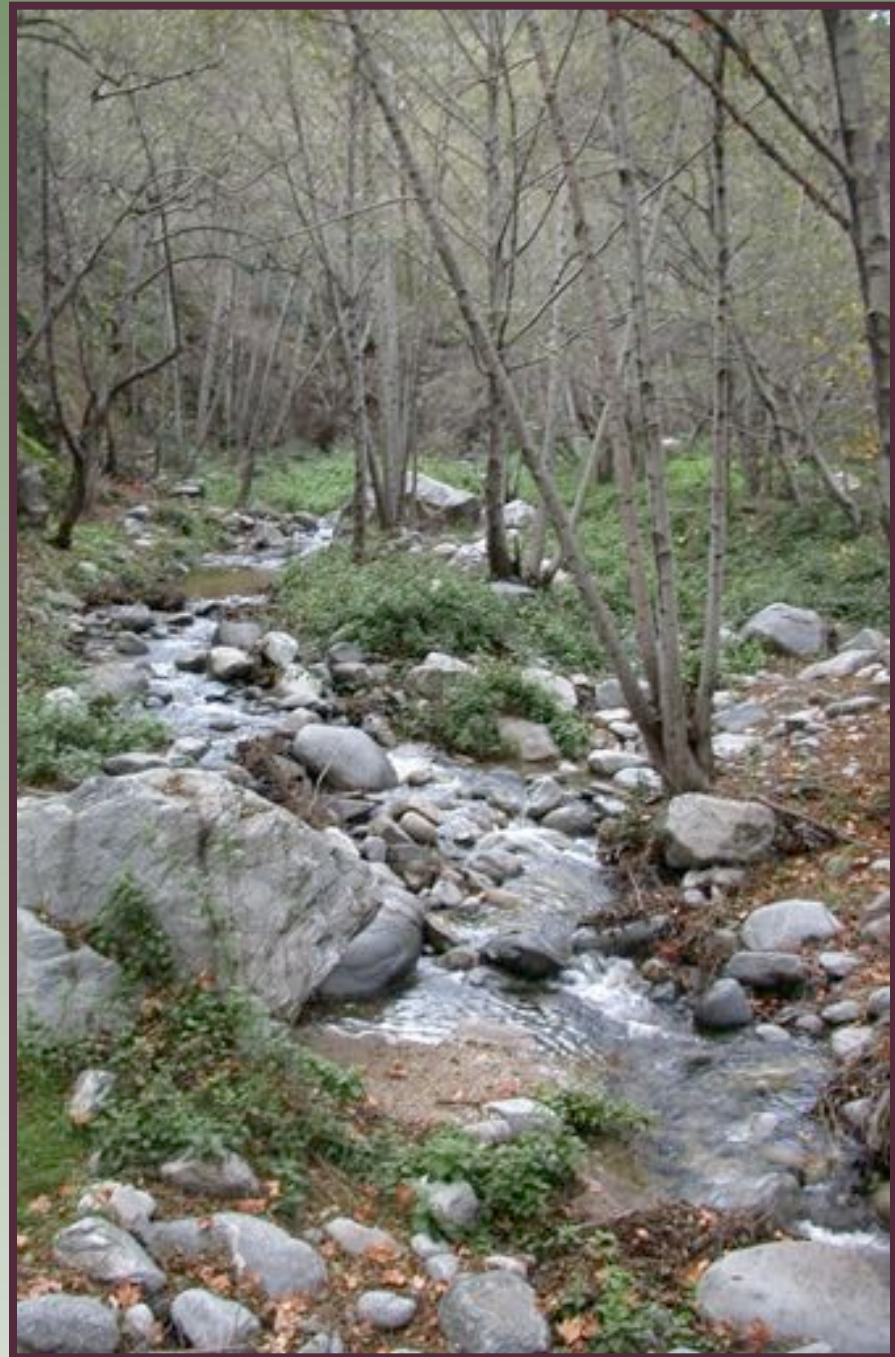




SOUTH PASADENA AND THE ARROYO SECO



PREPARED BY:
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Environmental/Science Education
Native Plant Advocacy
Nature Photography
LA and San Gabriel River Projects



