PLAY YOUR PART IN CREATING

HAPPIER, HEALTHIER, GREENER

NEIGHBORHOODS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

There are more than 300 proposed opportunities and projects throughout numerous neighborhoods along the Upper LA River and its tributaries. Details inside >>

WHAT IS THE ULART PLAN?

The Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (ULART) Revitalization Plan recommends more than 300 proposed opportunities and projects throughout numerous neighborhoods, with a priority on disadvantaged communities along the Aliso Canyon Wash, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Burbank Western Channel, Verdugo Wash, Arroyo Seco, and Upper LA River.

REVITALIZATION PLAN MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the ULART Revitalization Plan is to develop prioritized opportunities with the following components:

NATURE BASED AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

SAFE ACCESS

REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING FLOOD RISKS TO COMMUNITIES

OPEN SPACE

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS AND FEEDBACK

CULTURE, ARTS, AND EDUCATION

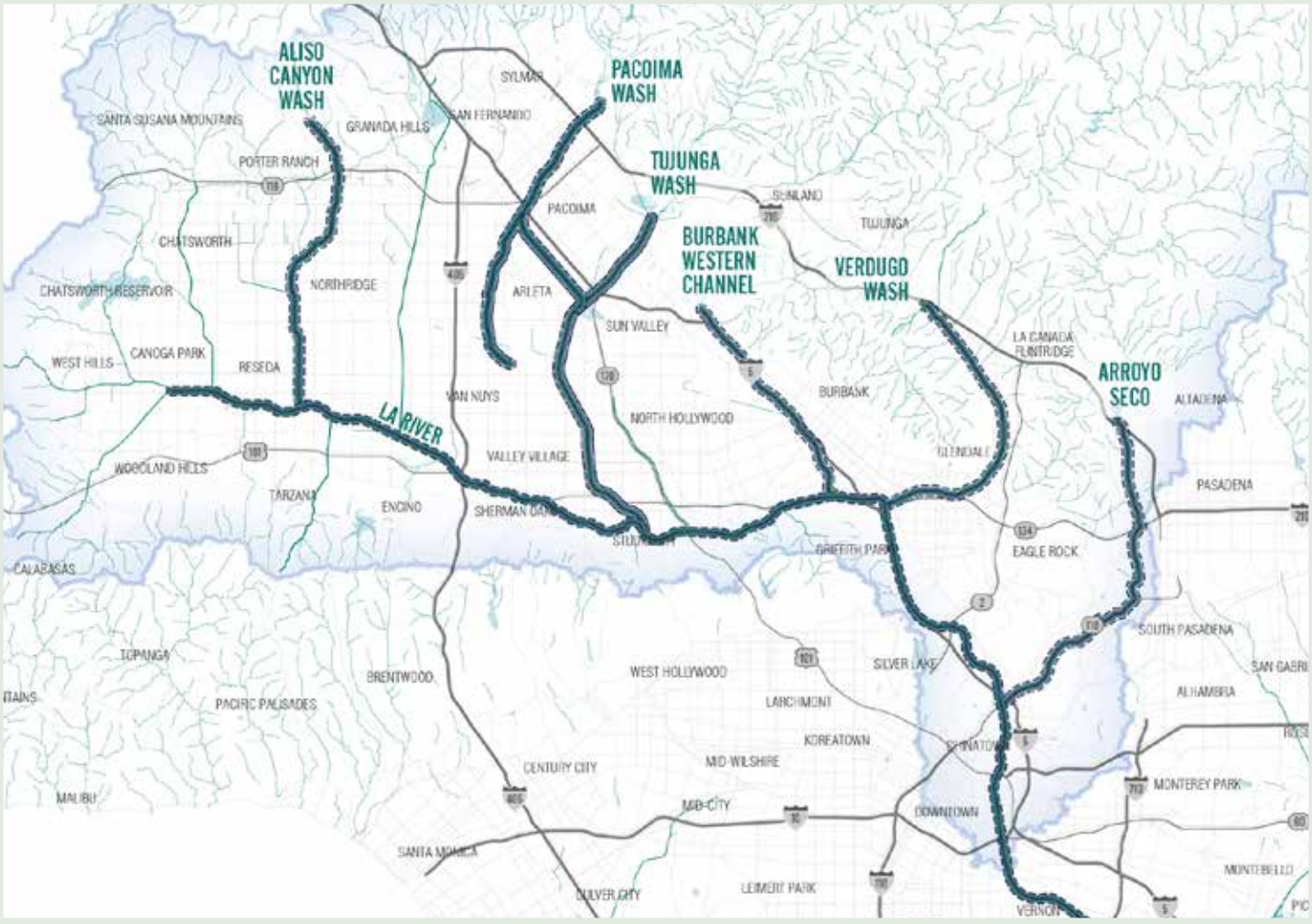
MULTIPLE BENEFITS

ALIGNMENT WITH FUNDING SOURCES

RECONCILIATION WITH PREVIOUS EFFORTS

THESE INCLUSIVE, MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECTS PROPOSE PLACES THAT:

