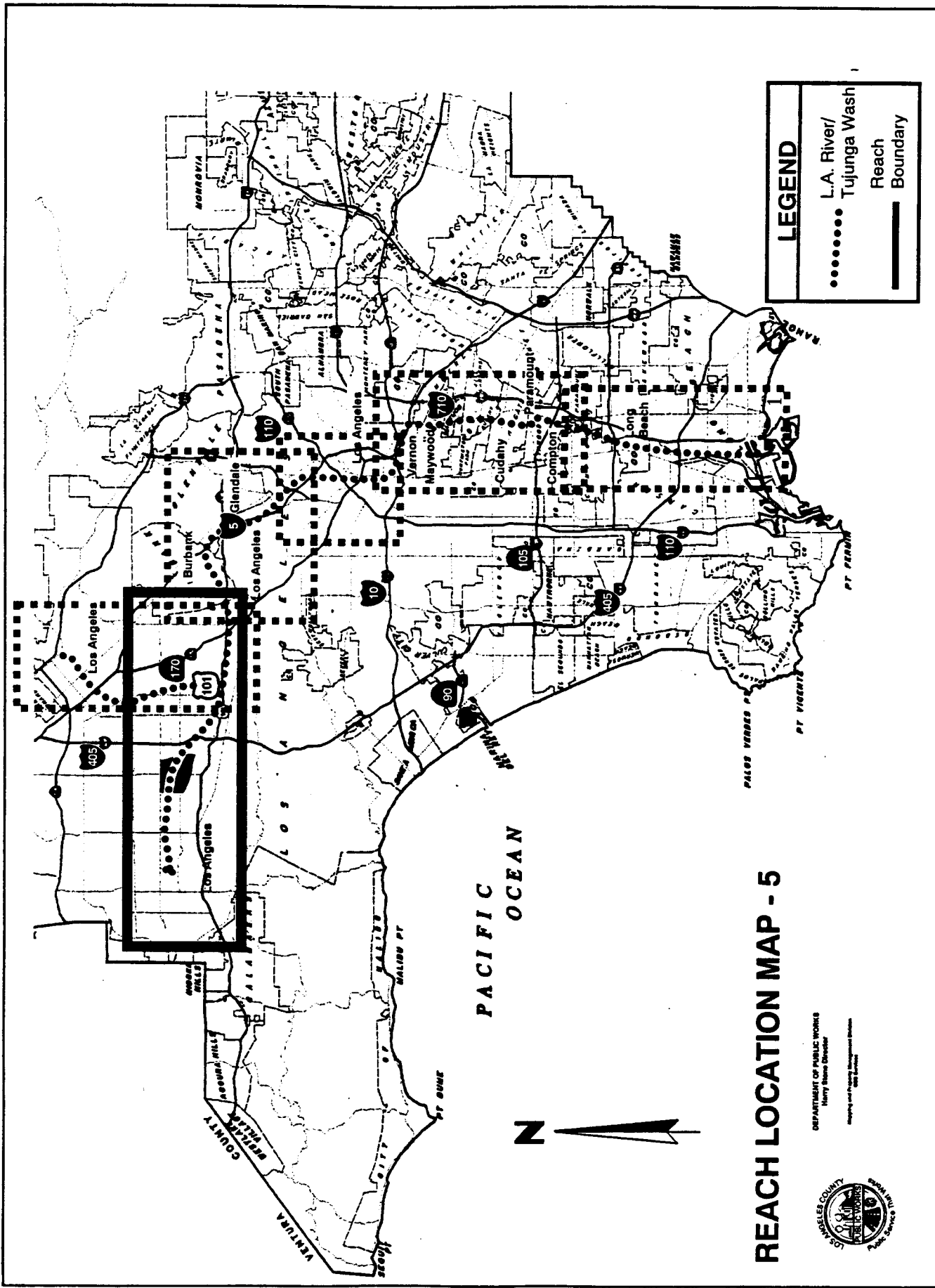


REACH 5: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY





LEGEND	
.....	L.A. River/ Tujunga Wash
————	Reach
————	Boundary

REACH LOCATION MAP - 5

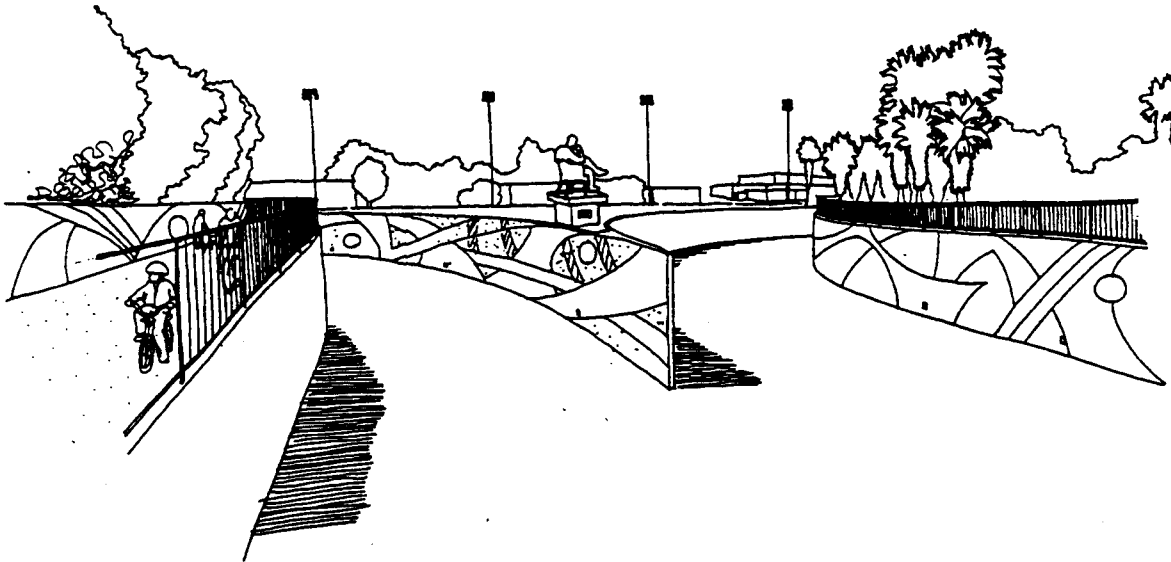
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 Heavy Maintenance Division



REACH 5: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

In this reach, the river flows east for approximately 16 miles along the base of the Santa Monica Mountains. Along the way, it passes through the City of Los Angeles communities of Canoga Park, Winnetka, Reseda, Encino, West Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Toluca Lake.

The Los Angeles River begins in Canoga Park at the confluence of Bell Creek and Arroyo Calabasas. From this point to Sepulveda Basin, the trapezoidal channel varies in width from approximately 140 feet to more than 215 feet. Throughout the San Fernando Valley, the river and its tributaries are entrenched. Open land lies adjacent to the channel in this area.



In the area between the Sepulveda Basin and Universal City, the river was channelized in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The right-of-way here varies in width from 120 feet to 250 feet. A 38-foot wide strip runs along the north side of the channel and at times on the south side as well.

In the western San Fernando Valley, the river runs through low-density residential neighborhoods. It continues through Reseda Park and Sepulveda Basin—a regional recreational facility with a lake, parks, golf courses, a sports center and a wildlife area.

In the eastern San Fernando Valley, land uses adjacent to the Los Angeles River are predominately single-family residential and limited commercial. The Studio City Golf Course, the Lakeside Country Club, Weddington Park and Universal City (including the Studios Tour, Amphitheater and City Walk) are all located near the Los Angeles River.

Various Los Angeles City community plans in the San Fernando Valley designate the Los Angeles River as “Publicly Owned Open Space.” The Sepulveda Basin Recreational Area is also designated as publicly owned open space in the Encino-Tarzana Community Plan. The soft bottom area behind Sepulveda Dam is designated as a flood control basin. This area also supports recreation, water treatment and agricultural uses. And the thick growth of riparian plants here provides habitat for wildlife.

