3. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Ballona Creek

Broad consensus on quantitative Regional targets for the next 20 years provides clear direction for projects and accountability for success.

3.1 Purpose

This section identifies the objectives for the Plan, establishes quantified planning targets for the 20 year planning horizon that can be used to gauge success in meeting the objectives, and identifies short- and long-term priorities for the Region.

3.2 Objectives

This plan is intended to improve water supply and water quality, enhance open space, recreation and habitat, and sustain local communities in the Greater Los Angeles County Region. To meet those broad goals, seven objectives have been articulated, based on recent water supply, resource management, and watershed plans. These plans include various UWMPs, the Metropolitan Water District's IRP, Common Ground, from the Mountain to the Sea (the watershed and open space plan for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers), the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan, and completed and in progress watershed plans for major tributary streams (including the Arroyo Seco, Ballona Creek, Compton Creek, Coyote Creek, Dominguez Channel, Rio Hondo, Tujunga Wash, and the Upper San Gabriel River). An initial list of objectives was revised by a subcommittee of the Leadership Committee and then circulated for comment to the five Steering Committees, five Subregional stakeholder workshops, and one Regional stakeholder workshop. Stakeholder comments were reviewed and incorporated as appropriate into the objectives, which were then finalized by the Leadership Committee.

The seven objectives identified below (and summarized in Table 3-1 along with planning targets) are presented under the Plan element to which they most closely correspond.

Table 3-1. Greater Los Angeles County Region Objectives and Planning Targets for Year 2026 - To Promote an Integrated, Multi-Benefit, Inter-Regional Approach to Regional Water Management and Planning

Objectives	Planning Targets
Improve Water Supply	
Optimize local water resources to reduce the Region's reliance on imported water.	Increase water supply reliability and quality by providing 800,000 acre-feet/year of additional water supply and demand reduction through conservation. Included within the 800,000 acre-feet/year noted above, reuse or infiltrate 130,000 acre-feet/year of reclaimed water (110 percent increase over existing reclaimed water use).
Improve Water Quality	
Comply with water quality regulations (including TMDLs) by improving the quality of urban runoff, stormwater, and wastewater.	Dry Weather: Reduce and reuse 150,000 acre-feet/year (~40 percent), and capture and treat, an additional 170,000 acre-feet/year (~50 percent); (~90 percent of estimated total dry weather flow). Wet Weather: Reduce and reuse 220,000 acre-feet/year of stormwater runoff from developed areas (~40 percent), and capture and treat an additional 270,000 acre-feet/year (~50 percent); (~90 percent of estimated total wet weather flow).
Protect and improve groundwater and drinking water quality.	Treat 91,000 acre-feet/year of contaminated groundwater (1.82M acre-feet in 20 years)
Enhance Habitat	
Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats.	Restore 100+ linear miles of functional riparian habitat and associated buffer habitat. Restore 1,400 acres of functional wetland habitat.
Enhance Open Space and Recreation	
Increase watershed friendly recreational space for all communities.	Develop 30,000 acres of recreational open space, focused on under-served communities.
Sustain Infrastructure for Local Communities	
Maintain and enhance public infrastructure related to flood protection, water resources and water quality.	Repair and/or replace 40 percent of the aging infrastructure.

Improve Water Supply

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

Most years, the San Gabriel Mountains receive substantial rainfall and existing dams and natural storage slowly release runoff, providing an important source of high-quality and low-cost water that can be treated for direct use or recharged into groundwater basins for later use. At several locations, recharge is limited by the capacity of existing recharge facilities. Rehabilitation and expansion of recharge facilities, modified operation of existing storage facilities, and rehabilitation and enlargement of upstream storage capacity, and optimization of operational practices could improve the utilization of this local water source.

