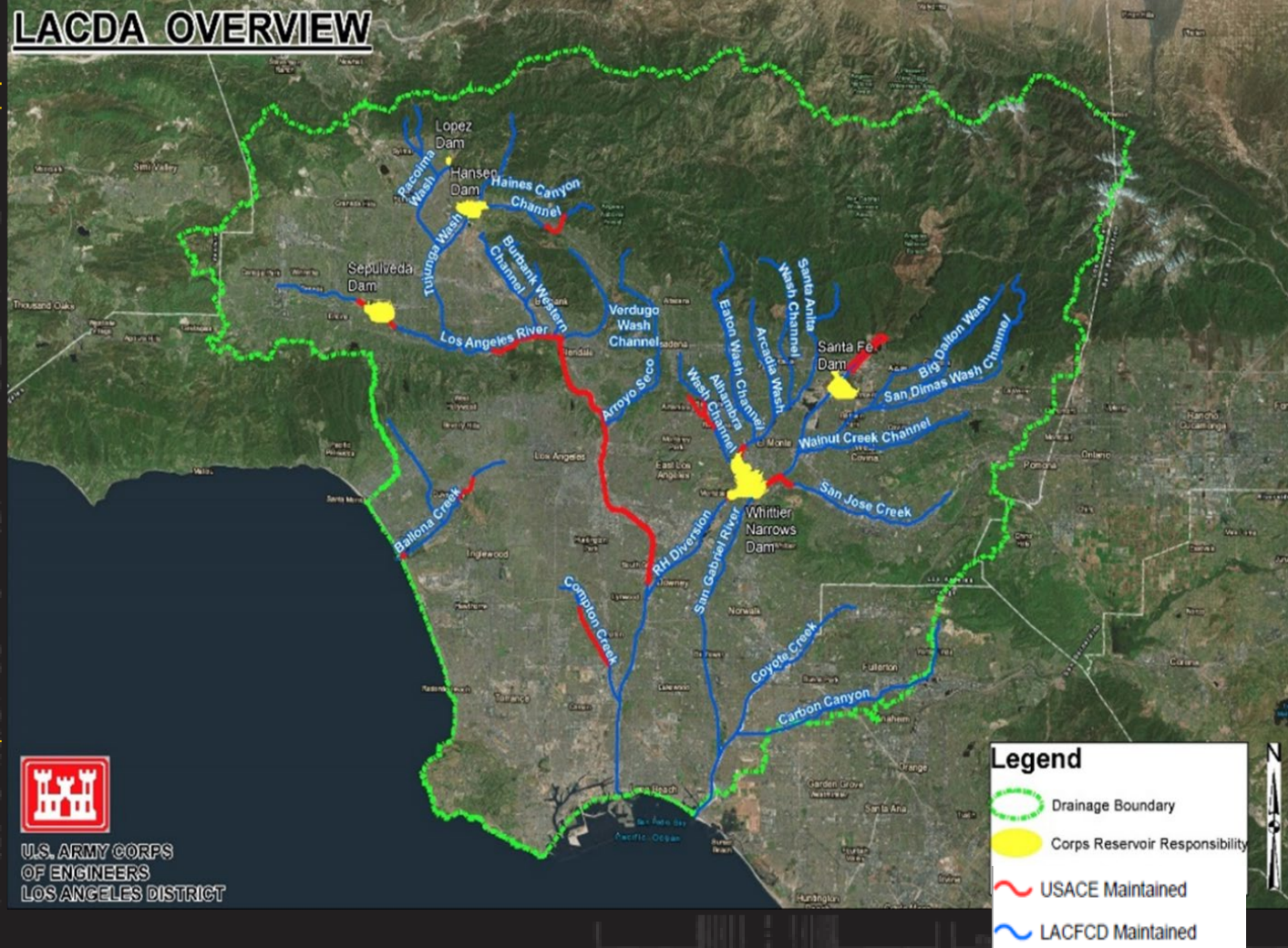


LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA (LACDA) DISPOSITION STUDY

PUBLIC MEETING

Project Manager: Michele Bick
Lead Planner: Megan Whalen

Date: 12 August 2024 (12:00 - 1:30 pm)
17 September 2024
(5:00 - 6:30 pm)



