THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY is a State Agency established by the Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped preserve over 60,000 acres of parkland in both urban and wilderness settings. Through direct action, alliances, partnerships and joint powers authorities, the Conservancy’s mission is to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and habitat that are easily accessible to the public.

THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY is a joint powers authority which includes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District. It is one of the key public agencies working to find innovative solutions to regional water quality and supply challenges, and to restore habitat, and create public parkland along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS maintains approximately 500 miles of open channel, 2,800 miles of underground storm drain and 79,000 catch basins. The County’s stormwater program is developed under the oversight of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the state agency that is responsible for overseeing these programs, and is undertaken in partnership with the cities at the beaches and in the watersheds. The County’s stormwater program includes multifaceted public education efforts such as stenciling storm drains and airing public service announcements, as well as extensive structural improvements, such as devices to exclude trash from entering into the streams and waterbodies and low-flow stormwater diversion devices at the beaches.

OWNED BY:
Los Angeles County Flood Control District

FUNDED BY:
Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996.
Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor, 3rd District
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002
The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006

MANAGED BY:
THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center And Gardens
570 West Avenue 26 Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
323.221.9944 ext.198
Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority have joined together in an unprecedented clean water, neighborhood park project.

This project restores some of the natural function of the Tujunga Wash while bringing plant and animal habitat, water quality enhancement, groundwater replenishment, and recreational opportunity to a densely populated urban neighborhood.

THE TUJUNGA WASH GREENWAY AND STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT takes water from a concrete flood control channel and diverts as much as 325,000 gallons a day through a naturalized streambed. There, water is cleansed and filtered back into the ground. The result is enough groundwater recharge to provide 760 families of four with drinking water for an entire year. The wide, barren area alongside the flood control channel has been transformed into a neighborhood and ecological amenity that can be replicated throughout the 500 miles of open flood control channels throughout the county.

HOW THE TUJUNGA WASH STREAM RESTORATION WORKS

1. Dirty stormwater and irrigation runoff is diverted from the Tujunga Wash flood control channel. The water enters a half-mile long gravity-fed pipe where up to 25 cubic feet of water traverses the pipe each second on a journey to the new stream.

2. The water exits the pipe and enters the constructed streambed where it flows through a rocky channel with riparian (stream-side) plants. As the water flows through each section of streambed, it becomes progressively cleaner. Much of the water filters downward and replenishes the aquifer.

3. The year-round moisture of the stream supports a unique set of plants and animals only found in riparian habitat. This new ecosystem will grow and evolve.

4. Water that reaches this end of the constructed stream has been cleansed by a one-mile-long stretch of rocks, sand, and roots. For now, its journey ends and a second pipe returns the clean water to the flood control channel to make its way to the Los Angeles River and, eventually, the ocean.