Recharge or direct reuse of runoff from urbanized areas is generally limited by concerns about the presence of contaminants. To increase the utilization of this local resource, runoff capture and infiltration could be expanded (where appropriate), the quality of surface runoff improved, and projects

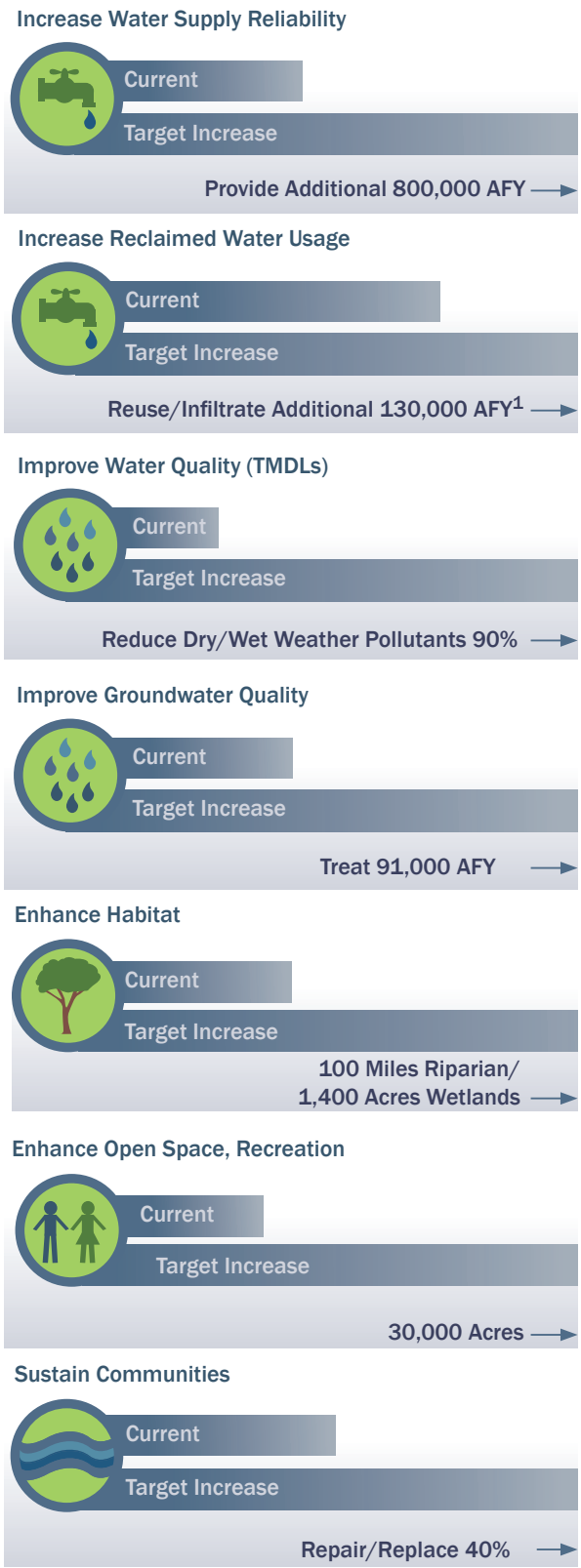


Figure 3-1. Planning Targets. The IRWMP leadership committee has carefully created 20-year targets and strategies that usher in a new era of integrated solutions and more cost effective use of public resources.

The San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant in the Upper San Gabriel River Subregion provides over 90,000 acre-feet/year of recycled water to the Region however, there is still over 300,000 acre-feet/year of treated effluent disposed to the ocean, offering a significant opportunity for recycled water expansion.

implemented to capture, treat, and utilize storm-water for either non-potable direct use or recharge.

The widespread implementation of water conservation projects and programs has resulted in significant reductions in demand throughout the Region. Aggressive adoption of additional measures, such as public outreach, ultra low-flush toilets, and evapotranspiration-based irrigation controllers will be needed to continue progress.

Although local wastewater treatment plants produce substantial amounts of recycled water, due to demand and infrastructure limitations, not all of this production is currently utilized to augment water supply, resulting in the discharge of excess supplies to the rivers and creeks. Expansion of distribution systems and the creation of new storage facilities could facilitate increased production and expand the utilization of this local resource for direct non-potable reuse (e.g., landscape irrigation) and groundwater recharge.

Desalination is being considered by some coastal agencies to improve supply reliability and reduce dependence on imported water. Seawater desalination has become more economical in recent years due to improvements in membrane technology, plant siting strategies, and increased costs for traditional water treatment. Additional research and supporting studies will be needed to optimize treatment technology, develop pretreatment alternatives, resolve brine disposal management issues,

[1] Reuse or infiltrate 130,000 acre-feet/year of reclaimed water is included within the 800,000 acre-feet/year noted above.

and identify appropriate mitigation for any adverse environmental impacts.

