

Communication from Public

Name: Georgia Alkov

Date Submitted: 02/19/2026 02:56 PM

Council File No: 25-1518

Comments for Public Posting: Georgia Alkov 2:47?PM (4 minutes ago) to clerk.plumcommittee, traci.park, craig.bullock@lacity.org Planning and Land Use Management Committee LA City Hall- 200 N. Spring St., Room 340, Los Angeles, CA 90012 Attn: Candy Rosales – PLUM Legislative Assistant (clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org) Cc: Traci Park, Councilwoman, Los Angeles Council District 11 (traci.park@lacity.org) Cc: Craig Bullock, Planning Director - Council District 11 - (craig.bullock@lacity.org) RE: Opposition to CEQA Appeal – Barry Building Demolition – 11973-11975 West San Vicente Boulevard Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee: I am a resident of Bel Air Knolls, a member of our HOA Board, and a member of the Board of the Brentwood Community Council. I am writing to emphatically oppose the CEQA appeal related to the demolition of the Barry Building and to urge you to deny the appeal and uphold the City’s prior approvals. The Barry Building has been vacant for years and has been officially determined by the City to be seismically unsafe. It does not meet current earthquake safety standards and is subject to the City’s Soft-Story Ordinance. Leaving this building standing places nearby businesses, residents, and pedestrians at risk in the event of an earthquake. Its vacancy has also created ongoing public safety concerns for our community. From a community perspective, this appeal does not present new facts. The issues raised have already been studied, analyzed, and addressed through the EIR process and prior City decisions. Continued delay only prolongs the presence of an unsafe and vacant building in the heart of our neighborhood. After more than a decade, our community needs resolution. The City has already determined that demolition is necessary to eliminate a known safety hazard and that the benefits of doing so outweigh the impacts. I respectfully request that the Planning and Land Use Committee: 1. Deny the CEQA appeal; 2. Allow the demolition approval to move forward. Thank you for your consideration and for prioritizing the safety of our community. Sincerely, Georgia Alkov Resident of Bel Air Knolls and member of its HOA Board Member of the Board of the Brentwood Community Council

Communication from Public

Name: Allan Golad

Date Submitted: 02/19/2026 02:56 PM

Council File No: 25-1518

Comments for Public Posting: Ms. Rosales - please enter my attached letter for the above referenced matter into the public record for the upcoming PLUM Committee Meeting on February 24, 2026. Thank you, Allan Golad

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
LA City Hall - 200 N. Spring St., Room 340, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Candy Rosales – PLUM Legislative Assistant (clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org)
Cc: Traci Park, Councilperson, Los Angeles Council District 11 (traci.park@lacity.org)
Craig Bullock, Planning Director – Council District 11 (craig.bullock@lacity.org)

**RE: Opposition to CEQA Appeal and Support for the Barry Building Demolition - 11973–11975
West San Vicente Boulevard, Council File #25-1518**

Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

My name is Allan Golad and I am a twenty-six-year resident of Brentwood. I am submitting this letter to you in support of denying the CEQA appeal and approving the demolition permit for the Barry Building located at 11973-11975 San Vicente Boulevard in Brentwood.

San Vicente Boulevard from Bringham Avenue to Bundy Drive is the Brentwood community's most coveted location for access to neighborhood goods and services. This pedestrian friendly street is the home to casual and fine dining establishments, a wide variety of locally and regionally owned retail stores and services, and medical/ general office buildings all surrounded by some of the most desirable multi-family and single-family residential neighborhoods in the entire country. The Barry Building, while being the most visible sign of blight on this treasured boulevard, is more importantly an avoidable calamity ready to happen.

The Barry Building has been vacant nearly a decade and has been officially determined by the City of Los Angeles to be seismically unsafe. It does not meet current earthquake safety standards and, therefore, is subject to the City's Soft-Story Ordinance. The Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") determined it is neither economically feasible to make the necessary code upgrades to the building nor is it economically feasible to relocate the building. It was also determined that leaving this building standing is a safety hazard to residents, pedestrians, and businesses. There is the hazard of damage to adjacent structures and people in the event of an earthquake, and the ongoing vacancy of the building creates a very real and present ongoing public safety concern resulting from vandalism, theft, and the risk of trespass and fire.

The time for action is before you. The appeal by Angelenos for Historic Preservation offers no new facts to issues previously raised, studied, analyzed, and addressed through the EIR process and prior City decisions. Continued delays only prolong the presence of an unsafe, vacant, and continuously deteriorating building in the very heart of Brentwood.

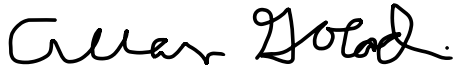
After more than a decade, the Brentwood community needs to have this matter resolved by recognizing the will of the greater Brentwood community. As you know, the FEIR for the demolition permit was approved by the Department of Building and Safety and upheld on appeal to the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners by a 3-0 vote in November 2025. I strongly recommend that the Planning and Land Use Management Committee support the findings of the LADBS and the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners, which determined

that demolition is necessary to eliminate a known safety hazard and the benefits of doing so outweigh the impacts. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Committee:

1. Deny the CEQA appeal; and,
2. Allow the demolition approval to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration and for prioritizing the well-being and safety of our Brentwood residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Golad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "G".

Allan Golad

cc: Traci Park, Councilmember, Los Angeles Council District 11 (traci.park@lacity.org)
Craig Bullock, Planning Director - Council District 11 (craig.bullock@lacity.org)

Communication from Public

Name: Carla Kettner

Date Submitted: 02/19/2026 04:16 PM

Council File No: 25-1518

Comments for Public Posting: It is heart-breaking that the Barry Building has sat vacant and neglected for well over a decade. I can see no reason why the new owners plan to demolish the building before deciding what to build in it's place. By doing this, they are potentially bypassing environmental oversight, neighborhood impact studies and traffic concerns. Given that San Vicente Boulevard is already a traffic nightmare, I hope that the planning body will prohibit this demolition until the community is presented with proposed construction plans. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/19/2026 08:17 PM

Council File No: 25-1518

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached public comments regarding Tribal Cultural Resources issues related to this project.

To: City of Los Angeles, Planning and Land Use Management
(PLUM) Committee
From: James McCuen
Email: james.mccuen@ymail.com

Date: February 19, 2026
Subject: **Council File No. 25-1518, Barry Building LA #887,
Comments on Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR)**

Physical Evidence of Tribal Cultural Landscapes at the Barry Building Site

This letter is submitted as comments to the PLUM Committee regarding the above referenced item and to request that the City of Los Angeles reopen the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation process for the Barry Building Demolition project.

While a preclosure letter may have been issued, I wish to present significant geological and hydrological evidence that establishes a high probability of Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) on-site—information that supplements, rather than contradicts, the findings of the City's archaeological consultants.

Structural Evidence: Alluvial Fan Soil

The project's DEIR and FEIR identify the presence of alluvial fan soil at the Barry Building site. In the context of the Kizh (Tongva) Nation's ancestral territory, this soil is a primary indicator of buried landscapes¹:

- **The Capping Effect:** Alluvial fans are created by the persistent deposition of sediment from water flow over centuries. These layers often act as a protective seal, covering ancient surfaces and human activity areas before they could be disturbed by modern grading.
- **Subsurface Potential:** Because these soils accumulate over time, the current surface level does not represent the historical ground plane inhabited by the Kizh. There is a high likelihood that artifacts or features remain structurally intact beneath the alluvial deposits.

