

Friday, July 25, 2008

Recent jurisdictional decisions for portions of Los Angeles River and selected tributaries

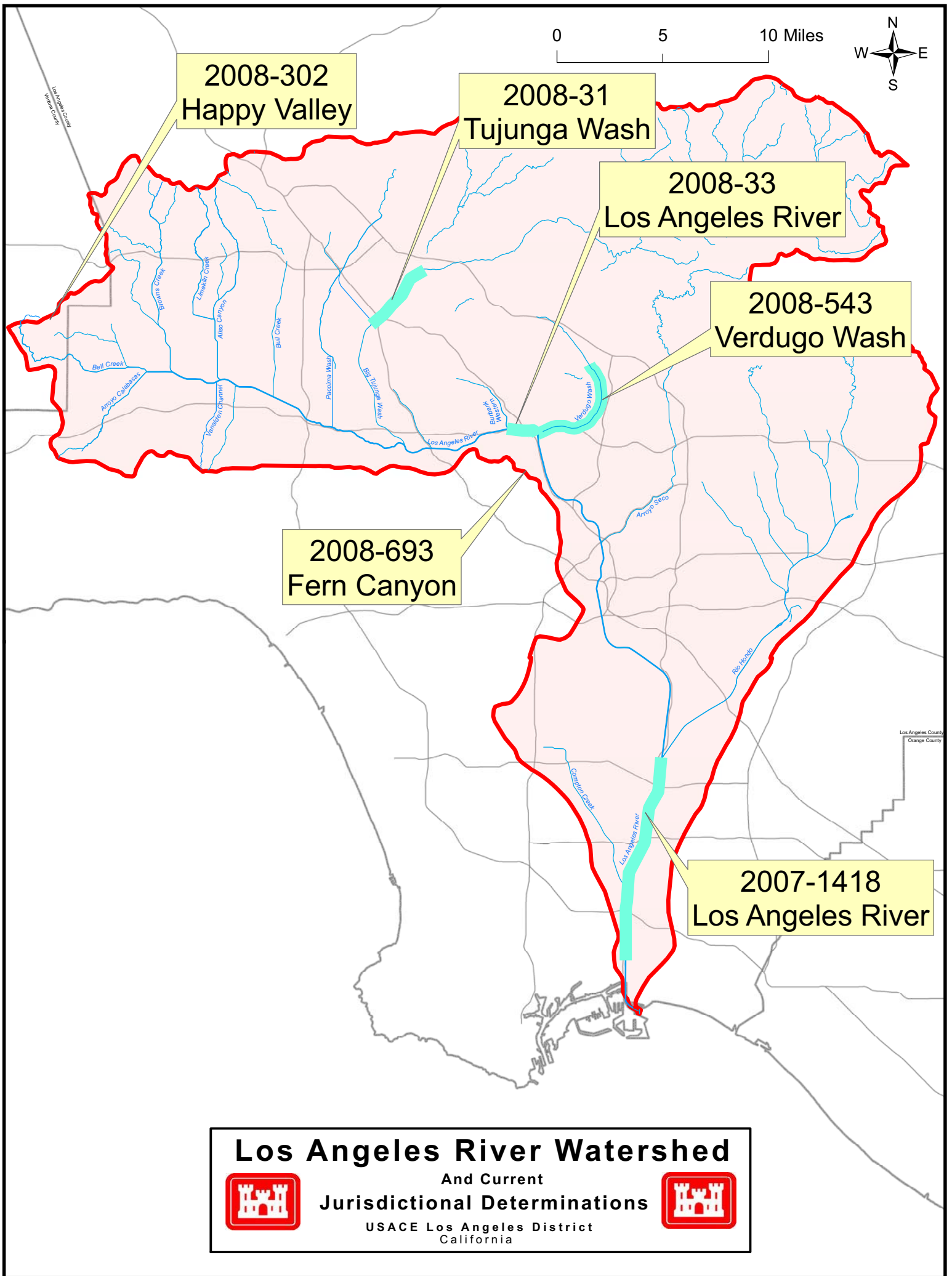
The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has recently completed several jurisdictional determinations (decisions) regarding six waterbodies within the Los Angeles River Watershed (see attached map and photographs). These decisions by the Corps were prompted by specific Section 404 permit applications or jurisdictional determination (JD) requests associated with specific projects. Of these six decisions, all six resulted in a finding of Clean Water Act jurisdiction (i.e., these waterbodies are regulated as waters of the United States under the full protection of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act), including two waterbodies that were found to demonstrate a significant nexus to the nearest downstream "traditional navigable water" (TNW).

Four of these decisions found waterbodies to be "Relatively Permanent Waters" (RPW). Specifically, two reaches of the Los Angeles River (Corps file numbers 2008-33 and 2007-1418) and two tributaries to the Los Angeles River, Tujunga Wash (2008-31) and Verdugo Wash (2008-543), were found to be RPWs. Such waterways often convey urban flows from large drainage areas in addition to flows from dam/reservoir releases for a number of months throughout the year. Waterways designated as RPWs continue to be regulated as waters of the United States under the full protection of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Two waterbodies were found to demonstrate a significant nexus to the nearest downstream TNW, the Happy Valley Drainage (2008-302) and the Fern Canyon Drainage (2008-693). Both of these waterbodies are first order drainages located within the upper watershed.

Attachments:

- 1) Overview map (LAR_watershed-JDs_map.pdf)
- 2) Site photos (LAR_watershed_JDs_site-photos.pdf)



Site photographs:

1) Los Angeles River from confluence with Rio Hondo to approx. State Highway 1 (Corps file number 2007-1418):



2) Los Angeles River from Burbank Western Channel to Verdugo Wash (Corps file number 2008-33):



3) Verdugo Wash from Urquidez Ave. to confluence with Los Angeles River (Corps file number 2008-543):



4) Tujunga Wash from confluence with Little Tujunga Wash to Pacoima Wash Diversion (Corps file number 2008-31):



5) Fern Canyon Drainage (Corps file number 2008-693):



Photo 3: Upstream of check dam/basin



Photo 4: Surface water presence, eroded soils, and sediment deposition upstream of the project area

6) Happy Valley Drainage (Corps file number 2008-302):

lower reach oblique looking north:



lower reach oblique looking south:

