

Ventura River Watershed Management Plan



Final Draft of Parts 1 & 2 Overview

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Ventura River Watershed Coordinator

October 7, 2014

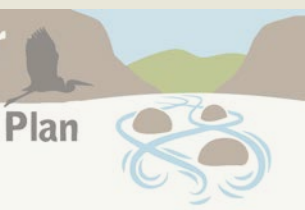


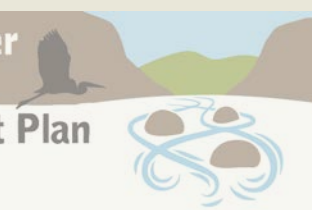
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1.2 Ventura River Watershed Council

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Leadership Committee Profiles



MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT

<http://meinersoakswater.com>

805/646-2114

Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) is a special district formed in 1949 to provide water in the Meiners Oaks community on the east side of the Ventura River. MOWD's service area encompasses approximately 1,300 acres, and includes residential, commercial and agricultural customers. MOWD has approximately 1,200 service connections.

MOWD obtains water from five wells located immediately adjacent to the Ventura River and over the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin. The district has an arrangement to purchase water from Casitas during emergencies and drought conditions.



OJAI VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

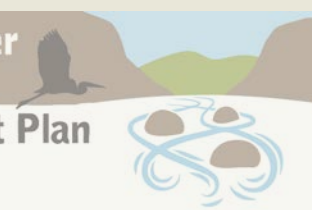
www.ojaisan.org

805/646-5548

The Ojai Valley Sanitary District (OVSD) was formed in 1985 to provide sewer related services to much of the urban areas of the watershed—from the city of Ojai and the Ojai Valley down to Ventura city limits. The district was created as a consolidation of the Ventura Avenue, Oak View, and Meiners Oaks Sanitary Districts and the Sanitation Department of the city of Ojai. They are governed by a seven-member board of directors.

The service area of the OVSD is approximately 5,660 acres and includes about 20,000 residents. The district maintains 120 miles of sewer mainlines, five pump stations and the treatment plant. Wastewater is collected and delivered to the OVSD Treatment Plant located five miles from the ocean, and one mile downstream from Foster Park on the east bank of the Ventura River. The treatment plant has the capacity to treat three million gallons a day.

The facility uses a tertiary, or advanced, treatment method, typically using no chemicals—



Part 2. Watershed Plan, Projects, & Programs

2.1 Plan Guiding Framework

2.1.2 Goals, Objectives, and **Findings**

2.2 Existing Projects, Programs, and Recent Accomplishments

2.3 Campaigns

2.4 Complete List of Priority Projects and Programs

Findings

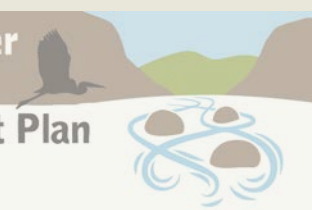
Each goal and its objectives are supported by key findings.

Findings summarize the watershed's most significant characteristics/strengths/challenges.

Findings tell a condensed story about the watershed and its current conditions.

Water Uses & Conservation

- **Water originating in the Ventura River watershed is used both inside and outside of the watershed, and use is divided roughly equally between the agricultural and urban sectors. Data on groundwater use is incomplete.**
 - The watershed's water (from Lake Casitas and the Ventura River) also supplies adjacent coastal watersheds: the Rincon area to the west and portions of the City of Ventura to the east.
 - Dry years see increased agricultural demand relative to urban demand.
 - Because there are so many groundwater wells with unreported extractions, data on the amount of water used and the relative amounts used by each sector are incomplete.
- **State and federal requirements regulating the amount of surface water that must be available for endangered species affect management of the watershed's water resources. Potential requirements to provide increased instream flows could further reduce water available for municipal, agricultural, and other uses.**
 - The amount of water that Casitas must allow to bypass their water diversion in the Ventura River increases during the fish passage season.
 - Modifications of existing conditions that could affect the steelhead, such as improvements to or repairs of the City of Ventura's wells in the Foster Park area, or a reduction in the amount of treated wastewater that is now discharged into the Ventura River, would likely be subject to approval by the federal agencies that enforce the federal endangered species act.
- **Groundwater is estimated to provide almost half of the local water supply; however, the locations and volumes of groundwater extracted and the effects on streamflow are not accurately known. This data gap inhibits analysis and planning.**
 - Of the watershed's four groundwater basins, only one—the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin—has a management plan and governing body.
 - State funding for groundwater projects is generally restricted to those basins with groundwater management



