

Los Angeles River Watershed Health



Nancy L.C. Steele, D.Env

nancy@watershedhealth.org

213-229-9945



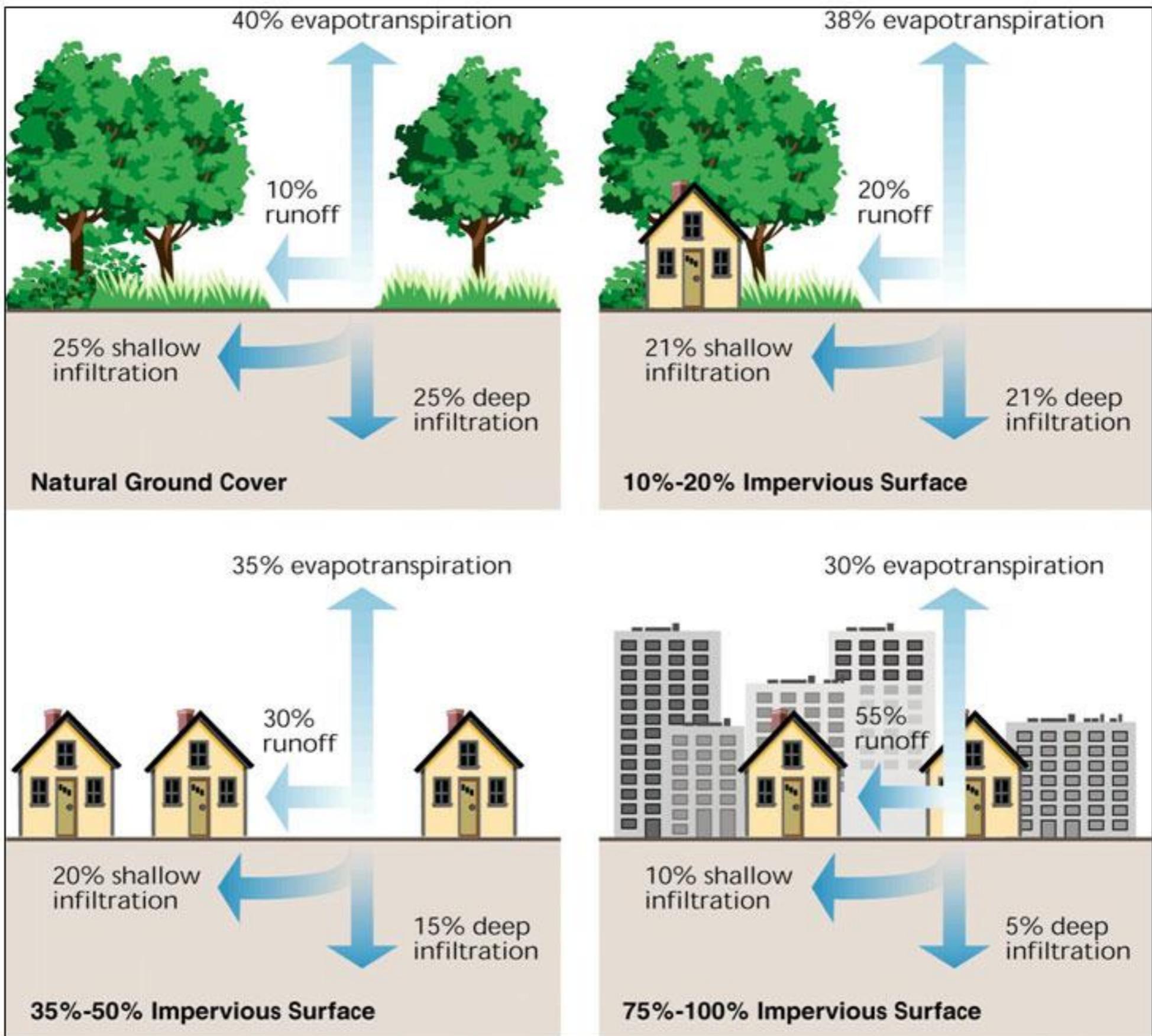
“It is impossible to develop effective environmental policy unless it is based on sound scientific information.”