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MEETING AGENDA

- Introductions
- Overview
 - Background Information
 - Study Authorization
- Study Specifics
 - Areas of Focus
 - Screened Measures
- Key Findings and Path Forward
- Questions and Comments



Image: View of riverbed prior to channelization near Union Station



Image: View of LA River from Elysian Park



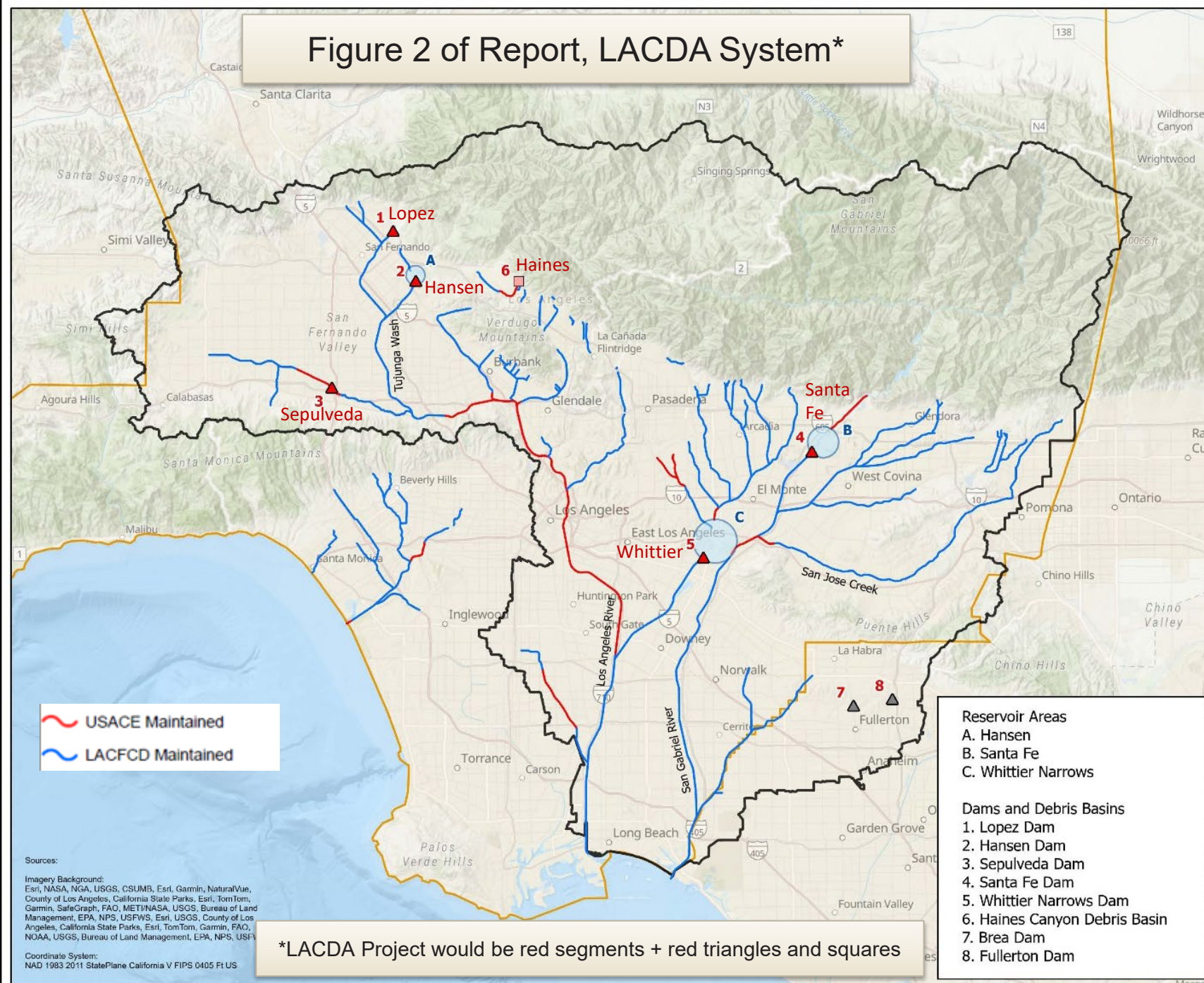
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OVERVIEW

- The LACDA Project was built for **flood damage reduction** in the 1930's
- Consists of **Federal Dams** (4 major dams and Lopez Dam), **and over 500 miles of channels and levees**, as well as Haines Canyon Debris Basin
- USACE maintains **all Federal Dams**, **over 45 miles** of channels and levees, and Haines Canyon Debris Basin
- LACFCD performs O&M of remaining channels, levees, and debris basins IAW USACE O&M Manual
- Cumulative flood damage prevention is \$35B, protecting ~ 10M people/



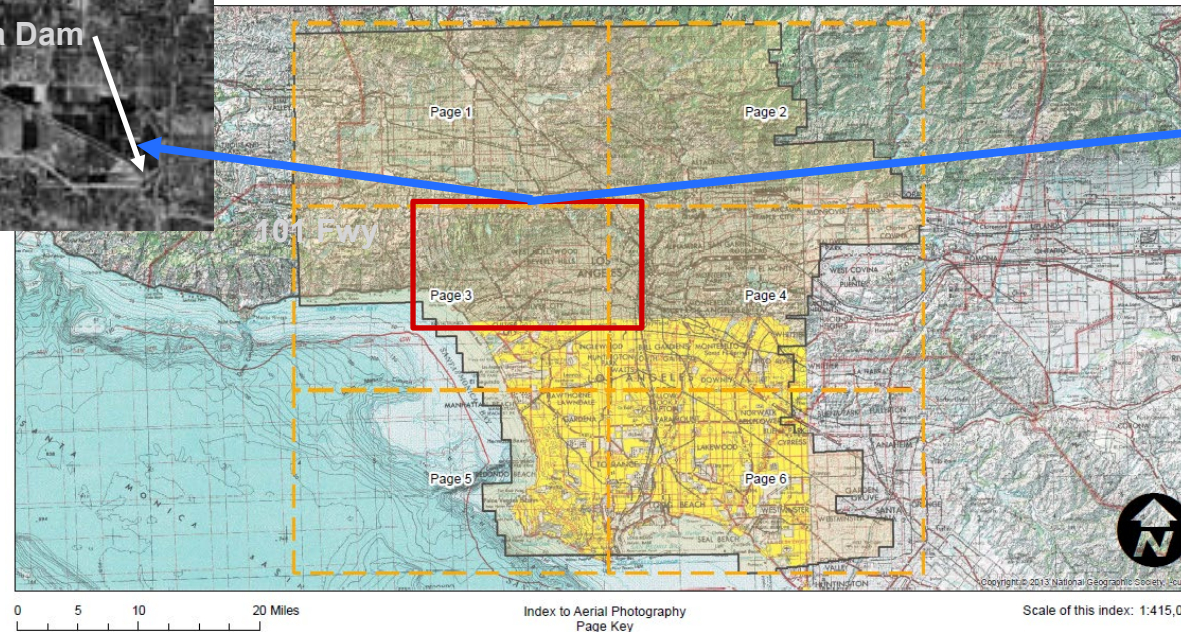
DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME

1956 – Sepulveda Basin



Note: Photographs and negatives are 1:14,400. Flight also exists as a 3-volume bound atlas of orthophoto quarter (scale: ~1:12,000) quadrangles (stored offsite). Imagery acquired from Whittier College, January 2013.

erial-photography-tools



2023 – Sepulveda Basin



WHAT IS A DISPOSITION STUDY?

USACE can review the operations of completed USACE projects under a reexamination authority (33 U.S.C. §549a), established by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-611). If the project **no longer meets its authorized flood control purpose**, and therefore **no federal interest exists** to retain the project for its authorized purpose, an **evaluation and comparison of the benefits, costs, and impacts of the project is conducted** to support a recommendation for deauthorization, re-operation, or programmatic changes to the project purposes and disposal of the property.



Image: Compton Creek



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THE PURPOSE OF THIS DISPOSITION STUDY

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Image: Lopez Dam

- To determine whether or not continued operation and ownership of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is in the federal interest.
- If the study showed the project did not meet its authorized purpose and that there is no longer a federal interest in continuing to retain the project for its authorized purpose, USACE would provide supporting information to recommend deauthorization, re-operation, or programmatic changes to the project and disposal of the property.



