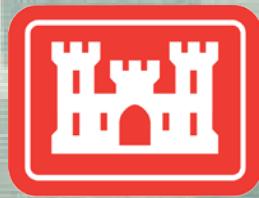




# Arroyo Seco Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Study, CA

**Presentation by:**  
Priyanka Wadhawan  
Ken Wong



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US Army Corps of Engineers  
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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!



# 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



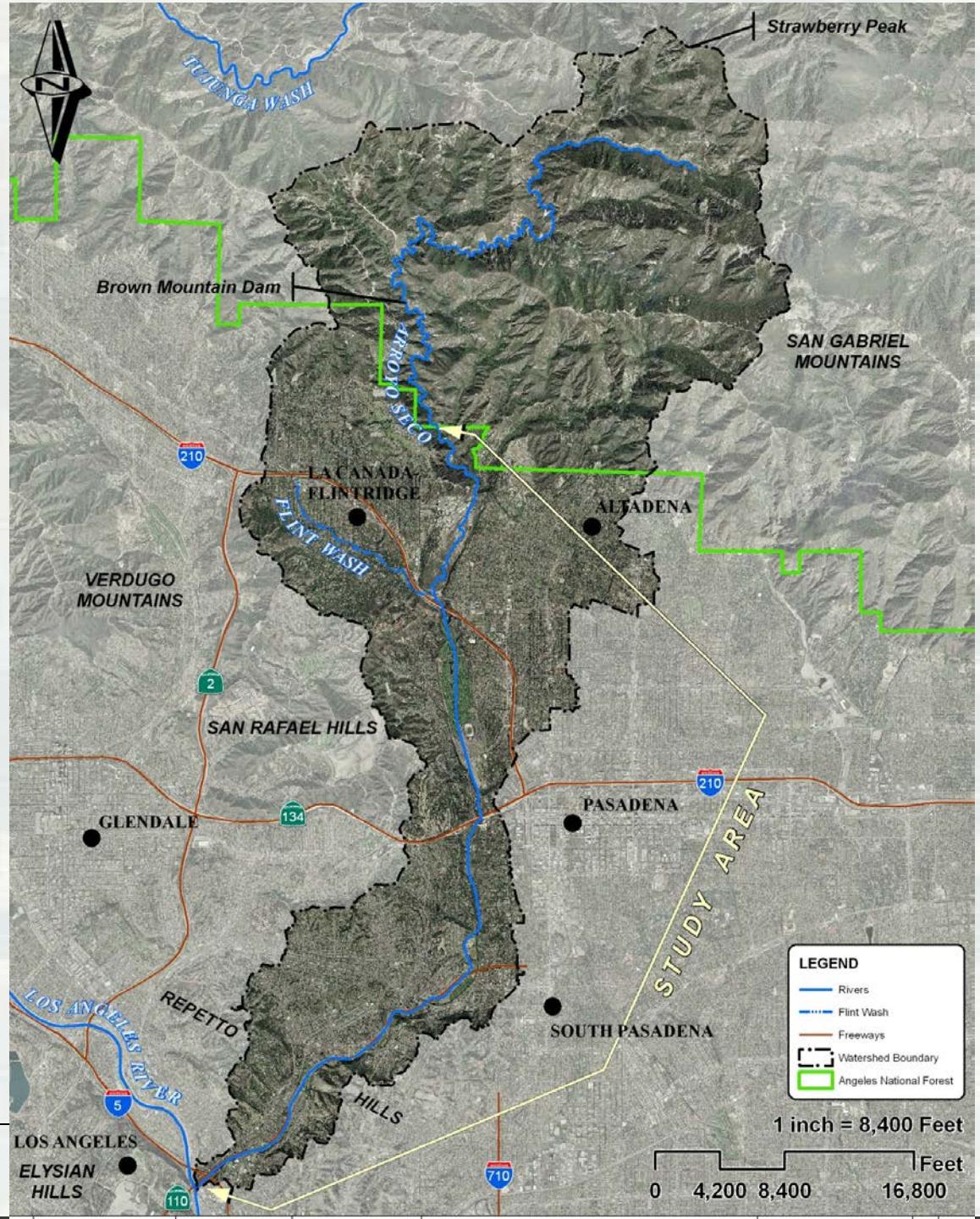
**Active Stakeholder Group:**  
*Council of Arroyo Seco Agencies*