- 1.53 million **people can easily walk to**
- **Capture** 8,695 acre-feet of stormwater **a year**
- **Plant & nurture** 250,000 trees
- **Provide** over 1,000 miles **of shaded green streets and trails**
- **Preserve and enhance** over 6,000 acres **of urban wildlife ecology**



NOW! Thanks to state legislation and the work of the ULART Working Group, you can help move projects forward! **Read on >>**

YOUR WORKING GROUP

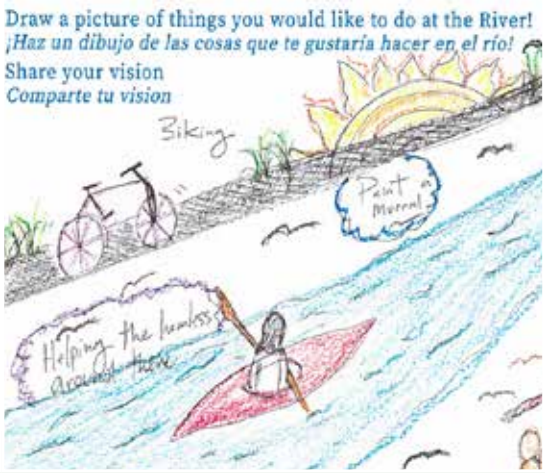
Chair Hon. Monica Rodriguez (second from right) addresses fellow Working Group members.

State legislation created a Working Group to develop the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan to be administered by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The appointed group was comprised of representatives from the State of California, Los Angeles County, and the cities adjoining the Upper LA River, along with community leaders, and was assisted by non-government organizations helping as partners in outreach and engagement.

- ULART Chairperson Hon. Monica Rodriguez, Los Angeles City Councilmember, Seventh District
- Vice Chairperson Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Los Angeles City Councilmember, Third District
- Water & Environment Committee Chair - Mark Pestrella, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- People & Recreation Committee Chair - Miguel Luna, Appointee of the Speaker of Assembly
- Hon. Hilda Solis, Los Angeles County Supervisor, First District
- Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor, Third District
- Hon. Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor, Fifth District
- Hon. Emily Gabel-Luddy, Vice-Mayor, City of Burbank
- Hon. Ara Najarian, Mayor, City of Glendale
- Hon. Sylvia Ballin, City of San Fernando
- Hon. Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Council President, Sixth District
- Alina Bokde, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor of City Services, City of Los Angeles
- Enrique Zaldivar, Director, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
- Tim Brick, Arroyo Seco Foundation, Appointee of the Senate President pro Tempore
- Yolanda Fuentes, Appointee of the Senate President pro Tempore
- Jeremy Wolf, Appointee of the Senate President pro Tempore
- Caroline Craven, Appointee of the Senate President pro Tempore
- Brian Stedge, Appointee of the Speaker of the Assembly
- Thomas Seifert, Appointee of the Speaker of Assembly
- Marsha Ramos, Appointee of the Speaker of Assembly
- Craig Sap, Angeles District Superintendent, California State Parks, Appointee of the California Natural Resources Agency
- Sean Woods, Los Angeles Sector Superintendent, California State Parks

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

- Mulholland Institute/The Valley Economic Alliance
- Pacoima Beautiful & Friends of the LA River
- River LA
- The River Project
- Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples/Sierra Health Foundation
- William C. Velasquez Institute



A Comprehensive Process

Over a period of 20 months, the Working Group convened 33 public meetings to gather feedback and design a collaborative, inclusive planning process.

The Working Group solicited ideas and input from the community, listening to area residents and stakeholders talk about their vision for the river and tributaries.

Two committees were created to examine and provide feedback throughout the process: **People and Recreation** and **Water and the Environment.** The People and Recreation Committee was tasked with identifying and prioritizing opportunities that focus on the community need for public space and passive recreation within and along the Upper Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The Water and Environment Committee concentrated on opportunities focusing on the community need and responsibility for a sustainable environment using an integrated approach.

A three-phase process was utilized to develop the plan and select the design areas.

PHASE 1

Define the mission, purpose, goals, and objectives

for revitalizing the Upper LA River and its Tributaries.

PHASE 2

Develop criteria, identify general opportunity areas, and select locations

for in-depth analysis and illustrative development.

