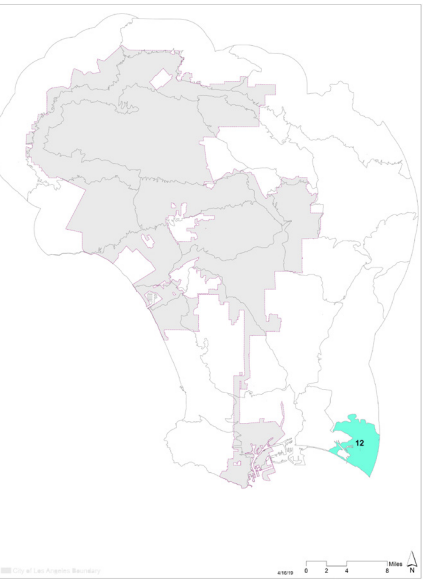
ECOTOPE 12: SAN GABRIEL RIVER INTERTIDAL & COASTAL PLAIN



(Falls outside of the City of Los Angeles. Only the portion of ecotope within the study area has been characterized.)

LANDFORM

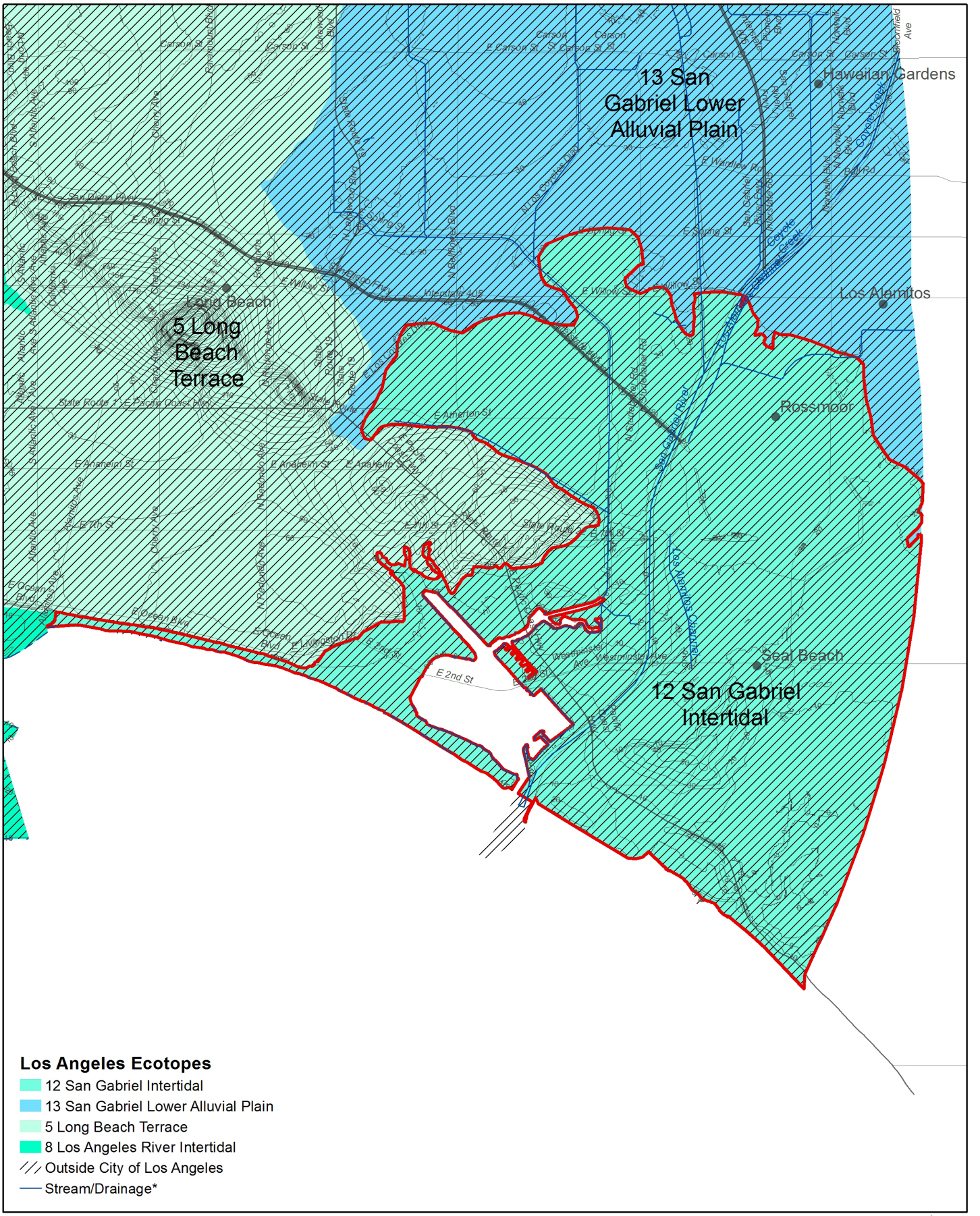
Unlike the Ballona Creek Intertidal Zone, which is in the process of being restored, and the Los Angeles River Intertidal Zone, which has been almost completely converted to urban development, significant portions of the San Gabriel River Intertidal Zone remain intact, albeit highly altered. The Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge falls within the delineated portion of the ecotope and includes extensive high quality saltmarsh; however, the Refuge has been disconnected from flows from the San Gabriel River. Some remnant saltmarsh and degraded saline wetlands are also present along the San Gabriel River channel near Alamitos Bay. Remnant areas of coastal strand and low dunes are also present around the community of Sunset Beach. The boundary of the ecotope is defined by the 20'-contour line, which follows the higher terrace landforms that sit beneath Long Beach to the west. The northern 20'-contour generally includes soils that reflect recent historic intertidal conditions.

MICROCLIMATE

Maritime influence is strong near the coast and interior areas exhibit more continental influence with cooler winter low temperatures and hotter summer highs. Fog is relatively prevalent throughout the ecotope due to the low elevation, frequently below the marine inversion in summer. Flat terrain exhibits little variation in aspect, except along boundaries of the ecotope with the terrace landforms toward Long Beach and terrace features within the ecotope near Sunset Beach.

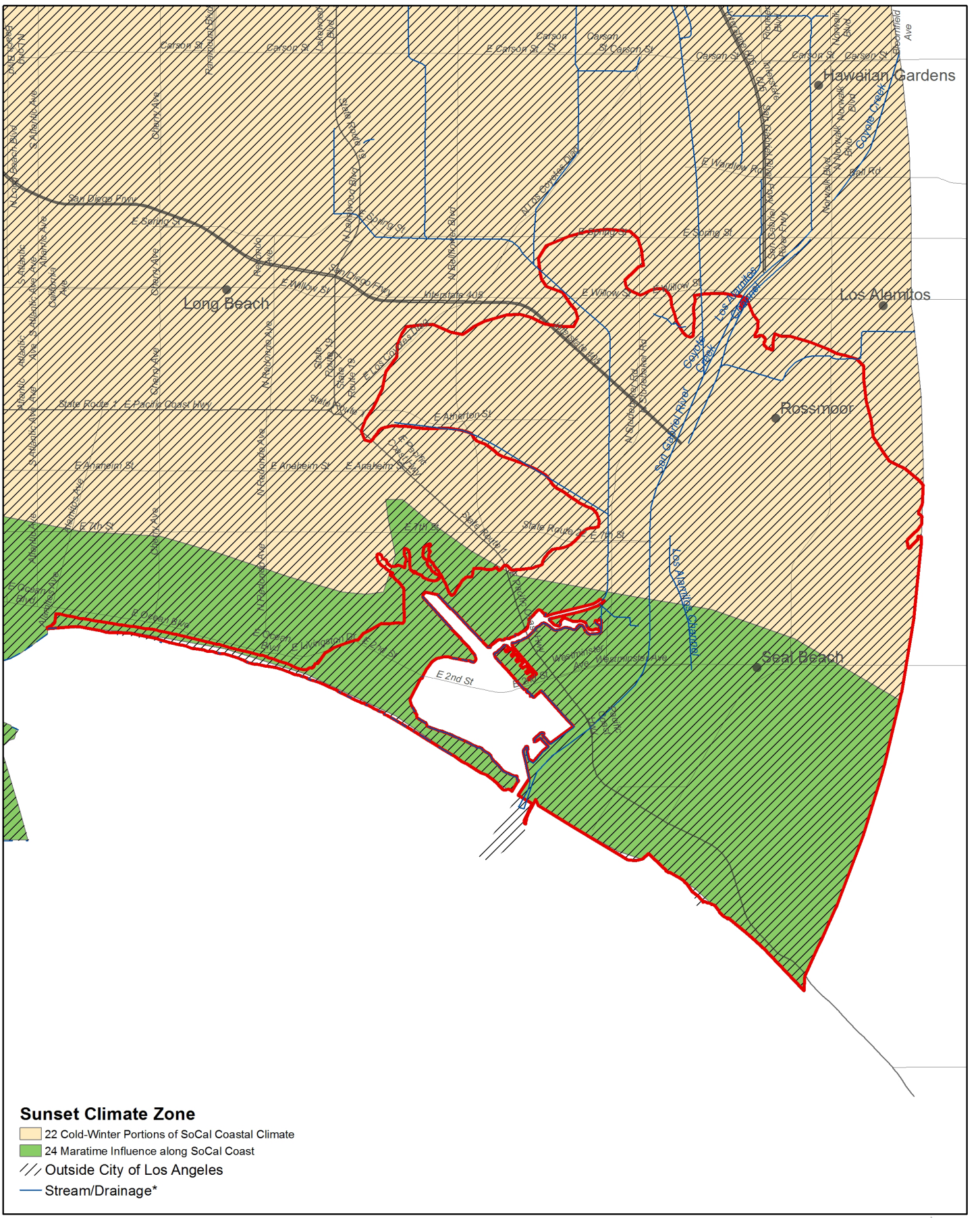
VEGETATION & LANDCOVER

CALVEG reveals 6.25% natural areas for portions of the ecotope within the study area. Most of these are saline emergent wetlands dominated by the pickleweed-chordgrass alliance (i.e., saltmarsh). Smaller areas of tule-cattail wetlands and coastal bluff scrub are also characteristic of intertidal and nearby coastal plain ecosystems. "Water" is not characterized for native status; however, much of the 4.05% of water in the ecotope falls within the Wildlife Refuge and should be considered a natural area. Areas of beach sand are characterized as "degraded natural areas" since most are managed to reduce vegetation establishment. Small pockets of more intact dune and strand habitats, and potentially important habitat for species of concern, such as California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni)*, are likely present within these areas. Other species of concern within the ecotope include the Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and the Ridgeway's rail *(Rallus longirostris obsoletus)*, among others. The 2012 Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan provides a detailed characterization of the natural flora, fauna, ecological processes, and conservation concerns within the Refuge and other remnant natural and degraded areas throughout the ecotope (US Fish & Wildlife Service, 2012).



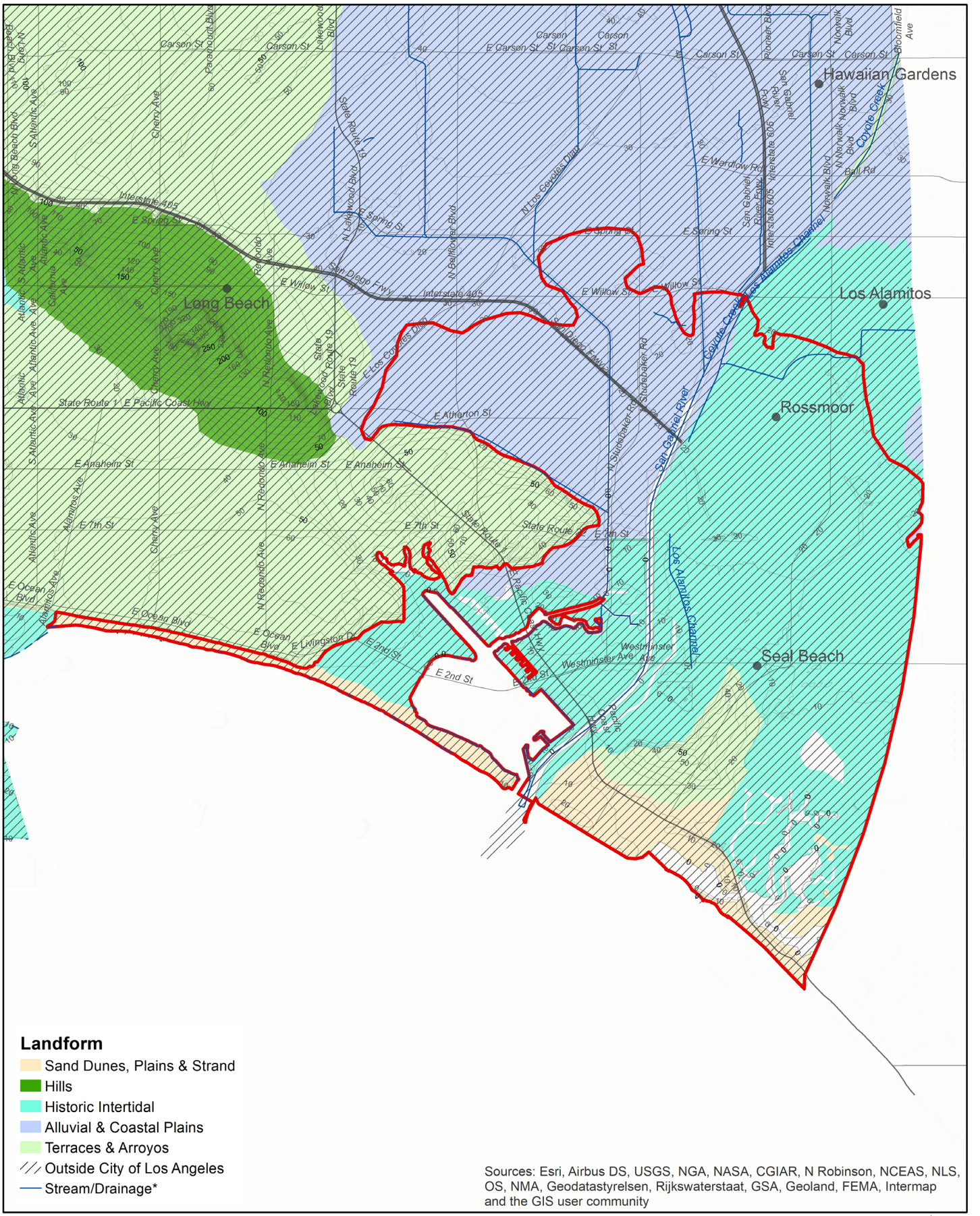
Ecotope 12 Context Map

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



Microclimate

Data source: Sunset Magazine. http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map

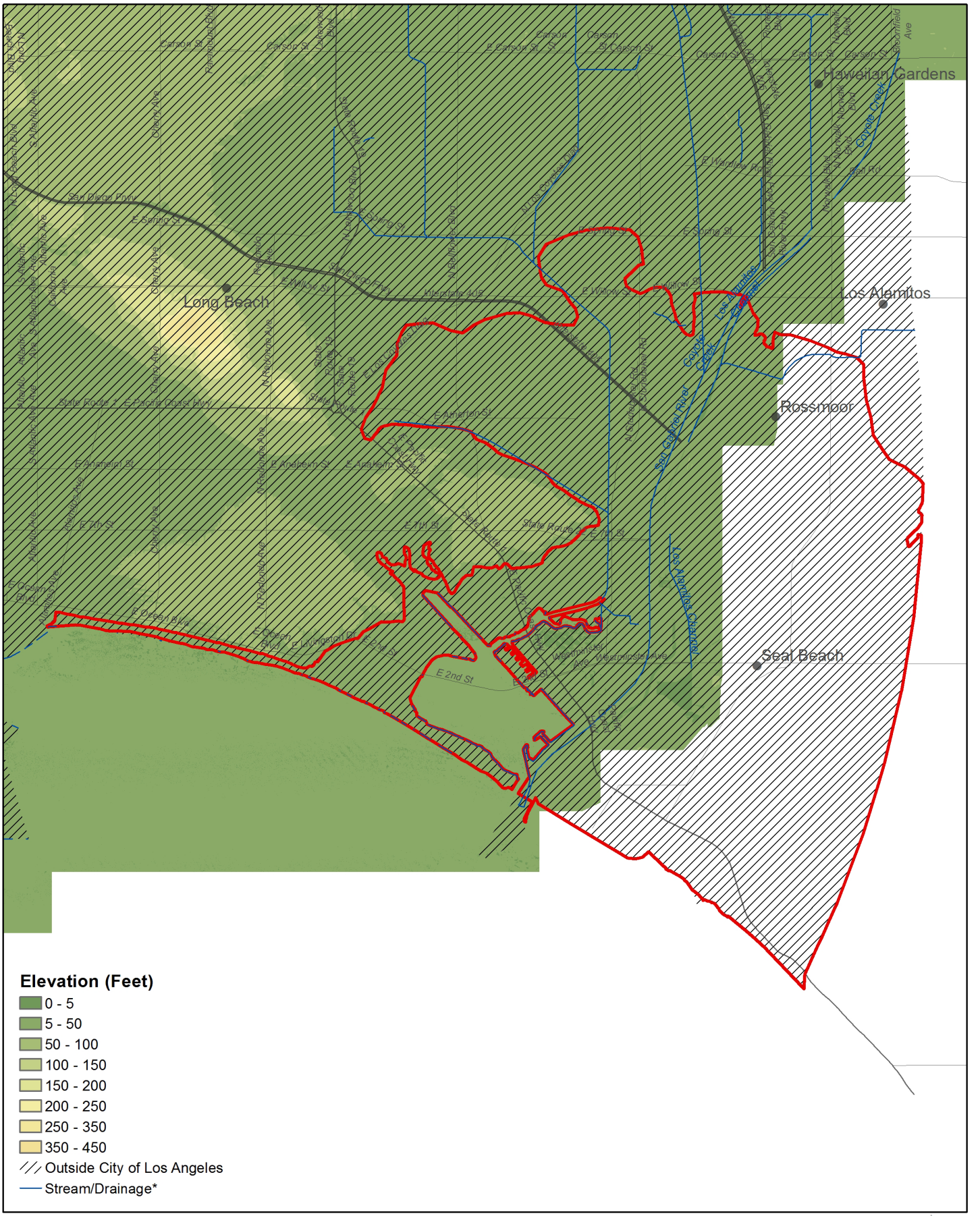


Landform

Data source: I. Brown (2019), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr

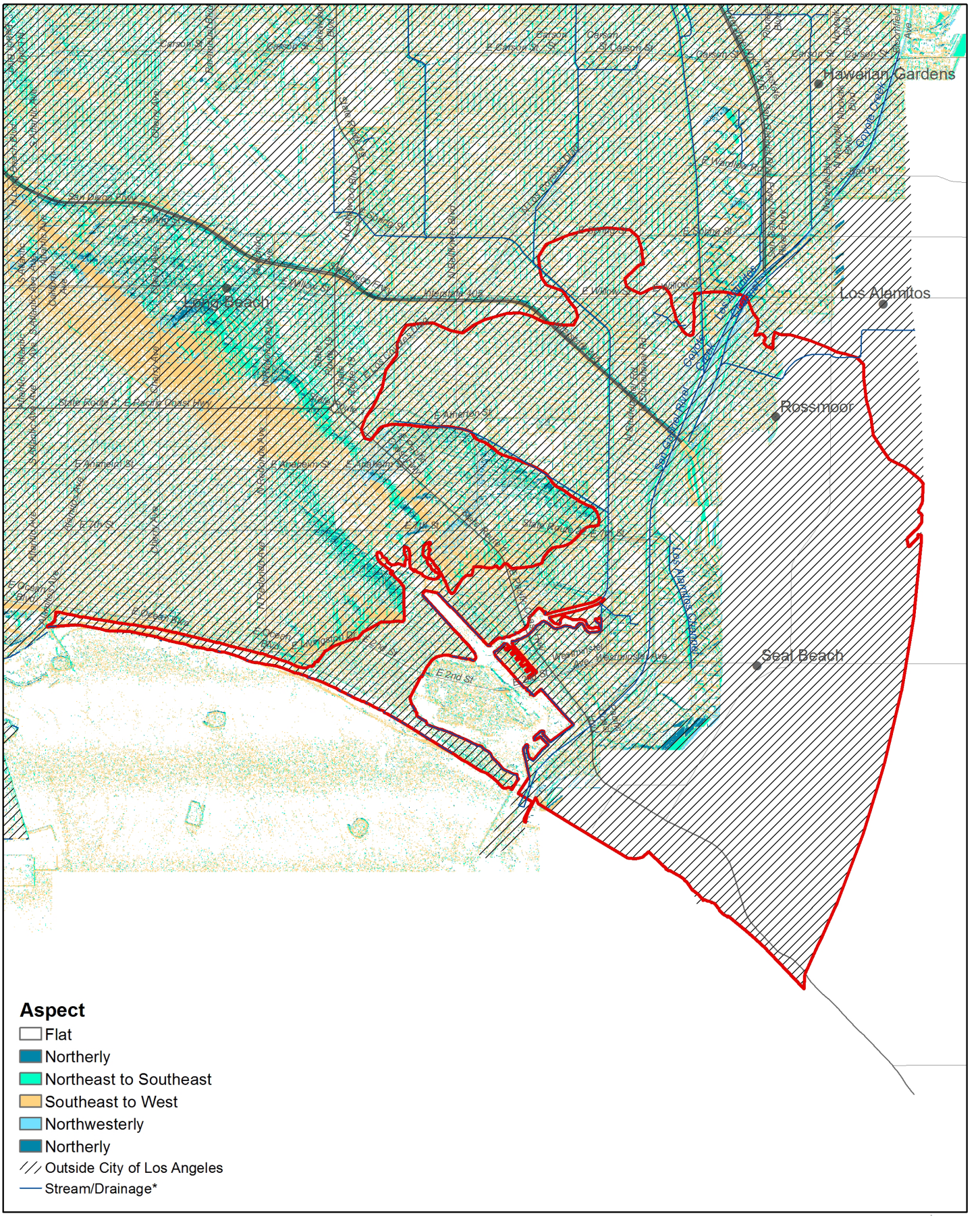
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N



Elevation

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/

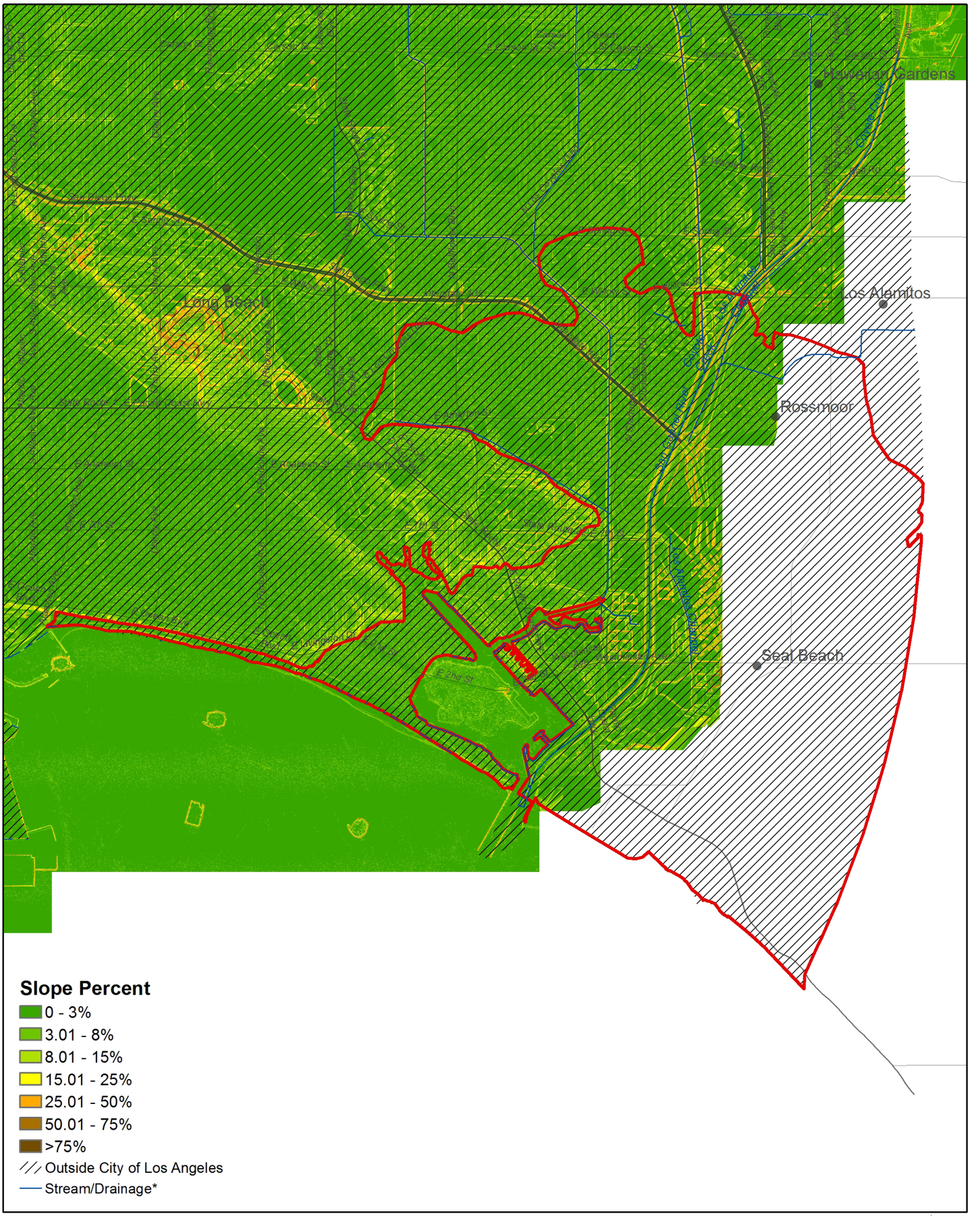


Aspect

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/

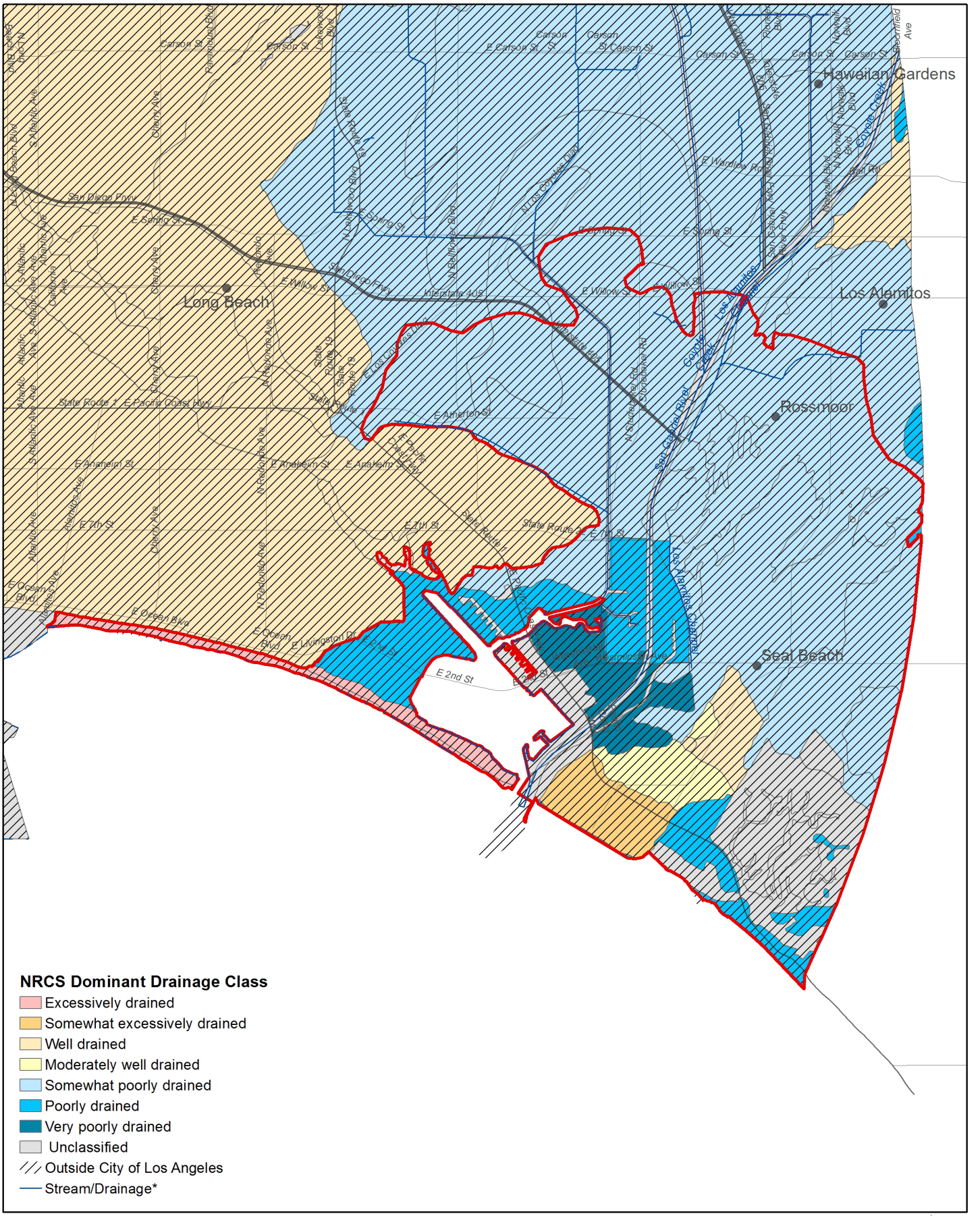
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N



Slope Percent

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/

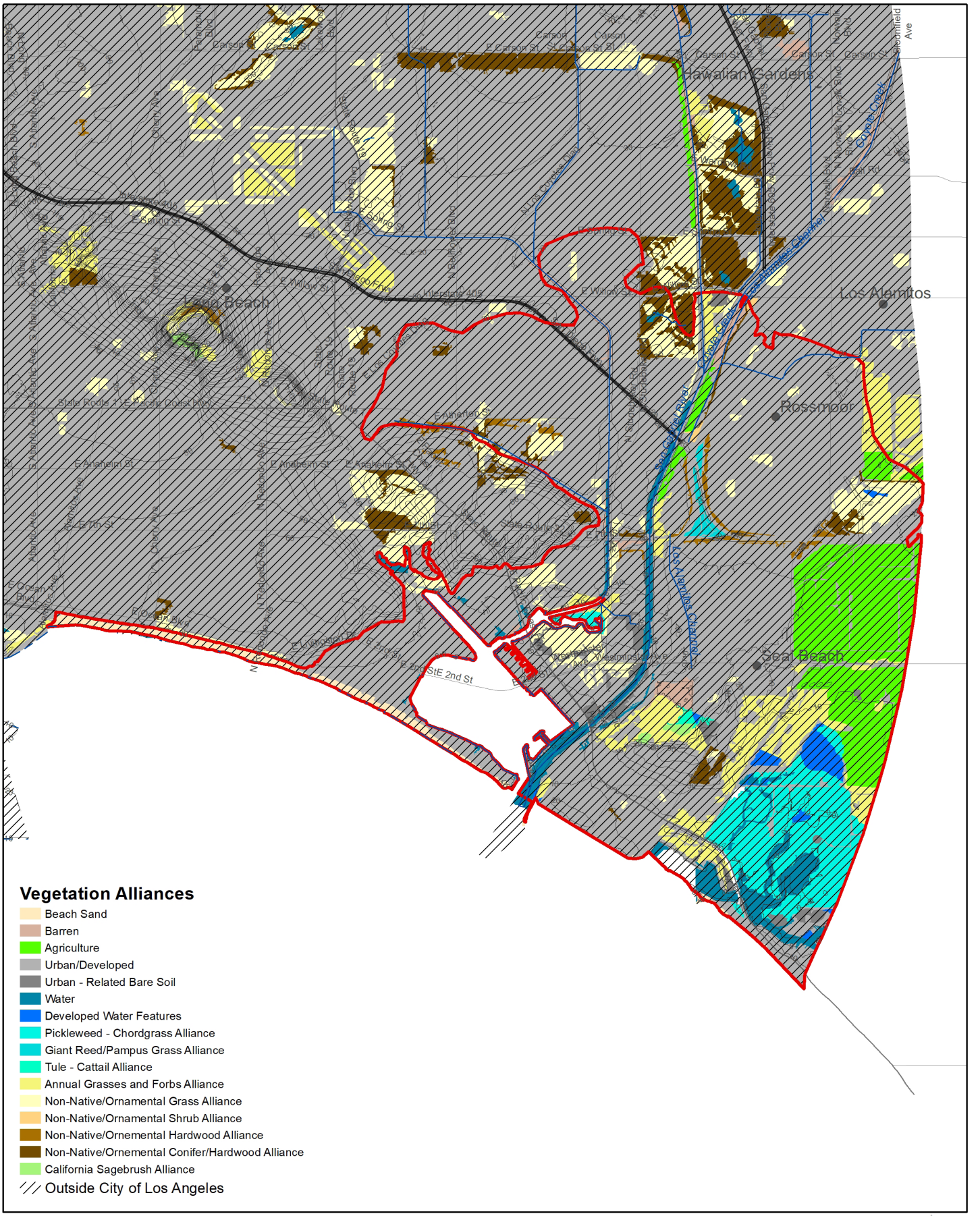


Drainage

Data source: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for Los Angeles County, Southeastern Part, CA; National Hydrography Dataset, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia. 2002-2016.

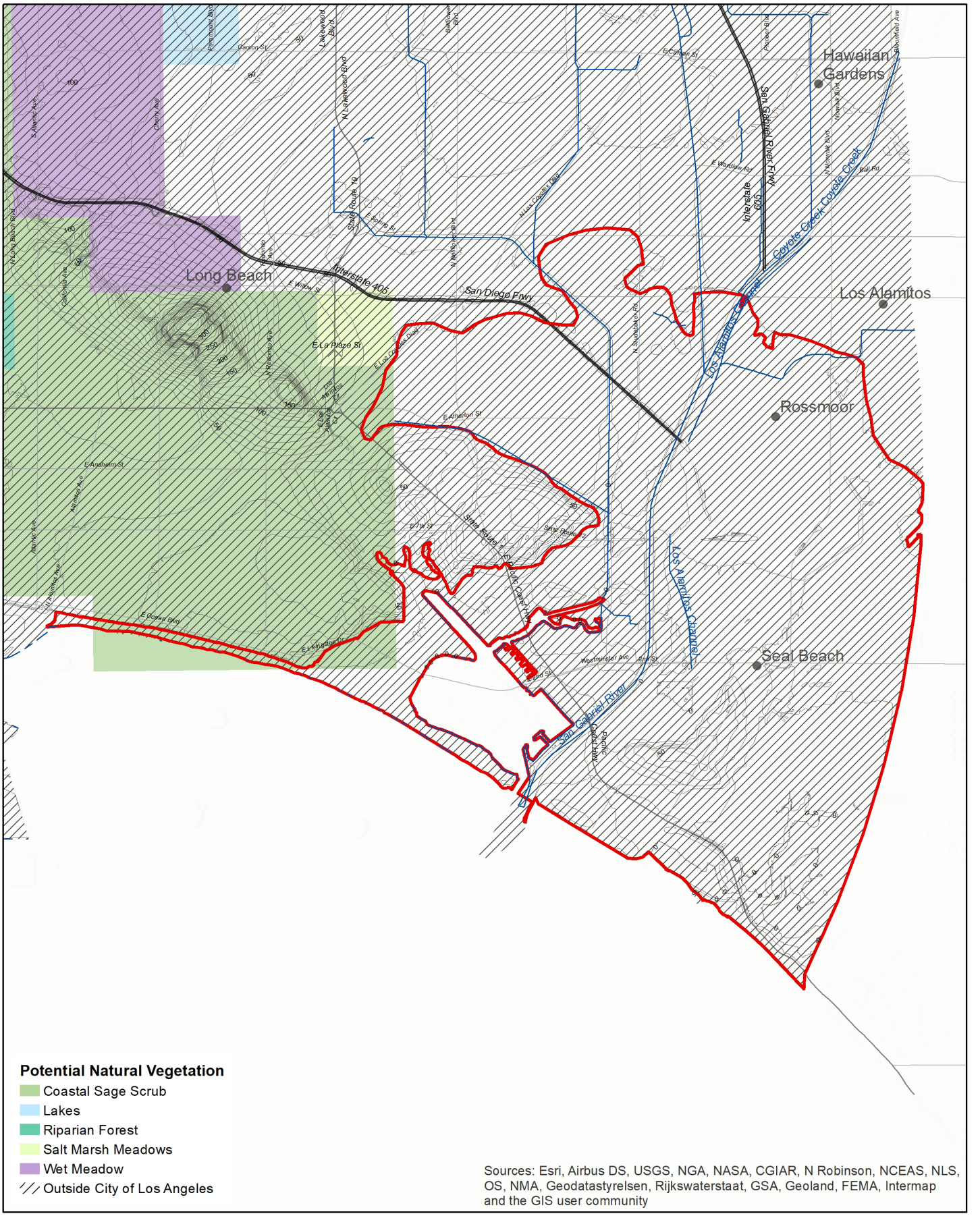
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N



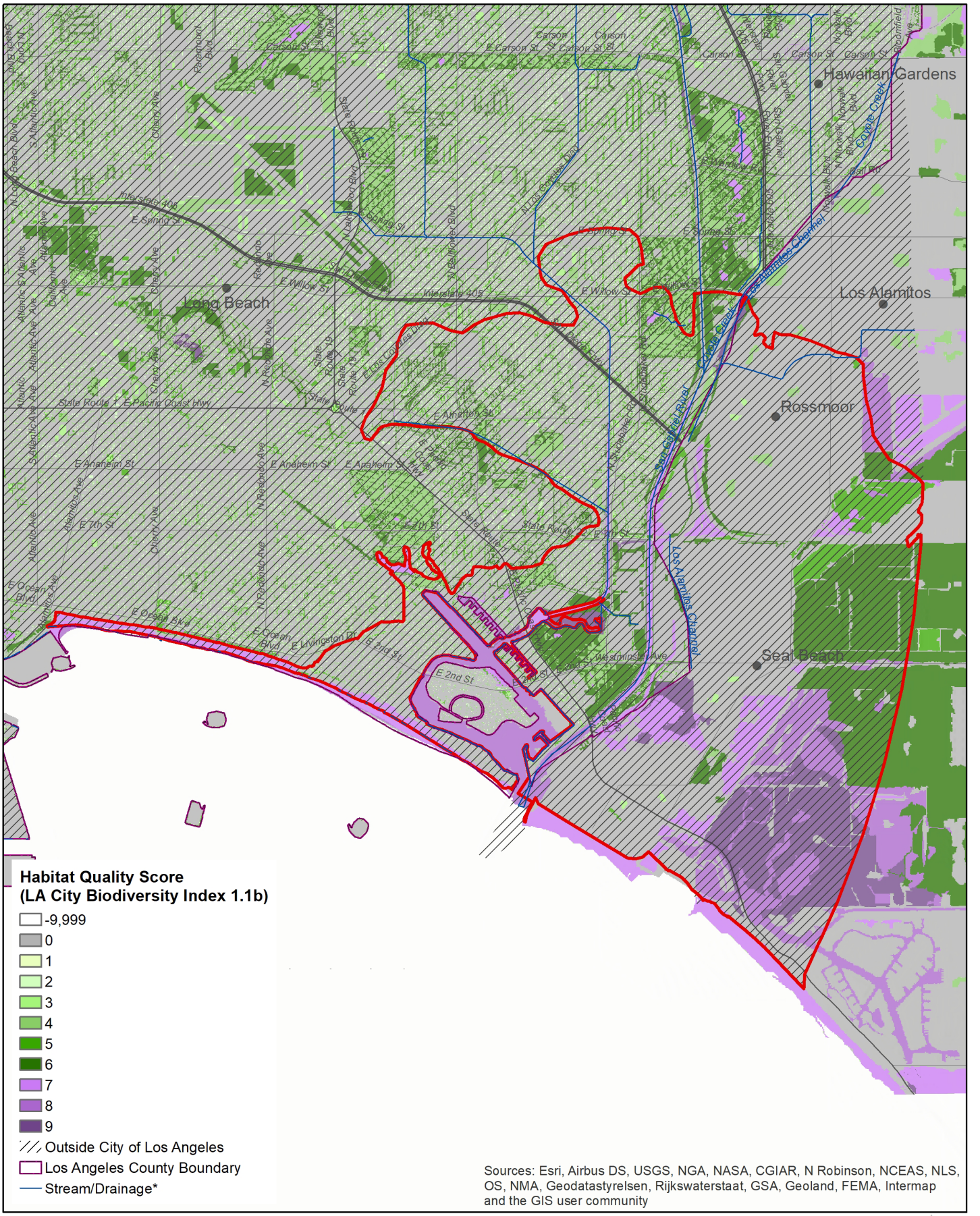
Vegetation Alliances

Data source: CALVEG. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5347192



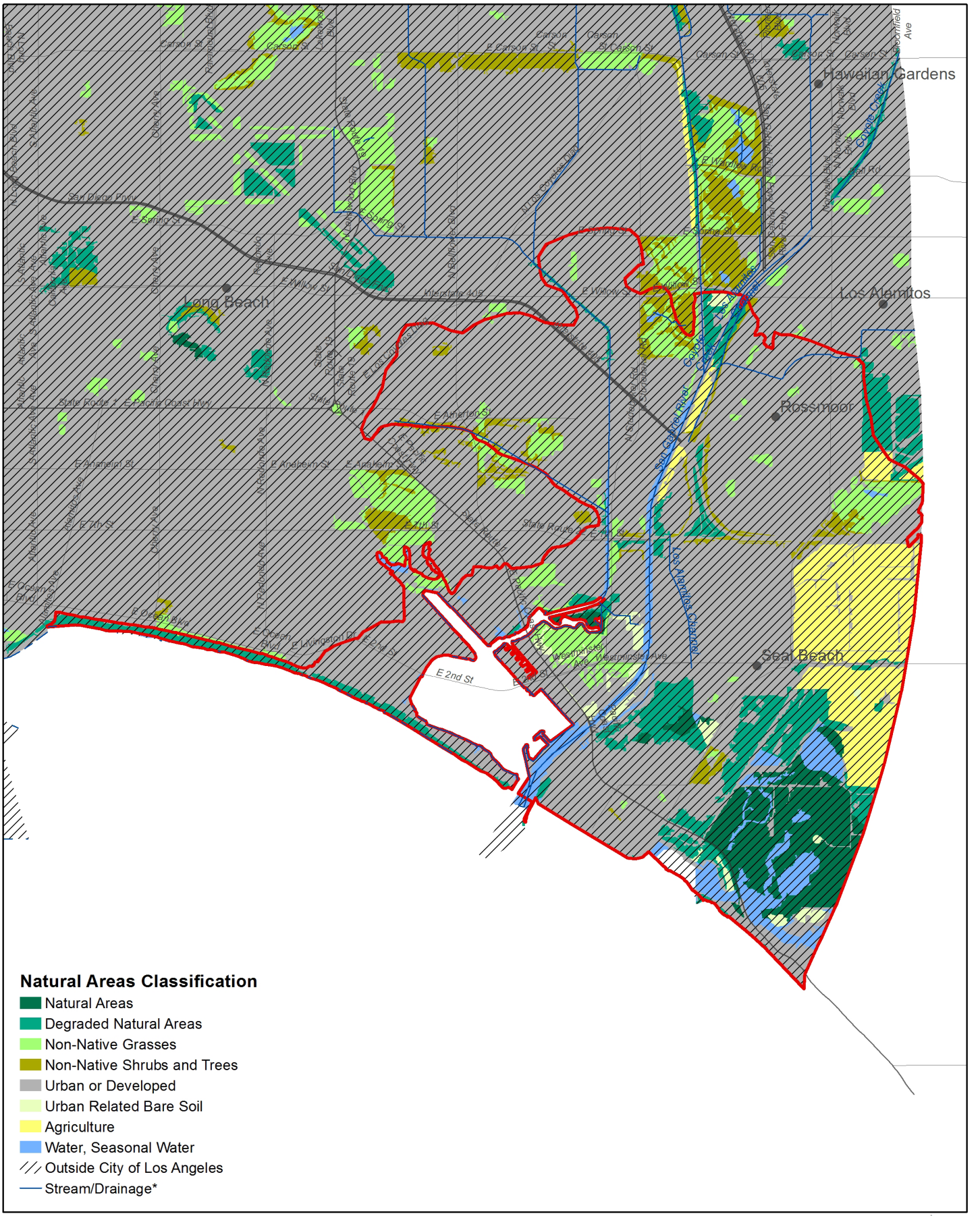
Hypothesized Potential Natural Vegetation

Data source: USC Spatial Sciences Institute/UCLA Institute of the Environment: Historical Ecology of the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.



