



Arroyo Seco Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Study, CA

Presentation by:
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Objectives of Meeting

- Feasibility Study Process and Study Overview

 - Feasibility Study Process

 - Past and Present Studies

 - Preliminary Study Objectives and Measures

- NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

 - NEPA Overview

We want your input!



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Agenda

- Introductions
 - Los Angeles County Flood Control District
 - Army Corps of Engineers
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Study History
- On-Going Study
- Technical Work-in-Progress
- NEPA Process
- Schedule
- Public Input



Feasibility Study Phase



- Local Sponsor: Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- Cost Shared 50/50
- LA County 50%
 - In-Kind
 - Cash



Local Cooperating Agencies

City of
Pasadena



City of
Los Angeles



City of La
Cañada
Flintridge



Raymond Basin
Management Board



City of
South
Pasadena



Active Stakeholder Group:
Council of Arroyo Seco Agencies

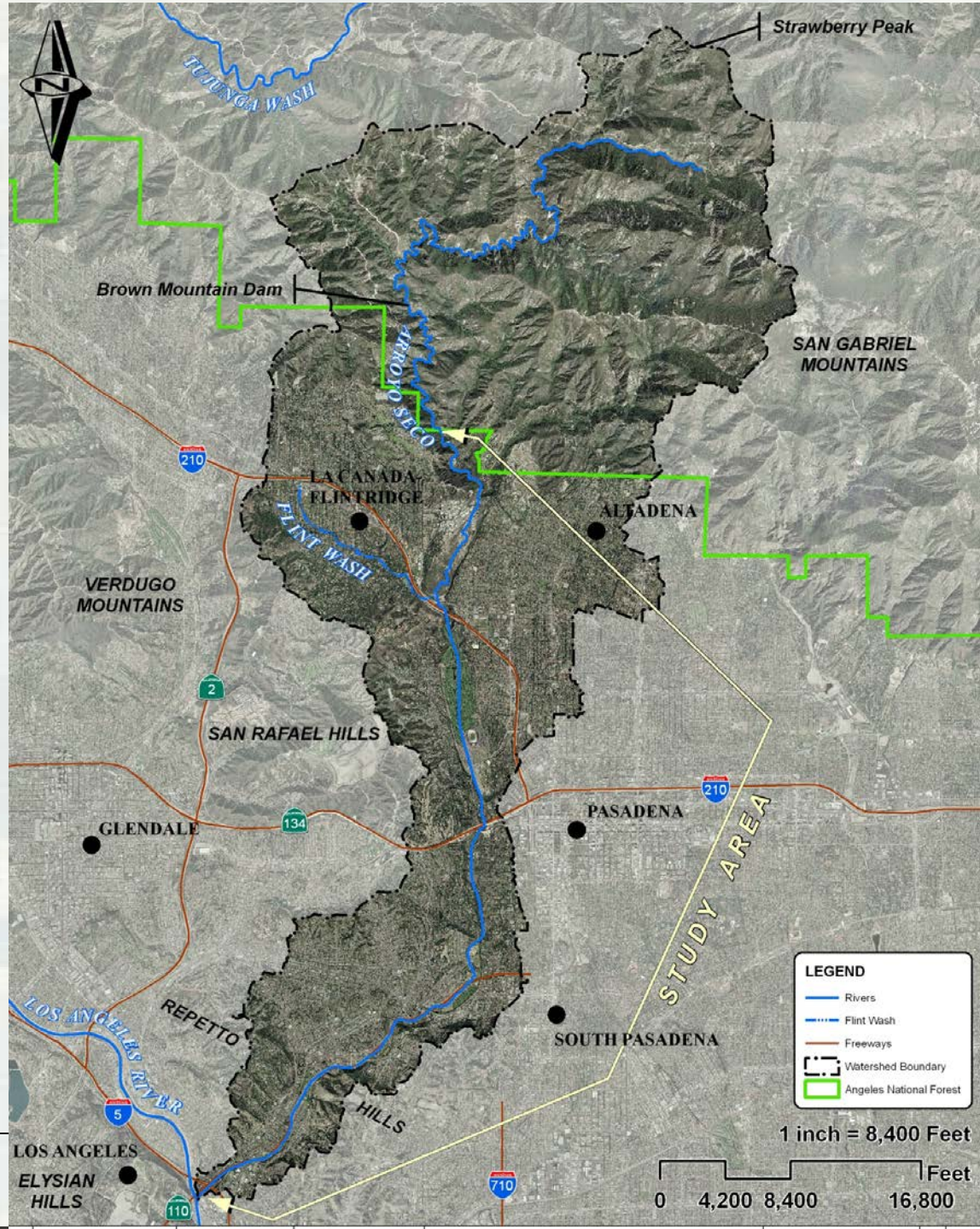


Study Location





Arroyo Seco Watershed



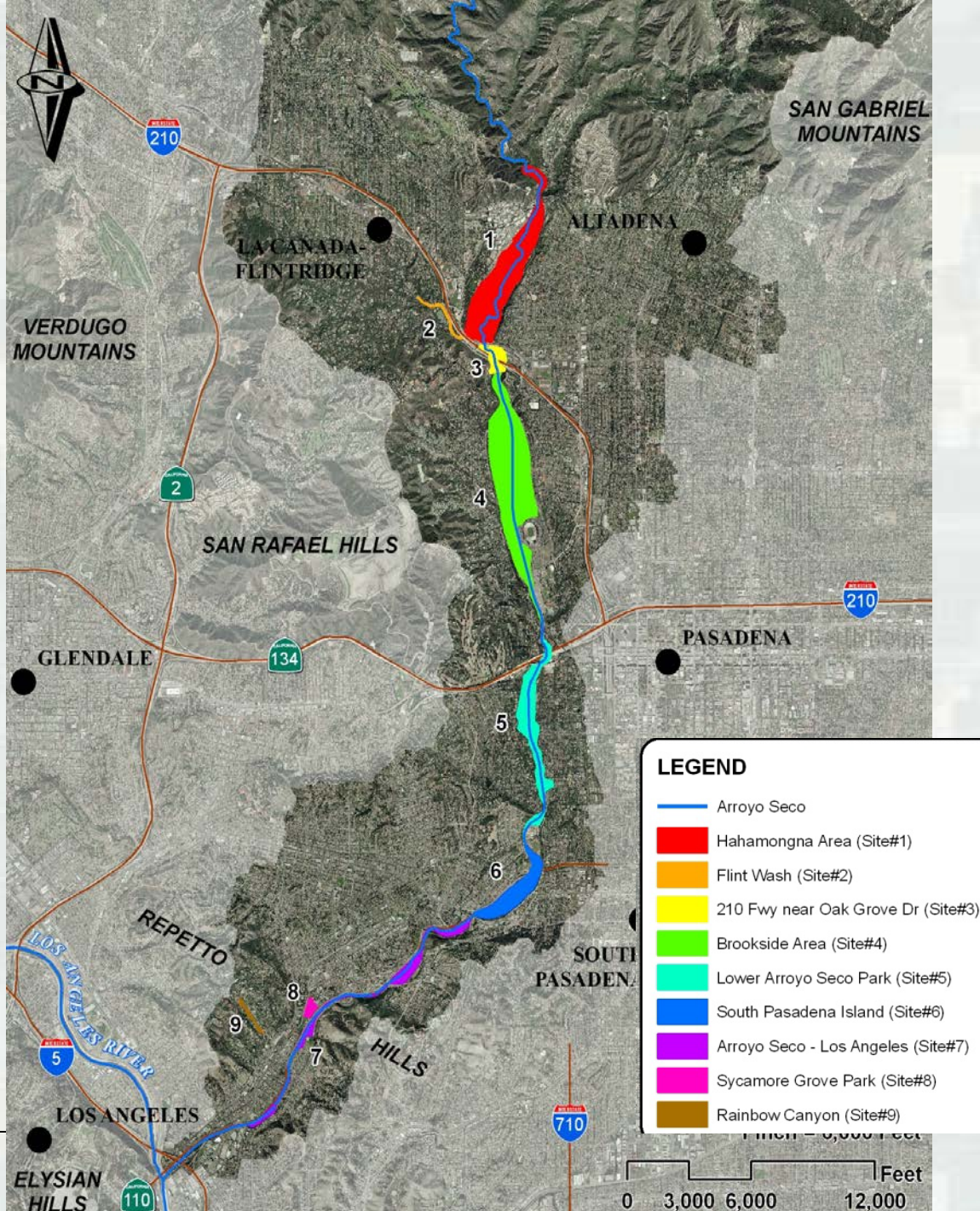
Study History

- Arroyo Seco Watershed Reconnaissance Study (2002)
- Arroyo Seco Watershed Study (2011)



