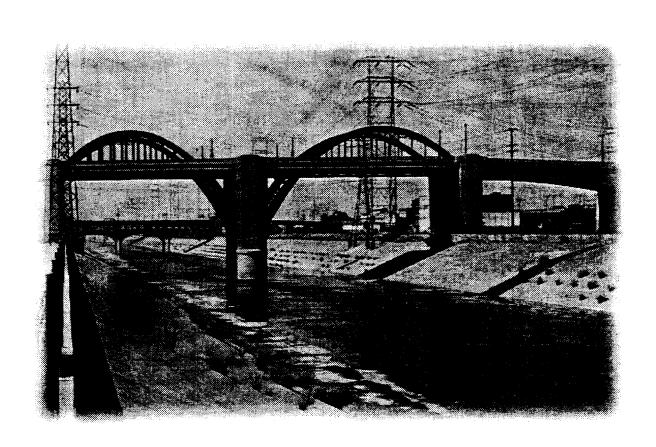
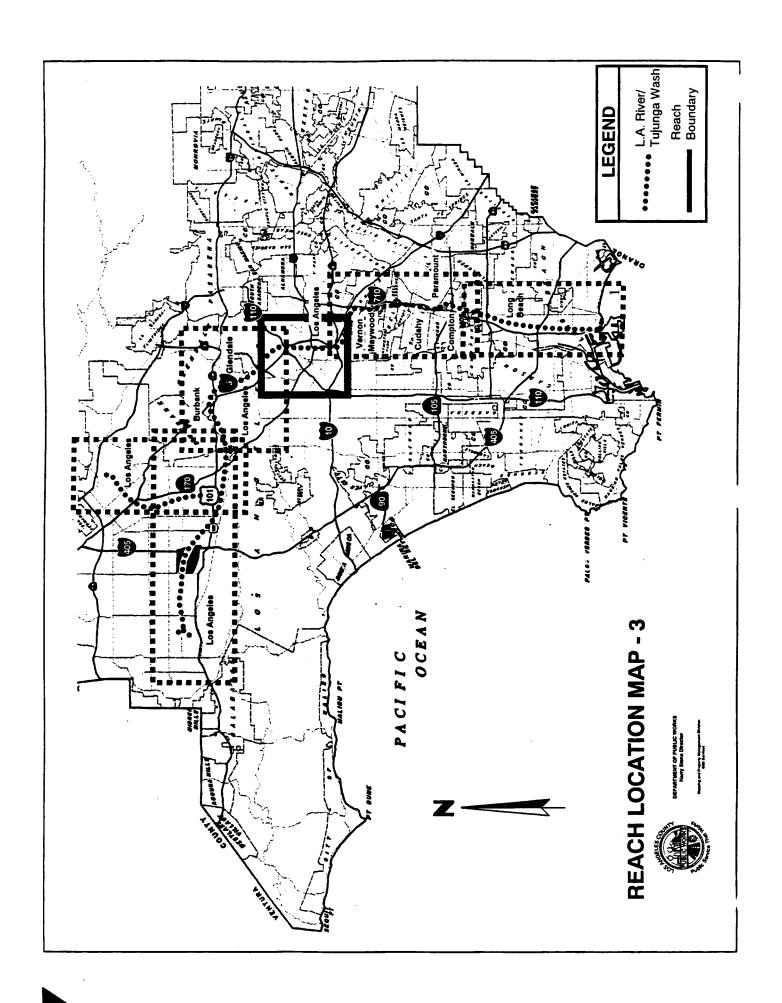
REACH 3: DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES





REACH 3: DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

This five-mile long reach spans the area between Arroyo Seco and Washington Boulevard. It includes the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights, Chinatown and the downtown area. The river is visible from the 101, 10 and 60 freeways.

Having just cleared the easternmost point of the Santa Monica Mountains, the river is still entrenched in this reach. It consists of a rectangular or trapezoidal concrete channel, with the water generally restricted to a central low-flow channel. There are no maintenance roads adjacent to the channel and river access is restricted by railroad tracks that parallel the entire reach.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has utility easements along both sides of the river. Although railroads dominate the adjacent land, there are areas with 10- to 50-foot wide linear clearings among the tracks. Outside of the railroad lines, land uses include housing, industrial and commercial areas, city and county facilities and historic sites. Most residential use is concentrated on the east side of the river, with industrial, commercial, financial and civic activities located on the west side.

The river marks the boundary between the North East Los Angeles Plan and the Hollywood and Silverlake-Echo Park District Plans. The boundary area between the Central City North Community Plan and the Boyle Heights Community Plan and property adjacent to the river are predominantly designated as low-density residential and industrial, with Griffith and Elysian parks providing open space. Land adjacent to the river through Boyle Heights is mostly designated for light and heavy industry. In the downtown area, the river is designated as "publicly-owned open space," while adjacent properties are designated exclusively for light and heavy industry. Little vegetation grows in or along the river channel and there is little evidence of wildlife here.

The area is rich in cultural resources and natural history. The topography of the area reflects the historic route of the river as it made a wide swing to the west into Ballona Creek toward Santa Monica Bay. The original Pueblo of Los Angeles was founded just east of the river to take advantage of the river's dependable supply of water. Union Station, Little Tokyo and Chinatown are within a mile of the river.

Downey Recreation Center at Broadway and Spring Street is the largest park within this reach. It lies adjacent to the river but is separated by the railroad. Several historic bridges span the river in this reach. Many people use the channel for recreation and bathing and homeless people seek shelter here. Up to a dozen projects by various agencies and private entities are currently being planned in the vicinity of the river in this reach. These projects, if coordinated, could provide a greenway link to the river's edge that may not otherwise be obtainable given current access constraints.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

POPULATION (1994): 3,620,500; LAND AREA: 468.80 SQ. MI.

