Components of the Flood Control District

Sediment Placement Sites

When sediment builds up in reservoirs and debris basins, it must be removed periodically to ensure proper functioning of the flood control system. Historically sediment has been transported to sediment placement sites which are typically located in canyons close to the debris basins and reservoirs. Sediment is also taken to landfills and gravel pits for placement.

Channels

Water from storm drains, dam releases, and imported and recycled water releases is collected by channels which convey the stormwater to the ocean.

Dams & Reservoirs

Dams are built across rivers to limit the amount of water and sediment moving downstream, reducing the risk of flooding. Reservoirs store water for groundwater recharge.

Debris Basins

Debris basins capture sediment and debris that is washed out of the canyons, allowing stormwater to flow downstream.

Spreading Grounds

Water released from reservoirs is directed to spreading grounds where it percolates into the ground and recharges groundwater supplies.

Storm Drains

Storm drains are underground facilities that are designed to convey stormwater and drain streets, parking lots, and sidewalks.

Rubber Dams

A rubber dam is a structure that can be inflated across a river to hold back water for in-river groundwater recharge or divert flows to an adjacent spreading grounds. During flood flow conditions, the rubber dam is deflated, allowing stormwater to be conveyed downstream.

BMPs

BMP stands for Best Management Practices, which are practices or devices that reduce water pollution. Catch basins can be configured with screen BMPs to reduce trash from entering the storm drain system.

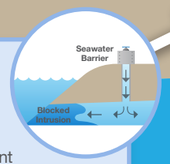
Development

Development within floodplains created the need for the Flood Control System, which provides flood risk management from severe floods during storms.

Catch Basins

Catch basins are inlets located adjacent to the curb that capture stormwater and direct it to the storm drain.

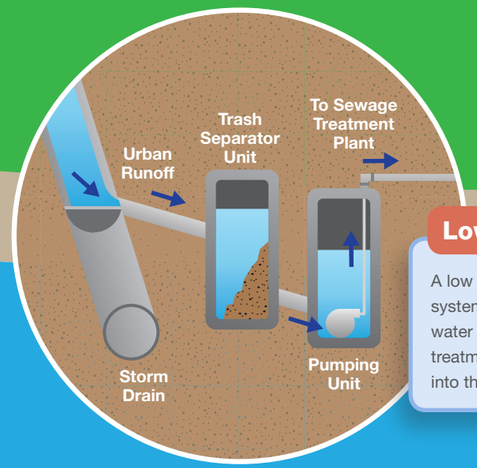
Seawater Barriers



A seawater barrier is a series of injection wells that is positioned like a dam between the ocean and groundwater aquifer. The barriers inject water into the ground to prevent seawater from seeping into the aquifer.