Arroyo Seco Watershed, CA

- Watershed study recommended 9 sites for ecosystem restoration
- Watershed study is not a decision document
- Does not lead to a project implementation





On-Going Study

ARROYO SECO
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION FEASIBILITY
STUDY

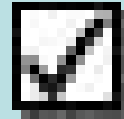
Decision Document

- Integrated Feasibility Report (includes environmental compliance document)
- Congressional authorization document for construction funds
- Includes:
 - a recommended action
 - a cost estimate for the action
 - NEPA document



General Overview of Civil Works Process

- RECONNAISSANCE PHASE



- FEASIBILITY PHASE



- FINAL DESIGN

- PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

- OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE
(responsibility of Local Sponsor)



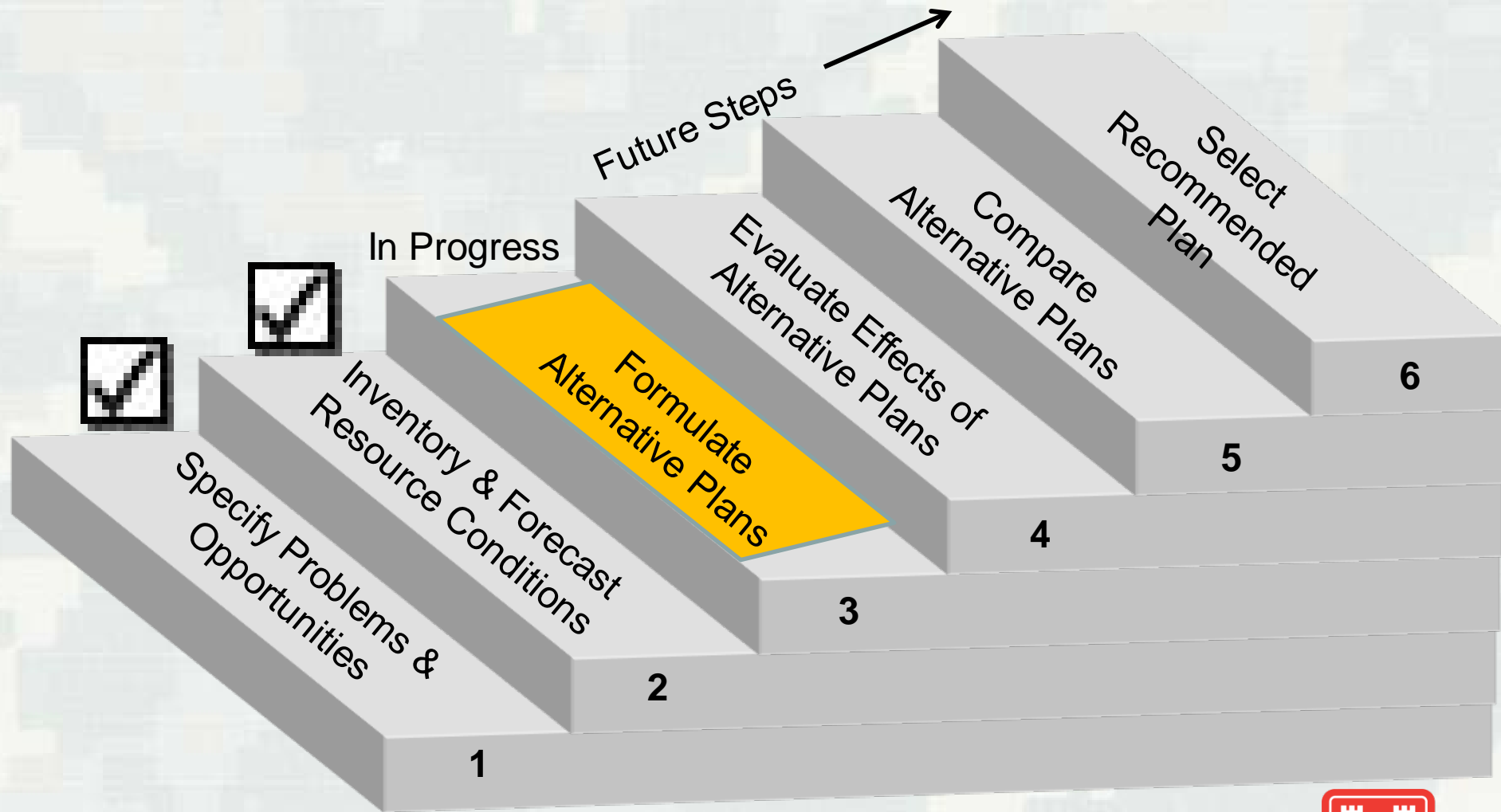
Progress to Date

- Baseline and Future conditions (without project)
- Planning objectives and constraints
- Preliminary plan formulation