Los Angeles (incorporated in 1858) is the oldest and largest city in Los Angeles County, both by population and land area. It has a large job base spread among most major categories although manufacturing, entertainment, technology, services and retail trade dominate. Los Angeles which stretches from the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley to Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro and the western boundary of the San Gabriel Valley also enjoys great geographic diversity. The median family income in the city was \$34,364 in 1989. The largest ethnic group in the city is White, followed by Hispanics and African-Americans.

ISSUES

- There is need for improved flood protection.
- Many open-land sites along the river are contaminated.
- Water quality here must be improved through recharge, reclamation and conservation.
- The river right-of-way needs to be cleaned up.
- Job and housing issues need to be addressed.
- Tourism, entertainment, cultural interaction and history are potential themes for river enhancement.
- There is a desire to develop the river as a connector of cities and communities.
- There is a need for environmental and recreational projects and programs.

ADOPTED GENERAL OR RECREATIONAL PLANS

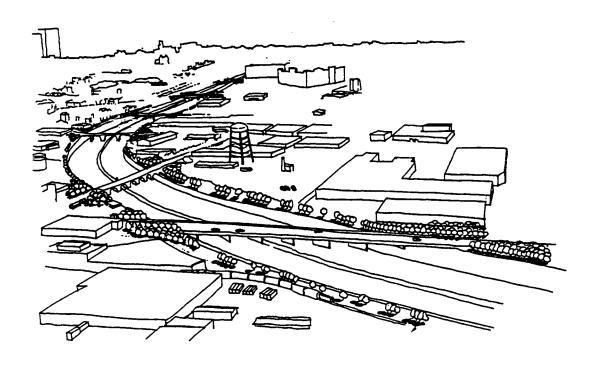
• In the city's General Plan, the river is designated as open space within the downtown area.

JURISDICTIONAL PLANNED PROJECTS

- City of Los Angeles Bikeway Plan.
- City of Los Angeles Community Plans "City North" and "Boyle Heights".
- The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy River Greenway Project to connect El Pueblo State Historic Park to Elysian and Griffith Parks along the Los Angeles River by creating a system of parks, trails and rest stops.

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON MASTER PLAN GOALS

- Plant trees on both sides of river.
- Encourage economic development in several locations.
- Develop cultural and historic interpretive sites at two locations.
- Connect Downey Park to the river and provide an overlook.
- Bikeway to leave river at Broadway and return at Macy Street then follow Santa Fe Road south to Washington.
- Gateway planting at 101 Freeway and the river.
- Tie all new development to the river trail.





OTHER PROJECTS

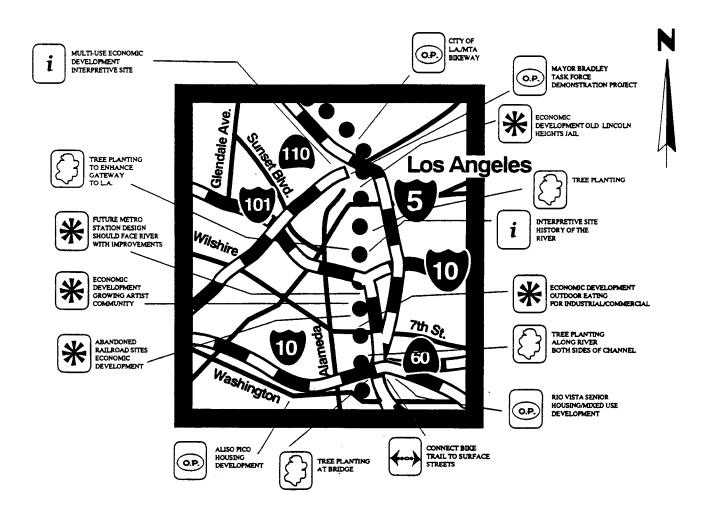
1. Rio Vista Senior Housing and Mixed-Use Development.

2. A Plan for City North: A plan for the improvement of existing neighborhoods and the creation of new ones.

 City of Los Angeles Boyle Heights Study: A plan to facilitate discussion about community development.

- Aliso Pico Housing Redevelopment: A gated townhome community funded by HUD to be developed adjacent to the river.
- Mariachi Plaza: An MTA project to construct a Metro station and plaza.
- 6. MTA Yard: New MTA yard and future site of a Metro station.
- 7. Mayor Bradley Task Force Demonstration Project: A downtown historic site and bridge festival would celebrate the history of the Broadway Street bridge and the diverse cultures of Los Angeles.
- 8. Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, planned by the National Park Service, follows the river through this reach.

REACH/PROJECT LOCATION-3 SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1

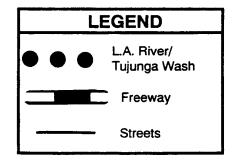




DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Harry Stone, Director

Mapping and Property Management Division GBS Services

N. T. S.



EXISTING FACILITIES



RIVER R.O.W.



PARK, SCHOOL, CHURCH, **EQUESTRIAN FACILITY**



TRAIL



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



OTHER PROJECT



AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENT (MURAL)

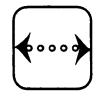


TRAIL





GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM



TRAIL/OPEN SPACE CONNECTION



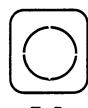
PUBLIC UTILITY R.O.W.



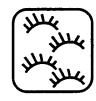
INTERPRETIVE SITE



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



Access To River TRAIL/OVERVIEW



ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT



