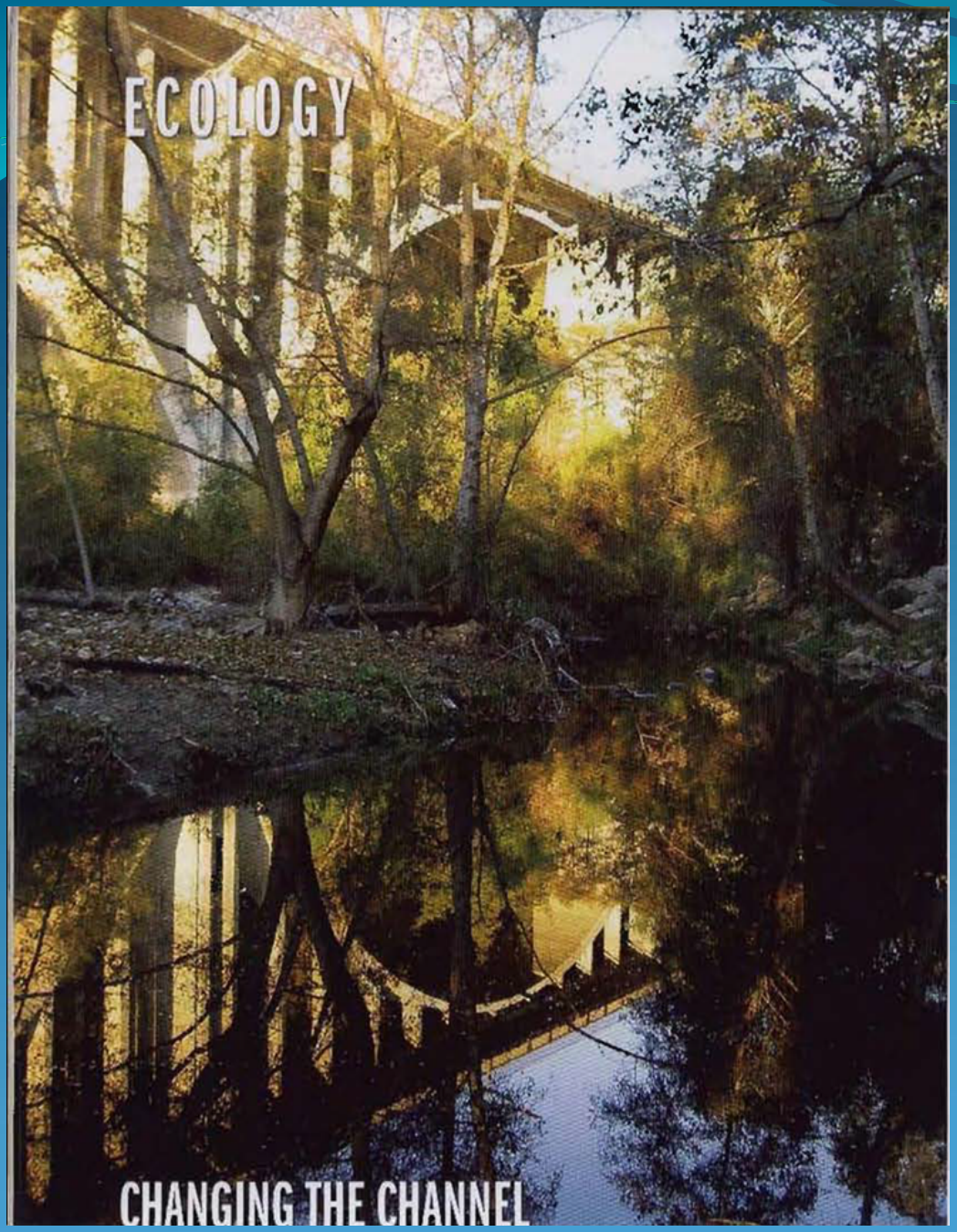


The Arroyo Seco

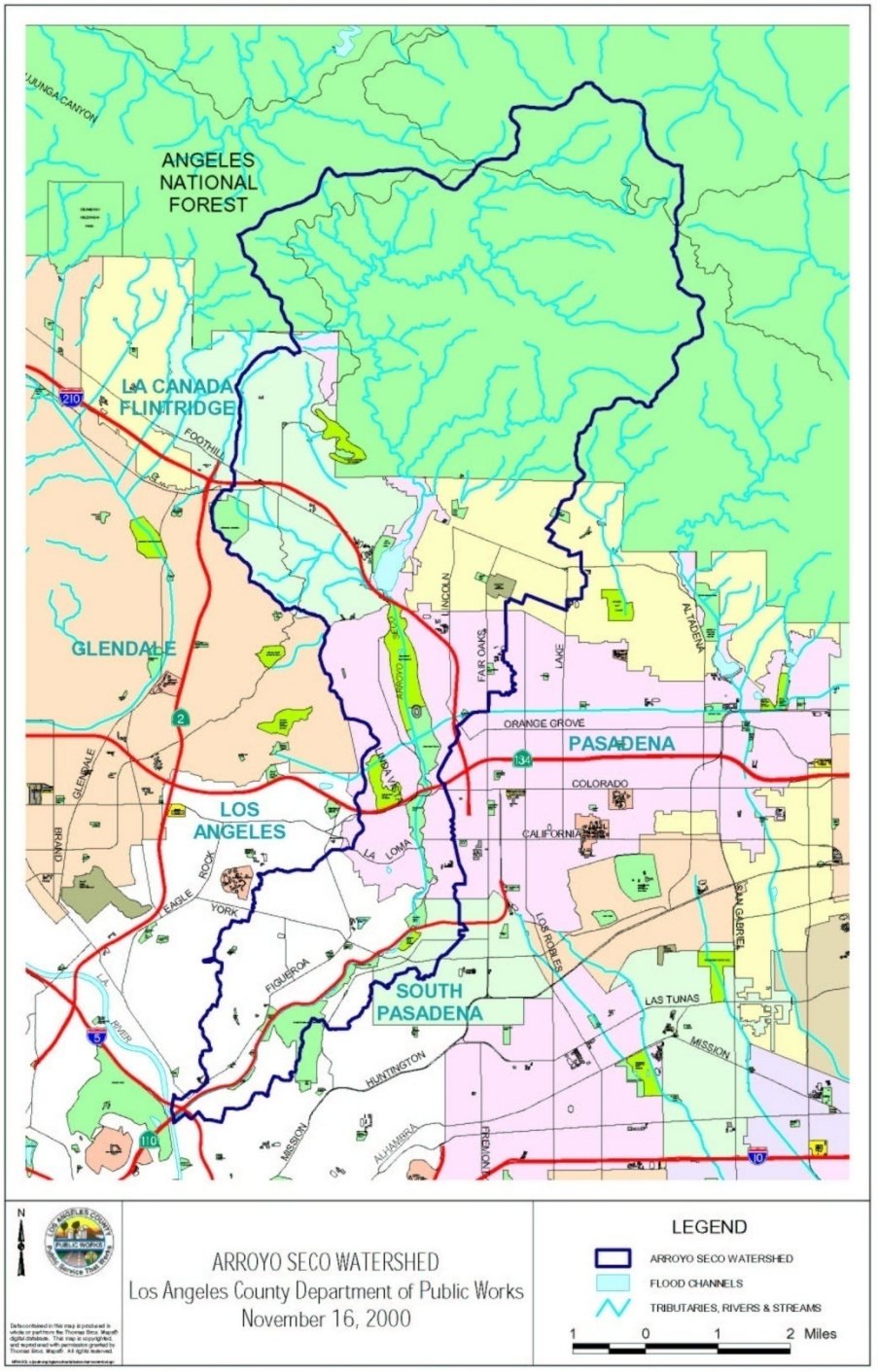
Restoring a Living River - The Time Is Now