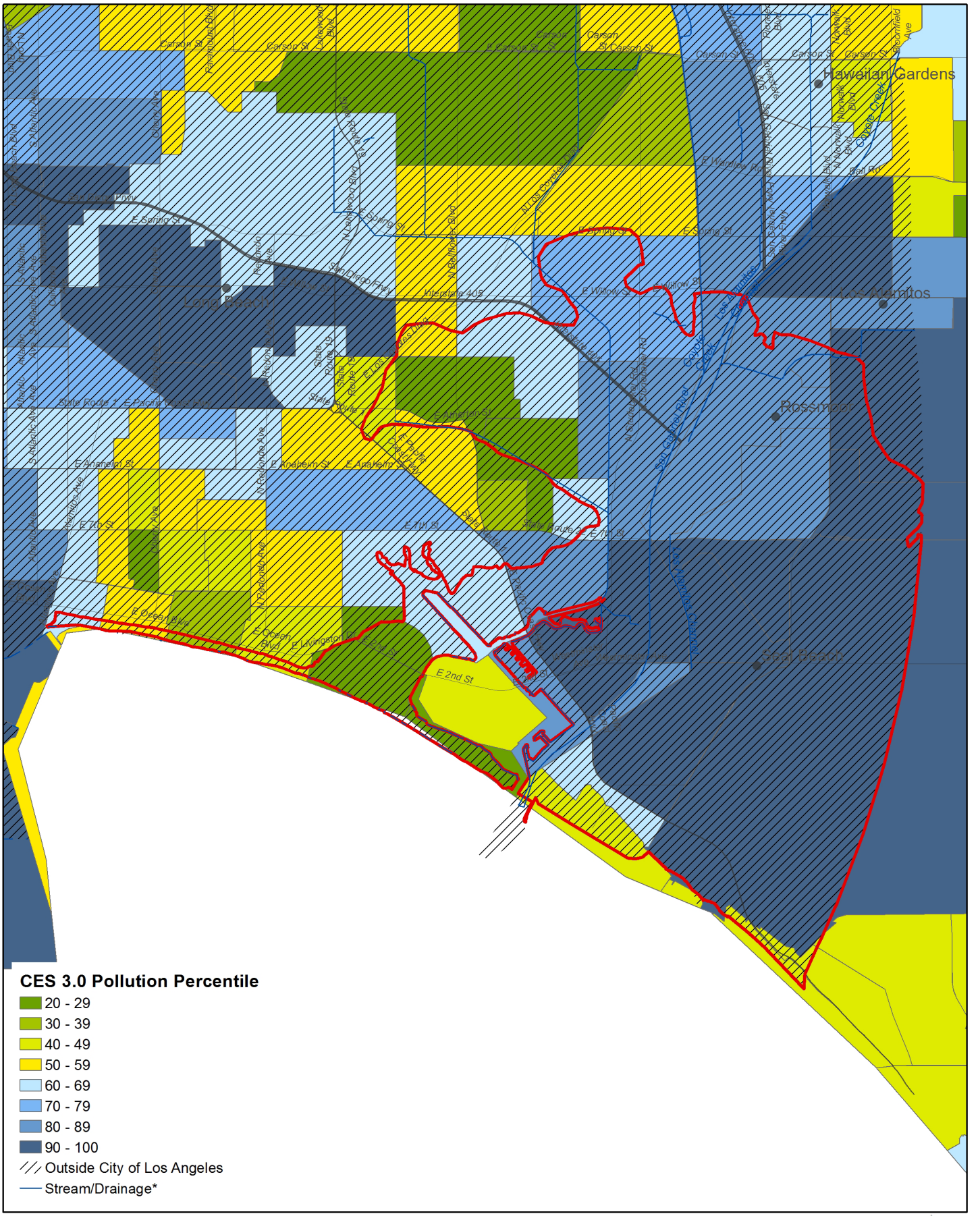
General Habitat Quality

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



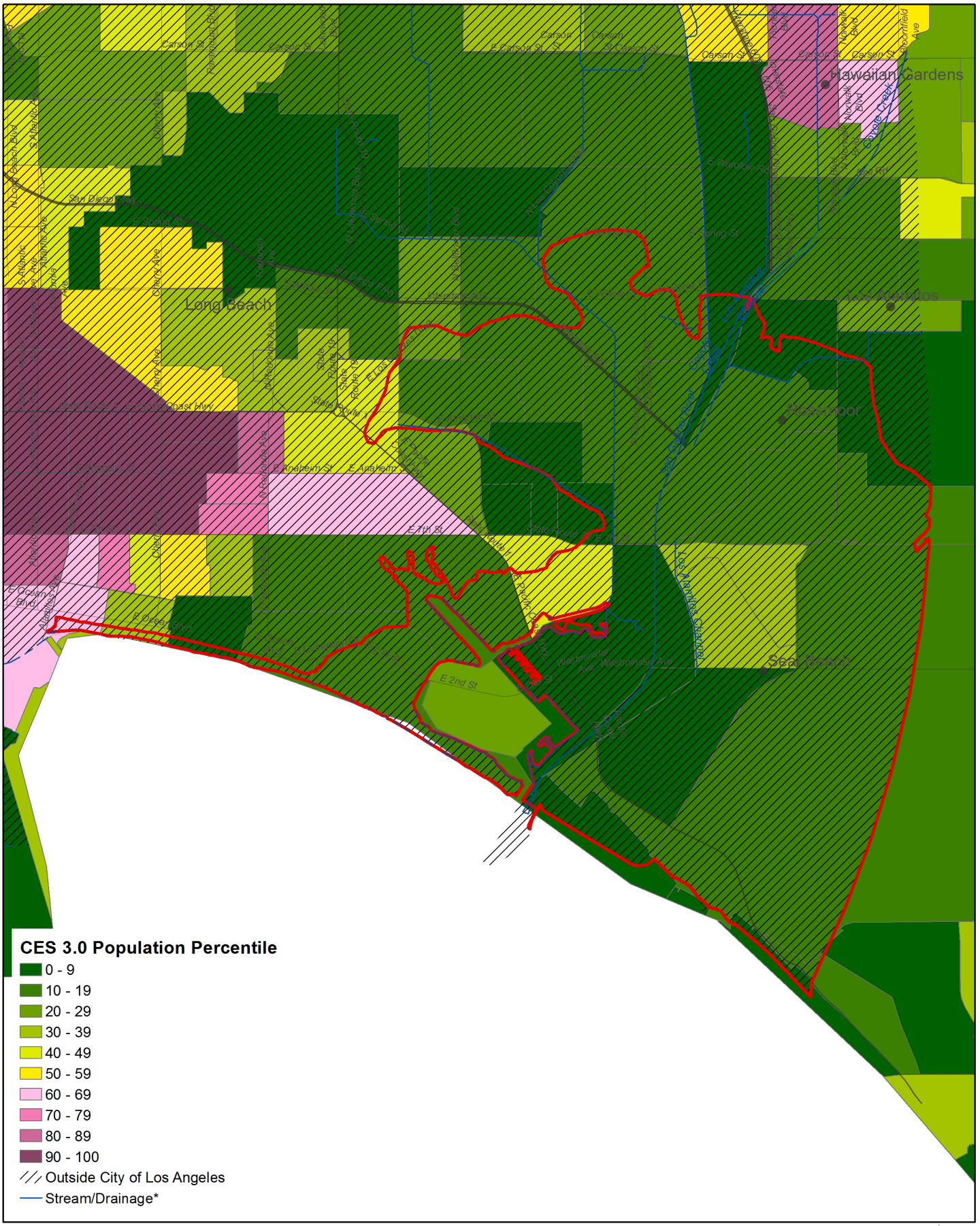
Natural Areas Classification

Data source: 2018 City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Report, Appendix B. https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdi0/~edisp/cnt024943.pdf



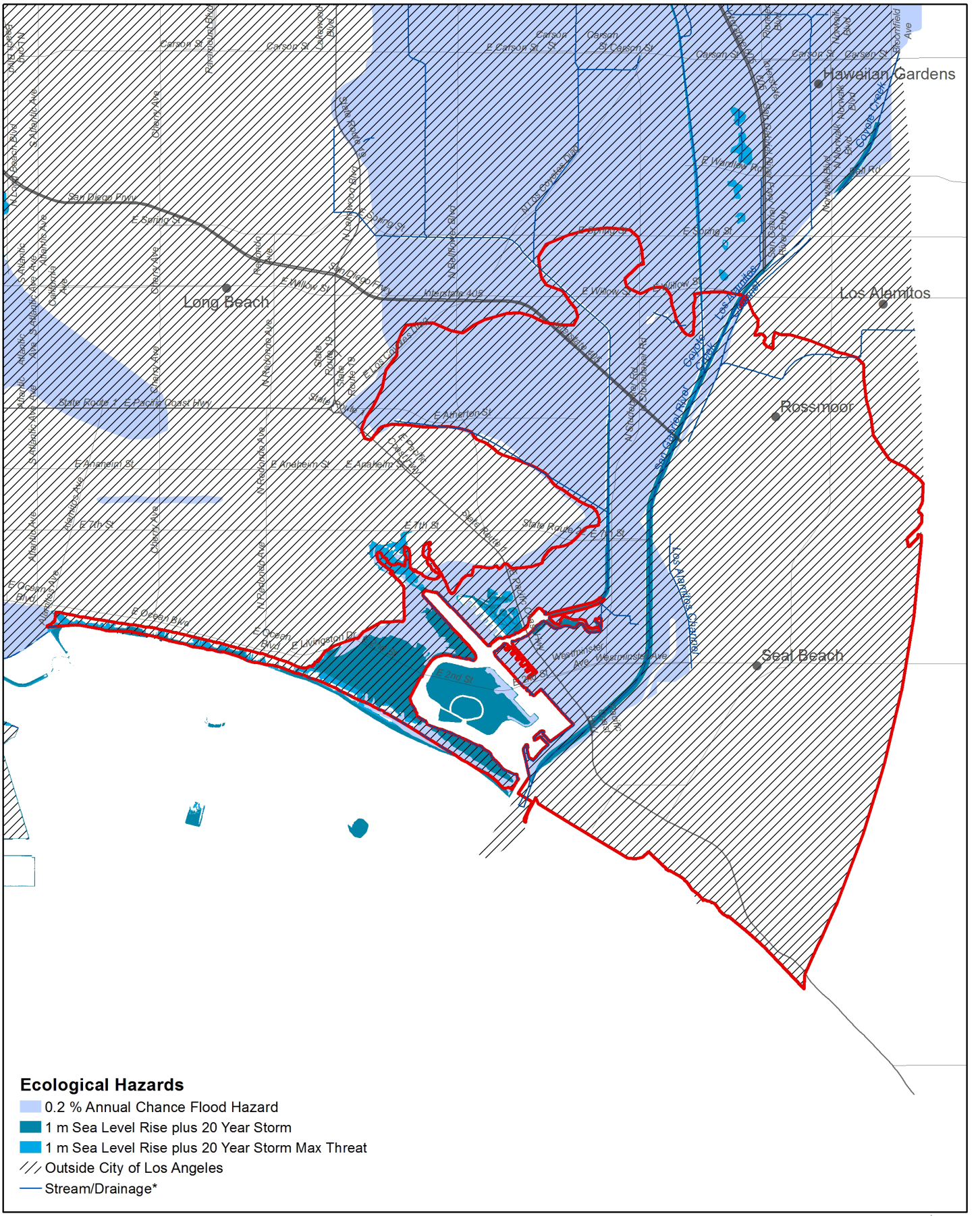
CalEnviroScreen Pollution Precentile (pollution exposure)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



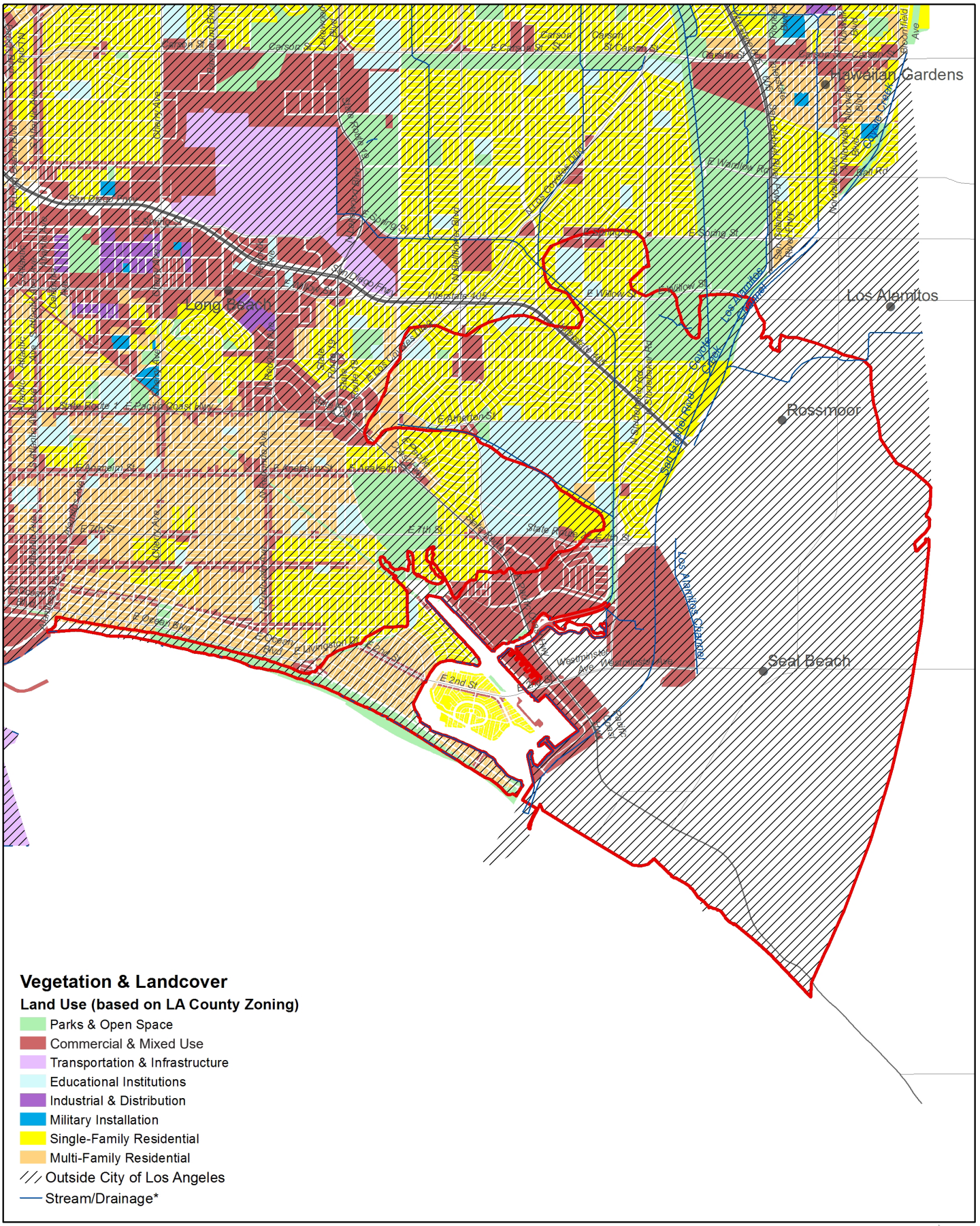
CalEnviroscreen Population Percentile (population vulnerability)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



Ecological Hazards

Data sources: Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2; Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps; Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Hazard Layer, Version 1.1.1.0, 11/01/2016.



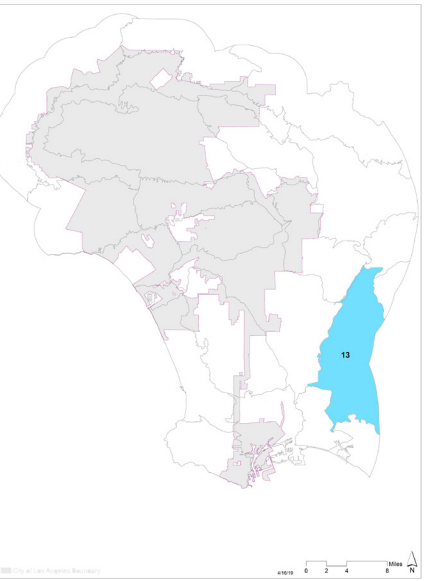
Land Use

Data source: 2008 Los Angeles County Countywide Zoning by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/04/10/county-wide-zoning/

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

ECOTOPE 13: SAN GABRIEL RIVER LOWER ALLUVIAL PLAIN



(Falls outside of the City of Los Angeles. Only the portion of ecotope within the study area has been characterized.)

LANDFORM

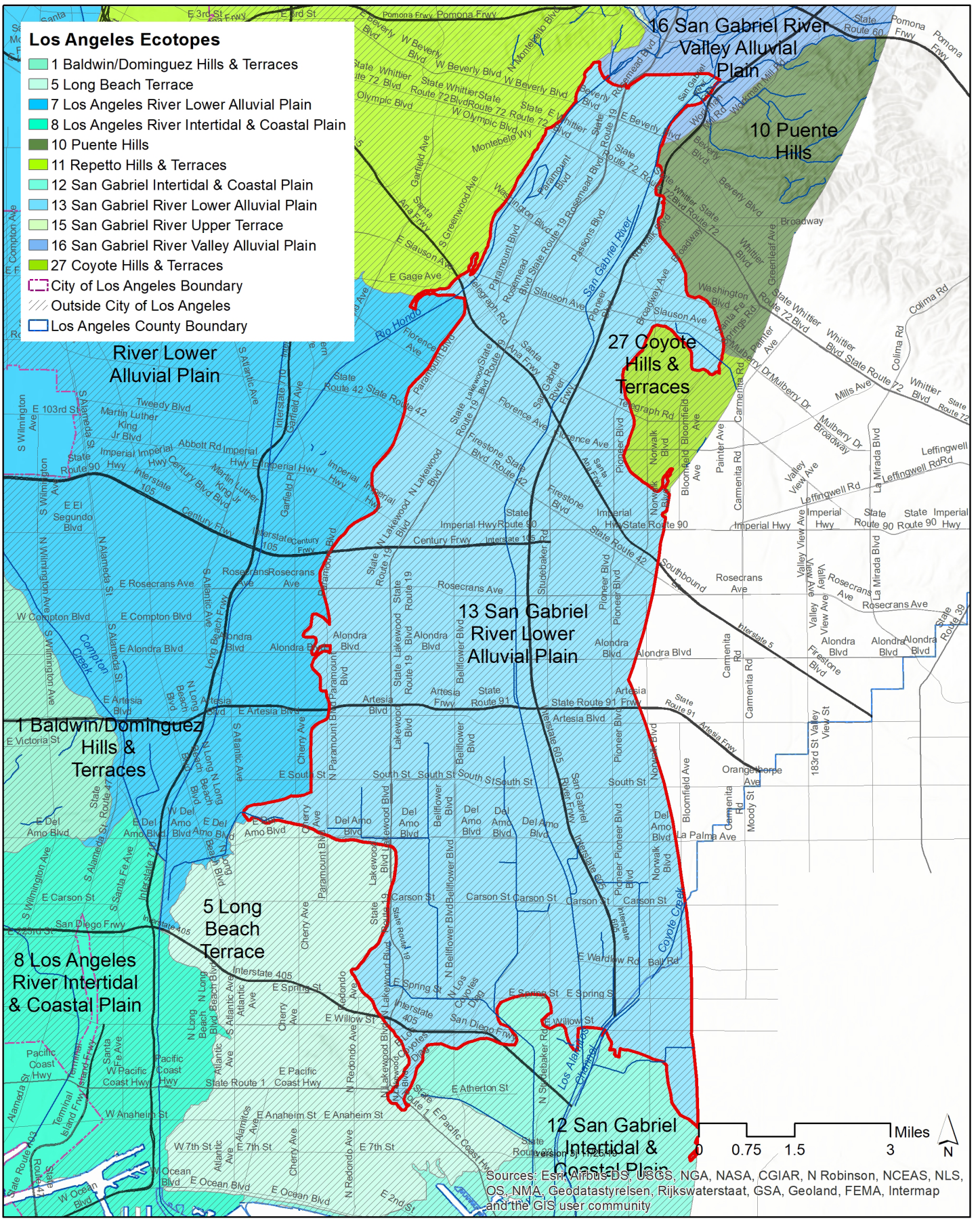
Landforms of the San Gabriel River Lower Alluvial Plain are similar to the Los Angeles River Lower Alluvial Plain. In fact, historically, the rivers have shifted dramatically across these ecotopes and occasionally have merged flows, with both having flowed together to Alamitos Bay at times (Gumprecht, 2001). Therefore, the ecotopes are similarly characterized by very flat land with meandering, braided channels of alluvium interspersed with areas of slightly higher terrain with drier conditions and wetlands in lower areas, and often a shallow-water table. Larger areas of wetland were likely present in southern portions of the ecotope where it meets higher terrace landforms at Long Beach and Sunset Beach. Detailed mapping of historical ecology of the ecotope, with implications for present-day stewardship activities, are presented in SCCWRP Technical Report #499: Historical Ecology of the San Gabriel River and Floodplain (Stein, 2007). Like the LA River, flood control measures have eliminated natural alluvial processes; however, these measures have not eliminated the potential for 500-year flood events to occur across the ecotope based on 2016 mapping by FEMA. (A portion of the Coyote Hills and Terraces ecotope is included in the environmental factors mapping for this ecotope. Coyote Hills and Terraces has been designated as a separate ecotope since the environmental factors maps were produced and the boundary and landform statistics on these maps do not reflect this change. Only the ecotope context map on the following page includes the current recommended boundary)

MICROCLIMATE

Most of the ecotope falls within the Sunset Cold-Winter Coastal Climates zone, which is characterized by relatively cool nighttime temperatures and occasional frost in winter, but rarely below freezing temperatures. These cool nighttime temperatures shorten the growing season relative to the more moderate thermal belts. More northern areas at the Whittier Narrows are mapped as a thermal belt with more moderate winter temperatures. Summer temperatures are hot here, especially further from the coast due to a combination of lower marine influence and a relatively strong urban heat island effect (Taha, 2017).

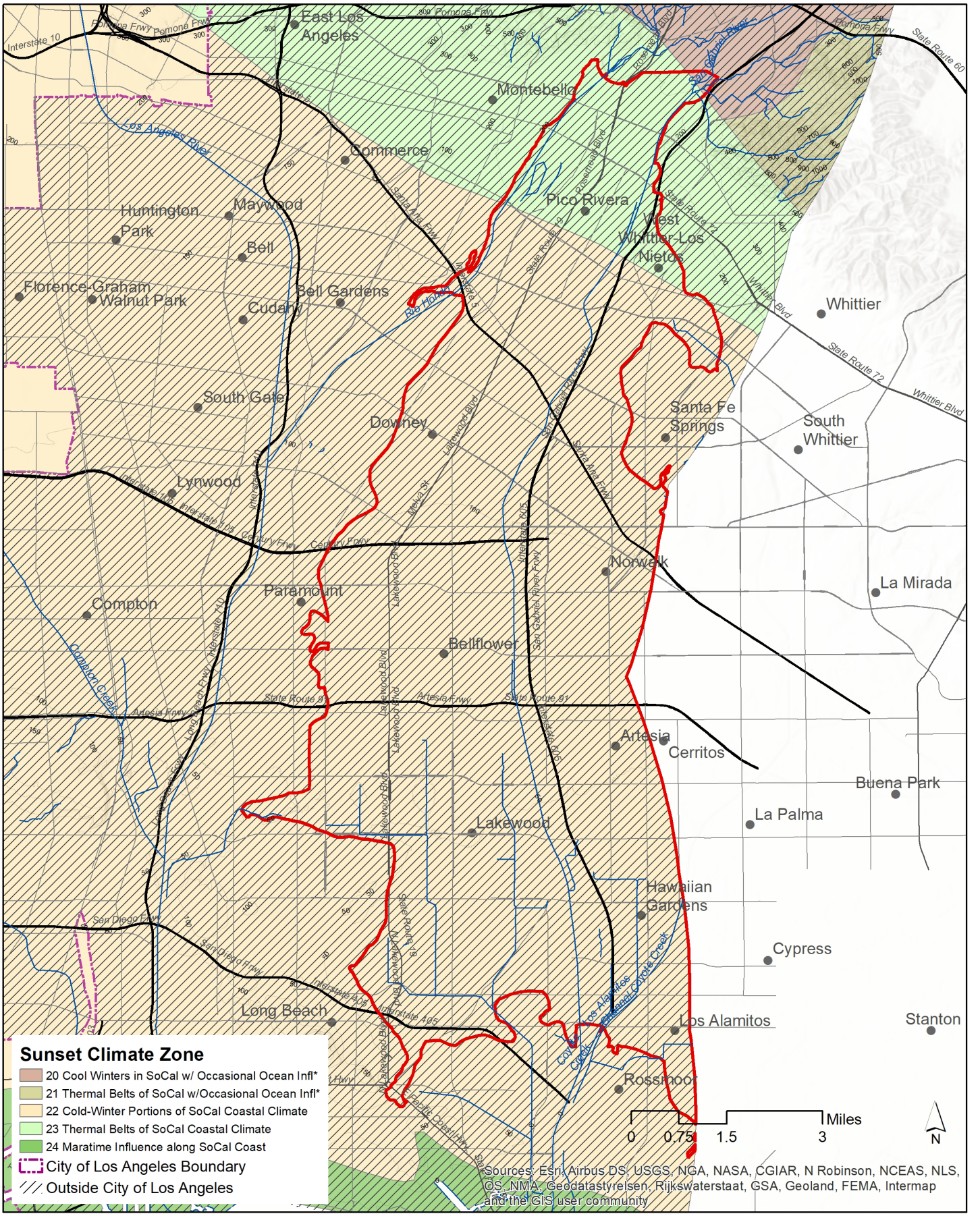
VEGETATION & LANDCOVER

Flood protection measures have allowed nearly all of the ecotope to be converted to developed land uses, with only 0.3% natural area remaining based on CALVEG. Remnant willow alliance natural areas do reflect the prevalent historic vegetation, however. Detailed mapping of historic vegetation and ecosystems have been produced by Stein et al. (2007). This once dynamic ecosystem likely included a mix of drier and wetter areas with changing vegetation patterns depending on San Gabriel River channel location and time since flood exposure. Higher, drier areas likely included a mix of shrublands and seasonally dry herbaceous meadows. More extensive lowlands with shallow-water tables included riparian woodlands and thickets, interspersed with springs and herbaceous wetlands, as has been described by Stein et al. (2007).



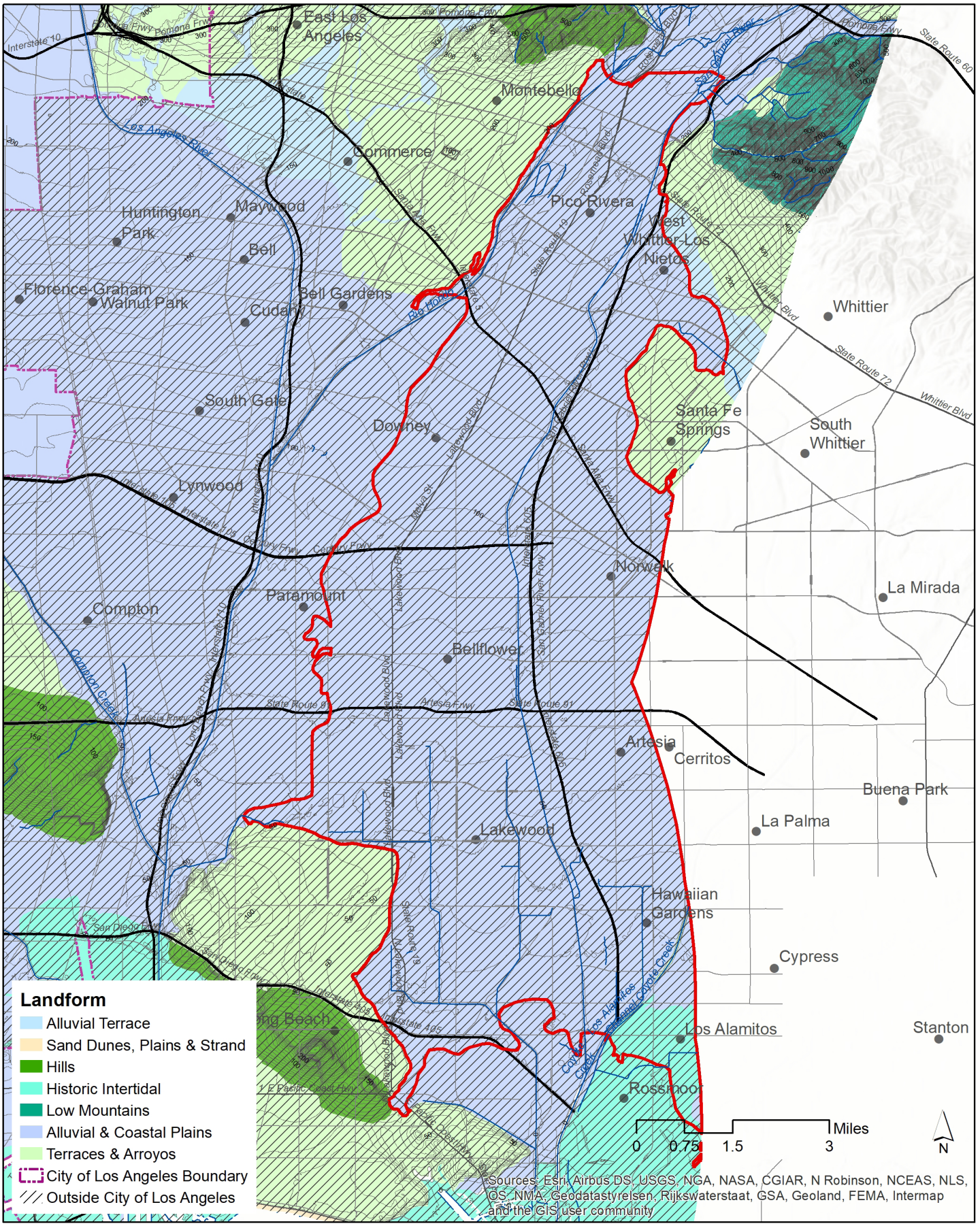
Ecotope 13 Context Map

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



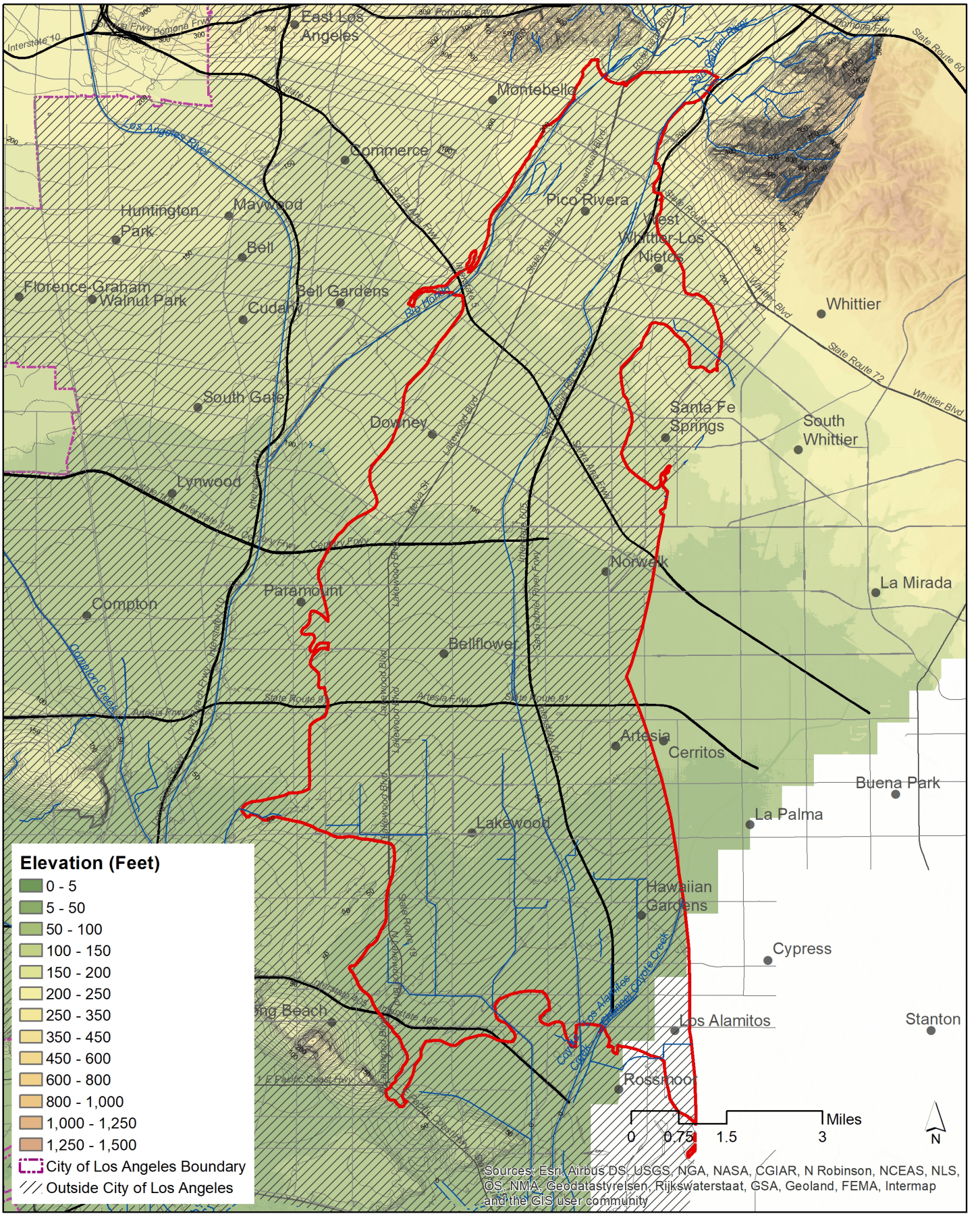
Microclimate

Data source: Sunset Magazine. http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map



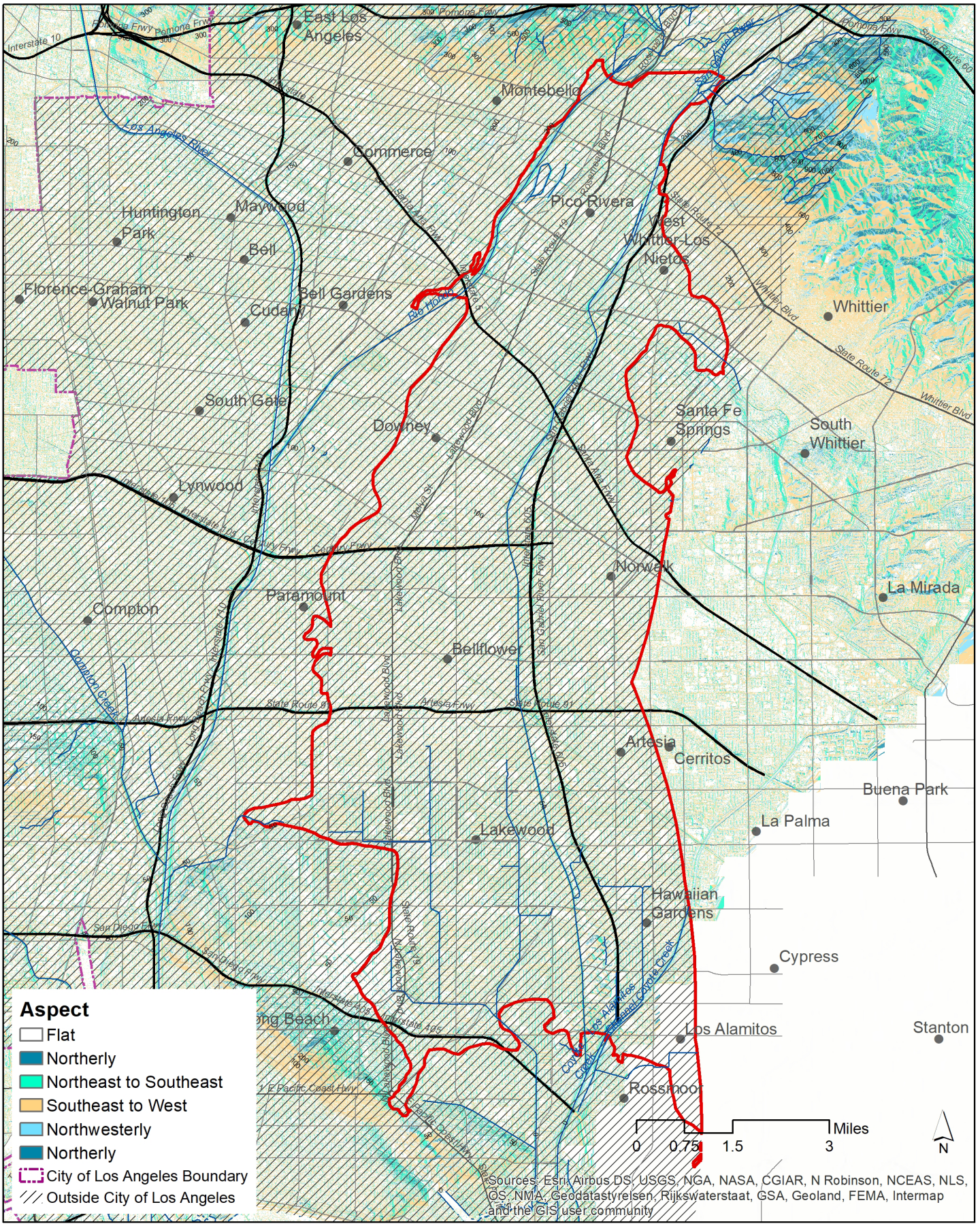
Landform

Data source: I. Brown (2019), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



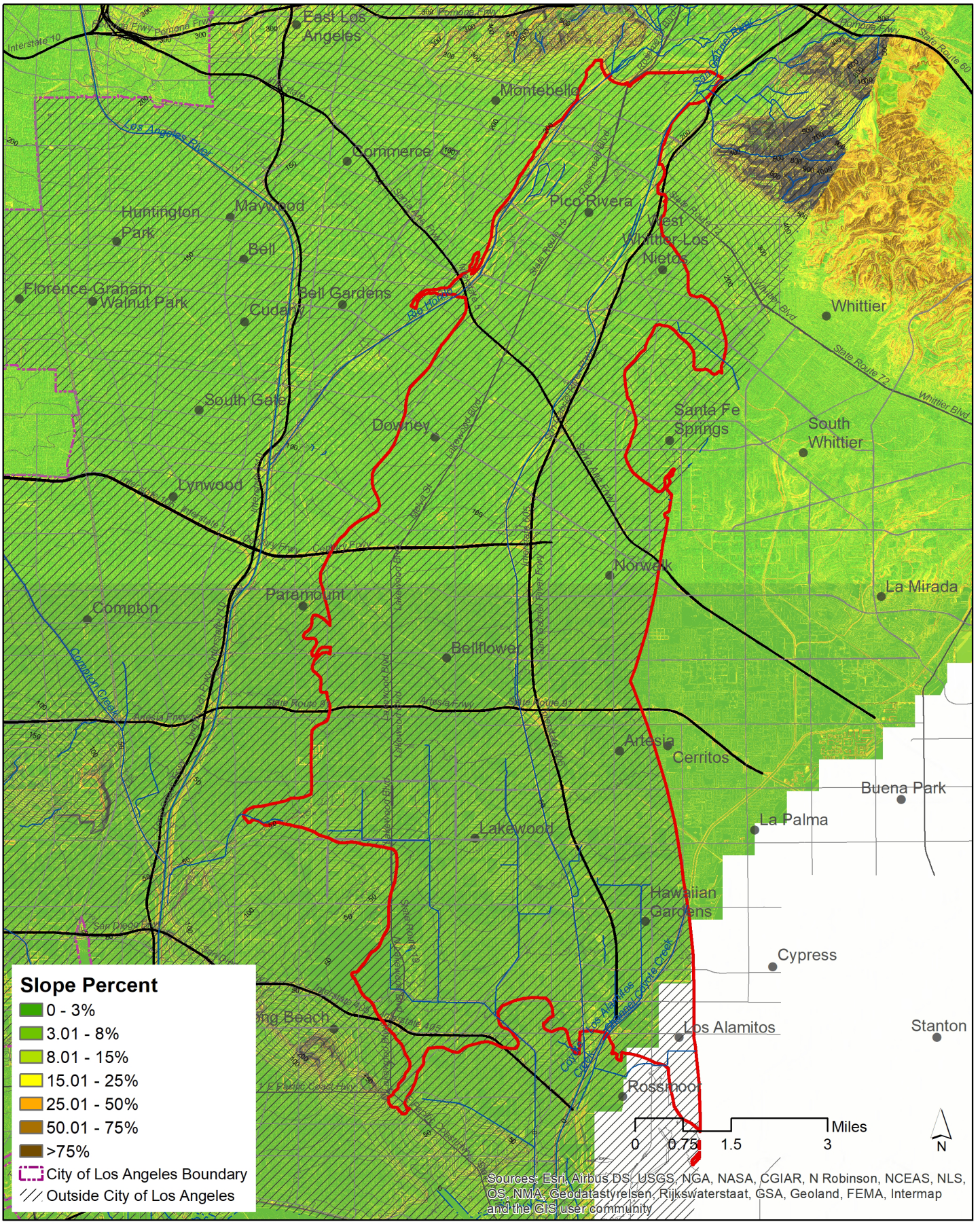
Elevation

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



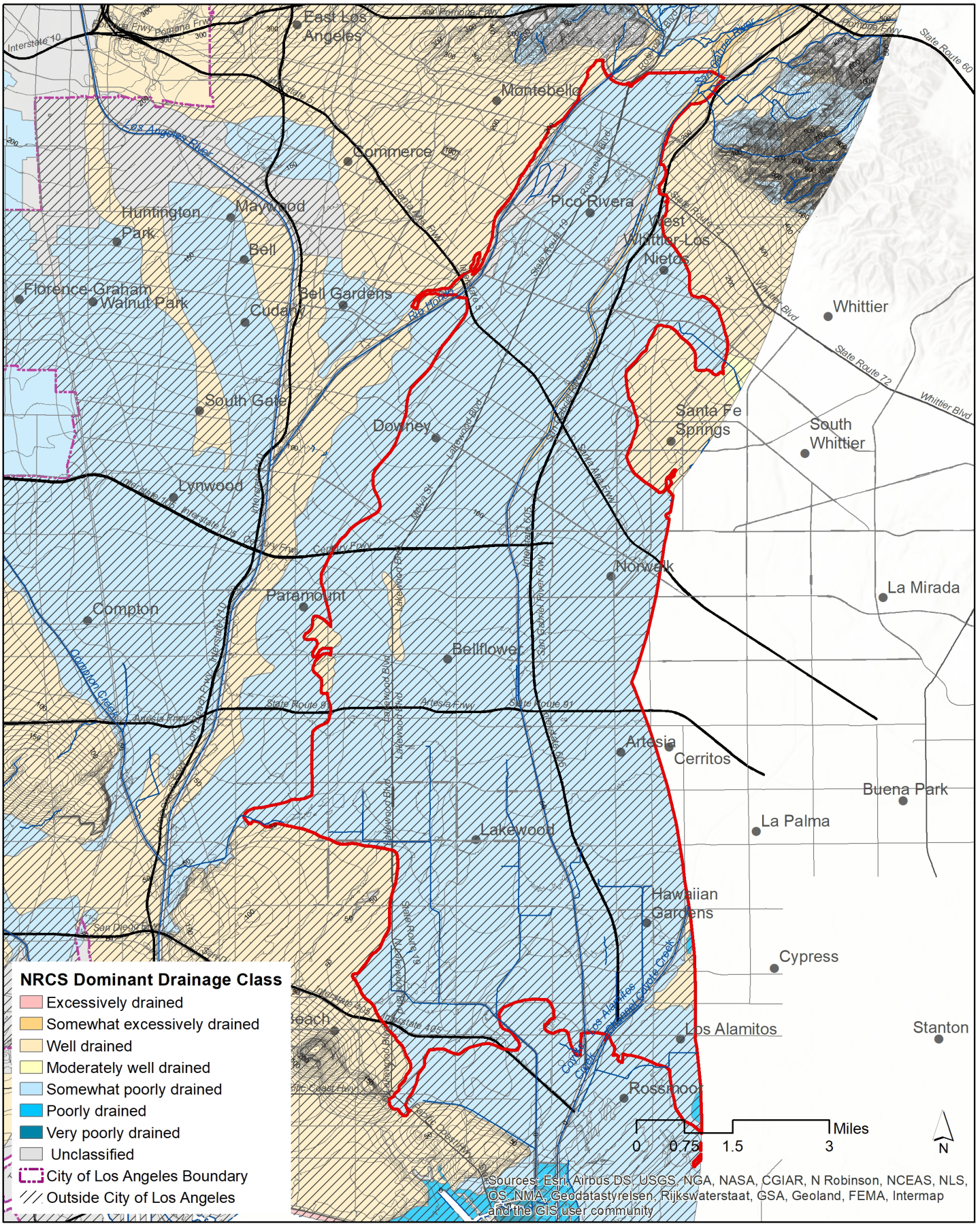
Aspect

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



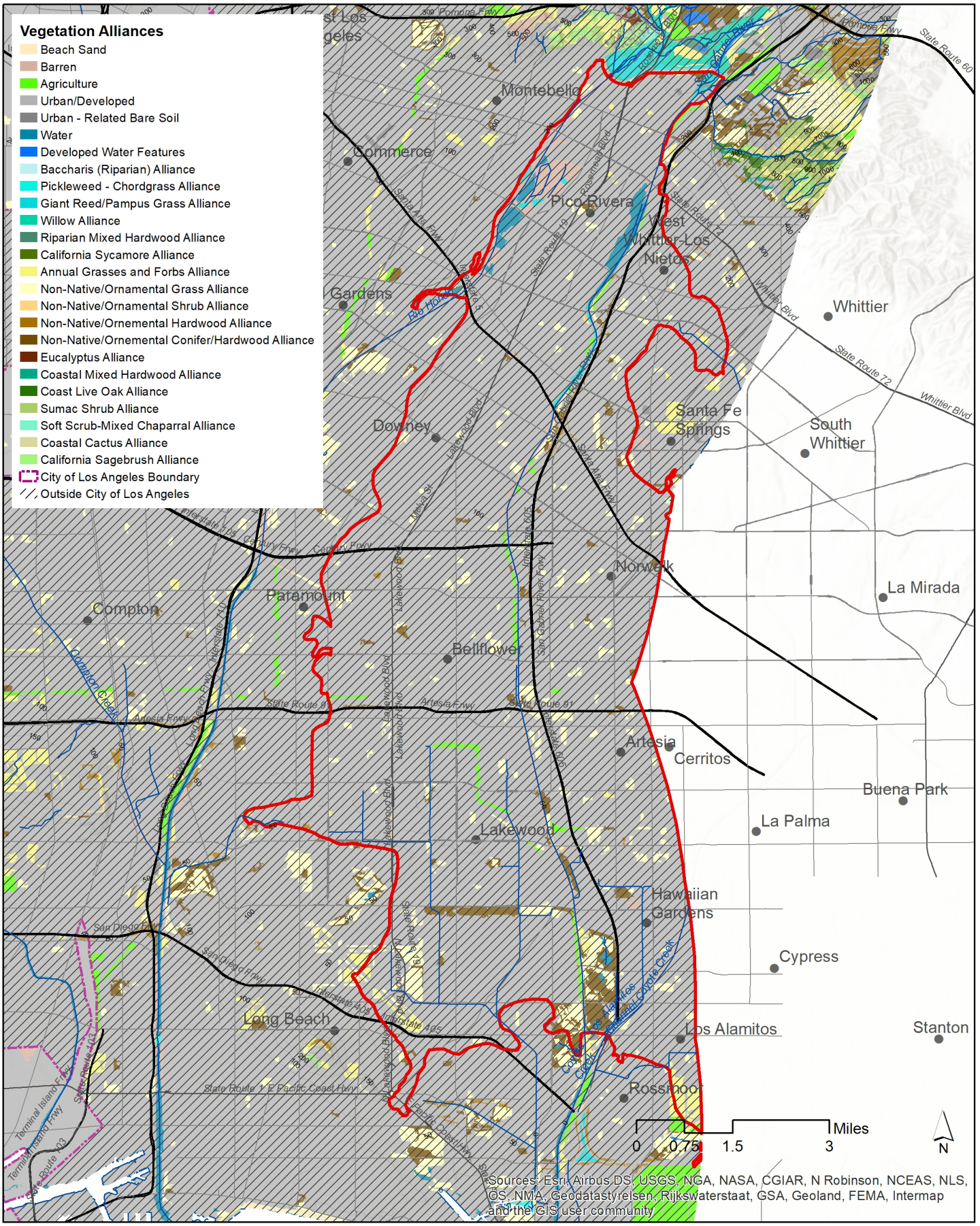
Slope Percent

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



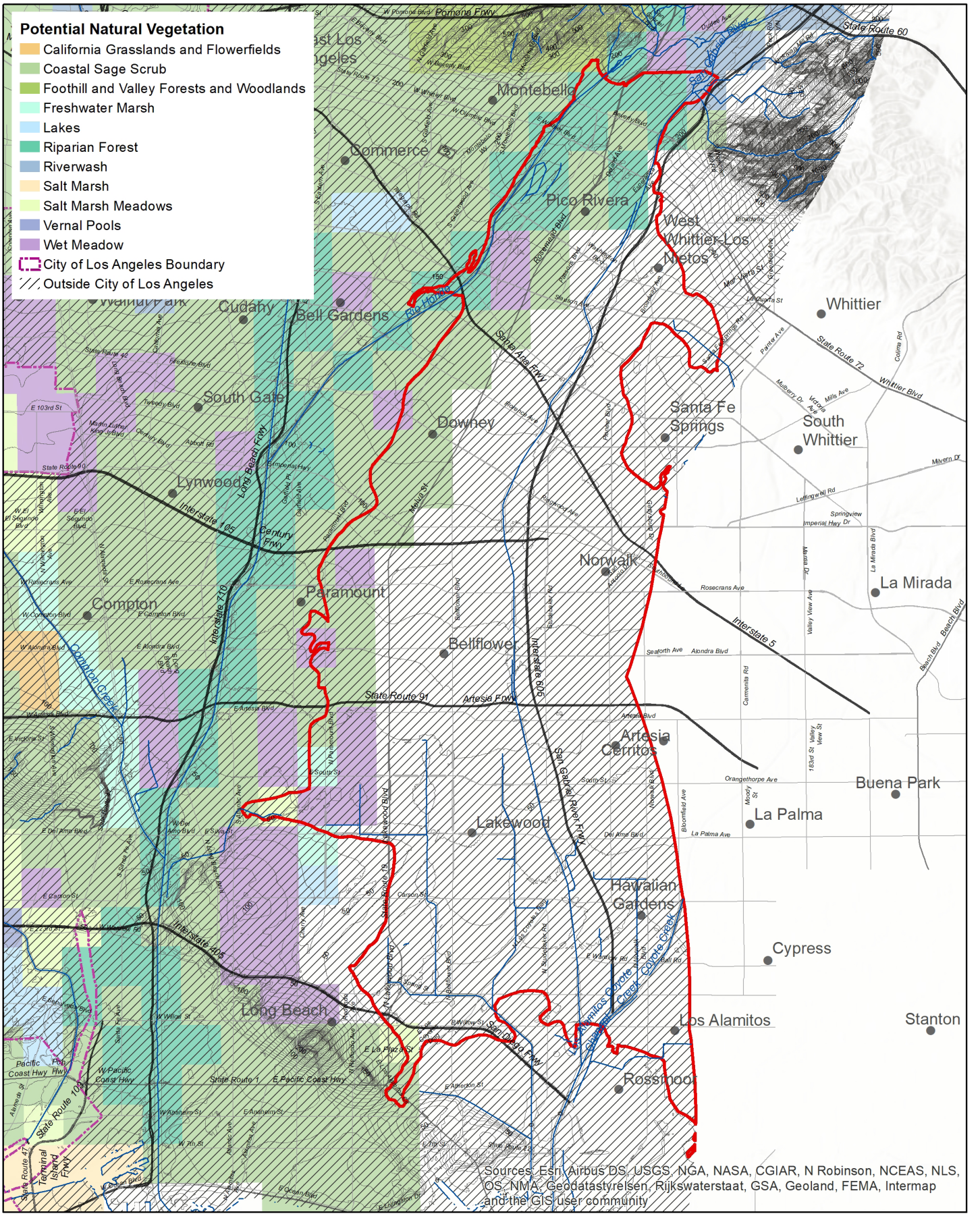
Drainage

Data source: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for Los Angeles County, Southeastern Part, CA; National Hydrography Dataset, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia. 2002-2016.