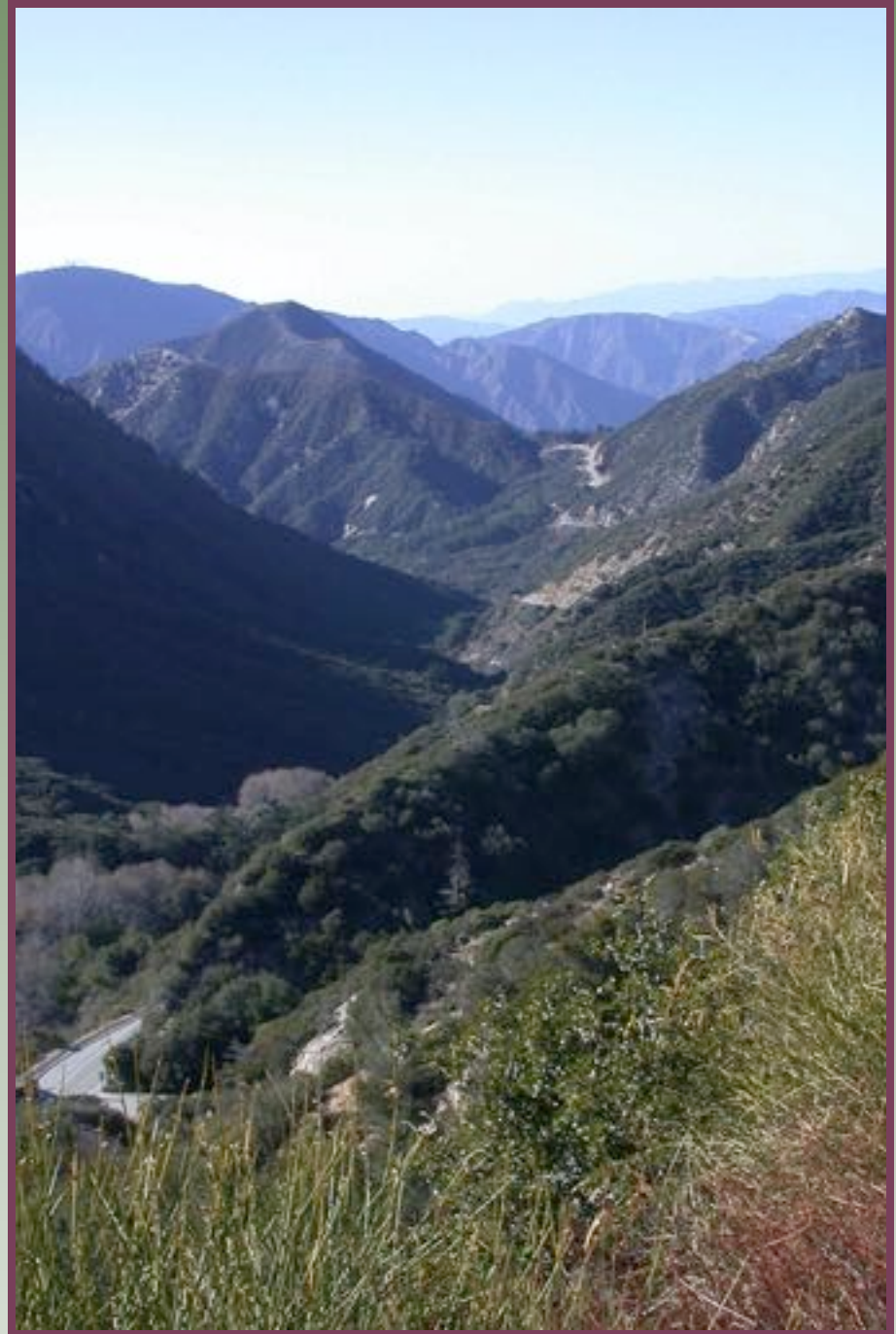
INTRODUCTION

Watershed

Map of Arroyo Seco

Map of LA River

Know Your Watershed



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?



An area of land where water collects and drains into a common point such as a river, ocean or other body of water.