Tim Brick

Arroyo Seco Foundation

The Arroyo Seco

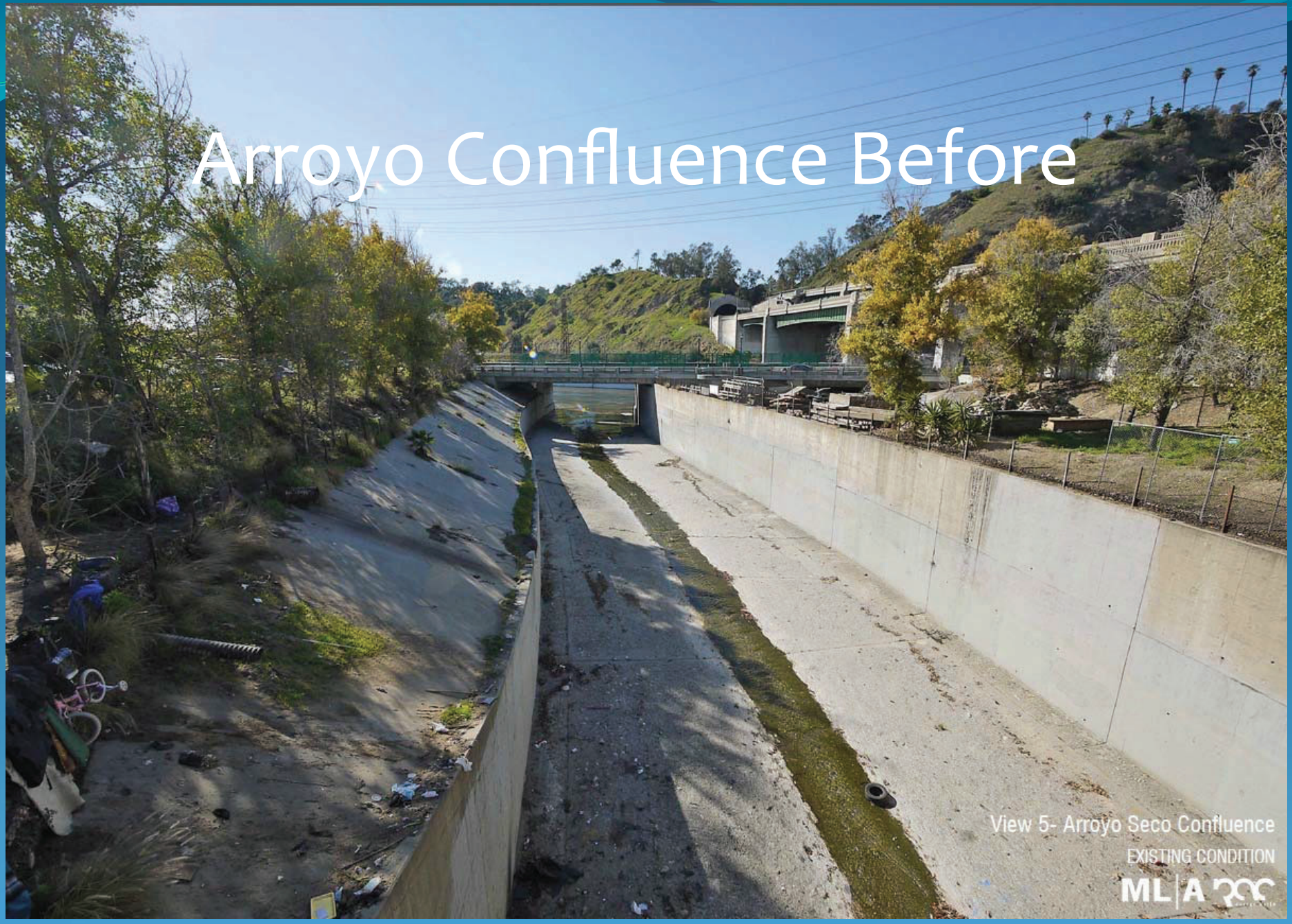
- Major tributary of the Los Angeles River
- Linking downtown LA to the San Gabriel Mountains
- Home of JPL and the Rose Bowl
- Watershed Management Program for last ten years
- Corps Feasibility Study