Vegetation Alliances

Data source: CALVEG. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5347192

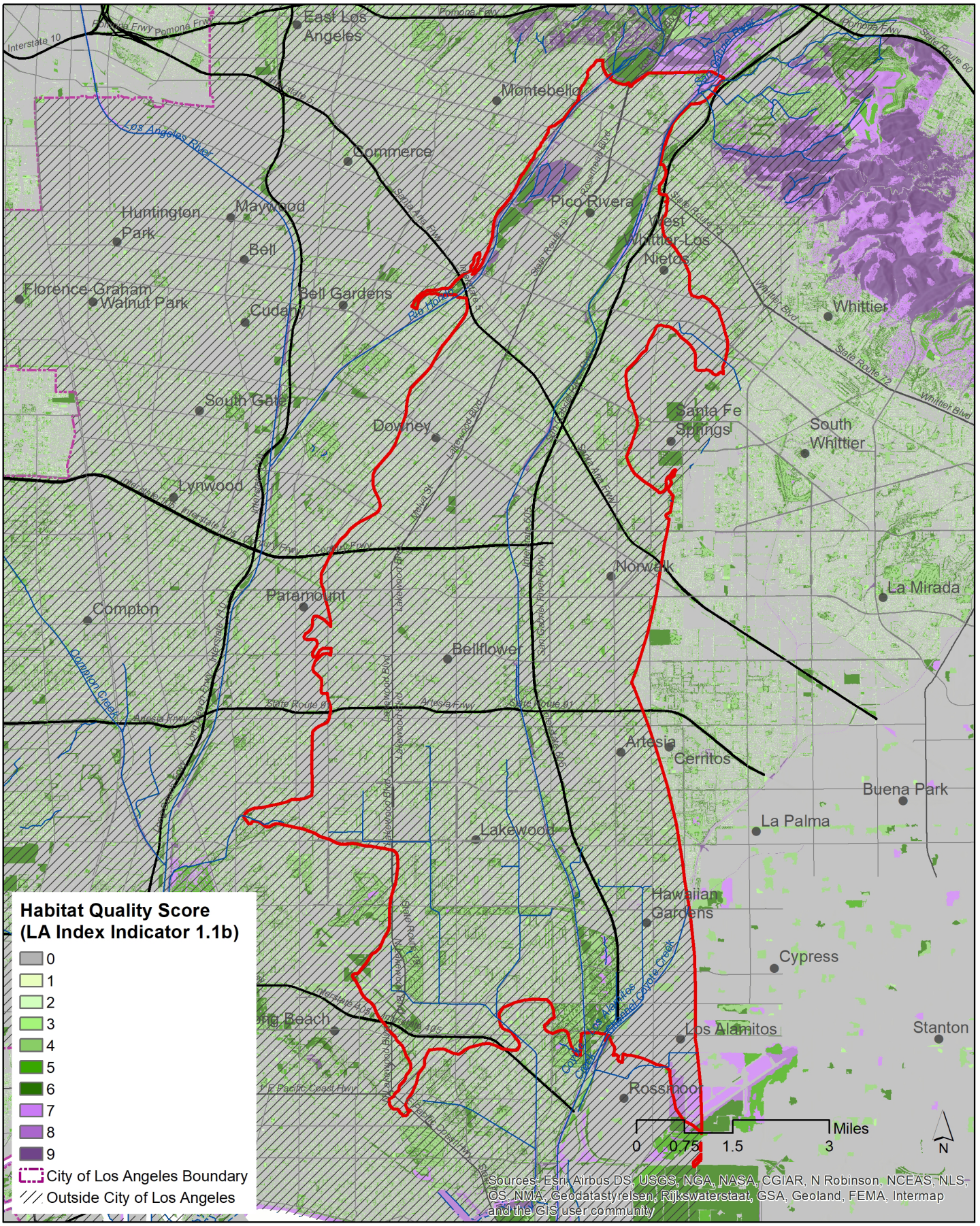


Hypothesized Potential Natural Vegetation

Data source: USC Spatial Sciences Institute/UCLA Institute of the Environment: Historical Ecology of the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.

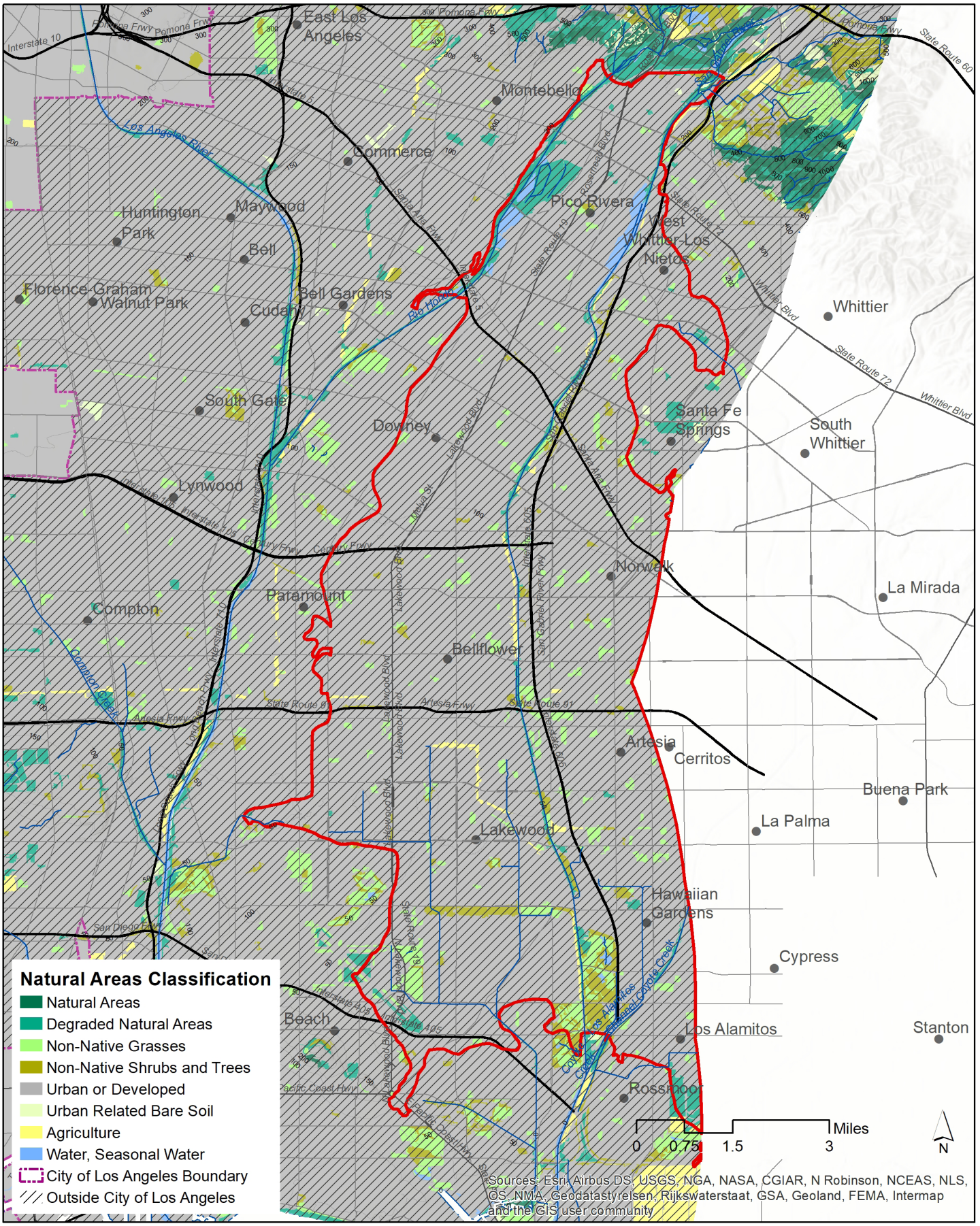
0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

N



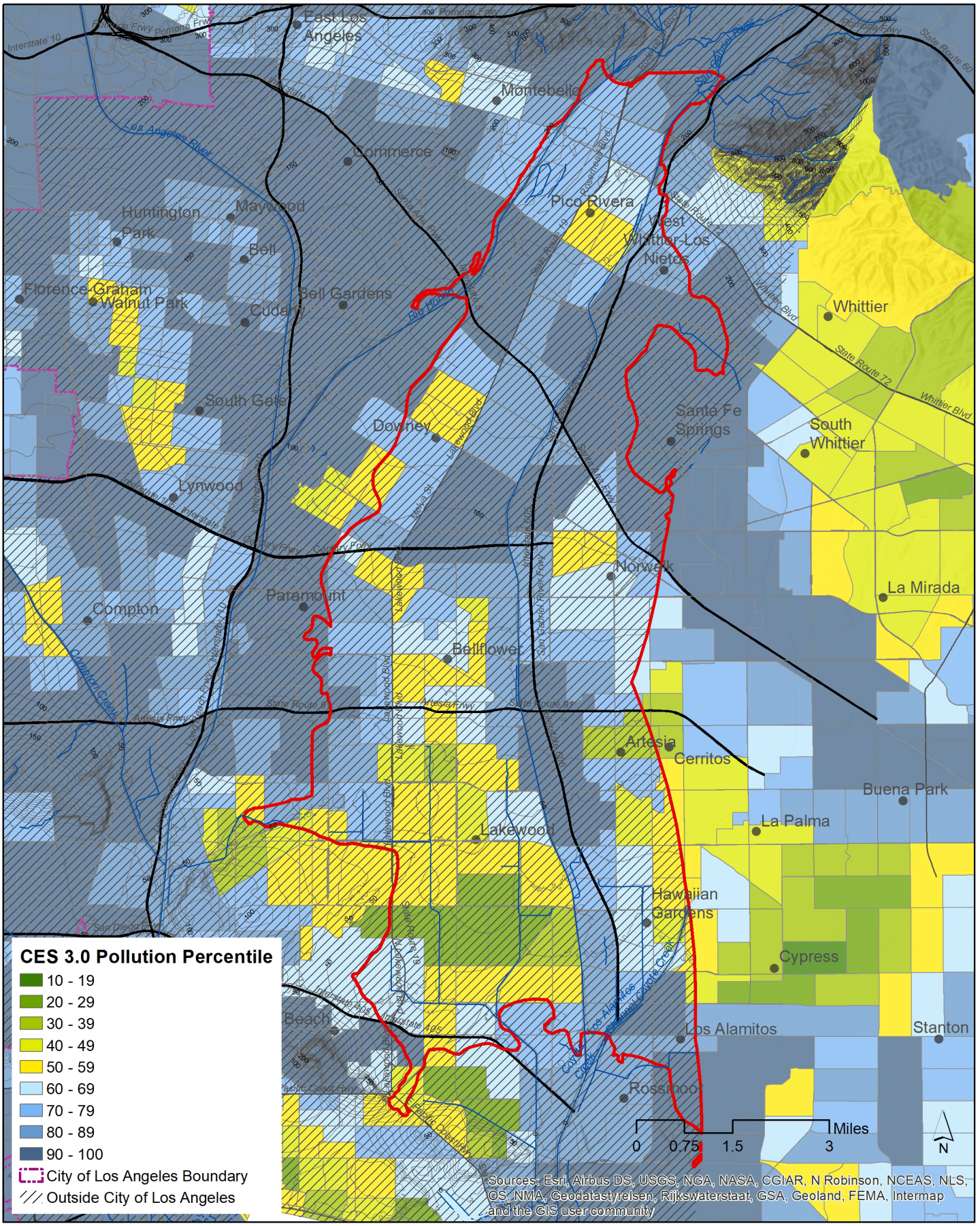
General Habitat Quality

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



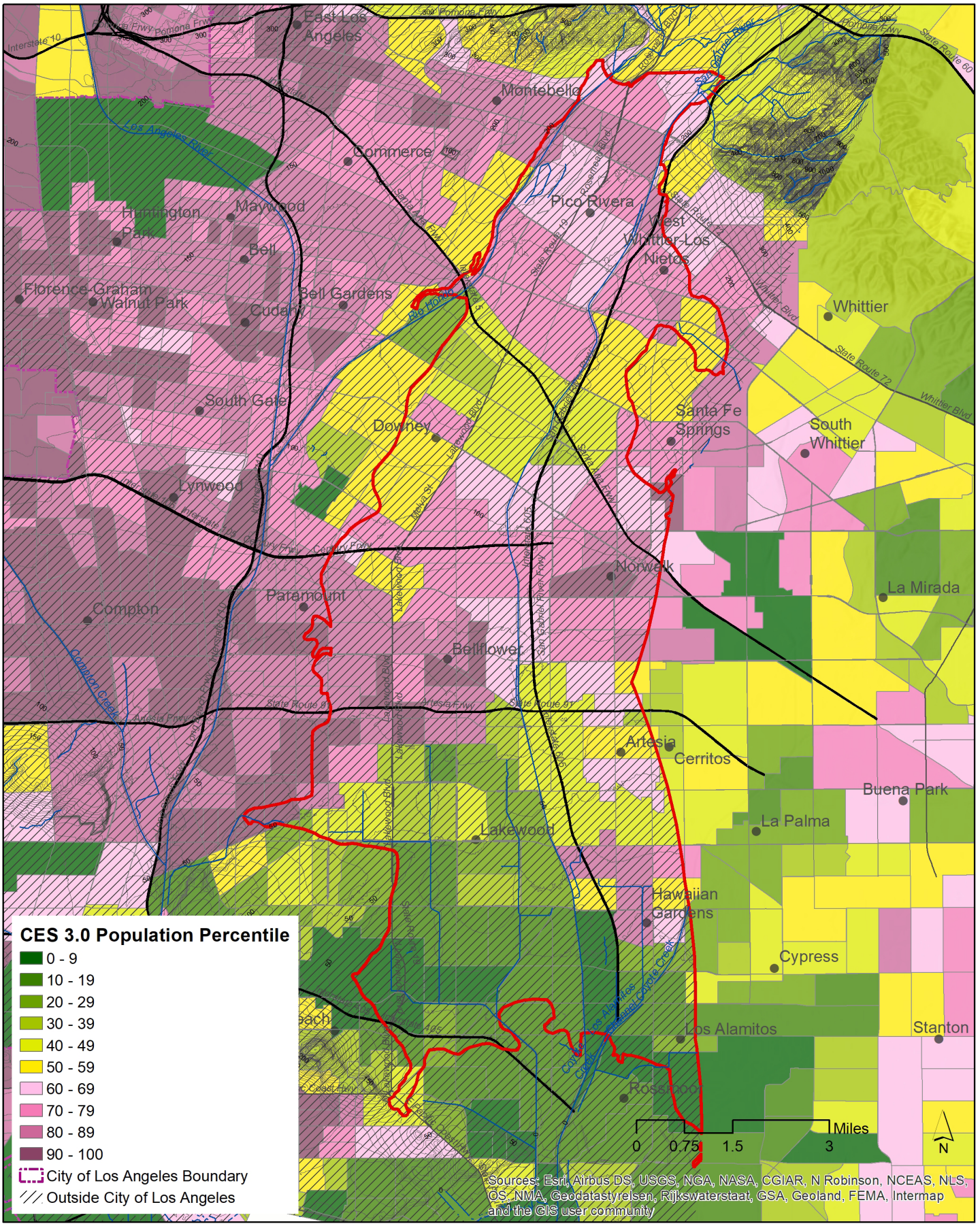
Natural Areas Classification

Data source: 2018 City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Report, Appendix B. https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdi0/~edisp/cnt024943.pdf



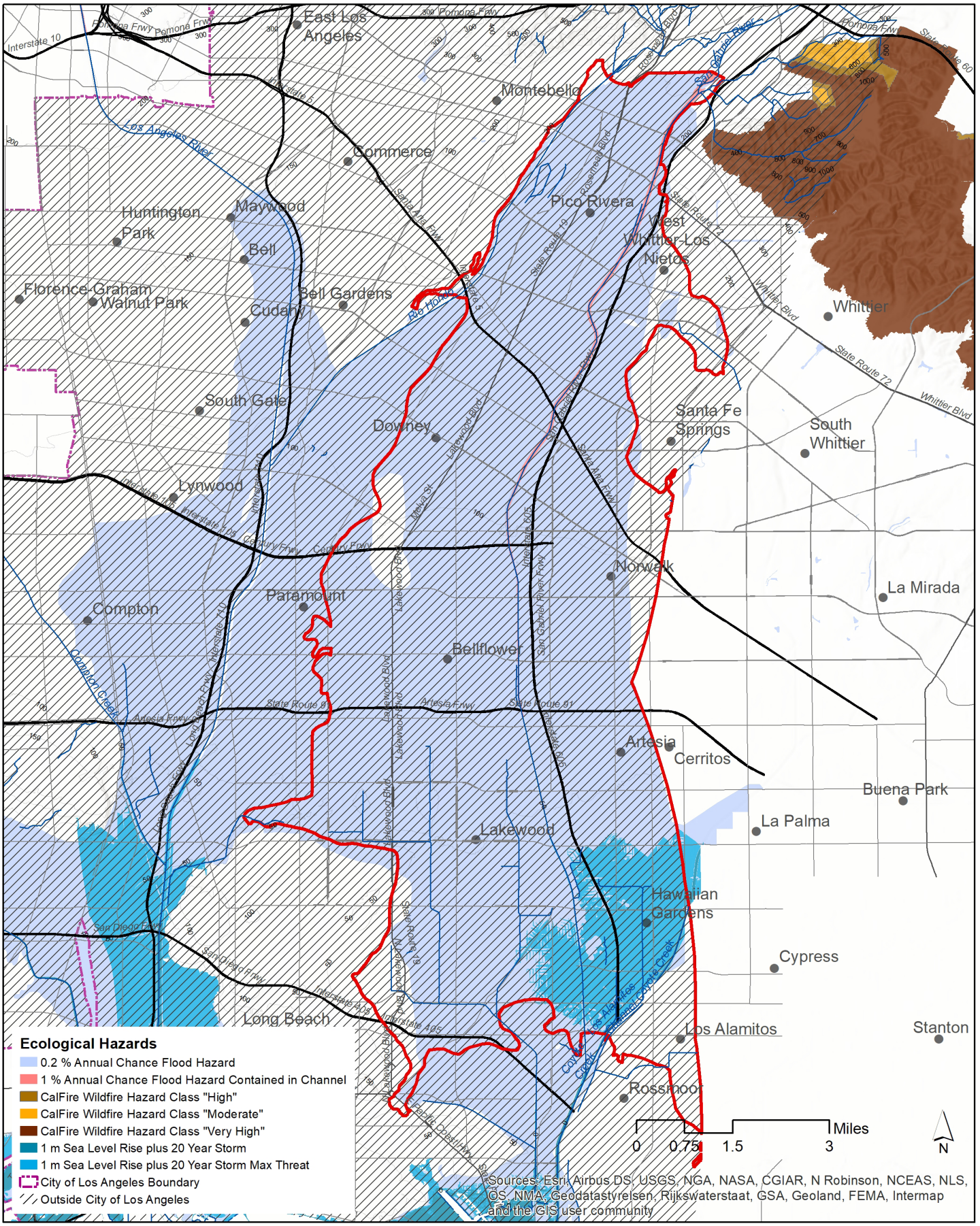
CalEnviroScreen Pollution Precentile (pollution exposure)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



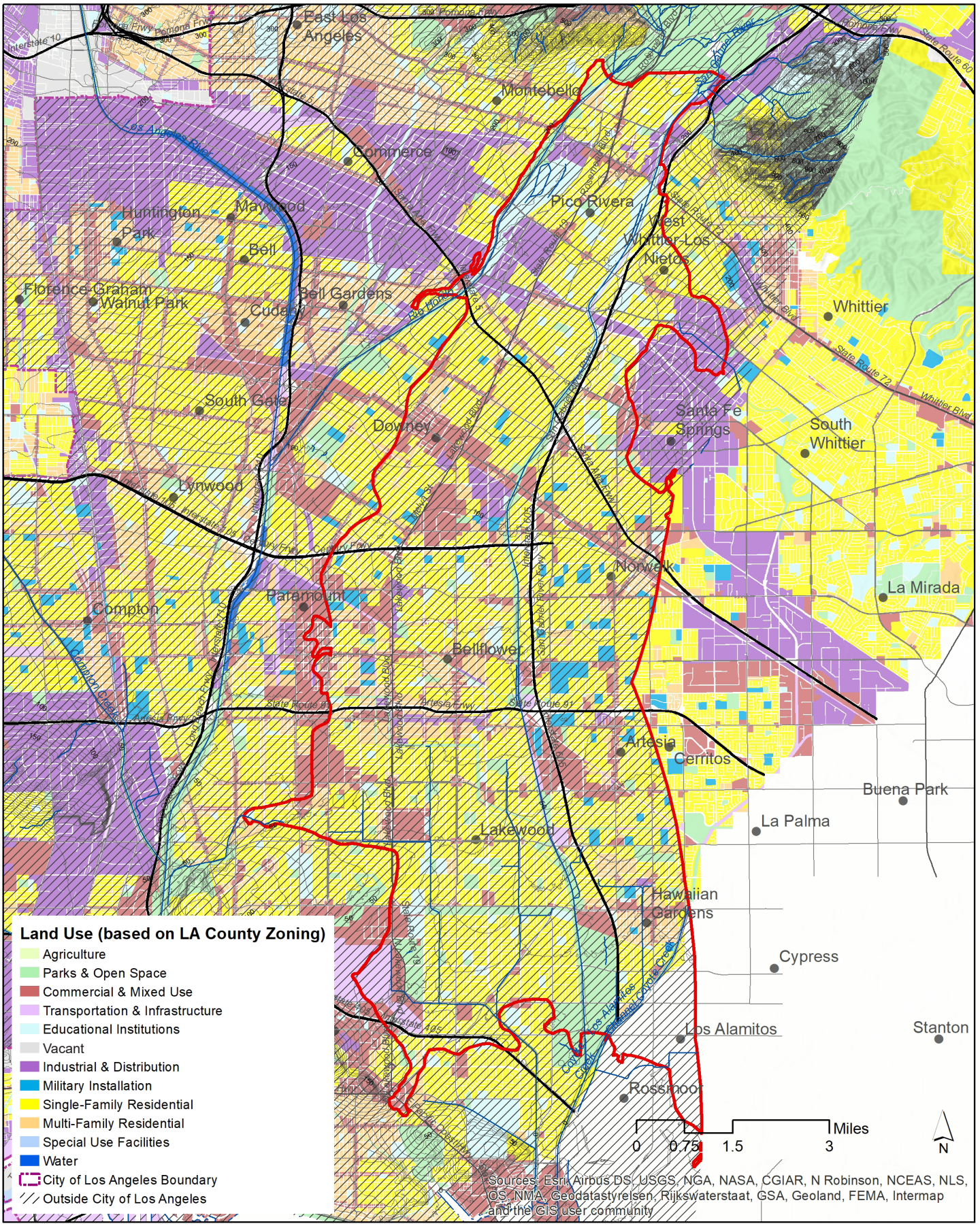
CalEnviroscreen Population Percentile (population vulnerability)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



Ecological Hazards

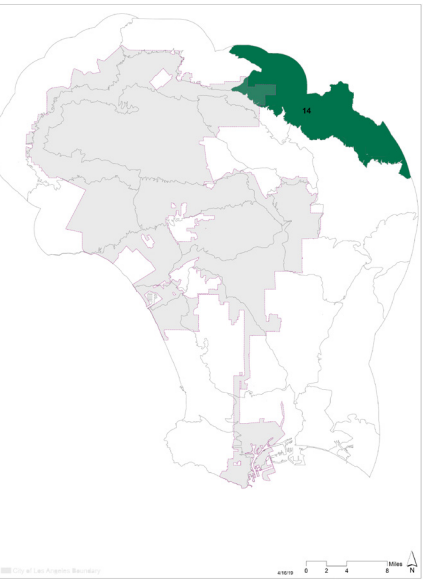
Data sources: Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2; Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps; Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Hazard Layer, Version 1.1.1.0, 11/01/2016.



Land Use

Data source: 2008 Los Angeles County Countywide Zoning by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/04/10/county-wide-zoning/

ECOTOPE 14: CENTRAL SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS



(A small portion of this ecotope falls within the City of Los Angeles and only the portion of ecotope that falls within the broader study area has been delineated and characterized.)

LANDFORM

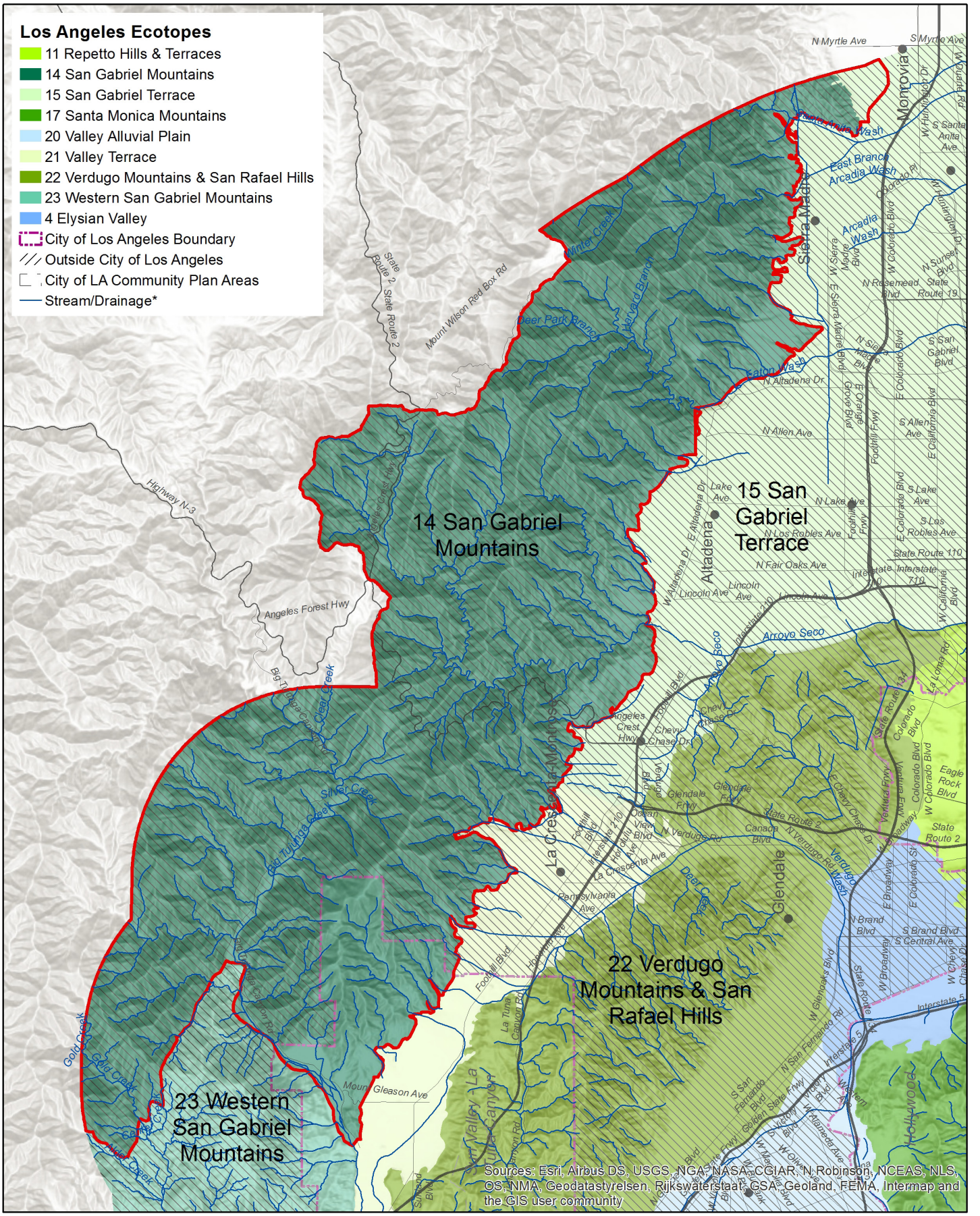
The Central San Gabriel Mountains include the highest terrain in the study area, reaching over 6,161' above sea level at San Gabriel Peak. Mount Lukens is the highest point within the City of Los Angeles at 5,074' above sea level. The ecotope falls within the broader Transverse Range whose terrain includes some of the steepest mountain slopes of any mountain range in the Country. Globally, mountain ridges generally run east-southeast to west-northwest with dominant aspects to the southwest and northeast. The unusual orientation of the mountains in the LA region may help explain why the region has such immense diversity in landscape cover. The steep terrain makes landslides a frequent hazard, along with very rapid wildfire spread as fires carry up steep, dry slopes. Communities that lay at the foot of mountain slopes often experience the effects of these frequent hazards. Cold-water, year-round creeks are present in the ecotope, including the upper Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco, which provide habitat for native rainbow trout (steelhead) and other rare native fish species.

MICROCLIMATE

The broad range of elevations and aspects results in numerous finer-grained microclimates throughout the ecotope. The relative position of the mountain range close to the Pacific Ocean, and orientation of slopes to the southwest, can produce extreme precipitation rates due to orographic enhancement of storms. Atmospheric river storm events that often include strong south to southwest windflow perpendicular to the Range are optimally oriented to maximize orographic enhancement and have produced many historic catastrophic flooding events across the basin below. At higher elevations, this precipitation often falls as snow, with peaks above 4,500' receiving some snowfall in most years. Snow accumulations can be significant above 6,000'. Summer monsoon rainstorms are also common in the mountain range and are generally more prevalent in eastern areas.

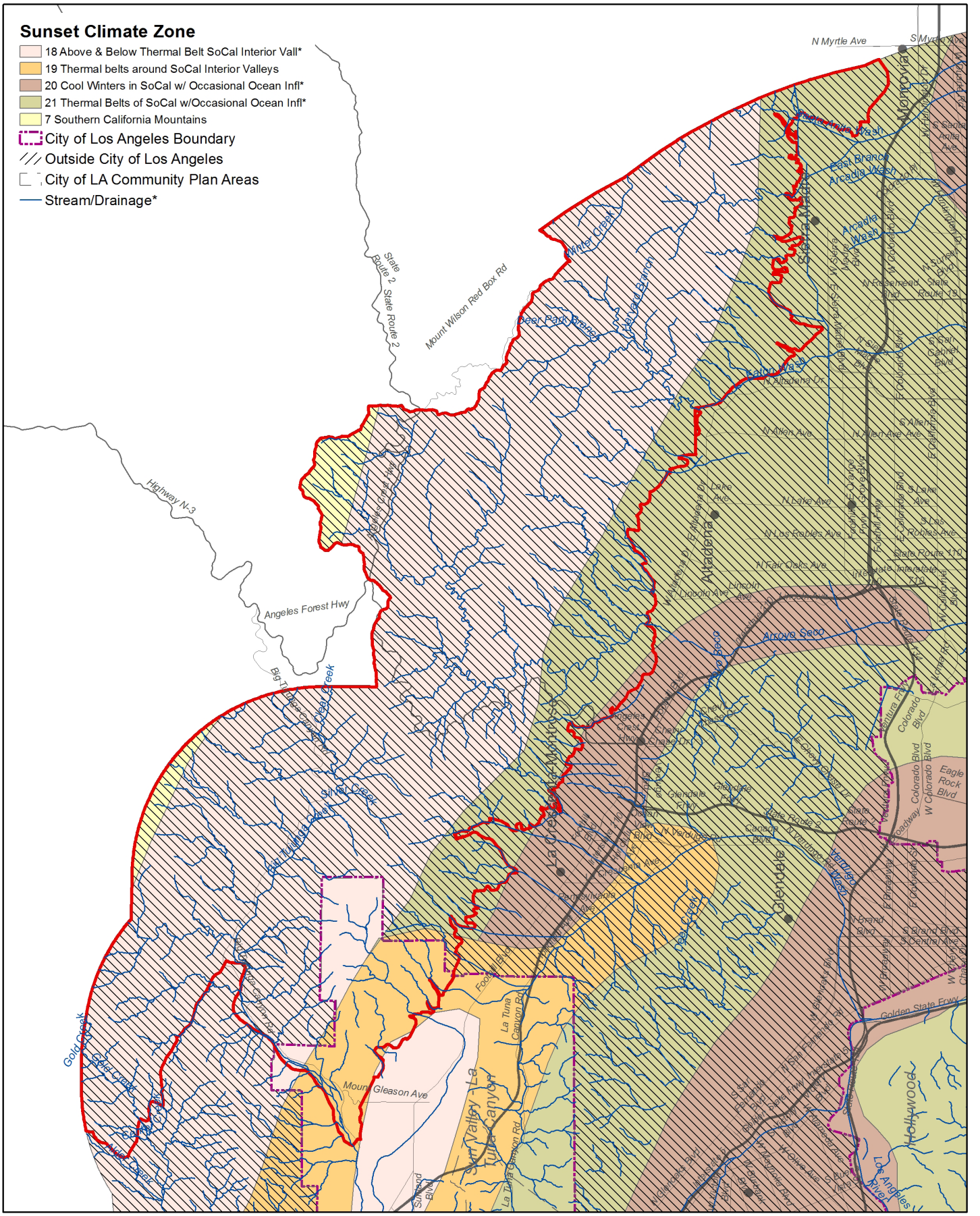
VEGETATION & LANDCOVER

Diverse elevation and microclimates result in extremely diverse vegetation across the ecotope, and the rugged terrain has eliminated the potential for extensive development. Therefore, 93.53% of the ecotope remains as natural areas and only 0.2% is characterized as degraded. Vegetation rapidly transitions from coastal sage scrub at lower elevations to chaparral, woodlands, and montane conifer alliances at higher elevations and northerly facing slopes. In fact, much of the species richness within the City of Los Angeles resides on Mount Lukens since it rises more than 2,000' above all other mountains in the City, providing the only habitats for a diverse range of montane species. Canyon bottoms also include diverse wetland and riparian woodlands adjacent to many year-round-flowing streams including branches of the Arroyo Seco, San Gabriel, and Los Angeles Rivers.



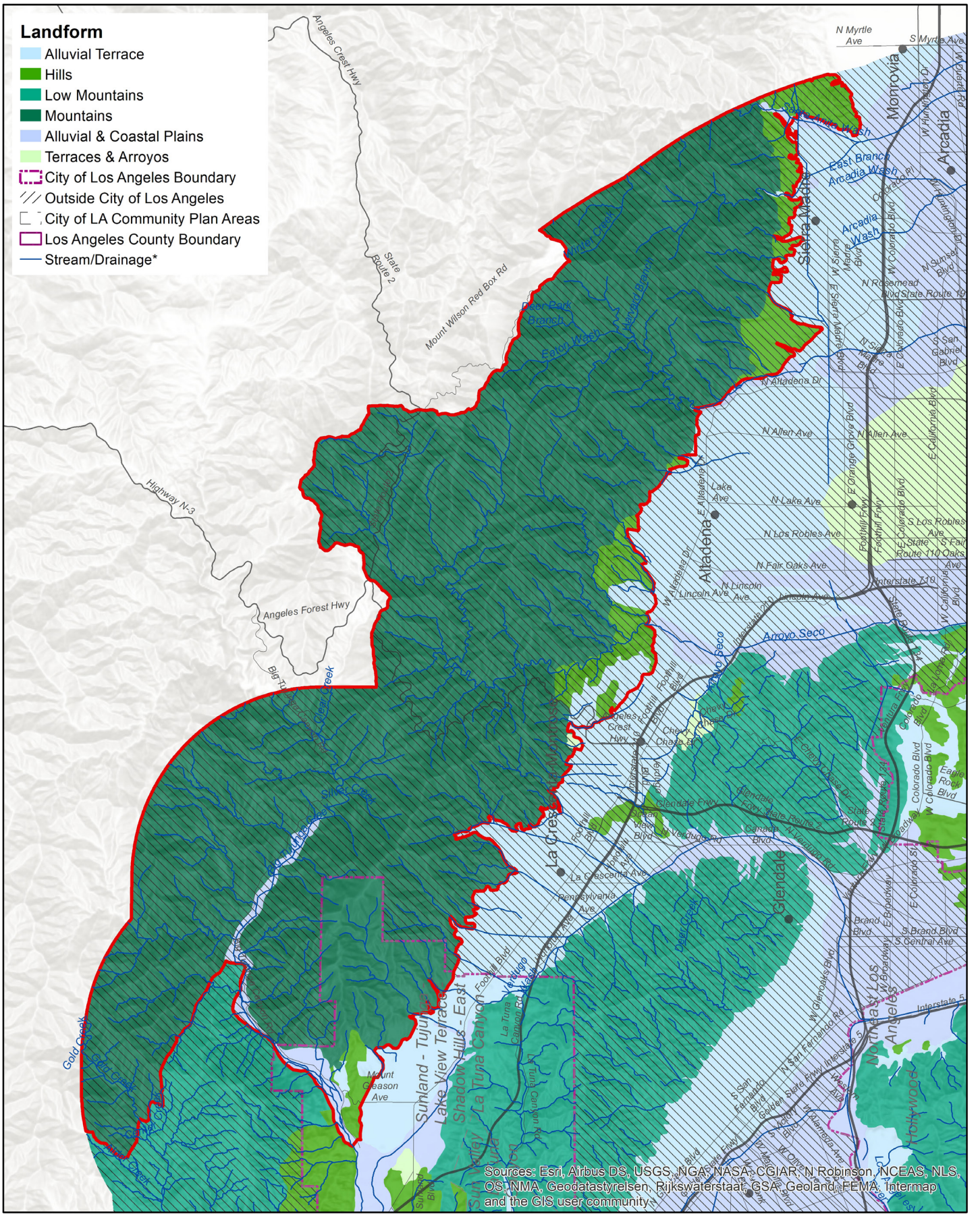
Ecotope 14 Context Map

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



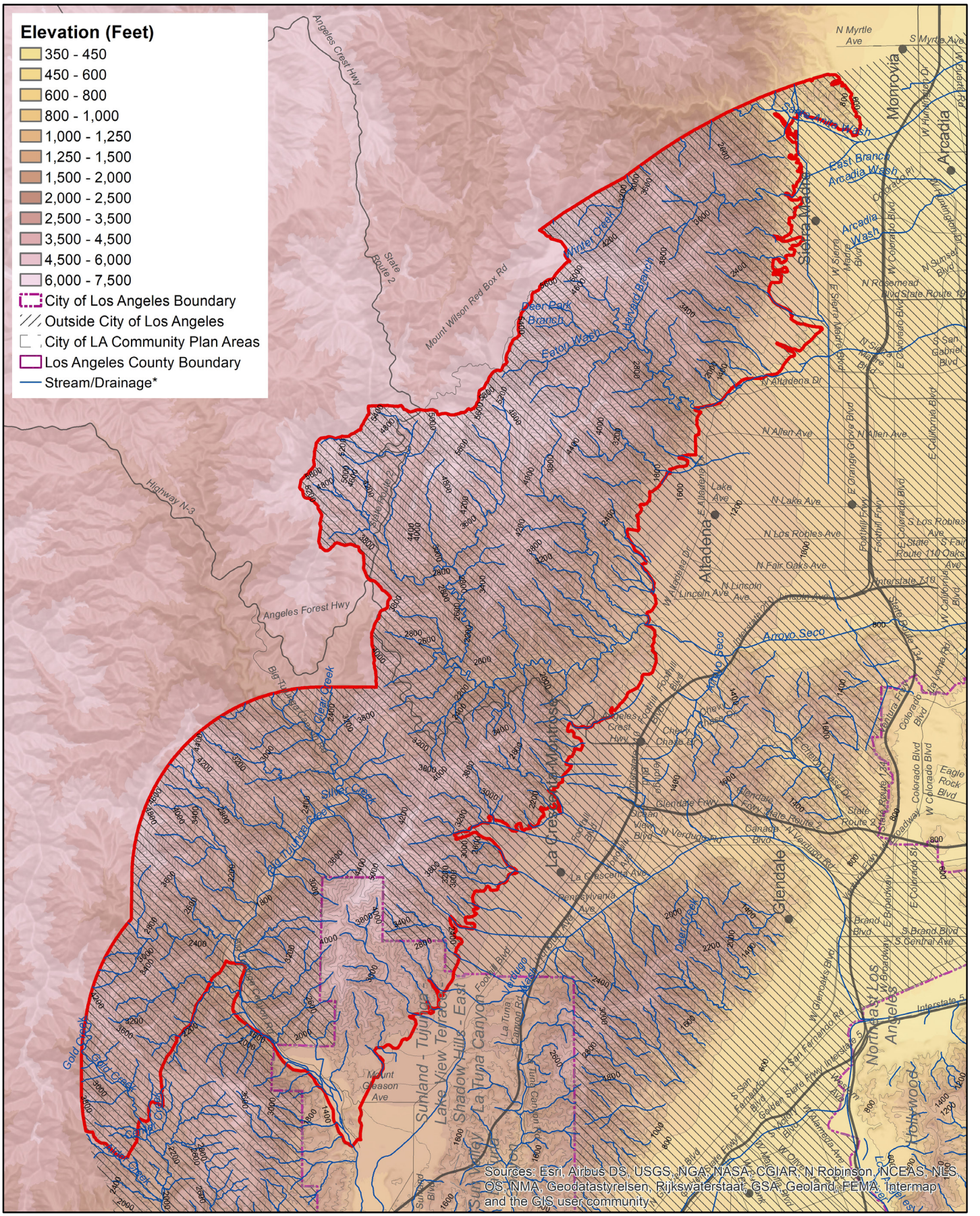
Microclimate

Data source: Sunset Magazine. http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map



