Water Quality Following the Lineage Fire in Boyle Heights

Annelisa Moe
Associate Director, Science and Policy
Heal the Bay

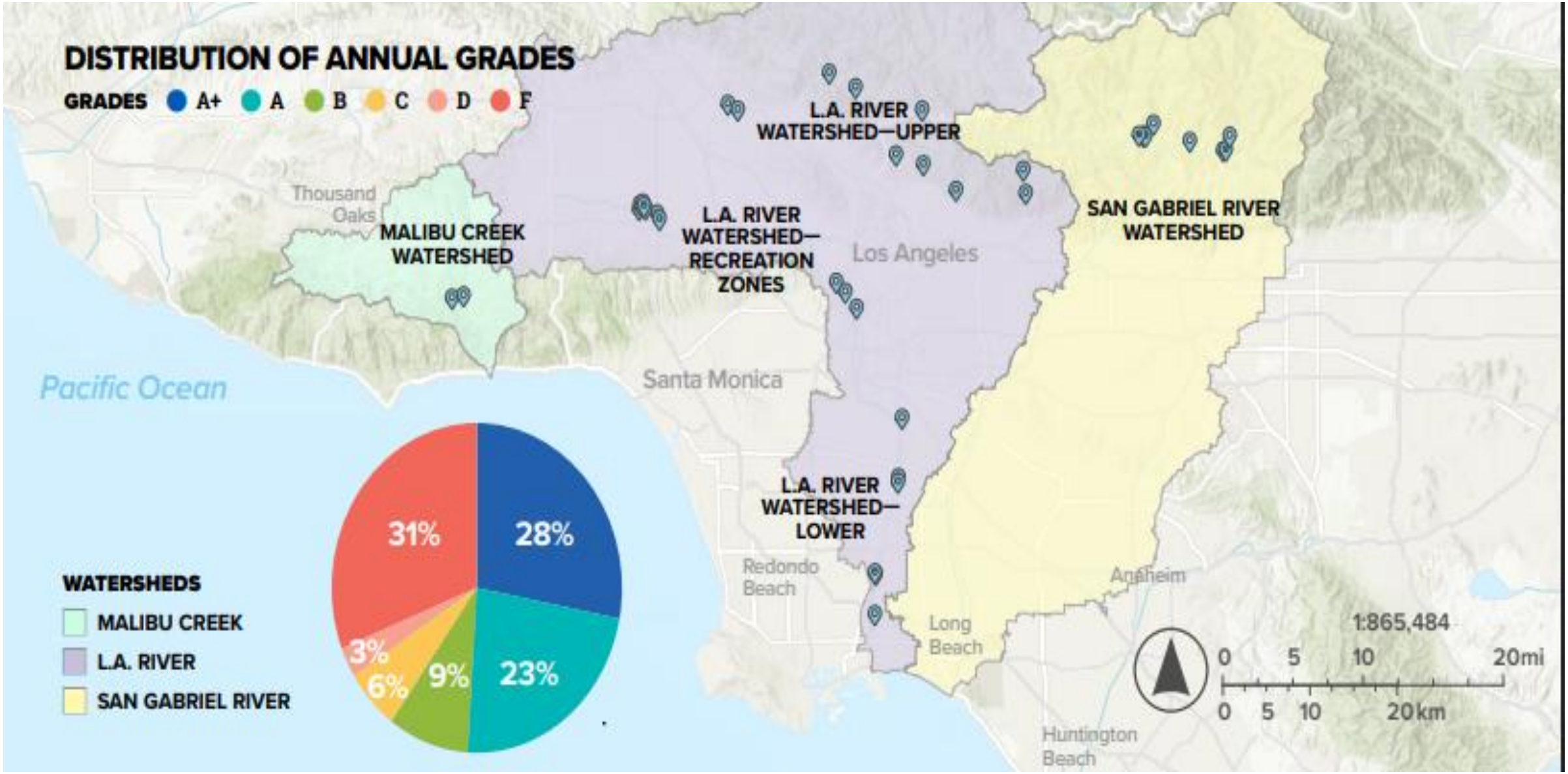
September 24, 2026

HEAL THE BAY
START WHERE YOU ARE

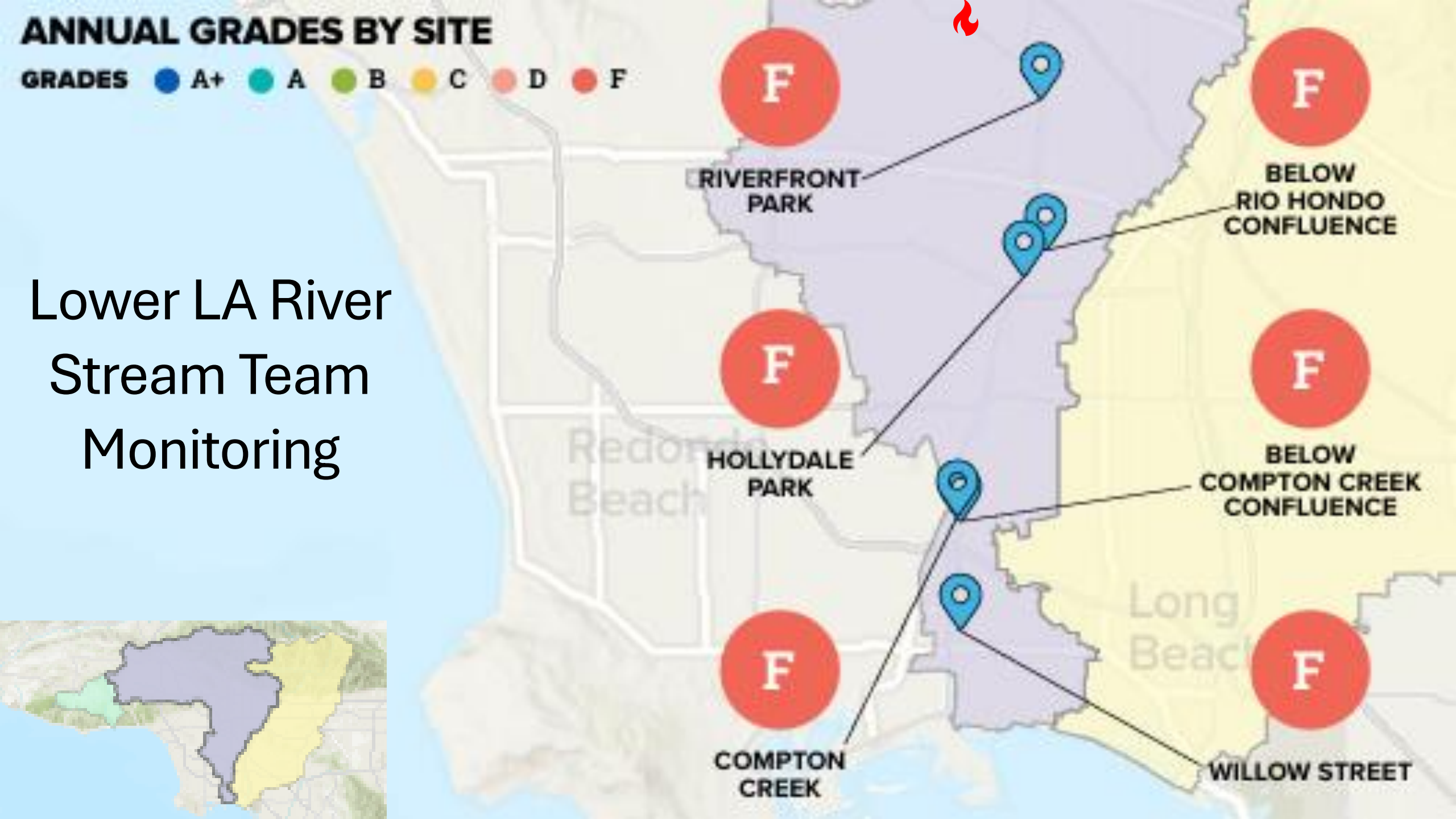
2025

