

# The Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

## BENEFITS

Development of the IRWMP provides many benefits, including:

- Regional collaboration
- Successes stemming from new partnerships
- State grant funding opportunities
- Alternative funding opportunities, including:
  - Countywide Funding measure
  - Private/public partnerships
  - Endowments



Tree infiltration wells use plants to filter pollutants

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To date, the collaborative IRWMP process has achieved many important accomplishments, including:

- \$1.5 Million state grant for Plan Development
- Establishment of 5 Subregional Steering Committees and 1 Regional Leadership Committee
- \$25 Million state grant for Project Implementation
- Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Creation of Operating Guidelines
- Outreach to over 1,400 individuals to encourage participation in the IRWMP process
- Four regional and 20 subregional workshops during plan development
- Preparation and adoption of the Plan in 12 months'
- Identification of over 1800 projects and project concepts



Flood Detention Basin in the City of Torrance

## GET INVOLVED

Although participation in the IRWMP process has been widespread, the participants continue working to assure that all interested parties get engaged, submit projects, and help shape future outcomes. This will include additional outreach to disadvantaged communities, elected officials, special districts, and other jurisdictions.

If interested, visit the plan website and request to be added to the mailing list, review the plan and other documents, and plan to attend an upcoming meeting of one of the five Subregional Steering Committees or the Leadership Committee.



Morris Dam on the San Gabriel River

## THE PROBLEM

Providing clean, reliable water supplies to the Los Angeles region is threatened by many issues:

- Distant water supplies that vary due to climate fluctuations across numerous states
- Degradation of local surface water by urban runoff
- Contamination of groundwater from past land uses and inadequate storage of industrial materials
- A flood protection system designed to quickly transport runoff to the ocean
- Land use practices that limit the ability of natural processes to transform or absorb pollutants



### Urban Runoff limits the potential use of surface water

Agencies have historically tapped a variety of water sources, implemented new technologies, implemented aggressive conservation programs, responded to evolving regulatory requirements, and navigated changing political conditions to deliver ample water supplies in most years. Yet a new approach to water resource management is needed to meet the challenges posed by climate change, future population growth, aging infrastructure, and increased regulatory oversight.



Santa Monica Beach

## THE SOLUTION

The state Water Plan acknowledges that water resource issues are best addressed at a regional scale and promotes Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP) to identify solutions that respond to local conditions.



Los Angeles River in Atwater Village

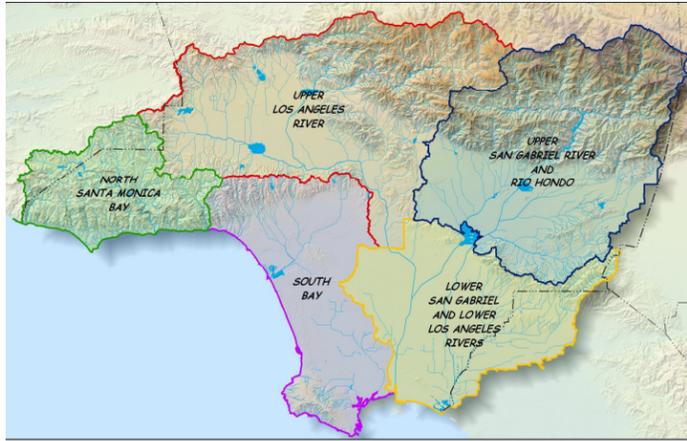
In 2006, dozens of agencies, cities, special districts, and community groups began working together on an IRWMP for the Greater Los Angeles County region, which identifies multi-purpose solutions to enhance water supply, improve water quality, expand parkland and open space, and enhance flood management.



The Greater Los Angeles IRWMP Region

The plan identifies quantifiable planning targets and recognizes that adaption to a changing climate requires flexible and resilient systems that coordinate water supply planning, groundwater management, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and flood management.

# The Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan



Greater Los Angeles County Region

## REGION

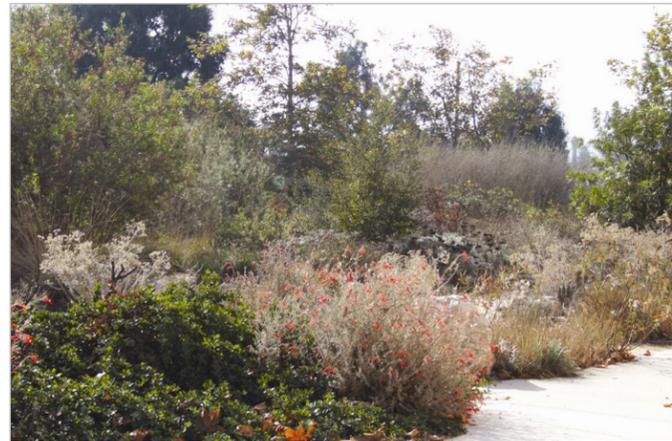
- 2,058 Square Miles
- 10.2 Million Residents
- Portions of 4 Counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura & San Bernardino)
- All or portions of 92 Cities
- 5 Sub-Regions: North Santa Monica Bay, Upper Los Angeles River, Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo, Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles, and South Bay



Arroyo Seco above the City of Pasadena



Natural bottom segment of Compton Creek



Native Plant Garden, Madrona Marsh Nature Center

## OBJECTIVES

### Water Supply

- Optimize local water resources to reduce the Region's reliance on imported water

### Water Quality

- Comply with water quality standards (including TMDLs) by improving the quality of urban runoff, stormwater, and wastewater
- Protect and improve groundwater and drinking water quality

### Enhance Habitat

- Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats

### Enhance Open Space & Recreation

- Increase watershed friendly recreational space for all communities

### Sustain Infrastructure for Local Communities

- Maintain and enhance public infrastructure related to flood protection, water resources, and water quality



Vegetated Swale at Bimini Slough, City of Los Angeles



Pacoima Groundwater Spreading Basins

## TARGETS

### Water Supply

- Increase water supply reliability by providing 800,000 acre-feet/year of additional water supply and demand reduction through conservation
- Included in the 800,000 acre-feet/year target noted above, reuse or infiltrate 130,000 acre-feet/year of reclaimed water

### Water Quality

- Reduce and reuse 150,000 acre-feet/year (~40 percent) of dry weather urban runoff and capture and treat an additional 170,000 acre-feet/year (~50 percent), for a total target of ~90 percent
- Reduce and reuse 220,000 acre-feet/year (~40 percent) of stormwater runoff from developed areas, and capture and treat an additional 270,000 acre-feet/year (~50 percent), for a total of ~90 percent
- Treat 91,000 acre-feet/year of contaminated groundwater

### Enhance Habitat

- Restore 100+ linear miles of functional riparian habitat and associated buffer habitat
- Restore 1,400 acres of functional wetland habitat

### Enhance Open Space & Recreation

- Develop 30,000 acres of recreational open space, focused in under-served communities

### Sustain Infrastructure for Local Communities

- Repair and/or replace 40 percent of the aging water resources infrastructure



Malibu Creek meets the ocean at Malibu Lagoon

## STRATEGIES

The plan includes 22 water resource management strategies:

- Asset Management
- Conjunctive Use
- Desalination
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Environmental & Habitat Protection
- Flood Management
- Groundwater Management
- Imported Water
- Integrated Planning
- Land Use Planning
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
- Recreation & Public Access
- Stormwater Collection & Management
- Surface Storage
- Water & Wastewater Treatment
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality Protection and Improvement
- Water Recycling
- Water Supply Reliability
- Water Transfers
- Watershed Planning
- Wetlands Enhancement & Creation



Conceptual changes to the Los Angeles River channel