



CHAPTER | THREE





CHAPTER THREE

goals and objectives

A. STAKEHOLDER ISSUES OF INTEREST

In January 2002, the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force developed a Draft Procedures and Protocols document (included as Appendix A to this Watershed Plan), which articulated objectives and guiding principles for development of this Watershed Management Plan and described stakeholder roles, guidelines for attendance and participation in stakeholder meetings, decision making, sharing of information and subsequent amendments to the document. The Procedures and Protocols document also include a list of Issues of Interest, which were prioritized in March 2003 and listed on the following page.



B. WATERSHED PROBLEMS

Based on the Issues of Interest, the minutes of the BCWTF, and other sources, the following watershed problems have been identified:

WATER

- Water quality in Ballona Creek, the estuary, Marina del Rey and nearby beaches is degraded
- Ballona Creek (and tributaries) and the estuary do not function as natural hydrologic systems
- Dependence on imported water is high and use of reclaimed water is low
- Aquatic, estuarine and riparian habit is poor and limited in area

LAND

- Terrestrial Habitat is poor and limited in area
- Access to Open Space is limited for many communities
- A comprehensive system of bike trails and hiking paths does not exist
- Public appreciation of the value of native plants and preservation of cultural resources is low



PLANNING

- Planning by individual jurisdictions often does not adequately consider downstream or watershed-wide implications
- Many public projects are planned to achieve single, rather than multiple, benefits
- Planning does not always integrate sound scientific concepts and principles
- Public appreciation of the Ballona Creek Watershed is limited

Ballona Creek is not recognized as a potential focus of sustainable economic development.

1. BCWTF Issues of Interest

WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY (SOURCE WATER) (21)

- Beneficial Reuse
- Constructed Wetlands
- Flood Protection
- Groundwater Basin
- Groundwater Recharge
- North Outfall Treatment Facility
- Permeability
- Reclaimed Water
- Seasonal & annual trends
- Spreading grounds
- Surface waters
- Water retention
- Stormwater / Urban runoff
- Beneficial uses for channel or receiving waters
- Contact recreation
- Groundwater protection
- Inventory of the dischargers/ discharges

- Noncontact recreation
- Point/nonpoint source pollution
- Sediment quality
- Sources of contamination
- Oil seeps
- Air pollution
- Illegal Dumping
- Interim Permitting
- List of impaired water bodies [303(d) list]
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
- TMDLs
- Regulatory agencies

ECOSYSTEMS (16)

- Connections
- Fisheries
- Greenways
- Habitat
- Invasive plant species
- Natural resources
- Rare, threatened and endangered species
- Recovery & restoration of native species
- Seawater barrier
- Wetlands restoration
- Wildlife access (fencing and roads)
- Wildlife crossings
- Wildlife communities & biodiversity
- Conservation, preservation, and restoration
- Land Subsidence
- Soil



PUBLIC BENEFITS (7)

- Alternative Transportation
- Bike/walking path and network (including recreation and commuter uses)
- Every existing city park
- Historic & cultural resources
- Naturescaping/landscaping
- Public access
- Public art
- Urban forestry

SUBSYSTEMS (6)

- Baldwin Hills Park
- Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve
- Ballona Northeast (Area C-State lands)
- Ballona Wetlands
- Del Rey Lagoon city park
- Grand Lagoon/Canal
- The Harbor
- Marina del Rey
- Oxford Flood Control Basin
- Venice Canals
- Ballona Creek
- Estuaries of Ballona and Centinela Creeks
- Wetlands hydrology improvement
- Centinela Creek
- Sepulveda Channel
- 15 +/- tributaries in the Santa Monica Mountains

PUBLIC OUTREACH (3)

- Educational opportunities
- Environmental justice
- Public awareness
- Public safety
- Public participation
- Involving public schools

LAND USE (2)

- Land acquisition strategies
- Land development
- Open space creation
- Playa Vista properties
- Projected growth

MAINTENANCE (1)

ECONOMICS (0)

- Revitalization along the creek
- Tourism and Fishing

MAPPING (0)

- Visibility of Watershed Boundaries
- Watershed boundary
- Existing springs/creeks
- Historic streams
- Stream daylighting

PUBLIC HEALTH (0)

MONITORING (0)

JURISDICTIONS (0)

VECTOR CONTROL (0)



C. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In the Procedures and Protocols document, the BCWTF adopted the following goal:

To develop and facilitate implementation of a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Ballona Creek Watershed that sets forth pollution control and habitat restoration actions to *achieve ecological health*.