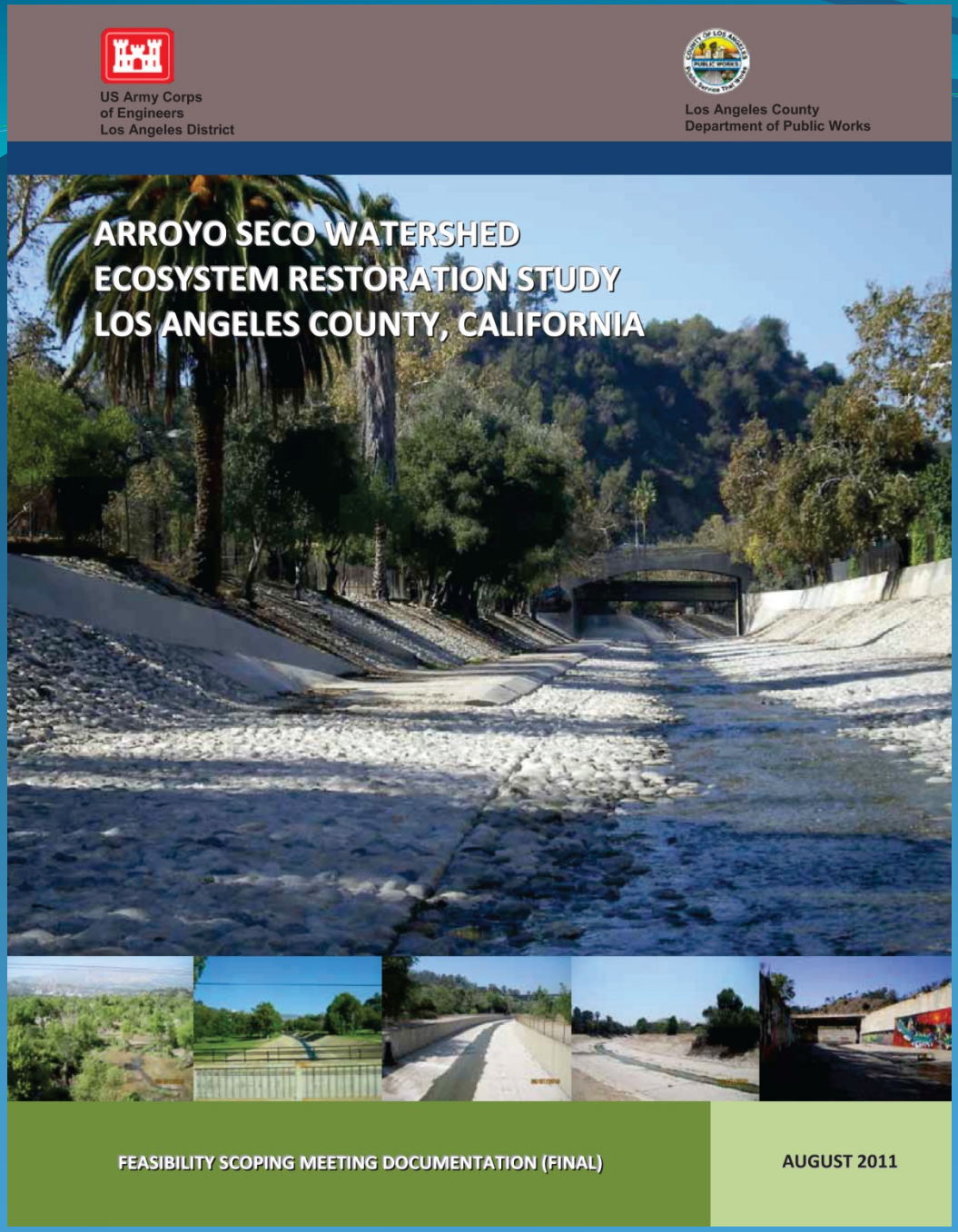
Damage Caused by Urbanization / Channelization

* destruction of habitat and wildlife
* reduced infiltration
* impaired water quality

Arroyo Confluence Before



Arroyo Confluence After

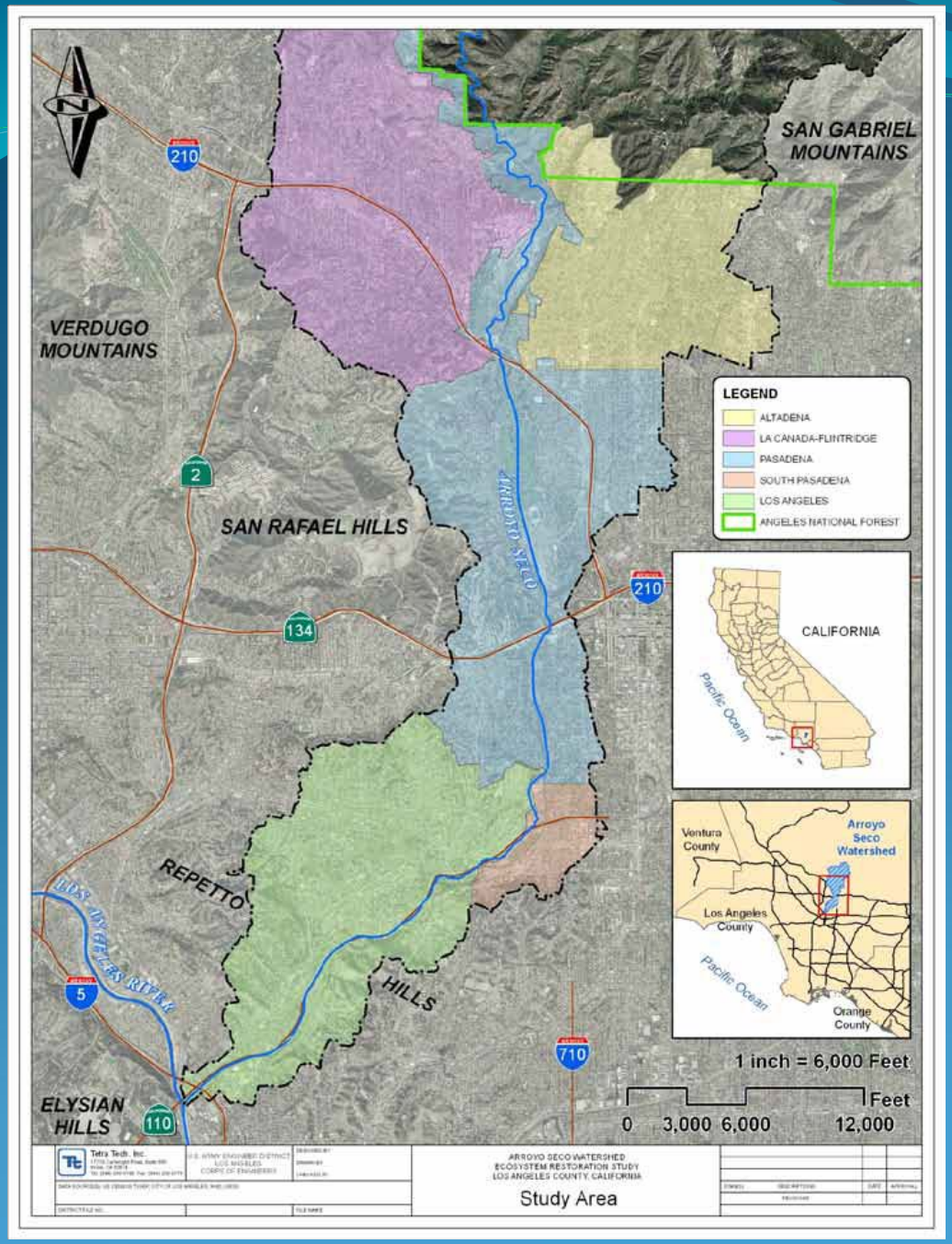


US Army Corps Arroyo Seco Study

Purposes

- Ecosystem Restoration
- Flood Peak/ Damage Reduction
- Water Supply and Re-Use
- Passive Recreation
- Surface & Ground Water Quality
- Public Education

