

# MECHA Los Angeles

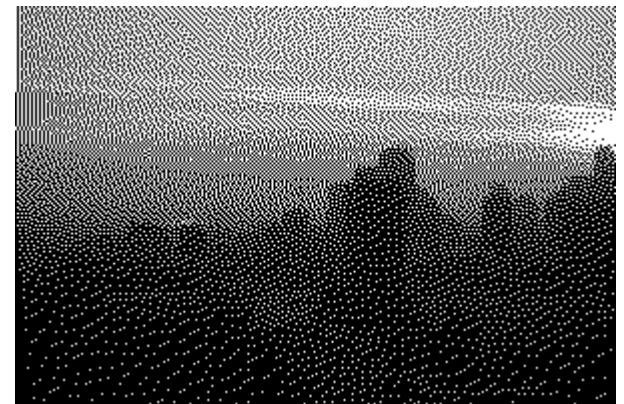
Leonora  
Tindall //  
nora.codes





I used to be really sure about where I lived. I loved San Diego and all of Southern California because I thought we were a successful terraforming project under a benevolent progressive government that was doing their best to teach us about the indigenous people whose land we were on and the history that brought us to where we are today.

When I was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I did a project on the San Onofre nuclear station. I had been reading about the ways that excessive water use in Southern California and the Imperial Valley damaged ecosystems in Colorado, and I thought we had a concrete solution to at least some of these harms in nuclear desalination - nearly unlimited local production of water for the ten million urban residents in the San Diego-Los Angeles corridor.



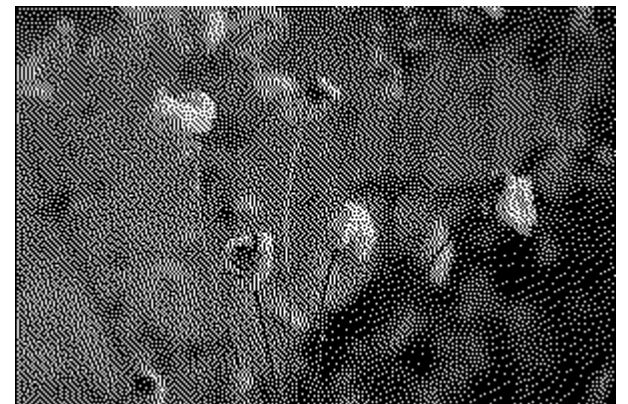
Eight weeks later, San Diego Gas and Electric announced that they would decommission the plant, because replacing the steam turbines was deemed too expensive.





Some of us try very hard to make it better. The last time I was in San Diego, I met a group of people walking up and down the farmer's market row with signs and petitions, trying to depose SDG&E's monopoly.

When I went to elementary school, we learned about the importance of California live oaks to traditional Kumeyaay lifeways. We ground acorns to powder and learned to leech tannin from the flour. They did not tell us that the people who named our roads cut down oaks by the hundreds to build them.







We don't know what the carrying capacity of Southern California is. Probably it is more than the thousands Vizcaíno first met with on the feast of Didacus; certainly it is less than the ten million sprawled across the region today.



Already, our meddling and overwhelm is destroying the land as we destroyed the people. Fires sweep both cities yearly; animals starve; rivers choke.