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
Kofi Annan, 2000
UN Secretary General

We facilitate an inclusive consensus process to enhance the economic, social, and ecological health of the Los Angeles region's watersheds through research, education, and planning









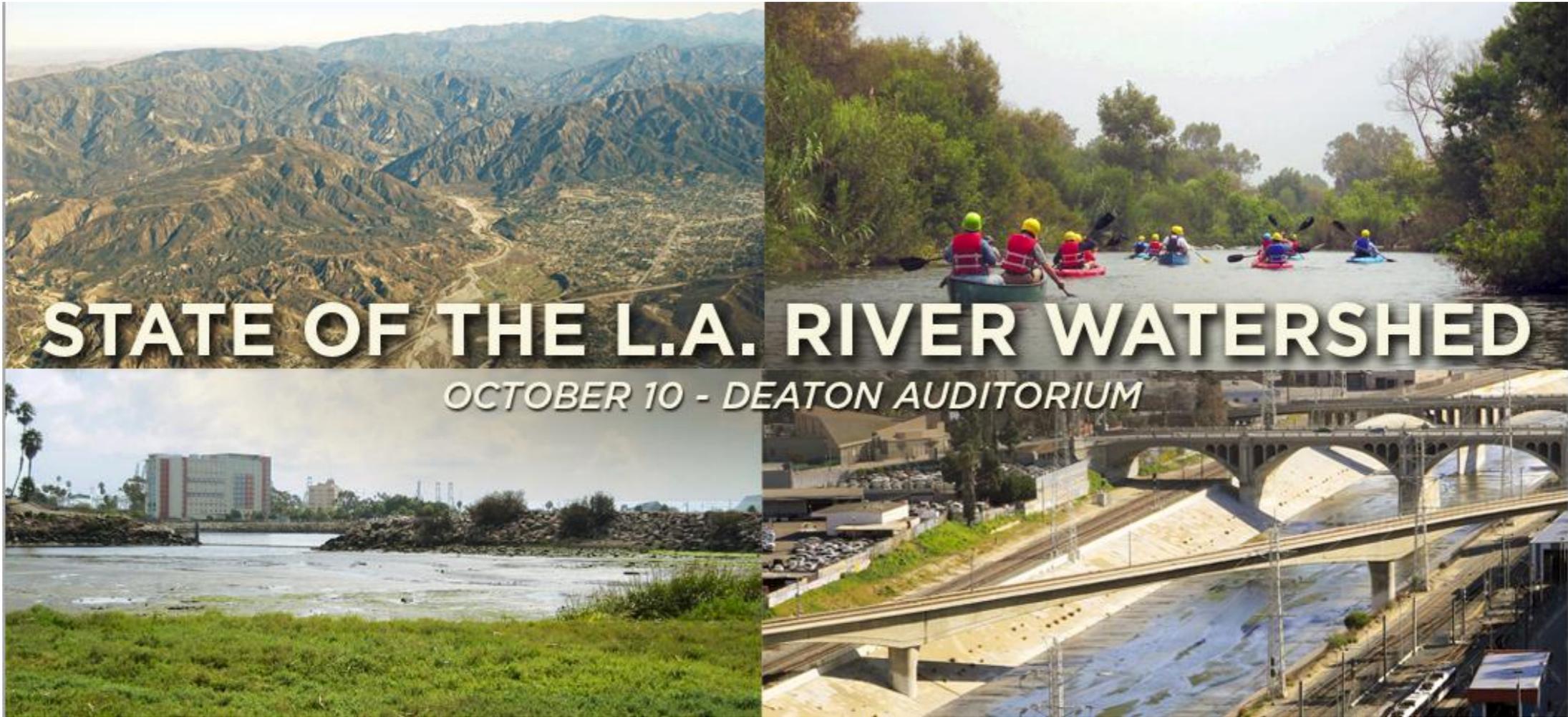
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1938