Corps Study Map



Local Partners

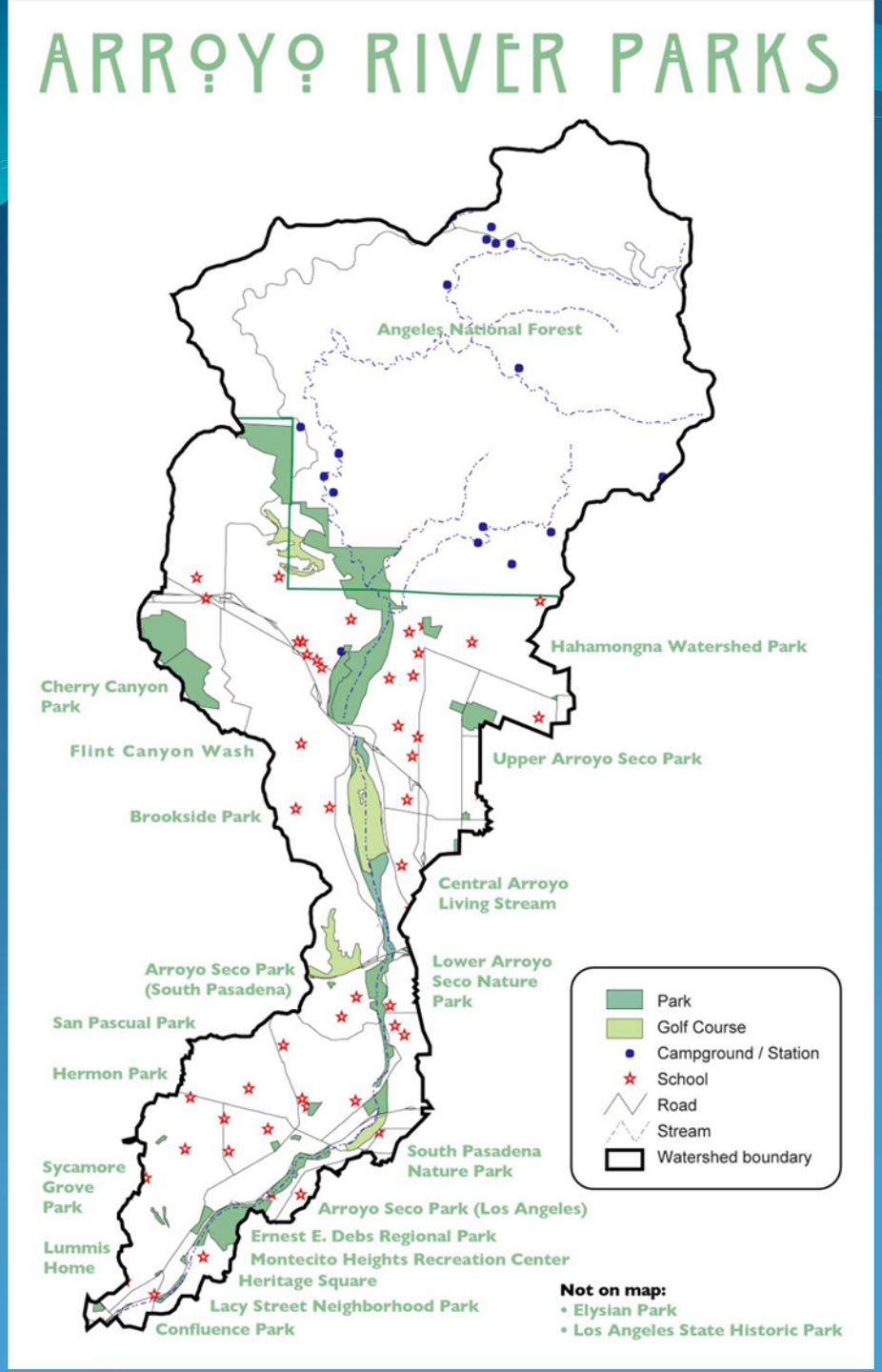
- LA County Flood Control District
- Pasadena
- La Canada Flintridge
- South Pasadena
- Los Angeles

Sites Under Consideration

- Hahamongna Area
- Flint Wash
- 210 Freeway near Oak Grove
- Brookside Area
- Lower Arroyo Park
- South Pasadena Island
- Arroyo Seco through Los Angeles
- Sycamore Grove Park

ARROYO RIVER PARKS

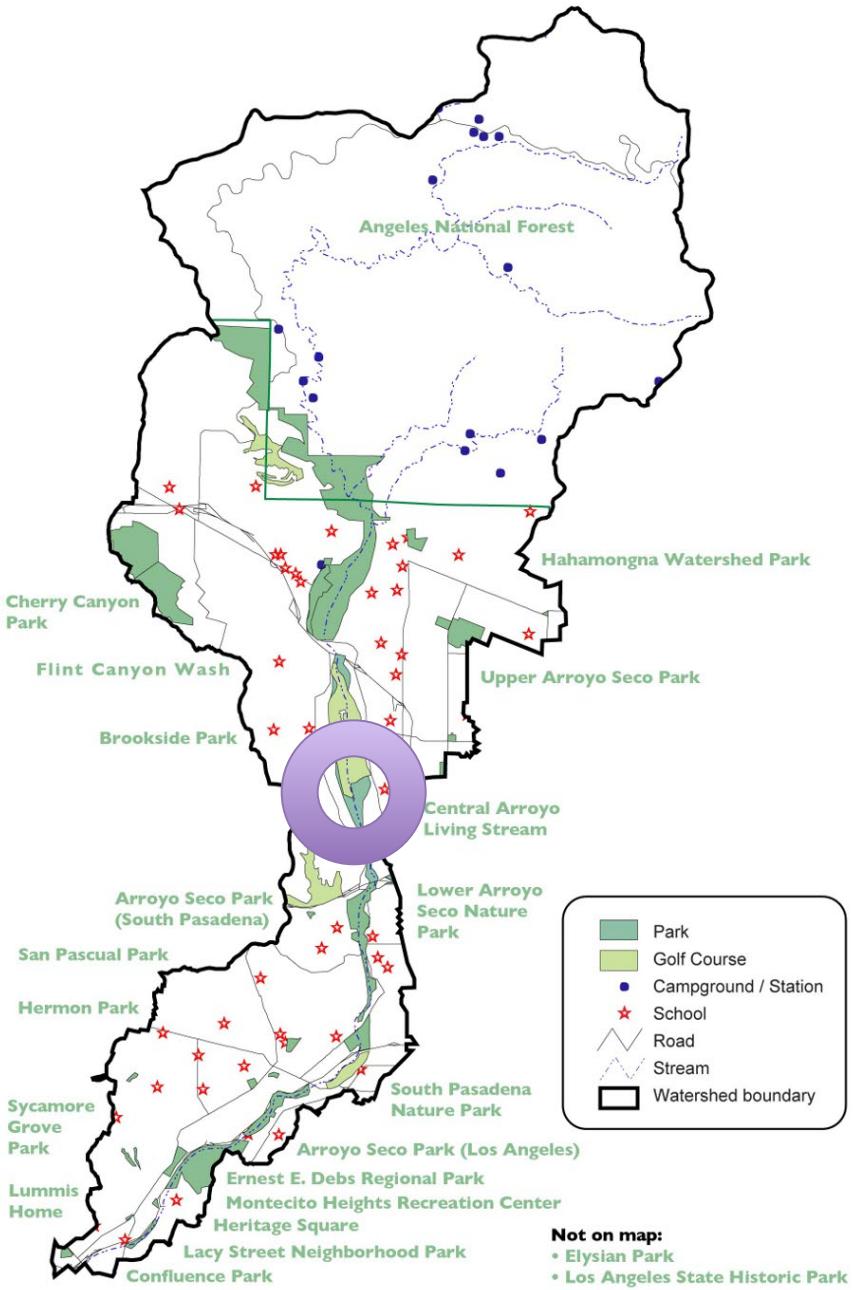
A framework for restoring the Arroyo Seco