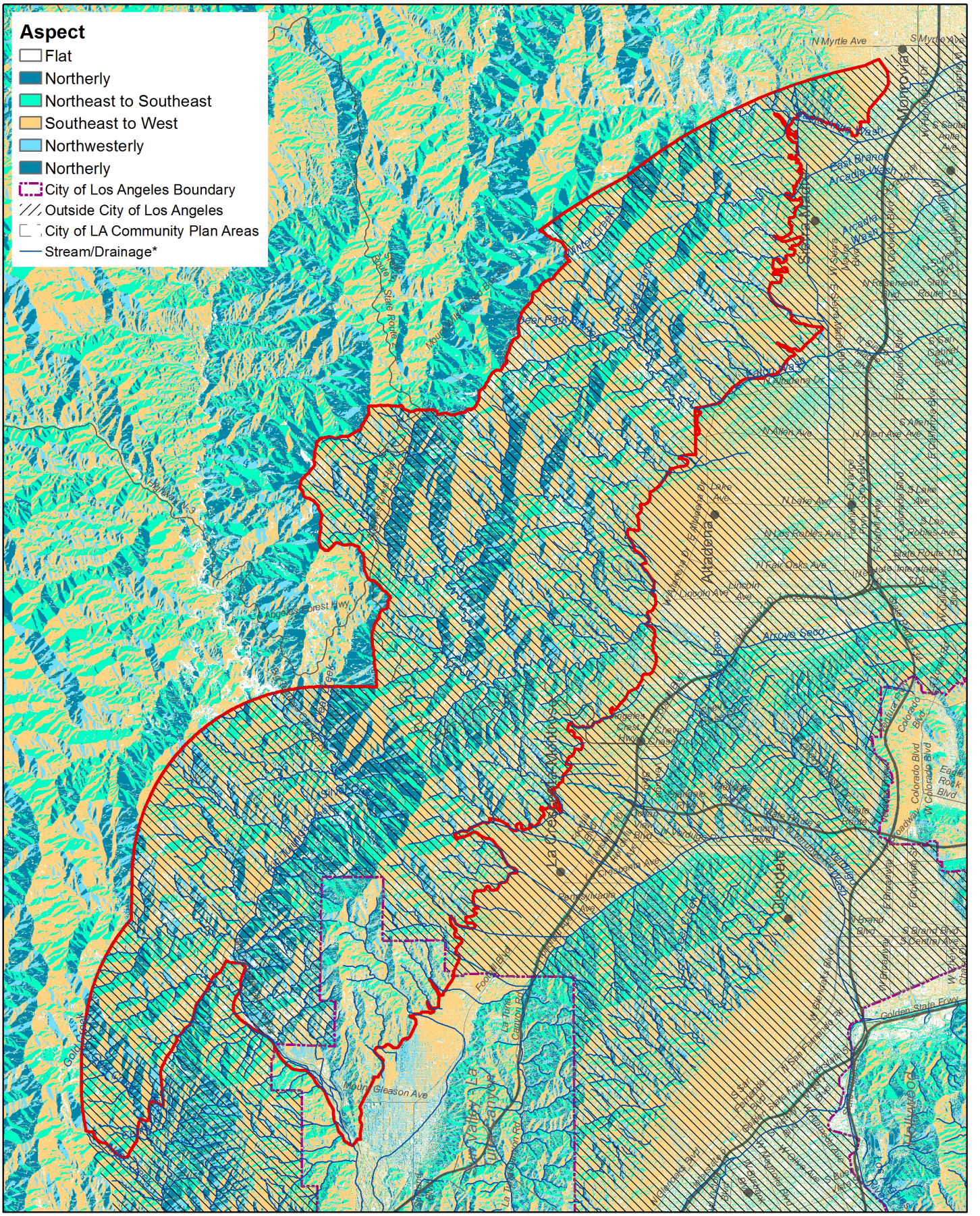
Landform

Data source: I. Brown (2019), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



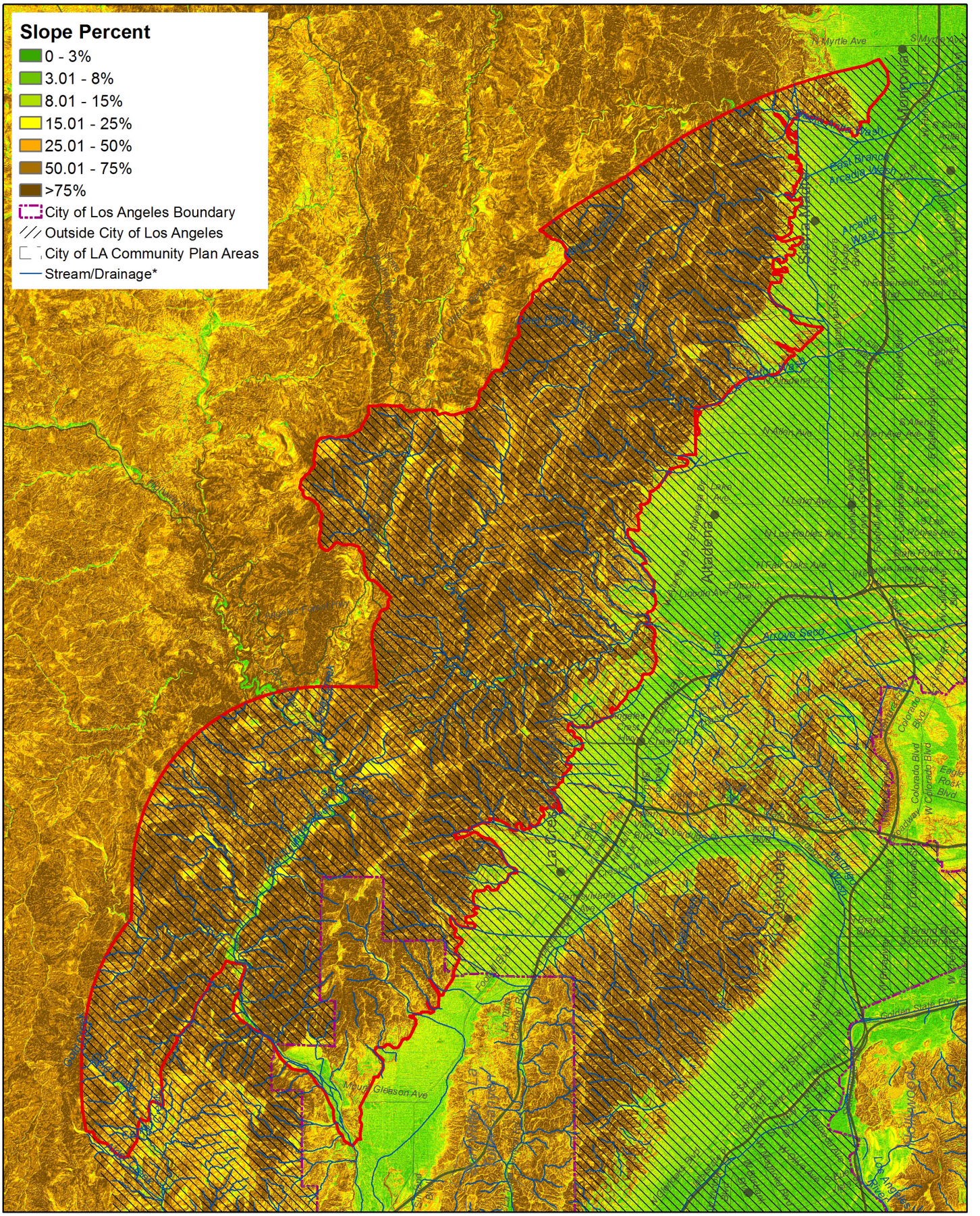
Elevation

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



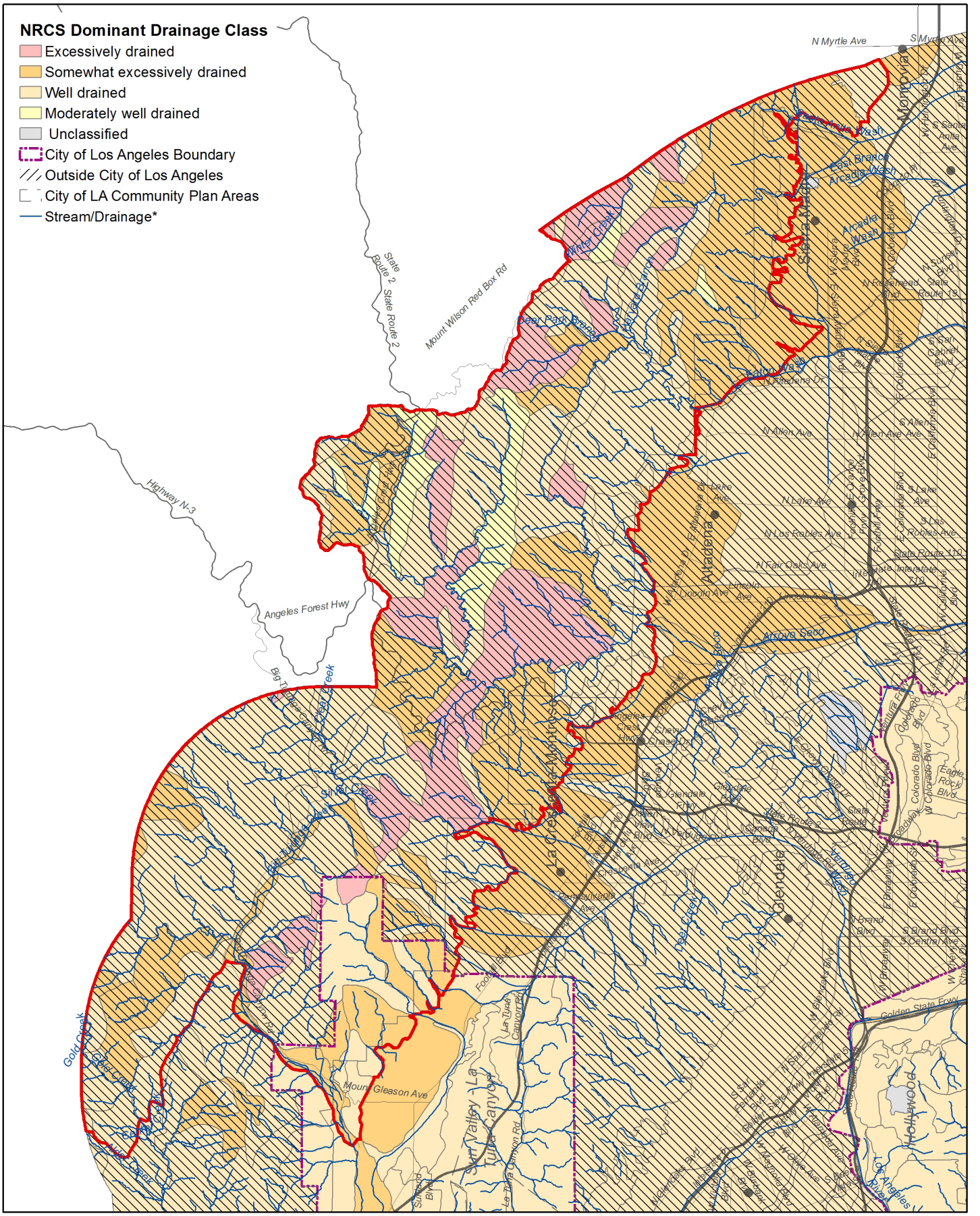
Aspect

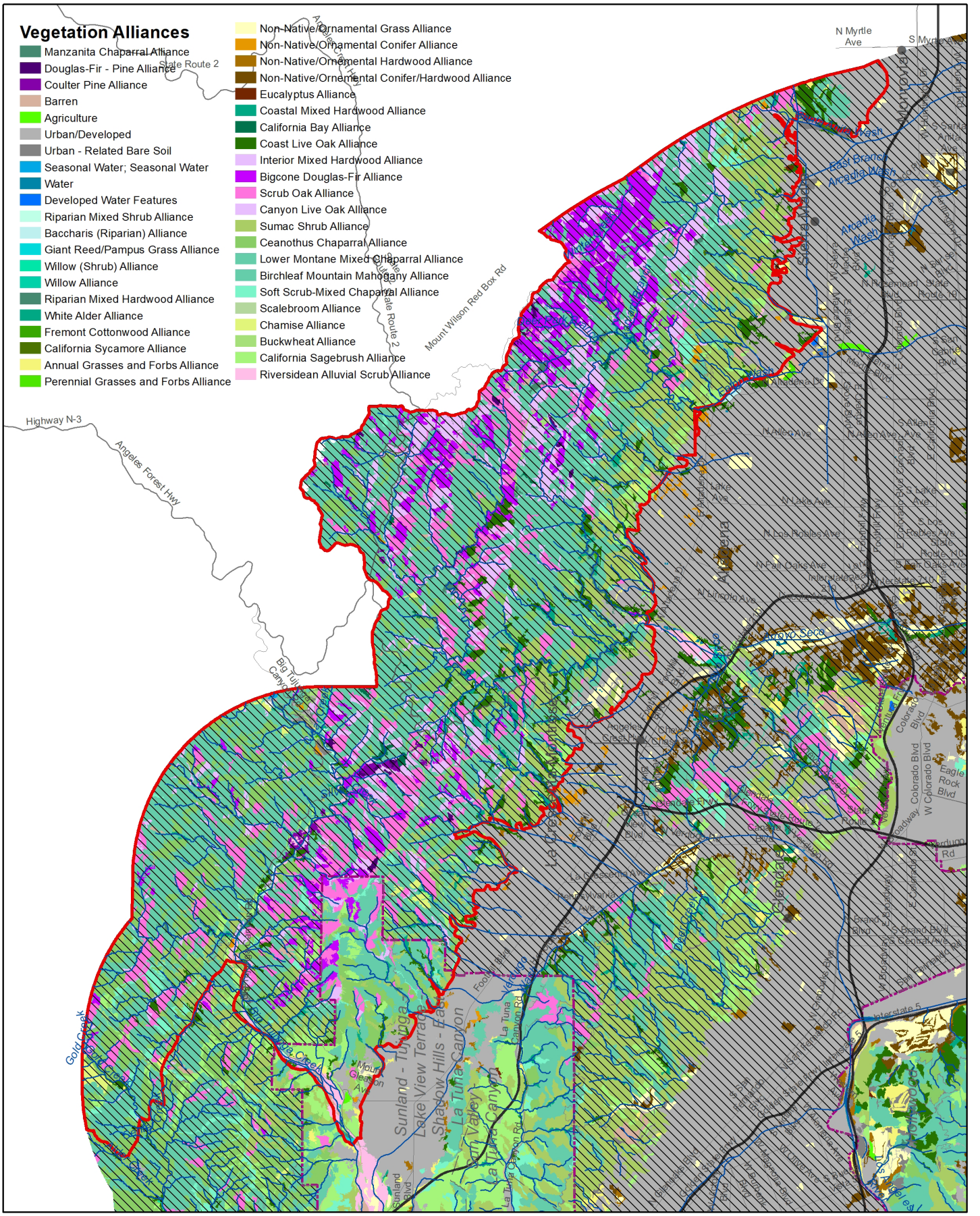
Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



Slope Percent

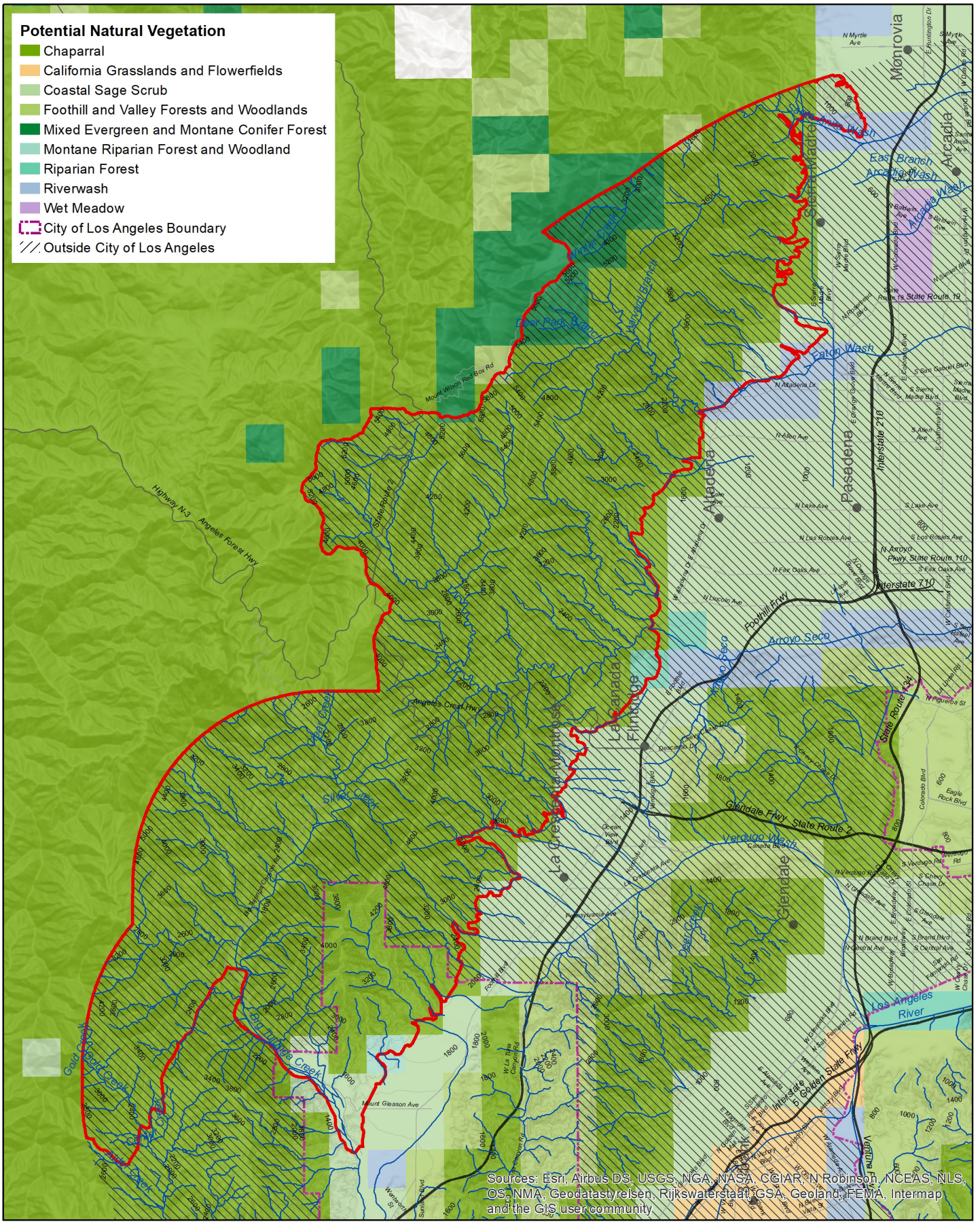
Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/


NRCS Dominant Drainage Class
Excessively drained
Somewhat excessively drained
Well drained
Moderately well drained
Unclassified
City of Los Angeles Boundary
Outside City of Los Angeles
City of LA Community Plan Areas
Stream/Drainage*
Monrovia
Arcadia
Sierra Madre
Pasadena
Altadena
La Crescenta-Montrose
Glendale
Sun Valley-La Tuna Canyon
Mount Wilson Red Box Rd
State Route 2
Angeles Forest Hwy
Highway N-3
Big Tujunga Canyon Rd
Gold Creek
Gold Creek Trail
Mount Gleason Ave
Big Tujunga Creek
Silver Creek
Dark Canyon
Winter Creek
Bear Flats Trail
Bear Creek
Arroyo Seco
Verdugo Wash
Eaton Wash
Arcadia Wash
East Branch Arcadia Wash
Rubio Wash
Los Angeles River
Foothill Blvd
Colorado Blvd
Eagle Rock Blvd
Golden State Fwy
Glendale Fwy
Ventura Fwy
Interstate Interstate 210
State Route 134
State Route 110
State Route 2
N Myrtle Ave
S Myrtle Ave
N Rosemead Blvd
State Route 19
N Allen Ave
S Allen Ave
N Lake Ave
S Lake Ave
N Los Robles Ave
S Los Robles Ave
N Fair Oaks Ave
Lincoln Ave
N Rosemead Blvd
N Brand Blvd
S Brand Blvd
S Central Ave
Chevy Chase Dr
Glendale Fwy
Verdugo Rd
Foothill Blvd
La Tuna Canyon Rd
Sunland Blvd
Tujunga Canyon Blvd
Mount Gleason Ave
Big Tujunga Canyon Rd
Gold Creek Trail
Dark Canyon Rd
Pennsylvania Ave
Chevy Chase Dr
Verdugo Wash
Rubio Wash
Arcadia Wash
East Branch Arcadia Wash
Winter Creek
Bear Flats Trail
Bear Creek
Arroyo Seco
Verdugo Wash
Eaton



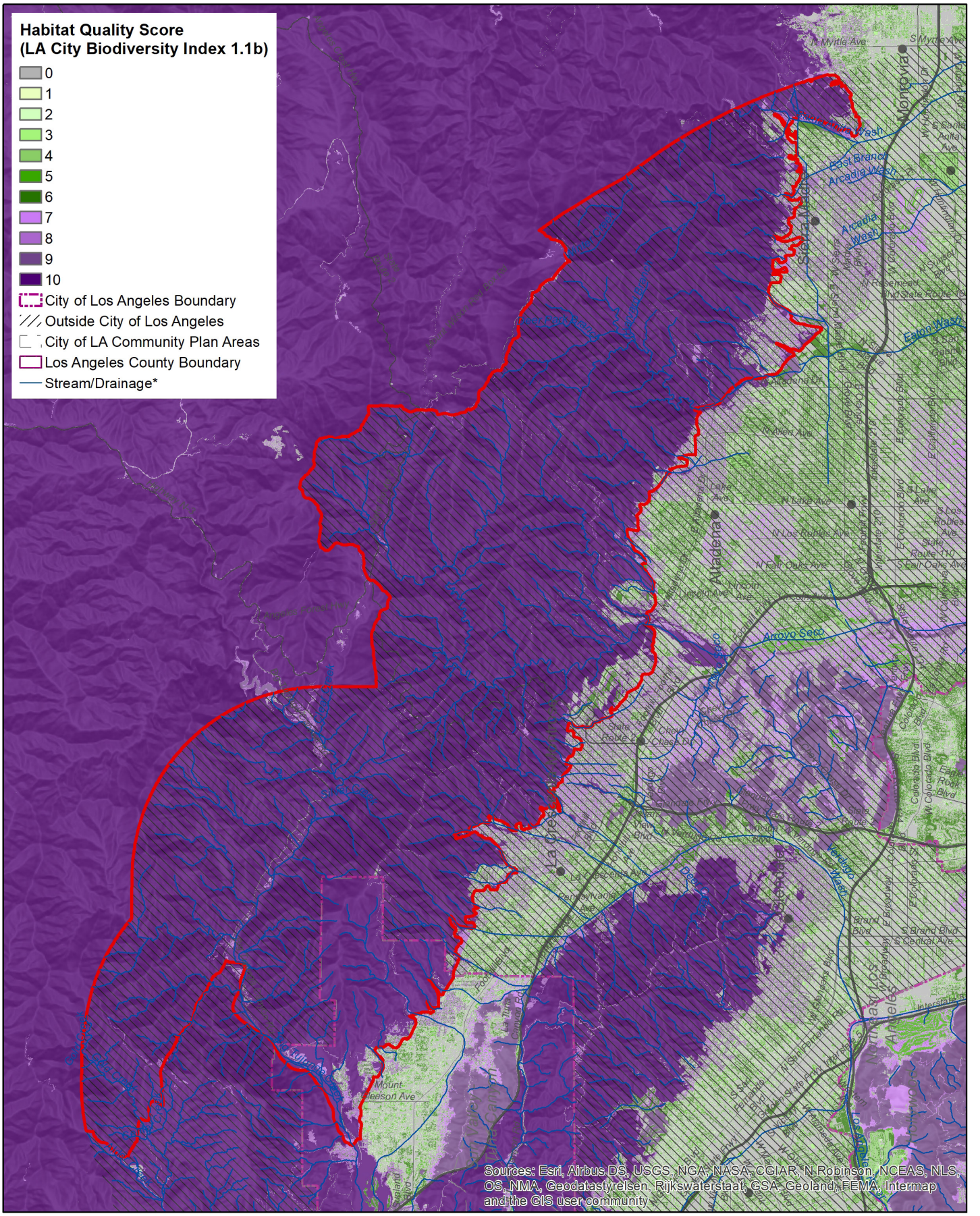
Vegetation Alliances

Data source: CALVEG. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5347192

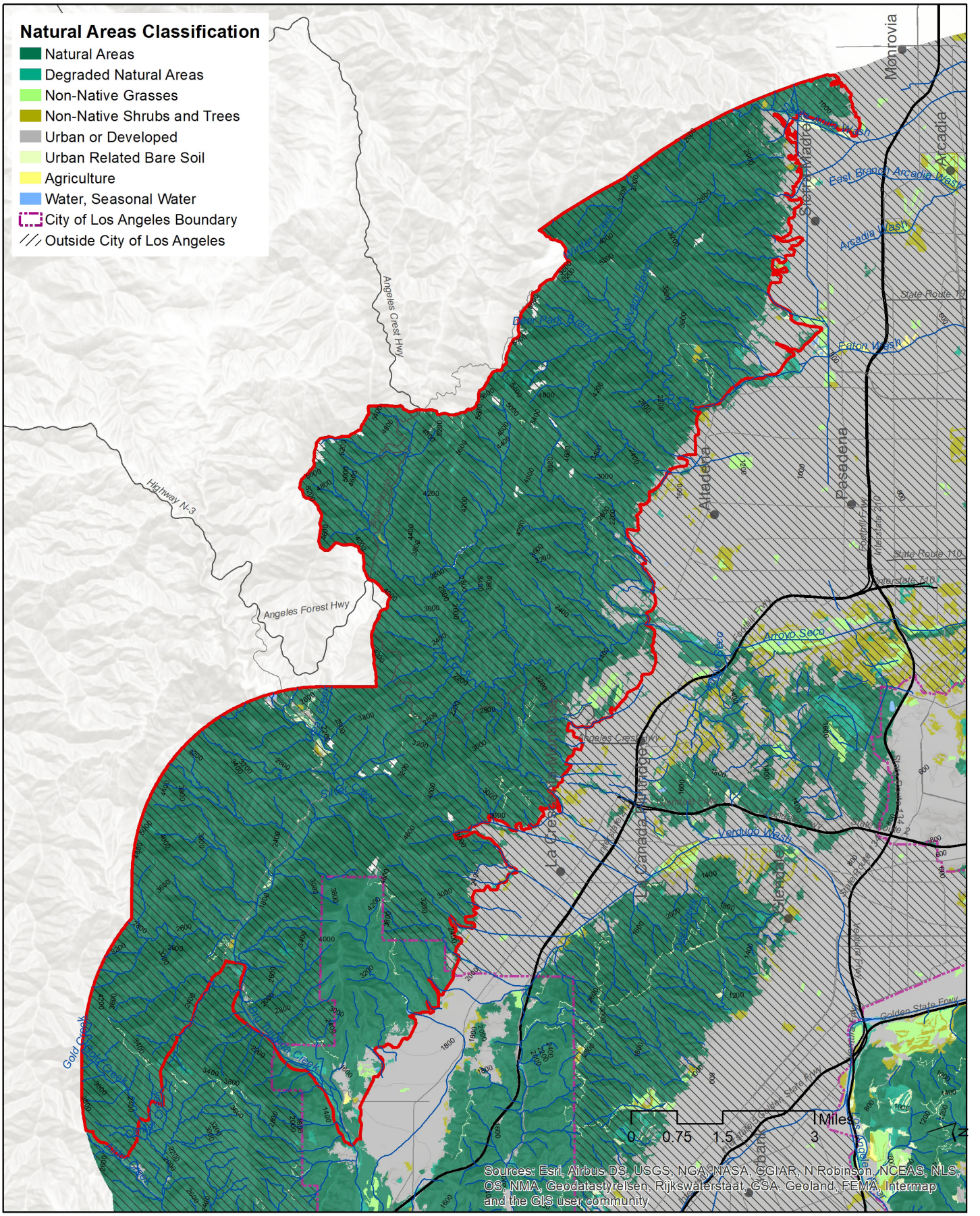


Hypothesized Potential Natural Vegetation

Data source: USC Spatial Sciences Institute/UCLA Institute of the Environment: Historical Ecology of the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.

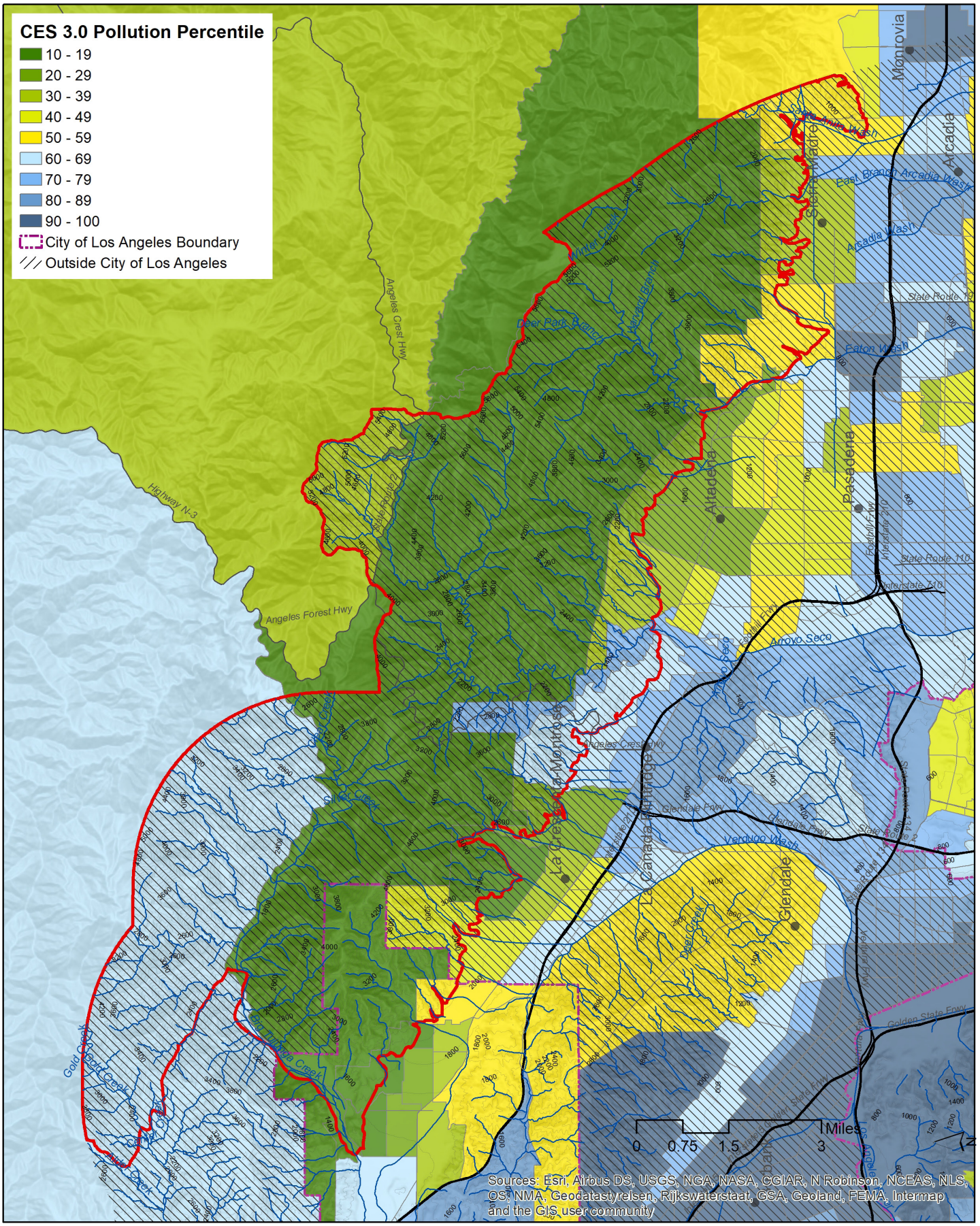


General Habitat Quality
Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



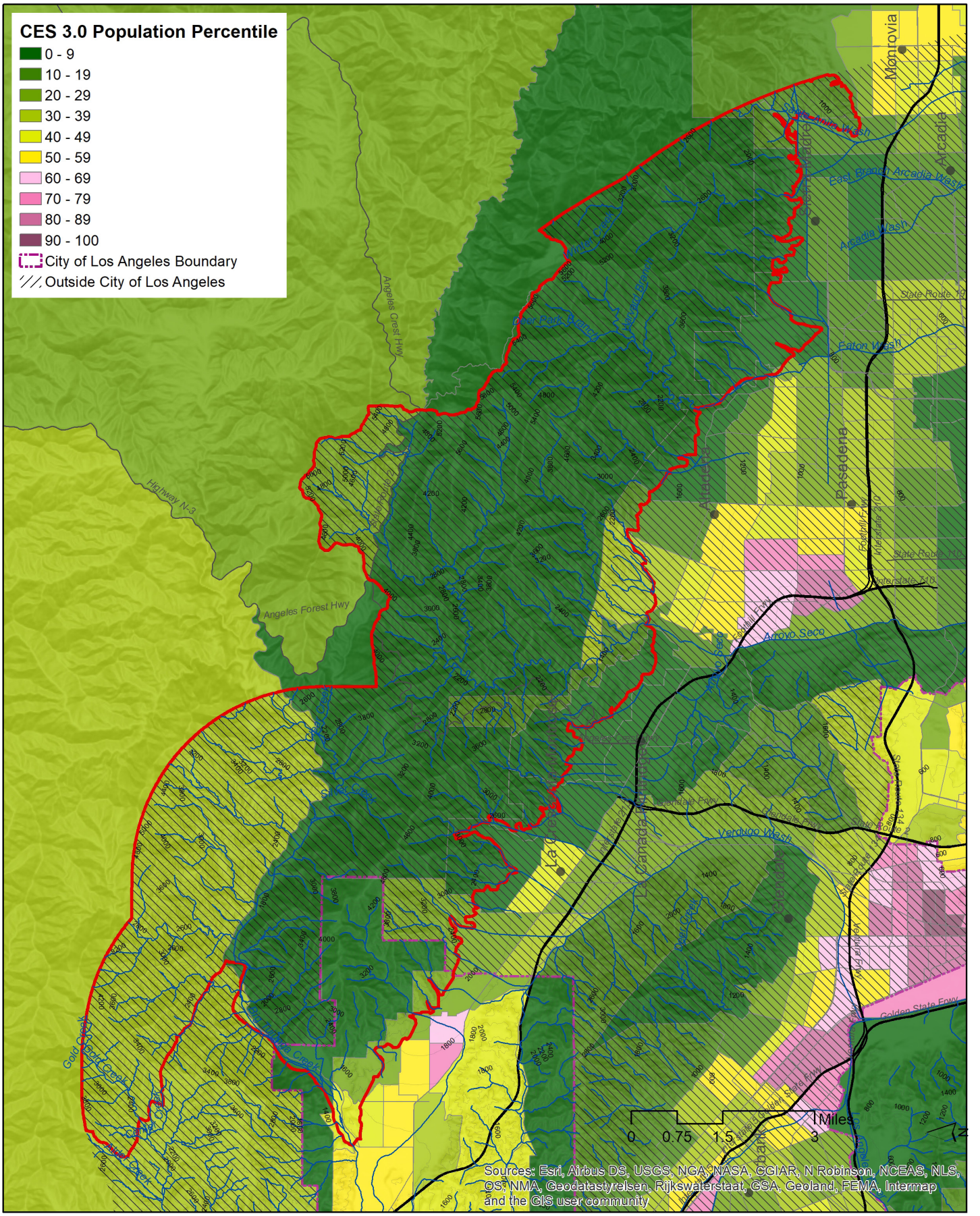
Natural Areas Classification

Data source: 2018 City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Report, Appendix B. https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdi0/~edisp/cnt024943.pdf



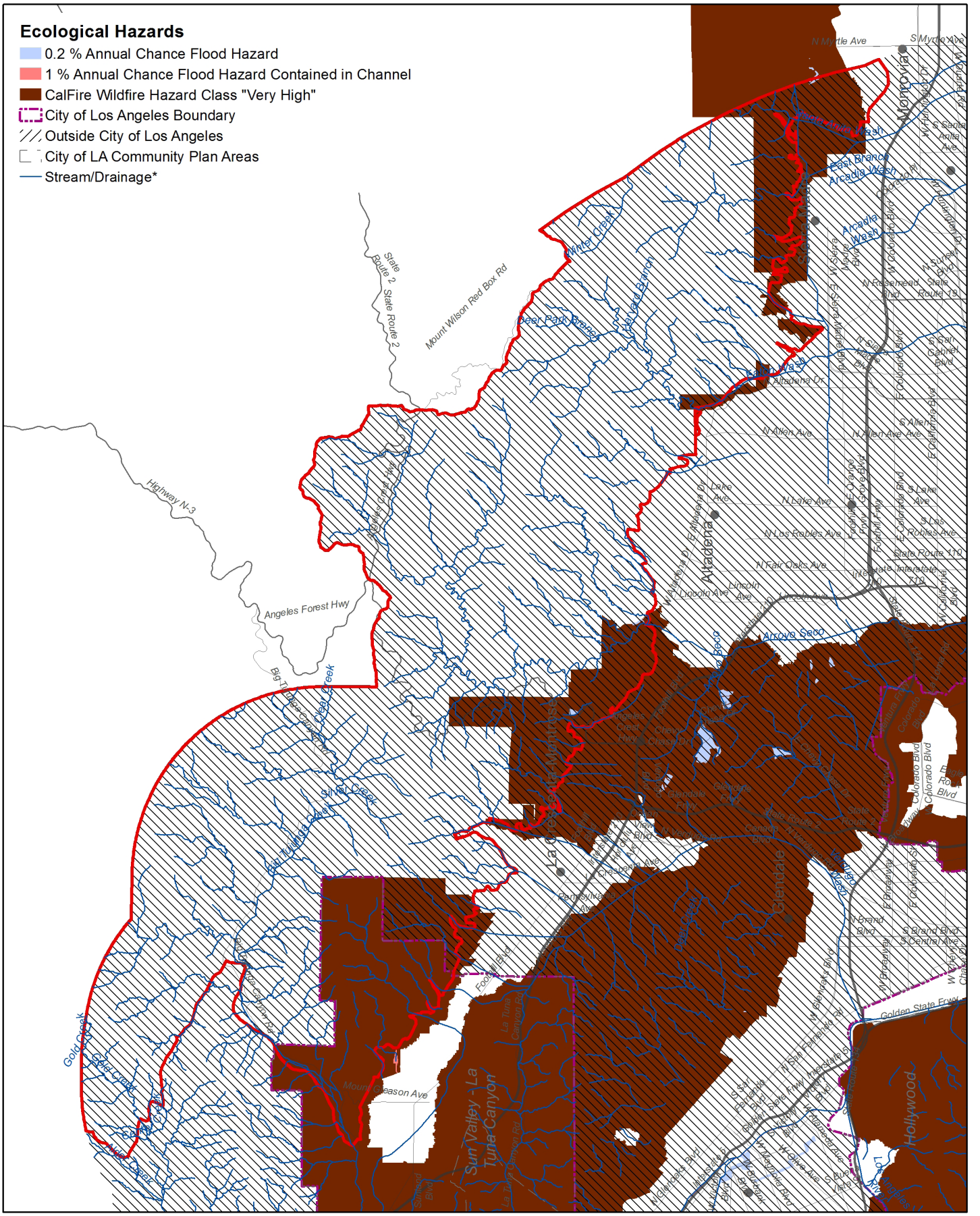
CalEnviroScreen Pollution Precentile (pollution exposure)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



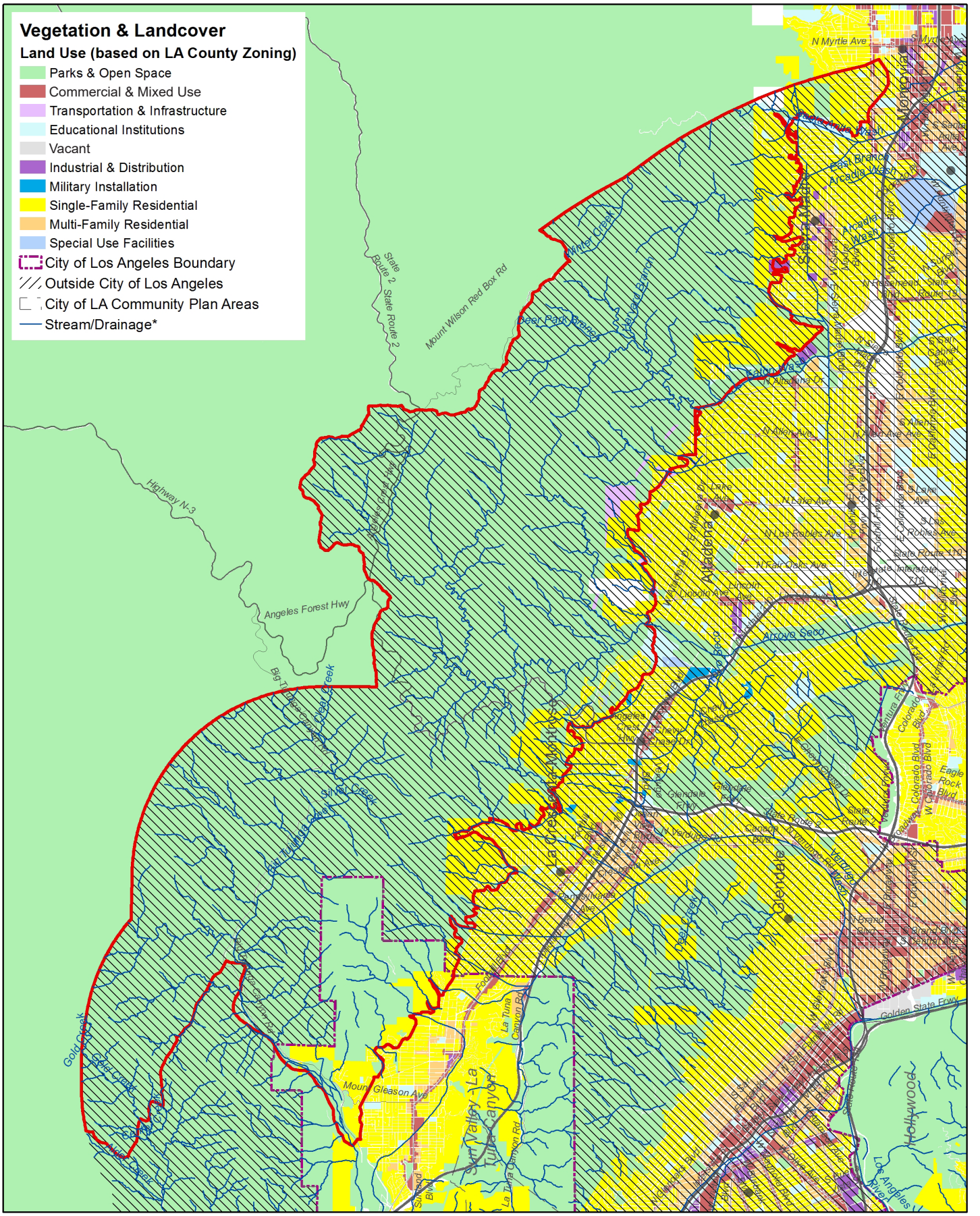
CalEnviroscreen Population Percentile (population vulnerability)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



Ecological Hazards

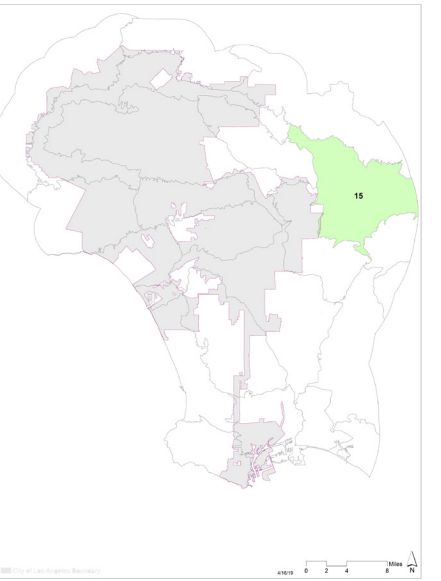
Data sources: Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2; Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps; Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Hazard Layer, Version 1.1.1.0, 11/01/2016.



Land Use

Data source: 2008 Los Angeles County Countywide Zoning by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/04/10/county-wide-zoning/

ECOTOPE 15: SAN GABRIEL RIVER UPPER TERRACE



(A small portion of this ecotope falls within the City of Los Angeles and only the portion of ecotope that falls within the broader study area has been delineated and characterized.)