Arthur Langdon on the Los Angeles River, ca 1940s; www.kcet.org

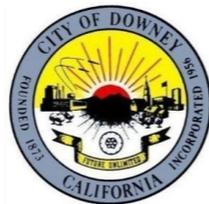






STATE OF THE L.A. RIVER WATERSHED

OCTOBER 10 - DEATON AUDITORIUM



Monitoring Questions



1.
What is the health of streams ?



2.
Conditions at areas of unique importance ?



3.
Are regulated discharges meeting WQ objectives ?



5.
Is it safe to eat fish ?



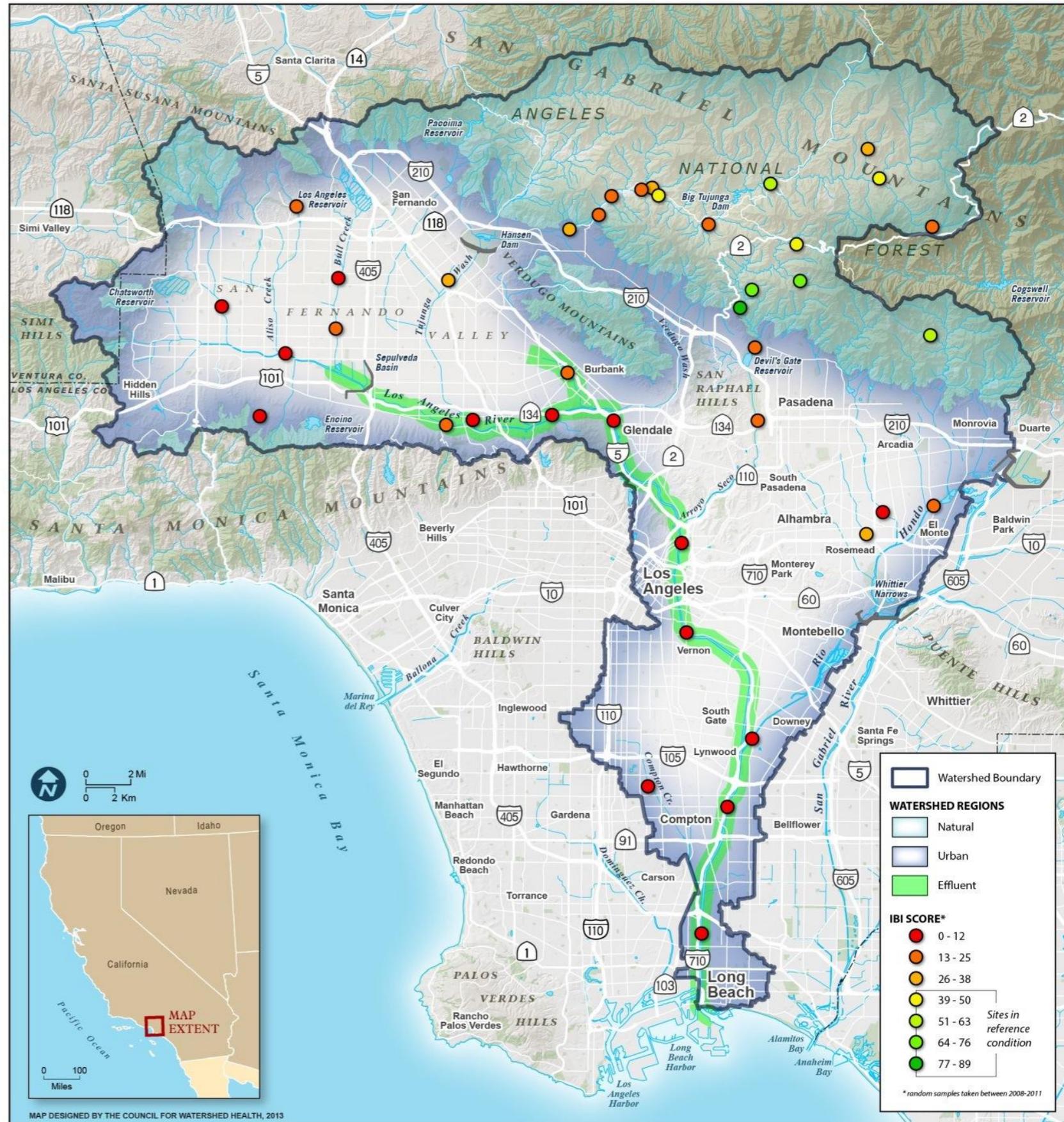
4.
Is it safe to swim?



