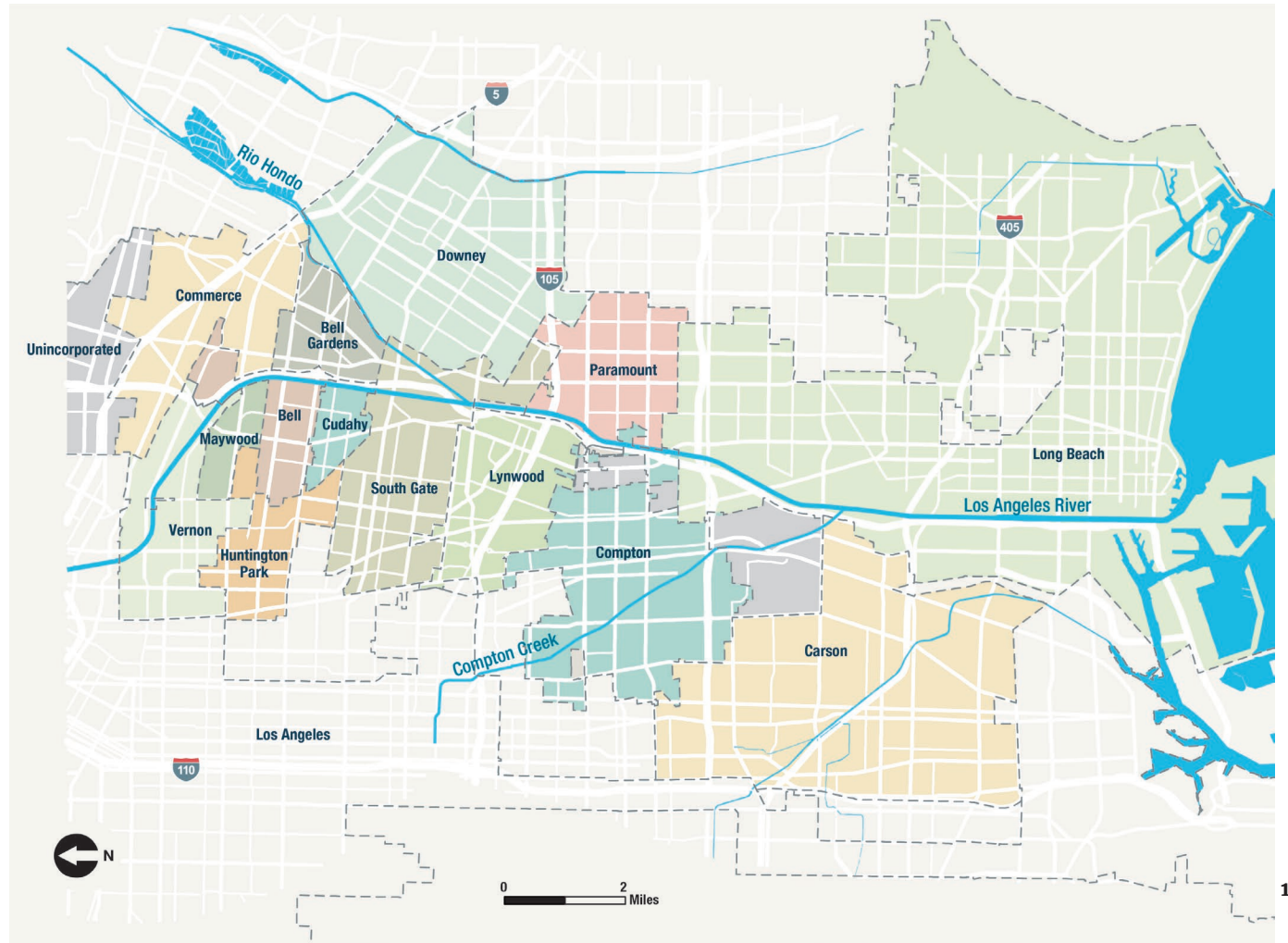
Photo by Calvin Abe



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The Lower Los Angeles River Story

This Plan addresses the corridor within one mile of either side of the river from Vernon to Long Beach.