# Study Location

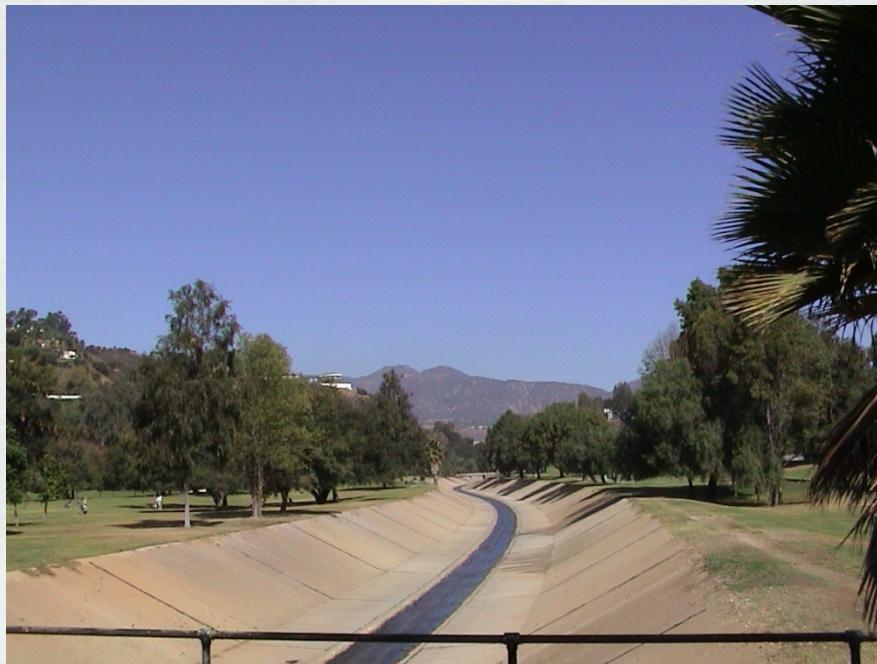


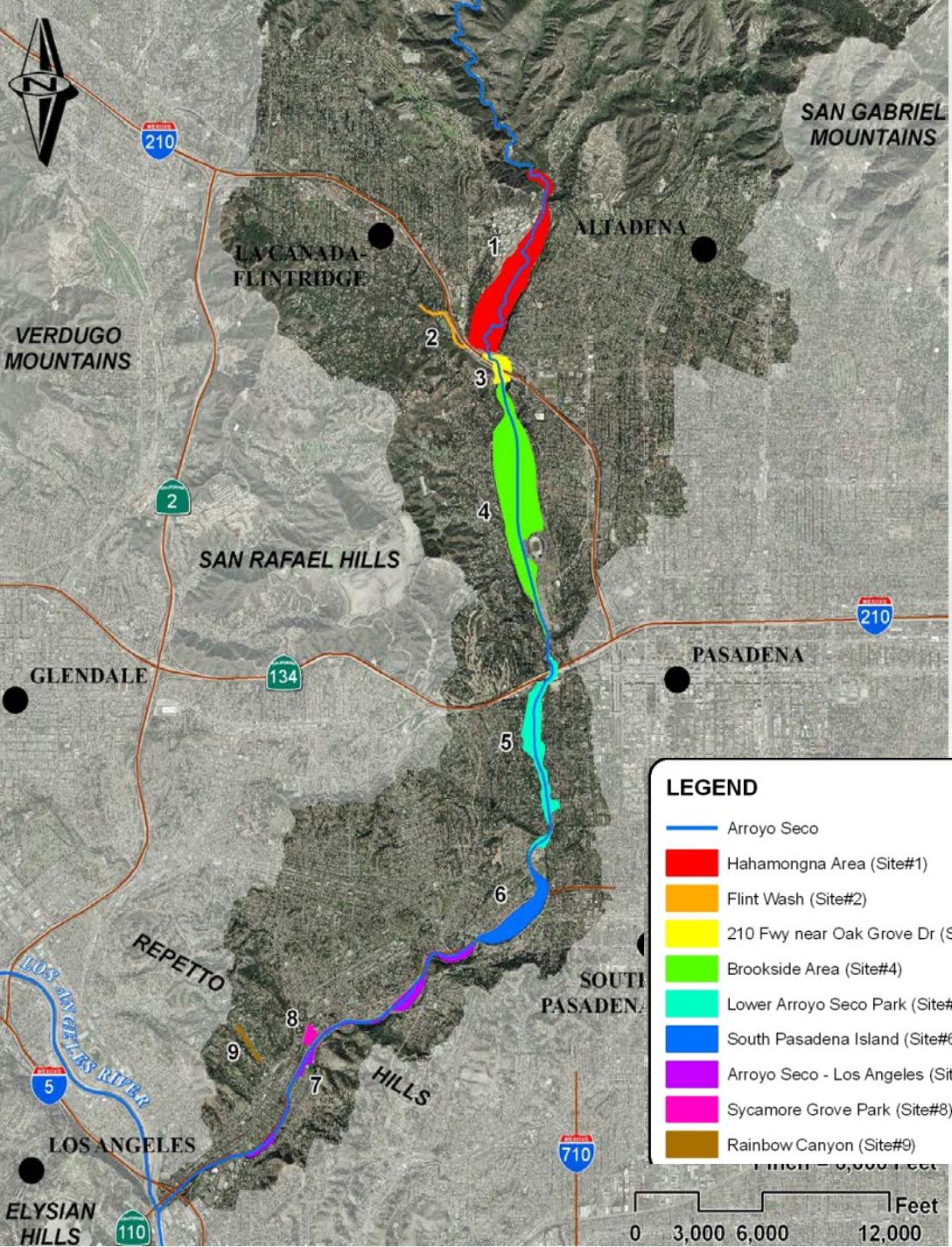
# Arroyo Seco Watershed



# Study History

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