PHASE 3

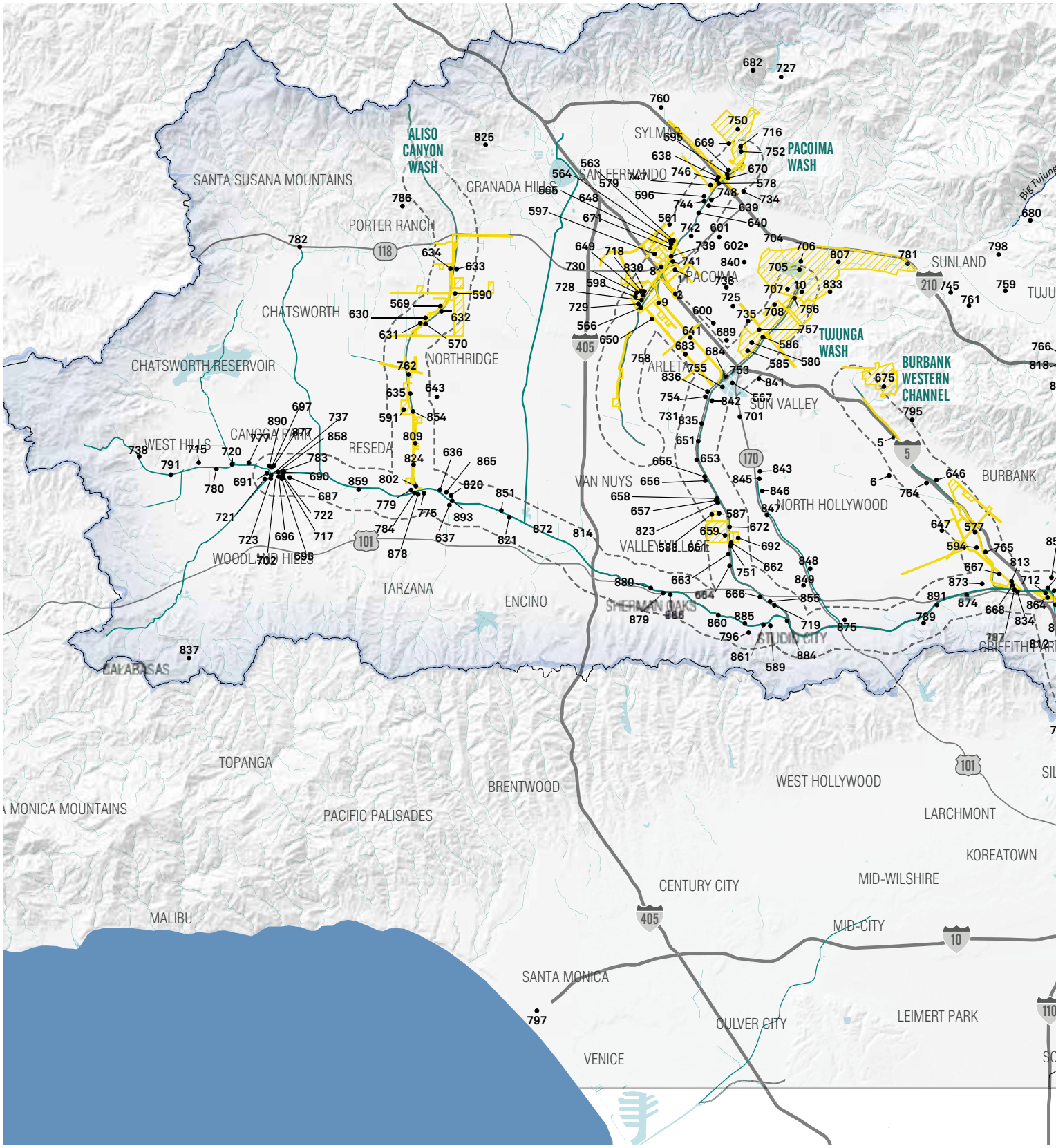
Develop the Plan and concepts

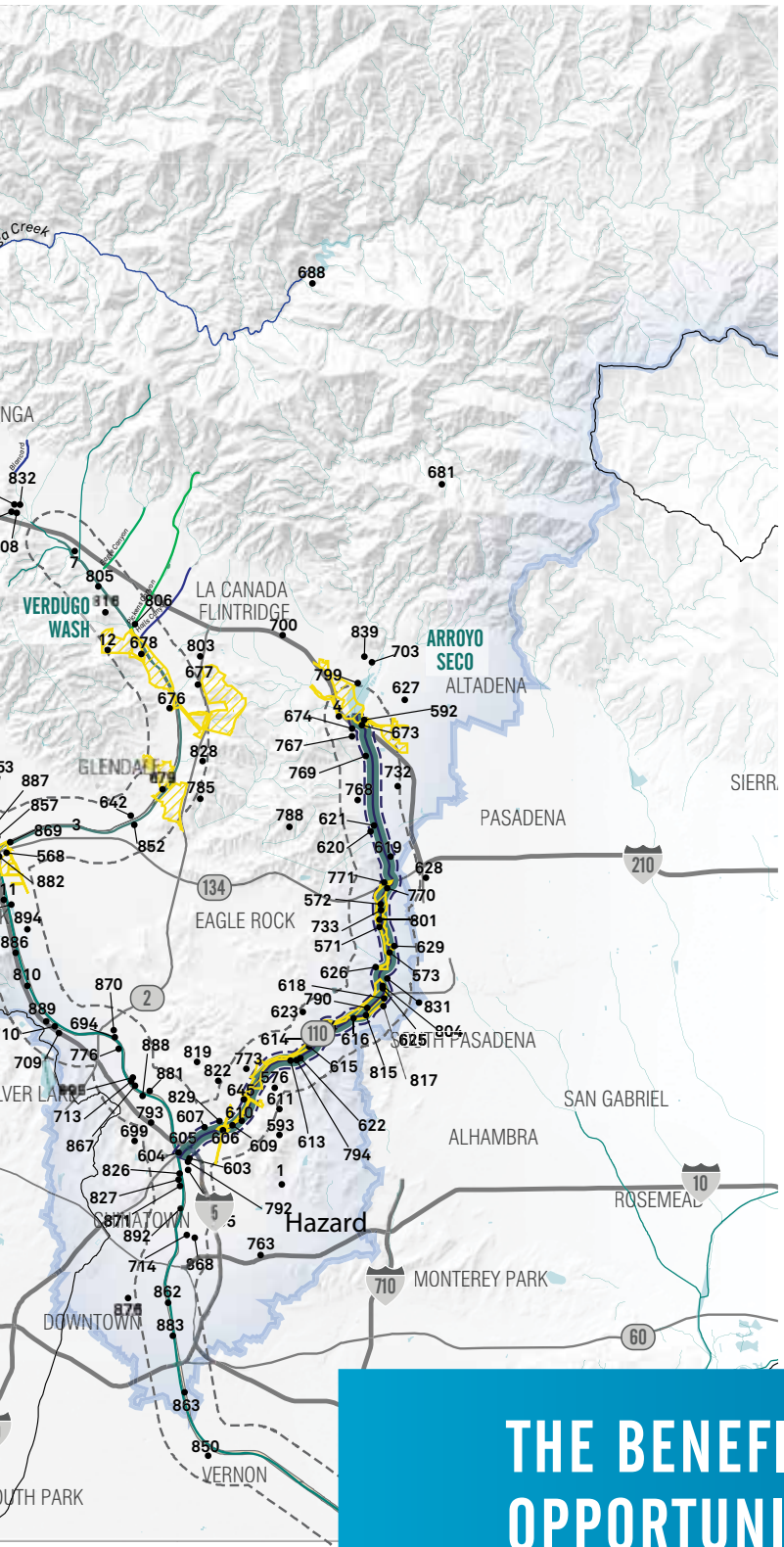
for potential projects.

EXPLORE THE NEIGHBORHOODS

that can benefit from this Plan >>

NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT GREATER LA





The ULART Working Group defined a variety of opportunities in various neighborhoods that are laid out in the plan. This map highlights communities along the Upper Los Angeles River watershed that are optimal opportunities for open space, multi-benefit parks, ecological connectors, and enhancements to cultural centers, while also fostering recreation and stewardship.

THE BENEFITS OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES

are extensive and will improve quality of life, details on the next page >>

BENEFITS OF THE ULART PLAN

The Opportunity Areas outlined in this Reader's Guide, and detailed in the ULART Plan (upperlariver.org), include projects designed to create new open space and habitat, reduce the impacts of pollution, connect communities, and increase protections for natural habitats and wildlife. These are extensive, innovative projects that both address immediate needs and will have lasting, long-term benefits.

