

250 Words

The Los Angeles River Headwaters, located in Canoga Park, is the official start of the 77 kilometer channelized river that runs through the Los Angeles Basin and discharges into the Pacific. The Headwaters serves a both symbolic and environmental role for the Los Angeles metropolitan area. For thousands of years, the Headwaters was a source of food and water for the people living in the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Basin. The Tongva, the Native American people who lived in this region, used the river to support 45 of their villages, and after that, the Spanish settlers established their settlement along the river, El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciúncula, which would later become the foundation for Downtown L.A. The river supported the people of Los Angeles up until the early 20th century, when the population of Los Angeles surpassed 250,000, the estimated amount of people the river could support. In 1913 Los Angeles changed to an aqueduct system, thereby ending the city's reliance on the river as a source of water. Today the river is, more or less, a relic of the past, serving no infrastructural purpose, except as a runoff for residential and industrial discharge. The Headwaters, in particular, is filled with a sludge-like sewage from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, which is located nearby. The plant was built in response to the constraints of the sewer system in the 1960s, which faced overflowing problems during episodes of intense rain. There have been many proposals to change the identity of the L.A. River, including adding greenery, walkways, and biking paths, and removing the river's concrete encasing, which may help contribute to greater activity along the river.

5 Sentences

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20 Words

Tongva

Support

Establish

Settlement

Foundation

Downtown

Identity

Reliance

Source

Water

Relic

Past

Infrastructural

Purpose

Runoff

Discharge

Sludge-like

Sewage

Reform

Encasing

Activity

10 Words

Support

Foundation

Identity

Reliance

Source

Relic

Infrastructural

Purpose

Runoff

Discharge

Reform

5 Words

Identity

Reliance

Source

Relic

Discharge

1 Word

Identity