¹ Mandel, R. D. (2018). *Systematic approach to identifying deeply buried archeological deposits*. Nebraska Department of Transportation. <http://govdocs.nebraska.gov/epubs/R6000/B016.0048-2018.pdf>

Networked Waterways and Canyons

The site is situated within a high-sensitivity corridor defined by historical water sources that were the lifeblood of tribal society:

- **Westgate and Brentwood Canyons:** Historical records confirm that *Westgate Canyon* (north of San Vicente) and Brentwood Canyon (running south toward Wilshire) were major geographical features riven with water. *Westgate Canyon specifically contains a year-round creek.*²
- **Pervasive Hydrology:** USGS "Blue Line Stream" maps confirm that these waterways flowed directly through the Bundy/Westgate corridor. These streams are integrated into the same aquifer that feeds the Kuruvungna Springs (Tongva Sacred Springs) at University High School—a major village and ceremonial center.^{3,4}
- **Resource Management:** These riparian corridors supported the walnut trees, elderberries, and sage necessary for the Kizh Nation's stable, long-term economy.⁴

Argument for Reopening Consultation

The Kizh Nation has been widely disenfranchised from this landscape as it was graded and sheathed in concrete. Reopening the AB 52 process is necessary for the following reasons:

- **Correction of Oversight:** The technical identification of "alluvial soil" in the EIR must be reconciled with the cultural reality that such soil preserves tribal landscapes.
- **Due Diligence:** Reopening consultation allows the City to fulfill the spirit of AB 52 by acknowledging that the project area is not an isolated lot, but part of a networked ancestral metropolis of trading centers and waterways.

² Gurzeler, F. (2014, September 19). *The Lost Canyons of Brentwood*. Westside Today.

³ As documented in the 'Mapping Los Angeles Landscape History' project—a collaboration between the Kizh Nation, USC, and UCLA—historical USGS 'Blue Line Stream' data confirms that the project corridor was once defined by pervasive waterways. These streams are integrated into the same hydrological system as the Kuruvungna Sacred Springs, marking this site as a critical component of the ancestral Kizh cultural landscape.

⁴ Louis Sahagún and Sean Greene, "Researchers map ancient tribal villages of Los Angeles," *Los Angeles Times*, October 9, 2023, <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2023-10-09/researchers-map-ancient-tribal-villages-of-los-angeles>

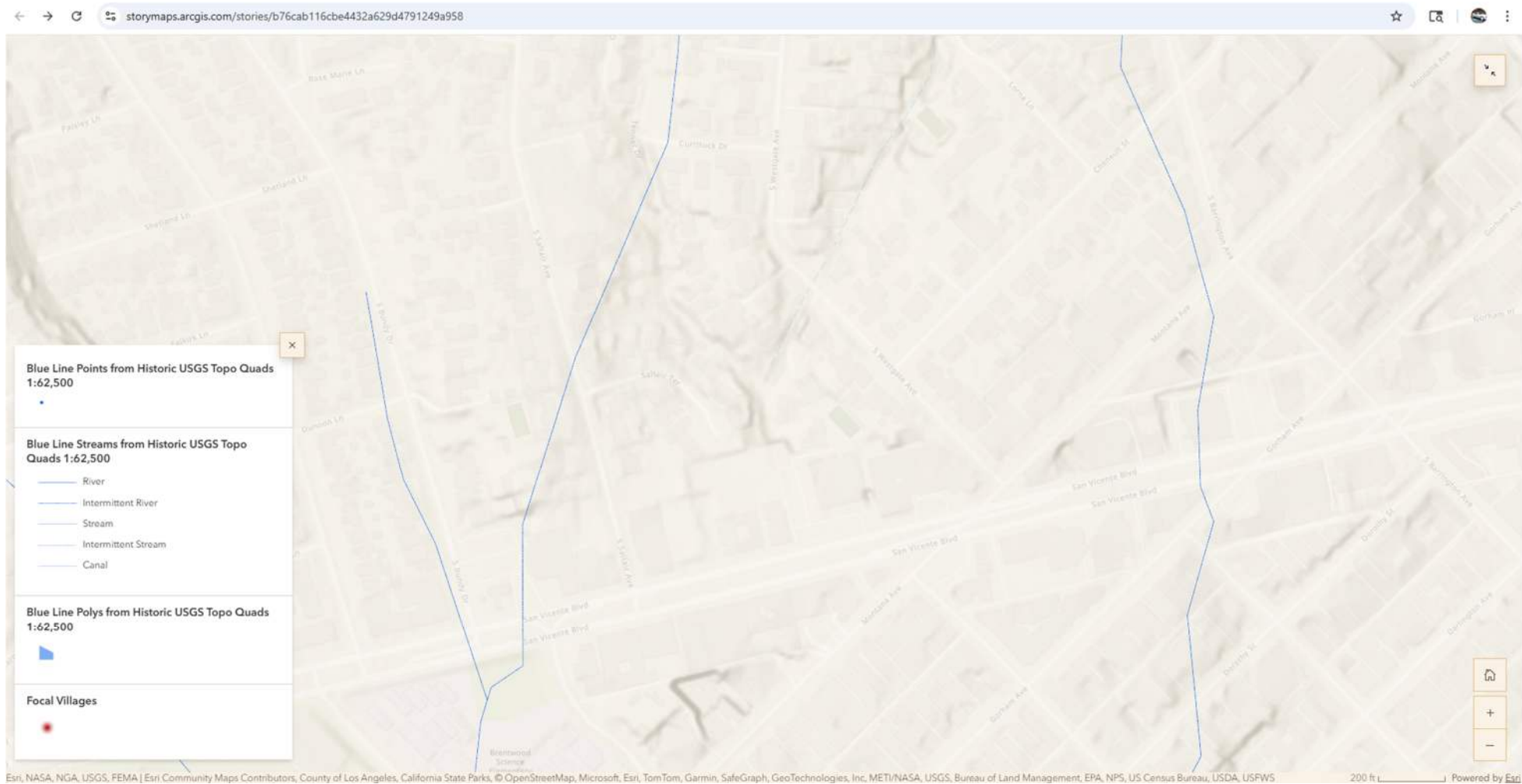
- **Avoidance of Disturbance:** By recognizing this high-probability zone now, the City can implement proper mitigation measures—such as Native American monitoring—to prevent the accidental destruction of TCRs during excavation.

Summary

The physical evidence of alluvial deposition and the proximity to the Westgate Canyon water system provide a clear mandate for continued consultation. I look forward to seeing the City move proactively to ensure the persistent history of the Kizh Nation is respected and protected.