The Plan Will Provide:

Comprehensive coverage

17.5 SQUARE MILES[1]

of ULART Opportunity Areas

(equivalent to three Griffith parks)

Massive impact

1,530,000[2]

residents are within a half mile of a ULART Opportunity Area

(equivalent to the entire population of San Diego)

People in need

625,000[3]

disadvantaged residents will have access to these exciting Opportunities

(equivalent to the entire population of Detroit)

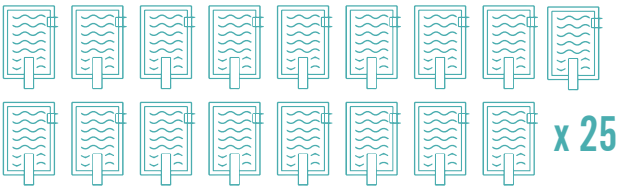
1. *Square mileage was calculated with AutoCAD and ArcGIS. The 11 design area concepts account for 10 mi². The 344 opportunity areas account for 7.49 mi².*
2. *According to the 2010 census, 635,107 people live within 1/2 mile of the 11 design area concepts and 911, 906 people live within 1/2 mile of the 344 opportunity areas.*
3. *According to CalEnviroScreen 3.0, 45% of the people living within 1/2 mile of the 11 design area and 37% of the people living within 1/2 mile of the 344 opportunity areas are considered disadvantaged.*

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The following summarizes the benefits calculated for the Plan's projects and opportunity areas, along with their contribution towards the OurCounty Sustainability Plan goals[1].