The COMMUNITY

Who is in the Lower Los Angeles River corridor?

93%

of the population
self-identify as a race
other than white
(2010 U.S. Census)



14 cities lie within the corridor



14.5%

of corridor residents
experience food insecurity

80%

of business
are considered
“small”



64.1% of households are considered low income



14.6%

unemployment
rate



Additional community and corridor data and
statistics can be found in Volume 2, Chapter 1.

There are approximately

2500

homeless people living along the river

72%

of all businesses
are minority owned

33%

of adults living in
corridor are obese

The REVITALIZATION AREA

Where are we now?

19
miles

The Lower Los Angeles River is 19 miles from Vernon to Long Beach

Residents of corridor are more environmentally disadvantaged than **90%** of Californians

176

sites contaminated by pollution

Only
2%

of the corridor is covered by shade trees

8.7 miles
of multi-use trails

710
FWY

Allows commerce, but also divides communities, impedes access to the river, and impairs air quality

5 Cities within the corridor have bike lanes

Bicyclists must cross the river using dangerous bridges like Imperial Hwy for a continuous ride

0

Equestrian crossings to connect trail

People in the corridor communities have

1/3

the park space than the current County average

Additional community and corridor data and statistics can be found in Volume 2, Chapter 1

The RIVER TODAY

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER IS NOT A TYPICAL RIVER



LEVEE

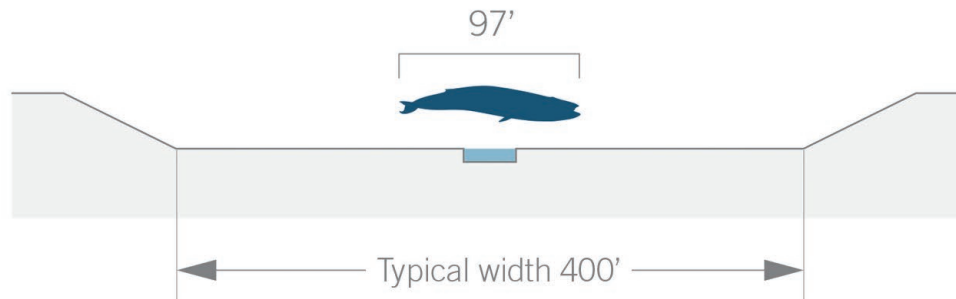
STORM DRAIN OUTFALL

LEVEE

STORM DRAIN OUTFALL

LOW-FLOW CHANNEL

THE RIVER CHANNEL IS SURPRISINGLY LARGE.



MANY WELL-KNOWN PUBLIC SPACES AND LANDMARKS COULD FIT WITHIN ITS BANKS.