We want your feedback



Six Step Planning Process



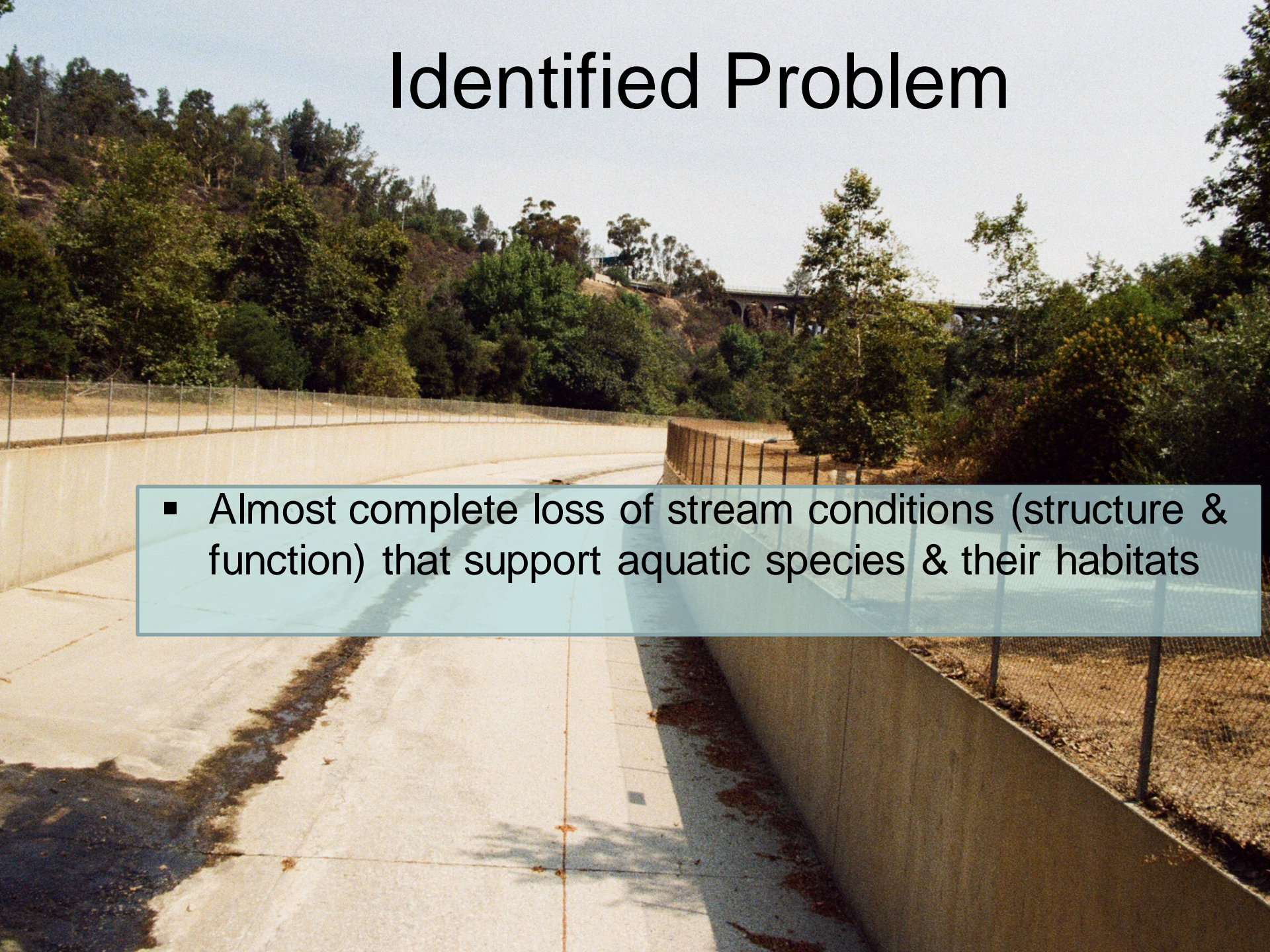
Ecosystem Restoration Fundamentals

A photograph of a river restoration project. A concrete channel with chain-link fencing runs alongside a dirt path and trees. A yellow fire hydrant is in the foreground.

Those restoration opportunities that are associated with wetlands, riparian and other floodplain and aquatic systems are most appropriate for Corps involvement.

Identified Problem

- Almost complete loss of stream conditions (structure & function) that support aquatic species & their habitats



Planning Objective

- Restore quality and quantity of aquatic, wetlands, and riparian habitats



Planning Constraints & Considerations

- ❖ *Maintain Flood Risk Management function/capability of existing Arroyo Seco system*
- ❖ *Maintain Devil's Gate Dam Flood Storage Capacity*
- ❖ *Avoid Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW) Site at Jet Propulsion Lab*
- ❖ *Minimize impacts to transportation infrastructure such as highways and bridges*
- ❖ *Minimize adverse impacts to nearby residences, especially historic and culturally significant districts and properties*
- ❖ *Minimize impacts to existing facilities and infrastructure such as Rose Bowl*