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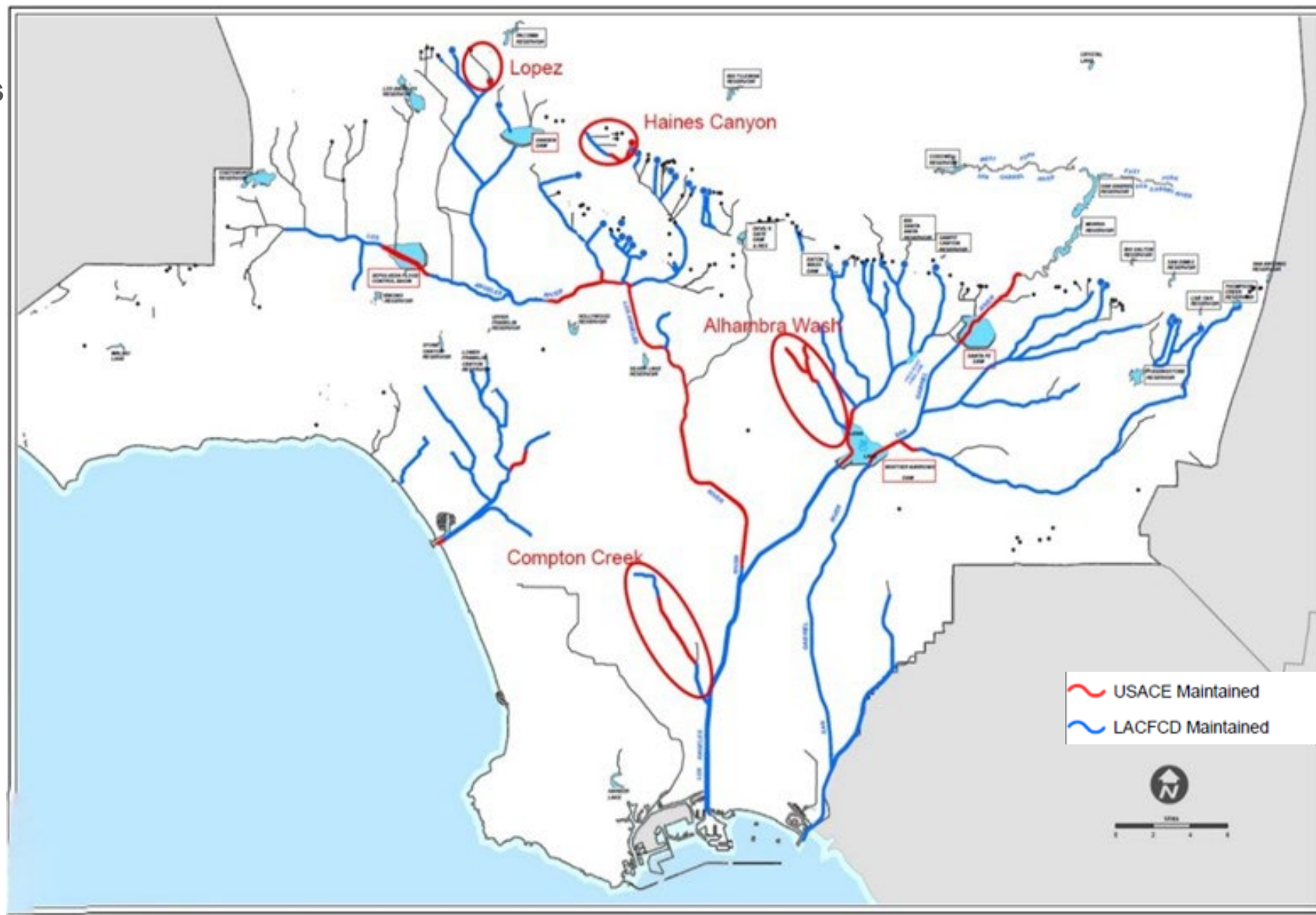
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DISPOSITION STUDY FOCUS AREAS

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USACE used existing information to identify system components with less impacts on dam operations for **potential disposition**. (No new technical modeling was performed)

1. Lopez Flood Control Basin **functions like a debris basin** to remove sediment load so downstream flow can reach supercritical velocity.
2. Haines Canyon/Debris Basin has **no operational capability** & very little **actual storage capacity**.
3. Mill Creek & San Pasqual Wash are short tributaries of Alhambra Wash.
4. Compton Creek section is **bookended by LACDPW O&M reaches**.