Pump Stations

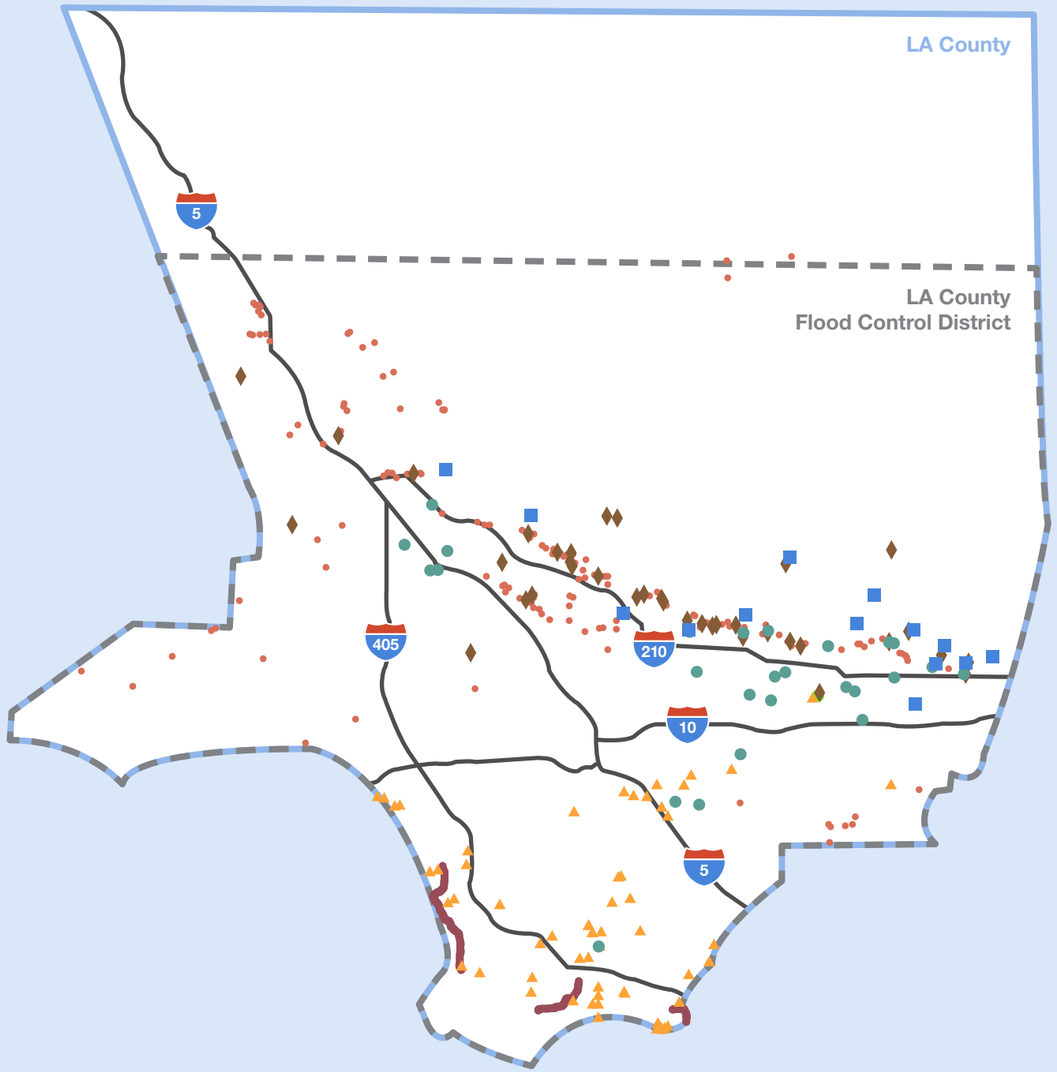
Pump stations are facilities that pump water from a low-lying area to channels at a higher elevation.



Low Flow Diversions

A low flow diversion is a structural system that diverts potentially polluted water to be treated, usually at a sewage treatment plant, before being discharged into the ocean.

Map of Major Flood Control District Facilities



Key

- Flood Control Dam & Reservoir
- Pump Station
- Debris Basin
- Seawater Barrier
- Sediment Placement Site
- Spreading Ground

For more information, visit www.LASedimentManagement.com

How does the Flood Control System work?

An explanation of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's System

The Los Angeles County Flood Control Act (Act) was adopted by the State Legislature in 1915, after a disastrous regional flood took a heavy toll on lives and property. The Act established the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and empowered it to provide flood risk management and water conservation.

What is the role of the Flood Control District?

The role of the Flood Control District is to reduce flood risk and conserve stormwater runoff while improving water quality, providing recreational opportunities, and enhancing open space where feasible.

The Flood Control District was governed as a separate entity by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors until 1985, when authority vested in the District was transferred to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The District is responsible for the vast majority of drainage infrastructure within Los Angeles County that comprises of

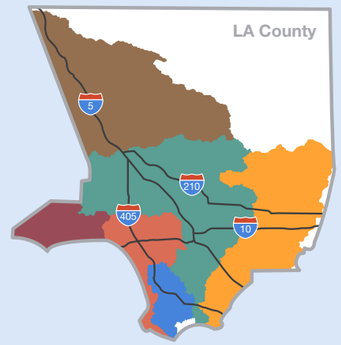
- 14 major flood control dams and reservoirs
- 162 debris basins
- 36 Sediment placement sites
- 500 miles of open channel
- 2,800 miles of underground storm drains
- An estimated 120,000 catch basins
- 62 pump stations
- 3 seawater barrier projects
- 27 spreading facilities
- 21 Low Flow Diversions

What are the various Flood Control District boundaries?

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District encompasses

- 3,000 square miles
- 85 cities
- Approximately 2.1 million land parcels
- 6 major watersheds
  - Los Angeles River
  - San Gabriel River
  - Dominguez Channel & Los Angeles Harbor
  - South Santa Monica Bay
  - North Santa Monica Bay
  - Santa Clara River

Major Watersheds



Flood Control District Jurisdiction