Part 2. Watershed Plan, Projects, & Programs

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2.4 Complete List of Priority Projects and Programs

2.4 Complete List of Priority Projects & Programs

Tier 1L projects and programs:

- 1) Meet one or more objectives,**
- 2) Are feasible,**
- 3) Have clear benefit,**
- 4) Have general stakeholder support, and**
- 5) Have a project lead.**

130 Tier 1L Projects/Programs

Table 2.4.2.1 Tier 1L Priority Projects and Programs

ID#	Tier 1L Project or Program	Fill Data Gaps / Analyze	Make Physical Improvements	Educate/Engage/Incentivize	Improve/Use Regulations & Policies	Plan/Collaborate Regionally	Leads (L) Supporters (S)
5	<p>Water Use Efficiency and Reuse Education. Promote and incentivize water use efficiency and reuse (e.g., low-water-using landscapes; replacement of hobby orchards with lower-water-using landscapes; use of local, woody mulch; use of <u>graywater</u> systems and cisterns/rain barrels; high efficiency plumbing retrofits, fixing leaks, efficient use of agricultural irrigation water). Continue to promote the availability of large landscape irrigation efficiency survey and <u>ag/hobby</u> orchard irrigation efficiency evaluations. Continue/expand subsidies for equipment upgrades.</p>			X			L: Ventura Water, RCD, OVGC
7	<p>Casitas MWD Reservoir Tank Seismic Retrofit. Bring two Casitas MWD reservoir tanks up to earthquake standards to prevent potential seismic damage.</p>		X				L: Casitas
8	<p>Water Supply Infrastructure Reliability Improvements. Replace or retrofit aging or threatened water supply tanks, wells, pipes, and other conveyance and storage equipment to reduce water losses, ensure supply reliability, and bring up to earthquake standards. Install backup equipment to improve the watershed's resiliency to emergencies.</p>		X				L: Casitas, MOWD S: Ventura Water
11	<p>On-Farm Water Detention/Retention Analysis. Investigate opportunities for small-scale on-farm <u>stormwater</u> detention and storage options (e.g., swales, contours, wet ponds, rainwater harvesting, underground storage).</p>	X					L: RCD S: RWQCB
12	<p>Contingency Water Storage. Install decentralized contingency water storage.</p>		X				L: Ventura Water
							L: Casitas

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186	Cleanup Petrochem. The blighted and abandoned oil refinery has marred the view, threatened the water quality, and impaired recreational values of the lower Ventura River for decades. Work to have the facility removed and cleaned up by the responsible parties.		X				L: County RMA
Goal 3: Integrated Flood Management							
79	Bring Levees up to FEMA Standards - Casitas Springs Levee. (Also Matilija Dam Removal Mitigation) Complete levee improvements required to meet FEMA certification requirements and as part of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.		X				L: WPD S: Coastal Cons.
80	Bring Levees up to FEMA Standards - Live Oaks Levee. (Also Matilija Dam Removal Mitigation) Complete levee improvements required to meet FEMA certification requirements and as part of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.		X				L: WPD S: Coastal Cons.
82	Matilija Dam Removal - Mitigation: Meiners Oaks Levee. Construct new Meiners Oaks Levee/floodwall - part of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.		X				L: WPD
84	Matilija Dam Removal - Mitigation: Santa Ana Bridge Upgrades. Widen and upgrade Santa Ana Bridge - part of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.		X				L: WPD S: OVSD
85	Matilija Dam Removal - Mitigation: Camino Cielo Bridge Replacement. Replace Camino Cielo Bridge - part of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.		X				L: WPD
86	Bring Levees up to FEMA Standards - Ventura River Levee and Parkway Enhancement. Complete levee improvements required to meet FEMA certification requirements, and create safe access to the lower river for recreation.		X				L: WPD S: Coastal Cons.
87	Canada de San Joaquin Bank Stabilization. Fix severe bank erosion and degrading invert. Service road is threatened, followed by homes above bank. Construct grade stabilizers; protect banks from erosion.		X				L: WPD