Supporting Documentation (Attached):

1. Historical USGS Topographic Map Snapshots showing Blue Line Streams
2. *"Researchers map ancient tribal villages of Los Angeles," Los Angeles Times, October 9, 2023 Mapping Los Angeles Landscape History (USC/UCLA Research)*
3. *The Lost Canyons of Brentwood* by Fred Gurzeler, Westside Today



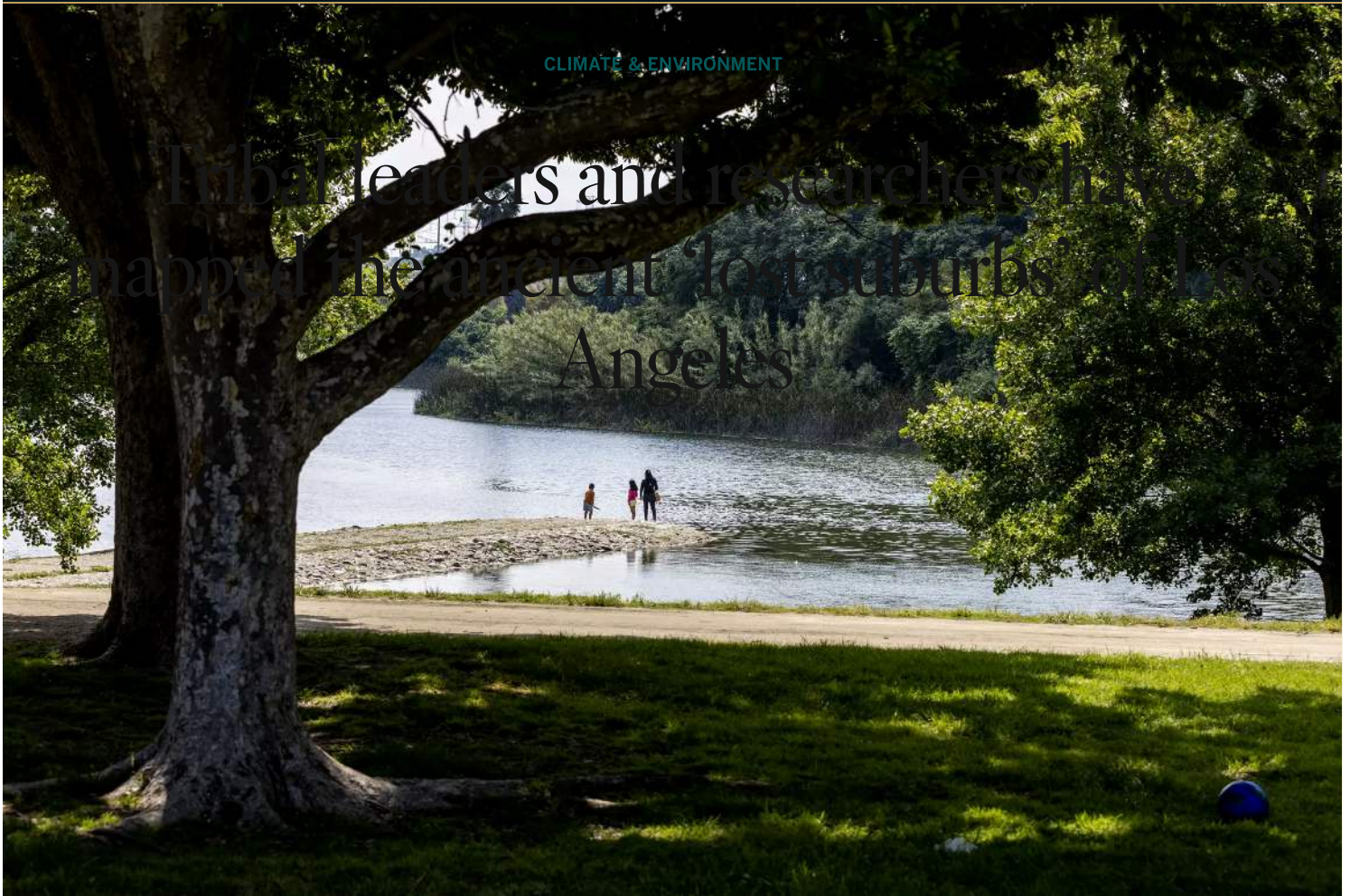
Showing Proximity of Historical Waterway (River) to the Project Site

URL: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b76cab116cbe4432a629d4791249a958>



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Tribal leaders and researchers have mapped the ancient 'lost suburbs' of Los Angeles



People take in the scenery of Legg Lake at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in South El Monte. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

By Louis Sahagún and Sean Greene

Oct. 9, 2023 5 AM PT

For millions of Los Angeles-area motorists, the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area flashes by in an instant — a tattered oasis of wetlands, sycamore and oak that punctuates the monotonous sprawl of industrial parks, cinder-block sound walls and residential cul-de-sacs along the 60 Freeway and Rosemead Boulevard.

But to Andrew Salas, chairman of the Gabrieleño-Kizh tribe, this area still echoes with the voices of his ancestors, who called it *Shevaanga*.

“What Beverly Hills is to Los Angeles, *Shevaanga* was to the true first people of the Los Angeles Basin,” Salas said.

Few area residents would ever guess that another culture thrived here for thousands of years amid a landscape of oak and walnut woodlands riven with waterways teeming with [steelhead](#) trout and prowled by [wolves](#) and [grizzly bears](#).

But now, *Shevaanga* is among hundreds of sites drawing new attention in the [“Mapping Los Angeles Landscape History” project](#).

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The effort seeks to illustrate major settlements and the roads that connected them — a 2,500-mile network of paths that stretched across the Los Angeles Basin and beyond and were used to transport acorns, walnuts, pine nuts, elderberries, tar for waterproofing plank ships, shells worked into beads, and salt minerals used to preserve fish.



Andrew Salas, chairman of the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh, holds a grinding stone he found at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. (Louis Sahagun / Los Angeles Times)

The project is the result of an unlikely partnership of three tribes — [Chumash](#) , Tataviam, and Kizh-Gabrieleño — as well as geographers, historians, biologists, and computer scientists from USC, UCLA and Cal State’s Northridge, Los Angeles and Long Beach campuses.

Undergraduate students from Accelcraft Institute of Geoinformatics and Telangana University, in India, also helped to extract the elevations of over 15 million individual points located on historical topographic maps.

“Our goal is to help people better understand the whole of history in Los Angeles’ backyard,” said Phil Ethington, professor of history, political science, and spatial sciences at USC. Indeed, one of the villages, *Yaangna*, occupied an area that now hosts Union Station, in downtown Los Angeles.

“We show how Los Angeles is rooted in an ancient metropolis of trading centers and seafaring communities governed by royal families and surrounded by forests and grasslands carefully managed to magnify the abundance of natural resources,” he said.



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[Explore The Section](#)

The three-year project, funded by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, investigated six villages that once flourished here. The effort relied on oral histories of local tribes, remote sensing equipment aboard satellites, [U.S.](#)

[Geological Survey topographic maps](#), century-old aerial photographs, historical archives, museum collections and law centers.

“We had to dig deep for evidence of the great society buried under our modern empire of terraced and graded slopes, rivers sheathed in concrete, industrial development, freeways and sprawl,” said Travis Longcore, a professor at UCLA’s Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.