LANDFORM

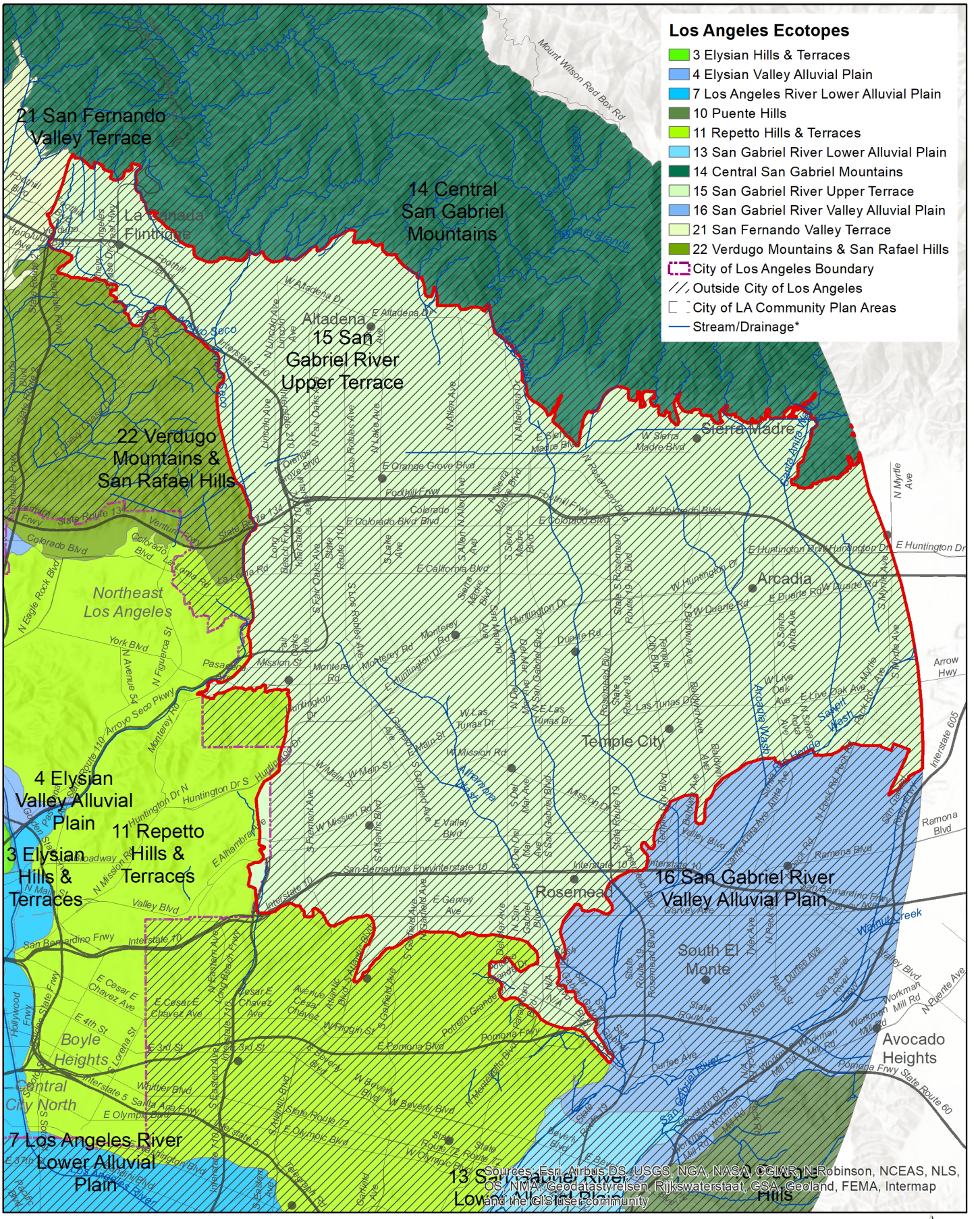
Landforms in this ecotope, especially below canyons, are mostly formed as alluvial fans by alluvial deposition and erosion of material transported by smaller creeks and valleys draining the San Gabriel Mountains above. Coarser material is deposited closer to the mountains on somewhat steeper slopes leading to well-drained and dry-soil conditions at upper elevations. Areas near the mountains are also prone to landslides and flash flooding originating in the mountains above. Areas where larger streams and rivers flow, including the San Gabriel River, exhibit broader, flatter alluvial plain landforms. Lower portions of the ecotope are less exposed to alluvial processes originating in the San Gabriels as broad alluvial fans become more contained in arroyos where erosion historically exceeded alluvial deposition. Terraces, or mesas, occur between arroyos and soils are more variable there. The higher terrain of the Repetto Hills bounds the ecotope to the West.

MICROCLIMATE

Upper areas of the ecotope exhibit thermal belts rarely subject to frost or freezing conditions. This south-facing interior location receives less ocean influence in summer, leading to relatively high temperatures, especially during heat events. The strongest urban heat islands in the region also occur at the foot of the mountain slopes where warm air transported from the west on prevailing breezes often accumulates (Taha, 2017). Lower areas of the ecotope are relatively cooler, on average, with more frequent frost and freezing conditions due to valley cooling in winter. The higher terrain also produces substantial orographic enhancement of precipitation compared to areas closer to the valley floor within the ecotope. The relatively interior location in the region leads to more frequent summer monsoon rain events compared to other ecotopes in the study area, albeit less so than areas further to the east outside of the study area.

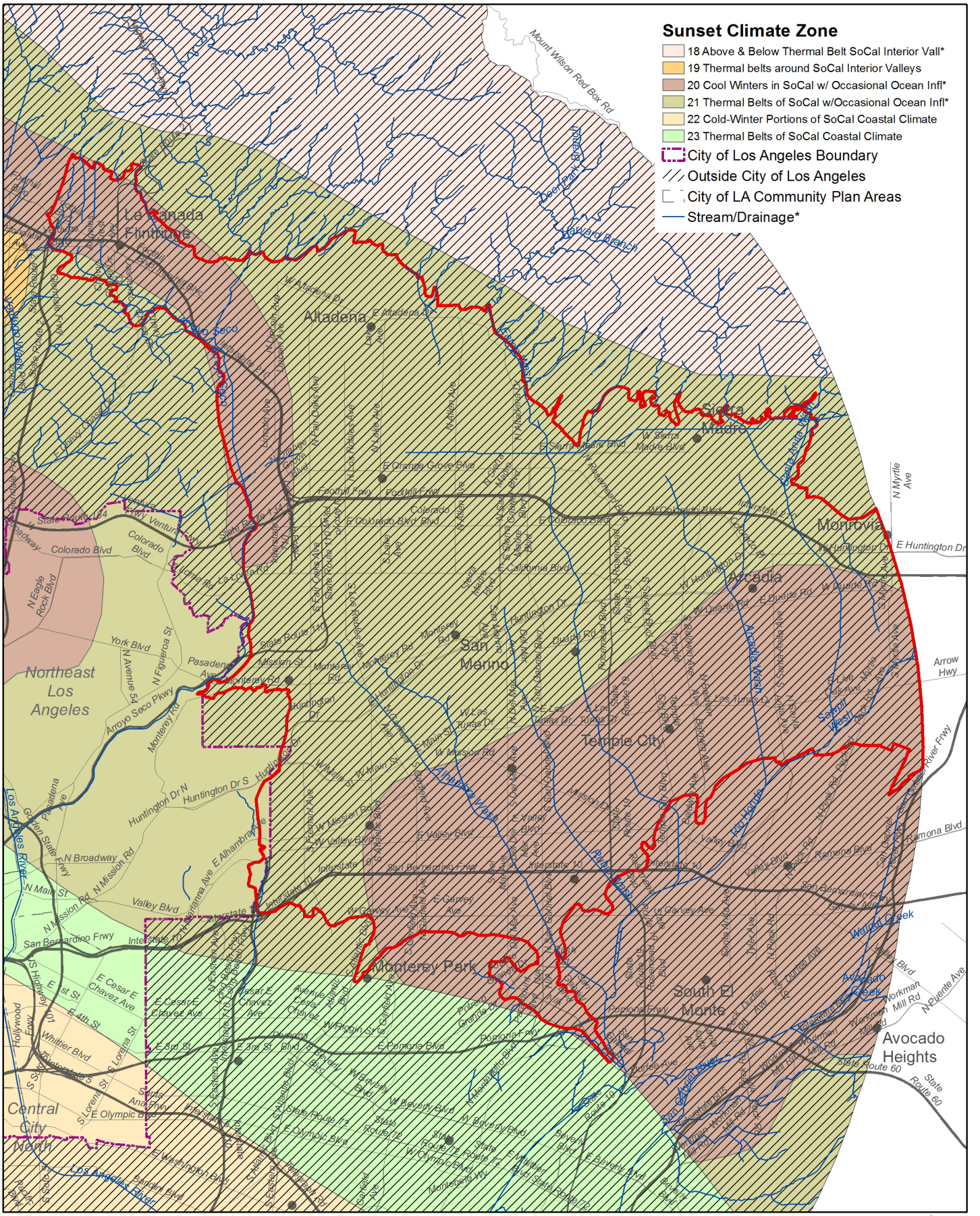
VEGETATION & LANDCOVER

While over 90% of the ecotope has been developed as urban land use, pockets of natural areas remain. Coarse-textured soils near mountain slopes provide suitable conditions for drier Riversidian sage scrub vegetation types as the most common shrubland type remaining, most of which occurs along the San Gabriel River near the Santa Fe Dam flood control area. The ecotope is also favorable for oak woodlands. On mesas near water, the relatively warm winters and summers provide optimal conditions for the endemic and Federally threatened Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*). This unique oak has genetic origins from subtropical oak species and the largest remaining Engelmann oak woodland stand in the area occurs within the Los Angeles County Arboretum here. Additional vegetation includes some riparian types in arroyos, and chaparral and coastal sage scrub types.



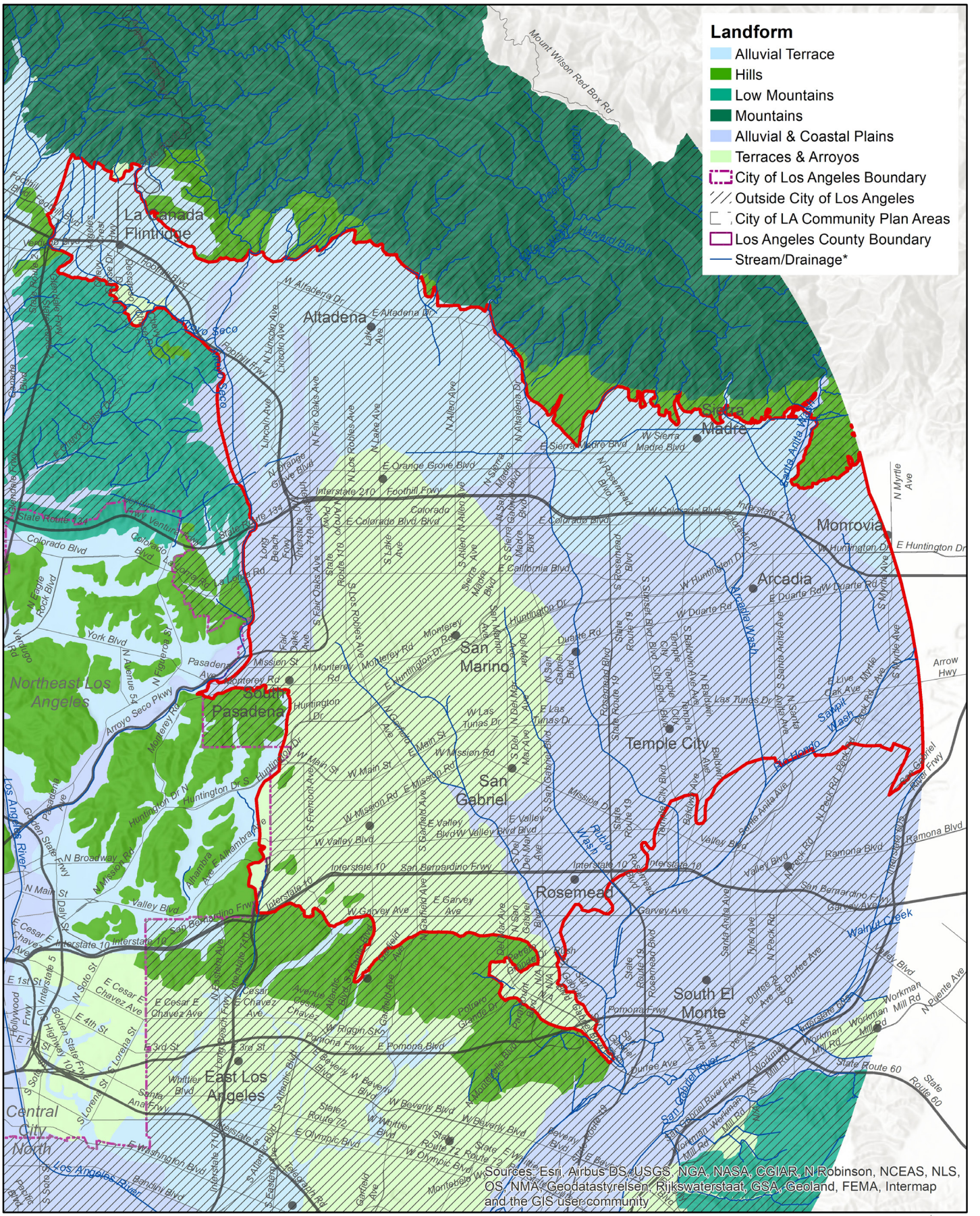
Ecotope 15 Context Map

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



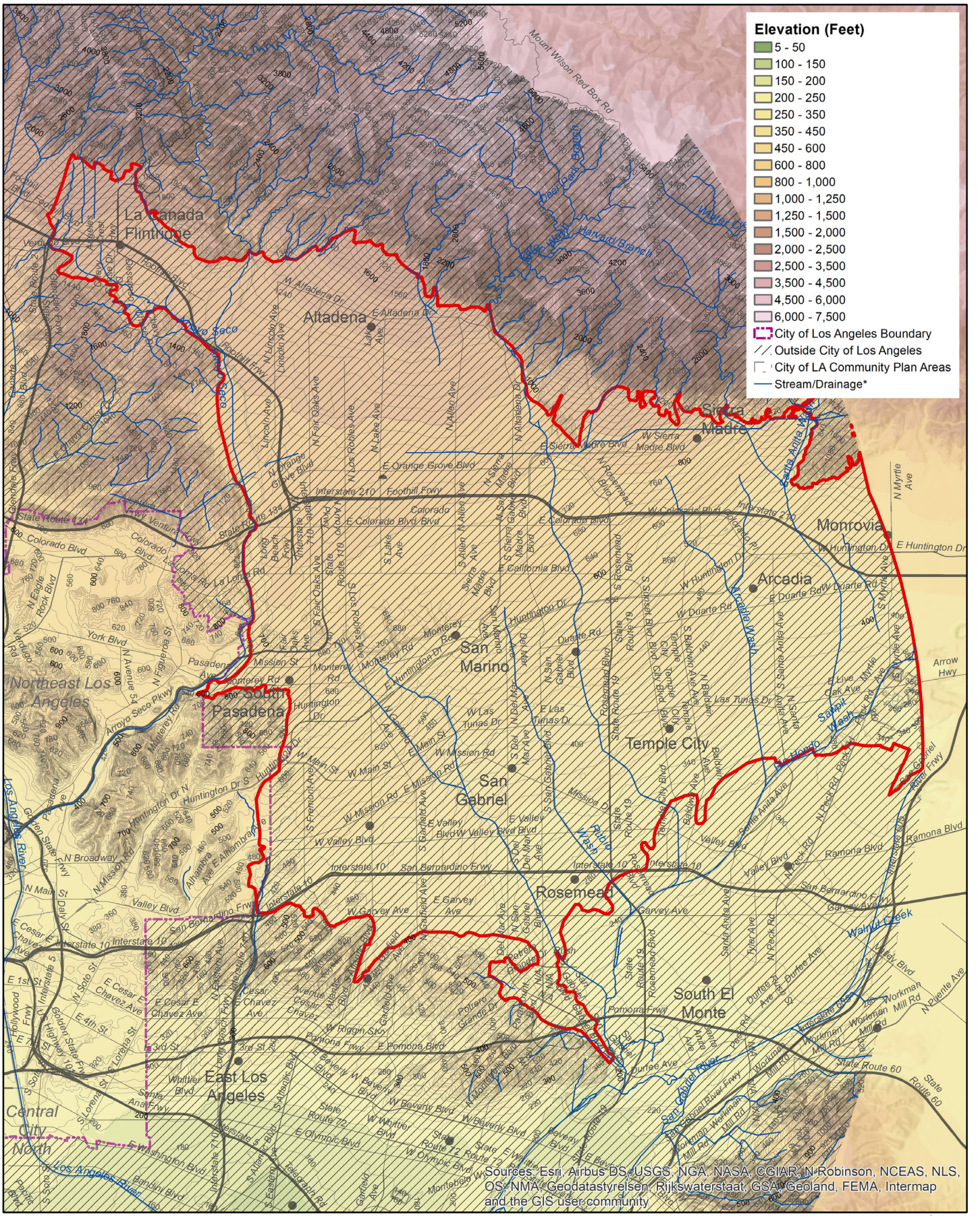
Microclimate

Data source: Sunset Magazine. http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map



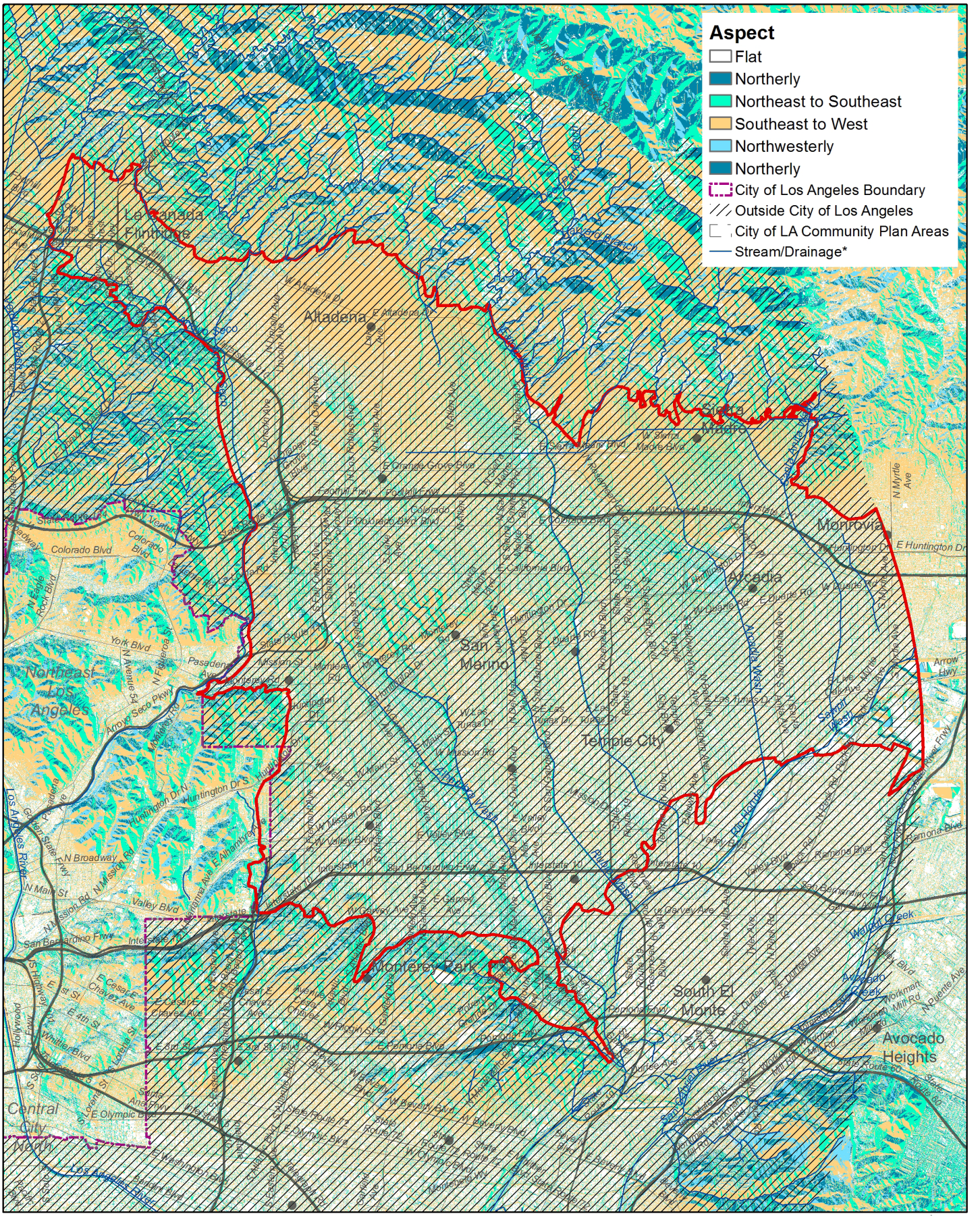
Landform

Data source: I. Brown (2019), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



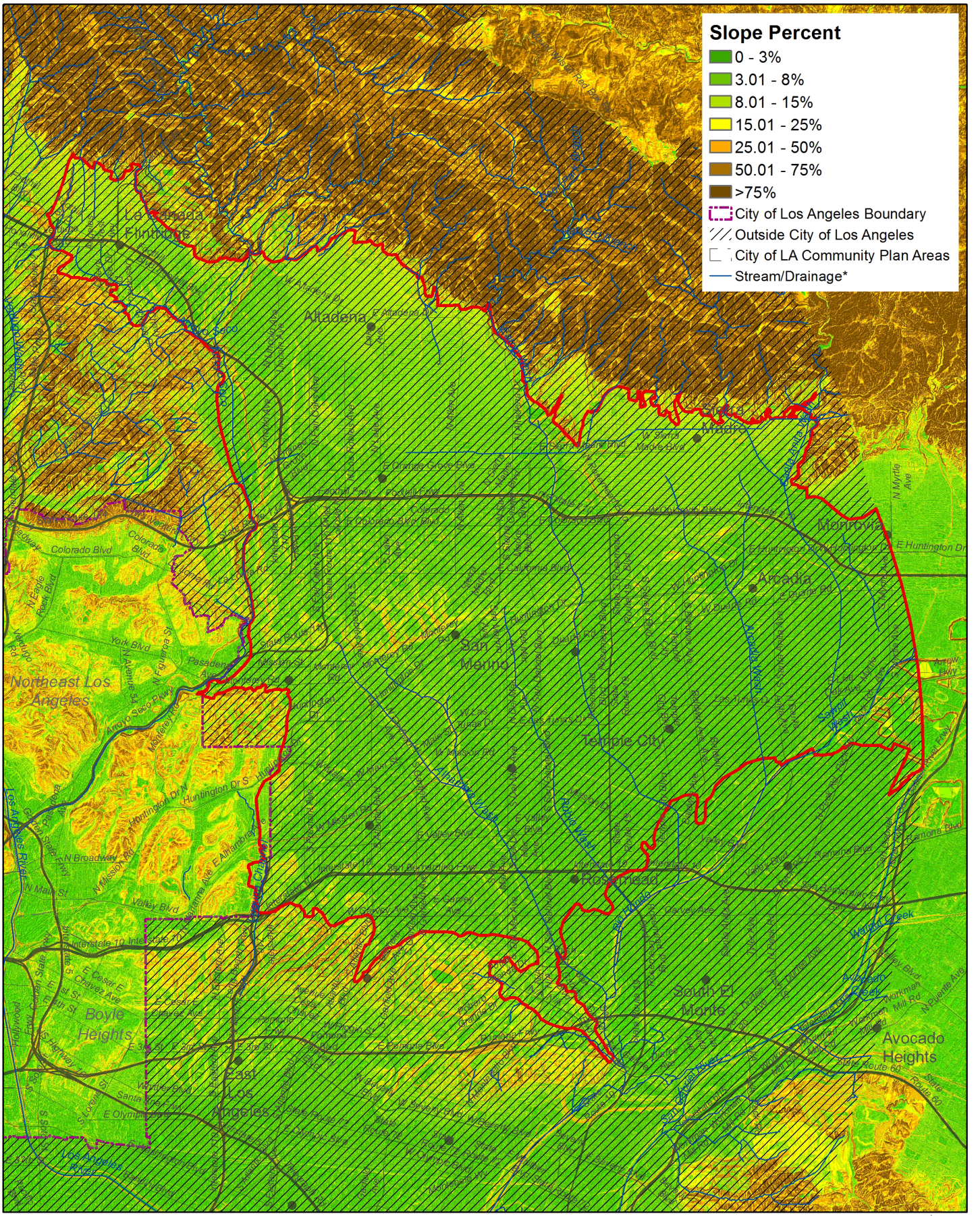
Elevation

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



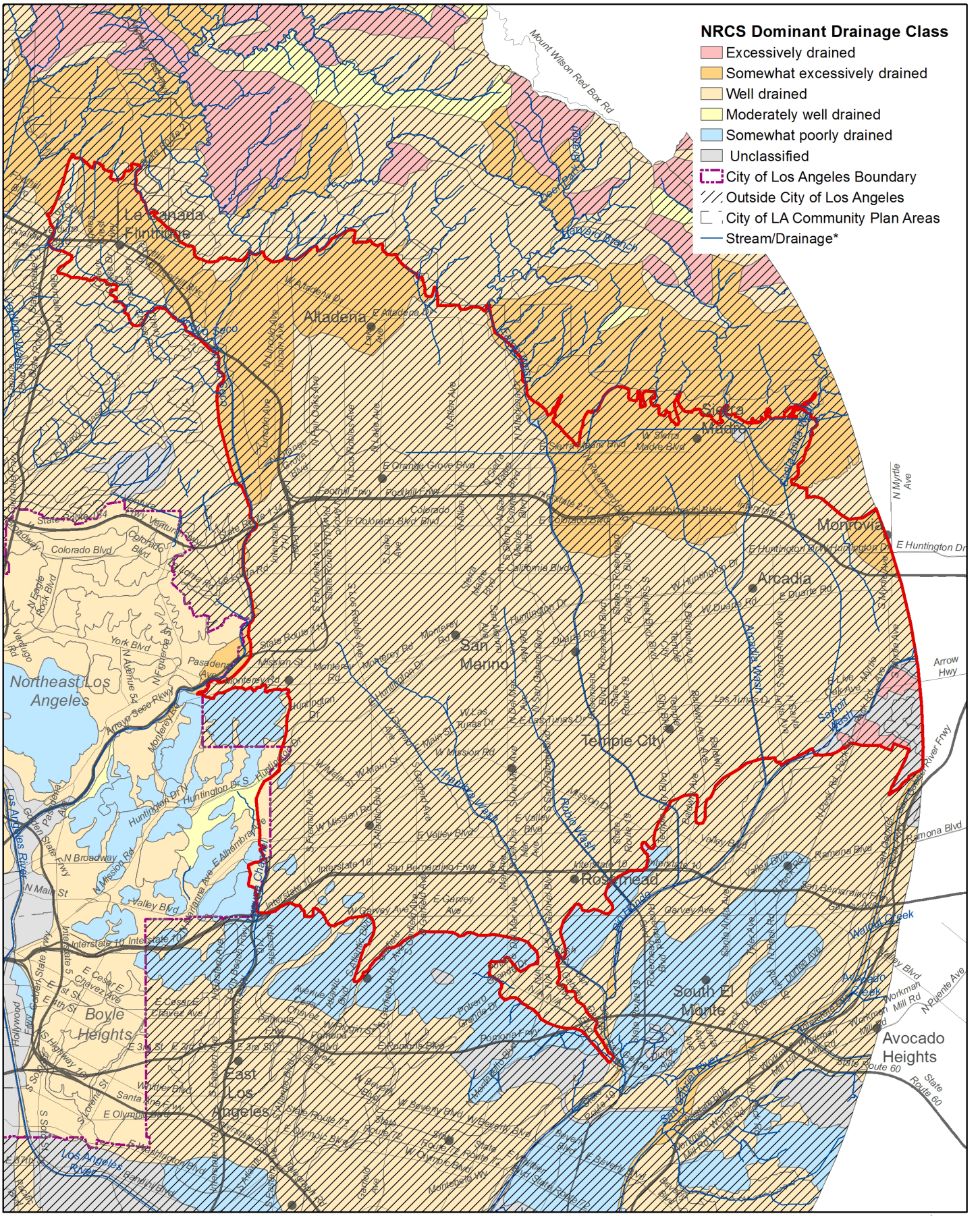
Aspect

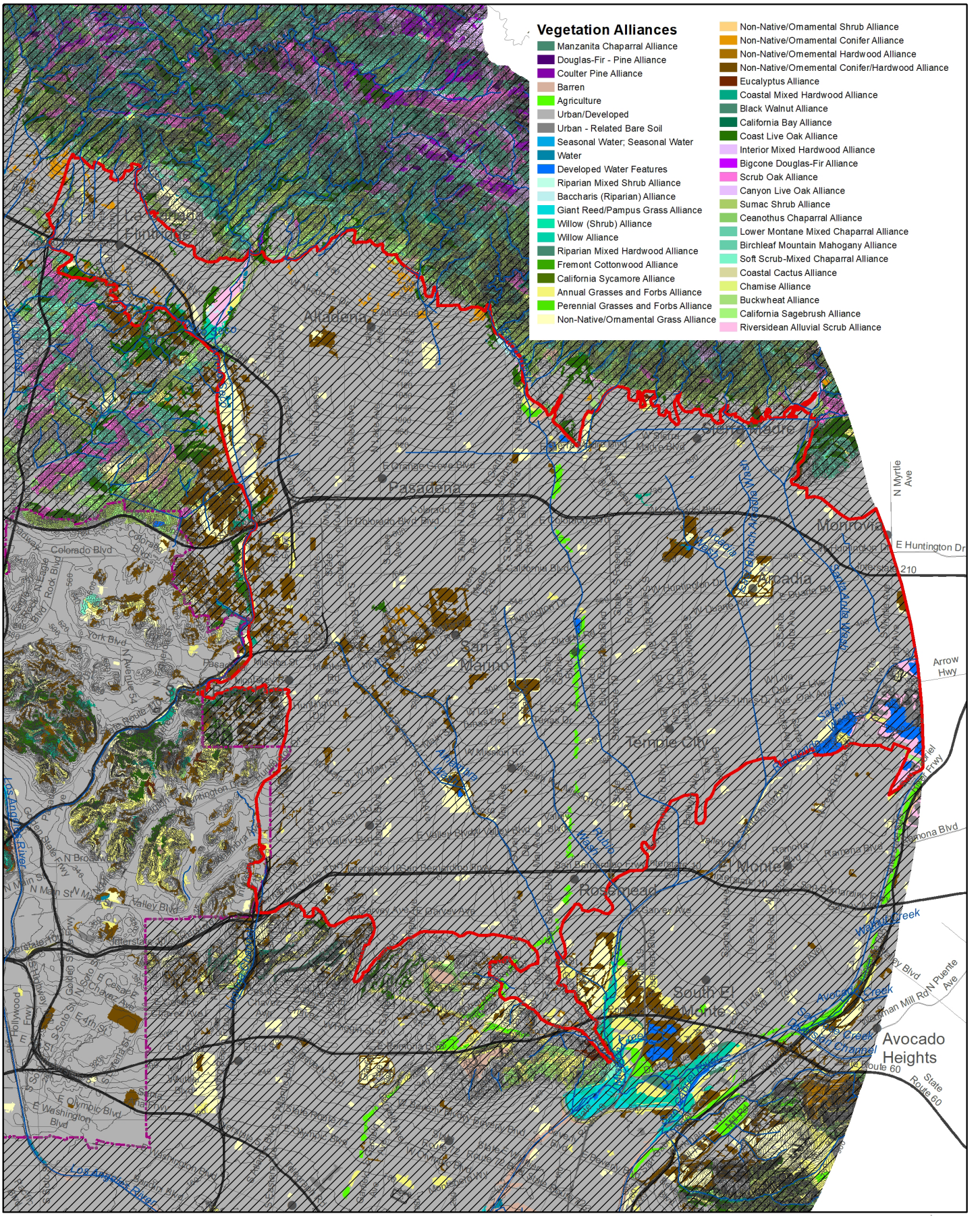
Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



Slope Percent

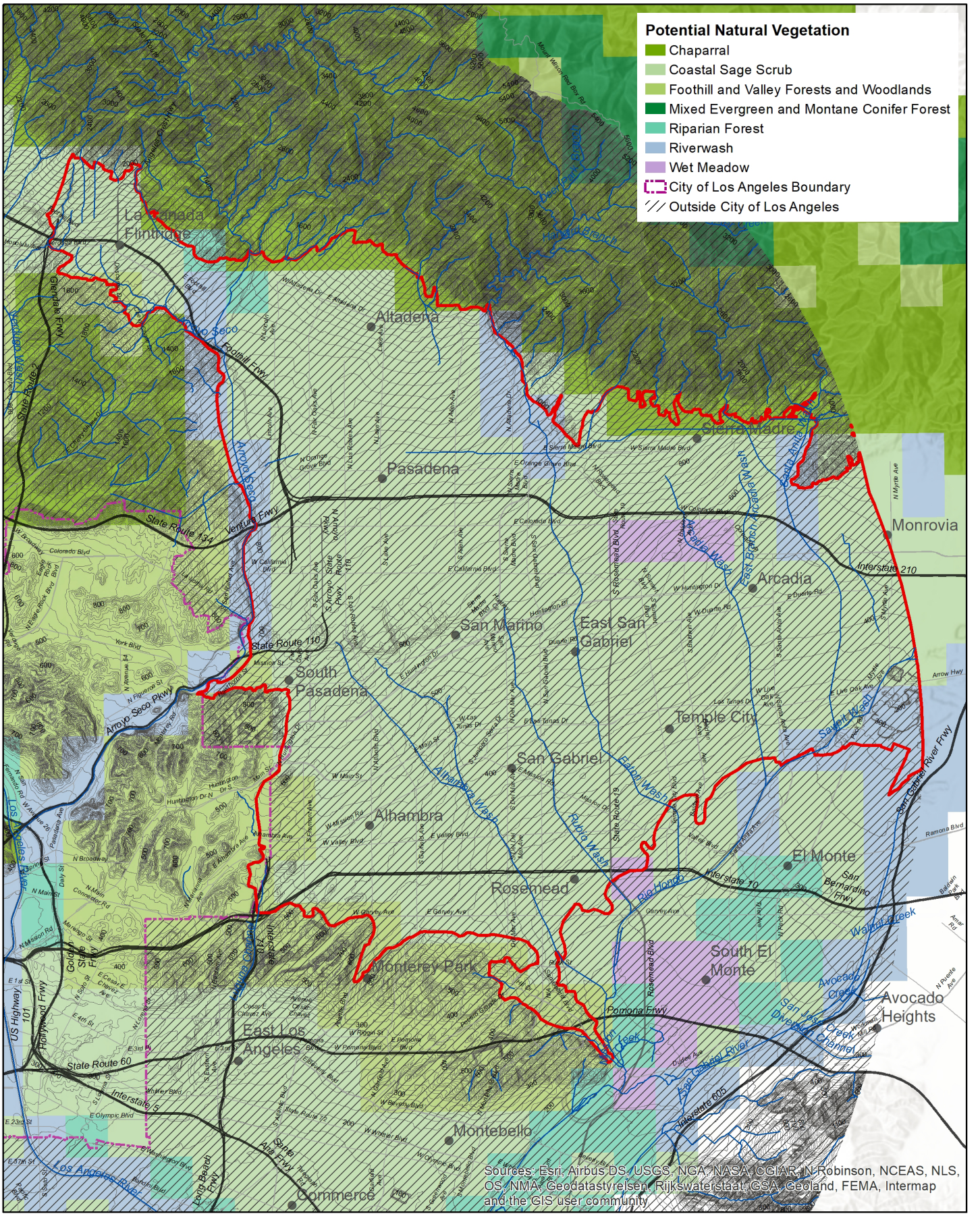
Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/


NRCS Dominant Drainage Class
Excessively drained
Somewhat excessively drained
Well drained
Moderately well drained
Somewhat poorly drained
Unclassified
City of Los Angeles Boundary
Outside City of Los Angeles
City of LA Community Plan Areas
Stream/Drainage*
La Canada Flintridge
Altadena
Sierra Madre
Monrovia
Arcadia
San Marino
Temple City
Rosemead
South El Monte
Avocado Heights
East Los Angeles
Boyle Heights
Northeast Los Angeles
Mount Wilson Red Box Rd
Arroyo Seco
Rio Hondo
Santa Anita Wash
Sawpit Wash
Alhambra Wash
Rubio Wash
Walnut Creek
Arroyo Seco Pkwy
Foothill Fwy
Pasadena Fwy
San Bernardino Fwy
Interstate 10
Interstate 5
Interstate 210
Interstate 605
Colorado Blvd
Huntington Dr
Valley Blvd
Garvey Ave
Rosemead Blvd
Santa Anita Ave
Peck Rd
Workman Mill Rd
Rio Hondo Channel
Los Angeles River
Arrow Hwy
Ramona Blvd
Whittier Blvd
Beverly Blvd
Olympic Blvd
Pomona Fwy
Foothill Blvd
Mission Rd
Monterey Rd
Las Tunas Dr
Duarte Rd
Live Oak Ave
Myrtle Ave
Rosemead Blvd
Del Mar Ave
Baldwin Ave
Peck Rd
Santa Anita Ave
Rosemead Blvd
Garvey Ave
Valley Blvd
Ramona Blvd
Workman Mill Rd
Avocado Heights



Vegetation Alliances

Data source: CALVEG. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5347192

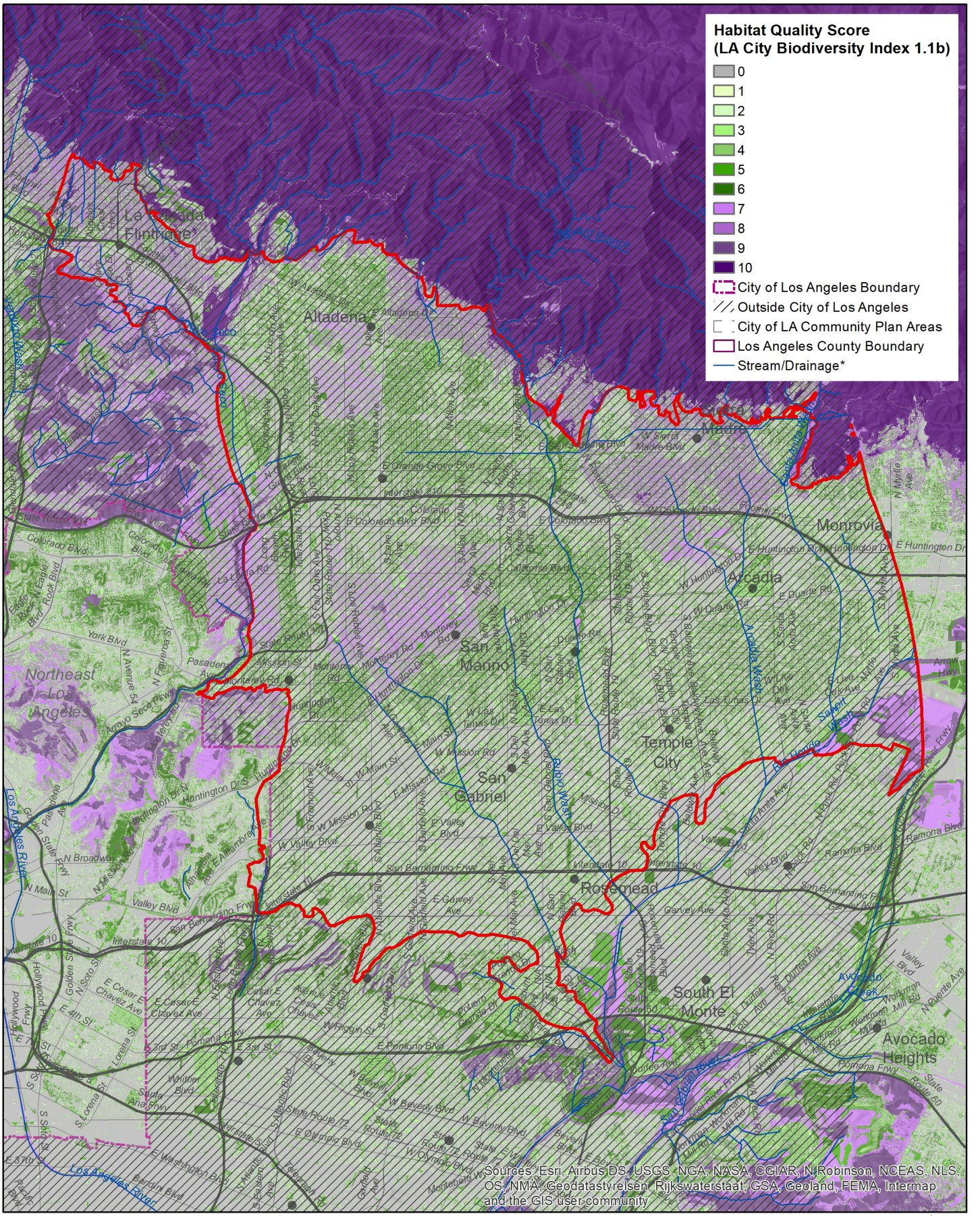


Hypothesized Potential Natural Vegetation

Data source: USC Spatial Sciences Institute/UCLA Institute of the Environment: Historical Ecology of the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.