Table 2.4.2.1 Tier 1L Priority Projects and Programs

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148	Mitigation Bank. Develop a local mitigation bank as a means to protect and restore existing or degraded wetlands or other sensitive habitats, while providing a mechanism for effective mitigation of development-related impacts.				x		L: Colab
149	Steelhead Preserve Education and Conservation Center. Develop a comprehensive watershed education center at the 70-acre historic Hollingsworth Ranch along the Ventura River between Ventura and Ojai. Include displays and demonstrations that interpret and animate the natural and cultural history of the watershed, and community and educational events will be hosted.			x			L: OVLC S: Coastal Cons.
150	Ventura River Parkway Plan. Develop and implement a phased Ventura River Parkway Plan that will improve public access to the river and trail opportunities along the river by working with willing landowners on a voluntary basis.	x					L: Coastal Cons., OVLC S: RWQCB, Friends
Goal 5: Access to Nature							
151	Trail Guides. Create and distribute trail guides that describe the trails and access points, as well as information on the watershed's ecosystems and the important services and values they provide.			x			L: Friends S: Coastal Cons.
156	New Family Picnic Areas/Parks. Install vehicle-accessible parks and picnic areas that offer family access to aquatic habitats.		x				L: OVLC S: Coastal Cons.
157	New Trails. Install sustainably designed new trails and look for appropriate opportunities to serve different types of trail users (walkers, hikers, ADA, bicycle, equestrian).		x				L: OVLC S: Coastal Cons., VHC
159	Easements and Acquisitions for Lower Ventura River Public Access. Where appropriate, secure public access to the lower Ventura River, such as access to the levee and the under-freeway culvert (now used illicitly) that connects the levee to Ventura Avenue.		x				L: Coastal Cons., VHC, Friends

2.3 Campaigns

River Connections Campaign

Resiliency through Infrastructure Campaign

Extreme Efficiency Campaign

Watershed Smart Landscapes & Farms Campaign

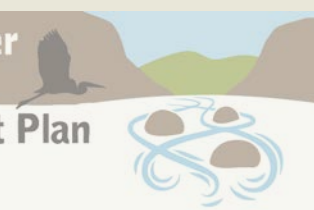
Arundo-Free Watershed Campaign

Healthy San Antonio Creek Campaign

Campaigns

Present desired new projects framed in the context of the considerable work already underway.

Demonstrate the integrated nature of watershed management efforts.



2.3.2 River Connections Campaign

2.3.2.1 The Issue

2.3.2.2 Targets

2.3.2.3 Highlights from **Existing Projects, Programs, and Practices**

2.3.2.4 **Proposed Campaign Projects and Programs**

2.3.2.5 Organizations

River Connections Campaign



Seeks to increase understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Ventura River and its watershed by connecting people with the river, with information about its history and issues, and with the community working to keep it vital.

River Connections Campaign



guide to the upper ventura river parkway

The Ojai Valley Trail winds 9 miles through wooded areas near the river from Foster Park to the City of Ojai. One side of the trail is paved for bicyclists, walkers, and runners. A fence separates the paved path from an adjacent dirt bridle path for horseback riders. Some sections of the Ojai Valley Trail parallel Hwy 33, while others wind through wooded areas and along riverbeds.

The Ventura River Preserve includes three miles of the Ventura River and over 1500 acres of the surrounding ridges and canyons. Hiking, horseback and bicycle riding, dog walking, birdwatching, photography, and just enjoying wild open spaces are among the many recreational activities the preserve has to offer. The preserve is one of several areas owned and managed by the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC).

For more information visit: www.ovlc.org

Map labels include: To Matilija Canyon Trailhead, To Wheeler Gorge Campground and Los Padres National Forest, Matilija Reservoir, Matilija Dam, Matilija Creek, Matilija Dam, Ojai Quarry, Matilija Dam, Ventura River Preserve, Fire Canyon, Los Padres National Forest, and Ventura River Preserve.



Resiliency through Infrastructure & Policy Campaign



Seeks to strengthen both infrastructure and local policy in order to reduce the vulnerability of the watershed and its residents to extended droughts, major floods, seismic hazards, and water supply contamination.

Resiliency through Infrastructure & Policy Campaign



Extreme Efficiency Campaign



Seeks to maximize the conservation of water by all water users by continually realizing greater water use efficiency from equipment, technology, and people; pursuing more opportunities to reuse water; and rewarding conservation.

