How I Made This Image:
Downtown Los Angeles Skyline with Snow Covered Mountain

Presentation by Larry White to the
Landscape Photography Special Interest Group of the
Thousand Oaks Photo Group
(2/13/2019)

This image was shot at 1/4000th sec, f5.6, ISO 400 at 330mm focal length.

I Photographed the Downtown Los Angeles Skyline with Snow Covered Mountains in the background from Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. 4100 South La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, Ca. 90056. The park opens at sunrise and closes at sunset. Parking is free during the week but on weekends and holidays parking cost is $6.00 for cars, $12.00 for buses, $10.00 for limousines. If you can afford a limo you probably aren't concerned about 10 bucks. There are restrooms and picnic tables very close to the upper parking lot.

http://parks.lacounty.gov/kenneth-hahn-state-recreation-area/

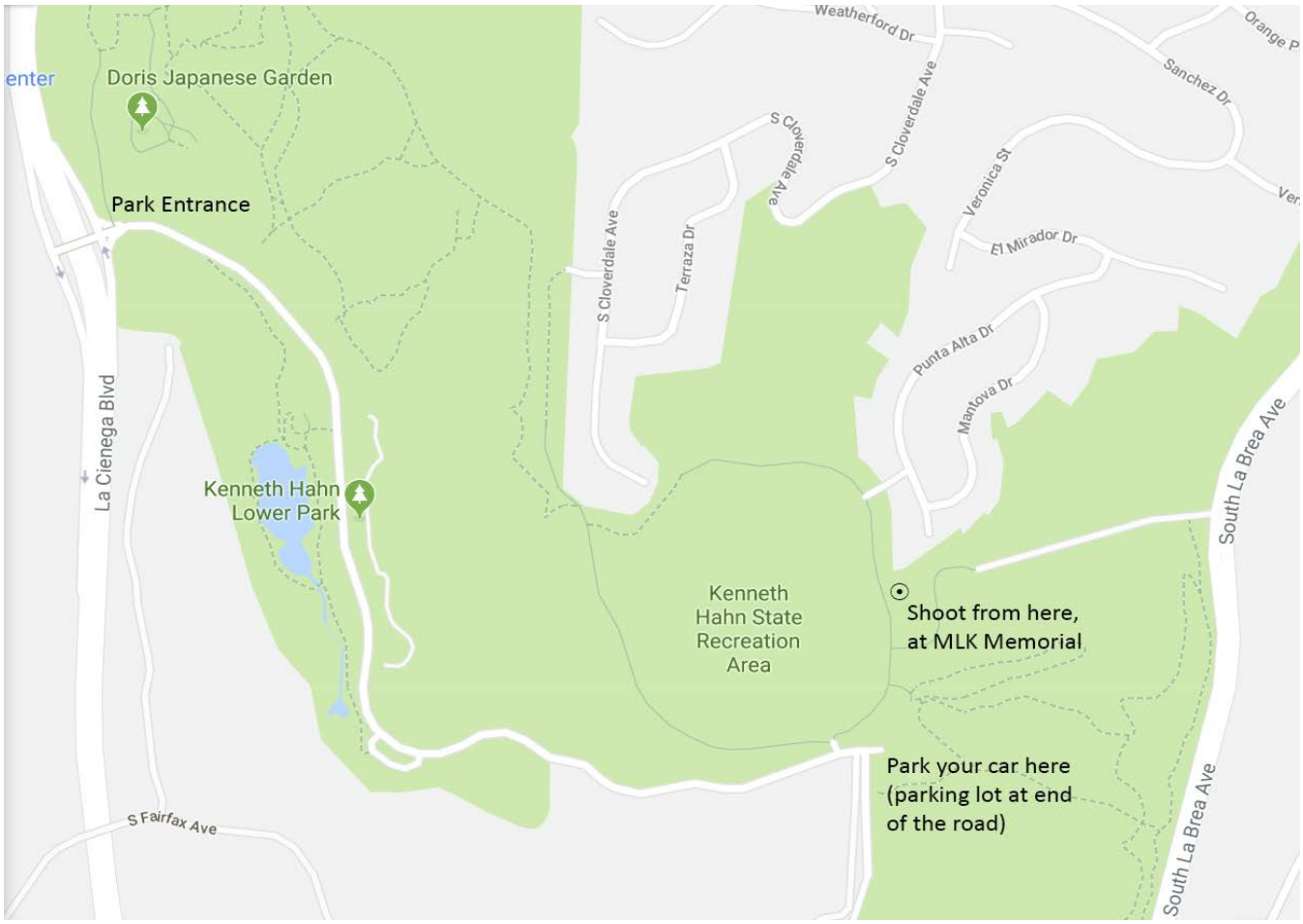
I made these shots on January 19, 2019 between 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm. It was beautiful and close to 80 degrees that day. I used a Canon 5D Mark IV full frame camera with a Canon 100-400mm lens mounted on a tripod and used a cable release. I made both images using Evaluative metering, Auto White Balance, Aperture Priority and Mirror Lock Up. It was windy so I removed the lens hood to reduce lens shake caused by the wind.

This image was shot at 1/1500 sec, f8.0, ISO 400 at 400mm focal length.

Must be done after a rain in cold weather so there will be snow on the mountains. January or February will be the best opportunity to do this, but December or March may work too. Depends on the weather.

After a rain the air is usually very clear but check the weather conditions before going because if it is overcast, hazy or low clouds the view of the mountains will be obscured.

You may be able to time this with a moonrise. For example, this last blood moon rose over the mountains just around sunset, but the heavy cloud cover prevented getting a good view of the moon and mountains. I know several photographers that tried to photograph the blood moon there on January 20th but none of them got a good shot because of the clouds. That's why I made these photos on the 19th when the weather forecast was for clear skies.

In the winter the sun will be behind you as you photograph the skyline.

Directions: Drive into the park and follow the road all the way through the park to the top parking lot. Park there and walk past the restrooms approximately 200 yards to the MLK Memorial. Look east for the view of downtown with the mountains in the background. You can't miss it. You can set your tripod up on the grass or you can set your tripod up on the hard surface walkway surrounding the memorial for a steadier base. There are also benches surrounding the memorial if you want to rest.