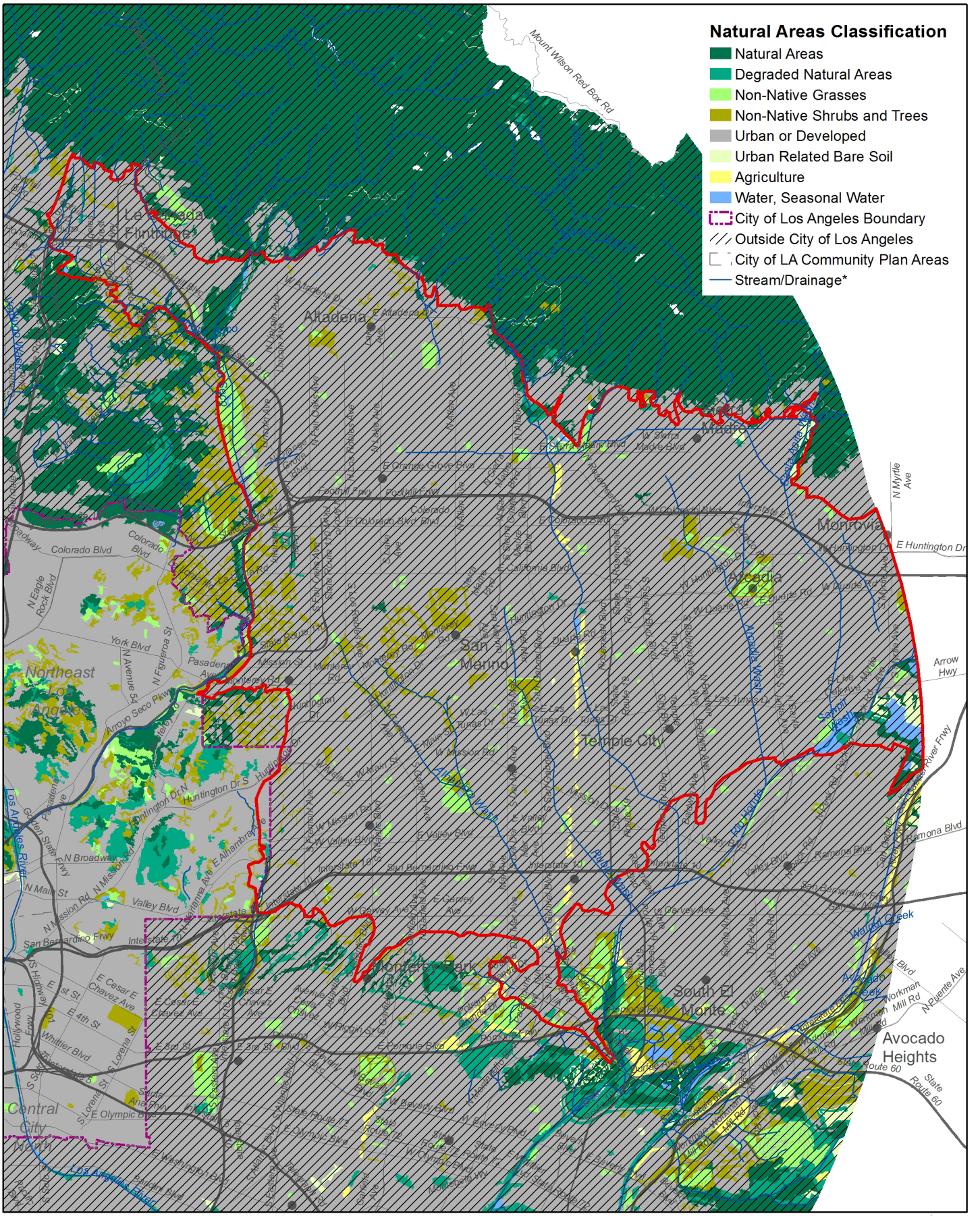
0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

N



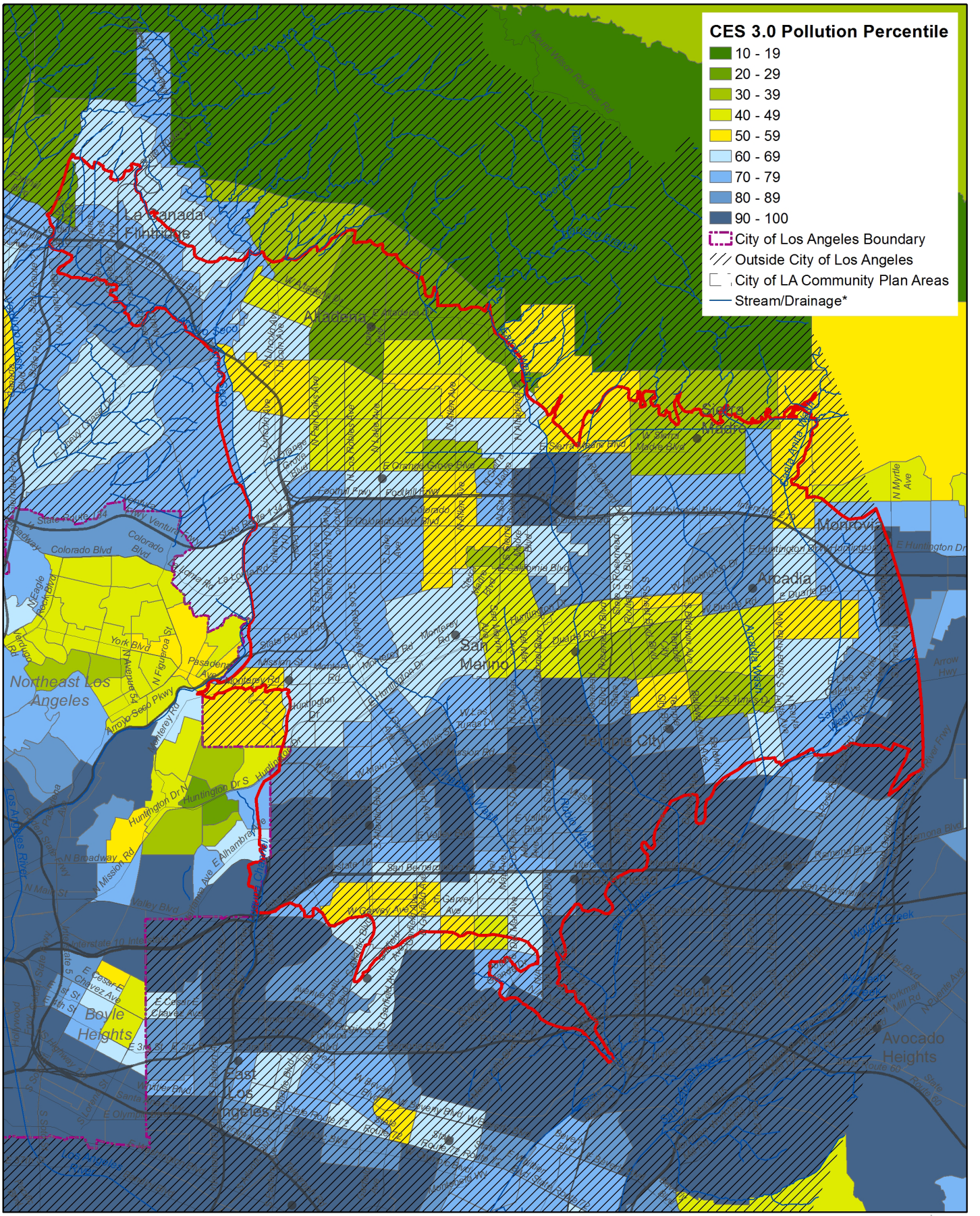
General Habitat Quality

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



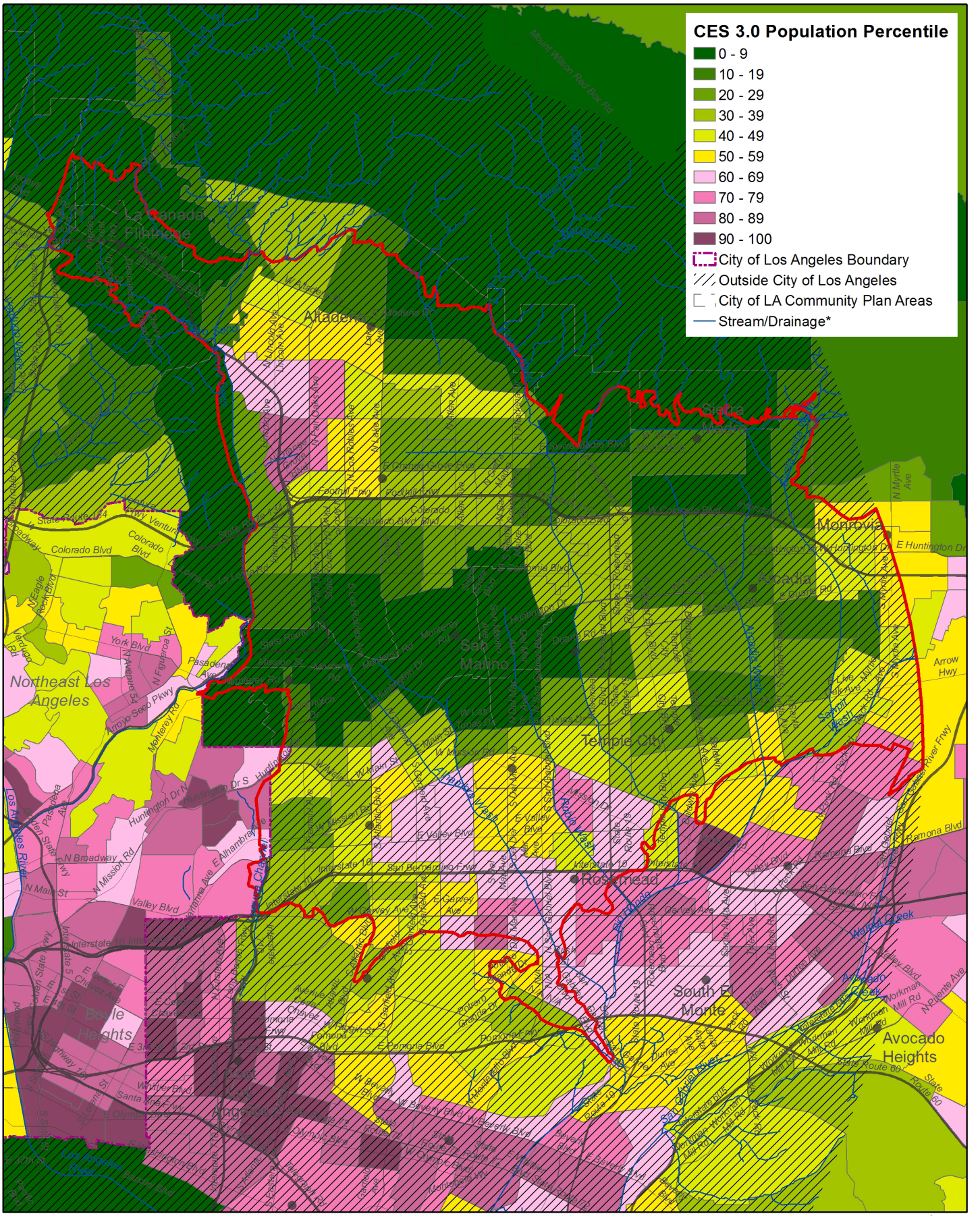
Natural Areas Classification

Data source: 2018 City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Report, Appendix B. https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdi0/~edisp/cnt024943.pdf



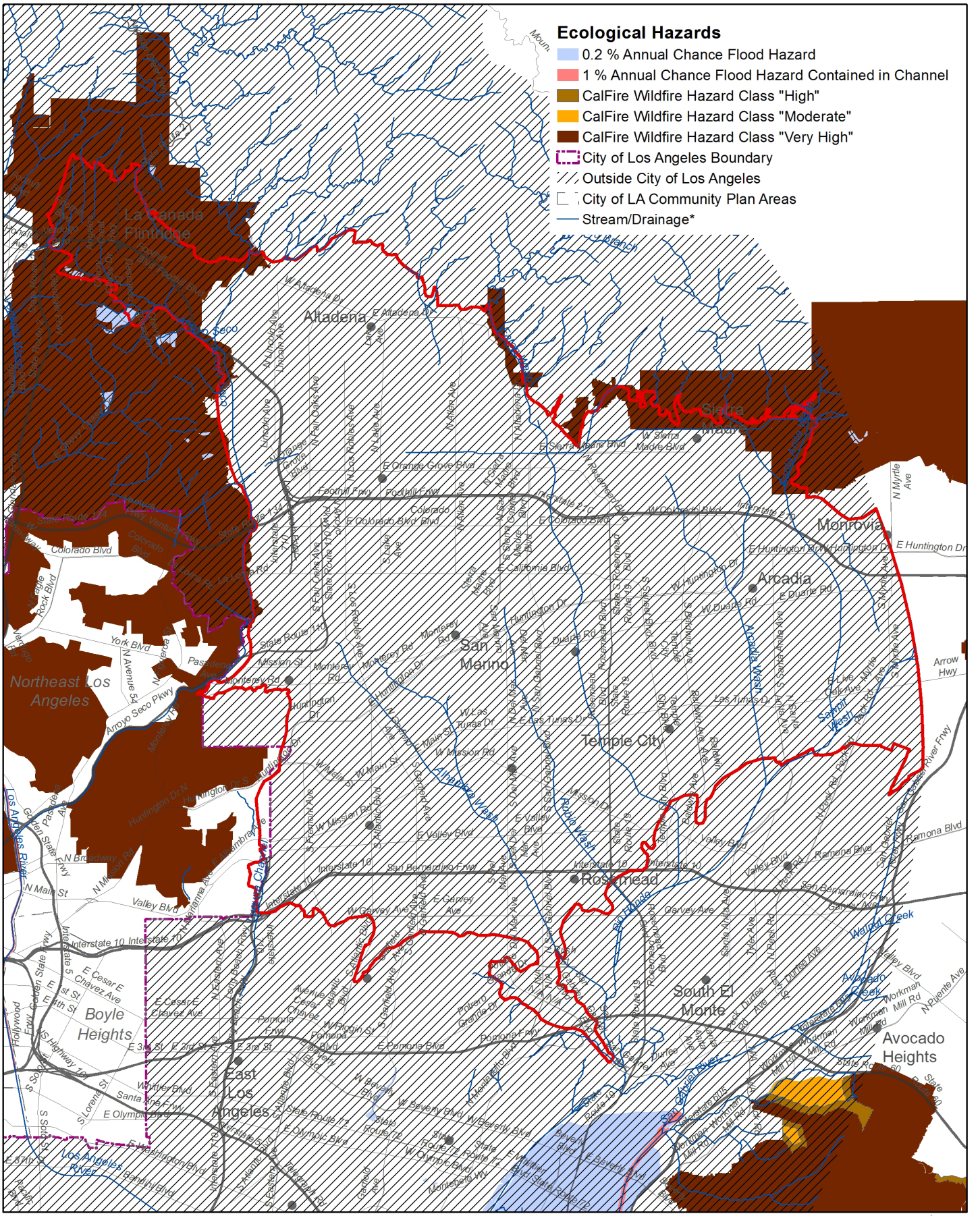
CalEnviroScreen Pollution Precentile (pollution exposure)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



CalEnviroscreen Population Percentile (population vulnerability)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30

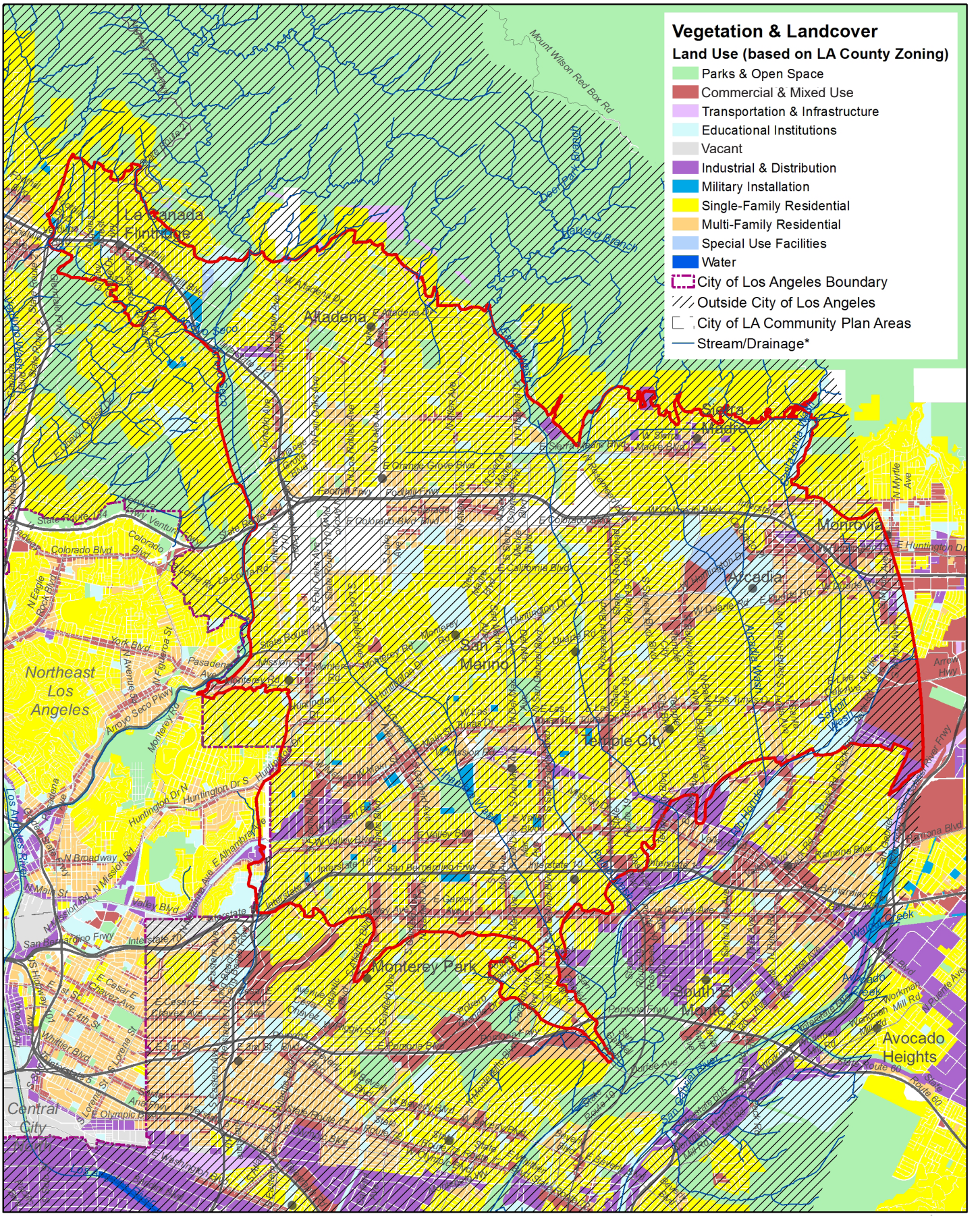


Ecological Hazards

Data sources: Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2; Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps; Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Hazard Layer, Version 1.1.1.0, 11/01/2016.

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

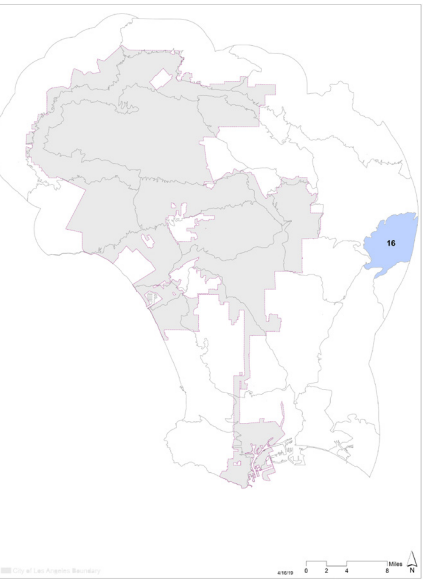
N



Land Use

Data source: 2008 Los Angeles County Countywide Zoning by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/04/10/county-wide-zoning/

ECOTOPE 16: SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ALLUVIAL PLAIN



(Falls outside of the City of Los Angeles and only the portion of ecotope that falls within the study area has been delineated and characterized.)

LANDFORM

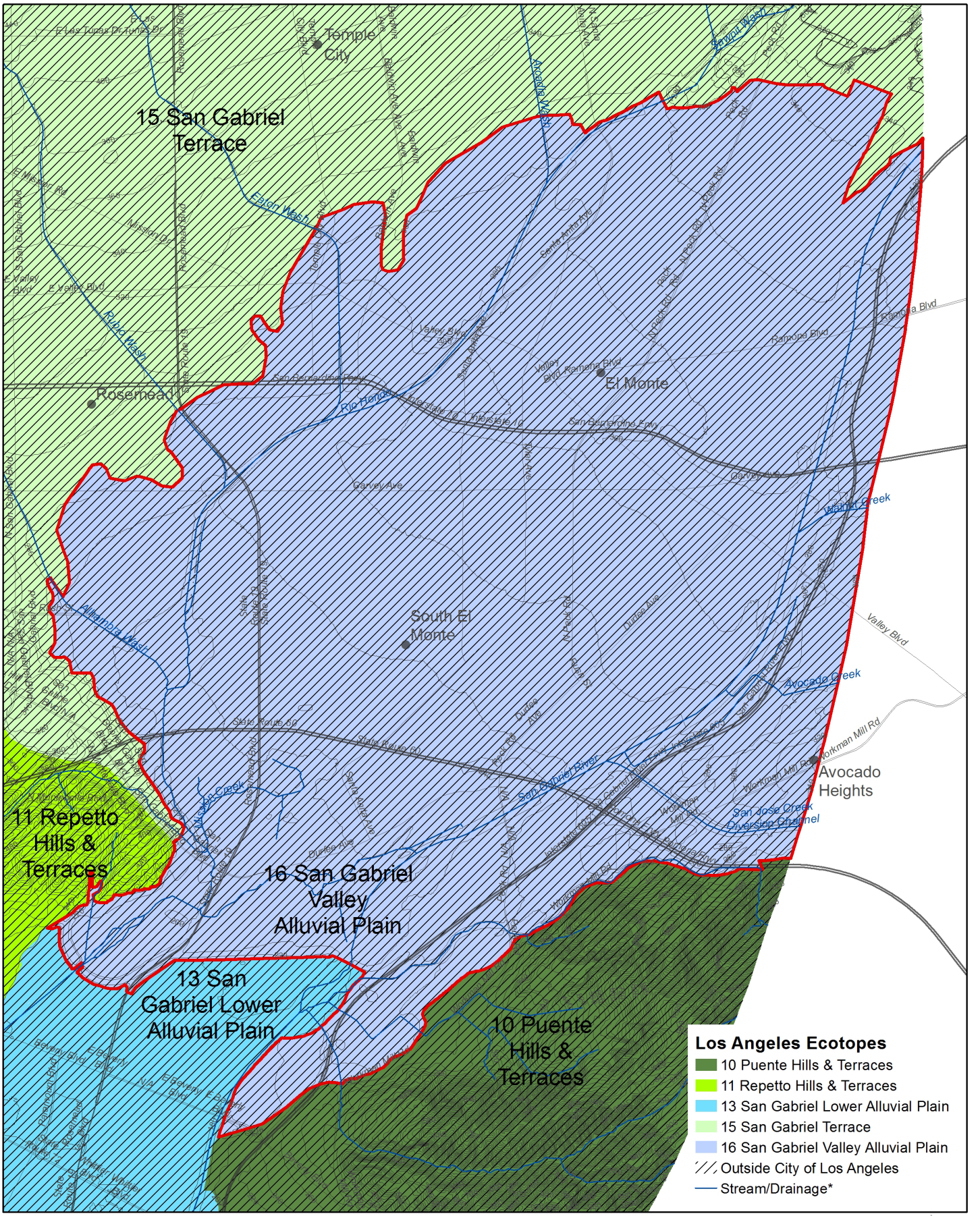
The San Gabriel Valley Alluvial Plain consists of a very flat, low-elevation alluvial plain produced by the San Gabriel River. This area lies between the Puente and Repetto Hills to the southeast and west, respectively, and the San Gabriel River Upper Terrace to the north. This ecotope also includes the Whittier Narrows where the San Gabriel flows between the Puente Hills and Repetto Hills. This flat land was once exposed to frequent flooding and inundation due to backup of flow behind the Hills and shallow groundwater. Extensive wetlands once occurred here and remnant wetlands still occur within the Whittier Narrows Regional Park. This same process and landform pattern is the origin of other similar extensive wetlands in the Elysian Valley, along Ballona Creek at the historic La Cienegas, and historically along the Los Angeles River where it flows between the Baldwin-Dominguez Hills and Long Beach Terrace Ecotopes.

MICROCLIMATE

The ecotope is dominated by Sunset Climate Zone 20, "Cool Winters Portion of Southern California with Occasional Ocean Influence." This zone is characterized by cooler winters with occasional frost and hot, dry summers. Coastal fog is less frequent here in late spring and summer than in areas closer to the coast. Flat terrain exacerbates heat loading on surfaces in summer and a relatively strong urban heat island effect is present.

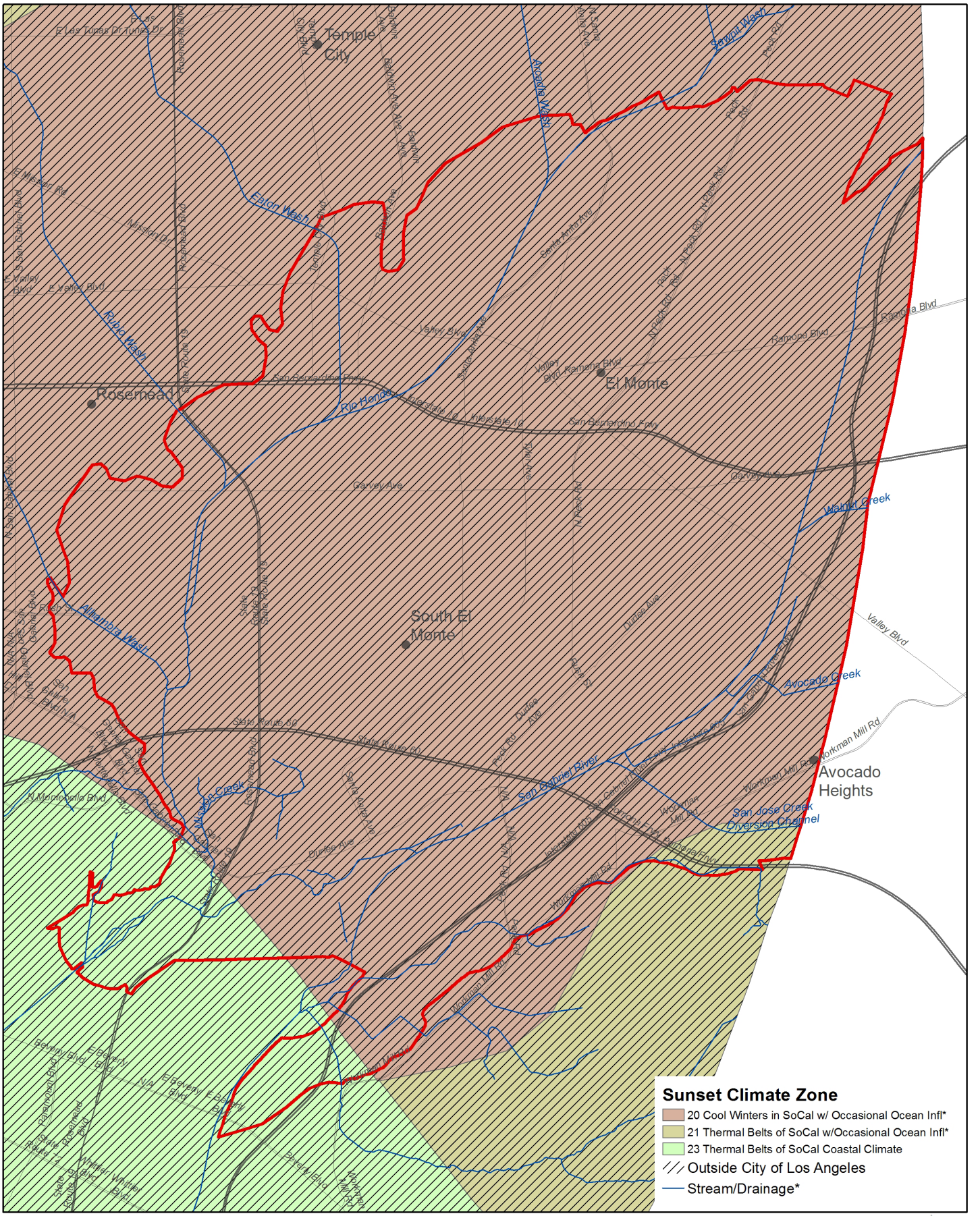
VEGETATION & LANDCOVER

Approximately 3% of natural wetland vegetation still remains within the Whittier Narrows and upstream areas along the San Gabriel River, maintaining willow alliances and other wetland vegetation types that naturally would have been common throughout the ecotope. Smaller areas of Riversidian sage scrub and other upland vegetation types also remain. Several plant and wildlife species of conservation concern also occur within this ecotope including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*), western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris),* Parish's gooseberry, (*Ribes divaricatum parishii*), and southern skullcap *(Scutellaria bolanderi austromontana*) (LA County DPW, 2006).



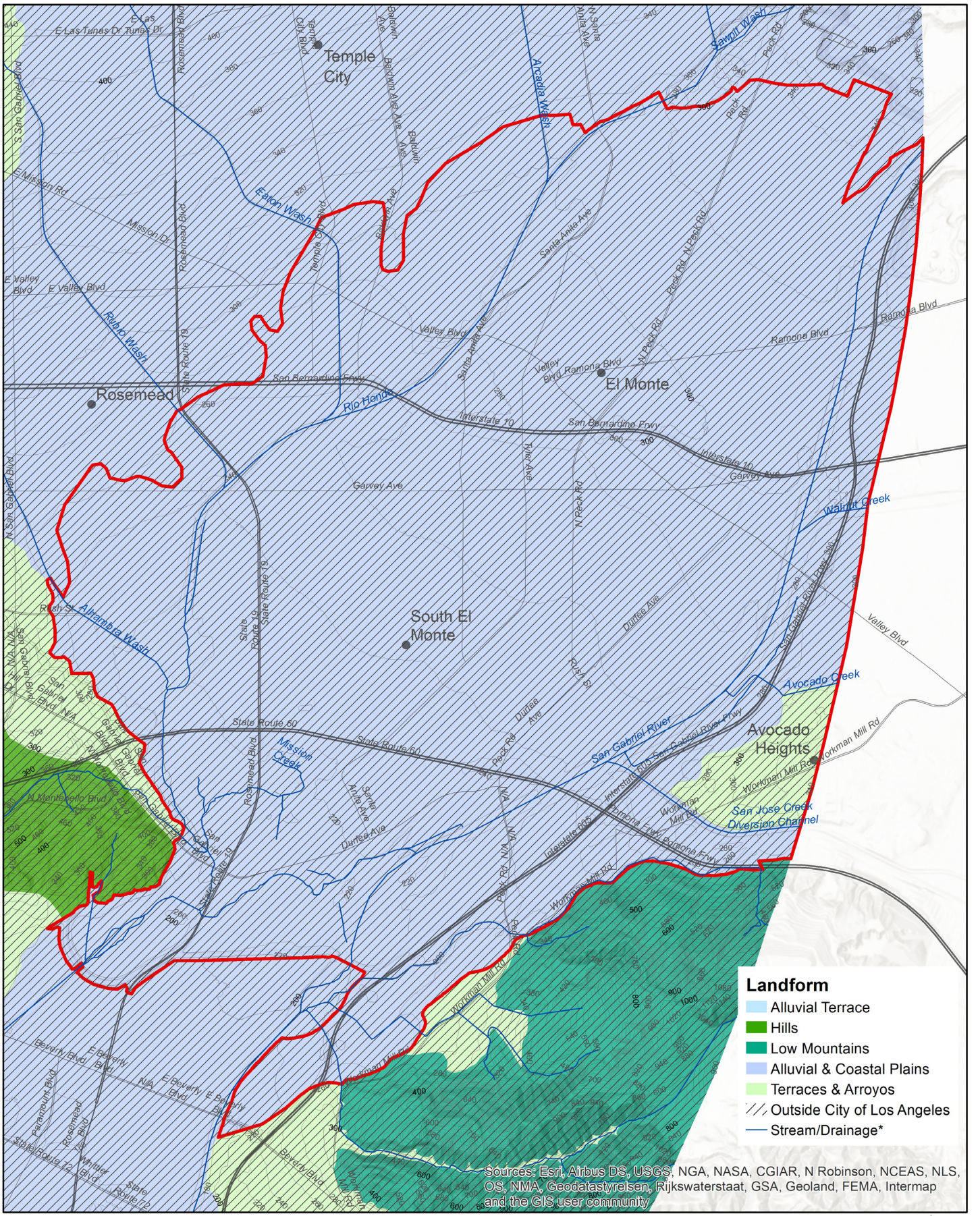
Ecotope 16 Context Map

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



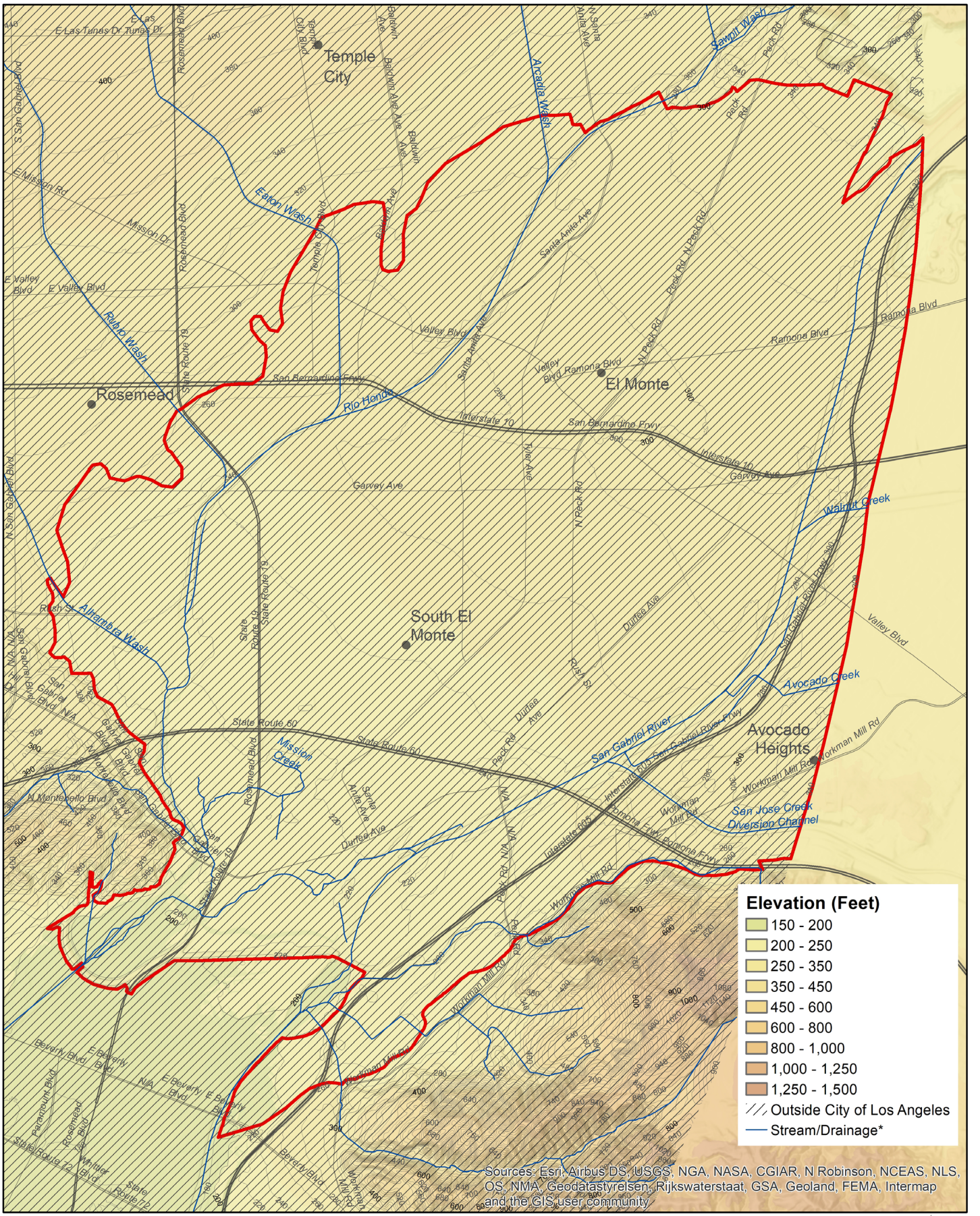
Microclimate

Data source: Sunset Magazine. http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map



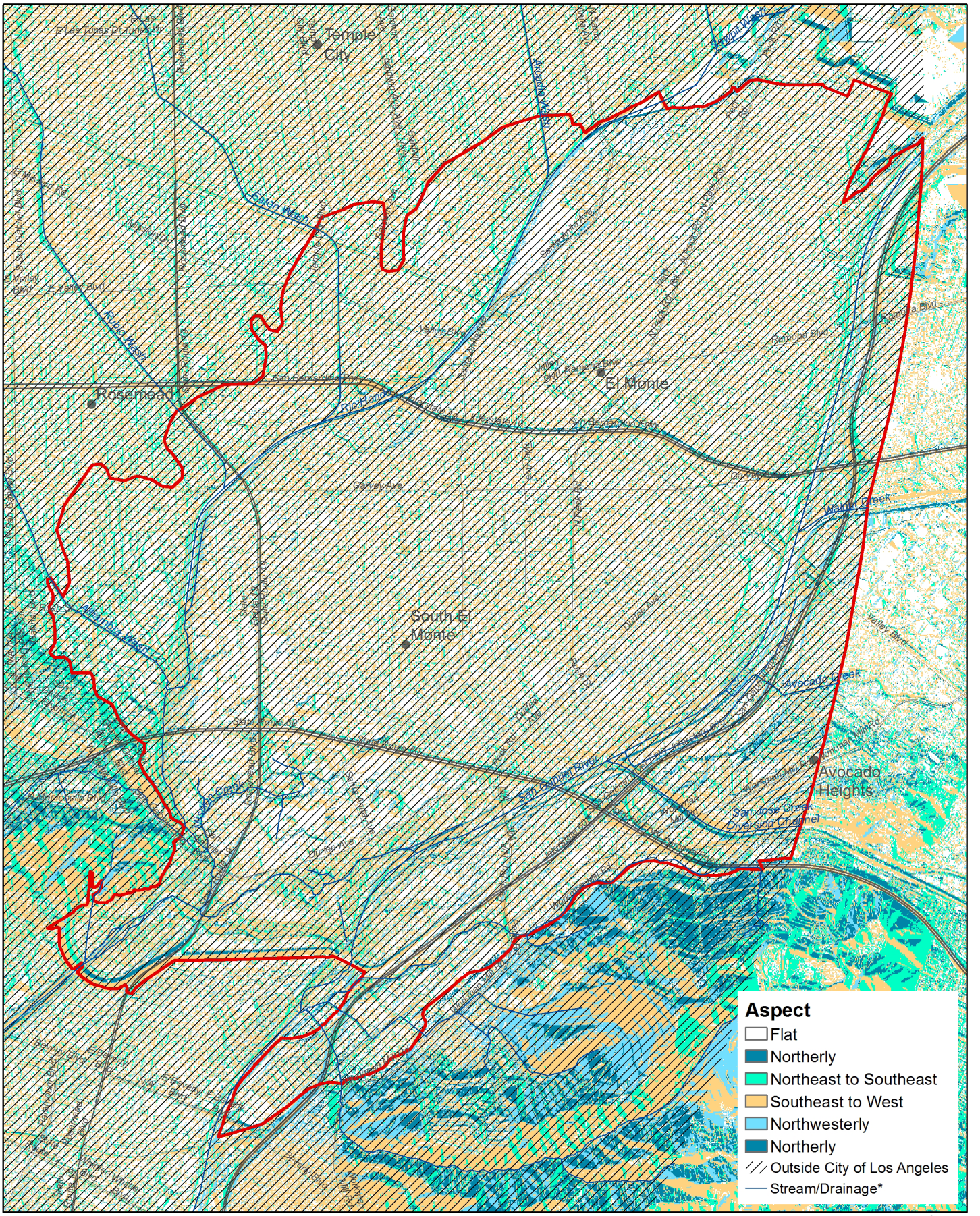
Landform

Data source: I. Brown (2019), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



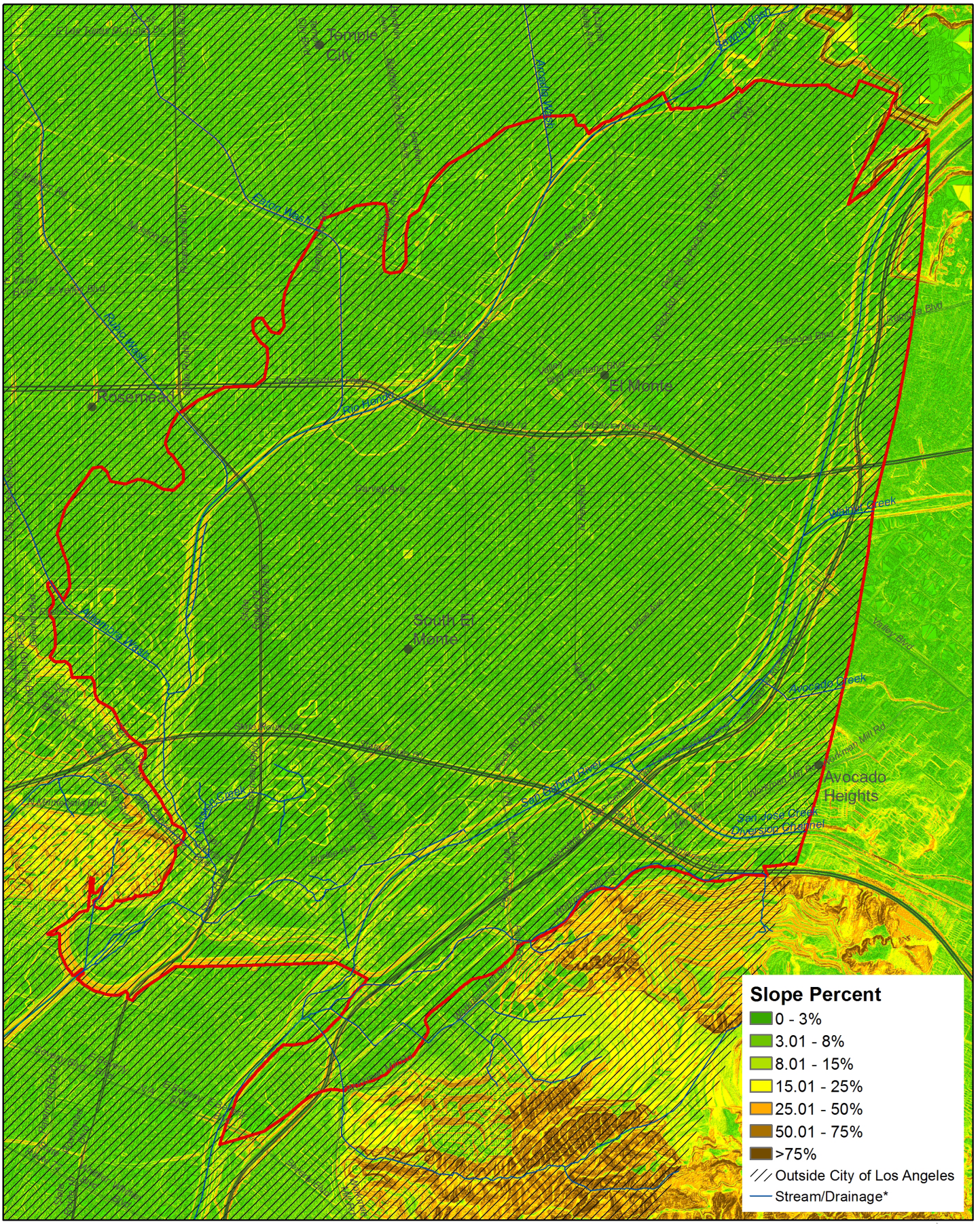
Elevation

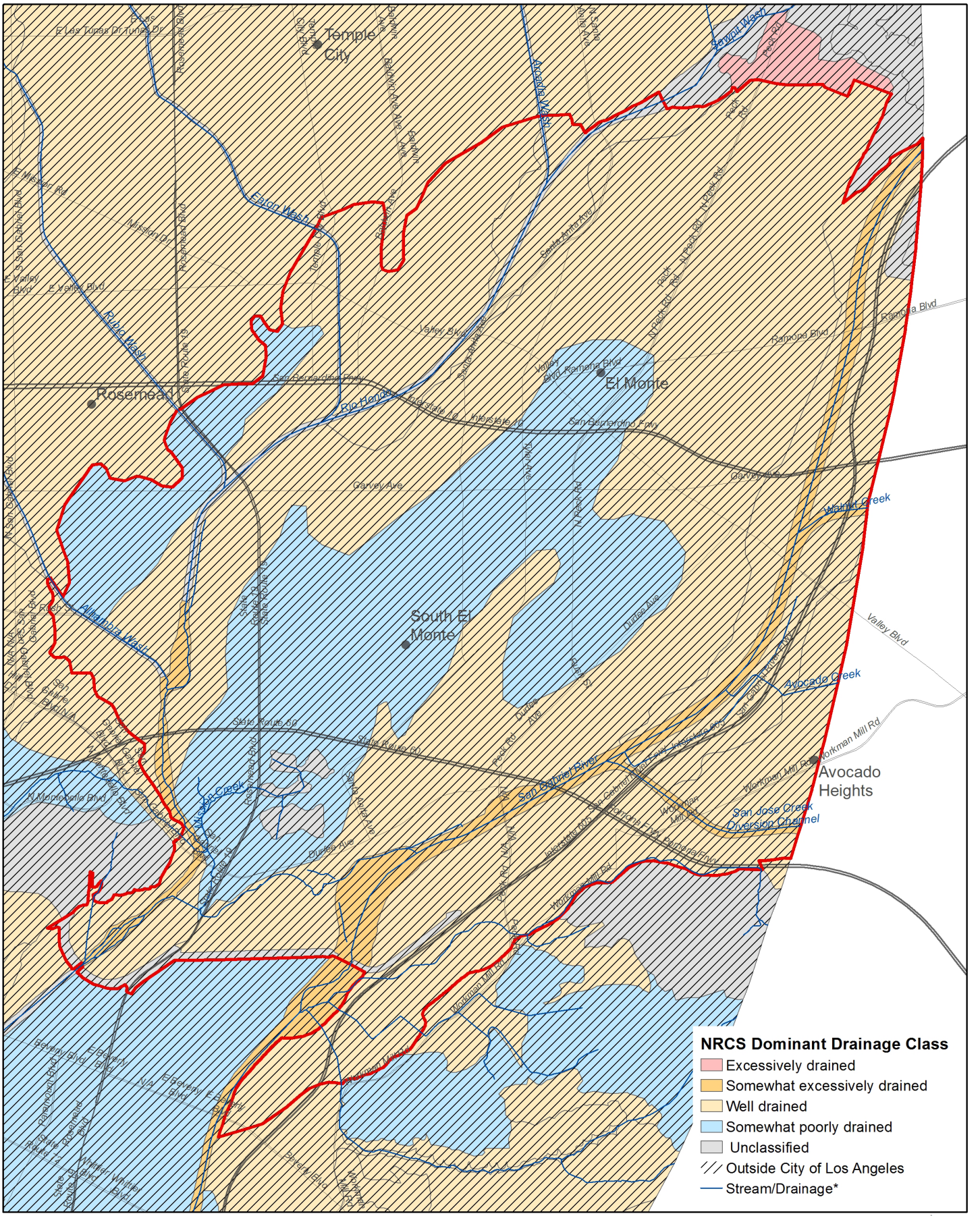
Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



Aspect

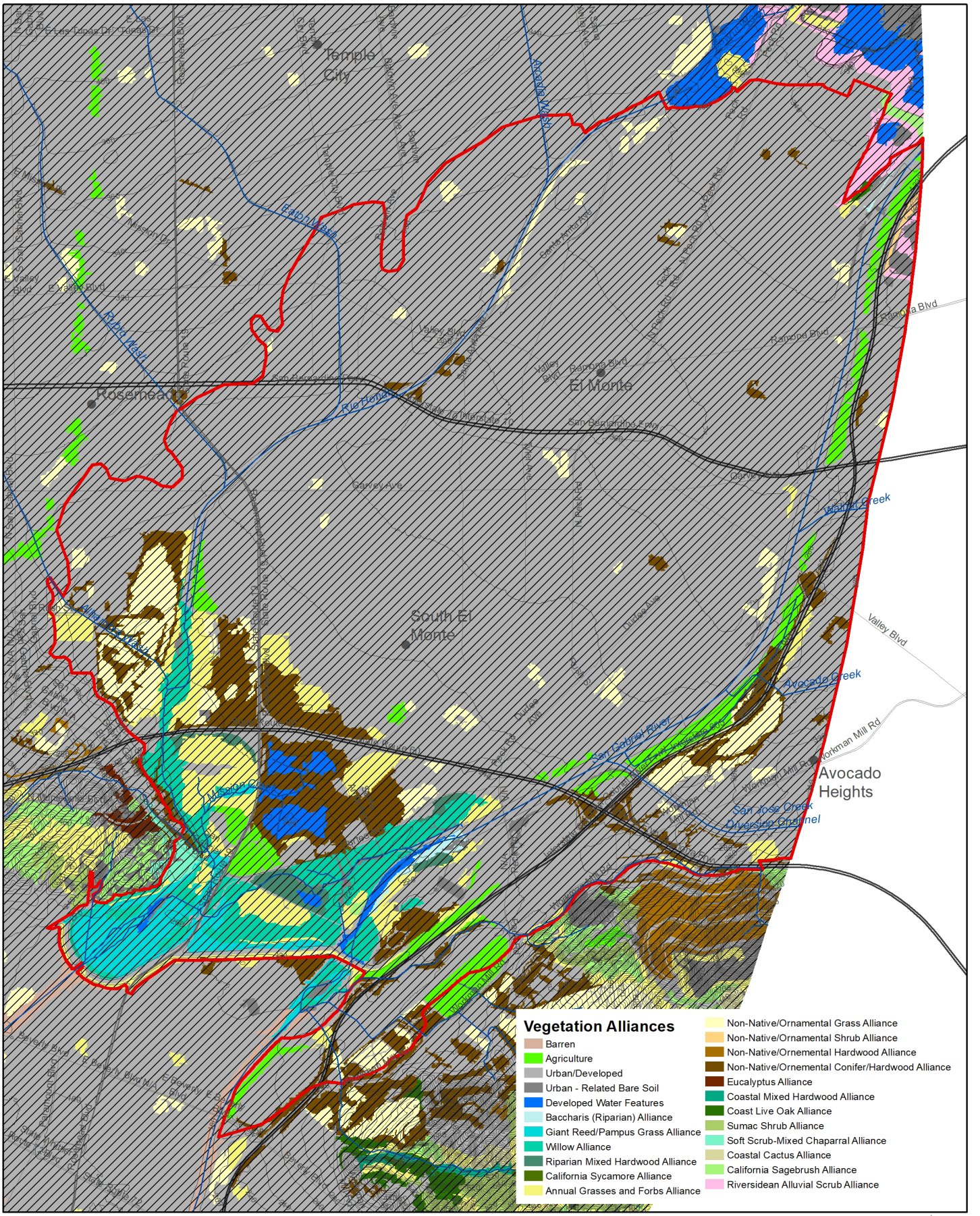
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El Monte
South El Monte
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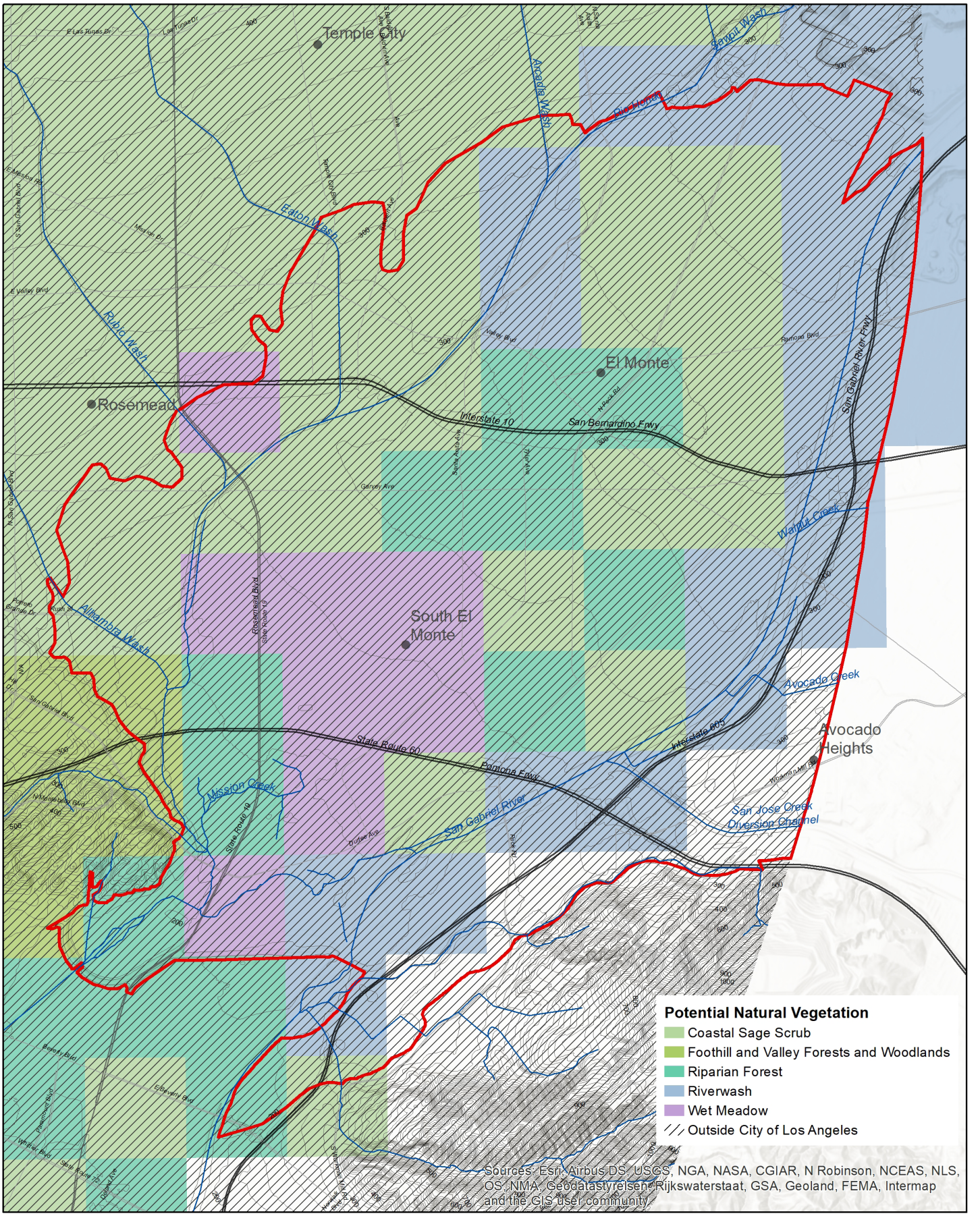
Drainage

Data source: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for Los Angeles County, Southeastern Part, CA; National Hydrography Dataset, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia. 2002-2016.