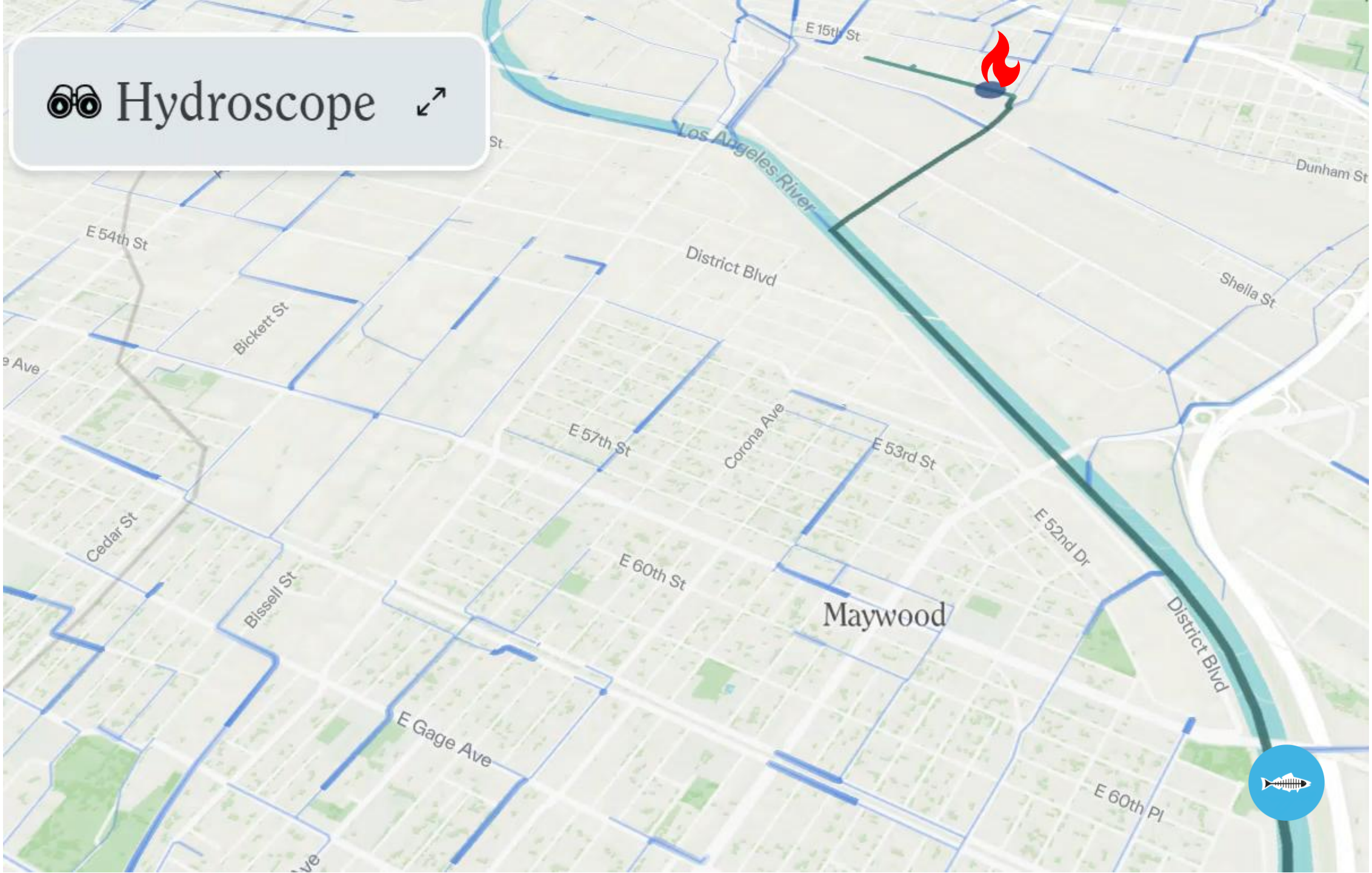
River Report Card




DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL GRADES
GRADES A+ A B C D F
L.A. RIVER WATERSHED—UPPER
SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED
MALIBU CREEK WATERSHED
L.A. RIVER WATERSHED—RECREATION ZONES
L.A. RIVER WATERSHED—LOWER
Thousand Oaks
Los Angeles
Santa Monica
Pacific Ocean
Redondo Beach
Long Beach
Anaheim
Huntington Beach
31%
28%
3%
6%
9%
23%
WATERSHEDS
MALIBU CREEK
L.A. RIVER
SAN GABRIEL RIVER
1:865,484
0 5 10 20mi
0 5 10 20km

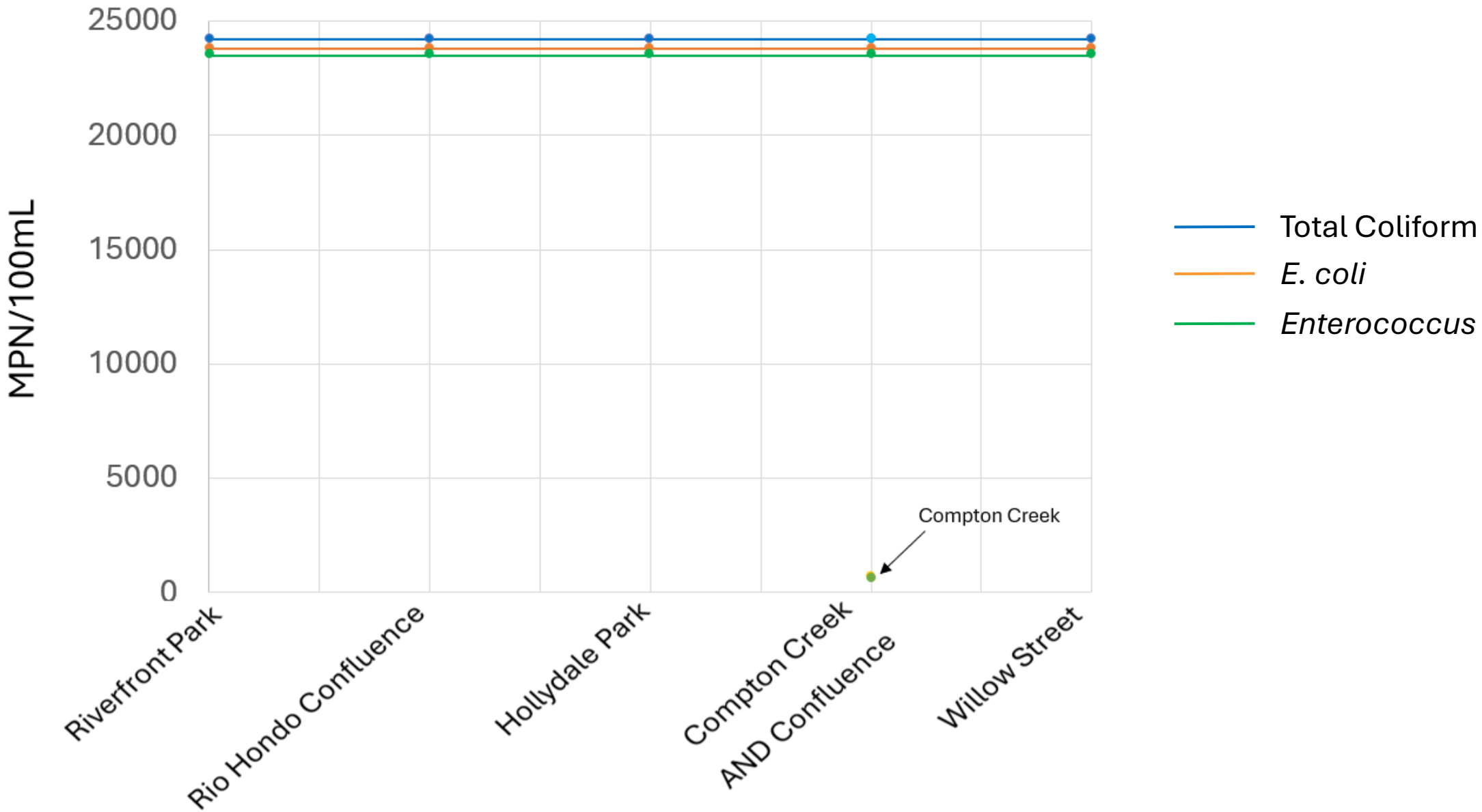
Lower LA River Stream Team Monitoring



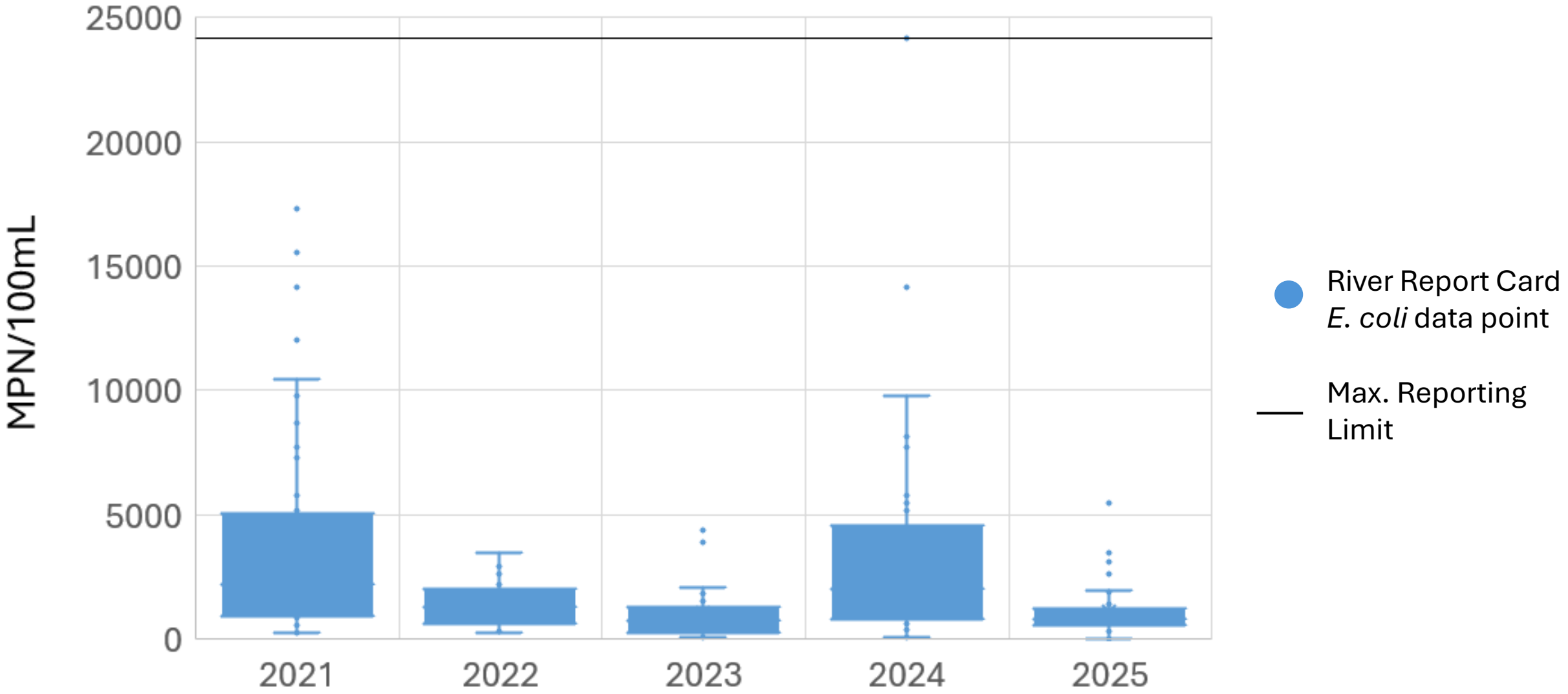

Hydroscope
E 15th St
Los Angeles River
Dunham St
E 54th St
District Blvd
Sheila St
Bickett St
E 57th St
Corona Ave
E 53rd St
E 52nd Dr
Cedar St
Bissell St
E 60th St
Maywood
District Blvd
E Gage Ave
E 60th Pl



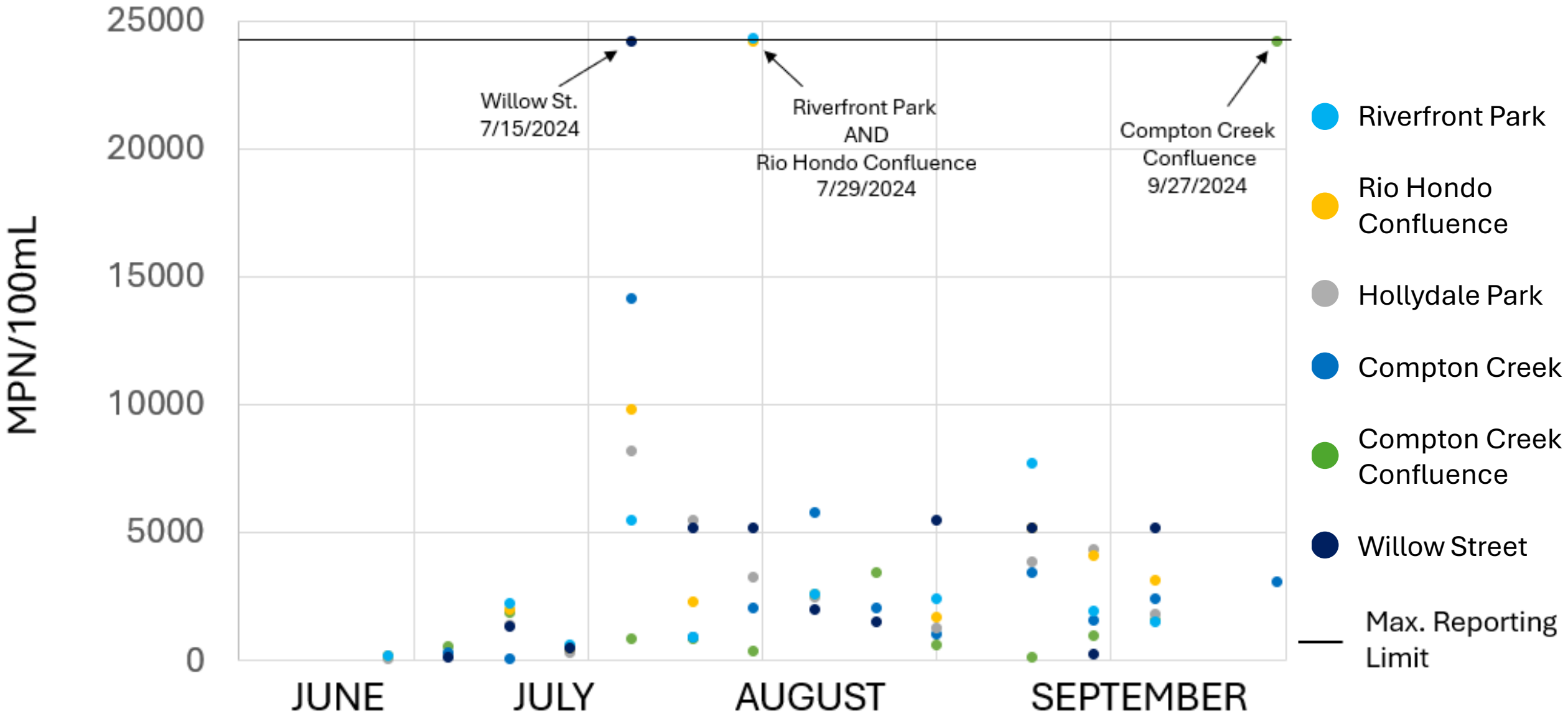
FIB Concentrations at LLAR Sites
June 24 & 25, 2026



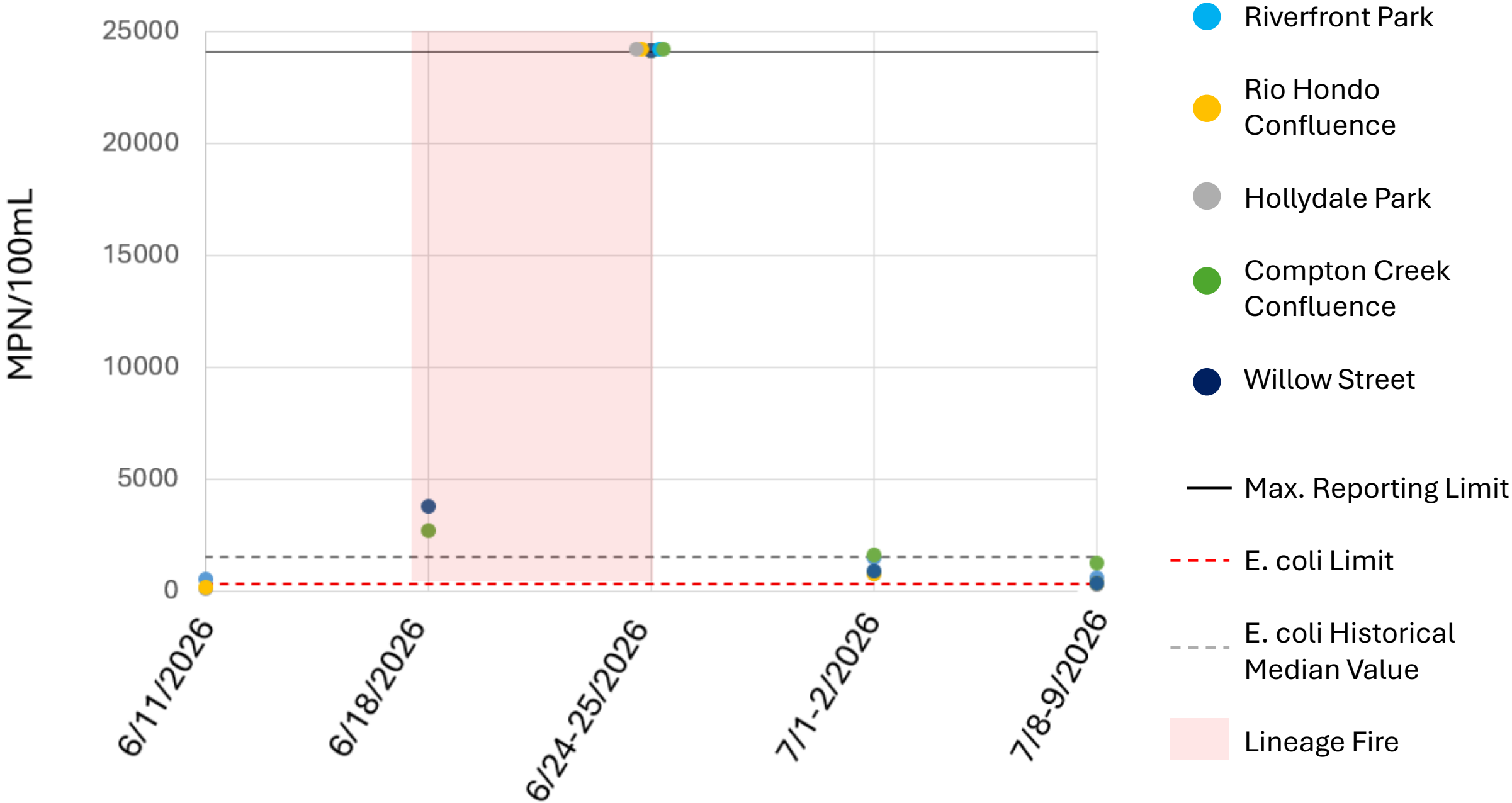
E. coli Concentrations
All Lower LA River Sites

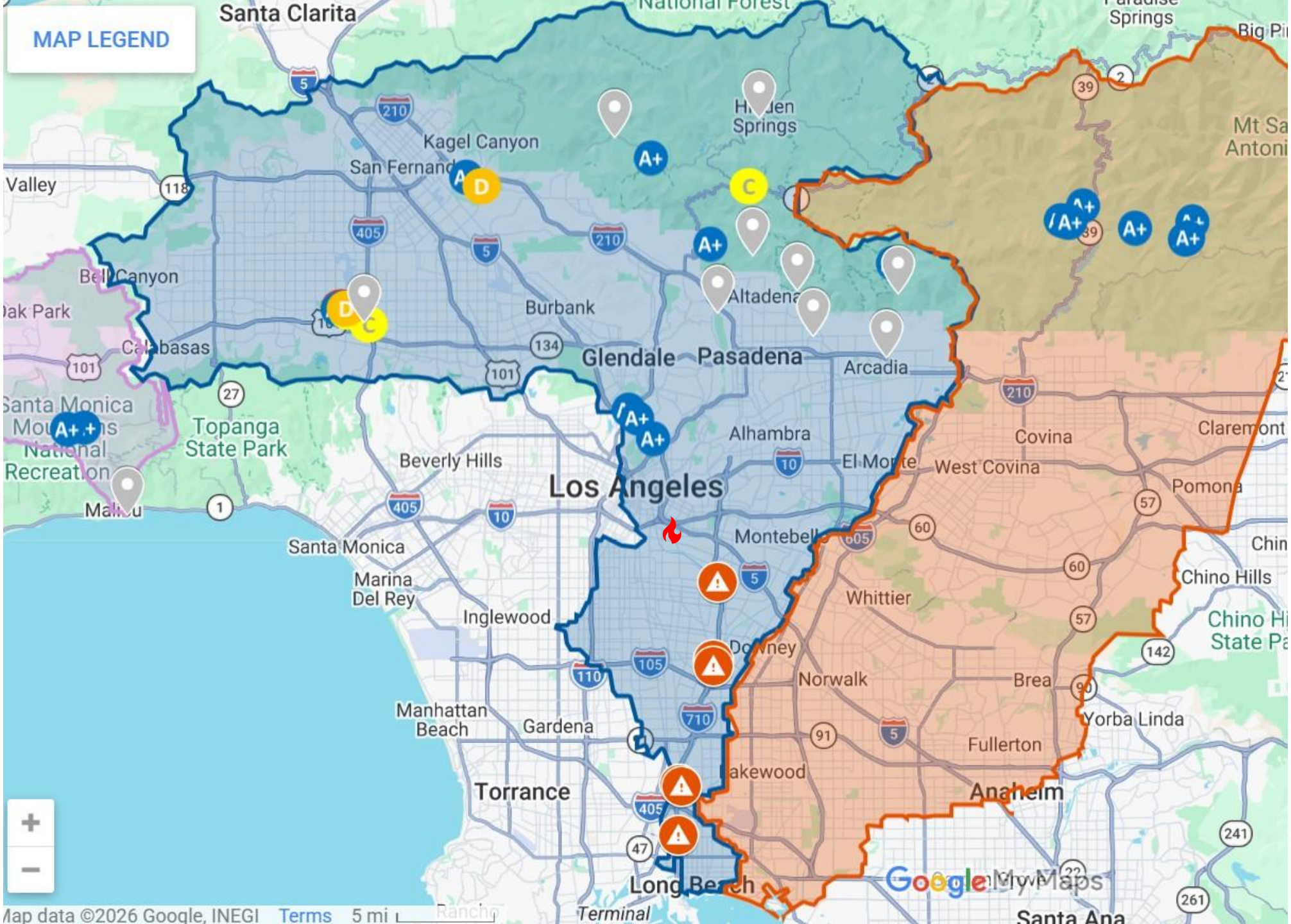


E. coli Concentrations at LLAR Sites in 2024



E. coli Concentrations at LLAR sites




MAP LEGEND
Santa Clarita
Kagel Canyon
San Fernando
Valley
Hidden Springs
Altadena
Burbank
Glendale
Pasadena
Arcadia
Calabasas
Topanga State Park
Beverly Hills
Los Angeles
Alhambra
Covina
West Covina
Pomona
Claremont
Montebello
Whittier
Chino Hills
Santa Monica
Marina Del Rey
Inglewood
Norwalk
Brea
Yorba Linda
Fullerton
Manhattan Beach
Gardena
Torrance
Anaheim
Long Beach
Google My Maps
Map data ©2026 Google, INEGI
Terms
5 mi

Steelhead Park, L.A. River

7/5/26

A+

6/25/2026

A+

6/11/26

C

6/9/26

C

6/4/26

C

6/2/26

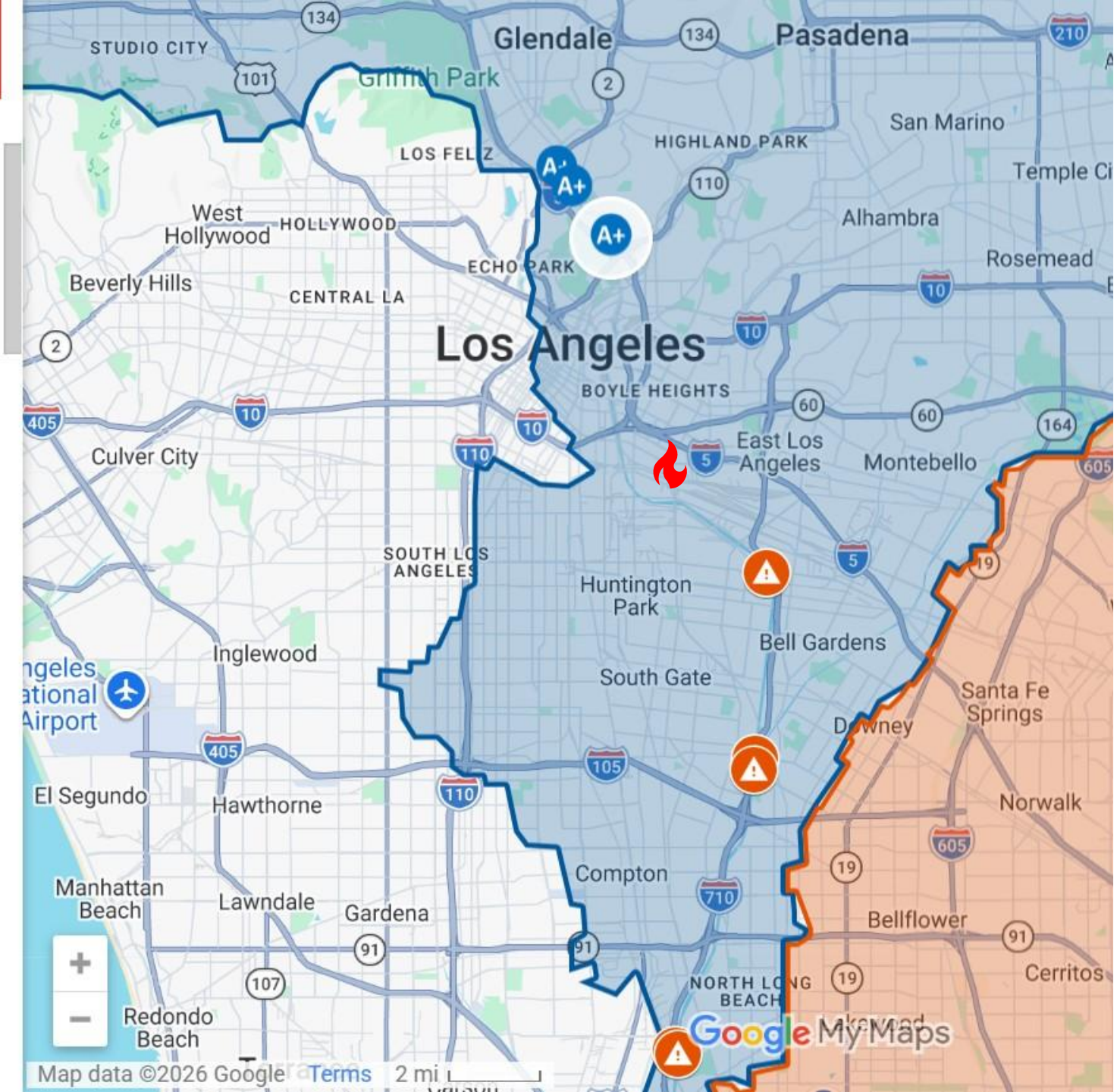
C

5/28/26

A+

5/26/26

D



- **Routine monitoring captured impacts:** Heal the Bay monitors six sites in the Lower LA River watershed every summer.
- **Limited testing scope:** Monitoring tracks recreational water quality, not fire-related contaminants.
- **Post-fire water quality changed:** Turbidity and bacteria spiked during the fire; both recovered after the fire, but bacteria levels remain unsafe for contact.
- **Precautionary warnings issued:** Heal the Bay advises avoiding contact with water in the Lower LA River watershed.
- **Monitoring continues:** Weekly sampling and collaboration with community partners will continue.



Water Connects Us All

Emergency response should protect the communities and ecosystems most immediately affected while ensuring downstream communities, wildlife, and coastal waters are also protected.



Dead fish collect in toxic-filled water at the Dominguez Gap Wetlands on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, in Long Beach. (Photo by Howard Freshman, Contributing Photographer)

- Fire-related contamination affected the entire downstream LA River, not just the immediate spill area.
  - Heal the Bay monitoring documented elevated bacteria levels throughout the river on June 24-25.
  - City of Long Beach monitoring indicates impacts extended to the coastline during this time.
  - Reports documented fish kills in the Dominguez Gap Wetlands on June 23.
- Recommendations
  - The assessment of impact and any recovery actions must addresses impacts to all downstream communities, not only the City of Los Angeles.
  - Require timely public notification for emergency spills and water quality incidents to all communities downstream of the incident.



Questions?

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