



Our County

Open Space, Built Environment, and Biodiversity: An 'Our County' Workshop

October 23, 2018

Stakeholder Process and Today's Agenda

Stakeholder Engagement Equity Statement



Equity

Goal

Reduce disparities across geographies due to race, class, gender, and other social differences

Strategy

Commit resources to include those often left out of policy and planning discussions

Indicators

Distributional	Actions that repair current and historical imbalances
Procedural	Participatory decisionmaking with vulnerable communities
Transformational	Strategies securing future benefits for at-risk populations

Stakeholder Engagement Plan



Stakeholder Engagement Timeline



Today's Team Leaders



Stakeholder Engagement

- Liberty Hill: Michele Prichard & Ben Russak
- UCLA: Laurel Hunt & Ari Simon
- Estolano LeSar Advisors: Andri Tai-Ward

Data & Analysis and Topic Teams

- UCLA: Stephanie Pincetl & Sean Kennedy
- BuroHappold: Adam Friedberg & Christopher Rhie
- Studio-MLA: Mia Lehrer, Claire Latane, Kat Superfisky

Today's Agenda



9:10 **Welcome**

- Laurel Hunt & Ari Simon, UCLA
- Mia Lehrer, Studio-MLA
- Gary Gero, CSO of the County of Los Angeles
- Sean Kennedy, UCLA

9:45 **Breakout #1: Goals**

10:40 **Break**

10:50 **Breakout #2: Strategies**

12:10 **Breakout #3: Cross-Topic Collaboration**

12:20 **Closing Remarks**

- Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office

12:30 **Survey and Adjournment**

Studio-MLA Welcome

STUDIO MLA



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



STUDIO·MLA

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION & STUDIO·MLA
LOS ANGELES

URBAN wildlife

CONNECTIVITY STUDY

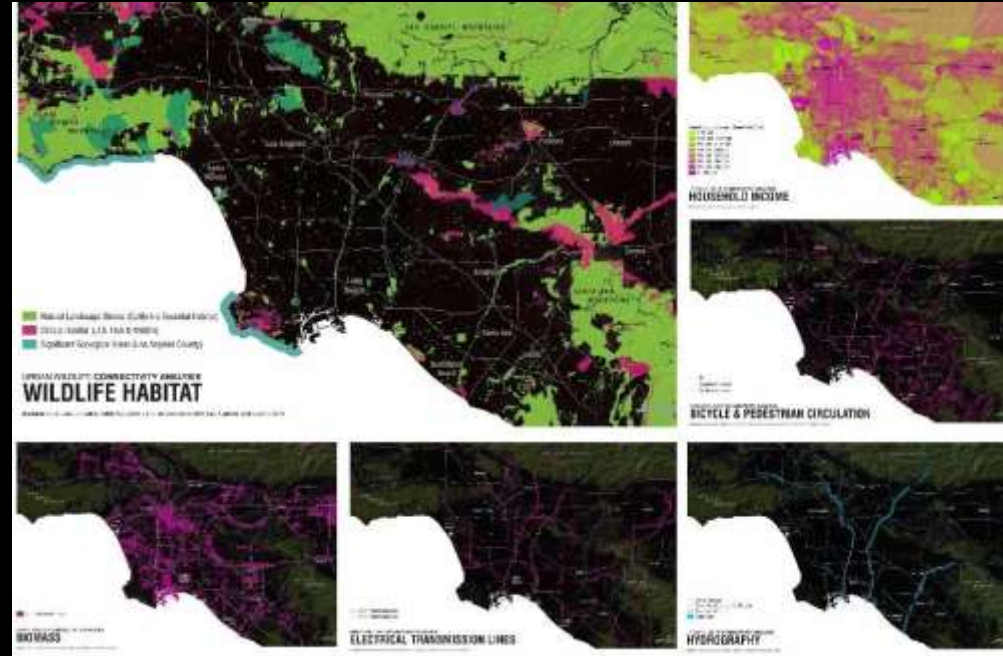
PURPOSE

Urban wildlife from public lands and urban areas can be connected to create resilient, interconnected and vibrant that new urbanism, human and natural landscapes. Such "interconnected" and vibrant as they counter the effects of fragmentation and climate change, while simultaneously enhancing habitat and connectivity for humans.