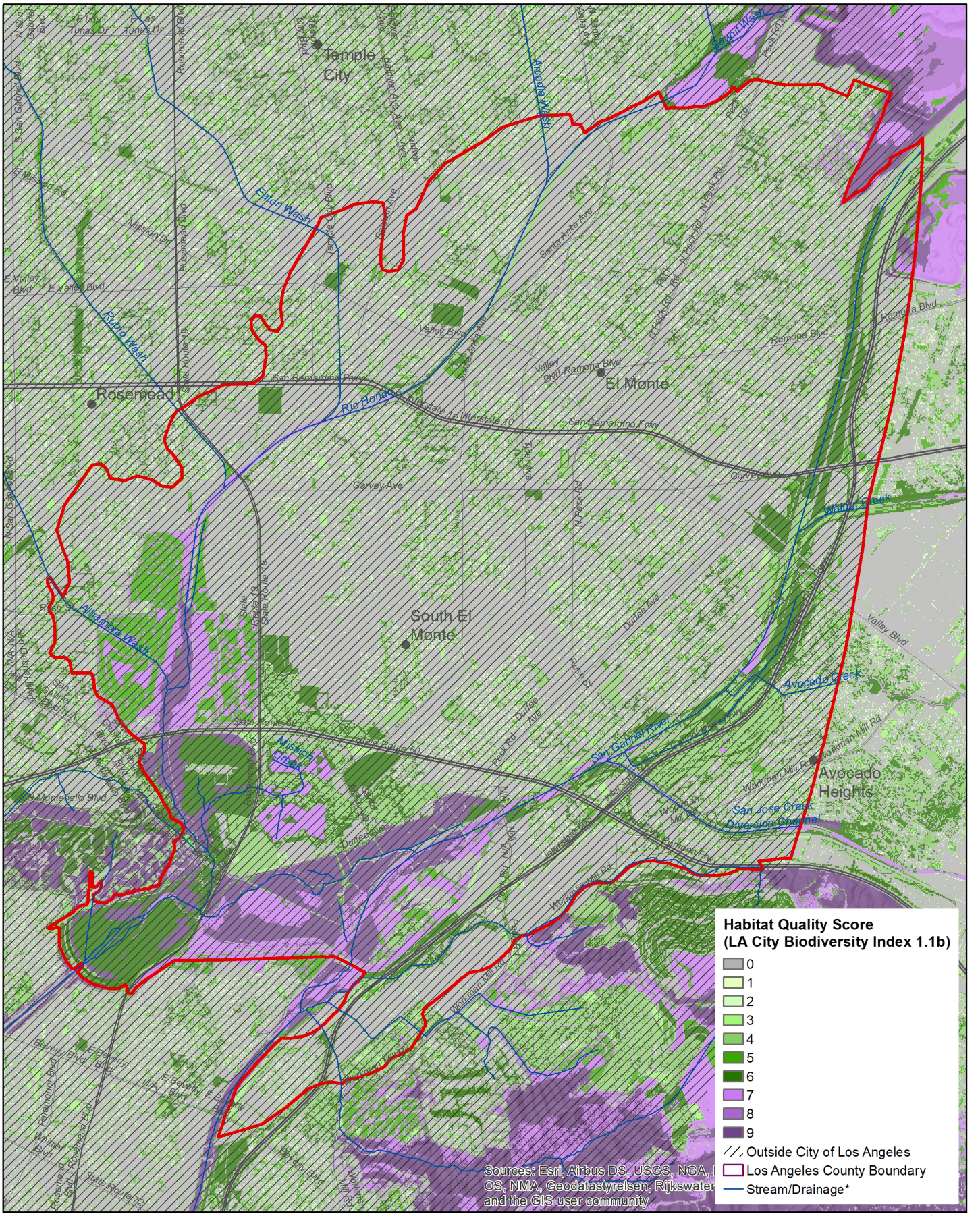
Vegetation Alliances

Data source: CALVEG. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5347192



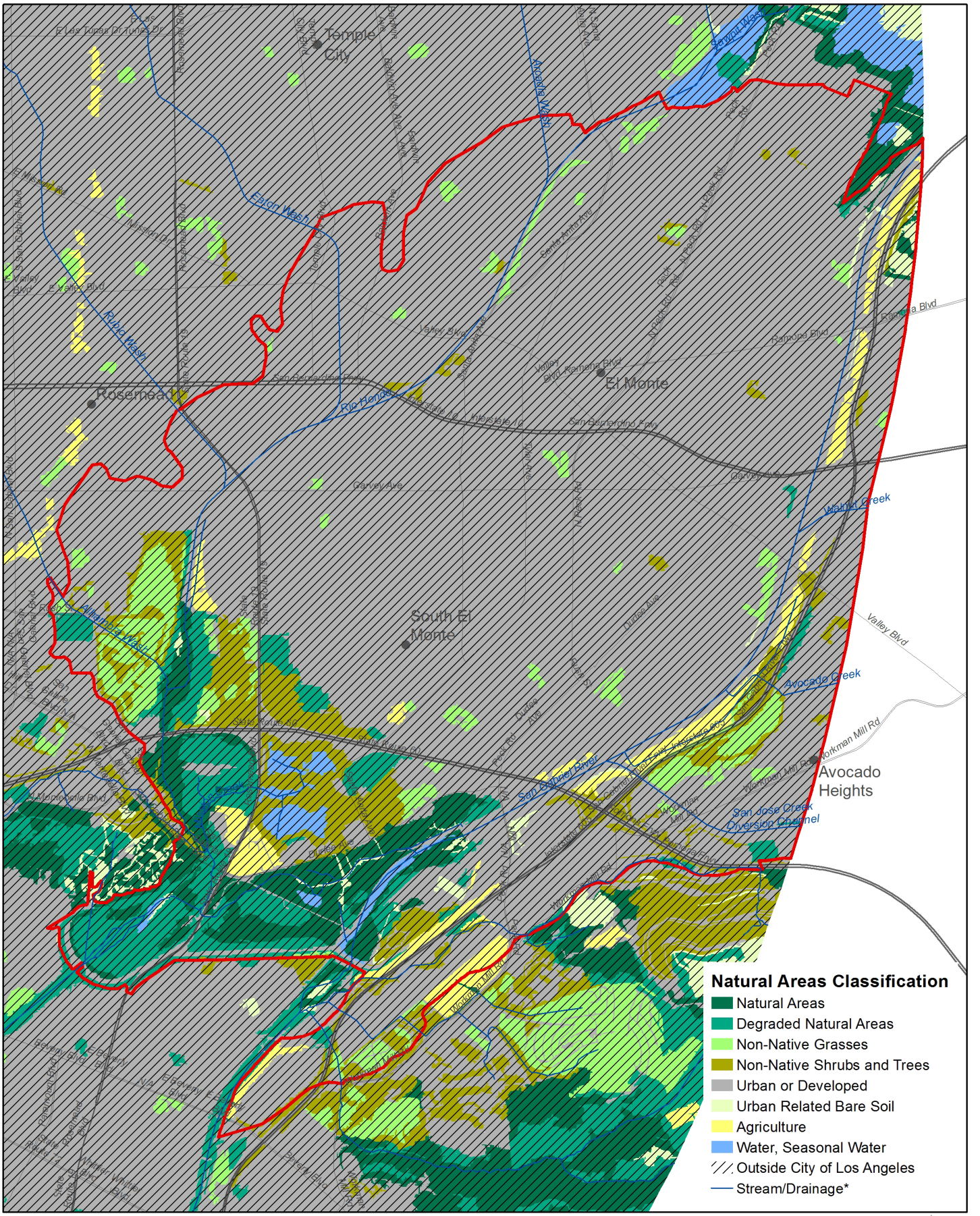
Hypothesized Potential Natural Vegetation

Data source: USC Spatial Sciences Institute/UCLA Institute of the Environment: Historical Ecology of the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.



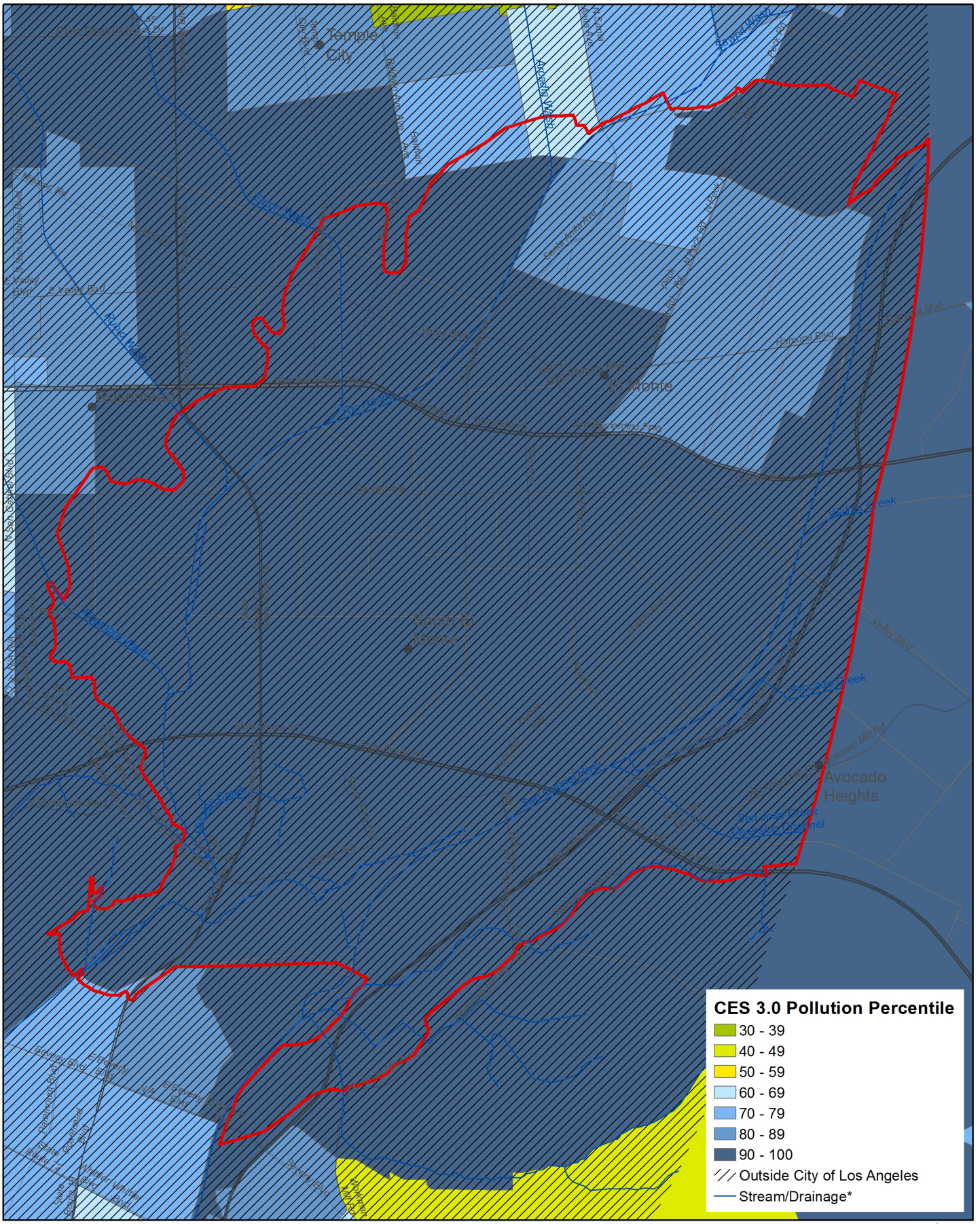
General Habitat Quality

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



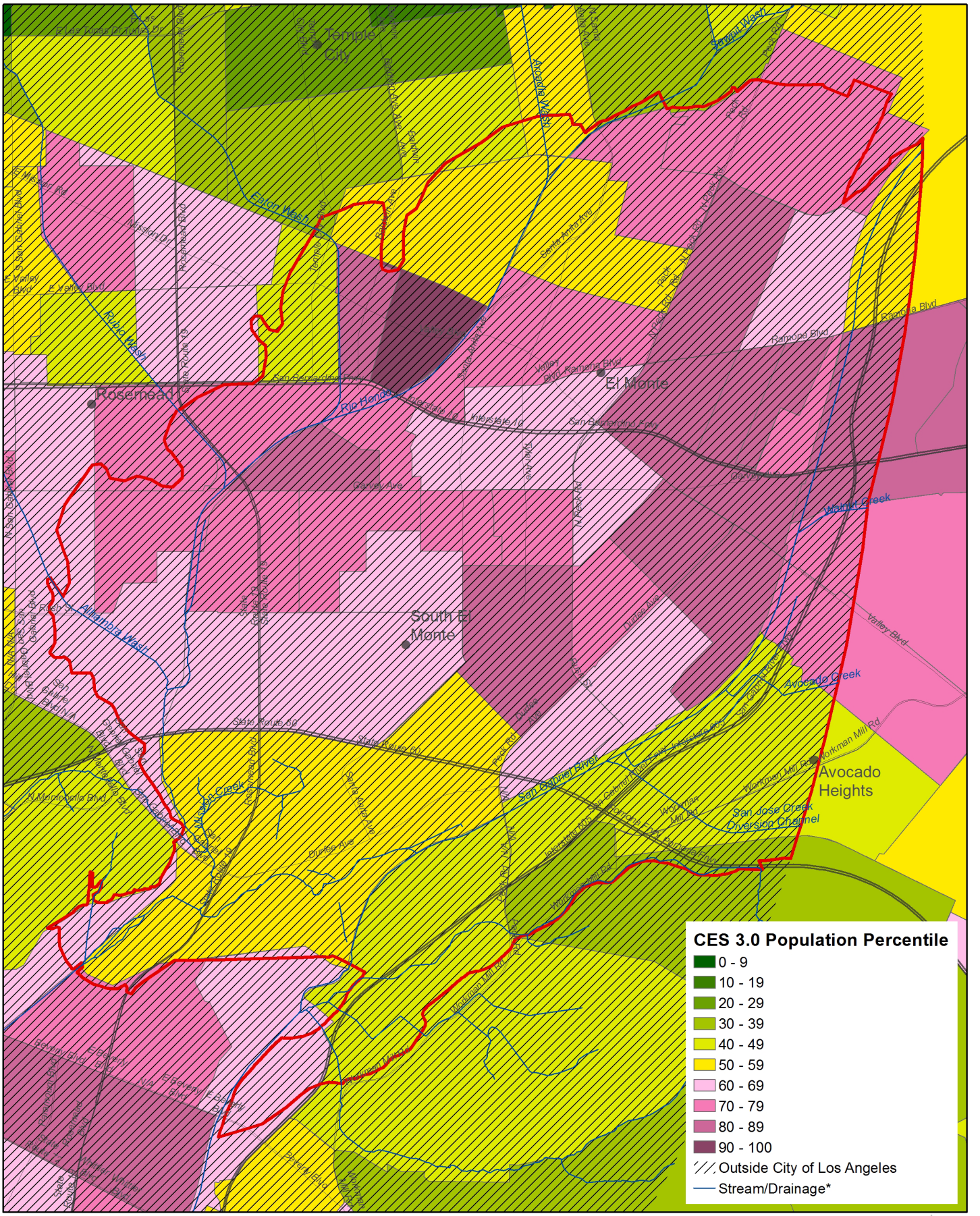
Natural Areas Classification

Data source: 2018 City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Report, Appendix B. https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdi0/~edisp/cnt024943.pdf



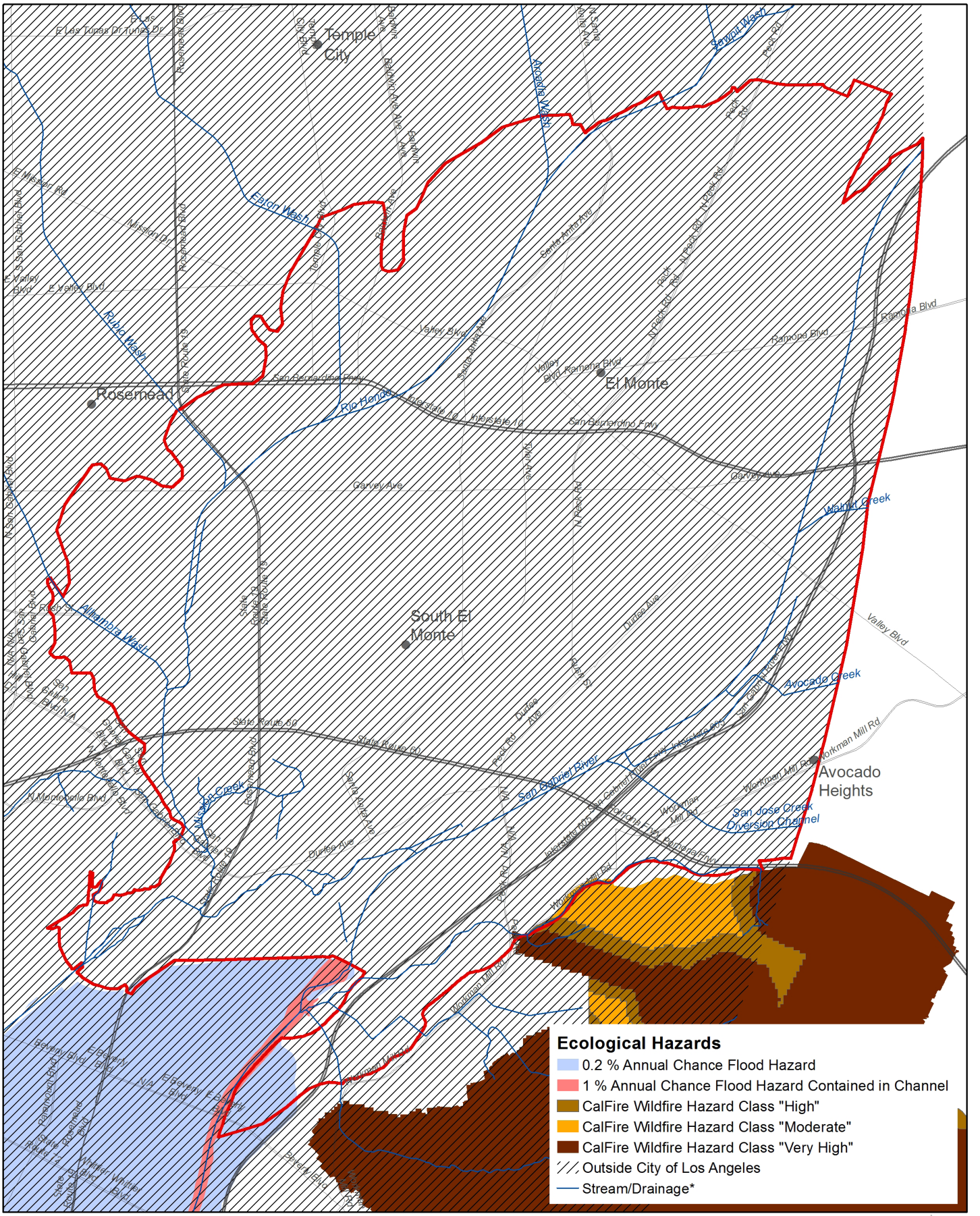
CalEnviroScreen Pollution Precentile (pollution exposure)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



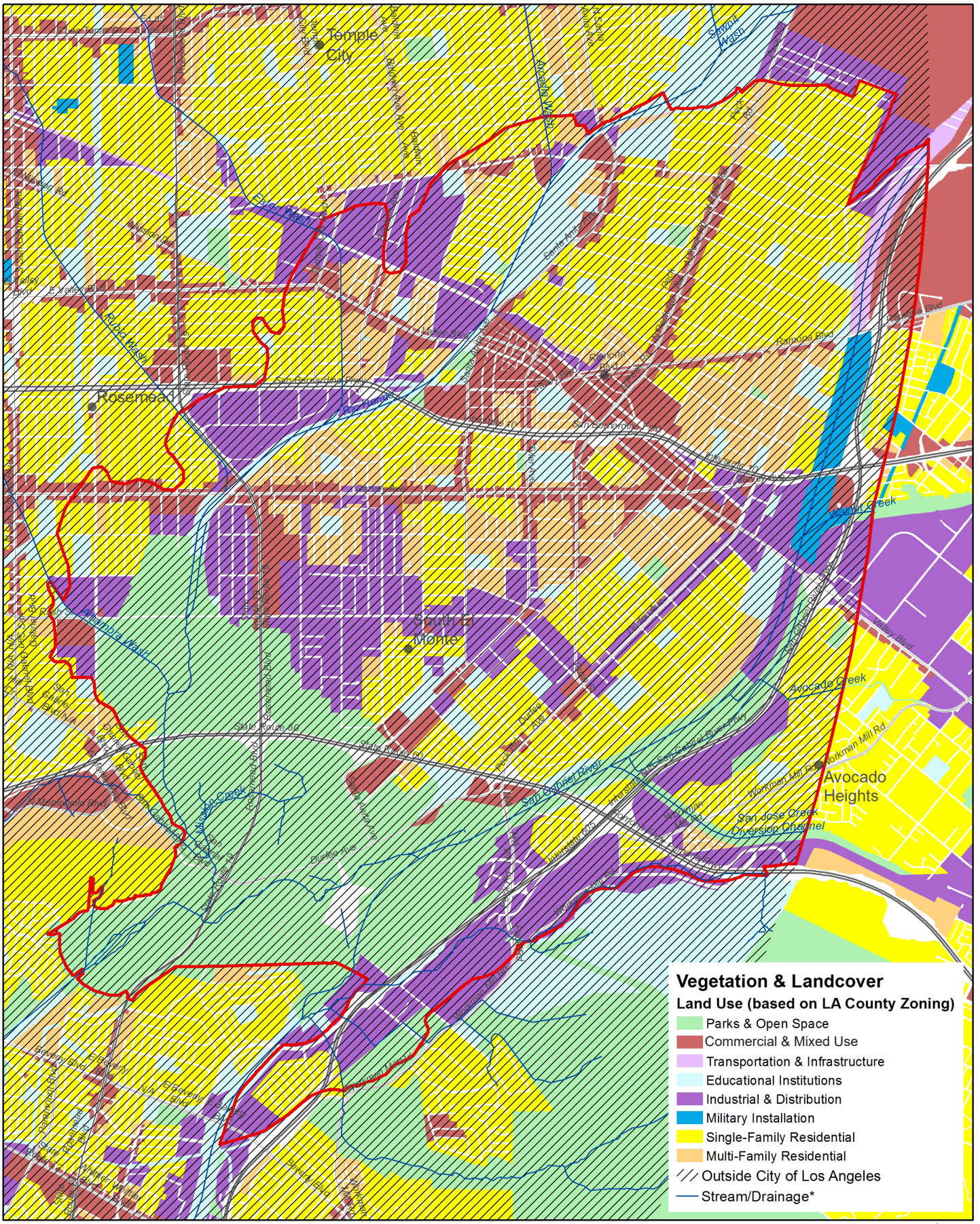
CalEnviroscreen Population Percentile (population vulnerability)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



Ecological Hazards

Data sources: Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2; Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps; Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Hazard Layer, Version 1.1.1.0, 11/01/2016.

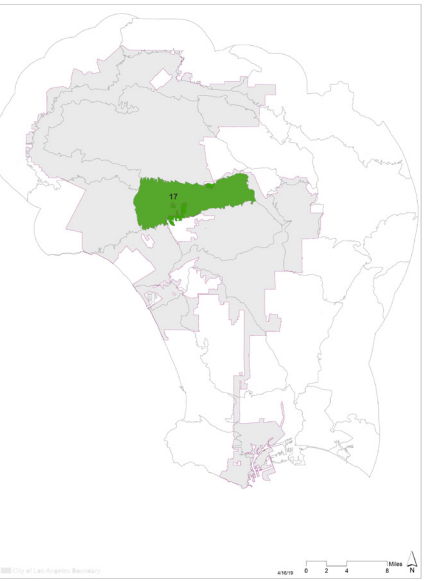


Land Use

Data source: 2008 Los Angeles County Countywide Zoning by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/04/10/county-wide-zoning/

ECOTOPE 17: EASTERN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

(Mostly within the City of Los Angeles)



LANDFORM

The Eastern Santa Monica Mountains ecotope extends from Griffith Park in the East to roughly the 405 freeway in the west where mountain elevations begin to rise and residential land use becomes less extensive. Terrain is relatively steep and rises to over 1,800 feet in Griffith Park. The mountain range runs east to west, with southerly and northerly dominant aspects. Extensive residential development has occurred, even on very steep slopes, due to the central location in the City and favorable natural environment. Fragmented patches of intact hills occur across the ecotope. Streams are not well mapped within this ecotope due to the extensive and long-term residential land use. However, several perennial streams exist within larger canyons.

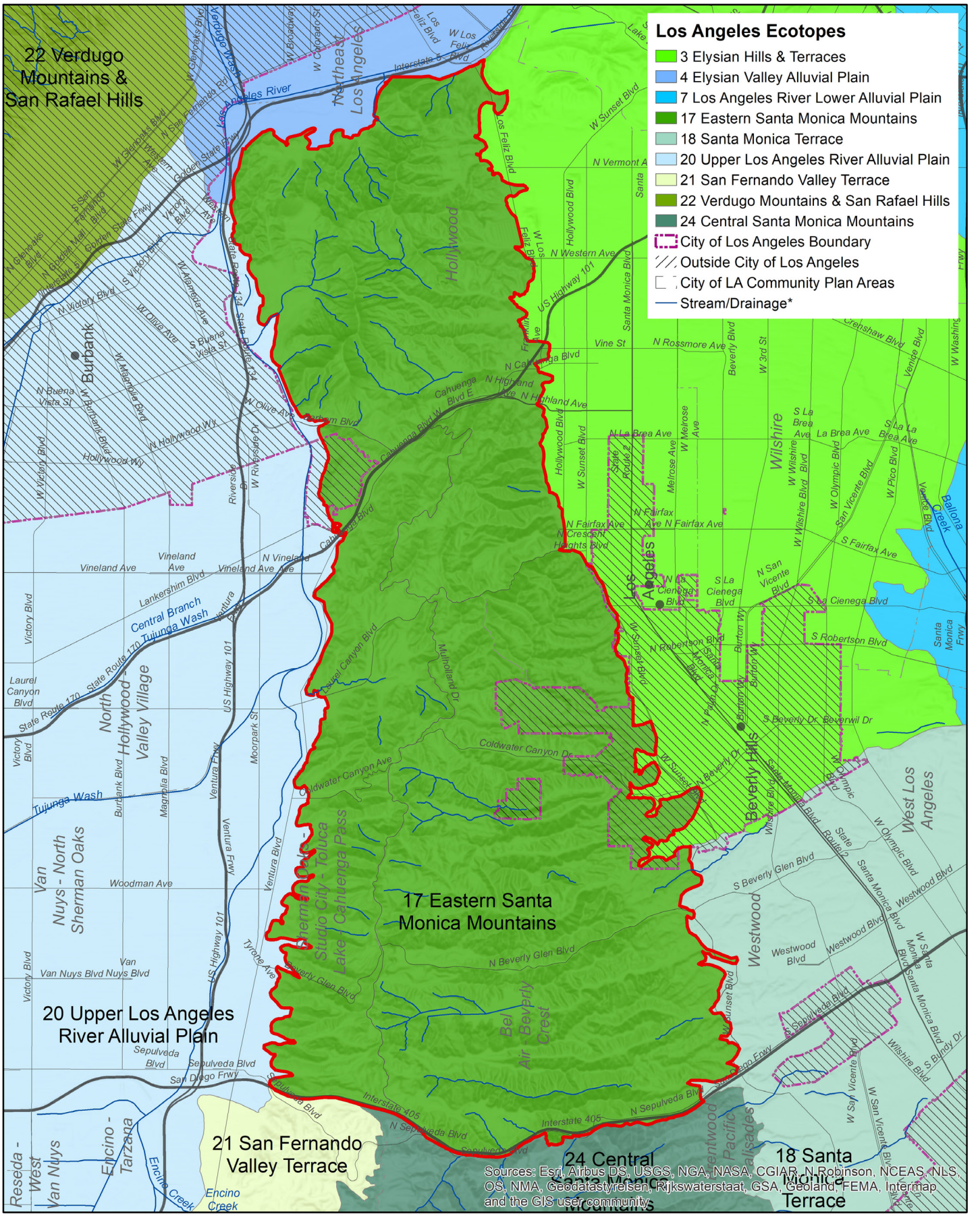
MICROCLIMATE

Most areas of the ecotope fall within thermal belts with varying amounts of marine influence. Areas to the east and north exhibit more continental influence and west and south more maritime. This higher terrain also experiences somewhat hotter summer heat due to position often above the summer marine inversion. Aspects are generally south and north, with northern slopes and canyons relatively cooler; however, fog is more prevalent on south slopes due to more direct maritime influence adjacent to the LA basin. The southerly aspect also favors orographic enhancement of precipitation. Combined with its proximity to the coast, the Santa Monica Mountains are subject to some of the highest potential precipitation rates in the region. While much of the region can be subject to Santa Ana wind events, typically in fall, some of the strongest occur within the Santa Monica Mountains, especially toward the west. Almost no urban heat island effect was modeled for this area by Taha (2017).

VEGETATION & LANDCOVER

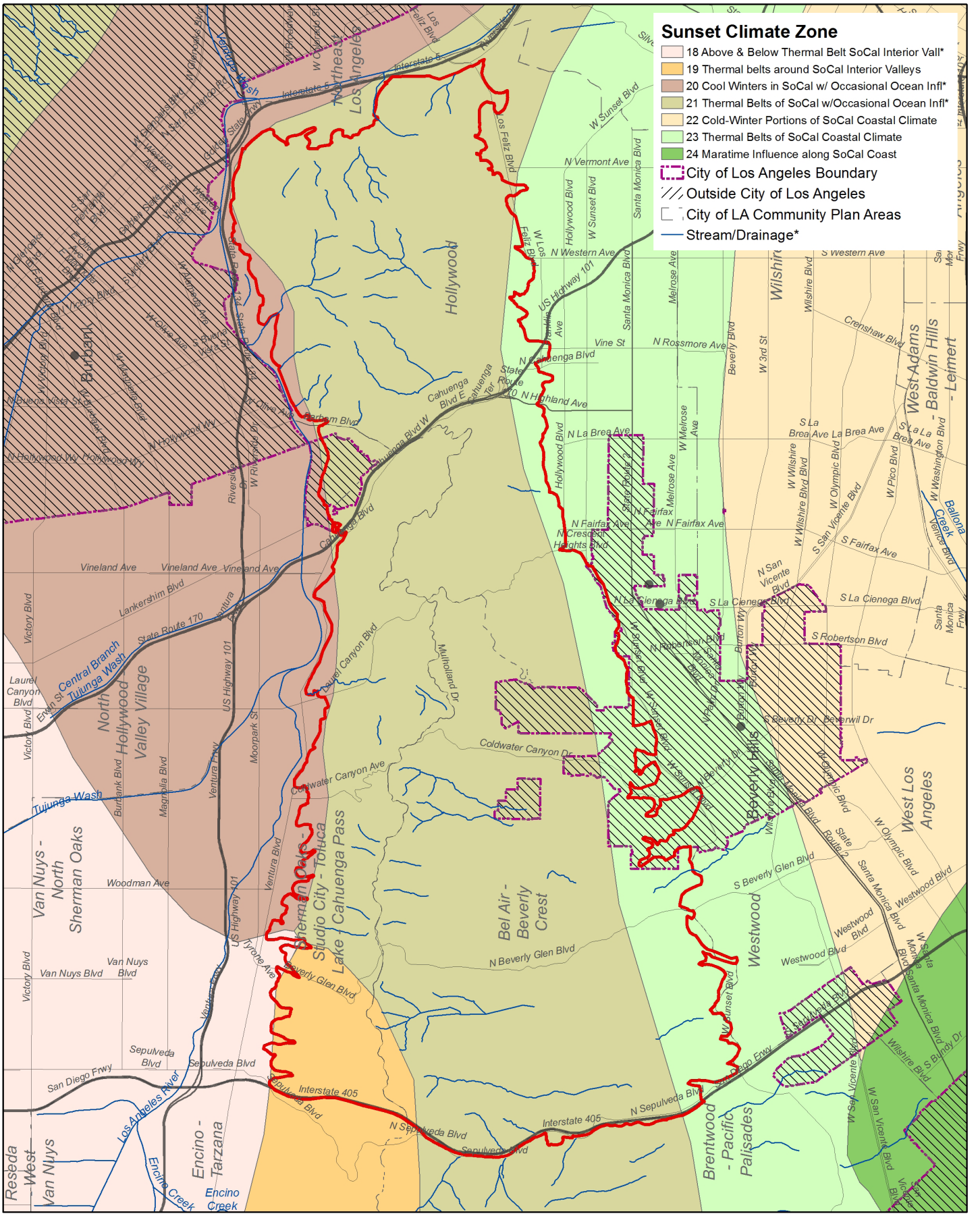
At more than 42%, the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains maintain significant natural areas of relatively high conservation value; however, these areas are increasingly fragmented by intensive urban development. Natural areas include a diverse mix of chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and woodland vegetation types, with oak woodlands most frequent on north- and east-facing slopes. Chaparral alliances are the most common and a notable species, the toyon, or Christmas berry, (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) is common and the namesake for the Hollywood neighborhood.

The presence of the mountain lion, P-22, in Griffith Park is evidence of the high quality and remaining connectivity of natural areas; yet, further fragmentation places this species, and others, at high risk of extirpation. Numerous additional species of conservation concern within Griffith Park are listed within the LA County Draft General Plan 2035 Technical Appendix E (Los Angeles County, 2012). Many of these species may also be present within the broader ecotope, but have not been formally documented or mapped. Efforts such as the National Parks Service's Rim of the Valley Corridor and the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning's Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Connectivity Pilot Study aim to maintain and enhance connectivity within the ecotope and between adjacent natural areas to ensure the long-term resilience of these species and biodiversity in general.



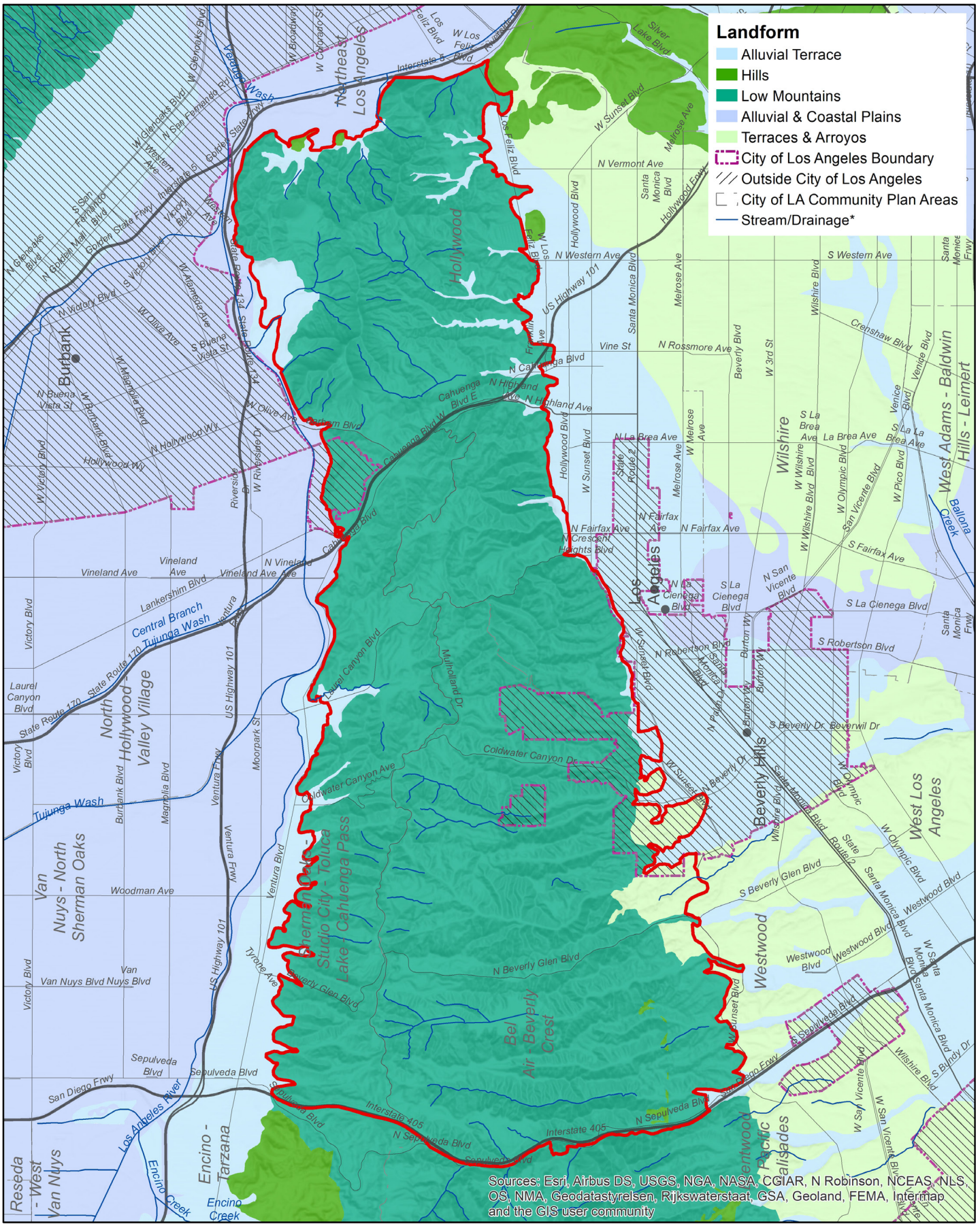
Ecotope 17 Context Map

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr



Microclimate

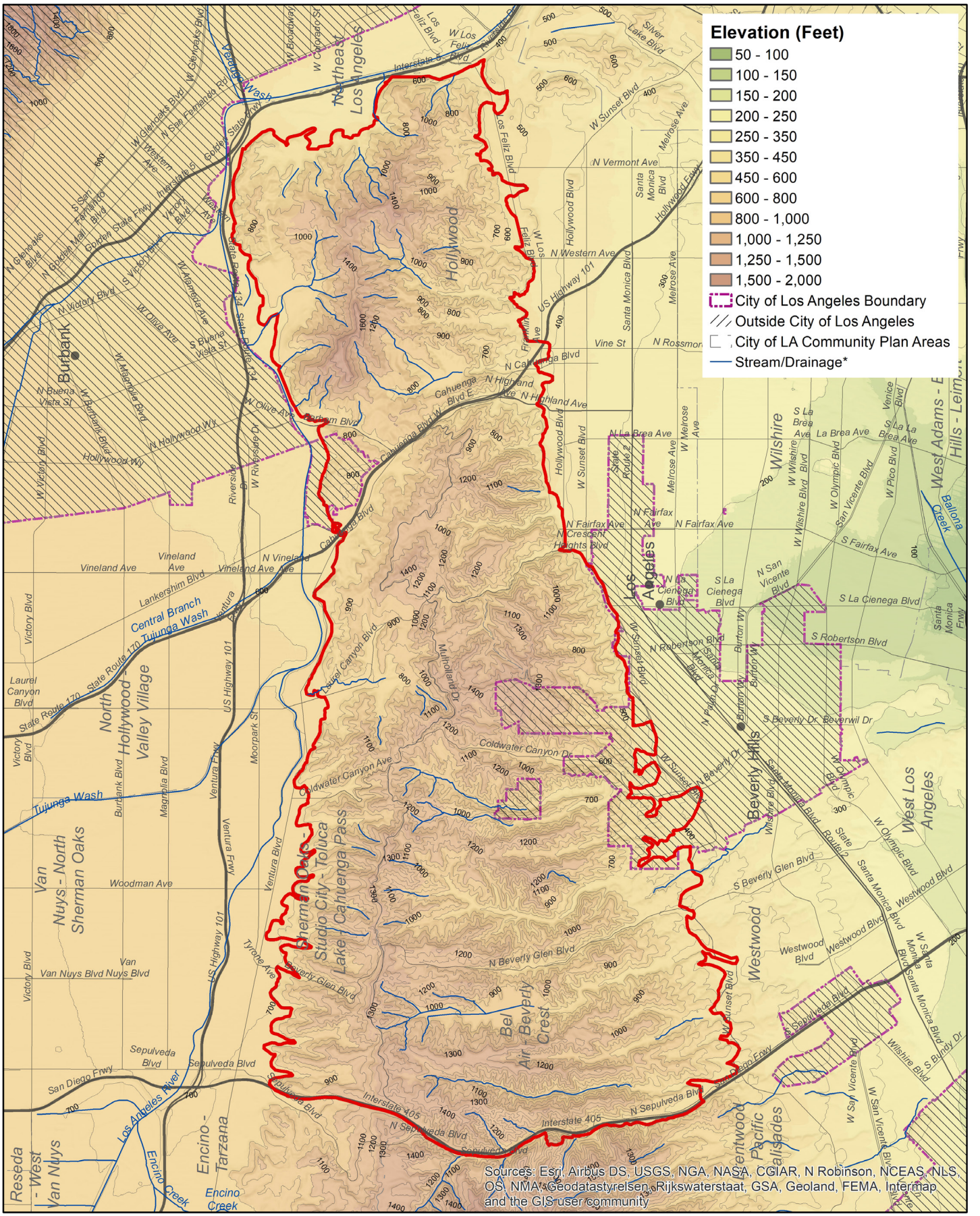
Data source: Sunset Magazine. http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map