Native oaks grow along stretches of Valleyheart Drive in Studio City and Sherman Oaks. The river levees there are accessible and neighborhood residents use them for walking and jogging. As part of the County’s Adopt-a-Channel program, one local resident plants and maintains vegetation along a three-block segment of the river easement, now known as “Ernie’s Walk.”

ISSUES

- There is limited river access.
- There is a need to address public safety issues as trails are developed.

ADOPTED GENERAL OR RECREATIONAL PLANS

- The Los Angeles River is designated open space in the various adopted community plans for the San Fernando Valley.
- Areas adjacent the river in this reach are predominantly designated as either low-density residential or commercial.

JURISDICTIONAL PLANNED PROJECTS

- Valley Bikeway
- Burbank-Glendale-Los Angeles Rail Line



RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON MASTER PLAN GOALS

- Expand and improve existing recreational facilities in the Sepulveda Basin.
- Provide access to the river via existing public facilities.
- Establish a bicycle trail connecting the Sepulveda Basin with Griffith Park.
- Create murals along the freeway and at “Ernie’s Walk.”
- Establish flood control interpretive sites for educational programs at Sepulveda Basin, Reseda Park, the confluence and near studios.
- Improve wildlife habitat at the Sepulveda Basin.
- Establish native vegetation along the river, remove non-native plants.
- Ensure that new developments adjacent to the river are compatible with, and complementary to, the river.
- Explore the potential for recreation-related economic improvements at several sites.
- Develop the spreading grounds at Forest Lawn into a multi-purpose park and interpretive site.



OTHER PROJECTS

1. Metropolitan Transportation Authority: Future Red Line Station.
2. Corps of Engineers Bikeway Plan: A bikeway within the Los Angeles River right-of-way beginning at Sepulveda Basin and continuing to the confluence with Arroyo Seco near Elysian Park.
3. CBS Studio Center Project: Opportunity for aesthetic improvements and trail with pedestrian bridge.
4. City of Los Angeles - Restoration Project at Bull Creek: Clean-up and restoration of Bull Creek in the Sepulveda Basin funded by Proposition A.
5. MTA - Greenway Project: Tree planting project along MTA railroad right-of-way adjacent to Oxnard Street.
6. Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, planned by the National Park Service, follows the river through this reach.