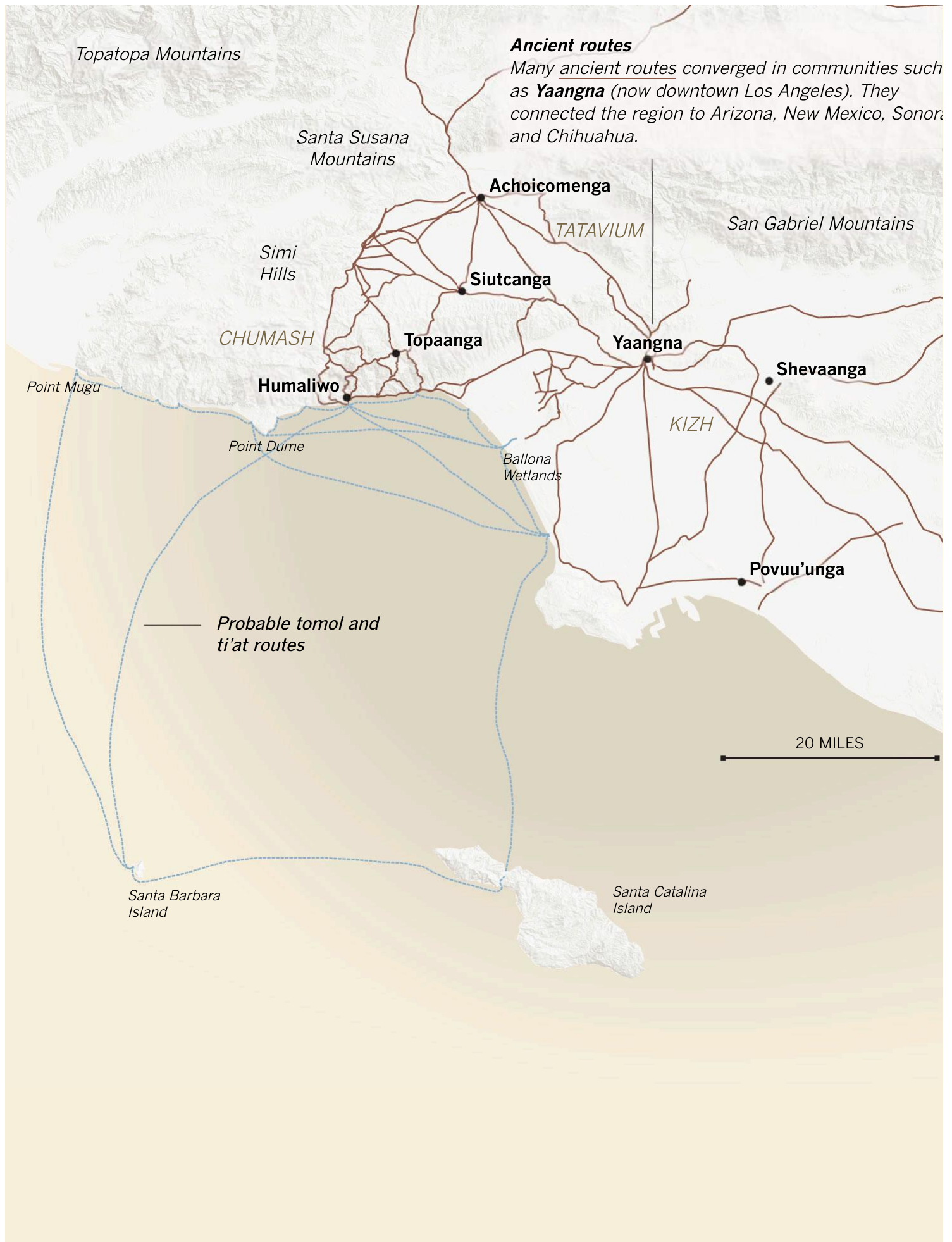
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

The largest dam removal in history stirs hopes of restoring California tribes’ way of life

Oct. 5, 2023

“We believe this project will serve as a vital resource for regional and local planning efforts involving sustainability, restoring habitat with native vegetation, and adapting to climate change,” he said.

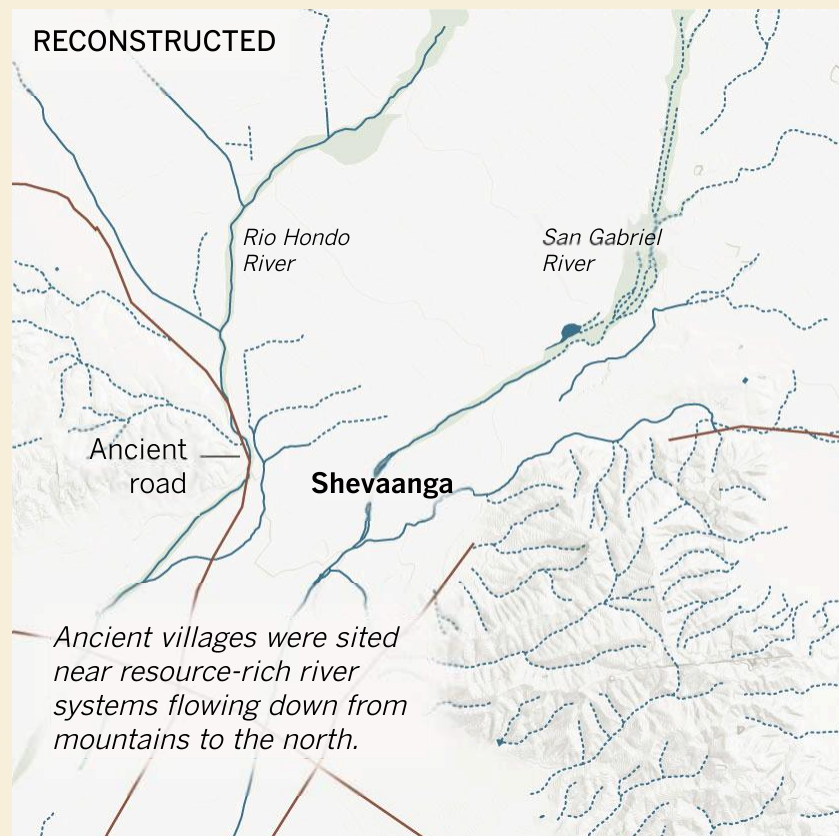
The result is a unique collection of [highly detailed three-dimensional digital maps](#) charting prehistoric human interactions with the natural environment at *Humaliwo* (now Malibu), *Siutcanga* (Encino), *Achoicomenga* (San Fernando), *Yaangna* (Los Angeles), *Shevaanga* (Whittier Narrows), and *Povuu’unga* (Long Beach).