Improve Water Quality

Comply with water quality standards (including TMDLs) by improving the quality of urban runoff, stormwater, and wastewater

Improving the quality of urban and stormwater runoff will reduce or eliminate impairment of the designated beneficial uses of rivers, creeks, beaches, and other bodies of water in the Region. Continued compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPES) permit requirements and the implementation of additional programs and projects will be required to reduce contaminant levels to the limits established by current, pending, and future TMDLs. Improving the quality of urban and stormwater runoff could also make these local supplies available for direct reuse or groundwater recharge in some locations depending on land use.

Protect and improve groundwater and drinking water quality

The Region's many groundwater basins provide a substantial portion of local water supplies, particularly during drought periods. In some locations, groundwater quality has been degraded by industrial discharges, agricultural and residential chemical usage, naturally occurring minerals and organics, and overdrafting of some basins, which has resulted in seawater intrusion along the coast. Identifying sources of contaminants and taking appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate the potential for contamination, is crucial to ensuring a reliable water supply. Where contamination has occurred, programs and projects must be implemented to treat the contaminated groundwater and make these additional supplies available.

Enhance Habitat

Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats

Urban and suburban growth in the Region has displaced extensive areas of native habitat, including wetlands, riparian, and upland habitats, which has adversely affected local watersheds and water resources. The protection of existing habitats, including wetland and riparian habitats along the coast and interior valleys and upland habitats in the foothills and mountains will preserve areas that contribute to the natural recharge of precipitation. Many of these existing habitats have been adversely affected by land use practices and the introduction of invasive and non-native species and thus are in need of preservation and restoration to enhance their value as native habitat. Functional linkages between the remaining areas of native habitat are needed to preserve long-term species diversity.

Rindge Dam is an example of obsolete infrastructure as well as a major barrier to Steelhead migration in the Malibu Creek Watershed.

Restoration of steelhead trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)* to its historic range could serve as a key indicator of ecosystem health in the Region. Within the 20-year horizon of the Plan, steelhead populations on major creeks in the Santa Monica Mountains should be restored, via removal of barriers to fish migration and restoration of spawning and riparian habitat and associated buffer habitat. Although the restoration of steelhead to channelized rivers may be infeasible during the planning horizon, this Plan recognizes restoration of steelhead trout as a long-term goal (e.g., 50 to 100 years) for the rivers and major tributaries in the urbanized portions of the Region that were the species' historic range.

The loss of functional native habitat and the extensive modification of natural channels in urbanized areas have also reduced the extent to which natural processes can remove or sequester contaminants in urban and stormwater runoff, cycle nutrients through watersheds, and provide functional habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species that inhabit or depend on these areas. The protection, restoration and enhancement of native functional riparian habitats should also restore natural ecosystem processes to the extent feasible.

The amount of undeveloped open space and habitat in the upper portions of many watersheds has been decreasing as urbanization continues. To maintain the water supply, water quality, habitat and recreational benefits that these areas provide, the undeveloped portions of the upper watersheds not currently included within protected areas (i.e., national forests or parks) need to be identified, quantified, and protected where feasible. Analysis of the benefits of restoring natural processes may be useful to convince local jurisdictions of the value of this practice.

Fire is an integral part of many local ecosystems, which have adapted to these occasional events in ways that renew vegetation and recycle nutrients. Historical patterns of open space management have relied heavily on fire suppression, which in some instances has increased fuel loads, transforming once minor fires to major conflagrations that have severe impacts on habitat and create substantial risks to lives and property. Once denuded of vegetation, exposed soils are susceptible to erosion and failure, reducing the ability of these lands to absorb rainfall and recharge groundwater, and sometimes resulting in debris flows that clog channels and fill reservoirs with sediment, adversely affecting downstream water quality. Sensitive fuel management techniques, including controlled burns and fuel load management are needed to restore the ability of these lands to accommodate minor fires, while preserving and protecting habitat for sensitive species.