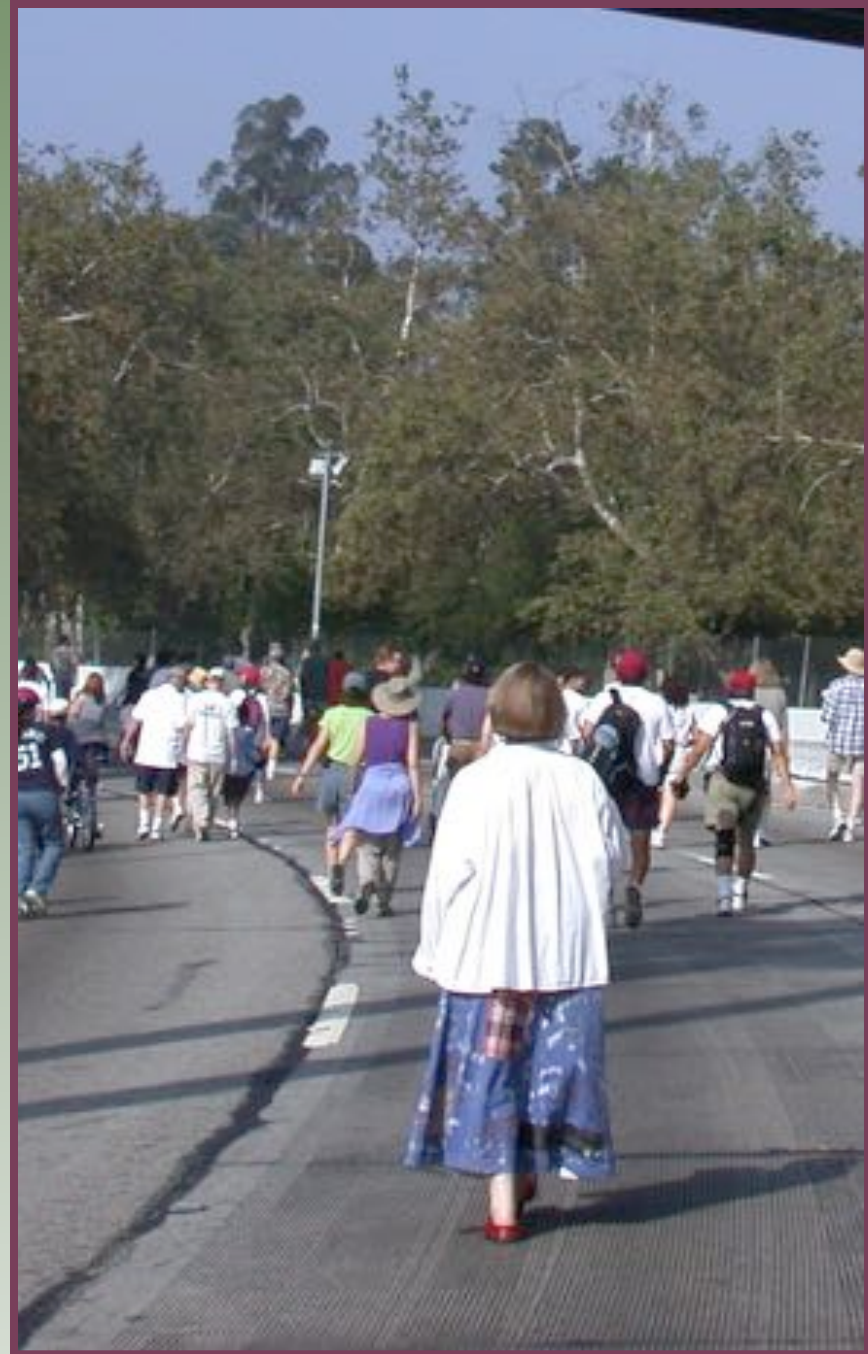
WATERSHED APPROACH

Since the movement of water, air, plants and animals is not restricted by political boundaries, a watershed approach is most effective for improving water quality and availability, flood protection, and preserving open space for recreation and habitat. This approach not only promises better results, it also serves to unite neighborhoods, further enriching our lives.

WATERSHED APPROACH

*People working together to protect
public health and the environment
- community by community,
watershed by watershed.*

**Carol M. Browner, Administrator
U.S. EPA, June 1996**



CITIES OF THE ARROYO SECO WATERSHED:

La Cañada Flintridge

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

Parts of Los Angeles -

Highland Park

Mount Washington

Montecito Heights

Lincoln Heights

Cypress Park

Monterey Hills

Hermon

Garvanza



ARROYO SECO WATERSHED

The Arroyo Seco travels for 22 miles from high in the San Gabriel Mountains near Mt. Wilson to its confluence with LA River near Elysian Park and Dodger Stadium.