WATER

The design includes **9.6 square miles** *of new or enhanced permeable cover*



x 250

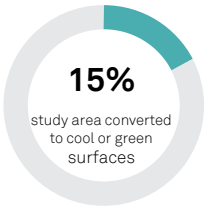
STORMWATER CAPTURE

8,695 acre-feet

OR **4,348**

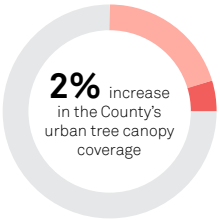
OLYMPIC-SIZED SWIMMING POOLS

OUR COUNTY
GOAL TARGET 2A



PLANTING

OUR COUNTY
GOAL TARGET 2D



The design includes **256,617 trees,** **3,060 acres** *of additional tree canopy coverage that provide the following benefits:*

313,917 tons
Additional Carbon Sequestration

8,547 tons
Additional Carbon Dioxide Avoided

168 tons
Additional Pollutant Removal

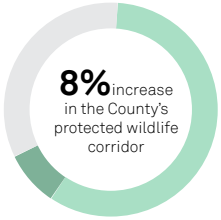
HABITAT

The design includes **7.6 square miles** *of new and enhanced ecological habitat*

EQUIVALENT TO

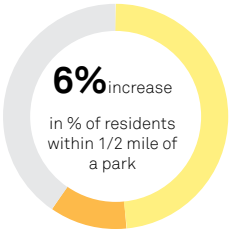
14.5 VERDUGO MOUNTAINS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

OUR COUNTY
GOAL TARGET 5A



COMMUNITY

OUR COUNTY
GOAL TARGET 6A



The design includes **8.4 square miles** *of new and enhanced open space and* **1,058 miles** *of new or enhanced community connections*

740 miles
Green Streets

212 miles
Multi-modal paths

106 miles
Trails

1. *The Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan proposes to make LA County a more equitable, prosperous and resilient region in the years ahead. It was unanimously adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2019.*

EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES

that this Plan can bring to your community >>

Water and Environment Opportunities:

ECOLOGICAL HABITATS

THE ISSUE: Loss of habitat connectivity is threatening the natural resources in our neighborhoods and throughout the ULART region.

THE RESOLUTION: Opportunities in this section will build upon the existing plant and animal populations to support and create enhanced wildlife habitats.

Sample Project:

VERDUGO WASH – NOW

View looking south at Verdugo Wash and Invale Drive

VERDUGO WASH – WITH IMPROVEMENTS

Ecological habitats provide the physical and natural environments for wildlife to access food and mates. Habitats like the proposed San Rafael Ecological Connection in the below rendering could also protect wildlife such as mountain lions, deer, coyotes, steelhead fish, and a wide array of birds from urban areas. This is accomplished with a tunnel that provides safe passage across the 2 Freeway and adds native plantings and trees to make areas more conducive to passage of wildlife – as well as restoring numerous waterways in the area and creating additional access points to the Verdugo Mountains.

Want more information about this type of project?

Visit upperlariver.org and click "View Plan" – Explore Chapter 3

Water and Environment Opportunities:

CONNECTIVITY AND POLLUTION REDUCTION

THE ISSUE:

Exposure to traffic-related air pollution has been linked to a variety of negative health effects in both adults and children.

THE RESOLUTION:

Opportunities in this section would plant trees and other vegetation throughout urbanized areas, repurposing public spaces and corridors in order to filter harmful pollutants out of the air.

Sample Project:

ALISO CANYON WASH - NOW

View looking north along Aliso Canyon Wash just south of Napa Street

ALISO CANYON WASH - WITH IMPROVEMENTS

Wilbur Debris Basin, pictured in the below rendering, is an example of connective parks. Projects such as this propose in-channel modifications that can slow down water, feature a series of outdoor classrooms, and create a unique overlook that allows for community gatherings, easy access to bike paths, seating, and promotes the outdoors. In addition, even a small filtration forest (north side of the image) can have an immediate positive impact on reducing air pollutants.

Want more information about this type of project?

Visit upperlariver.org and click "View Plan" – Explore Chapter 3

People and Recreation

MULTI-BENEFIT PARKS

THE ISSUE: Under-utilized space in our neighborhoods could be doing so much for our community.

THE RESOLUTION: Open space can provide nature-based recreation amenities for the community while also advancing the plan's goals for flood risk management, watershed management, and ecological enhancements.

