Regenerative City describes a concept of urban development built on an environmentally enhancing, restorative relationship with the natural systems from which the city draws resources for its sustainable prosperity.

In 150 years, Los Angeles grew from 44 ranchos and 100,000 people into a metropolis of more than 10.2 million residents. We’ve transformed the landscape—but urbanization has come at a dramatic cost to the environment. What now?

LA timeline

Pacific Coast Highway, 1901
Hollywood, 1905
Los Angeles Aqueduct, completed in 1913
Channelization of the LA river, completed 1948
Looking South from Mulholland, 1980
Dorsey City, 1932
What should be the regenerative intervention be?

LA doesn’t have a congestion problem—it has supply issues! Mobility is not just a matter of managing how to accommodate travel, but a matter of transitioning from our current dependence on the car to its adjacent communities, creating more efficient, integrated networks. A neighborhood without a car facilitates this process. A neighborhood with one car facilitates the opposite.

LA doesn’t have a water problem—it has supply issues! Water is not a problem in Los Angeles, it’s a process. Process improvement, effective service delivery, and citizen satisfaction. Water management system in Los Angeles could equally be seen as an infrastructure system, where LA has built itself up around its car culture. The resulting social, economically and environmentally destructive behavior. A neighborhood without infrastructure systems allows for more efficient, integrated networks, aligns for more shared encounters, and facilitates a public dialogue that creates and encourages a more collective culture.

Transforming waste into a resource requires a shift in perception and approach. From processes to facilitation and everything in between, optimizing waste management delivers improved service delivery, increased efficiency, and more sustainable growth and development. A regenerative city cleans up the region’s infrastructure to improve quality of life and define its own future. LA must use its highly recognizable urban systems to establish a foundation of sustainable growth and development.

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Livability

This nascent century of the city has renegade land use. Metropolitan regions are becoming the new drivers of social and economic change. Regenerating this growth to improve quality of life requires cities to design and define their own futures. LA must use its highly recognizable urban systems to improve quality of life and define its own future. A neighborhood without a car facilitates this process. A neighborhood with one car facilitates the opposite.

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Energy

In sunny southern California, the most obvious opportunity for renewable energy production is solar power. With the vast majority of LA’s water imported from either Northern California or the arid Western United States via three aqueducts, LA’s water imported from either Northern California or the arid Western United States via three aqueducts. Nearly a third of the cost of imported water.

Food

Preserving agricultural lands provides a focus on solar, there are nearly 1400 megawatts across the existing built environment to power the entire region on top of the nearly 1400 megawatts of renewable production currently in the County.

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