Extreme Efficiency Campaign

Spring Spruce-up with Ventura Water and SustainableVentura.TV



OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION

presents

May Water Awareness Month
Check out our *Water Matters Events*

Visit the
WATER CONSERVATION EXHIBIT
at the Ojai Library • May 4-23

or the **GREYWATER EXHIBIT**
at Ojai City Hall • May 3-23



Go to
www.OjaiValleyGreen.org
for full schedule and to register
or call (805) 669-8445



UPCOMING DATE
REMEMBER IN

Tuesday, MAY 10 • 7PM

Greywater: Fact vs. Fiction
Roundtable Series: 327 E. Ojai Ave.

Saturday, MAY 14 • 10AM - 2PM

Greywater Workshop

Tuesday, MAY 17 • 7PM

Permaculture 101
Roundtable Series: 327 E. Ojai Ave.

Saturday, MAY 21 • 9:30 - 2PM

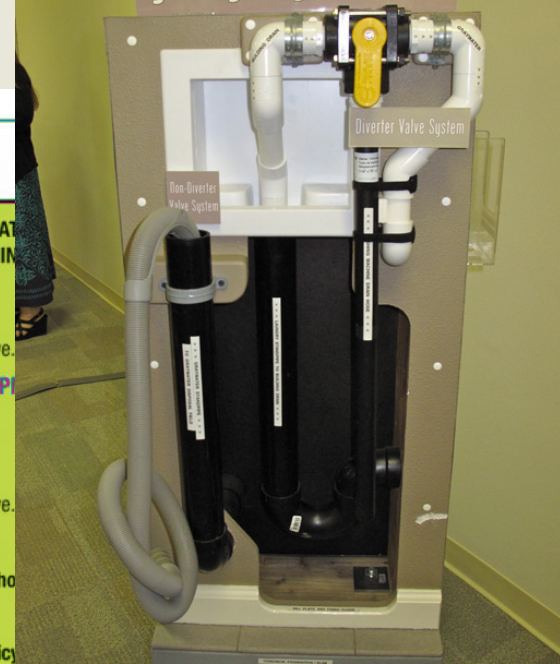
Rehydration for a Thirsty Land Workshop

Saturday, MAY 24 • 7PM

Water: Changing Habits, Changing Policy
Roundtable Series: 327 E. Ojai Ave.

Visit www.OjaiValleyGreen.org

got graywater?

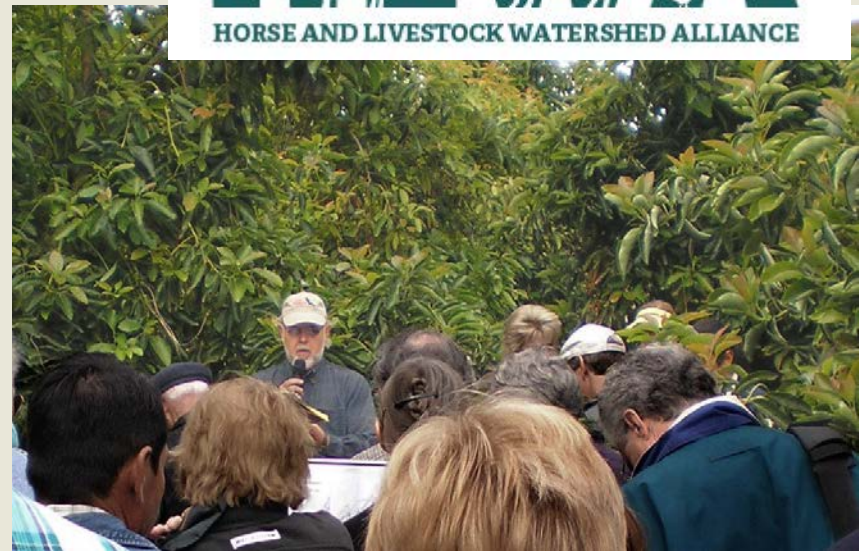
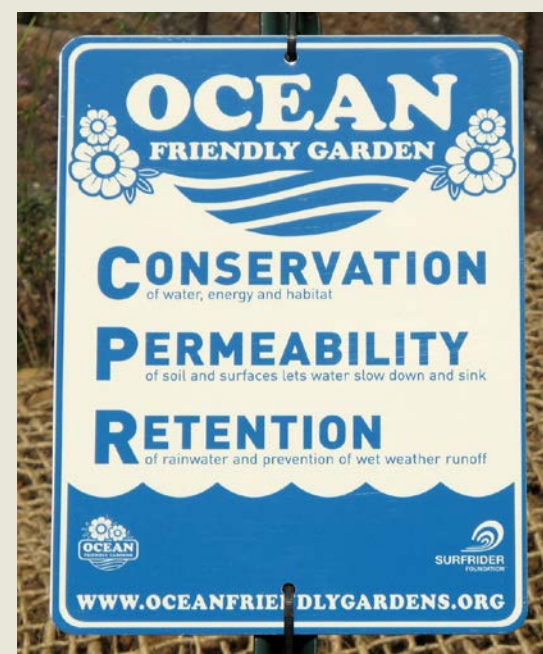