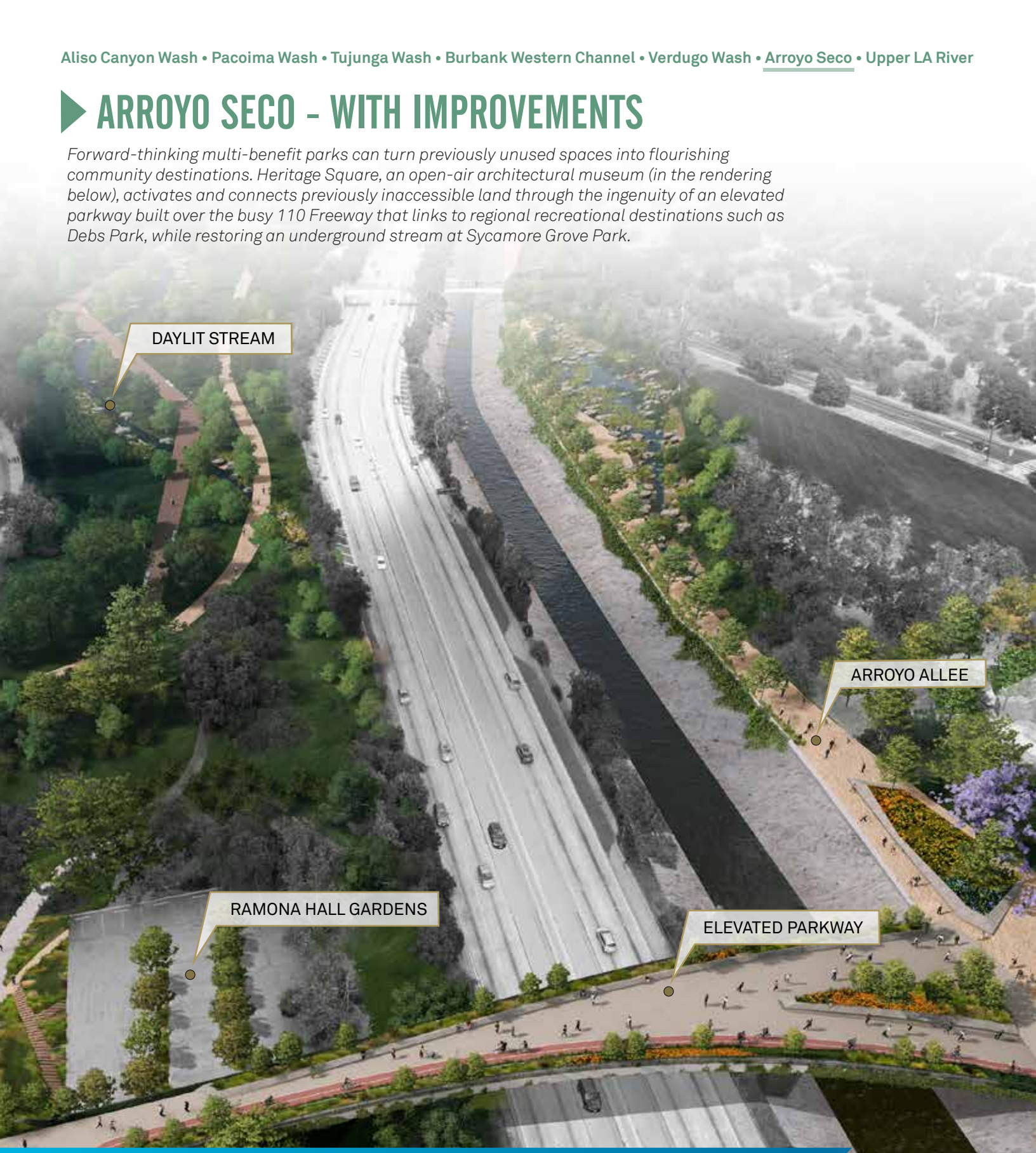
Sample Project:

ARROYO SECO - NOW

View looking north at the Arroyo Seco near the Montecito Recreation Center

ARROYO SECO - WITH IMPROVEMENTS

Forward-thinking multi-benefit parks can turn previously unused spaces into flourishing community destinations. Heritage Square, an open-air architectural museum (in the rendering below), activates and connects previously inaccessible land through the ingenuity of an elevated parkway built over the busy 110 Freeway that links to regional recreational destinations such as Debs Park, while restoring an underground stream at Sycamore Grove Park.



Want more information about this type of project?