In 2016, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and Studio·MLA teamed up to conduct a National Wildlife Connectivity Study of Los Angeles and Orange County in the United States—Los Angeles, California.

METHODOLOGY

- 1 REVIEW**
- 2 ANALYZE**
- 3 SELECT**
- 4 MAP**
- 5 IDENTIFY**
- 6 RE-IMAGINE**



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION + STUDIO·MLA URBAN WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY STUDY

3

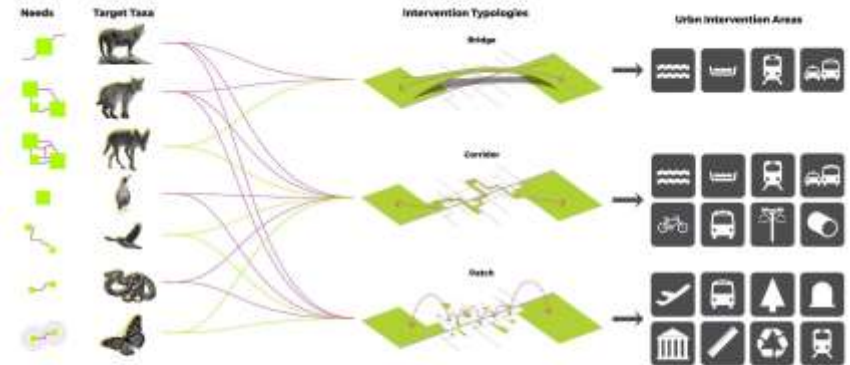


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Spoken language is a complex of many different factors, and as such, it is not possible to create a single, unified model of language. However, the following factors are considered to be the most important in the study of spoken language:



5



6

Designing elementary strategies that use typical urban systems and infrastructure to increase connectivity and flexibility for both humans and wildlife.



STUDIO MLA



DODGERS STADIUM



SANTA MONICA BEACH RESTORATION



VISTA HERMOSA PARK

The Team

Consultant Team



Topic and data collection and analysis leadership and stakeholder engagement co-leadership



Stakeholder engagement
co-leadership



Topic expert: **open space**



Topic expert: **housing and economy
and workforce development**
SE support



Advisors



Topic expert: **health and
wellbeing**



Topic expert:
transportation



Topic expert: **air quality**

Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a green field in the foreground, a large solar farm in the middle ground, a wind farm with several turbines in the distance, and a range of blue mountains under a clear sky.

The Chief Sustainability Office provides comprehensive and coordinated policy support and guidance for the Board of Supervisors, County departments, the unincorporated areas, and the region to make our communities healthier, more liveable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable.

The Plan

The County's Aims



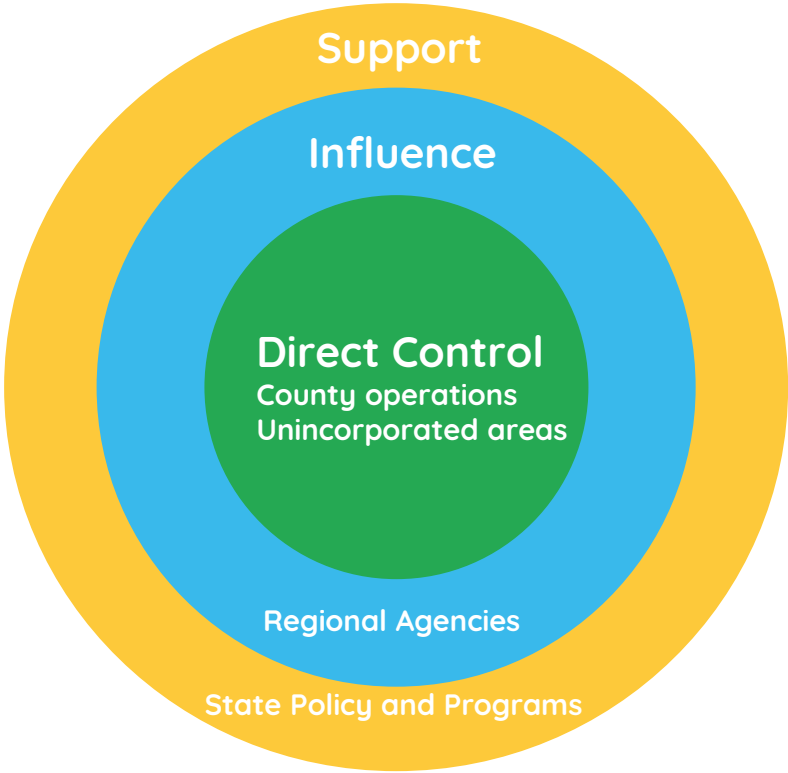
The plan should be:

- Aspirational, Comprehensive, Long-Term, Regional, Actionable

The task:

- Develop a comprehensive framework for County and City sustainability initiatives
- Serve as template for local cities when preparing sustainability/climate action plans
- Prepare the region to be competitive for funding

The County's Sphere of Influence



Countywide Sustainability Plan Framework

- Water
- Energy
- Climate
- Air Quality
- Land Use and Transportation
- Open Space, Recreation and Habitat/Biodiversity
- Resource Recovery and Waste Management
- Public Health and Well-Being
- Economy and Workforce Development
- Housing



**Equity &
Resilience
woven
throughout**

Organizing Principles



Nurturing Healthy Communities



Cultivating a Just Economy



Fostering a Healthy Relationship with the Environment

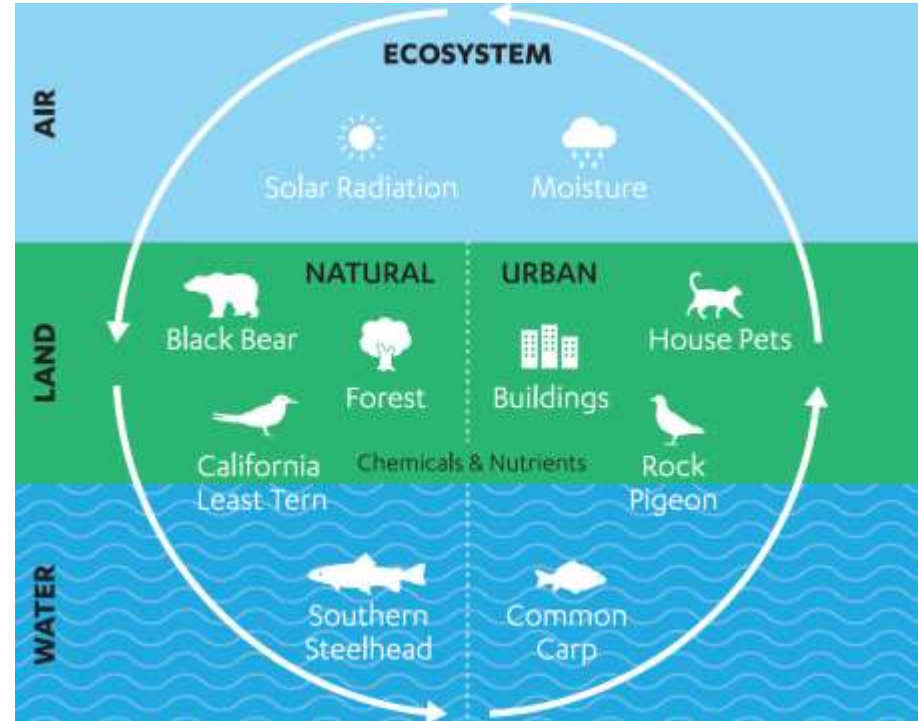


Making It Happen

LA County Landscapes & Ecosystems Overview

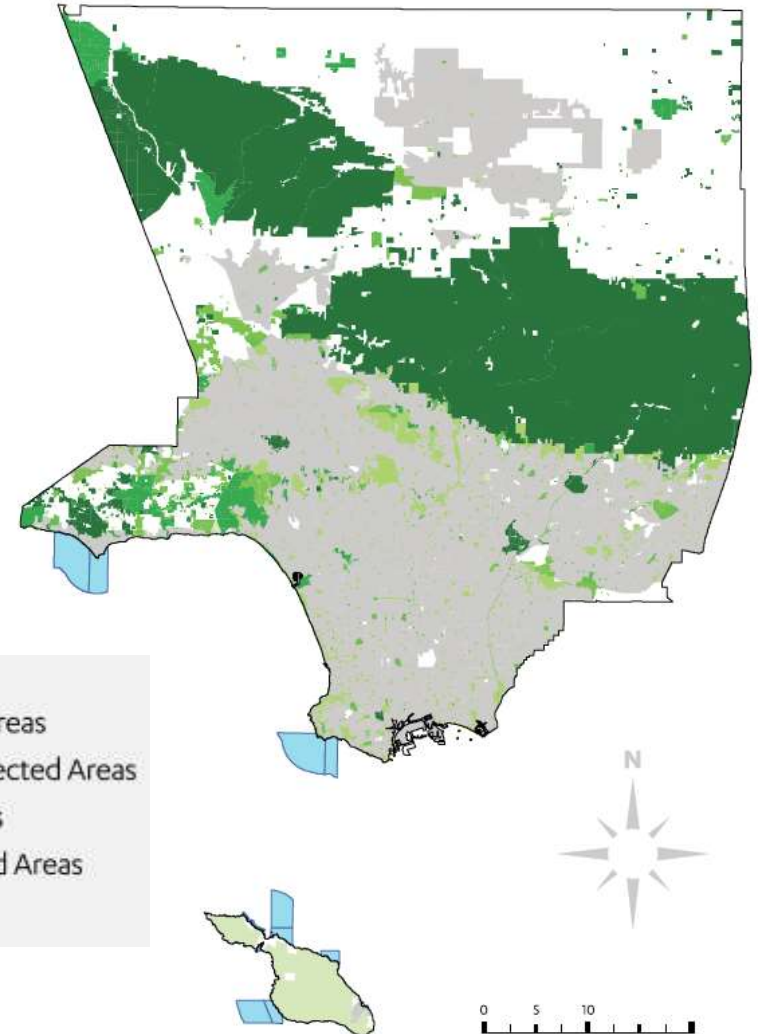
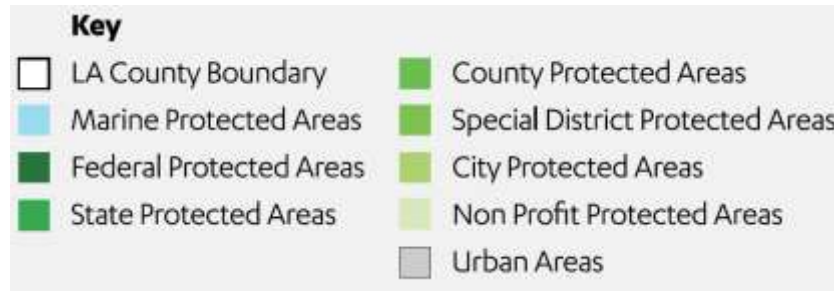
Landscapes and Ecosystems of the L.A. region

- Urban ecosystems are dynamic combinations of natural, social, and constructed features
- L.A. County's landscapes comprise social and ecological features and serve multiple functions:
 - Recreation
 - Habitat
 - Agriculture
 - Water filtration
 - Flood control



Protected Areas

- Protected public lands account for 34% of the total L.A. County area (886,443 acres)
- 41,807 acres of marine protected areas
- Mostly limited to mountainous areas and pockets along the coast



Parks and Beaches

Parks

- Parks have been linked to a range of social, environmental, and economic benefits
- The L.A. County Department of Parks & Recreation Park Needs Assessment found that more than 50% of L.A. County's population lives in areas of high or very high park need
- Access to open space extends beyond availability and proximity
 - Need to re-imagine conventional notions of open space, as well as potential trade-offs