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REACHES AND MEASURES SCREENED OUT

All reaches of LA River Mainstem screened out

- ❌ Lack of separability: Risk of impacts to dams, levees, and problematic sections of LA River if a failure occurred through deauthorization or transfer of O&M
- ❌ LA River Ecosystem Restoration Study impacts: Ongoing federal project, screened out as a constraint
- ❌ Sepulveda Dam impacts: Dam Safety Action Classification 3 rating (moderate urgency) and too much risk to consider deauthorizing

Ballona Creek

- ❌ Wetlands and sensitive habitat

KEY FINDINGS

- **Ongoing federal interest in LACDA Project** which continues to meet authorized federal purpose of flood risk management. LACDA works together as an **inseparable, interdependent system** to provide flood risk management benefits to the area.
- **Channels** within the LACDA Project as well as the LACDA System are **crucial to conveying flood waters from federally authorized dam infrastructure** and **considerable risk** is associated with **modifying these channels** upstream or downstream due to safety and operability factors.
- LACDA provides critical flood risk management to LA County drainage area and **~10 million residents**. Joint operation and resulting performance of LACDA System has been successful, **performing well in past storms. Cumulative damages prevented >\$35 billion.**
- **Close coordination between SPL and County is key**, as accomplished in recent winter storms.
- **Deauthorization would not eliminate need for 408 permits** to alter, modify, or occupy the project. SPL 408 Program Improvements initiative has greatly increased efficiency of permitting process.
- **Deauthorization** would negatively and significantly affect USACE's ability to **efficiently address emergency and natural disasters**.
- Identified opportunities for the County and SPL to partner on **levee safety and drought resiliency**.



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IN SUMMARY - FAQ

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- **Even if the overall LACDA Project continues to meet its flood-risk management purposes, can the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deauthorize some of the features?**
 - The various segments and features within the **LACDA Project work together as an inseparable, interconnected system** to provide flood-risk reduction and management benefits to the Greater Los Angeles area. Deauthorization of individual LACDA features would **impact the ability of USACE to efficiently address emergencies and natural disasters**, as well as during routine water management operations.
 - The channels within the **LACDA Project are crucial to the safe passage of flood waters**. Safety and operability of the overall LACDA Project and flood-risk management within the adjacent downstream communities is reliant on continued USACE management of releases from the federal dams in the LACDA Project, including associated channels.



Image: Sepulveda Dam August 21, 2023 – the day after Tropical Storm Hilary



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IN SUMMARY - FAQ

- **What is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doing in terms of Operations and Maintenance along the River?**

USACE prioritizes O&M work in the LACDA Project, with an **emphasis on safety and operability** of the flood risk management system.

In fiscal year 2023, the Corps awarded a \$13.5-million invasive species and sediment management contract for the Glendale Narrows. Work will consist of excavating 100,400 cubic yards of sediment and non-native vegetation **as part of a multi-year plan to restore the as-built capacity** of the soft-bottom section of the Los Angeles River.

Work in 2024 includes:

- Removal of concrete damaged from recent rain events downstream of Los Feliz Boulevard
- Debris removal and cleanup from more than 100 homeless encampments
- Monitoring 35 additional encampments for flood risk (notifying agencies to help move people out of harm's way in the event of a storm)
- Removal of sediment on concrete surfaces of the channel
- Disposal of non-native vegetation on a weekly basis
- Inspection and assessment of 38 storm and subdrain pipes, and,
- Removal of graffiti along 250,000 square feet of the channel on an annual basis.



Image: View of the LA River near Glendale Narrows.



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PATH FORWARD

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- Continued outreach
- Strengthening partnerships between USACE Los Angeles District with all partners within the LA River Watershed (City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Public Works, etc.)
- Communicate Disposition Study Findings
- Continuous Improvement of 408 Permit Response Times
- Continued WRDA 214 Coordination with multiple agencies
- Partnering with agencies on 2028 Olympics, Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan, Bikeway projects etc.



Image: Outreach event along the LA River, ~2018



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QUESTIONS?