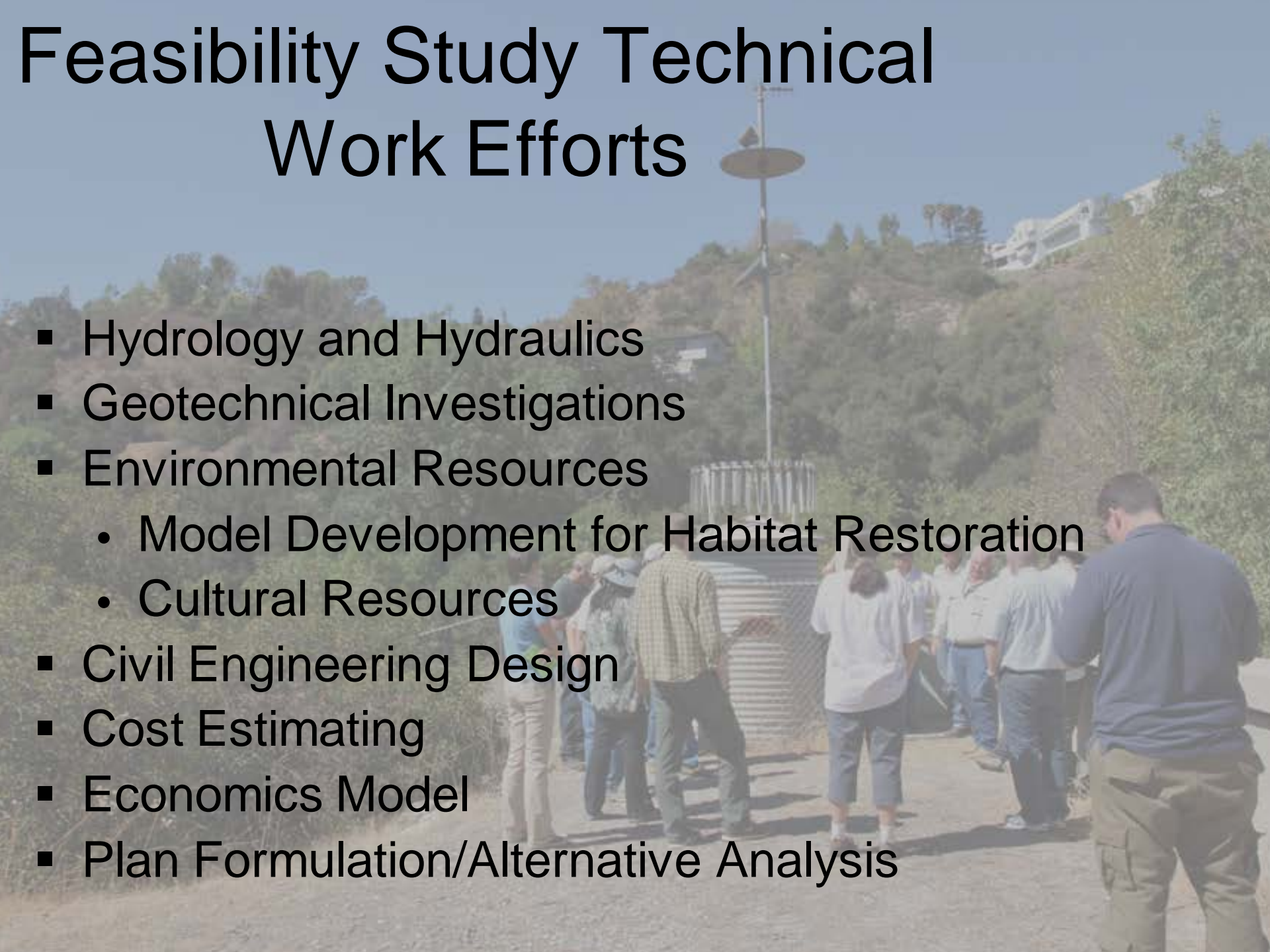


Preliminary Measures

- Restore natural channel sinuosity
- Improve Aquatic Habitat
- Enhance Recreational Opportunities



Feasibility Study Technical Work Efforts


A group of people, including men and women in various casual and work attire, are standing on a dirt path in a wooded area. They are looking towards a tall, slender antenna tower that has a large, flat, circular dish at the top. The background shows a dense forest of trees and a clear blue sky.

- Hydrology and Hydraulics
- Geotechnical Investigations
- Environmental Resources
 - Model Development for Habitat Restoration
 - Cultural Resources
- Civil Engineering Design
- Cost Estimating
- Economics Model
- Plan Formulation/Alternative Analysis

Habitat Evaluation

- Allows comparison of quality of existing habitat versus alternatives
- Assists in selection of the recommended plan





NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA), 1970

- NEPA is an “umbrella” law requiring all federal agencies to give appropriate consideration to all potential environmental impacts of proposed actions and alternatives as part of agency planning and decision making
- LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is the Lead Agency for NEPA.



Scoping Process

- Mandatory process
- Public participation is encouraged
- Assists with the plan formulation process
- Identifies significant resources to be addressed





Major Federal Environmental Laws

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- National Environmental Policy Act



NEPA: Agency Coordination