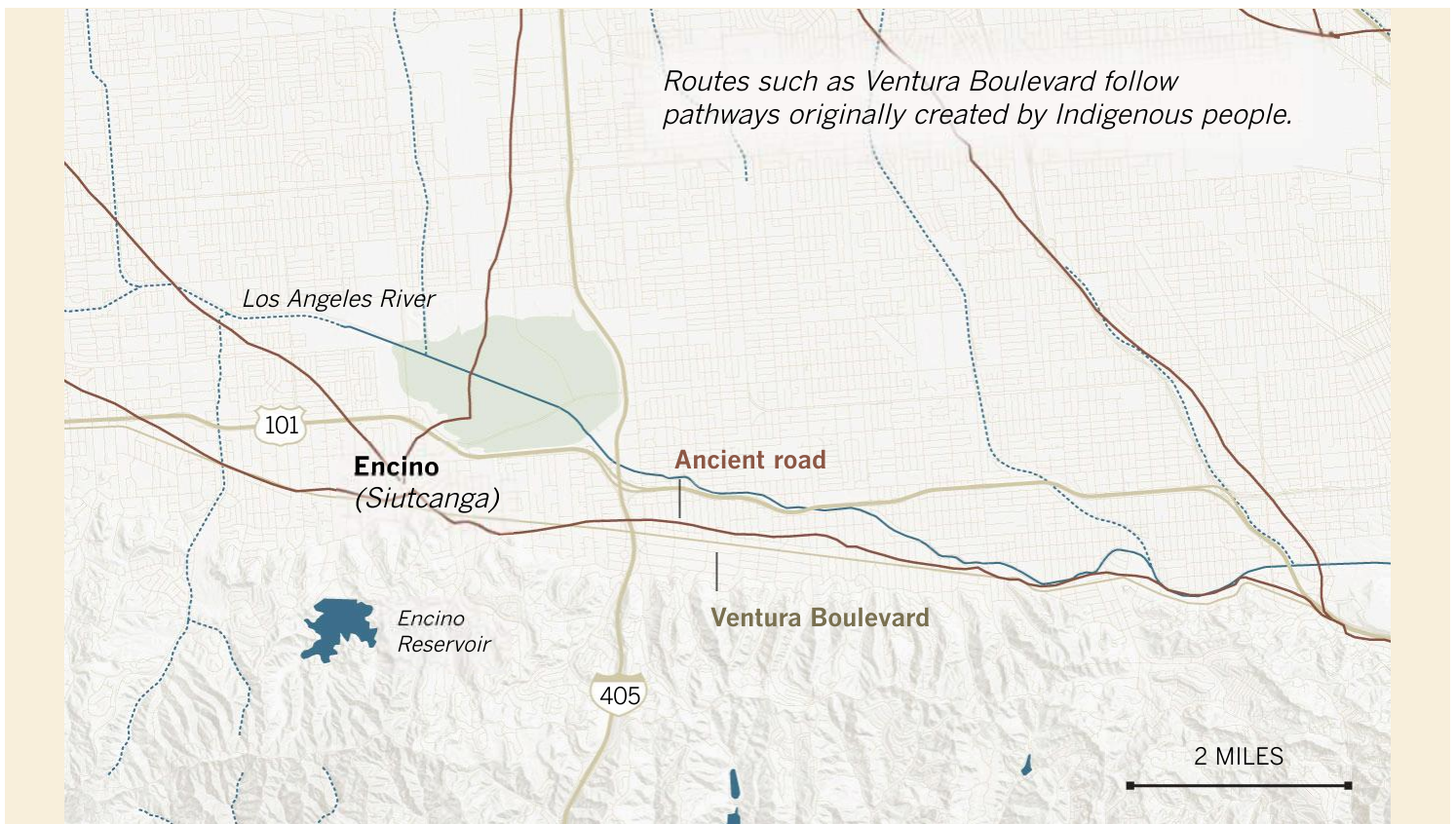
Project maps also compare Indigenous roads and pathways with contemporary highways, and depict the distribution of plants and trees important to Indigenous food systems and bird populations over the centuries.

One map reveals the locations of streams, wetlands, vernal pools and tidal flats that were buried or drastically altered to accommodate urban development.



When Europeans arrived, however, they took over tribal lands as well as the roadways and other significant contributions of the Indigenous founders of the region.

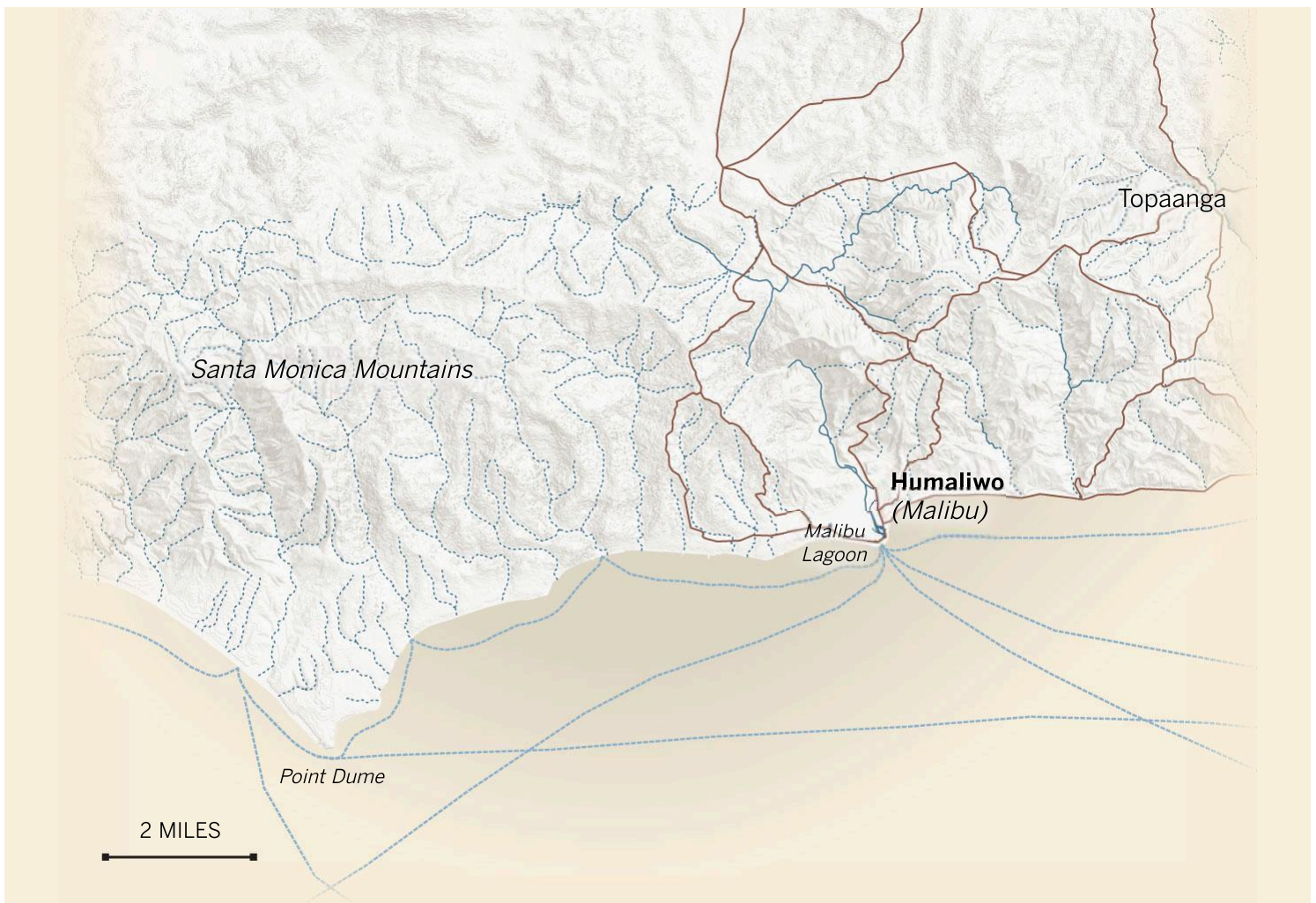
Ventura Boulevard, the 101 Freeway through the San Fernando Valley, and the 110 Freeway between Los Angeles and Long Beach were built on ancient roadways, the researchers said.