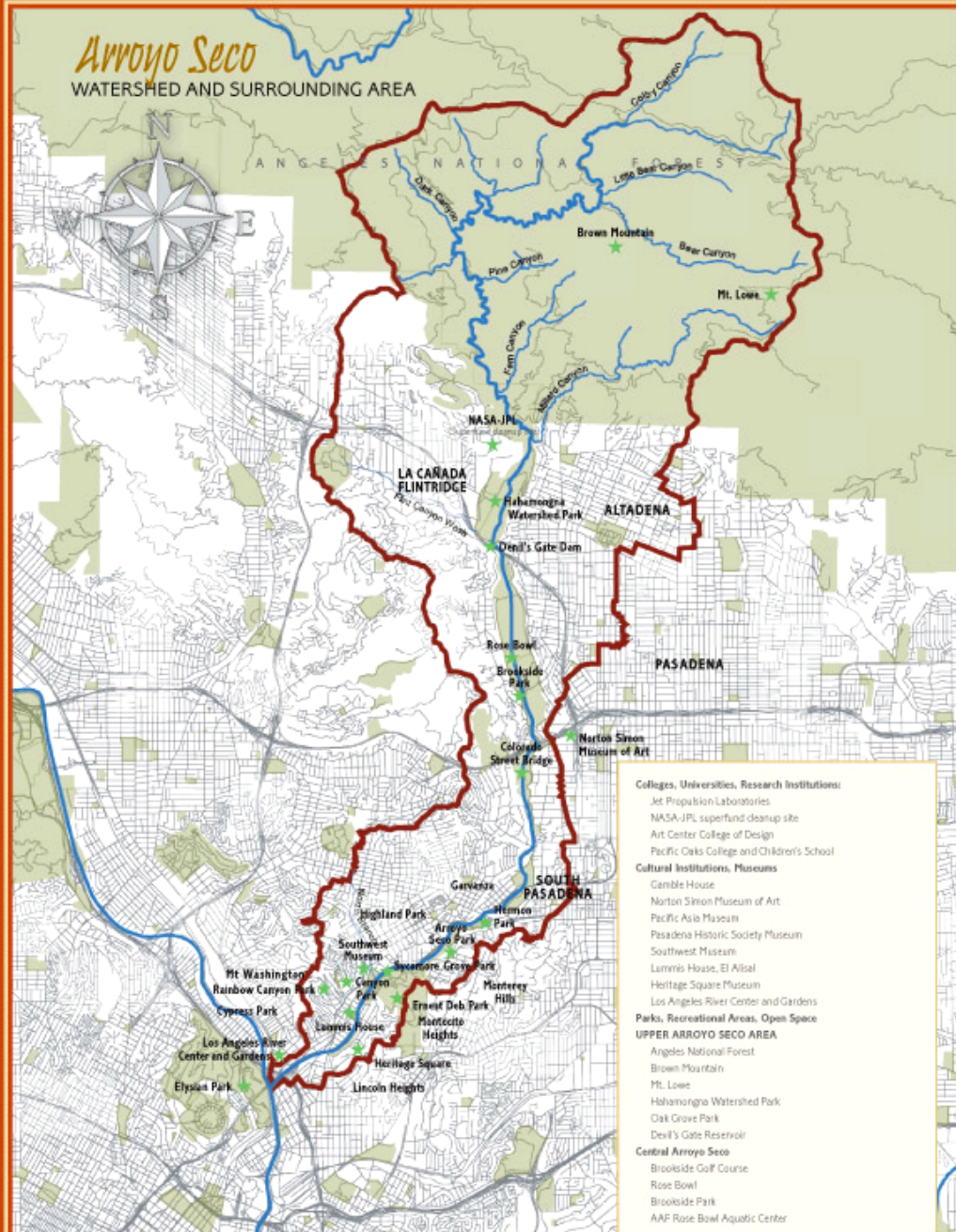
ArroyoFest 2003
Arroyo Seco Watershed

North East Trees



Arroyo Seco

WATERSHED AND SURROUNDING AREA



Colleges, Universities, Research Institutions

- Jet Propulsion Laboratories
- NASA-JPL superfund cleanup site
- Art Center College of Design
- Pacific Oaks College and Children's School

Cultural Institutions, Museums

- Gerrile House
- Norton Simon Museum of Art
- Pacific Asia Museum
- Pasadena Historic Society Museum
- Southwest Museum
- Lummis House, El Alisal
- Heritage Square Museum
- Los Angeles River Center and Gardens

Parks, Recreational Areas, Open Space

UPPER ARROYO SECO AREA

- Angeles National Forest
- Brown Mountain
- Mt. Lowe
- Hahamongna Watershed Park
- Oak Grove Park
- Devil's Gate Reservoir