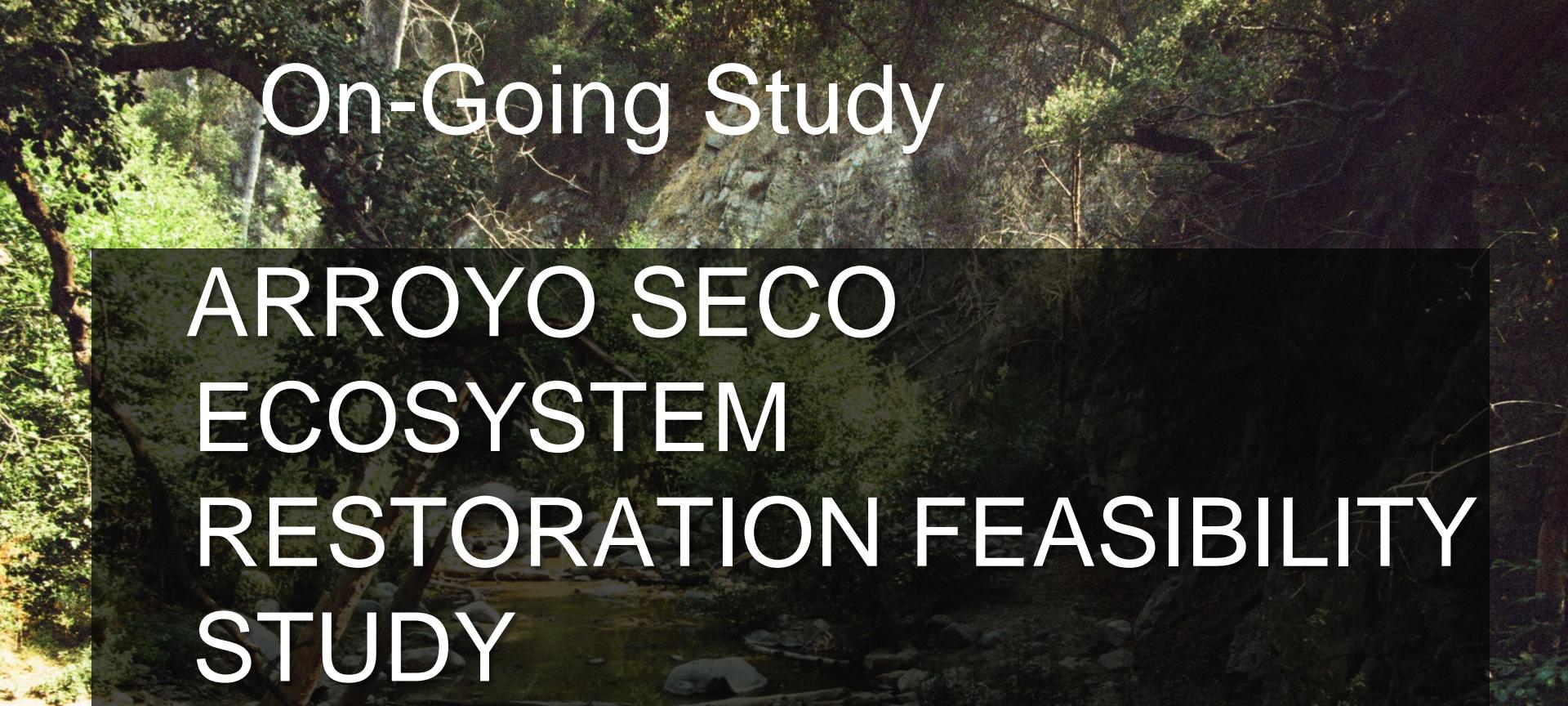




# Arroyo Seco Watershed, CA

- 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



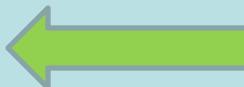
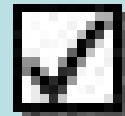
# Decision Document

- 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)



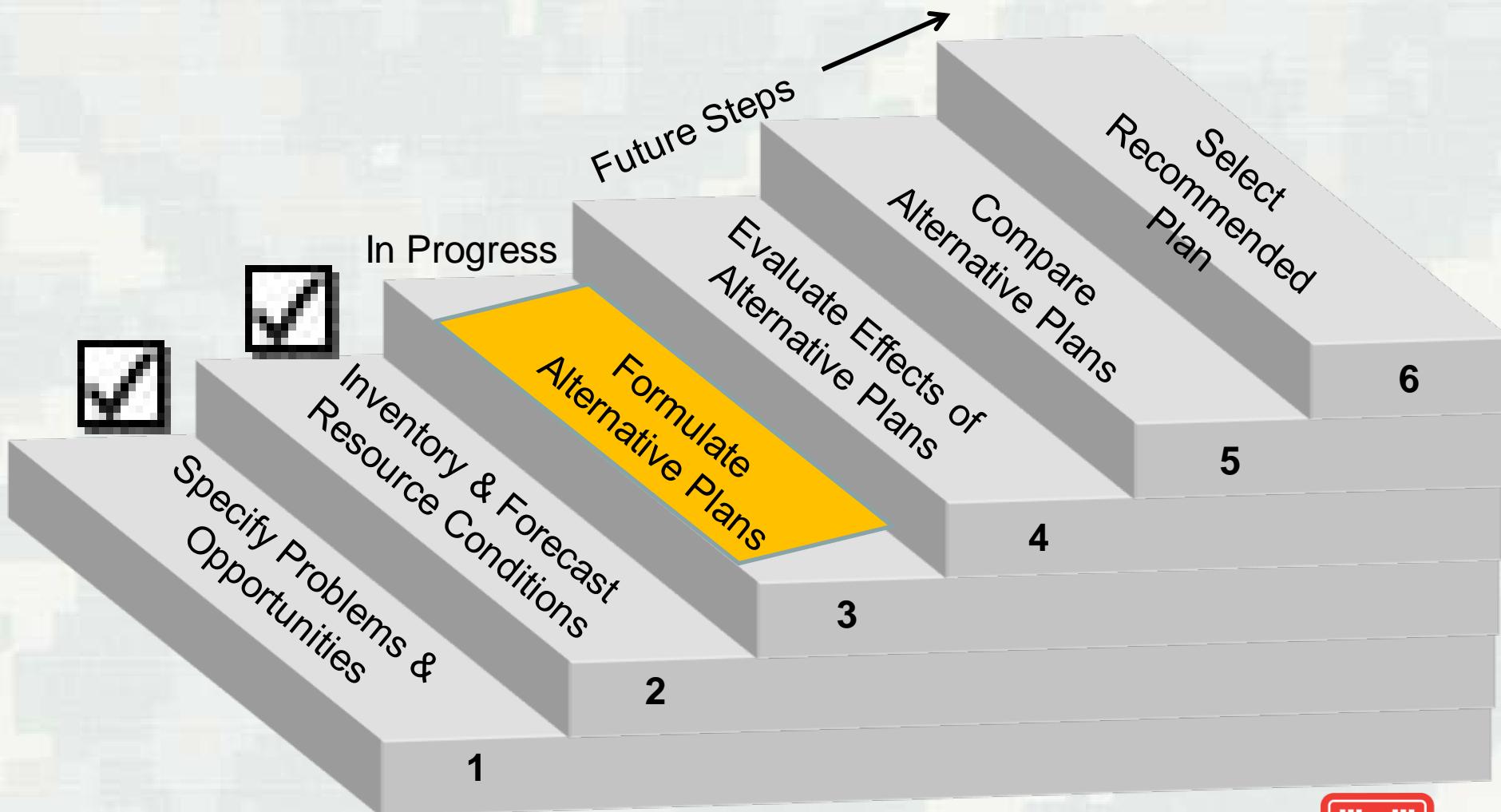
# Progress to Date

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

We want your feedback



# Six Step Planning Process



# Ecosystem Restoration Fundamentals

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

- 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

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# 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

