

WHO WE ARE Once home to steelhead and grizzly, the Los Angeles River flowed from west to east through the wetlands of what is now called the San Fernando Valley before heading south towards the ocean. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated their first major flood control project in the 1930's, they triggered a process that would pave 90% of the River, creating the world's largest storm drain. With the cement came a perceptual shift: the River no longer existed. Now it was a "flood control channel," a no-man's land surrounded by fences and "keep out" signs.

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) was founded in 1986 as a "forty year art work to bring the Los Angeles River back to life." Our mission is to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River and its riparian habitat. From our inception, FoLAR focused on changing the *meaning* of the

of Angelenos to remove trash from the River at 14 sites between Tujunga Wash at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains and Long Beach.

RIVER SCHOOL, FoLAR's outdoor education program, provides standards-based, hands-on science education for students throughout Los Angeles County, with a comprehensive k-12 curriculum, in-class presentations and River field trips. A key part of the program is our River School Days, which engage students in cleanups and other watershed-focused educational activities designed to teach the connection between storm drains, the River and the ocean.

Throughout the year, FoLAR offers guided **L.A. RIVER CAR AND WALKING TOURS**. Many are led by Jenny Price, author of *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America*, and one of

architects, planners, designers and engineers. Their vision includes wetland restoration, extensive parkland creation, enhanced downstream flood protection, housing, and a green tech corridor connecting the River to both the USC Medical Center and Union Station.

FoLAR is leading a coalition pushing for a **HIGH SPEED RAIL** alignment that avoids the riverbank south of Union Station, and, north of the station, tunnels beneath the Los Angeles River, the Cornfield (the Los Angeles State Historic Park) and the Taylor Yard, the (Rio de Los Angeles State Park).

In 1993, FoLAR collaborated with the County Museum of Natural History to issue *The Biota of the Los Angeles River*, the first-ever look at the River as a living eco-system. In 2006 FoLAR issued the first State of the River Report and report card summarizing



River. To us the mighty Los Angeles isn't a concrete scar that divides the city. It's a place to re-weave the fabric of our region, to gather down by the River and create a constituency for change. FoLAR envisions a revitalized greenway from the mountains to the sea. We see the River's potential for open space and recreation – bicycling, boating, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, and more. We regard the River as a source of habitat restoration, recharged aquifers, enlightened urban development, job creation, and civic pride. We imagine the River as a site for artistic and cultural innovation – a place where dreams are realized.

Our goal is a swimmable, fishable, boatable River. We advocate not only on behalf of the rapidly growing number of people using the River, but also for the birds, the fish, the mammals—all the life forms that depend upon the river for sustenance.

WHAT WE DO Our Great Los Angeles River CleanUp is one of the largest river cleanups in the United States. Every spring, FoLAR's Gran Limpieza mobilizes thousands

the L.A. River's most experienced and knowledgeable guides. For prices and schedules visit our website at www.folar.org.

With its **CENTRAL CITY INITIATIVE** FoLAR is championing the future of the River through Downtown Los Angeles, the most degraded and inaccessible 4 ½ mile stretch of the entire River.

The beloved **6TH STREET BRIDGE** is deteriorating. In collaboration with the American Institute of Architects, the Urban Land Institute, and the Downtown Neighborhood Council, FoLAR has taken the lead in calling for an international design competition to choose the architects who will design an iconic replacement.

To create a post-industrial vision for the last active railyard in the City, the Union Pacific's 125 acre **PIGGYBACK YARD**, FoLAR brought together some of Los Angeles' best landscape architects,

the results of the most comprehensive citizen water quality monitoring program ever undertaken on the Los Angeles River. In 2008, working with a team of biologists, FoLAR issued its State of the River 2, the first look at fish and fishing, primarily in the Glendale Narrows, a natural-bottom River stretch. Much to our delight, tissue samples of carp and sunfish showed "not detectable" levels of Mercury and PCBs.

Except during the rainy season, most of the 60 million gallons of water going down the River channel every day is highly treated reclaimed sewage. Currently, only a tiny portion of the water is being reused; but inevitably that will change. How much water needs to be reserved for a healthy River? FoLAR, a founding member of the City of L.A.'s **Recycled Water** Advisory Group, is arguing for a guaranteed adequate flow.