Watershed Smart Landscapes & Farms Campaign



Seeks to improve and innovate residential and commercial landscape and farm management practices in order to protect, supplement, and extend water supplies, and protect the long-term viability of farms.

Watershed Smart Landscapes & Farms Campaign

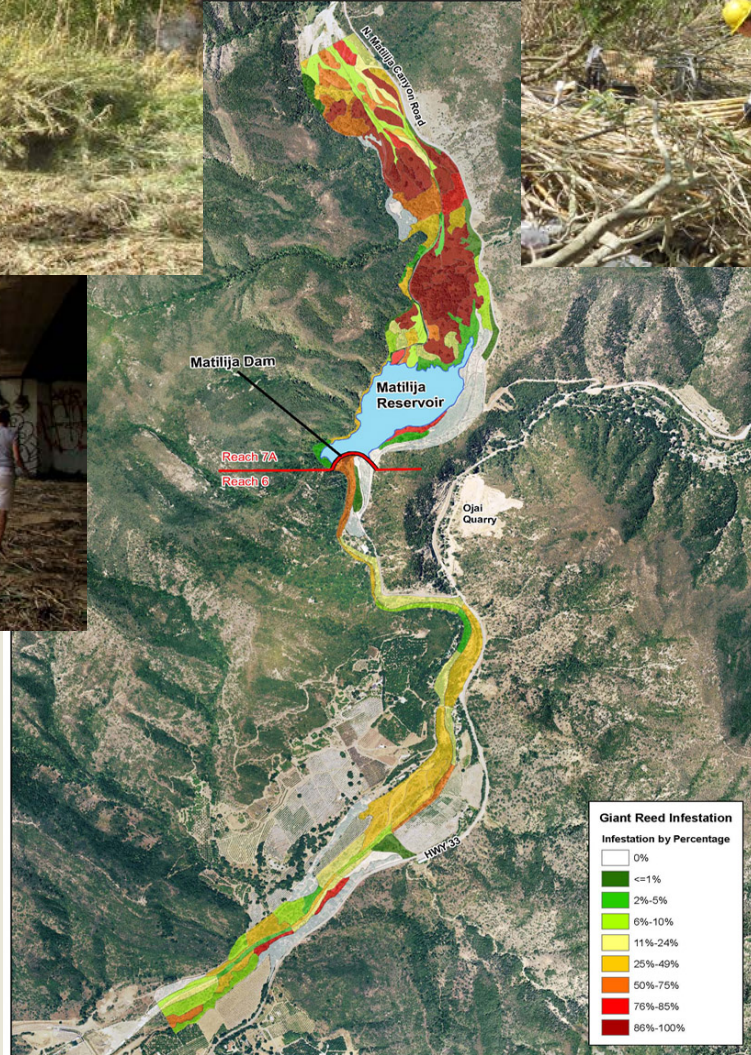


Arundo-Free Watershed Campaign

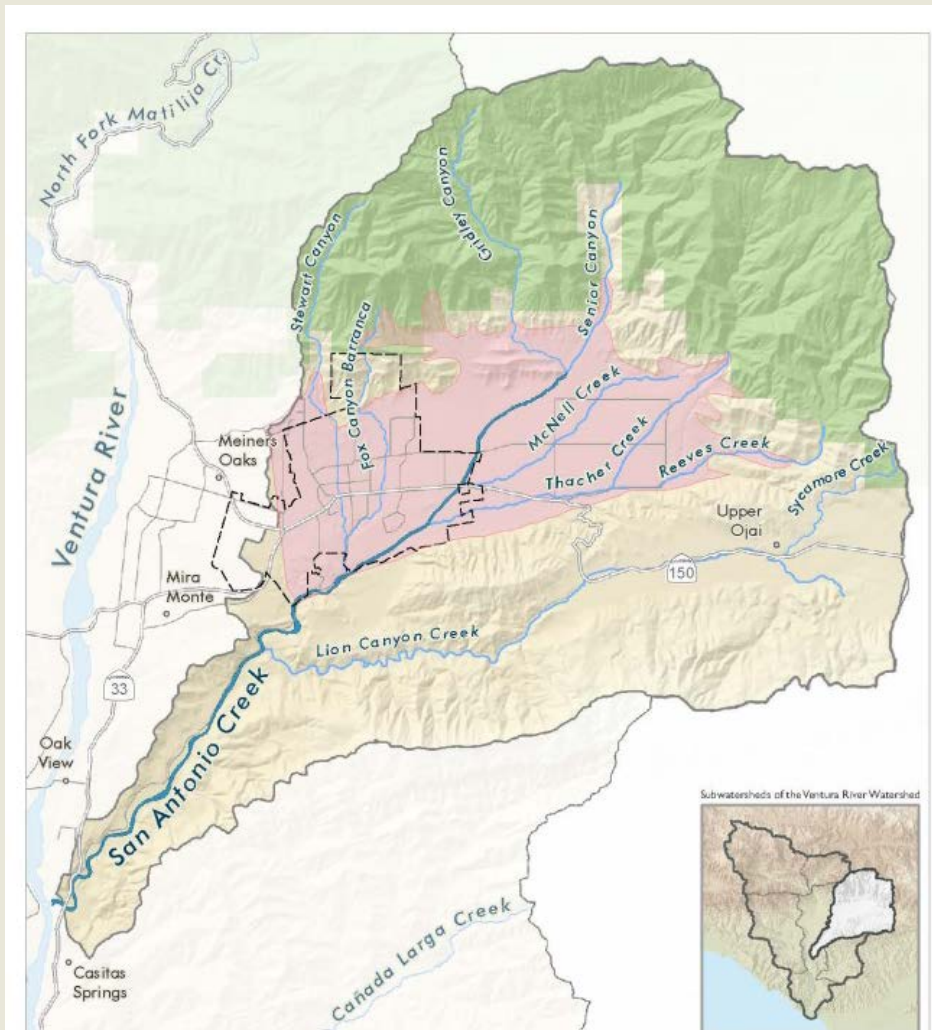


Seeks to remove, and keep at bay, the invasive non-native plant *Arundo donax*, which consumes excessive amounts of water, poses a major fire hazard, clogs flood control channels, and destroys native habitat.