Visit upperlariver.org and click "View Plan" – Explore Chapter 3

RECREATION AND STEWARDSHIP

THE ISSUE:

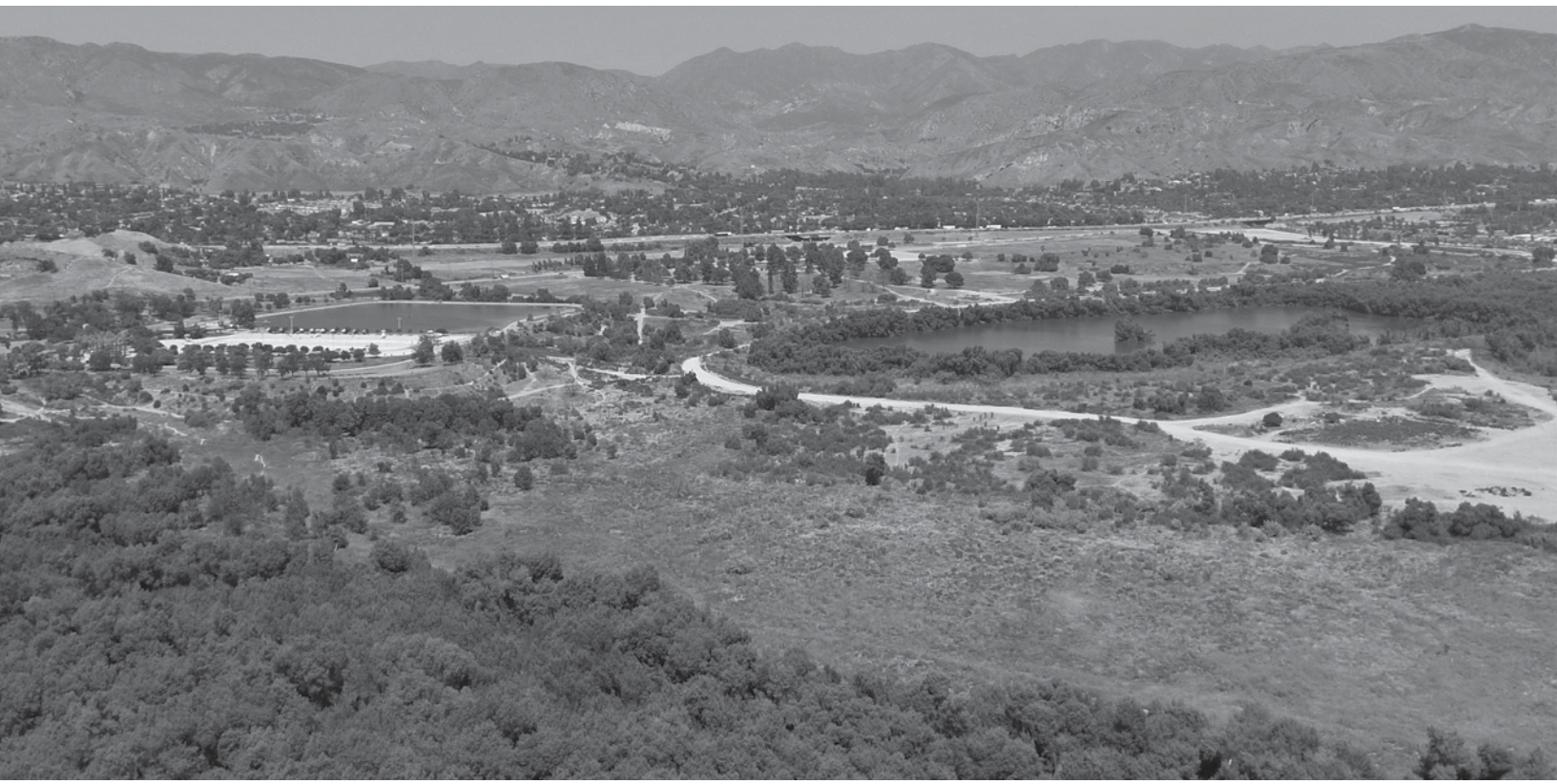
The Dam and surrounding areas at the Hansen Dam Recreation Area can more effectively foster multiple purposes that could support the local environment and provide more hands-on learning.

THE RESOLUTION:

This Plan outlines several opportunities for cultural and educational institutions to upgrade or enhance their physical location in order to provide exactly that, as well as deeper community connectivity. Specific opportunities include the ability to create outdoor classrooms and native gardens as well as enhance green streets and improve water quality.