Landform

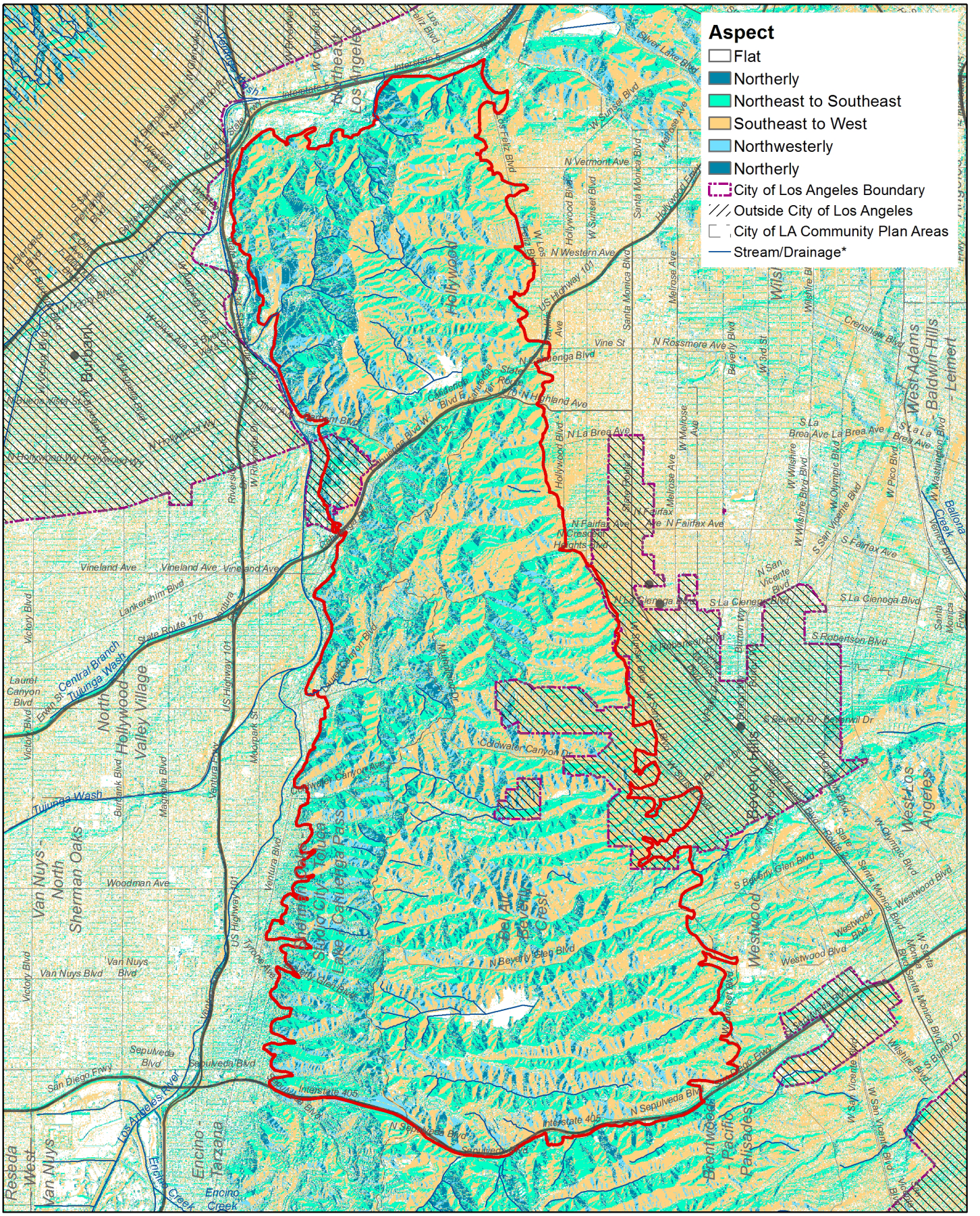
Data source: I. Brown (2019), https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr

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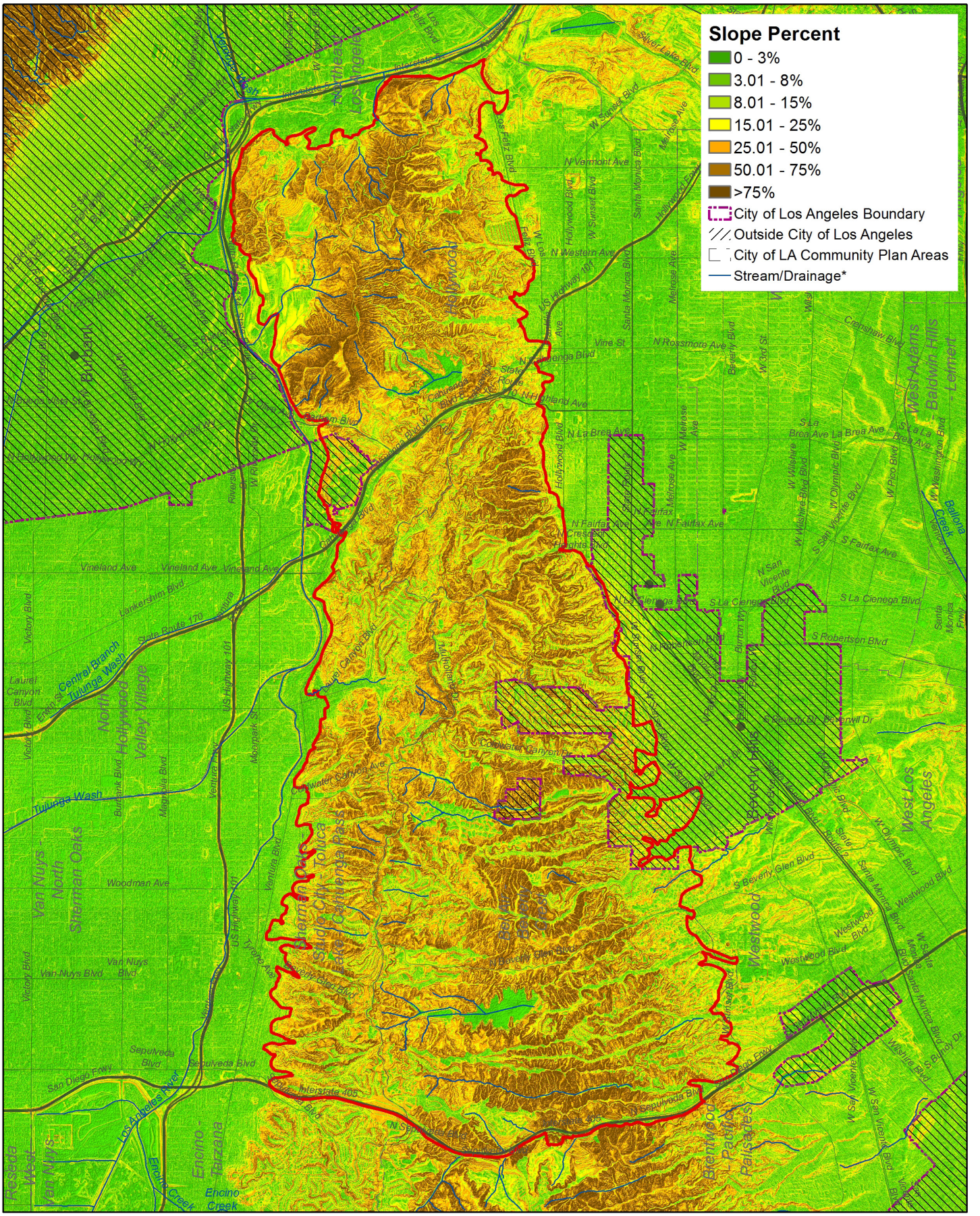
Elevation

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



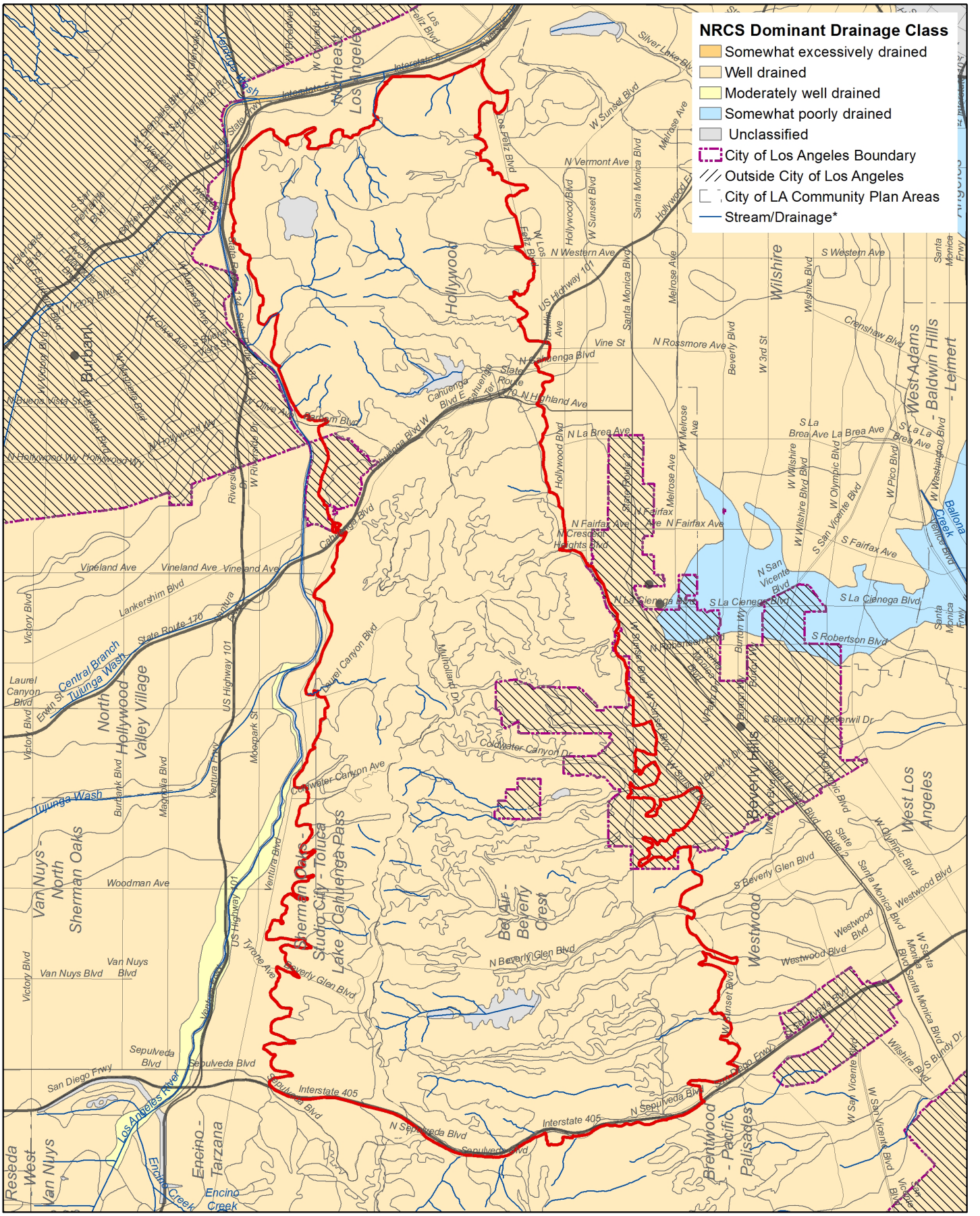
Aspect

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



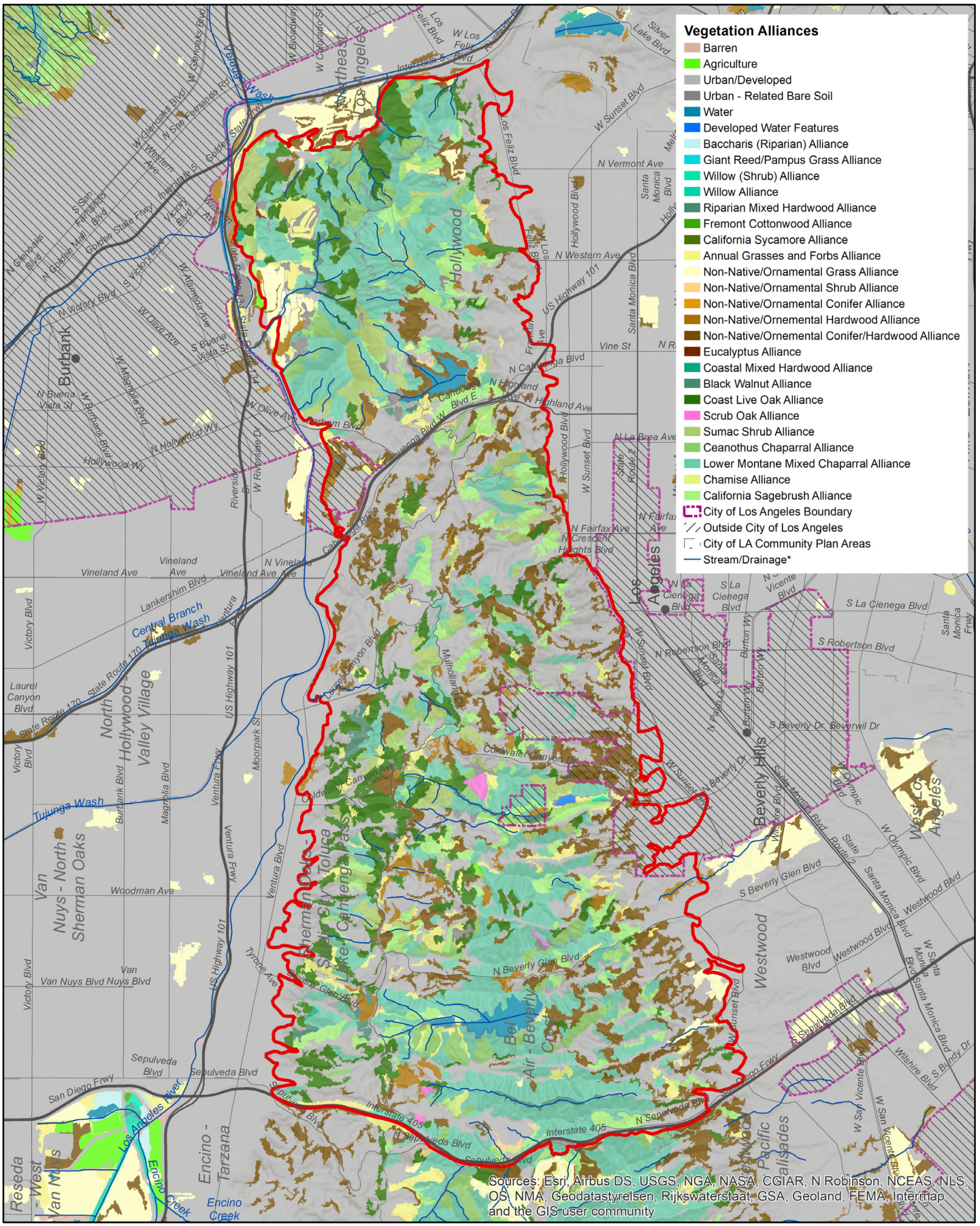
Slope Percent

Data source: 2006 10-foot Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – LARIAC – Public Domain. https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/01/26/2006-10-foot-digital-elevation-model-dem-public-domain/



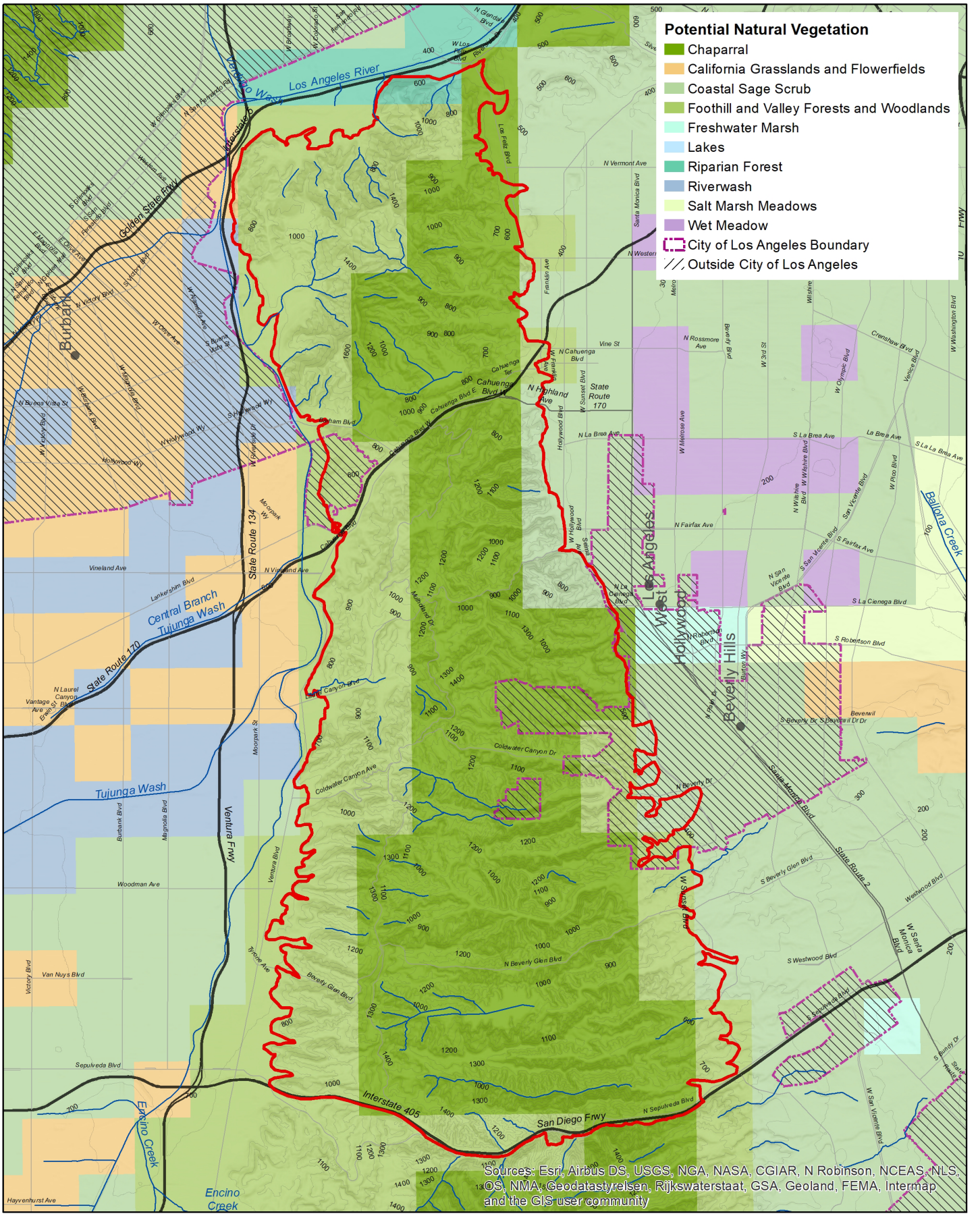
Drainage

Data source: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for Los Angeles County, Southeastern Part, CA; National Hydrography Dataset, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia. 2002-2016.



Vegetation Alliances

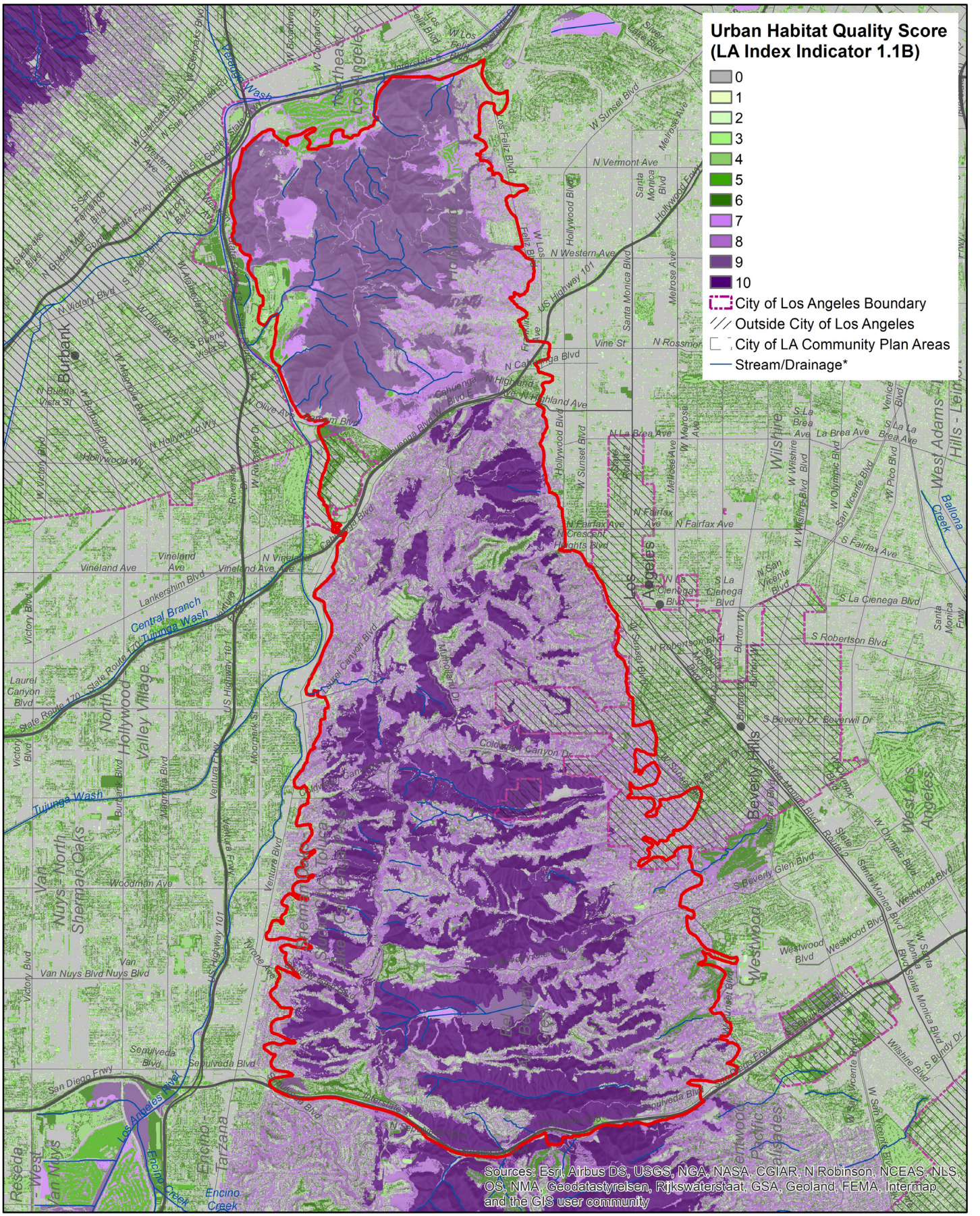
Data source: CALVEG. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5347192



Hypothesized Potential Natural Vegetation

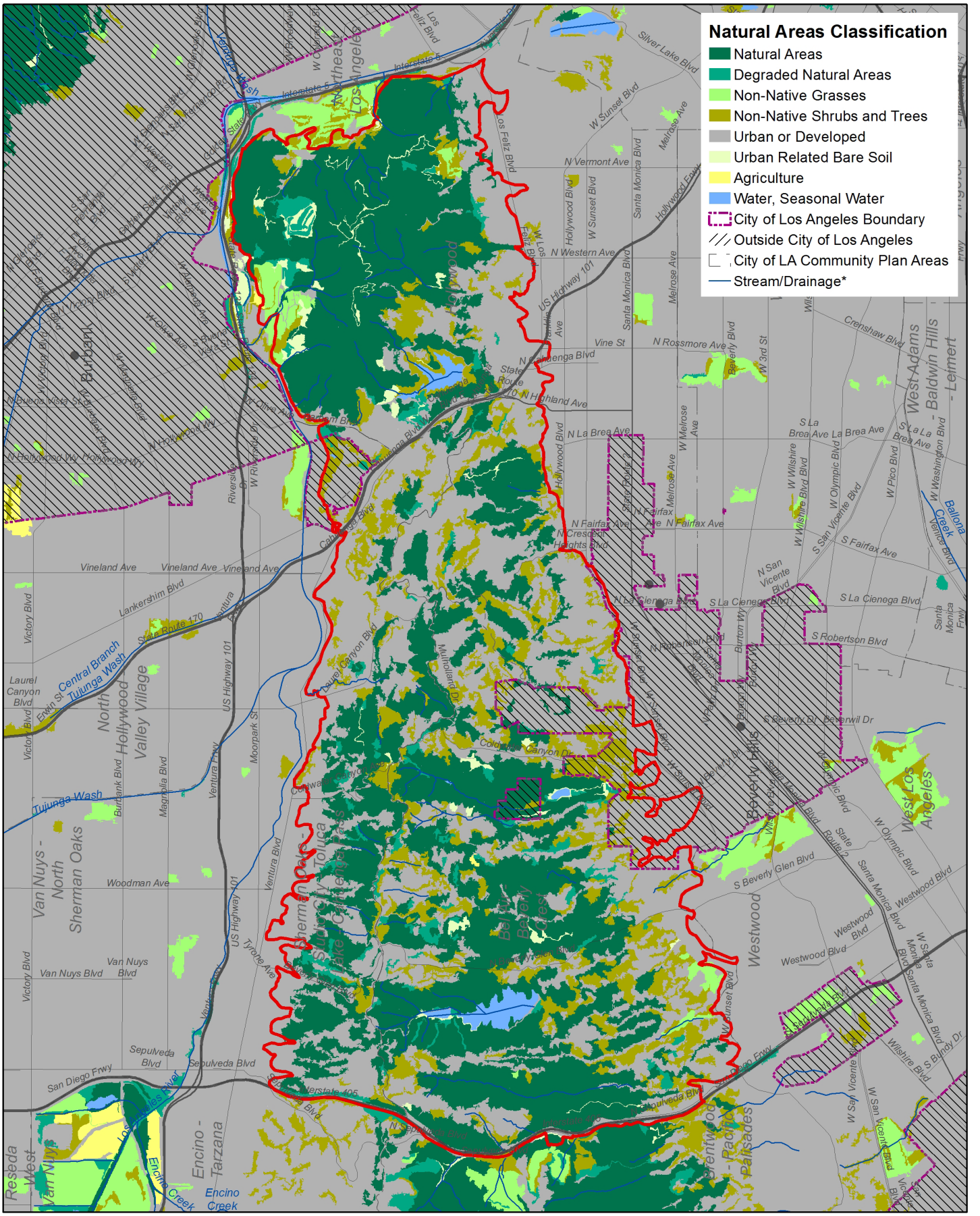
Data source: USC Spatial Sciences Institute/UCLA Institute of the Environment: Historical Ecology of the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.

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General Habitat Quality

Data source: I. Brown (2019). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c81w4nr

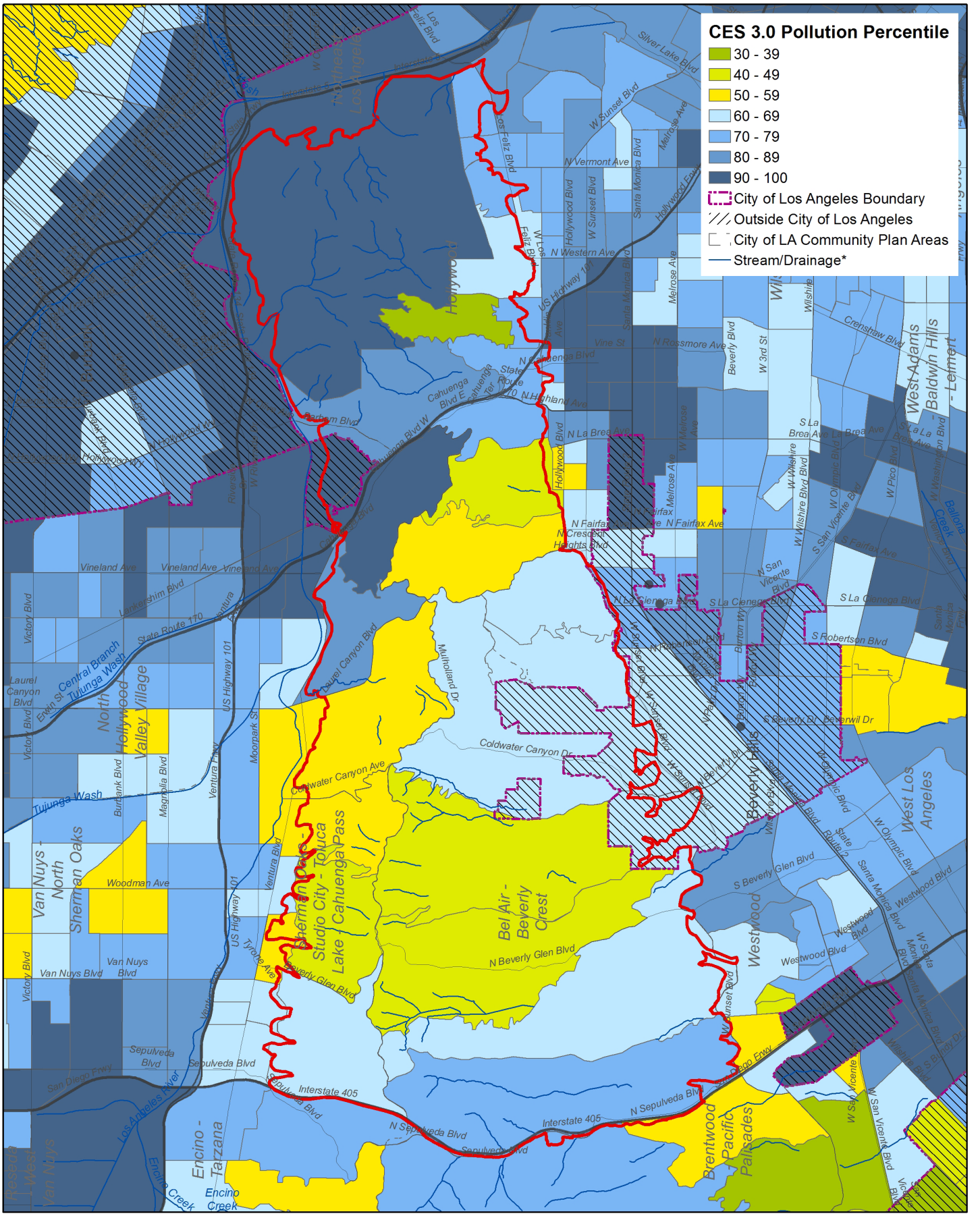


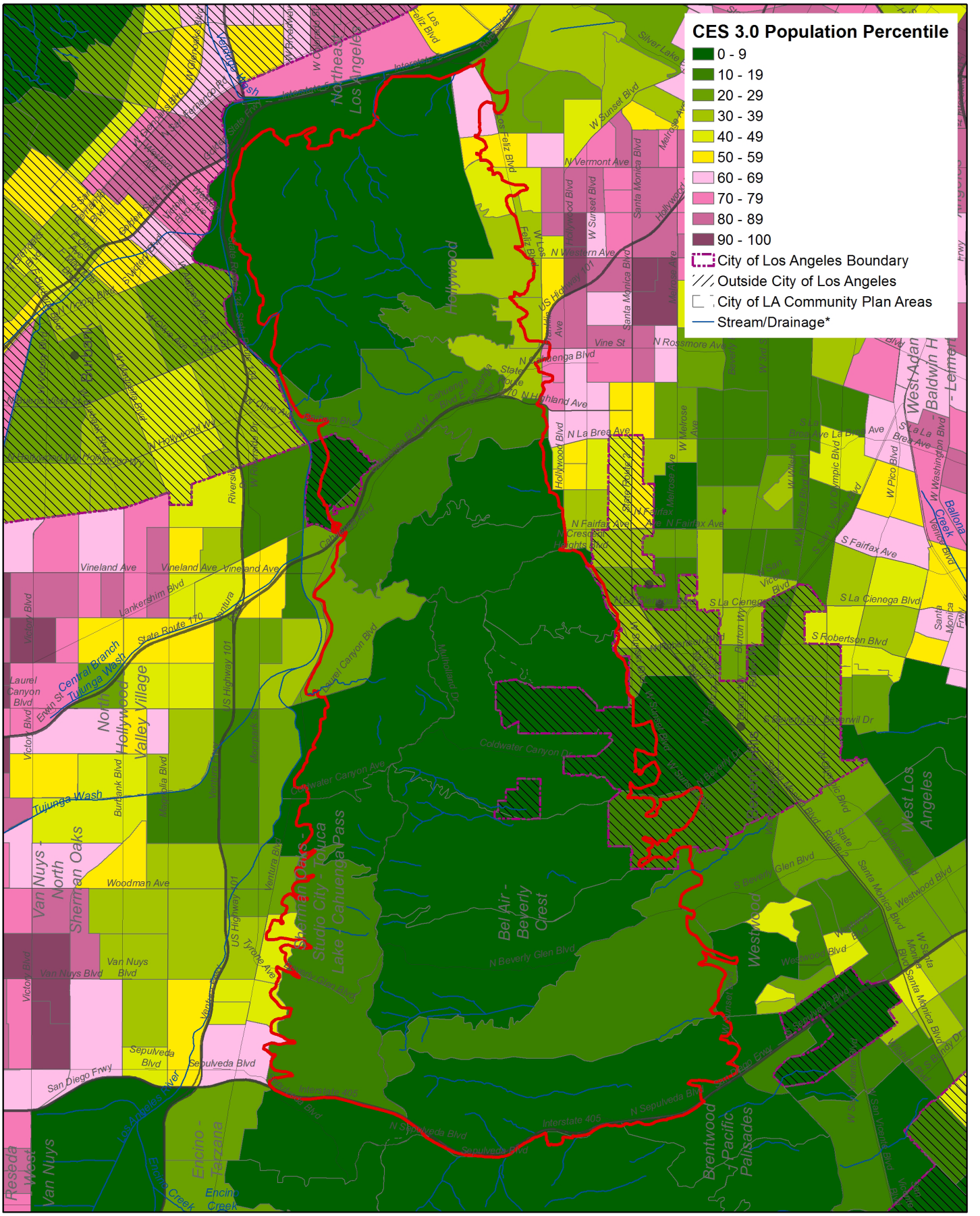
Natural Areas Classification

Data source: 2018 City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Report, Appendix B. https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdi0/~edisp/cnt024943.pdf

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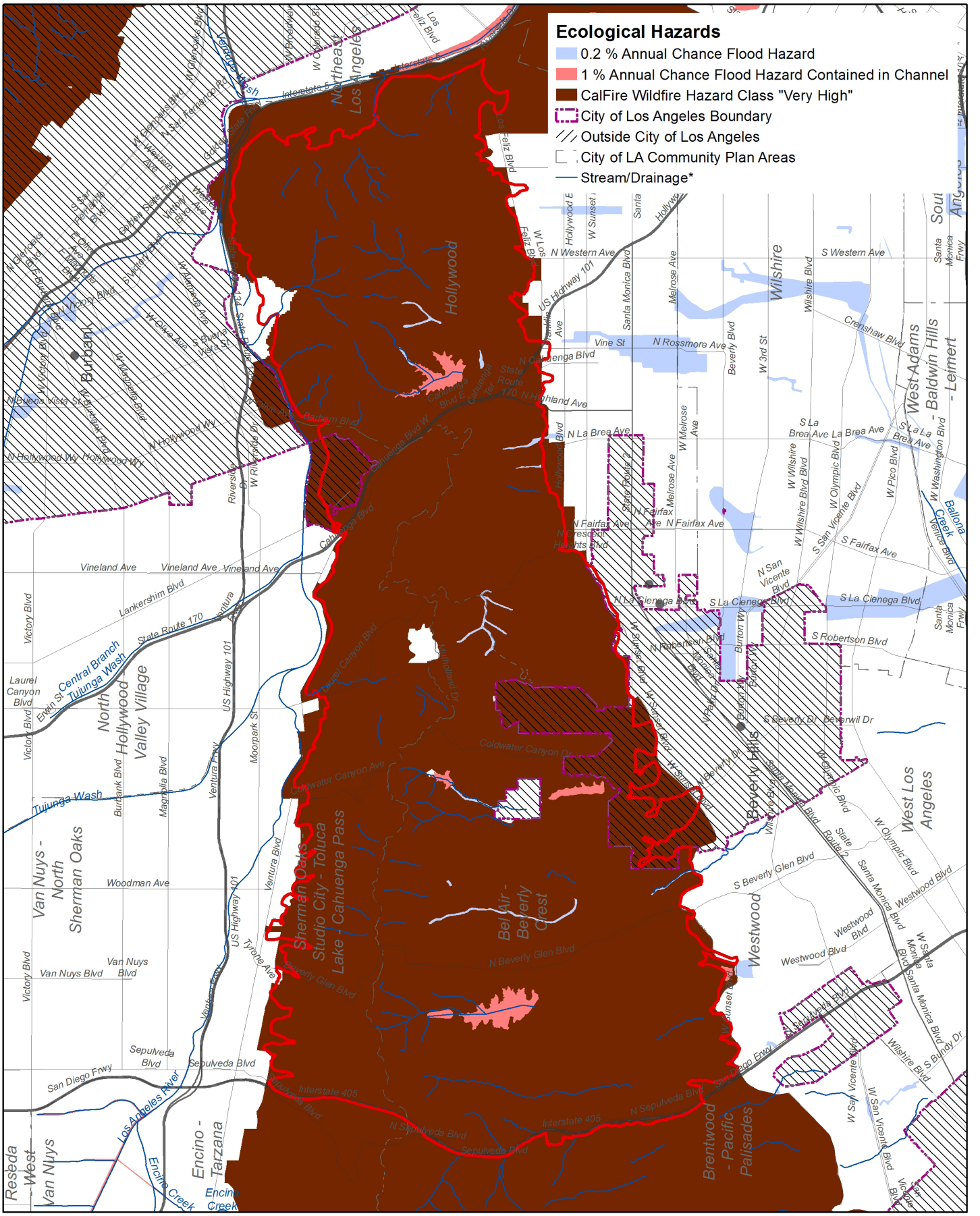
N


CES 3.0 Pollution Percentile
30 - 39
40 - 49
50 - 59
60 - 69
70 - 79
80 - 89
90 - 100
City of Los Angeles Boundary
Outside City of Los Angeles
City of LA Community Plan Areas
Stream/Drainage*
Hollywood
Los Angeles
North Hollywood - Valley Village
Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake / Cahuenga Pass
Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks
Encino - Tarzana
Bel Air - Beverly Crest
Beverly Hills
Westwood
West Los Angeles
Brentwood - Pacific Palisades
West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert
Tujunga Wash
Central Branch
Encino Creek
Ballona Creek
Interstate 405
US Highway 101
State Route 170
State Route 2
Ventura Fwy
San Diego Fwy
Los Angeles River
Hollywood Fwy
Santa Monica Fwy
Coldwater Canyon Ave
Coldwater Canyon Dr
Mulholland Dr
Laurel Canyon Blvd
Lankershim Blvd
Vineland Ave
Victory Blvd
Burbank Blvd
Magnolia Blvd
Moorpark St
Woodman Ave
Van Nuys Blvd
Tyrone Ave
Sepulveda Blvd
N Sepulveda Blvd
Cahuenga Blvd W
Cahuenga Blvd E
N Highland Ave
Barham Blvd
Hollywood Blvd
W Sunset Blvd
N Vermont Ave
N Western Ave
N La Brea Ave
S La Brea Ave
N Fairfax Ave
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N La Cienega Blvd
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S Robertson Blvd
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S Beverly Glen Blvd
N Beverly Glen Blvd
Westwood Blvd
Santa Monica Blvd
Wilshire Blvd
W 3rd St
N Rossmore Ave
Beverly Blvd
Melrose Ave
Vine St
Crenshaw Blvd
W Pico Blvd
W San Vicente Blvd
S San Vicente Blvd
Burton Way
S Beverly Dr
Beverwil Dr
Los Feliz Blvd
Silver Lake Blvd
Melrose Ave
Ventura Blvd
Riverside Dr
Glendale Fwy
Pasadena Fwy
Hollywood Way
Lankershim Blvd
Victory Blvd
Laurel Canyon Blvd
Erwin St
Tujunga Wash
Burbank Blvd
Magnolia Blvd
Moorpark St
Ventura Fwy
Woodman Ave
Van Nuys Blvd
Victory Blvd
Tyrone Ave
Ventura Blvd
Sepulveda Blvd
San Diego Fwy
Los Angeles River
Encino Creek
Interstate 405
N Sepulveda Blvd
Coldwater Canyon Ave
Coldwater Canyon Dr
Mulholland Dr
Beverly Glen Blvd
N Beverly Glen Blvd
Bel Air - Beverly Crest
Beverly Hills
Westwood
West Los Angeles
Brentwood - Pacific Palisades
West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert
Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake / Cahuenga Pass
North Hollywood - Valley Village
Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks
Encino - Tarzana
Hollywood
Los Angeles
Tujunga Wash
Central Branch
Encino Creek
Ballona Creek
Interstate 405
US Highway 101
State Route 170
State Route 2
Ventura Fwy
San Diego Fwy
Los Angeles River
Hollywood Fwy
Santa Monica Fwy
Coldwater Canyon Ave
Coldwater Canyon Dr
Mulholland Dr
Laurel Canyon Blvd
Lankershim Blvd
Vineland Ave
Victory Blvd
Burbank Blvd
Magnolia Blvd
Moorpark St
Woodman Ave
Van Nuys Blvd
Tyrone Ave
Sepulveda Blvd
N Sepulveda Blvd
Cahuenga Blvd W
Cahuenga Blvd E
N Highland Ave
Barham Blvd
Hollywood Blvd
W Sunset Blvd
N Vermont Ave
N Western Ave
N La Brea Ave
S La Brea Ave
N Fairfax Ave
S Fairfax Ave
N La Cienega Blvd
S La Cienega Blvd
S Robertson Blvd
W Olympic Blvd
S Beverly Glen Blvd
N Beverly Glen Blvd
Westwood Blvd
Santa Monica Blvd
Wilshire Blvd
W 3rd St
N Rossmore Ave
Beverly Blvd
Melrose Ave
Vine St
Crenshaw Blvd
W Pico Blvd
W San Vicente Blvd
S San Vicente Blvd
Burton Way
S Beverly Dr
Beverwil Dr
Los Feliz Blvd
Silver Lake Blvd
Melrose Ave
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Riverside Dr
Glendale Fwy
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Van Nuys Blvd
Tyrone Ave



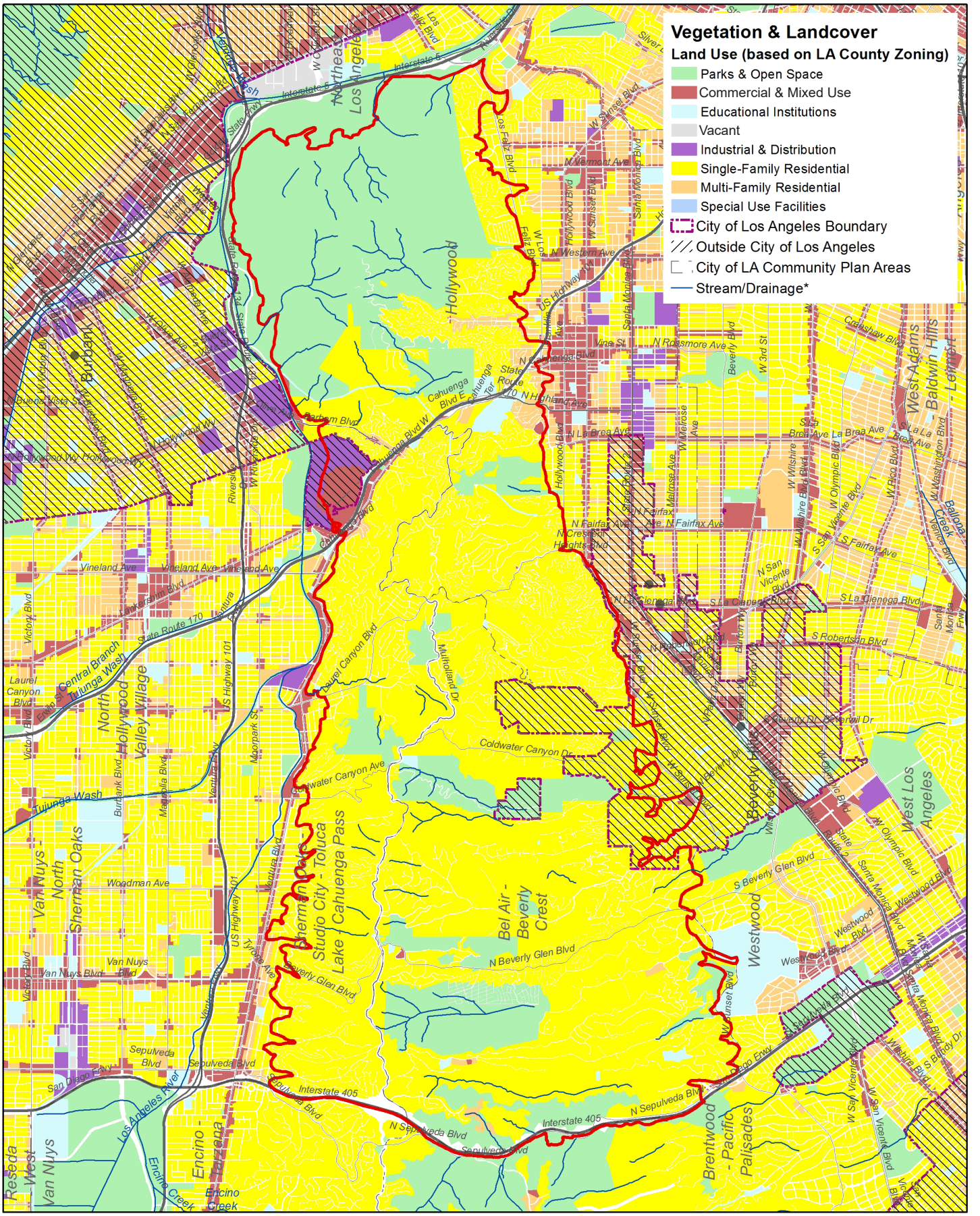
CalEnviroscreen Population Percentile (population vulnerability)

Data source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30



Ecological Hazards

Data sources: Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Southern California, v3.0, Phase 2; Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps; Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Hazard Layer, Version 1.1.1.0, 11/01/2016.



Land Use

Data source: 2008 Los Angeles County Countywide Zoning by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/04/10/county-wide-zoning/