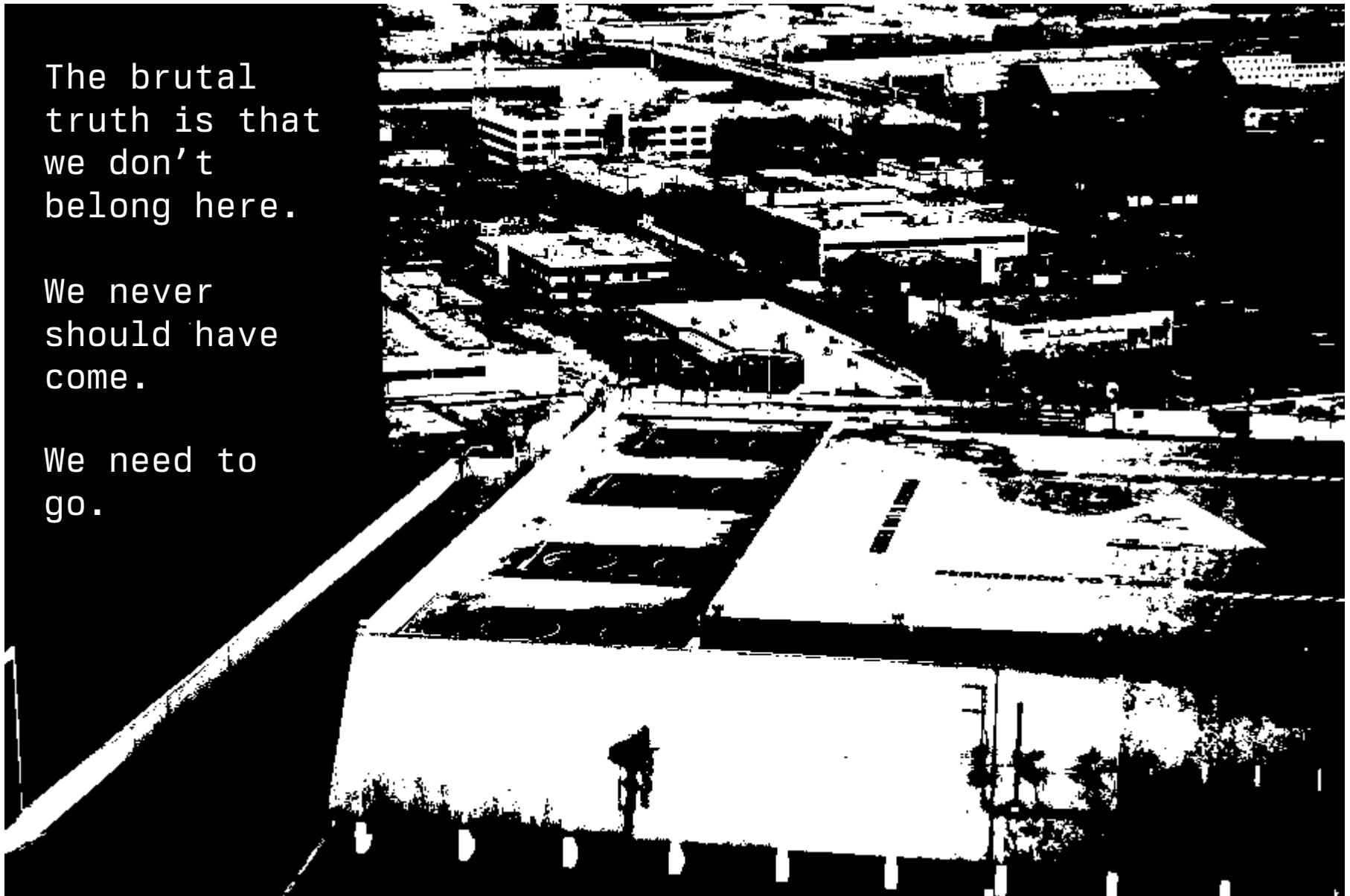


Whatever we do to repair the harm we have done is necessary but not sufficient. Replacing SDG&E must be done, but it will not save us from fire. Building zero-waste universities and public buildings is incumbent upon us but it will not end the pollution of the waters. Planting native flowers is responsible and beautiful, but it will not bring back the live oaks or the Torrey pines.

The brutal  
truth is that  
we don't  
belong here.

We never  
should have  
come.

We need to  
go.





Thank you for reading this zine. I urge you to take every opportunity to put your pain into action against occupation, colonization, and environmental destruction, wherever you see it.

These images were taken by me on a Fujifilm X-T1, processed in Digikam and Darktable, and then dithered into monochrome with the 'lid' tool. The zine was typeset in Impress.