For Matt Vestuto, chairman of the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians, the mapping project offers hope for a long overdue reappraisal of Native American history, one that, as he put it, “doesn’t start out depicting our people as California mission slaves.”

Walking across the site of a prehistoric seaport at Malibu Lagoon that connected mainland tribes with the Channel Islands, Vestuto smiled recently and said, “Our lifeways and economies were flexible and stable for centuries.

“Almost overnight, we were disenfranchised from the landscape — but our people are still here,” he said. “Now, the challenge is to restore the environment, and rebuild our nations.”



Salas, 55, has also helped to fight for the memory of his ancestors. He and fellow tribe members regard the Whittier Narrows settlement area with reverence.

In 2010, tribal members led by Salas and his father, spiritual leader [Ernest Perez Salas Teutimez](#), now deceased, helped defeat a plan to build a 14,000-square-foot San Gabriel River Discovery Center and a parking lot for law-enforcement vehicles in the area.

During a blessing ceremony held in a glade of sycamores at the time, Salas' father said, "This is our last frontier close to home. We want to keep it just the way it is so that we never forget the lessons hidden under every leaf and rock."



2010 photo of Ernest Perez Salas Teutimez, the late spiritual leader of the Gabrieliño Band of Mission Indians, during an action against the development of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. (Rick Loomis / Los Angeles Times)

On a recent morning, Salas brushed dirt away from a palm-sized rock grinding tool that he found protruding from a sandbank. “It’s a granite ‘*mano*,” he said, “used to grind grain and seeds.”

As Salas was telling the story of the *mano*, Matthew Teutimez, a tribal biologist, was taking stock of nearby native vegetation that supported Indigenous populations for centuries: elderberries, mudwort, jimson weed, spearmint, walnut trees, grape vines, and sage.

“They’re remnants of a time when the lives of our ancestors were entwined with the area’s rich biodiversity and sacred places such as hilltops and caves, where they talked to the creator,” Teutimez, 47, said.



Matt Teutimiz, left, a tribal biologist for Gabrieleño tribes, and Andrew Salas, chairman of the Gabrieliño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh, follow the pathways of their ancient ancestors at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. (Louis Sahagun / Los Angeles Times)

A turning point came in 1769, with the arrival of Spain's first colonizing expedition. A commander under Spanish military officer Gaspar de Portolá recounted the initially peaceful support and guidance offered by Indigenous peoples.

"The natives came to nearly every place where our men camped ... presented us fish, hare, nuts, pine nuts, acorns, and other seeds prepared after their fashion," he wrote.

“It was never necessary for us to use our weapons for any purpose other than to obtain some game, which was generally bears.”



An aerial view of the Rio Hondo wash and Whittier Narrows Golf Course in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. (Allen J. Schaben/Los Angeles Times)

This initial amity was very short-lived: The prosperous and generous Native American tribes of Southern California were conquered by Spanish settlers, then enslaved by imperious theologians to launch a mission-building campaign that stretched from San Diego to San Francisco.

After the missions, the tribes came to be known as Gabrieleños, a name that conjures up the start of an era of terror and massacres for Native Americans who had existed here since time immemorial.

The California Gold Rush of 1849 inspired a flood of immigrants and federal support for local Indian-killing campaigns. California's Native American population plunged from 150,000 to 30,000 in the mid-1800s, according to Benjamin Madley, a UCLA historian and author of "American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873."

Less than a century later, Southern California was mushrooming into a metropolis amid showers of welder's sparks, clanking jackhammers, lumbering earthmovers, and flashy new cultural and commercial landmarks rearing skyward.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT**Desperate to rid Catalina of invasive deer, officials propose bold helicopter hunt****Oct. 1, 2023**

The Native Californian population has rebounded to about 150,000, many of whom belong to the state's 110 federally recognized tribes. Those groups are able to determine their own destiny, and in many cases, that destiny has involved lucrative gambling palaces.

The Gabrieleño tribes, however, are among roughly two dozen unrecognized and landless tribes in California that have initiated petitions for federal recognition by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The stakes are high. A federally recognized tribe has sovereignty, does not pay taxes and is exempt from following state or county legal ordinances. It is entitled to full service from local law enforcement authorities and fire departments, hospitals, and road and flood control systems.

It is also eligible for federal assistance from legal programs created to help reclaim lands lost over the decades through tax sales, fraud and violence, and with healthcare, education and protection of sacred sites.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

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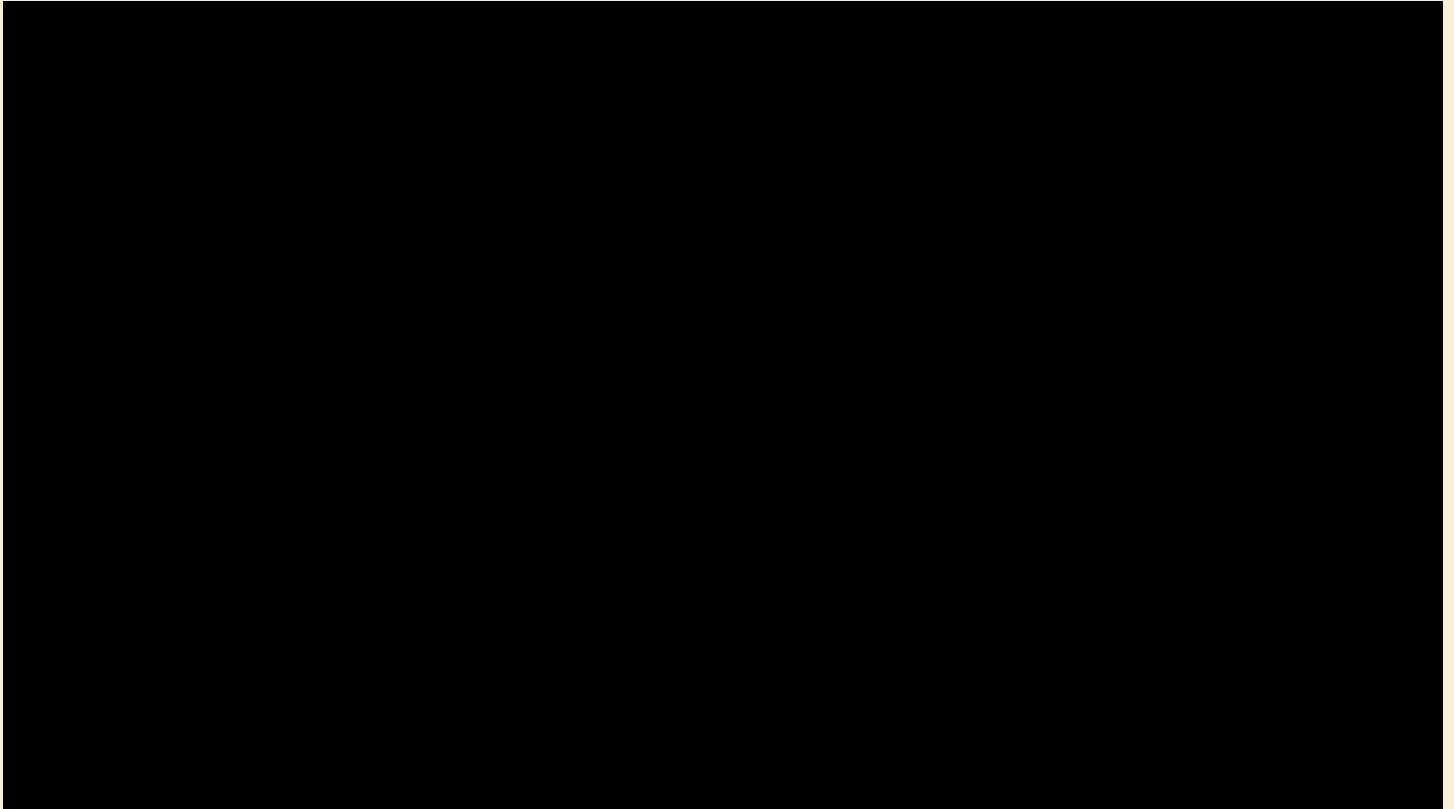
SoCal cities desperately need more shade. Is it time to finally ditch palm trees?