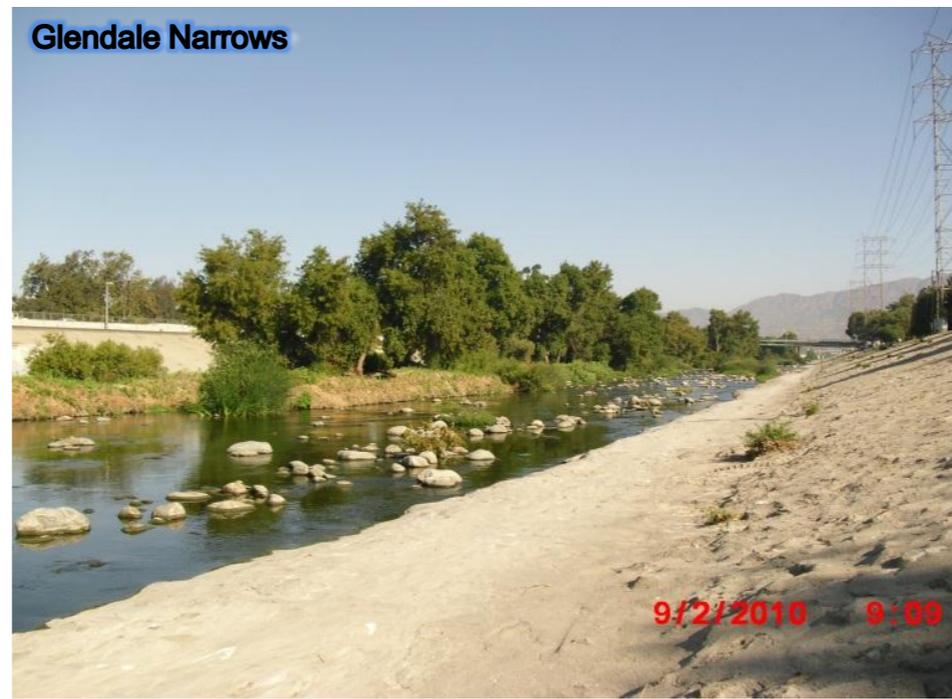
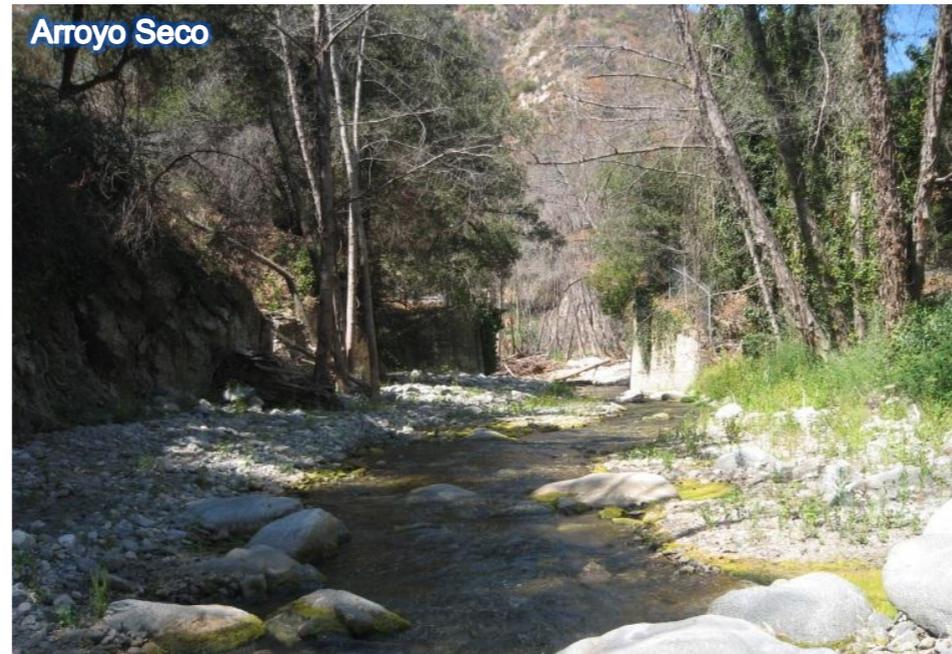
What is the condition of the streams?



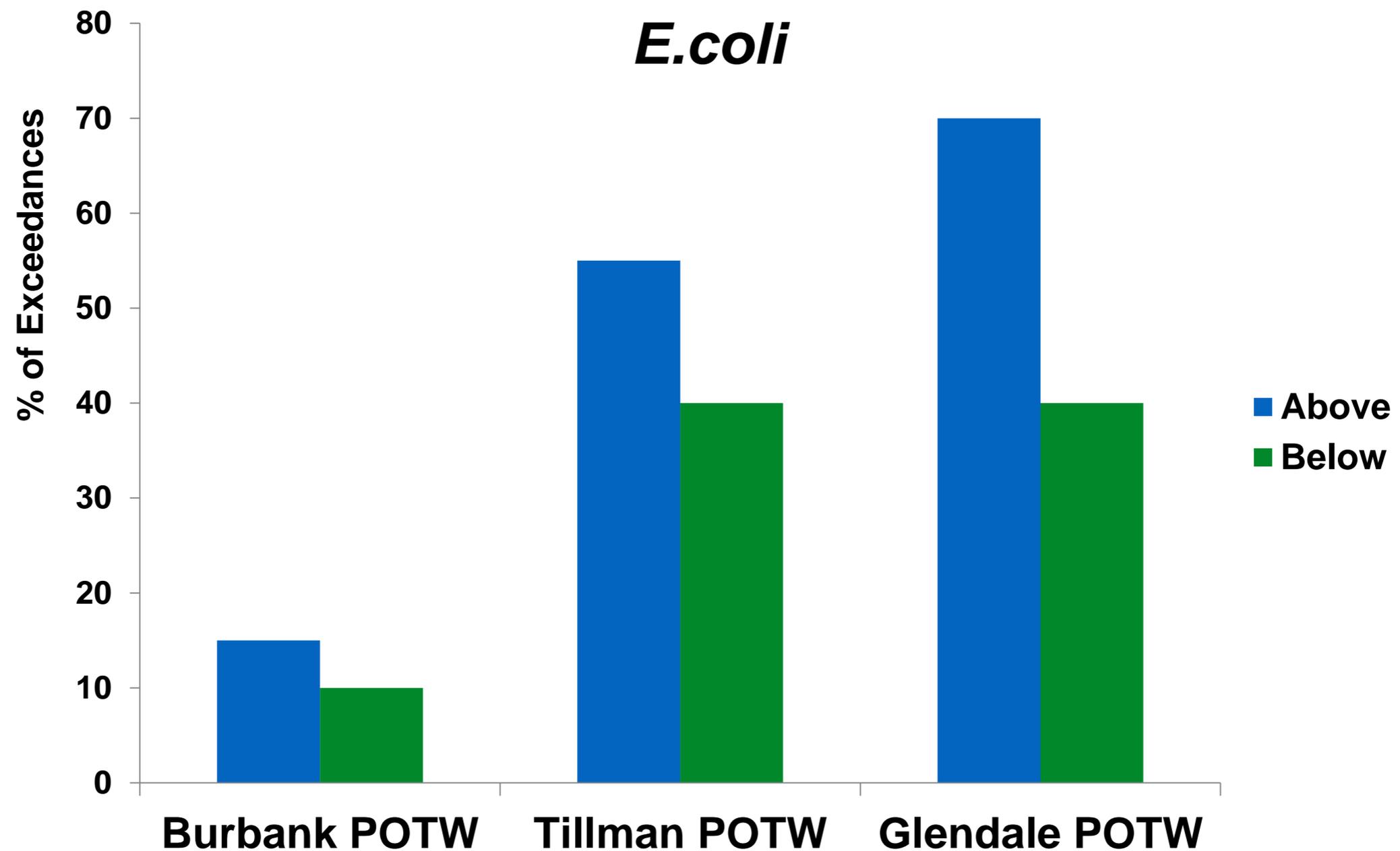
Photo Courtesy:
<http://ecologyadventure2water.edublogs.org/macrobenthoinformation/>



