

## Ventura River Watershed Management Plan

# Final Recommended Objectives

12-4-12

The following objectives were developed by the Council's Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) during meetings in August, September and November 2012. At the December 13, 2012 meeting of the Watershed Council, these recommended objectives will be discussed and considered for final approval.

### Sufficient Local Water Supplies

1. Improve water supply reliability for human needs through increased water use efficiency, conservation practices, reuse, recycling and capture.
2. Continue to look for new and innovative water sources and storage areas in the watershed.
3. Improve coordinated management of surface water and groundwater supplies to protect aquatic ecosystems while meeting water demands.
4. Manage water supply costs to sustain mixed land use water demands.
5. Track the potential impacts of climate change on local water supplies so that adaptation strategies can be developed.

TAC meeting participants: Karen Waln (co-chair), Ron Merckling (co-chair), Bert Rapp, Mike Hollebrands, Russ Baggerly, Nova Clite, Jeff Palmer, Cinnamon McIntosh, Lynn Jensen, Dale Zurawski, Rene Roth, Steve Wickstrum, Omar Castro, Bill O'Brien, Ann Rosecrance, Lorraine Walter

### Clean Water

1. Protect all beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater in the watershed through reductions in pathogens, nutrients, salinity, trash and other water quality impairments.
2. Protect in-stream beneficial uses of surface water in the Ventura River and tributaries, within weather and geologic constraints.
3. Improve near shore ocean water quality through reductions in pathogens, trash and other water quality impairments.
4. Increase the amount of developed property that retains and treats runoff onsite.
5. Reduce the burden and cost of compliance with water quality regulations through collaboration and innovation.
6. Improve the usefulness of water quality monitoring data collected through data availability and statistical analysis.

TAC meeting participants: Arne Anselm (co-chair), Jeff Palmer (co-chair), Ben Pitterle, Paul Jenkin, Bert Rapp, Mike Hollebrands, Diana Engle, Bill O'Brien, Dale Zurawski, Lisa Brenneis, Ann Rosecrance, Lorraine Walter

## **Integrated Flood Management**

1. Minimize risks to human life and property due to flooding adjacent to Ventura River, tributaries and the ocean, and on alluvial fans through traditional and non-traditional means.
2. Maximize low cost non-structural flood protection by through natural floodplain restoration.
3. Integrate ecologic value into channel designs that accommodate natural geomorphic processes.
4. Address the lack of funding for flood management in the watershed.
5. Improve integration among the various regulatory agencies to advance streamlined permitting.
6. Track the potential impacts of climate change on local flood risk so that adaptation strategies can be developed.

TAC meeting participants: Bruce Rindahl (chair), Sergio Vargas, Zia Hosseinipour, Russ Baggerly, Paul Jenkin, Bill O'Brien, Lorraine Walter

## **Healthy Ecosystems**

1. Protect and enhance the ecosystem services, functions and values of riparian, wetland and aquatic habitats in the watershed.
2. Increase southern California steelhead populations in the watershed through improvements to both the habitat available for spawning, rearing and over-summering, and fish passage.
3. Protect native species' mobility and survival by improving and protecting habitat connectivity.
4. Protect and restore habitat for species with special status at the local, state or federal level.
5. Improve the natural transport of sediment in the Ventura River and the associated replenishment of coastal beach sands.
6. Improve understanding of the Ventura River estuary system and feasible options to restore this ecosystem's functions and habitat values.
7. Improve the overall biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency of the watershed.

TAC meeting participants: Greg Gamble (chair), Brian Stark, Paul Jenkin, Virginia Gardner, Natasha Lohmus, Kathy Bremer, Ben Pitterle, Erin Brown, Derek Poultney, Ron Merckling, Bert Rapp, Mike Hollebrands, Bill O'Brien, Christina Danko, Diana Engle, Brian Holly, Jill Taylor, Dillon Brook, Ann Rosecrance  
Lorraine Walter

## **Access to Nature**

1. Increase the amount of permanently protected, accessible, high quality, safe, public, open, natural areas near the river, creeks and wetlands available for enjoyment by all community members.
2. Provide a multimodal trail network between and within open, natural areas that is connected to population centers, and that is proportional in size and scope to the open natural areas available while not harming sensitive natural areas.
3. Increase the number of permanently protected, vehicle-accessible, natural or semi-natural parks and picnic areas for the enjoyment of all community members.
4. Provide interpretive opportunities including signs, docent led tours, visitor centers, and/or other educational opportunities to enhance visitor understanding of the watershed and its resources.

TAC meeting participants: Greg Gamble (chair), Paul Jenkin, Virginia Gardner, Kathy Bremer, Derek Poultney, Bill O'Brien

## **Land and Resource Management**

1. Improve the economic strength, viability and resiliency of the community through consistent integration of economic and social perspectives in watershed management discussions and decisions.
2. Support a viable agricultural industry that is compatible with watershed management goals and preserves the character of the watershed.
3. Advance watershed management goals in local land use and resource management decisions through active engagement with policy makers and land managers.
4. Develop and distribute information on land use sustainability and resource stewardship to improve land and resource management practices in the watershed.
5. Track the potential impacts of climate change on local land use and resources so that adaptation strategies can be developed.

TAC meeting participants: Lynn Jensen (chair), Bill O'Brien, Wally McCall, Rene Roth, Nancy Settle, Katie Haldeman, Ann Rosecrance, Lorraine Walter

## **Coordinated Watershed Planning**

1. Maintain and administer open and transparent Watershed Council meetings as a forum for information sharing, collaborative planning, networking and problem solving.
2. Develop and maintain working relationships with partners, stakeholders and governments in order to improve the Watershed Council's capacity for innovation, efficiency and effectiveness.
3. Characterize the watershed and its issues, and prioritize collaborative watershed projects to address those issues, through development of a comprehensive watershed management plan.
4. Secure funding to support the Watershed Council's ongoing meetings, staff and operations; the implementation of priority watershed management plan projects and programs; and the development, monitoring and updating of the watershed management plan.
5. Facilitate implementation of collaborative, multi-partner, watershed projects and programs.
6. Facilitate public education about, engagement with and stewardship of the watershed.
7. Improve and maintain the availability of up-to-date, user-friendly information and about the watershed in a variety of formats, media and venues, and targeting stakeholders of different ages and backgrounds.
8. Monitor the implementation of collaborative watershed projects and programs in order to track success and improve on strategies and tactics.

A separate TAC group did not meet to work on the objectives of this goal. Input will be sought from the other TAC groups and the Watershed Council as a whole.