Vision

- The integration of the Arroyo Seco stream with surrounding parklands to create a cohesive network supporting hydrological, ecological, and social connections and emphasizing respect for this unique place.

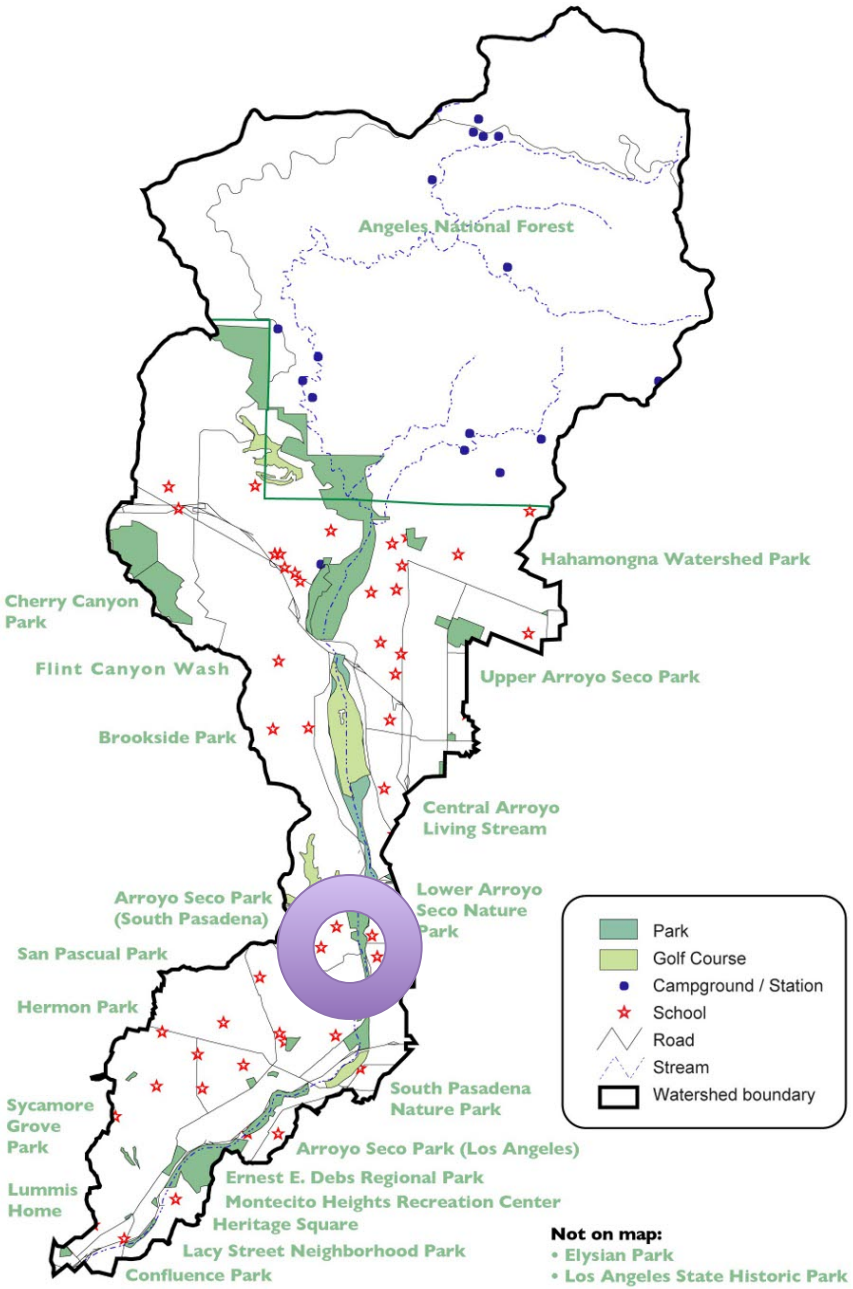
ARROYO RIVER PARKS



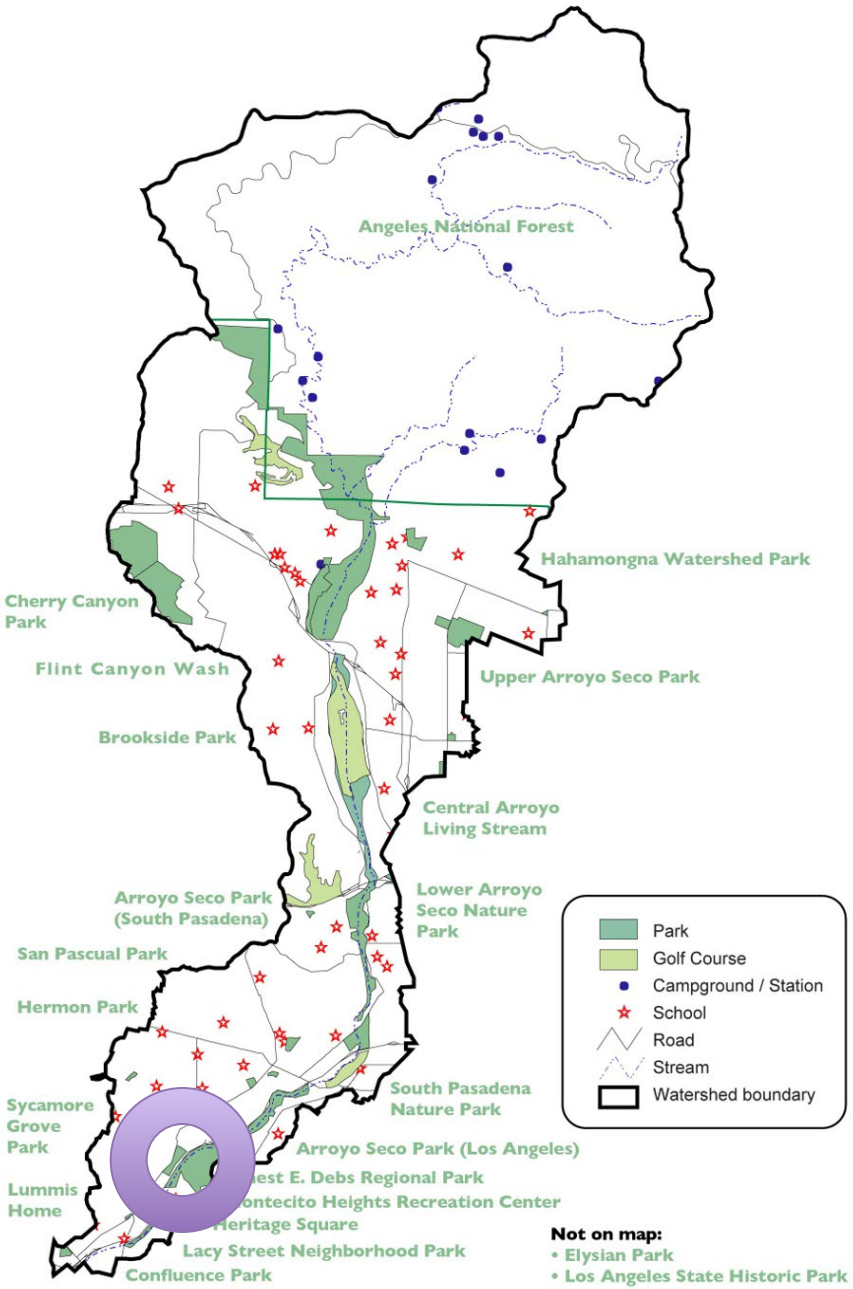
Rose Bowl

Brookside Park – 1920s

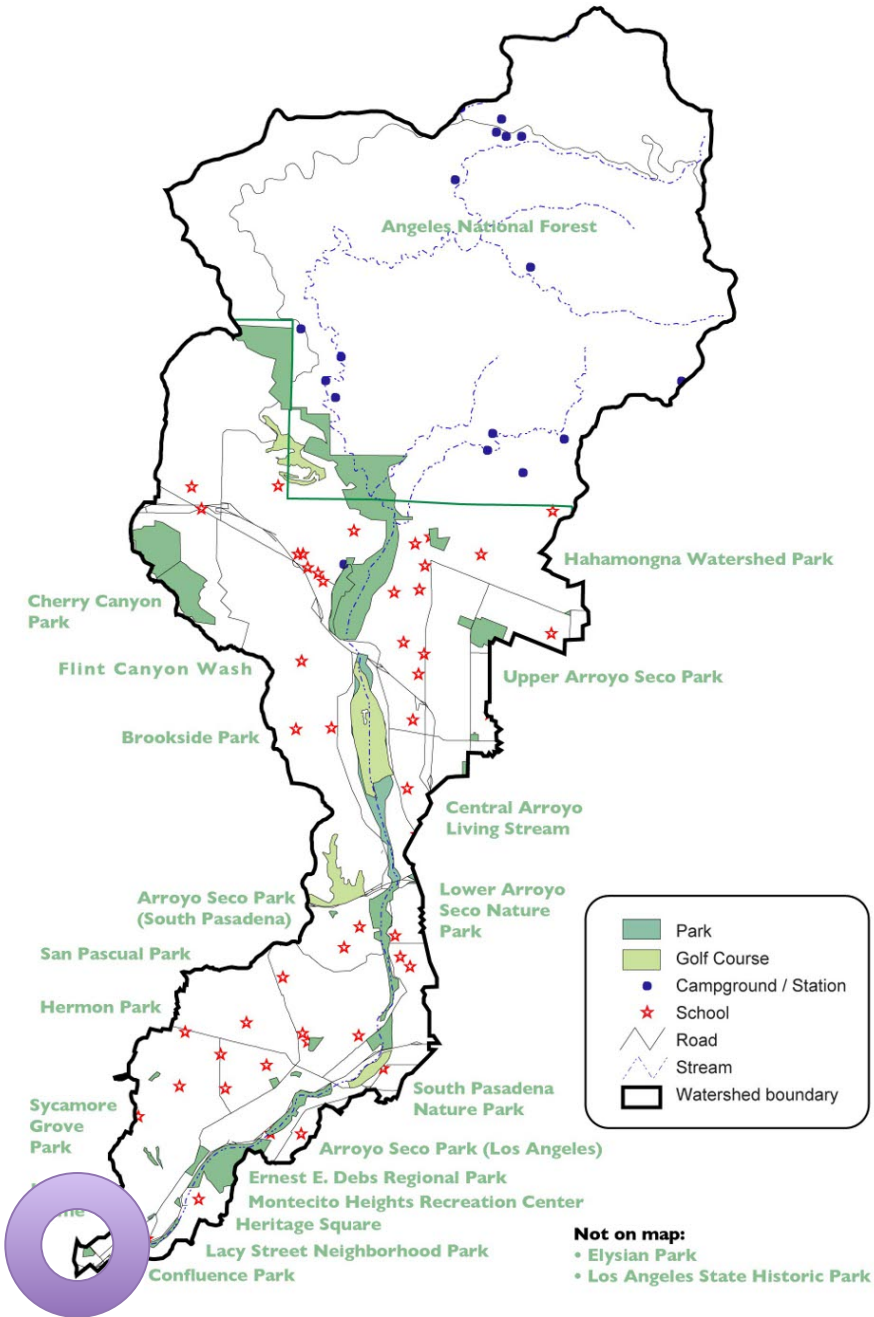
ARROYO RIVER PARKS

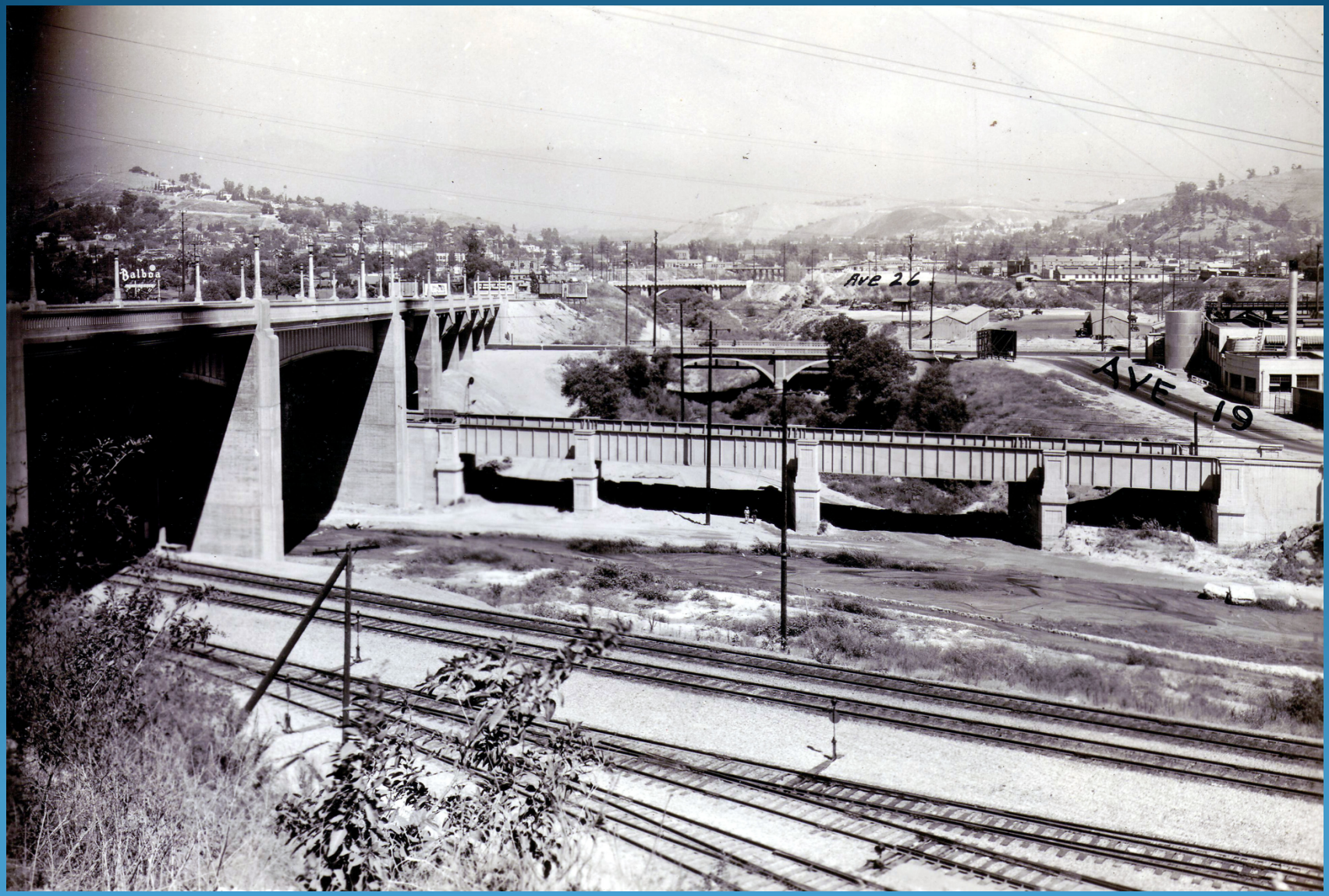


ARROYO RIVER PARKS



ARROYO RIVER PARKS

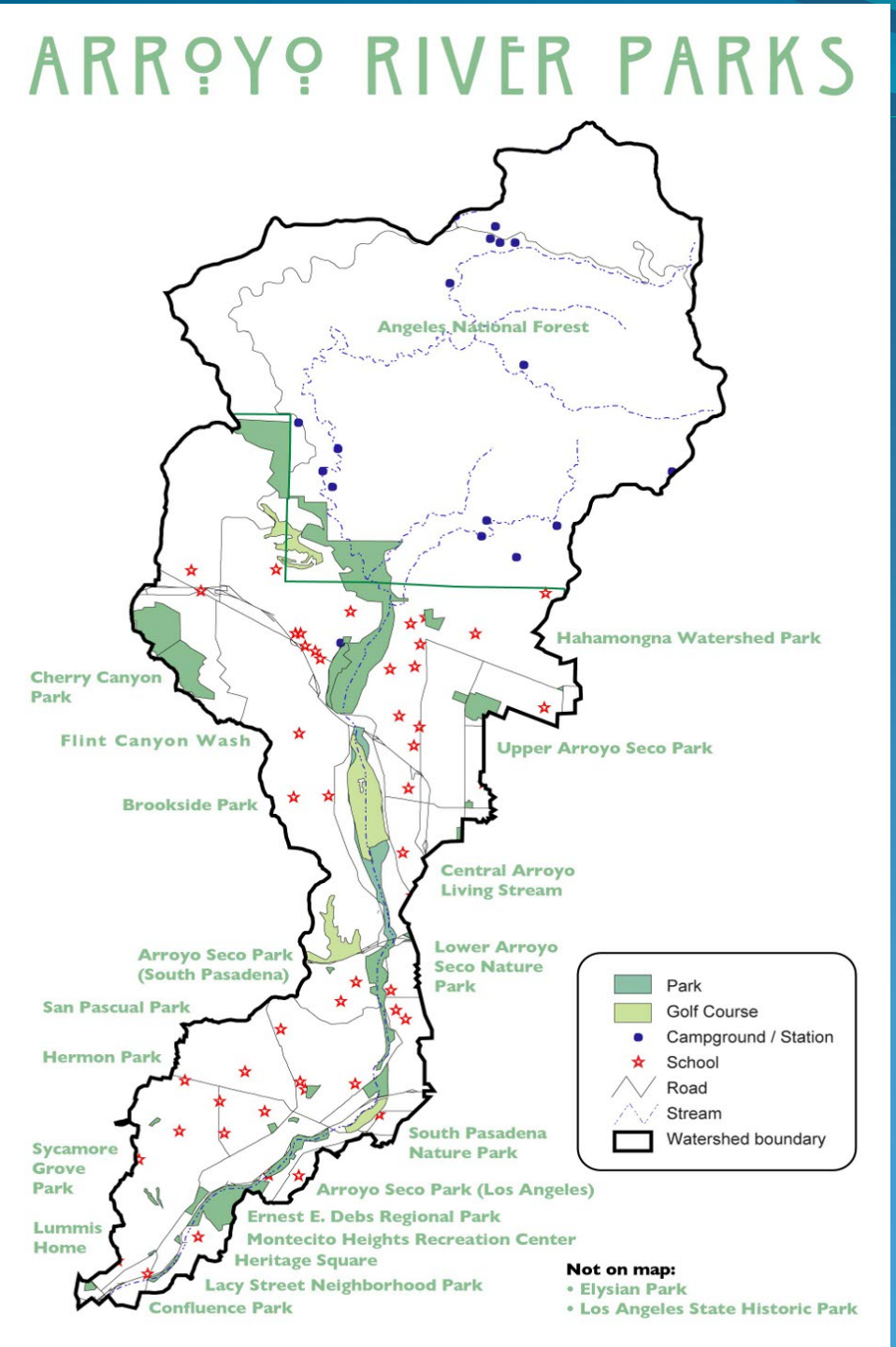