Enhance Open Space and Recreation

Increase watershed friendly recreational space for all communities

Open space and parkland has the potential to enhance groundwater water resources (by preserving or expanding the area available for natural groundwater recharge), improve surface water quality (to the extent that these open spaces filter, retain, or detain stormwater runoff), and provide opportunities to reuse treated runoff or recycled water for irrigation (thereby reducing the demand for potable water). The amount of existing parkland in the

IRWMP targets for water quality are based on the desire to protect our ocean and tributary rivers.

urbanized portions of the Region does not meet national standards per capita parkland access, particularly in Disadvantaged Communities. Additional watershed-friendly recreational space is needed and these spaces should provide native vegetation to create habitat, passive recreational opportunities, and where feasible, contribute to stormwater detention and treatment and natural groundwater recharge.

Sustain Infrastructure for Local Communities

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

Although, abundant sunshine is one of the Region's main attractions, occasional storm events have the potential to generate substantial amounts of runoff which can create significant flood risks. The Region's extensive flood management system must be operated, maintained, and enhanced where needed to protect lives and property. As elements of the flood protection system warrant significant repair or replacement, consideration should be given to the implementation of more integrated flood management systems. Projects that propose to: 1) reduce runoff via onsite best management practices (BMPs); 2) capture and treat urban and storm-water runoff for treatment; 3) expand groundwater recharge; or 4) restore habitat, must also preserve or enhance existing flood protection levels.

Replacement of aging infrastructure with green infrastructure is being considered to achieve IRWMP objectives.

Many water and wastewater systems in the Region have been operating for up to five decades or longer with differing approaches and issues related to maintenance and infrastructure replacement. As these systems age or system demands increase, adequate maintenance and appropriate enhancements should be implemented to improve the quality of water delivered to consumers, maintain the quality of wastewater effluent discharge, expand recycled water production, enhance system flexibility, and improve water supply reliability in an integrated manner as much as possible.

3.3 Planning Targets

To establish quantified benchmarks for implementation of the Plan, planning targets have been defined based on much discussion with the relevant agencies and stakeholders, which amplify the objectives above and provide more definition to the Region's major water resource needs over the next 20 years. Although the IRWMP is intended to address the Region's water resource management needs, this document also identifies several open space and habitat targets, as the implementation of water supply and water quality projects have the potential to contribute towards these other Regional needs. In addition, habitat, open space, and parkland projects have the potential to generate water supply and water quality benefits. The planning targets are summarized in Table 3-1 and are discussed in the following sections.

Improve Water Supply

Increase water supply reliability by providing 800,000 acre-feet/year of additional water supply and demand reduction through conservation

As discussed in Section 2, the Region's current water supplies (for a single dry year) were estimated at approximately 2.55 million acre-feet/year (assuming SWP deliveries in a single dry year would be 5 percent of entitlement). By comparing the Region's current supply to an estimate of future demand, the difference between water demand and

supply was estimated to be approximately 800,000 acre-feet/year.

Varying two key assumptions used in the analysis of supply and demand produces a considerable range. The estimated future supply "gap" of 800,000 acre-feet/year noted above is based on estimates of future supply and demand developed by the Metropolitan Water District and apportioned to the Region for the purposes of the IRWMP. Metropolitan's IRP established "targets" for future water supplies which include a buffer against the potential loss of existing water supplies. By eliminating the buffer against supply loss, the Region's planning target would drop to 580,000 acre-feet/year. Alternatively, if the Region was asked to absorb Metropolitan's entire supply loss buffer (which may be unlikely), then the Region's planning target would increase. If Metropolitan's water supply targets were increased, then the Region's planning target would also increase. By combining these two assumptions (i.e., the Region absorbs the Metropolitan's entire supply loss buffer and the Metropolitan's supply targets are increased by 25 percent), then the Region's planning target would increase to 1.87 million acre-feet/year.

Included in the 800,000 acre-feet/year target noted above, reuse or infiltrate 130,000 acre-feet/year of recycled water

The Region produces substantial amounts of recycled water, but this production exceeds current demand. Expanding opportunities for utilization of this local resource for direct non-potable reuse, indirect potable reuse, injection into seawater intrusion barriers in coastal groundwater basins, and recharge through groundwater recharge basins, could displace the need to import, pump and/or treat "new" water and would improve water supply reliability. This will require enhanced treatment, expanded distribution systems, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and the identification of new customers and/or new uses for recycled water.