Arundo-Free Watershed Campaign



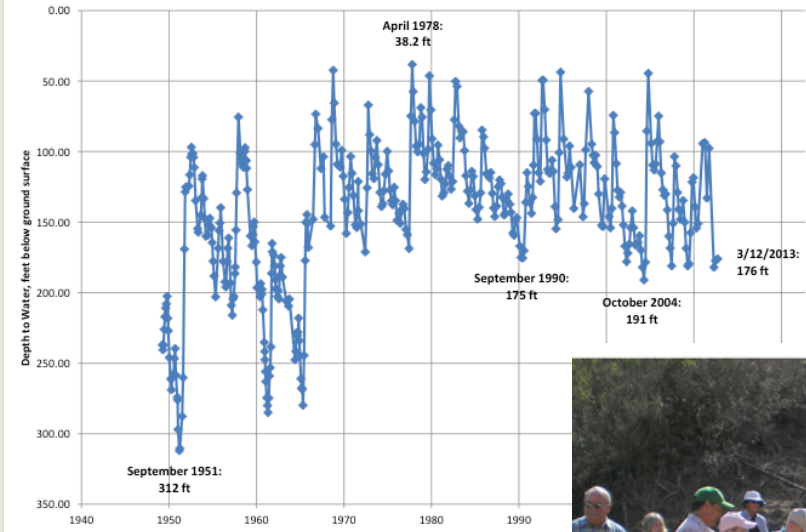
Healthy San Antonio Creek Campaign



Seeks to increase the flow of clean water in San Antonio Creek, increase recharge of the interconnected Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin, and improve the creek's riparian and instream habitats.

Healthy San Antonio Creek Campaign

Depth to Water: Ojai Basin Key Well 04N/22W-5L8
(Carne and Grand)



Final Draft Plan Sections:

[www.venturawatershed.org/
the-watershed-plan](http://www.venturawatershed.org/the-watershed-plan)

Send comments to lorraine@ovlc.org

**Comments due on Parts 1 & 2
by October 22, 2014**