Arroyo Seco Confluence

Principles of Arroyo River Parks

- Integrate the parks with the river and the river with the parks.
- Manage parks and open space to aid flood protection and water conservation and quality.
- Develop open space linkages for wildlife movement.
- Naturalize the stream and floodplain to restore riparian and aquatic habitat.
- Expand the trail network to connect open space and cultural resources.
- Provide interpretive signage and educational programs to make the Arroyo an educational laboratory for Southern California.

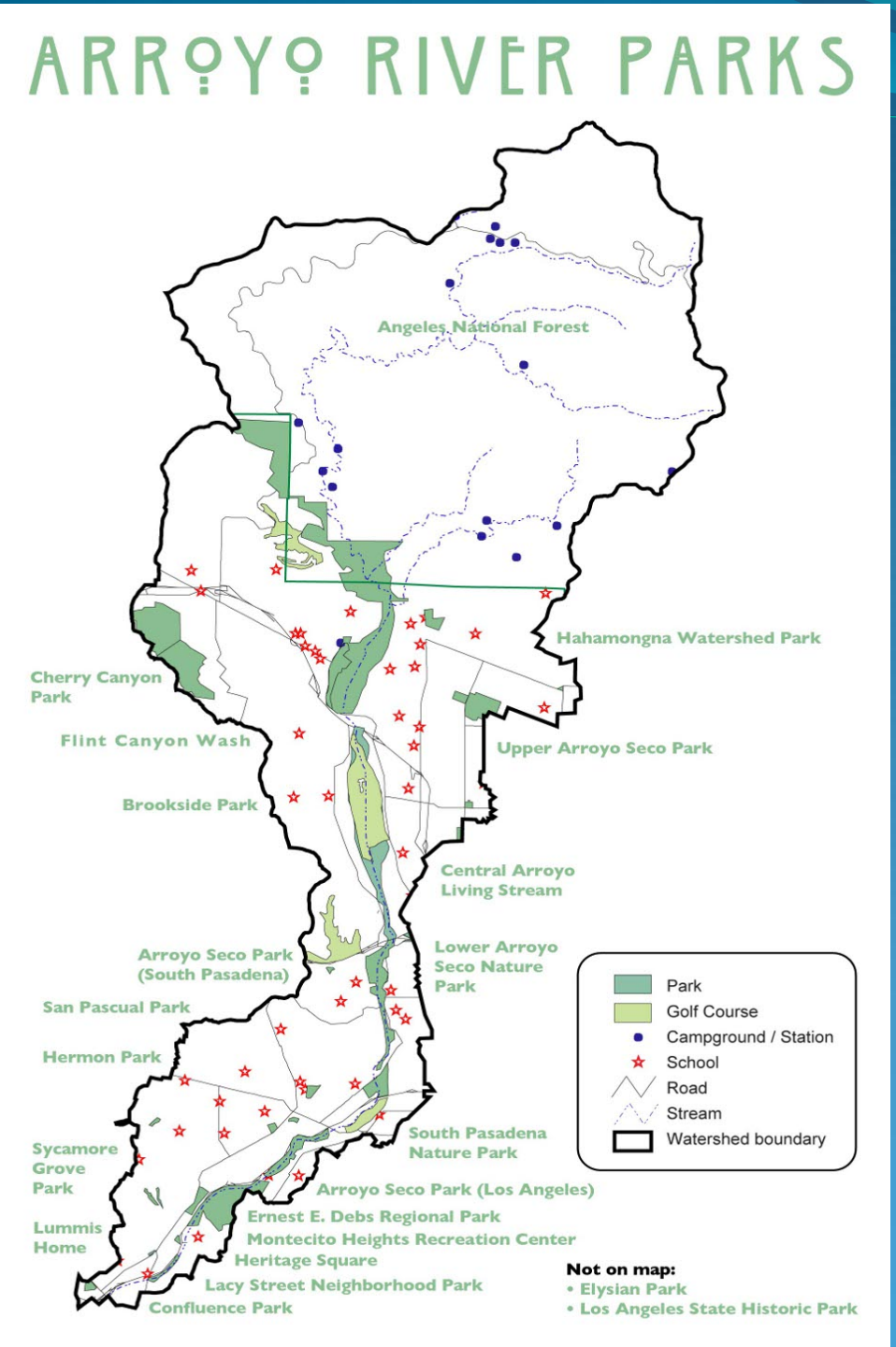


Advantages of Arroyo River Parks Approach:

- Alignment with Corps Goals
- Integrated Regional Watershed Approach
- Framework for Local Involvement
- Umbrella Approach
  - Caltrans Corridor Study
  - Pasadena' AS Planning
  - ASF's Watershed Assessment
  - Arroyo Seco Bikeway
  - MS4 Permit Projects
  - Flood Protection
- Maximize Habitat and Connectivity Benefits

ASF's Role in the Corps Study

- Involved since 2001 providing support and outreach
- Hosted Kickoff Meeting in Pasadena 2005
- Provided Support for:
  - CASO – the Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations
  - CASA – the Council of Arroyo Seco Agencies
- Supported Congressional Funding including congressional funding with Congressman Schiff
- Prepared AS Watershed Assessment
- 2012 Breakfast on Feasibility Scoping Study
- Arroyo River Parks Framework



Next Steps:

Outreach Program

- Public Presentations
- Survey of Users and Organizations
- Local Officials

Arroyo River Workshops

- Pasadena
- Los Angeles

Arroyo Seco Foundation
www.ArroyoSeco.org