PHOTO CREDITS:

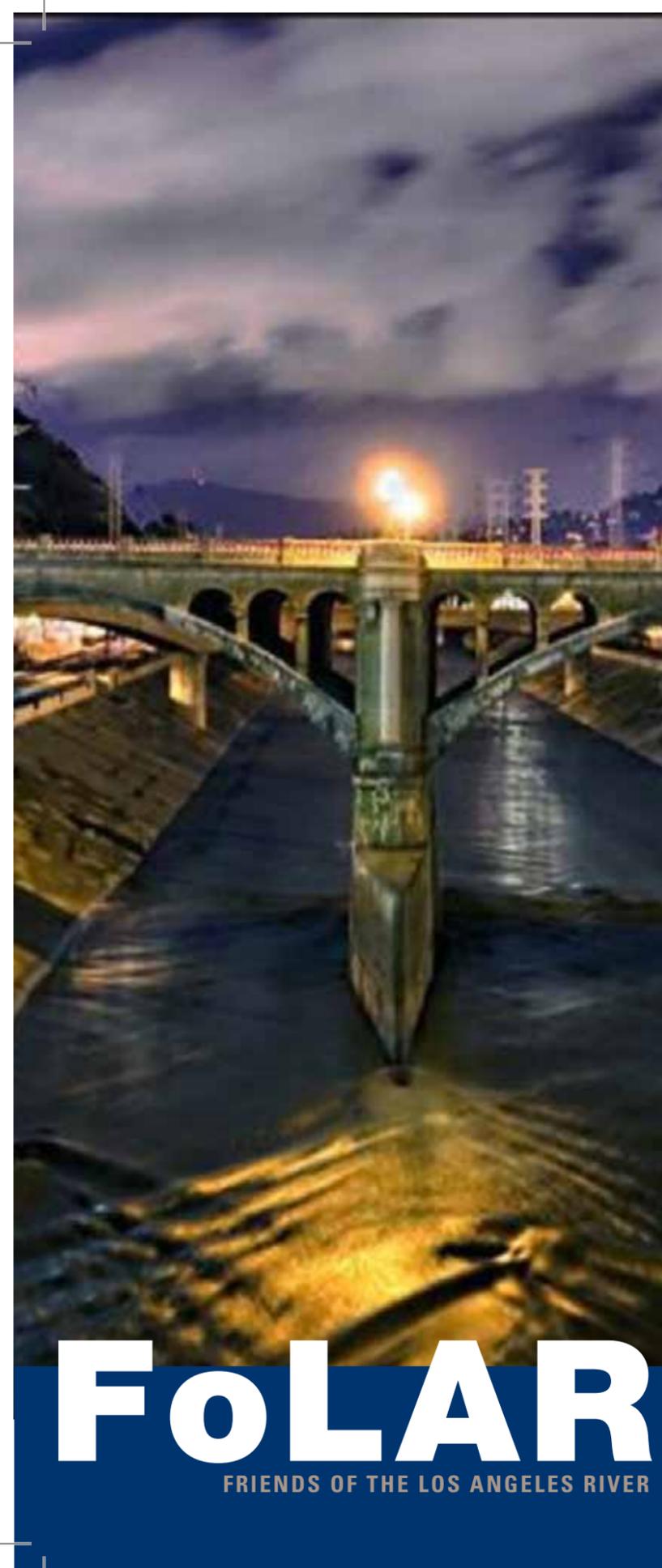
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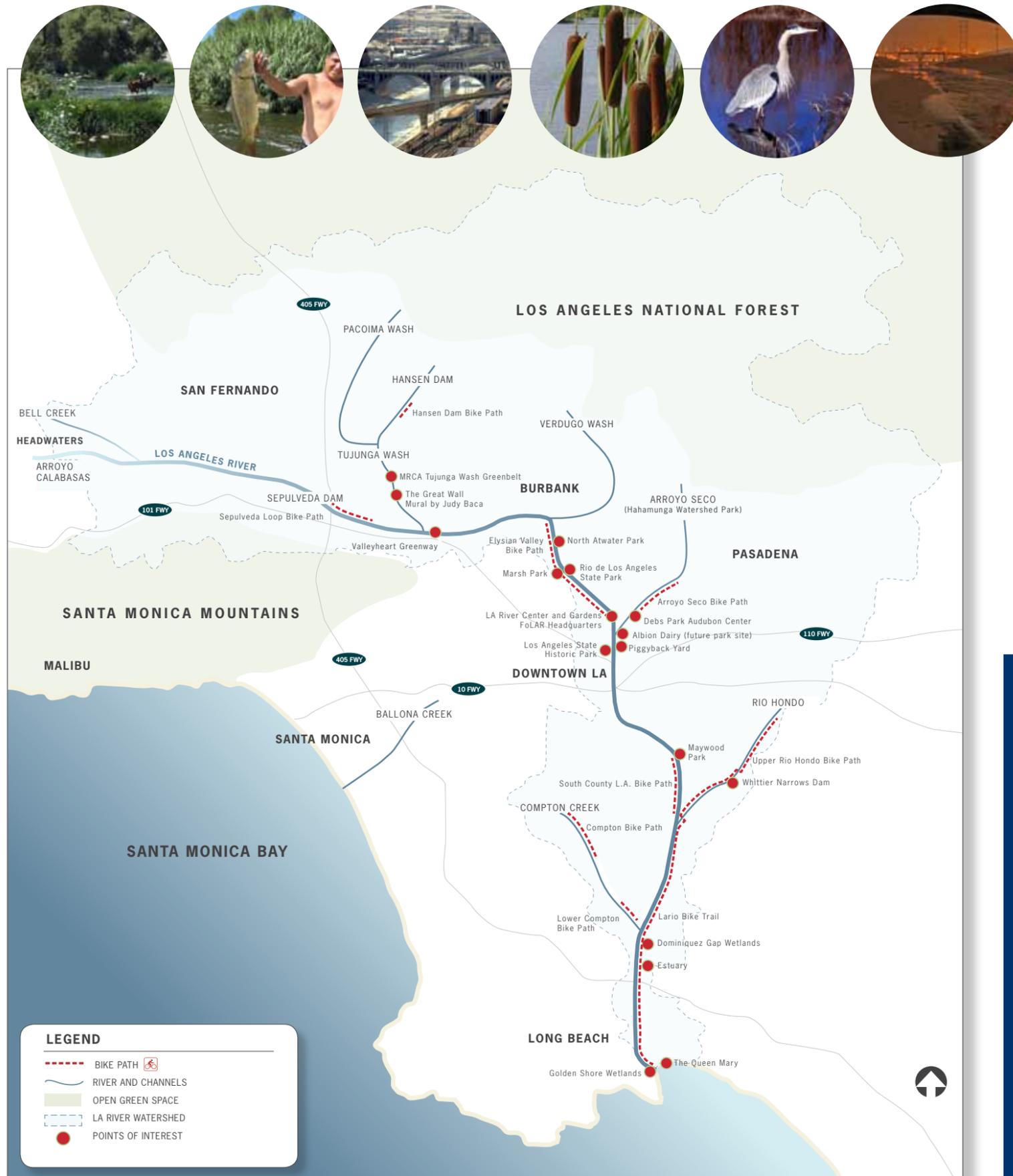