What is the condition of unique habitats?

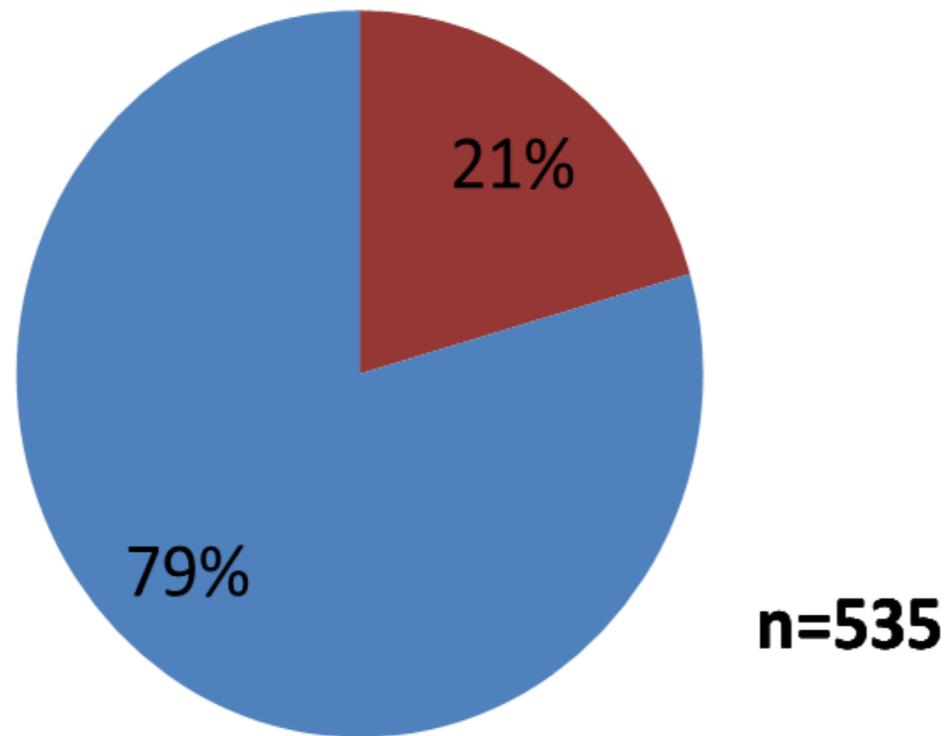


What are the effects of treatment plant discharges?



Is it Safe to Swim?

■ > 235 MPN/ 100 mL ■ No Exceedance



Higher E.coli levels on Holidays and Weekends at most popular sites



Is it Safe to Eat Fish?