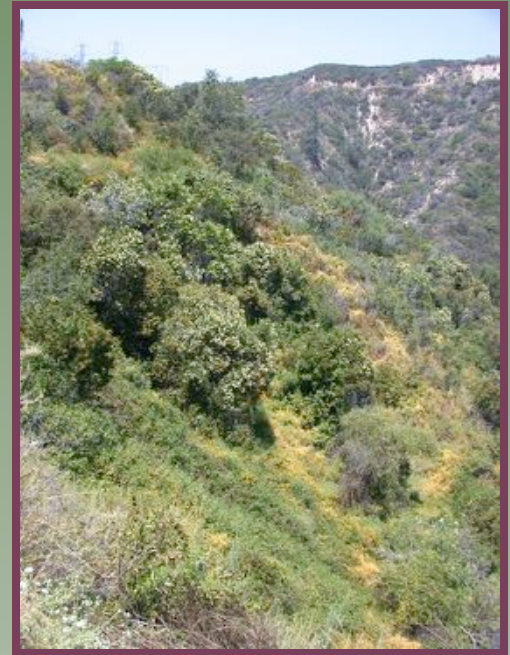
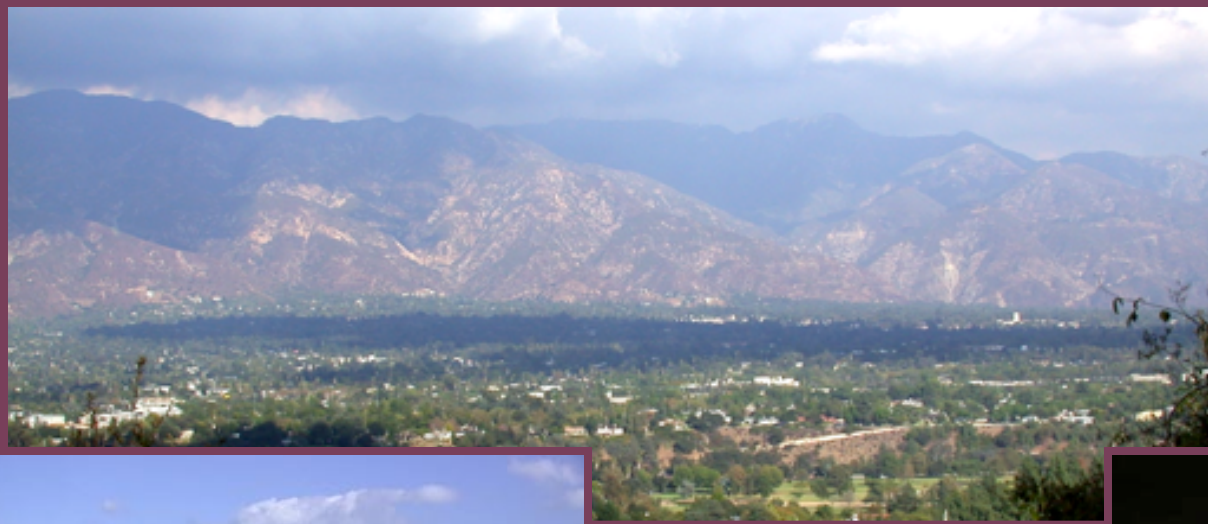
Central Arroyo Seco

- Brookside Golf Course
- Rose Bowl
- Brookside Park
- AAP Rose Bowl Aquatic Center

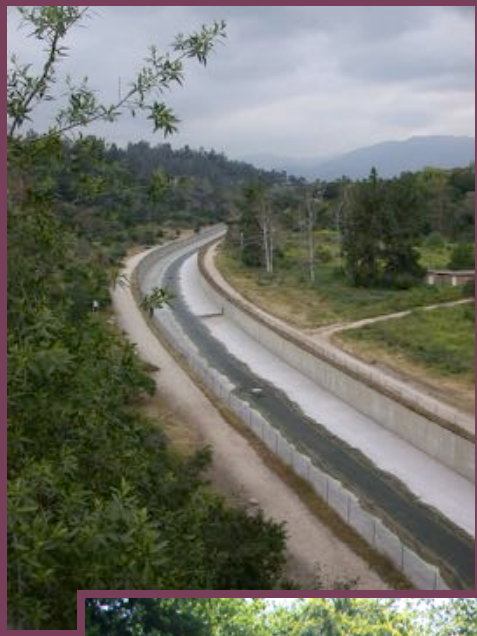
LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED



UPPER WATERSHED



MID WATERSHED



LOWER WATERSHED



HISTORY

Development

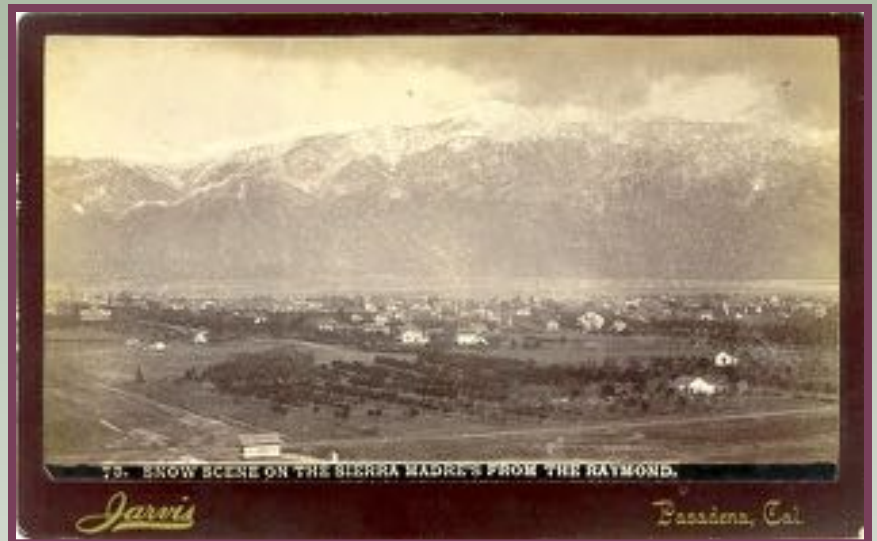
Bridges

Freeway

Water



<http://members.cox.net/mkpl2/hist/lahist.html>

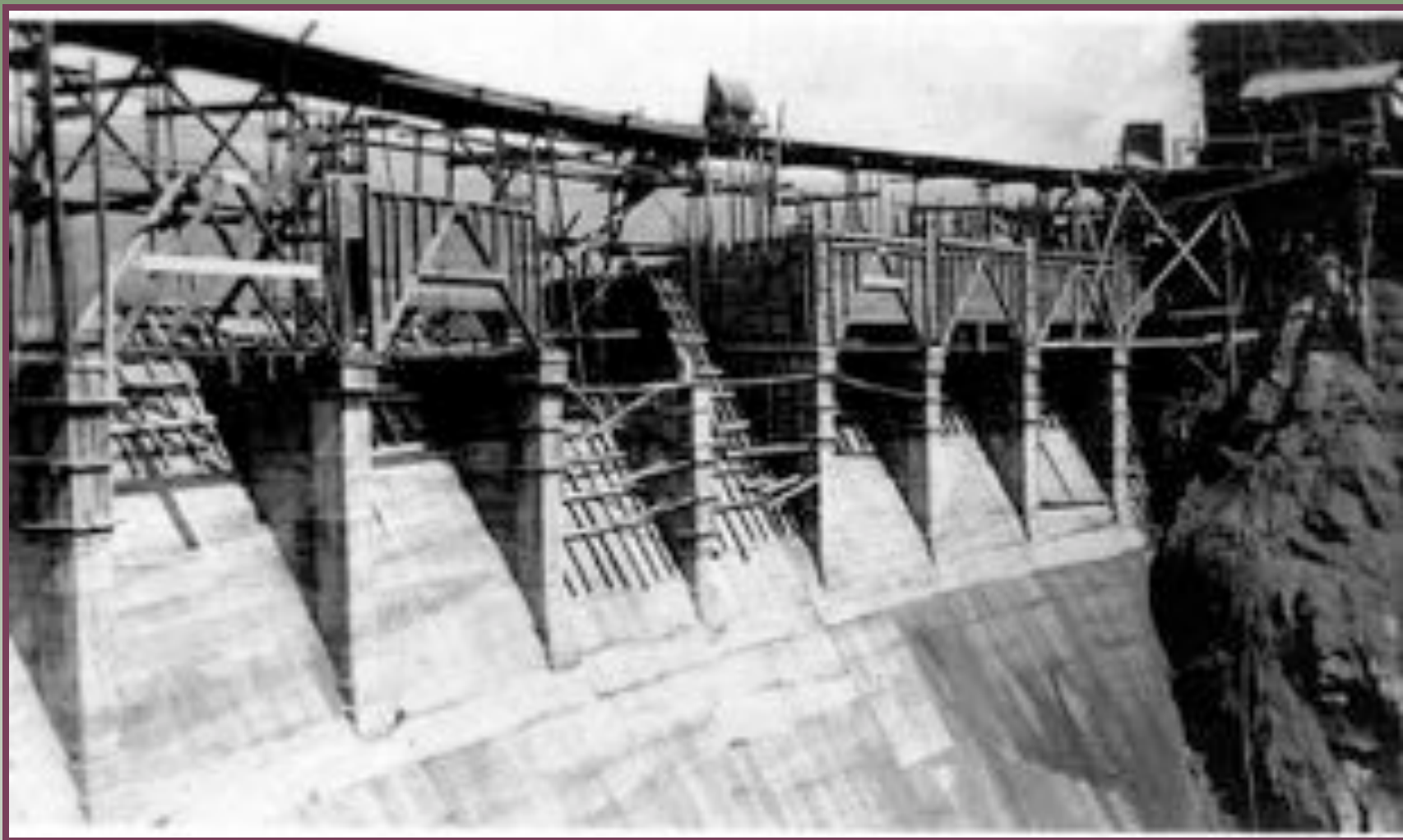


http://www.johnmualumni.com/historic_pasadena.htm
Photo: Ed Moses Collection



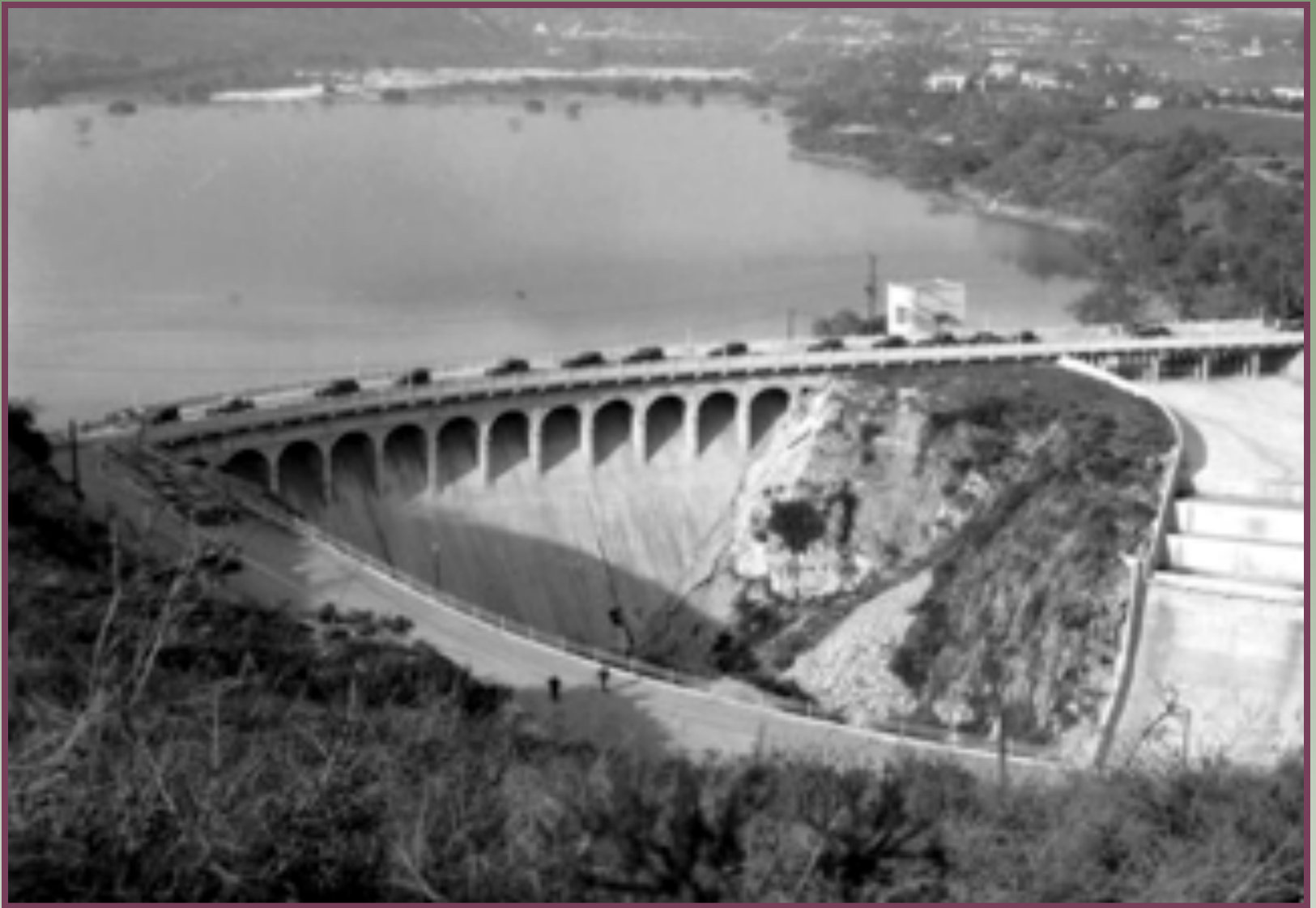
EARLY HISTORY

1888	South Pasadena incorporated
1912	Pasadena Avenue Bridge completed
1913	Colorado Street Bridge completed
1914/1916	Major flooding
1920	Devil's Gate Dam completed
1922	\$100,000 bond in S. Pas. to purchase 100 acres in the Arroyo Seco for parkland
1927	300 trees planted in new park by volunteers
1929	Construction begins on Angeles Crest Hwy