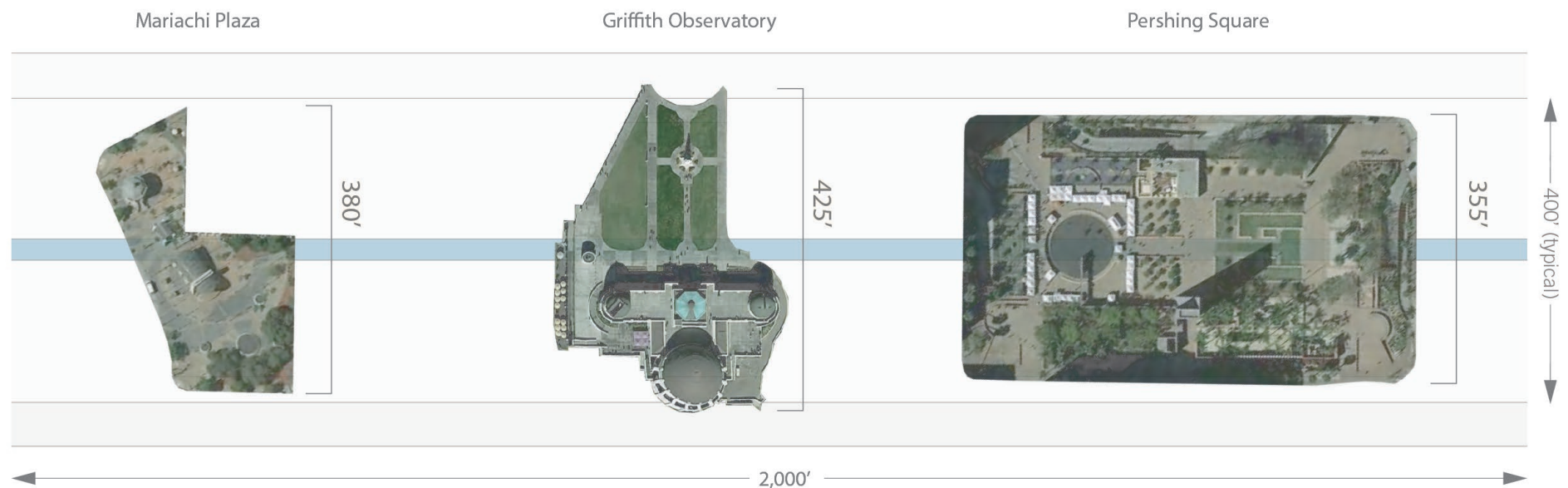


Photo Source Left, Calvin Abe; Right, lower three images, 2018 Google Earth

834
square miles
(17% of
LA County)



The river has the
largest watershed
in LA County

Watershed:
A watershed is the land
area or topographic
region that drains into a
particular stream, river
or lake



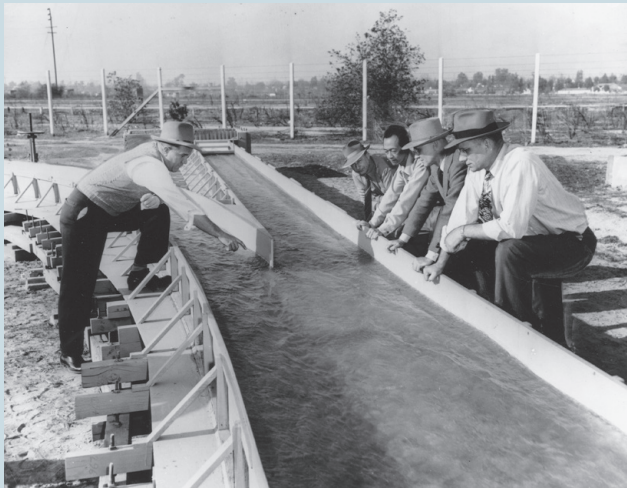
Men remove rocks and boulders from one bank of the Los Angeles River using their hands and rakes during construction, 1938
 Photo: Herman J. Schultheis Collection, Los Angeles Public Library

The RIVER *How did we get here?*



Cudahy Packing Company, part of the industrialization that took place directly adjacent to the river, 1930s
 Photo: Los Angeles Public Library

	Gaspar de Portola and father Juan Crespi name the River		A massive flood cuts a new path south of the pueblo to San Pedro Bay		Development boom results in homes and businesses being built in the floodplain		Many of the historic bridges are built, while levees are built along more than a third of the River		Industrialization increases along the River's banks
5,000 B.C.E. –1700's	1769	1781	1825	1850	Mid 1800's	1910	1910 –1933	1914	1918
Tongva and Yangna Indian build villages along the River		El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles is founded where Olvera Street now exists		Los Angeles incorporated as a City		City passes ordinance prohibiting dumping in the River		Major flood causes widespread damage	



USACE engineers using a physical model as part of the Los Angeles River design effort in 1948
Photo: Herald-Examiner Collection, Los Angeles Public Library



A car drives carefully through flooding in Downey, 1954
Photo: Herald-Examiner Collection, Los Angeles Public Library



Miniature physical models of the Los Angeles River and other flood control and channel improvement projects in the area, 1948
Photo: Herald-Examiner Collection, Los Angeles Public Library

	Massive flooding occurs, causes Congress to authorize concrete channels		Most devastating flood on record occurs		Mayor Tom Bradley establishes first task force on the River to look at potential River improvements		County receives open space assessment district funds to provide new River access through parks and bike trails		Assembly Bill 530 (AB 530) adopted to establish the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group
1921	1934	1935	1938	1941	1989	1990	1992	2007	2015
Flood control construction moves the mouth of the River one mile east		Army Corps begins channelization		Sepulveda Dam is completed		County of Los Angeles River Task Force is formed and restoration efforts begin		The City of Los Angeles adopted the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan	



Commerce, California



Multi-use path along the river channel



Community Kick off Event in Long Beach



The Lower Los Angeles River

Where do we want to go?