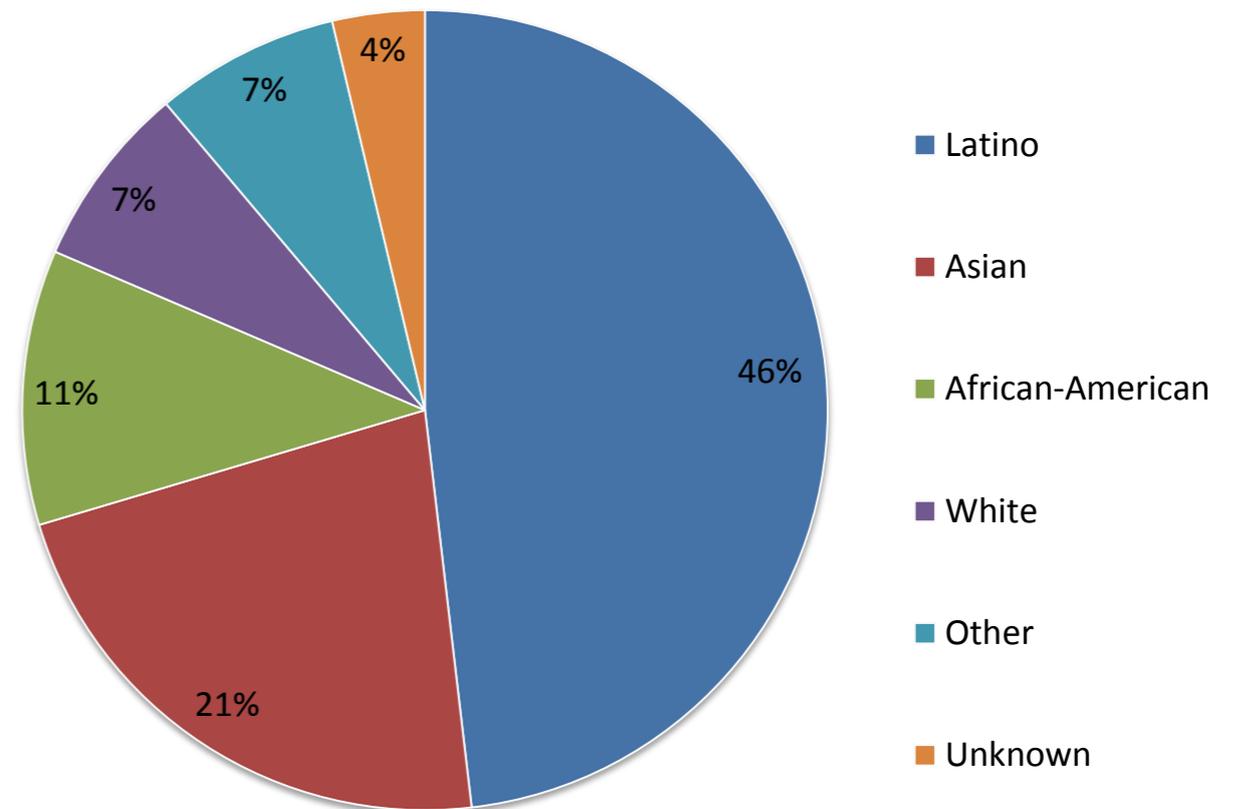


Angler Surveys

23% of fish caught in the LA River Watershed are eaten



Consumers



Is it Safe to Eat Fish?



COMMON CARP (*Cyprinus carpio*)



LARGEMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus salmoides*)

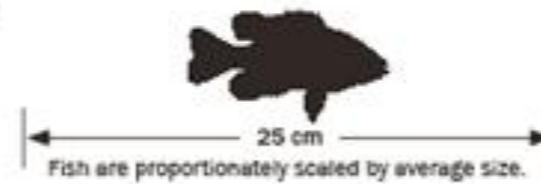
READER SUNFISH (*Lepomis microlophus*)



TILAPIA (*Oreochromis sp.*)



Illustrations:
Duane Raver, USFWS (bluegill, carp, bass, sunfish)
Diane Rome Peebles (striped mullet)
Joe Tomelleri (catfish)
Jón Baldur Hilberg (tilapia)



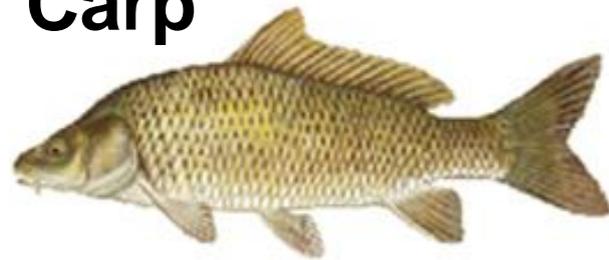
Is it Safe to Eat Fish?