The further articulate this over-arching goal on May 20, 2003 the Task Force also adopted the following additional goals:

1. WATER

- A. Improve Quality of Surface Water and Groundwater
- B. Maintain Flood Protection
- C. Restore Hydrologic Function to Ballona Creek and Tributaries where feasible
- D. Optimize Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water
- E. Improve Aquatic, Estuarine and Riparian Habitat Quality and Quantity

2. LAND

- A. Improve Habitat Quality, Quantity and Connectivity
- B. Improve Access to Open Space and Recreation for All Communities
- C. Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety
- D. Practice Stewardship of the Landscape

3. PLANNING

- A. Coordinate Watershed Planning Across Jurisdictions and Boundaries
- B. Implement Multi-Objective Planning and Projects
- C. Use Science as a Basis for Planning
- D. Involve the Public through Outreach and Education
- E. Utilize the Plan in an Ongoing Management Process
- F. Realize the Potential of Watershed Restoration for Sustainable Economic Development

To establish criteria that can be used to measure progress towards meeting these goals, the following objectives have been suggested:



Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan Objectives

Goals	Objectives
WATER	
Improve Quality of Surface Water and Groundwater	Implement projects, BMPs and other methods to reduce pollutant loads and improve water quality, consistent with TMDL implementation
	Minimize dry weather urban runoff discharge into waterways and the Bay
	Achieve fishable, swimmable water quality standards in Ballona Creek
	Improve water quality in Santa Monica Bay
Maintain Flood Protection	Implement incentives to encourage new and existing developments to detain stormwater onsite to reduce runoff
	Implement a plan to utilize nonstructural flood protection projects to the maximum extent feasible
	Reduce the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff
Optimize Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water	Expand water conservation programs
	Extend the distribution and range of uses of reclaimed water
	Maximize onsite collection of stormwater for irrigation and percolation
	Establish a network of stormwater detention sites
	Expand groundwater recharge facilities
Restore Natural Hydrologic Function to Ballona Creek and Tributaries to the extent feasible	Restore tidal flushing to lagoons and wetlands where consistent with flood protection objectives
	Restore natural hydrologic conditions in stream channel where feasible
Improve (Aquatic, Estuarine and Riparian) Habitat Quality and Quantity	Improve aquatic, estuarine and salt marsh habitat in the Ballona Creek estuary system, including the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Lagoon, Playa del Rey Lagoon, and associated water bodies, by restoring tidal flushing, removal of invasive species, and restoration of native habitat
	Restore riparian habitat along a section of a tributary stream
	Establish self-sustaining populations of key indicator species in the Ballona Wetlands and the associated estuary system
	Establish self-sustaining populations of key indicator riparian species along tributaries
	Restore riparian habitat along Ballona Creek where feasible
	Daylight tributary streams and restore riparian habitat wherever feasible



Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan Objectives

Goals

Objectives

LAND

Improve Terrestrial Habitat Quality, Quantity and Connectivity

Restore habitat wherever feasible on publicly owned land in the Baldwin Hills, the Santa Monica Mountains and the Hollywood Hills, including removal of invasive species and restoration of native upland habitats, where consistent with use

Expand protection of high-quality habitat and ecologically-significant areas

Establish self-sustaining populations of key indicator riparian species tributary streams

Develop and implement habitat monitoring programs

Maintain, restore and enhance wildlife corridors as continuous linkages from the Santa Monica Mountains to Baldwin Hills, Ballona Wetlands and Santa Monica Bay

Improve Access to Open Space and Recreation for All Communities

Increase public open space by targeted, prioritized programs of land acquisition

Coordinate open space planning, land acquisition and management among jurisdictions

Accommodate a range of active and passive recreational uses

Improve access to open space based on population density, distance and travel time for underserved communities

Connect open spaces to transit access points

Connect waterway projects to adjacent communities

Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety

Provide and maintain bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trail systems along waterways and within the watershed to link public open space

Provide for public safety and security along pedestrian and bicycle routes

Practice Stewardship of the Landscape

Adopt requirements for the use of native, regionally-adapted and drought-tolerant plants in all public sector projects, where consistent with use

Provide incentives for use of native, regionally-adapted and drought-tolerant plants in private sector projects

Encourage identification, preservation and restoration of historic sites and cultural landscapes



Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan Objectives

Goals

Objectives

PLANNING

Coordinate Watershed Planning Across Jurisdictions and Boundaries

Integrate watershed planning with water supply, natural resource, land use, and transportation plans

Implement Multi-Objective Planning and Projects

Employ comprehensive cost-benefit analysis to evaluate multiple-objective projects

Leverage planned single-purpose infrastructure projects by incorporating multiple objectives and partnerships

Provide incentives to promote sustainable, multiple-objective private sector projects

Incorporate sustainability objectives and practices in all projects

Use Science as a Basis for Planning

Base plans and projects on scientifically-derived principles, practices and priorities

Utilize applied scientific research to guide public policy

Involve the Public through Outreach and Education

Conduct public educational and outreach programs to promote watershed restoration.

Establish a process for project participation by stakeholder representatives and the public.

Incorporate appropriate interpretive signage and educational elements and facilities in watershed restoration projects.

Utilize the Plan in an Ongoing Management Process

Periodically assess progress towards meeting Watershed Plan objectives and revise as appropriate

Develop benchmarks to assess watershed status by a regular monitoring process

Realize the Potential of Watershed Restoration for Sustainable Economic Development

Recycle underused sites along Ballona Creek as frontage for new, sustainable mixed-use development.

Encourage compatible residential, commercial, and service uses adjacent to rehabilitated creek.