This target recognizes the substantial volume of current production (approximately 120,000 acre-feet/year) and suggests that with aggressive expansion of existing systems, production and utilization could be increased and perhaps more than doubled (to 250,000 acre-feet/year) over the next 20 years. This target is subsumed within the above planning target for water supply.

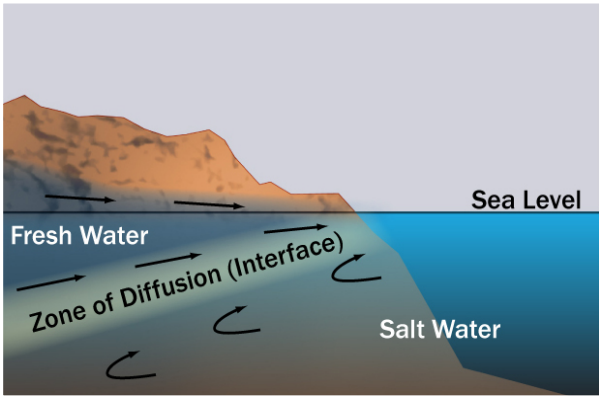
Replacement of water-thirsty landscapes with native plants offers significant opportunities for additional conservation in the Region as well as reduction of dry weather urban runoff.

Improve 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

During periods of dry weather, runoff from landscape irrigation, washing impervious surfaces, unregulated industrial discharges, illicit sewer connections, and seepage from natural springs, cumulatively result in the discharge of a substantial volume of runoff into local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. This urban runoff typically contains moderate levels of contaminants which degrade surface water quality and limit the potential to utilize this resource to augment local water supplies. To reduce adverse impacts to beneficial uses in the creeks and rivers, the volume of urban runoff could be reduced (i.e., more efficient landscape irrigation or onsite BMPs to infiltrate and reduce runoff). The remaining urban runoff should be captured, treated, infiltrated, or reused for other purposes, which would require the development of infrastructure for detention, treatment and infiltration.

This target for the volume of urban runoff is based on stream gauge records of current dry-weather flows in major channels in the Region. The estimate of the range of annual volumes that should be reduced, captured and/or treated corresponds to cumulative flows of between 210 to 450 cfs for the entire Region. The IRP for the City of Los Angeles establishes a target for a 50 percent reduction in runoff. The lower limit for this target (40 percent) reflects a concern that the City's IRP target may be difficult to achieve during the 20-year IRWMP planning horizon. As existing habitat in some creeks and rivers has become dependent on the year-round flows which result from urban runoff (and the discharge of treated effluent from wastewater treatment plants at some locations), the complete elimination of urban runoff could result in adverse impacts to in-channel habitat and the native and migratory species that utilize those habitats. Thus, rather than propose the complete elimination of urban runoff, this target sets an upper limit of the 90 percent for the reduction and/or capture, treatment, and reuse of urban runoff.



Maintenance of seawater barriers is an opportunity to expand recycled water use and protect groundwater quality.

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

Extensive urban and suburban development in the Region has significantly increased impervious surfaces and increased stormwater runoff to the creeks and rivers. The flood management system has been designed to efficiently carry stormwater runoff to the Santa Monica and San Pedro Bays. Due to the presence of trash, bacteria, metals, nutrients and organic chemicals in stormwater, this local resource is generally not being pursued as a potential source to augment local water supplies, likely due to perceived cost and logistical constraints. At sites where contaminant levels are generally low (such as residential parcels), stormwater runoff volumes should be reduced through onsite measures (by reducing impervious surfaces, or utilizing swales, berms and other onsite BMPs to capture and infiltrate runoff). This has the potential to augment local supplies through natural recharge and could reduce demand for potable water (e.g., by capturing runoff in cisterns for subsequent reuse as irrigation water).