3.3 ACRES
Local Parks &
Regional Recreation Parks
per 1,000 people

Los Angeles County General Plan standard is 4.0 acres per 1,000



86.2 ACRES
Regional Open Space &
Natural Areas
per 1,000 people

Los Angeles County General Plan standard is 6.0 acres per 1,000

Source: L.A. County DPR Park Needs Assessment

Parks and Beaches

Beaches

- Over 50 million residents and visitors enjoy swimming, surfing, and other water recreation at L.A. County's beaches every year
- Lack of public transportation, affordable parking, and affordable lodging present significant barriers to beach access
- Maintaining high levels of water quality is vital for public safety and enjoyment of these iconic landscapes



Source: Heal the Bay, 2018

Working Lands

- Farms, ranches, forests, and other extractive land uses support economic activity and land-based livelihoods across L.A. County
- In 2013, the value of agricultural production across L.A. County exceeded \$200m
- Solar facilities and groundwater recharge basins are the main contributors to the conversion of agricultural land to urban land in L.A. County
- Conversions from non-irrigated land uses and other land to urban land between 2014-2016 were primarily due to the construction of new homes and businesses and solar facilities

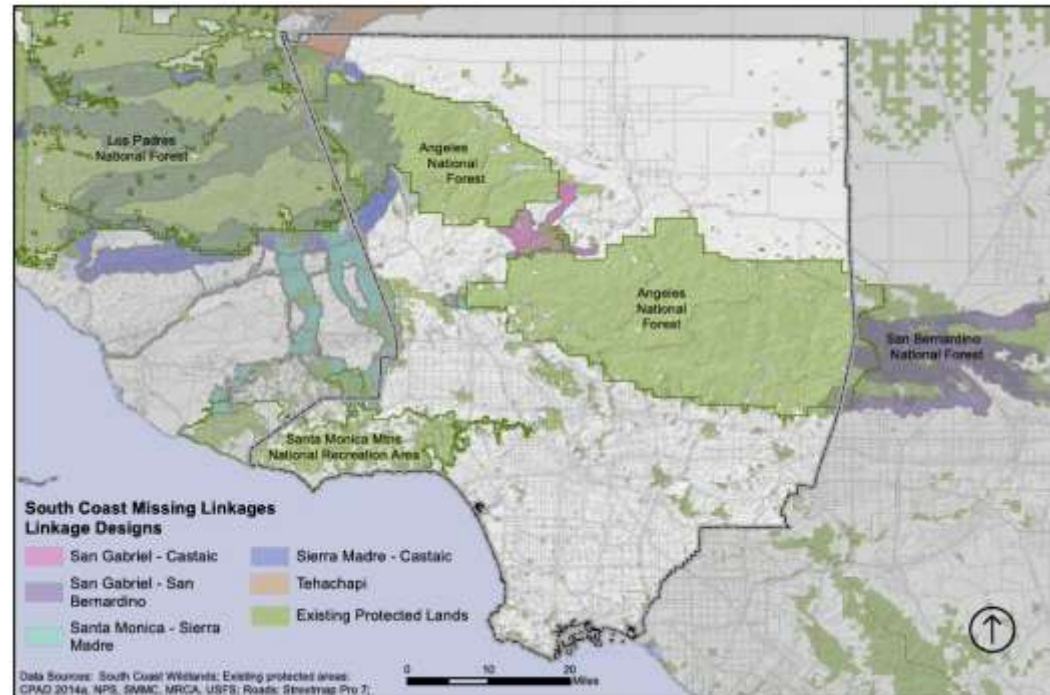


Lancaster Dry Farm Ranch, Lancaster CA
Source: sPower

Biodiversity and Habitat

Biodiversity

- **Significant Ecological Areas** (SEA) are officially designated areas intended to conserve genetic and physical diversity
- **Habitat linkages** are critical to maintaining healthy populations of many species yet are largely absent outside protected areas



Source: National Park Service, 2014

Habitat loss and restoration

- L.A. County has lost 73% of its total **tidal wetland** area from 1850 to the present, from 8,181 acres to 2,229 acres
 - State purchases play a key role in wetland protection and restoration
- **Kelp forests** provide habitat and protection for hundreds of species of fishes and invertebrates
 - Restoration efforts along the Palos Verdes Peninsula have reduced sea urchin population density to allow the recovery of giant kelp