Oct. 2, 2023

Few of those petitions are likely to succeed, experts say, because they usually cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, require extensive documentation and research by anthropologists, historians and tribal members and can take a decade or more.

But for Salas and Teutimez, Whittier Narrows remains a potent symbol, geographically and politically, of historic injustice — and an ideal place for a rebirth of the Gabrieleño Nation.

“We filed our application for federal recognition in 2010,” Salas said. “I truly believe that it’s going to happen in my lifetime.”



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More to Read

Five Native tribes are coming together to protect a California cultural landscape

Nov. 12, 2025



'The original slow food people': Why a California tribe spent big money on a global food gathering

Sept. 23, 2025



'A land that our ancestors walked': L.A. County tribe wins land back for the first time

Aug. 19, 2025



About these maps

Historic elevation data, ancient routes and watersheds were provided to the Times for mapping by the [Los Angeles Landscape History Project](#).

Present-day [terrain](#) and [watershed](#) data come from the U.S. Geological Survey. Roadways were downloaded from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#).



Louis Sahagún

Louis Sahagún is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer who covered issues ranging from religion, culture and the environment to crime, politics and water. He was on the team of L.A. Times writers that earned the Pulitzer Prize in public service for a series on Latinos in Southern California and the team that was a finalist in 2015 for the Pulitzer Prize in breaking news. He is a former board member of CCNMA: Latino Journalists of California and author of the book “Master of the Mysteries: The Life of Manly Palmer Hall.”



Sean Greene

Sean Greene is an assistant data and graphics editor, focused on visual storytelling at the Los Angeles Times.

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The Lost Canyons of Brentwood

By Fred Gurzeler

Brentwood is home to several canyons that wind their way down from the Santa Monica Mountains. To the west there is Mandeville Canyon and to the east is Sepulveda Canyon. Running down the center of Brentwood is a canyon few may know. Originating at the meeting of Cliffwood and Carmelina Avenues north of Sunset and unceremoniously ending at an entrance to the Pico-Kenter storm drain just north of Wilshire near McClellan Avenue, is Brentwood Canyon. Prominently shown on the earliest United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps, the canyon was once the dividing line between four major developments, Brentwood Park and Westgate to the north and Ethelwyn Manor and Ethelwyn Manor Heights to the south. Few today may know about the last two developments, but they were heavily advertised and promoted one hundred years ago.

“Brentwood Park.”

So began a front page article in the December 15, 1905 edition of The Daily Outlook (which eventually changed its name to the Santa Monica Evening Outlook). “That is the name that has been chosen and the new 320 acre park city on San Vicente boulevard and Twenty-sixth street has been christened.” Named in honor of William Lynton Brent (January 6, 1868 – April 5, 1955), a major owner/investor in the development, the tract map for Brentwood Park was recorded January 23, 1906 and “Brentwood” was born. The eastern boundary of Brentwood Park was Brentwood Canyon.

On the other side of Brentwood Canyon lay Westgate, which was comprised of various tracts (Westgate, Westgate Acres, Westgate Heights and Westgate Gardens) that went all the way to the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The first tract – simply known as Westgate – was surveyed in March, 1905 and recorded April 19, 1905, but the developers, the Santa Monica Land and Water Company, wasted no time announcing the new development; advertisements were already appearing in the local newspapers: “Amid the Foothills Fair” touted an April 12, 1905 ad in the Los Angeles Times and “The Foothill Garden” in a May 21, 1905 ad in the Los Angeles Herald. Although

The Lost Canyons of Brentwood

By Fred Gurzeler

Westgate is a tad older than Brentwood, the Brentwood name would eventually consume it. By the 1930s Westgate as a distinct community was all but gone.

One of the earliest references to “Brentwood Canyon” is in the September 10, 1910 edition of the Los Angeles Herald, which reported a “brush fire in Brentwood Canyon burns 4-mile area.” “The fire is but a short distance from Brentwood Park, the fashionable residence district which was recently opened.” That particular fire burned through a number of canyons in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Sandwiched between Brentwood Park and Westgate was Carlos Heights, the first tract map attempting to subdivide Brentwood Canyon. Recorded in October, 1906, the identity of “Carlos” is not known. Based on naming conventions of the time, it is most likely a surname; streets named after men, for example, used their last name while streets named after women used their first name, e.g., Dorothy, Adelaide, Helena, etc. It could be San Carlos or a Señor Carlos that had settled in the area. The Carlos Heights Improvement Company, incorporated in January 1907, owned the tract for a while. Considering the number of times the land changed hands, it appears the area was not easy to develop, most likely because of the canyon. Canyon View Drive along the edge of Brentwood Canyon makes its first appearance on Tract Map 5666 in January, 1923. The “Brentwood Canyon Estates” (Tract 6466) was established in May, 1923.

While the area containing the upper section of Brentwood Canyon was being advertised as a rich man's paradise, in the area previously known as San Vicente Park south of Montana, the canyon was becoming the boundary for two different types of neighborhoods. Robert Marsh (January 20, 1874 – October 1, 1956), a prominent real estate developer, first developed “Ethelwyn Manor” on the east side of the canyon, an area bounded by Montana, Wellesley, Darlington and Gretna Green Way. (For those interested in such details, it is Tract 1420, surveyed September, 1911.) On the west side of the canyon Mr. Marsh developed “Ethelwyn Manor Heights” (Tract 2385, March, 1913). An article in the January 18, 1914 Los Angeles Times explained the difference: “Ethelwyn Manor Heights is in every sense of the word the home of the millionaire, so imposing is it from every standpoint. Its improvements are to be such as are only incorporated in the very highest class subdivisions.

“Ethelwyn Manor, the less important though beautiful sister of Ethelwyn Manor Heights, is a bungalow tract built to fulfill the highest requirements of the man of more limited means.”

