

SATELLITE VIEW OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SMOKE/FIRES
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In late fall of 1980, fire storms raged in southern California particularly in San Bernadino county. Winds gusting up to 90 mph fanned the fires and spread the smoke well out into the Pacific Ocean.

The 900 km high polar orbiting meteorological satellite NOAA-6 on 26 November 1980 captured the smoke plume, smoke coverage and fire location on the simultaneous visual and infrared imagery. (Figures 1 and 2).

The smoke extent (or clouds formed by condensation nucluei) probably caused other environmental problems (visibility restrictions, respiratory ailments, etc.).

Visual satellite imagery is ideal for smoke detection and monitoring.

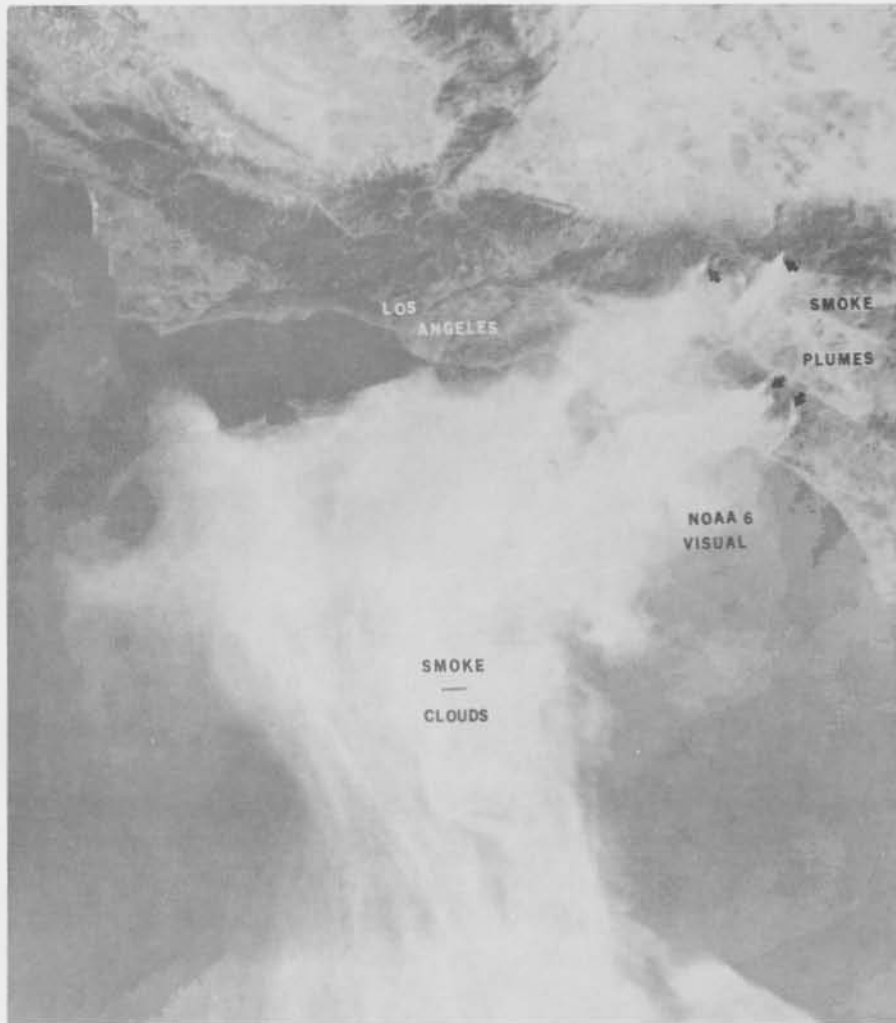


Figure 1. NOAA-6 Visual
1620 GMT November 26, 1980

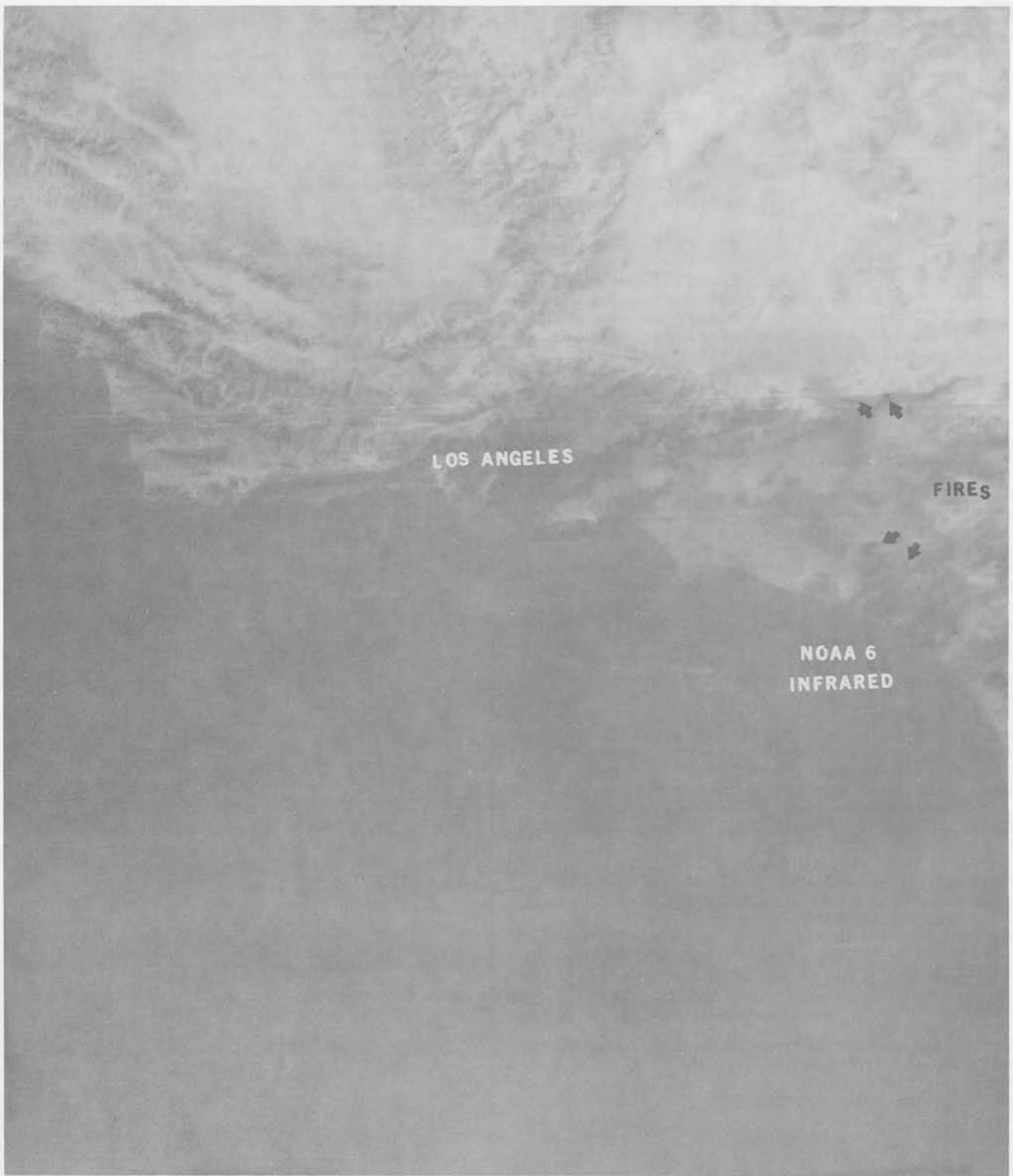


Figure 2. NOAA-6 Infrared
1620 GMT November 26, 1980