Source: The Bay Foundation: Kelp Forest Restoration

Changing Landscapes: the Future of L.A. County



- **Urban development**
 - Trade-offs between housing and habitat fragmentation
- **Climate change**
 - Hotter temperatures, reduced snowmelt, and increased wildfire risk likely to affect human health and biodiversity
- **‘Green gentrification’**
 - L.A. River: potential trade-offs between urban greening and displacement
 - **Whose river will it be?**



The G2 parcel at Taylor Yard was acquired by the City of Los Angeles to develop a new park and restore lost riparian ecosystems on the Los Angeles River in an area once dominated by industry. Source: CityLab

The Role of the County in Landscapes & Ecosystems



- Over 100 public entities manage landscapes and ecosystems across L.A. County
 - federal, state, regional, county, city park departments; special recreation and park districts; water agencies; utilities; land conservation organizations
- **L.A. County Department of Regional Planning**
 - performs all land use planning functions for unincorporated L.A. County
- **L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation**
 - manages over 70,000 acres of parkland (local and regional parks, arboreta and botanic gardens, wildlife sanctuaries, golf courses, and multi-use trails)
- **Department of Beaches and Harbors**
 - responsible for the operation and maintenance of all County owned and operated beaches
- Municipal parks in L.A. County are managed by their respective city departments and agencies

A Sampling of Local and Regional Landscapes and Ecosystems Policies



Los Angeles County	Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure (2016) implements an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of development, which will generate approximately \$94 million a year to be used on local parks, beaches, and open space areas.
Los Angeles County	Cal FIRE Funded Park Inventory granted funds to L.A. County to determine overall health and spatial needs for twenty-eight County parks.
City of Los Angeles	L.A. City Biodiversity Motion (2017) set biodiversity goals for the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation by implementing the Singapore Index of Cities' Biodiversity.
California	California Environmental Quality Act requires California local and state agencies to analyze and disclose, and consider the environmental impacts of proposed discretionary project approvals, before approving a project.
California	California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (2018) reallocates \$100,000,000 of funds to finance programs affecting drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all.

Key Terms



Vision

A core value or values at the heart of the plan – the “why”

Goals

Broad, aspirational statement of what we want to achieve

Strategies

Approach or approaches that we take to achieve a goal (strategies may support multiple goals)

Actions

Specific policy, program, or tool we take to achieve a strategy

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Indicators

Quantitative measures used to assess performance on a regular basis

Targets

Levels of performance that are sustainable

Key Terms

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Today's Focus

Goals



- A. Ensure the region's landscapes and ecosystems meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- B. Increase and enhance native biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity.
- C. Ensure parks, open space and natural areas benefit human and ecosystem health in the context of a changing climate.
- D. Ensure parks, open spaces, and natural areas are resilient in the face of drought, wildfire, climate change, and gaps in maintenance.
- E. Create and manage the built environment's nature based infrastructure to optimize multiple benefits and ecosystem services.
- F. Ensure all residents have access to parks, beaches and other recreational open space.
- G. Improve ecological literacy.

Workshop Feedback

Nonprofit Stakeholder Engagement



Water
June 28, 2018



66 individuals
55 NGOs

Energy
July 20, 2018



48 individuals
37 NGOs

Transportation
July 27, 2018



55 individuals
42 NGOs

Open Space
September 17, 2018



65 individuals
50 NGOs

Public / Private Stakeholder Engagement



Water
July 23, 2018



41 individuals
31 ORGs

Energy & Climate
July 31, 2018



49 individuals
36 ORGs

Transportation
September 26, 2018



71 individuals
54 ORGs

**Waste & Resource
Management
Nonprofit and Public /
Private
September 28, 2018**



48 individuals
41 NGOs / ORGs



Public Health & Air Quality
October 3, 2018

45 individuals
33 ORGs



[OurCountyLA.org](https://www.OurCountyLA.org)