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NEWS FROM:

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF**

PUBLIC WORKS

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**\$25 MILLION DOLLARS TO BE AWARDED FOR INTEGRATED
APPROACH TO WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE GREATER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AREA**

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Los Angeles County Flood Control District has received notice that \$25 million dollars in State Funds has been recommended for construction of 13 projects that are part of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Greater Los Angeles County Region. The IRWMP is a comprehensive plan that lays out issues and possible multi-purpose solutions to water supply, water quality, and water pollution problems in the Region.

A consortium of local agencies and organizations have been collaborating and holding public workshops to develop the IRWMP, which includes a series of projects that will help reduce water pollution and dependency on imported water, conserve water supply, increase native habitat areas, open space and parkland, and organize stakeholders of the various area watersheds, all while maintaining and enhancing flood protection.

"This is a golden opportunity for Los Angeles County. Water management is an issue that becomes more critical each year, and these state funds will go a long way toward bringing many of our conservation projects from the drawing board to fruition," said Los Angeles Supervisor Gloria Molina (1st District).

"This is an exciting opportunity for us to be able to put into action the water management plan to which so many contributed", said Don Wolfe, Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and Chair of the IRWMP Leadership Committee. "The 13 projects that will be funded will provide multi-purpose solutions to the issues that address the Region's use of water. The 25 million is a tremendous

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investment in the Region providing a greater impetus for more collaboration and participation by stakeholders”, he added.

The 13 Los Angeles County Region area projects slated for a part of the \$25 million dollars are:

Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project, from the City of Calabasas; Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Studies and Marshland Enhancement Studies from the County Sanitation Districts; Pacoima Wash Greenway Project from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the City of San Fernando; Southeast Water Reliability and Large Landscape Conservation projects from Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts; Wilmington Drain Restoration, North Atwater Creek Restoration and South Los Angeles Wetlands Park projects from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation; Invasive Weed Control project from the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council; Habitat Restoration in Solstice Creek by the National Park Services-Santa Monica Mountains NRA; Urban Runoff and Native Flow Restoration by the City of Westlake and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District; and Morris Dam Water Supply Enhancement project from the Flood Control District.

The California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board recommended \$25 million to the Region for projects that have a multi-purpose and integrated approach to regional water management. The Region was one of seven regions recommended for funding out of 16 regions throughout the State. The funding is expected to be approved by the State in January.

The IRWMP was developed in less than a year through intensive collaboration of more than 400 agencies including cities, counties, water districts, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups and interested stakeholders in the greater Los Angeles County area that includes portions of Orange, Ventura and San Bernardino Counties.

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This multi-agency process was undertaken to combine efforts, develop partnerships, find cost-effective solutions and identify projects in an area that encompasses more than 2,200 square miles and nearly 10 million people.

Receiving this recommendation for funding is one of the Region's major accomplishments in developing and utilizing the IRWMP to attract funding resources to implement projects that improve water quality and reduce dependency on imported water. The IRWMP will be a living document that will evolve with the needs of the Region and input from stakeholders. It is scheduled to be adopted on December 13, 2006.

For more information regarding the Greater Los Angeles County Region's IRWMP, please visit www.lawaterplan.org.

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