Although measures to reduce runoff from urbanized sites (per the above target) would reduce the volume of stormwater discharged to storm drains, creeks and rivers, most of the remaining runoff that is discharged will need to be captured and

BMPs such as vegetated swales and tree well inflitration pits offer stormwater capture benefits as well as polluntant reduction and groundwater recharge benefits.

treated in order to meet applicable water quality standards. Although some situations may warrant single-purpose stormwater treatment solutions, preference should be given to multi-purpose solutions that provide functional native habitat, create recreational opportunities, and utilize treated runoff to augment water supplies, either via direct non-potable reuse or groundwater recharge.

The lower range of this target (40 percent) reflects a concern that the City's IRP target (to reduce runoff by 50 percent) may be difficult to achieve during the 20-year IRWMP planning horizon. The upper limit (90 percent) for the capture and treatment of runoff is generally consistent with the 85th percentile runoff target for the Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan established by the Los Angeles RWQCB, which requires the detention of stormwater runoff (from rainfall events with approximately ¾ inch of precipitation) for several development types[1]. This target also acknowledges that large storm events produce runoff volumes which are too large to feasibly capture and treat. For the purposes of this plan, it is assumed that TMDL compliance can be achieved through a combination of reducing runoff volumes (up to the 40 percent of runoff) and the subsequent capture and treatment (up to 90 percent) of (both dry-weather and) stormwater runoff from developed areas.

Treat 91,000 acre-feet/year of contaminated groundwater

Groundwater quality in many basins has been degraded by industrial discharges, agricultural and residential chemical usage, contaminants in urban runoff, naturally occurring constituents, and seawater intrusion at some locations along the coast. Where contamination has occurred, many programs and projects have been implemented to treat and augment local supplies and enhance water supply reliability. Remediating contaminated portions of our groundwater basins can provide significant and direct benefits locally and to the state from making additional groundwater supplies available. These benefits are immediate, quantifiable, and long term. Cleaning up the groundwater has a direct nexus and achieves the primary purpose of this Plan. This task requires significant coordination between agencies and stakeholders.

[1] *In most of Los Angeles County, Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan are currently required for: 1) single family hillside residences; 2) 100,000 square feet commercial developments; 3) automotive repair shops; 4) retail gasoline outlets; 5) restaurants; 6) home subdivisions with greater than 10 units; 7) parking lots greater than 5,000 square feet or 25 spaces; and 8) locations directly adjacent to or discharging directly to environmental sensitive areas.*

This target is based on estimates of the volume of contaminated groundwater requiring cleanup in the major groundwater basins developed by groundwater basin managers in the Region.

Enhance Habitat

Restore 100+ linear miles of functional riparian habitat and associated buffer habitat

Existing riparian habitat in the Region is mostly confined to the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains. Although much of this habitat in the San Gabriel Mountains is protected within the Angeles National Forest, much of the riparian habitat in the rest of the Region has been subject to modification. Historically, many of the streams that supported this habitat also supported native populations of steelhead trout. To help restore the population of species associated with these stream corridors, preservation and restoration of functional riparian habitat and associated habitat buffer and water quality improvements in those streams will be required.

This target is based on a goal established by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to restore 20 linear miles of steelhead trout habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains, which would require removal of barriers to fish migration and restoration of functional riparian habitat and associated buffer habitat. Although specific targets for restoration of riparian habitat have not been established for the other Subregions (in part due to a lack of adequate baseline information on the extent of existing habitat), the target for the North Santa Monica Bay Subregion (of 20 linear miles) was applied to each of other Subregions, resulting in the cumulative planning target. This planning target is included in the IRWMP to recognize that functional riparian habitat can provide water supply and water quality benefits and to determine to what extent implementation of the Plan can contribute towards meeting this Regional resource conservation need.

Restore 1,400 acres of functional wetland habitat

Approximately 90 percent of the coastal wetlands in the Region have been lost due to habitat loss and development. Wetlands can cleanse polluted waters, prevent or mitigate floods, protect shorelines and channel banks, and recharge groundwater aquifers. Additionally, wetlands provide unique and critical habitats for large numbers of flora and fauna. Thus, restoration of existing and historic wetlands has the potential to improve water quality, improve flood protection, restore habitat, and enhance groundwater recharge.