The Lower LA River Revitalization Plan (the Plan) seeks to inspire local advocates and decision-makers and serve as a guide for creating vibrant spaces in the river corridor which are beneficial to all members of the community and the environment. This Plan was created by the community to meet the needs of the community!



Community Economics, Health and Equity

To ensure that a restored Los Angeles River promotes health, equity, and brings economic and environmental benefits to all residents and local small businesses and does not contribute to gentrification and displacement. Revitalization efforts should build the resilience of residents and small businesses against gentrification and displacement, foster collective community identity and pride and increase economic mobility and opportunities for local populations. Restoration must prioritize and promote inclusivity, health and equity, and climate resilience. In short—Lower Los Angeles River revitalization must be a model of equitable redevelopment, one that ensures that healthy community investments in these communities benefits existing families and generations to come.



Public Realm

Create diverse, vibrant public spaces along and connected to the Lower Los Angeles River resulting in safe, inviting, healthy green spaces that support diverse local communities, allowing equitable access to nature and a variety of recreational, entertainment, multi-modal transportation and socio-economic opportunities that enhances quality of life and sustains watershed health.



Water and Environment

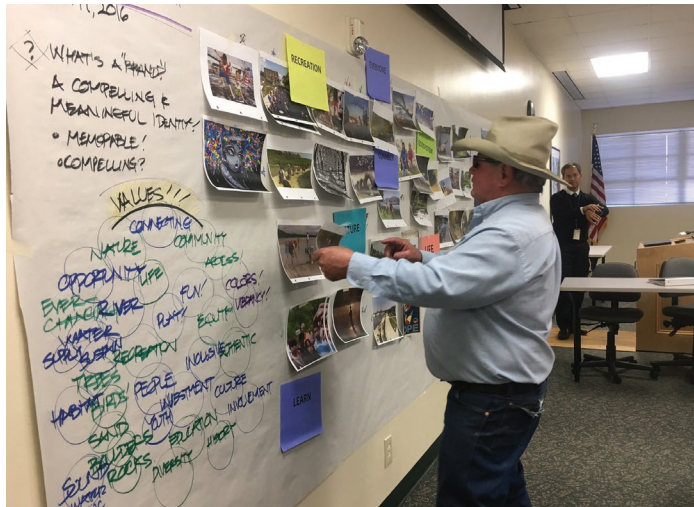
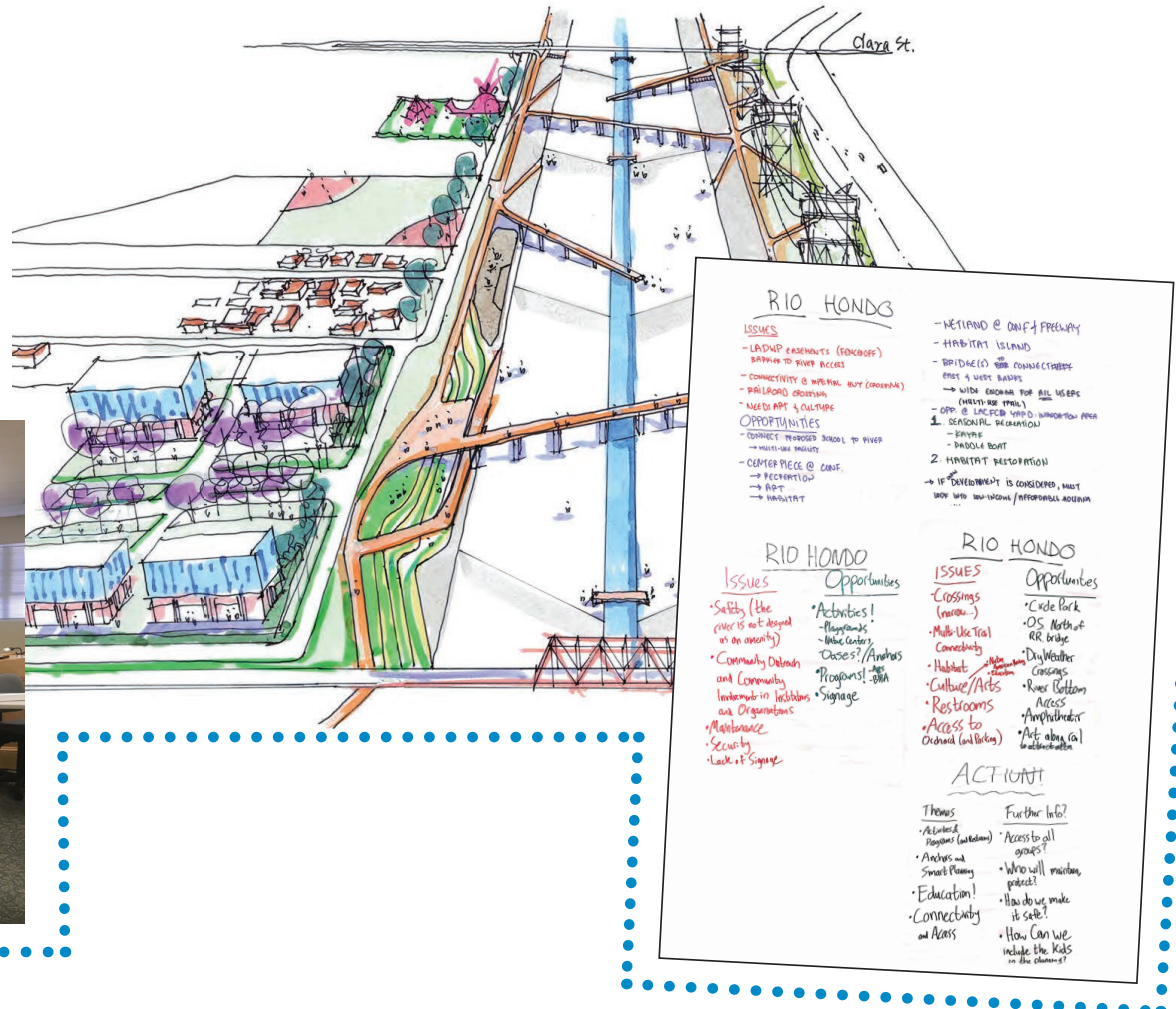
Conserve and restore natural river and watershed functions while managing flood risk, enhancing the long-term ecosystem services provided to surrounding communities, and mitigating climate changes and environmental impacts of urbanization on the LLAR, floodplains, and associated habitats.

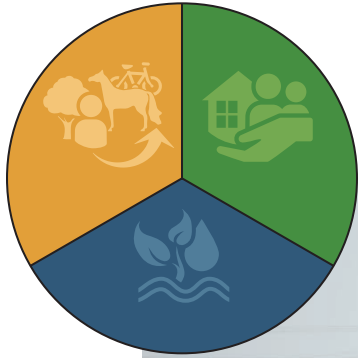


How do we get there?

The following chapters of the Plan provide details regarding who developed the recommended projects, how they were developed and why. Benefits from the projects will only be realized if:

- Equitable planning approaches are used to select, place and scale projects while maintaining strong connections to the community.
- Projects are selected based on community support which meet the goals established by the Working Group and the community.
- Proposed projects are continued to be assessed and adapted based on community needs.
- Coordination with traditional and nontraditional partners is encouraged to ensure support, funding and maintenance.
- Projects are integrated into existing and future land use, infrastructure, transportation or river revitalization plans.





Dominguez Gap Wetlands