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Historic Preservation Office
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Game
- South Coast Air Quality Management District



National Environmental Policy Act

- Agency and public participation in planning process.
- Evaluation and consideration of environmental impacts during planning and decision making.
- Disclosure: proposed action, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation



NEPA: Public Participation

- Scoping meeting (comments accepted until 24 Nov 14)
- Draft EIS for public review and comment
 - Notice of Availability
 - 45 day review and comment period
- Final EIS
 - Notice of Availability
 - Response to comments received



NEPA: Scoping Meeting

- Identify people or organizations who are interested in the proposed action
- Identify the significant issues to be evaluated



Feasibility Study Schedule

- **Winter 2014 – Alternative Milestone**
- **Fall 2015 – Tentatively Selected Plan**
- **Winter 2015 – Concurrent Public, Technical, Policy and Legal Review**
- **Summer 2016 – State and Agency Review**
- **Fall 2016 – Chief's Report**



Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Study

Points of Contact

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NEPA Public Comments

Deborah Lamb (Environmental Coordinator)

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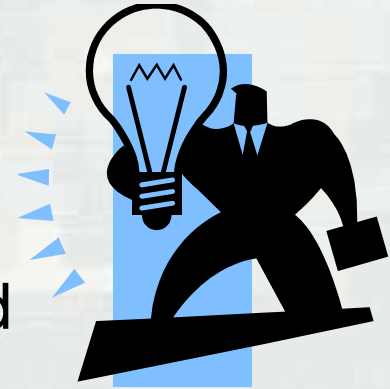
or by email to:

Deborah.L.Lamb@usace.army.mil.



Comments

- All Comments, Written or Oral will be Considered and Addressed



- Please Limit Oral Comments to Three (3) Minutes



Please Be Respectful to
Opinions, Ideas and
Comments of Others