**TOWARDS A
SWIMMABLE
FISHABLE
BOATABLE
LOS ANGELES
RIVER**



FoLAR

FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER



Who has the authority to allow or prohibit access to the River? Why do we not need a permit to visit the beach, but we need several to clean the L.A. River? **Who owns the River, anyway?** In 2010 FoLAR brought together a state-wide slate of natural resource and environmental attorneys and asked them to come up with a set of common sense recommendations for recreational access to the River. Underlying their report, released in January 2011 as “Near-Term Recreational Access and Use of the Los Angeles River,” is the fundamental belief that the public has the right to access the River for Recreational purposes.

Alongside a coalition of neighborhood and environmental groups, FoLAR is working to ensure that **Universal Studio’s Evolution Plan** includes a bicycle route between the San Fernando Valley, Griffith Park and Downtown Los Angeles as called for in both the City and the County’s River Master Plans.

TOWARDS A SWIMMABLE FISHABLE BOATABLE LOS ANGELES RIVER



JOIN US

With over 5,000 people on FoLAR’s e-mail list and another 1,500 friends on Facebook – FoLAR is building a powerful constituency for the River. Will you join us?

A gift of \$50 a year brings you a bi-monthly e-newsletter, a set of 12 FoLAR greeting cards; and a free scheduled river tour.

For \$100, we’ll throw in a copy of Joe Linton’s FoLAR biking and hiking guide, *Down by the Los Angeles River*. For \$500, FoLAR’s founder, Lewis MacAdams, will take you and five friends on a private L.A. River tour.

To join FoLAR, contact us now at www.Folar.org, call us at 323-223-0585, or write us at 570 W. Ave. 26 #250 L.A. 90065.