This target is based on an estimate of remaining wetland habitat in the Region (approximately 1,400 acres) developed by the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. This planning target is included in the IRWMP to recognize that functional wetland habitat can provide water supply and water quality benefits and to determine to what extent implementation of the Plan can contribute towards meeting this Regional resource conservation need.

Enhance Open Space, Recreation

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

To address existing deficiencies in access to parkland and open space in urbanized areas, and meet additional demand associated with projected population growth, additional recreational open space is required. As many Disadvantaged Communities lack sufficient park space, development of new recreational open space should be focused in those communities. Watershed-friendly recreational open space includes native vegetation for habitat, provides passive recreational activities, and where feasible, contributes to stormwater detention and treatment and groundwater recharge.

Currently the Region has approximately 52,800 acres of parks (excluding the Angeles National Forest, the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area and other state lands, which are not accessible to many residents). With a current population of approximately 10.2 million, there is approximately 5.2 acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents. The National Recreation and Park Association suggests that a park system serving an urban area should be composed of a "core" system of parklands, with a minimum of 6.25 acres of developed open space per 1,000 residents. With a projected population increase of approximately 15.4 percent over the 20 year plan horizon (SCAG, 2004), it is estimated that approximately 30,380 acres of additional parkland would be needed within the developed portions of the Region (e.g., in close proximity to the population being served, such as walking distance) to meet the minimum recommendation for parkland.

The inclusion of a planning target for recreational open space is intended to gauge to what extent the implementation of the IRWMP can contribute towards meeting the Regional need for additional recreational space through the inclusion of watershed-friendly recreational or open space features in water quality and water supply projects.

A critical element of the plan is the maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure such as Morris Dam, shown here.

Sustain Infrastructure for Local Communities

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

Various elements of the flood protection system, including debris basins, dams, reservoirs, pump stations, underground storm drains, and concrete-lined channels, are years old and have exceeded their design life span. As a result, many have signs of structural strains, or are showing deterioration or other aging effects. Several dams and debris basins have been identified by the state department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams as subject to failure during a maximum credible earthquake or probable maximum flood. Results of years of channel and underground inspections and safety concerns have prompted agencies to monitor and perform immediate repairs to several channels and drains with various deficiencies. Many water and wastewater systems in the Region have been operating for five decades or longer with varying priorities about, and capacity for, infrastructure maintenance and replacement. As these systems age or system demands increase, repair or replacement of system elements should be implemented to improve the quality of water delivered to consumers, maintain the quality of wastewater effluent discharge, expand recycled water production, enhance system flexibility, and improve water supply reliability and protection.

Although many agencies regularly plan for infrastructure repair and replacement, this target acknowledges the need for a systematic repair and replacement of the aging water resources infrastructure. As elements of the flood protection system warrant significant repair or replacement, consideration should be given to the implementation of integrated flood management systems.

3.4 Regional Priorities

Based on input and review by the Leadership Committee, review of recent plans, including UWMPs, Watershed Management Plans, and other Regional plans, and input from agencies and stakeholders, the following list of short-term (e.g., three years) and long-term (20 years) priorities have been identified for the Region. Refer to Figure 3-2.

Short Term Priorities	Long Term Priorities
■ Utilize a Regional and Subregional structure for development and implementation of the IRWMP. ■ Complete the Greater Los Angeles County IRWMP by January 1, 2007. ■ Articulate quantifiable planning targets for water supply, water quality, flood management, and open space/habitat. ■ Determine which water management strategies can contribute to meeting the identified objectives. ■ Identify projects that will meet the gap between existing projects and the Regional planning targets. ■ Maximize funding opportunities for project implementation from local, state and federal sources.	■ Maintain a Regional and Subregional structure to oversee plan implementation and assure continued stakeholder input. ■ Optimize use of recycled water, groundwater, desalination, and stormwater to enhance water supply reliability. ■ Reduce demand on imported water sources. ■ Protect groundwater supplies. ■ Improve surface water quality to meet applicable water quality regulations, including TMDL's. ■ Preserve open space, conserve and restore functional habitats, and protect special-status species.

Figure 3-2. Regional Priorities. The IRWMP Leadership Committee established short and long term priorities intended to guide implementation of the Plan and enhance water supply reliability.