NO CONSUMPTION *
Women of childbearing age
children

SAFE TO EAT

Low Mercury

- **Carp**



- **Tilapia**



- **Redear Sunfish**



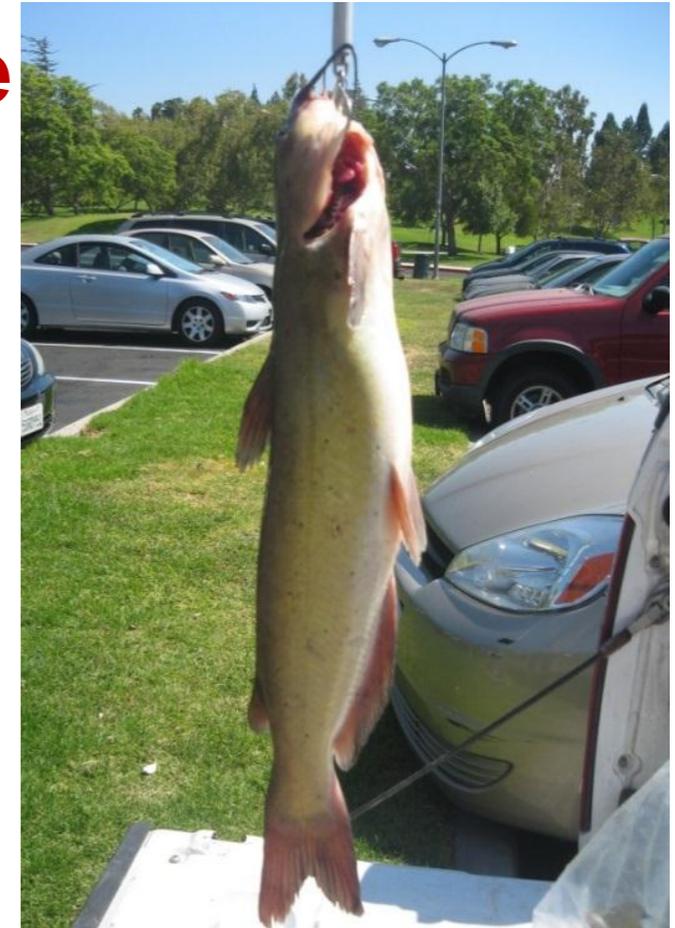
High Mercury

- **Largemouth Bass**



***Legg Lakes**

LIMIT CONSUMPTION
AT OTHER LAKES



Our collective vision



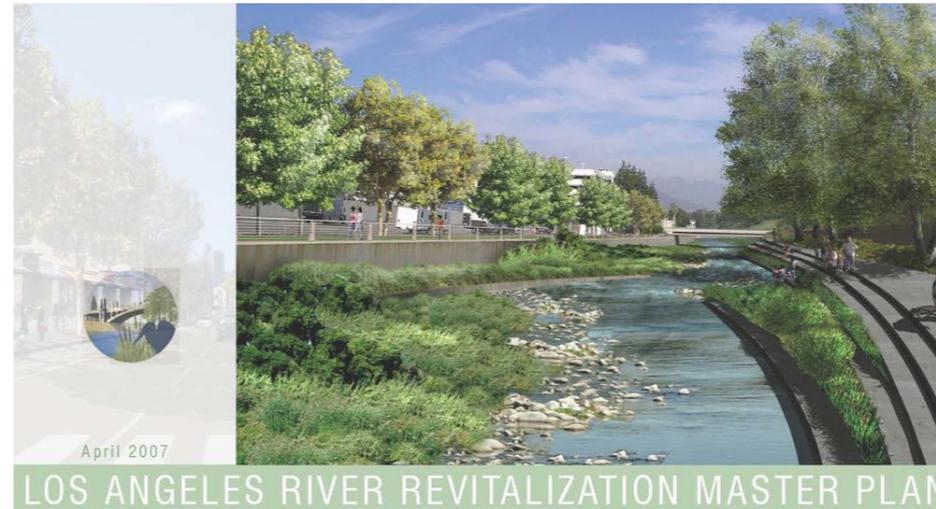
Our collective vision

- ✓ Clean local water used efficiently
- ✓ Restored and treasured sustainable landscapes
- ✓ Integrated management of resources
- ✓ A vibrant green economy
- ✓ Greater social and environmental equity
- ✓ Resilient social and civic networks

