

## What is the Flood Control District?

An introduction to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's operations, divisions, and tasks

In 1915, the Los Angeles region experienced a disastrous flood that claimed lives and severely damaged property. To prevent such tragedy from happening again, the California State Legislature adopted the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act, which established the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and empowered it to provide flood risk management and water conservation. The Flood Control District was governed as a separate entity by the County of Los Angeles Board of

Supervisors until 1985, when authority vested in the Flood Control District was transferred to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The Flood Control District is responsible for a vast drainage infrastructure within most of Los Angeles County that comprises of

- 14 major dams and reservoirs
- 162 debris basins
- 500 miles of open channel
- 2,800 miles of underground storm drains
- An estimated 120,000 catch basins
- 65 pump plants
- 36 sediment placement sites
- 3 seawater barrier projects
- 27 spreading facilities

### What does the flood control system include?

### Role of the Flood Control District

The role of the Flood Control District is to reduce flood risk and conserve stormwater runoff while improving water quality, providing recreation opportunities, and enhancing open space where feasible.



14

#### Dams and Reservoirs

Dams are built across a river or stream and limit the amount of water and sediment moving downstream. Dams reduce the risk of flooding by releasing water in controlled amounts. Reservoirs store water for groundwater recharge.



162

#### Debris Basins

Debris basins are similar to dams but operate on a much smaller scale and are not designed to retain water. They capture the soil, gravel, boulders, and debris (collectively known as "sediment") that are washed out of the canyons during storms and are designed to allow the stormwater to flow downstream into the storm drain system.



36

#### Sediment Placement Sites

Sediment that builds up in reservoirs and debris basins must be removed periodically to ensure proper functioning of the flood control system. Much of the sediment is transported to sediment placement sites located close to the debris basins and reservoirs. Sediment has also been taken to landfills or gravel pits when possible.



27

#### Spreading Facilities

Water held within reservoirs is often directed to spreading facilities, which allow the water to percolate into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies.

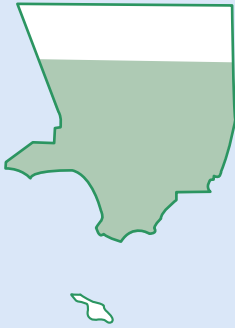
**What is an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County?**

There are 88 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County, each with its own city council. The areas within Los Angeles County that are not part of these cities are considered unincorporated land. Unincorporated areas can be as small as a few blocks or as large and dense as a city. Some are rural with relatively few people in an area covering hundreds of square miles. More than 65 percent of Los Angeles County is unincorporated. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and County Departments provide the municipal services for the one million people living in unincorporated areas.



# Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

## Jurisdiction



## Los Angeles County Flood Control District

The services below are provided to the entire County, including cities and the unincorporated areas (except the Antelope Valley).

### Divisions and Services

#### Flood Maintenance Division

- Operates and maintains dams, open channels, storm drains, debris basins, and pumping plants.

#### Water Resources Division

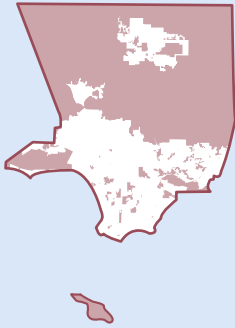
- Directs the operations of the District's dams, spreading grounds, and seawater barriers.

#### Watershed Management Division

- Acts as the planning division for the Flood Control District.
- Handles the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program, which controls water pollution by issuing permits to industrial, municipal, or other facilities that discharge pollutants into surface water. This program is responsible for maintaining healthier water quality.

\* The Watershed Management Division also provides support services within unincorporated areas.

## Jurisdiction



## Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Unincorporated Areas

The services below are provided to the unincorporated areas and contracted cities.

### Divisions and Services

#### Architectural and Engineering Division

- Designs buildings and facilities for other County departments.

#### Aviation Division

- Operates the five general aviation airports in the County: Fox Field (Lancaster), Brackett Field (La Verne), Whiteman Airport (Pacoima), Compton/Woodley Airport (Compton), and El Monte Airport (El Monte).

#### Administrative Services Division

- Provides contract support, fleet, procurement, and warehousing services for the Department.

#### Building and Safety Division

- Regulates construction on private properties.

#### Construction Division\*

- Manages the construction of Public Works projects.

#### Design Division\*

- Designs departmental facilities.

#### Environmental Programs Division

- Promotes recycling and regulates underground storage tanks and industrial waste disposal.

#### Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division\*

- Ensures proper land development, from engineering geology and soils to developing subdivision mapping standards.

#### Land Development Division\*

- Regulates development on private lands.
- Issues permits for construction on public right-of-ways.

#### Project Management Division\*

- Manages construction for capital projects in the County.

#### Programs Development Division\*

- Manages State and Federal funding programs for transportation projects and operates transit services in the unincorporated County.

#### Road Maintenance Division

- Maintains the various streets and roads in the unincorporated portions of the County as well as some County roads in cities.

#### Sewer Maintenance Division

- Operates and maintains sewers, pumping stations, and sewage treatment plants.

#### Survey Division\*

- Provides survey services and maintains public land and survey records.

#### Traffic and Lighting Division \*

- Handles the traffic controls and street lights in unincorporated areas of the County.

#### Waterworks Division

- Provides water services.

\* These divisions also provide support services for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

For more information, visit our website: [www.LASedimentManagement.com](http://www.LASedimentManagement.com)

For more information on unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, visit [www.dpw.lacounty.gov](http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov)