

The Giant Awakens

In 1880, the population of the fledging City of Los Angeles barely topped 11,000 people. As people learned of the Southland's great appeal, the population of Los Angeles climbed to 50,000 just ten years later. And by the turn of the century, the City of Los Angeles had grown to an astounding 100,000 people, a nine-fold increase in just twenty years!

Los Angeles sits in an arid basin surrounded by high mountains. The area supported a few small streams but water was certainly something not considered "abundant" in Southern California.

The City's explosive growth had already consumed most of the available local water resources. If the City were to grow any larger, new sources of water would need to be found.



Los Angeles – circa 1883