Sample Project:

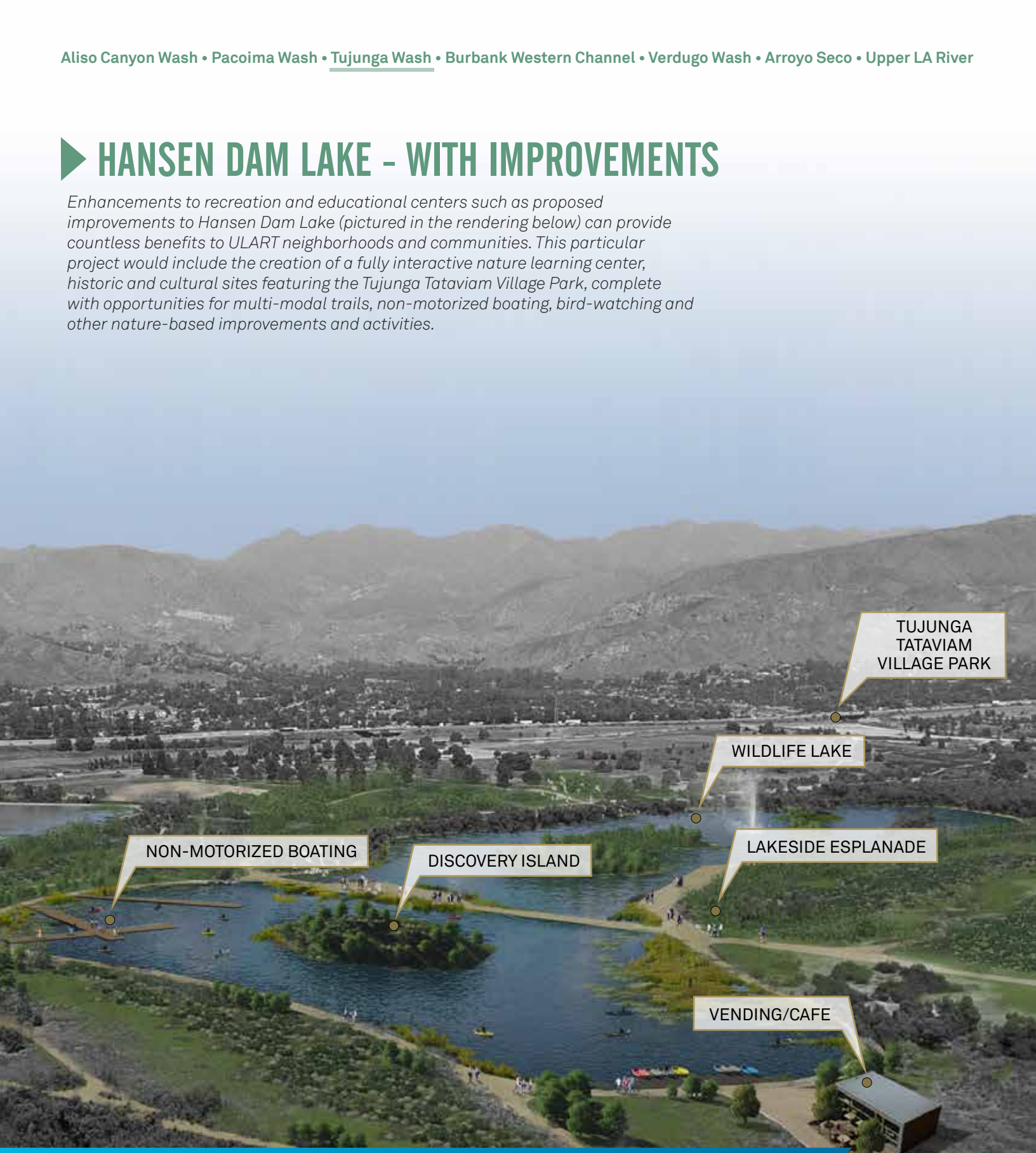
HANSEN DAM LAKE - NOW



View looking north at existing Hansen Dam Lake and Recreation Area.

HANSEN DAM LAKE - WITH IMPROVEMENTS

Enhancements to recreation and educational centers such as proposed improvements to Hansen Dam Lake (pictured in the rendering below) can provide countless benefits to ULART neighborhoods and communities. This particular project would include the creation of a fully interactive nature learning center, historic and cultural sites featuring the Tujunga Tataviam Village Park, complete with opportunities for multi-modal trails, non-motorized boating, bird-watching and other nature-based improvements and activities.



Want more information about this type of project?

Visit upperlariver.org and click "View Plan" – Explore Chapter 3

READY TO GET INVOLVED?

Here's what you can do next:

1 Learn more about the ULART Plan at upperlariver.org

Click "View Plan" – Explore Chapter 3

2 Sign up for our email list & to view the Plan

upperlariver.org

Get information about upcoming meetings and events, join and play your part!

3 Follow us on social media

Get up-to-the-minute news and updates by following us on our project partner MRCA's social media:

- @LAMountains
- @mrcaparks
- @mrcaparks

CREDITS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This Plan respectfully acknowledges all California Native American Tribes through whose ancestral homelands the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries flow. These Nations include: Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, and the Kitz Nation Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ULART PLAN?

Visit upperlariver.org and click “View Plan” – Explore Chapter 3

Funded by

Partners

Special thanks to the Project Planning Team:
MRCA, Tetra Tech, Studio-MLA, and AHBE MIG

Feel free to contact us with any questions

River@smmc.ca.gov