The Ethelwyn Manor designation has long since fallen out of use and the origin of the name remains, so far, a mystery. A 1912 article said this “beautiful home spot most appropriately

The Lost Canyons of Brentwood

By Fred Gurzeler

takes its name from manors of Australia and England” but does mention who Ethelwyn may have been. The “Heights” part of the development was mostly in Santa Monica and today includes such streets north of Wilshire as Franklin, Stanford, Centinela and Burlingame. The Los Angeles side is now known as South Brentwood. One of the features of Ethelwyn Manor Heights was going to be a “splendid observation tower” of “exceptional height.” The tower was never built. Instead, Santa Monica eventually built water reservoirs on Mt. Olivette (sometimes spelled “Olivet” in early newspaper accounts), the highest point in the city.

The name Brentwood was adorned with many suffixes over the years. Real estate developers were class conscious men in those days and the word “height” was a popular suffix, used to convey a sense of being higher than the average man, financially, socially and geographically. And, without digressing too much, Montana Avenue was a greater divider of neighborhoods by class than San Vicente Blvd. The Brentwood Country Club’s property was originally mapped out as an upper class residential neighborhood with ritzy street names such as Brentana Avenue (Brentwood + Montana), Santana Avenue (San Vicente + Brentwood), Vernon Place and Manor Drive, but the idea was quickly abandoned. Plans for the country club began in 1915 and the club formally opened March 26, 1916. Officers and members included men with names such as Bundy, Janss, Robert Marsh and King C. Gillette of safety razor fame.

As time passed, older names started giving way to newer names. A November 3, 1932 house for rent ad in the Los Angeles Times provides a snapshot of an area in flux: “\$175 BEAUTIFUL Brentwood Canyon rim acre estate, 12-room Spanish, 5 master bedrooms, 3 baths. Owner, 320 N. Carmelina, Brentwood Heights, West L.A. [Phone:] 35320”

What is noteworthy above is the inclusion of West Los Angeles. The name “West Los Angeles” was officially adopted in 1928 (although West Los Angeles as an area was in use well over a decade by then) by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and included the “districts of Sawtelle, Beverly Crest, Beverly Estates, Beverly Park, Beverly Ridge, Beverly Terrace, Castellammare, Cheviot Hills, Highland Hills, Holly Vista, Holmby Hills, Huntington Palisades, Pacific Palisades, Miramar Estates, Bel-Air, Brentwood Heights, Santa Monica Canyon and Westwood Hills” (Los Angeles Times, October 1, 1928). The use of West Los Angeles (or, simply, Los Angeles) and the advent of the ZIP Code resulted in the “loss” of a number of community names.

It is amazing that Brentwood Canyon survived. Although sections were filled in for Sunset, San Vicente and Montana Blvds. and the Brentwood Storm Drain project in 1960 obliterated

The Lost Canyons of Brentwood

By Fred Gurzeler

most of the canyon that ran through the Brentwood Country Club, the canyon is still mostly intact. Had the developers come in the 1920s or later it is possible most of the canyon would have been filled in, but at the turn of the 20th Century the heavy machinery to do so wasn't readily available and not cheap. Plus, the canyon added a rustic charm that helped put the "park" in Brentwood Park. Although Brentwood Canyon ends just north of Wilshire, it once extended further to roughly Santa Monica Blvd. and Berkeley Street. The dip in Arizona between Centinela Avenue and Franklin Street in Santa Monica, for example, is part of Brentwood Canyon.

Brentwood Canyon is not the only "lost" canyon. The April 1881 plat map of the Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica (the plat map was confirmed to Ramona Sepulveda after a long legal battle by the Sepulveda family) shows a "Cañada Yglesia" (Church Canyon), which could be the original name for Sepulveda Canyon. The canyon may have later been officially rechristened in honor of her family, although references to Sepulveda Canyon go back before 1881, with the October 22, 1859 edition of the Los Angeles Star, for example, reporting a killing "at Sepulveda's cañon, about eighteen miles from the city," the Santa Monica Outlook reporting on July 31, 1878 that E. E. Shattuck's apiary (bee ranch) in "Sepulveda cañon" may produce over 100,000 pounds of honey and the September 23, 1880 Los Angeles Herald reporting a hunting expedition for quail, rabbits and deer in "Sepulveda cañon." It is most likely some canyons had a Spanish and English name at the same time for a while.

While the Sepulveda name is well-known, the origin of Kenter Canyon's name is very obscure. The Los Angeles Herald noted in its February 25, 1882 edition that an "A C Kenter" claimed "160 acres of unsurveyed government land in Varroza canyon, valued at \$250." Whether or not this is the Kenter and Varroza canyon was the original name (or even if "Varroza" is the correct spelling) remains lost in the mists of time.

Old newspaper articles mention a "Boehme Canyon" between Kenter and Sepulveda canyons. The Boehme family was well established in Santa Monica, with George Boehme being one of the first property owners in the city, having arrived in 1875 on the first ship to dock at the Santa Monica wharf. He was also the City Treasurer from 1892 to 1895. Deer hunting in the canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains was a pastime for the well-to-do in those days and it is possible the Boehmes did their hunting in the canyon named after them. The Boehmes may have also had a honey farm; quite a number of men had apiaries in the canyons. In the early 1900s the Gamberi Ranch was located in Boehme Canyon, a 21 acre fruit ranch with oranges, avocados as well as other produce such as grapes and potatoes. The canyon name is all but gone today, but the canyon itself can be traced along

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N. Bundy Drive north of Sunset Blvd. and was sometimes referred to locally as Bundy Canyon in the 1920s and after.

In the 1870s a man by the name of Guy C. Manville had an apiary in one of the canyons. The canyon, originally called Casa Viejo Cañon (Old House Canyon) and noted on the Sepulveda 1881 plat map, became known as Manville Canyon, but soon became corrupted as Mandeville. Both names were in use for a while, with variations such as Manvel, Mandiville and Manderville popping up in print, but eventually Mandeville Canyon became the accepted name. There was also a back and forth between the words Cañon and Canyon and the English word eventually won out. The March 20, 1928 Santa Monica Evening Outlook ran a small article noting that originally Mandeville Canyon “bore a name in the Spanish vernacular that women found embarrassing to repeat in court.” Sadly, the article did not divulge what the name was.

Brentwood used to have many more canyons and arroyos. Most are truly lost now, but traces still remain, such as the winding Bundy Drive down to Wilshire Blvd or Barrington

Avenue. There is still a canyon north of San Vicente between Saltair and Westgate Avenues that also managed to survive decades of development. The canyon doesn't appear to have a name, but “Westgate Canyon” would certainly be historically appropriate. Although the USGS maps noted the canyons had intermittent streams, at least one section of

Brentwood Canyon has a year-round creek fed by the same underground source of water that supplies what was once known as San Vicente Springs, now known as “Serra Springs” or “Tongva Sacred Springs” and located on the University High School campus. These springs were a primary source of water for the City of Santa Monica in its infancy.

The complete history of Brentwood and its environs has yet to be written, but an excellent place to start is “Brentwood (Images of America: California)” by Jan Loomis. Many local newspapers have been digitized and are now on line and easily searched. Newspapers are a wonderful primary source for any research. Some online searches are free, such as old editions of the Santa Monica Evening Outlook via the Santa Monica Public Library website. You never know what long lost information lies waiting to be rediscovered!

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