Devil's Gate Dam, Arroyo Seco. Under construction in 1920, this was the first dam constructed by Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Photo credit: <http://www.arroyoseco.org/History/DevilsGateDam.pdf>



Devil's Gate Dam provided flood control, water conservation and was the major road connecting Pasadena and La Cañada.

Photo credit: <http://www.arroyoseco.org/History/DevilsGateDam.pdf>



MIDDLE YEARS

- 1935-40** — **Extensive work on flood control channel**
- 1940** — **Dedication of the Arroyo Seco Parkway**
- 1938/43** — **Major flooding**
- 1948** — **Completed channel from Devil's Gate to LA River, except small section under the 134**
- 1955** — **Golf course opens in So. Pas Arroyo**
- 1958** — **Angeles Crest Hwy completed (begun 1929)**



**Arroyo Seco in the 1930s, from the G.W. Penfield Collection,
Photo courtesy of the South Pasadena Public Library.**



A flood in the Arroyo caused severe damage to this rail line in front of a mining facility in the 1930s.

http://www.nelanet.org/reportsmaps/hphistory/figure_10.jpg



Arroyo Seco during a flooding period, Southwest Museum in the background. Postcard from the collection of Virginia Neely.

http://www.nelanet.org/reportsmaps/hphistory/figure_4.jpg



Box channel in Arroyo Seco.



Angeles Crest Highway on a foggy, winter day.



RECENT PAST

1986	South Pasadena Arroyo Seco Park renovation
1997	Devil's Gate Dam rehabilitated
1998	Pasadena Lower Arroyo restoration (BFI)
2003	Gold Line opens
2004	Dedication of South Pasadena Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park



Revegetation of 26 acres in Pasadena along the Arroyo Seco by BFI as mitigation for expansion of a landfill.



Gold Line train leaving the Mission St. Station in South Pasadena



Construction beginning in the new South Pasadena Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park

THE FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY



THE PRESENT





GOALS AND DREAMS

- **Return ecological and hydrological function to the river (remove some/all concrete)**
- **Improve habitat**
- **Provide beautiful green space for recreation**
- **Improve water quality and availability**
- *All the while, maintaining the flood control capability of the system*

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE ARROYO

- **Park manners**
- **Don't plant weeds**
- **Remove concrete**
- **Plant natives**
- **Get involved**
- **Tell your politicians**



PARK MANNERS

- **Keep your dog on a leash.**
- **Clean up after your dog. Pet waste is a major contributor to high bacteria levels in rivers and at the beach.**
- **Don't litter. After entering the flood control channel, litter and other waste flow to the ocean.**
- **No fires in undesignated places.**
- **Follow park regulations.**



URBAN RUNOFF

Reduce concrete to allow water to soak into the soil.

- **Use permeable surfaces**
- **Direct water from rain gutters into gardens**
- **Irrigate efficiently**
- **Minimize use of fertilizers and pesticides**
- **Use a carwash**
- **Clean up after your dog!**



GET INVOLVED



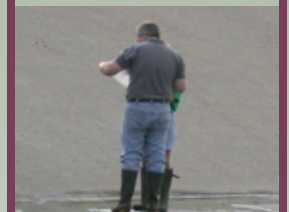
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Arroyo Seco Foundation**
www.arroyoseco.org
- **Audubon Center at Debs Park**
ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm
- **California Native Plant Society**
www.cnps.org
- **North East Trees**
www.northeasttrees.org
- **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**
www.rsabg.org
- **Theodore Payne Foundation**
www.theodorepayne.org



10 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

1. Use your car less. Cars are a leading contributor to air pollution and other environmental problems.
2. Conserve water both indoors and out.
3. Reduce your use of fertilizers and other hazardous chemicals.
4. Reduce, reuse and recycle.
5. Compost green waste.
6. Increase storm water infiltration on your property.
7. Use California native plants.
8. Participate in local clean up activities.
9. Educate yourself and others.
10. Let your elected officials know that you care about your watershed.





York Street Bridge in the 1930s

Photo courtesy of the South Pasadena Public Library



York Street Bridge in 2003