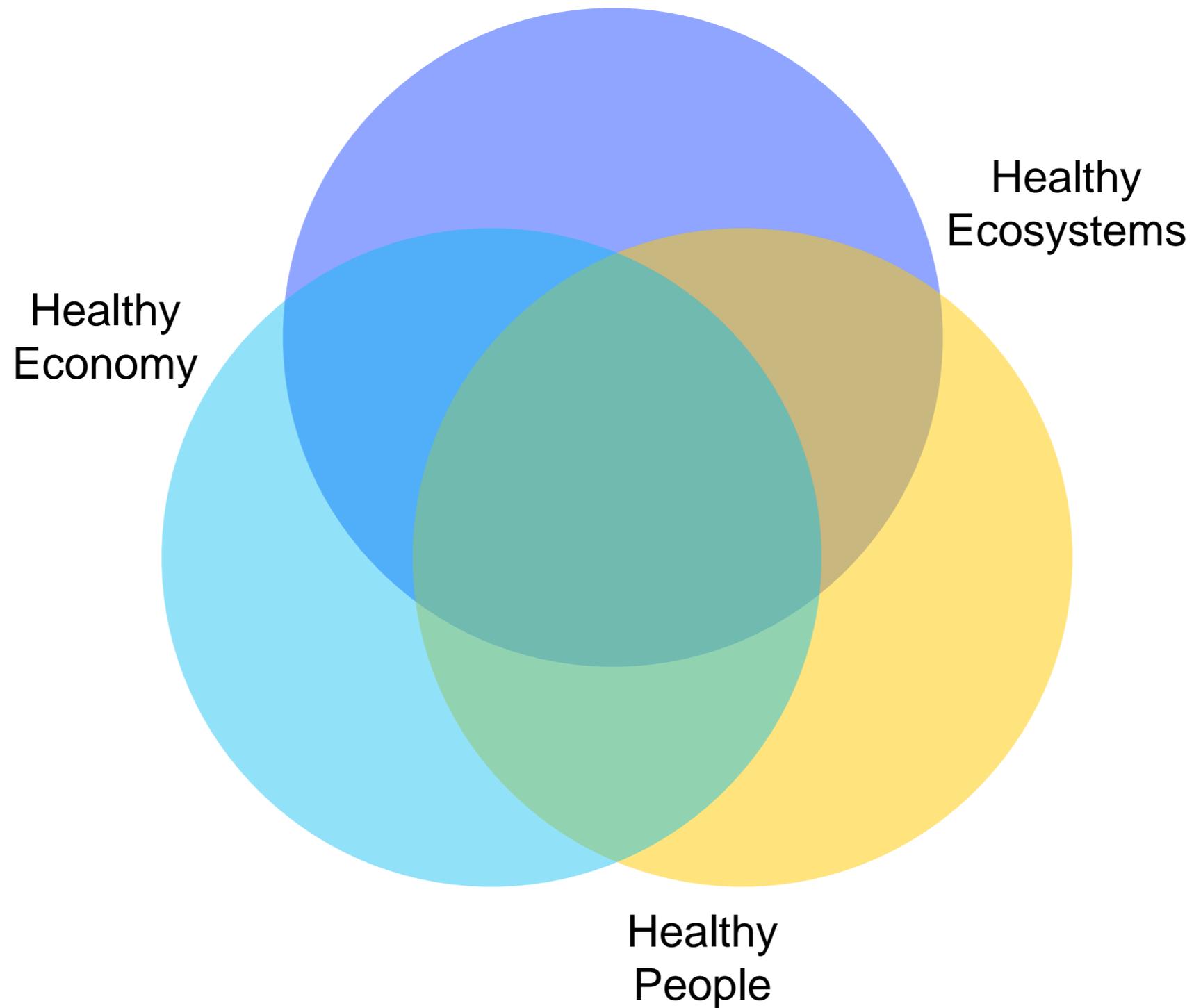


How do we communicate our **collective impact** for effective policy change?

- ✓ Clean local water used efficiently
- ✓ Restored and treasured sustainable landscapes
- ✓ Integrated management of resources
- ✓ A vibrant green economy
- ✓ Greater social and environmental equity
- ✓ Resilient social and civic networks



Healthy Watersheds + Healthy Communities





Sepulveda Basin

Indicators of Watershed Health



Healthy People



Healthy Economy



Healthy Ecosystems

- ✓ Delivered water quality
- ✓ Clean beaches & swim sites
- ✓ Availability of developed outdoor recreational space
- ✓ Strength of social networks
- ✓ Extent of urban heat island
- ✓ Support for water & land initiatives



Indicators of Watershed Health



Healthy People



Healthy Economy



Healthy Ecosystems

- ✓ Cost & reliability of delivered water
- ✓ Cost & reliability of energy
- ✓ Water embedded in power
- ✓ Power embedded in water
- ✓ Adaptation planning in the watershed
- ✓ Per capita water use
- ✓ Water jobs



Indicators of Watershed Health



Healthy People



Healthy Economy



Healthy Ecosystems

- ✓ Freshwater aquatic & riparian habitat health
- ✓ Coastal & estuarial aquatic habitat health
- ✓ Flexibility of management network
- ✓ Extent of protected native landscapes



Thank you!



**Council for
Watershed Health**

Nancy L.C. Steele, D.Env.
nancy@watershedhealth.org -213-229-9945