



**CHAPTER | SEVEN**





## CHAPTER SEVEN

# next steps

### A. INTRODUCTION

The actions identified in Chapter 4 (Methods and Mechanisms) describe a range of actions that will make progress towards improving the ecological health of the Watershed. However, given the degraded state of existing conditions, the effort required to undertake all of these actions is daunting, especially when other social and environmental needs are considered. As many decades may be required to make substantial progress towards improving the ecological health of the watershed, some initial key steps can be taken to demonstrate the feasibility of the actions proposed in this plan, build support for watershed restoration, and illustrate the power of coordinated stakeholder action to make positive changes. These suggested actions are summarized below, organized as relates to water, land, and planning.

#### 1. Water

##### TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS

The list of impaired water bodies (the “303(d)” list) identifies the pollutants of concern, but until TMDLs are established, the extent of effort needed to meet applicable standards remains speculative. Thus, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, with

the assistance of the City of Los Angeles (which has agreed to assume the lead for a stakeholder-driven process for the remaining TMDLs) should work with other affected agencies to obtain needed monitoring data and establish the remaining TMDLs on timely basis.

#### BALLONA CREEK BMP PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

The Ballona Creek BMP prioritization project will identify which management practices and actions are most relevant and effective in the Watershed. This information will be enhance future decisions about how to most cost-effectively and efficiently make progress towards water quality improvements.

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY NPDES PERMIT

In 2006, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board will renew the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for stormwater discharge in Los Angeles County. The Board has an opportunity to move from countywide to watershed-based permits, and to incorporate recommendations from this plan into permit conditions. Focusing efforts on a watershed basis has the potential to facilitate coordination between relevant jurisdictions and focus efforts on cooperation programs and practices.

NEXT STEPS



## LOWER BALLONA CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION STUDY

The Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with several local partners, is about to begin work on the Restoration Study, which will evaluate options to reduce sedimentation at the Creek entrance and may result in projects or other recommendations for reducing sediment loads and attract federal funding for such activities.

## 2. Land

### BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION

After many decades of dreams and discussions, the State of California now has the ability to plan restoration of approximately 547 acres of wetlands and the creek channel. Owing to the probable complexity of the planning process, the strategic importance of the site, and the many regulatory hurdles to overcome, the Coastal Conservancy and relevant stakeholders must be prepared to make significant commitment of time and resources for many years.

### BALDWIN HILLS PARK MASTER PLAN

The Baldwin Hills provide an opportunity to create a vast park in the midst of a highly-urbanized area and serve as a laboratory to demonstrate the possibilities and constraints in restoring habitat in an isolated location. If the Plan is implemented and successful connections between the Baldwin Hills and Ballona Creek can be established, then the concept of creating natural spaces in urban areas and wildlife corridors across the watershed may be viewed as viable concepts.

## 3. Planning

### BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED COORDINATOR

In 2004, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority received a Proposition 50 grant from the State of California Department of Conservation to hire a watershed coordinator for the Ballona Watershed for a three-year period. The objectives for this position are to (1) facilitate implementation of the Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan by seeking funding for priority projects identified in the Management Plan; (2) provide administrative support to the BCWTF and facilitate the transition of the Task Force into a long-term self-sustainable organization for oversight and coordination of watershed restoration activities; (3) support education and outreach to broaden the base of stakeholders and build up community support and participation in watershed restoration activities; (4) develop and facilitate implementation of projects/measures that optimize water resources to reduce dependence on imported water; and (5) coordinate implementation of a community-based watershed monitoring program and enhance the citizen/volunteer monitoring efforts in the watershed.

### BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED TASK FORCE

The Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force has the potential to serve as the catalyst for change on many fronts, facilitating the exchange of information and ideas, serving as forum for discussion of complex issues, and providing fertile ground for the formation of the type of public/private and interjurisdictional partnerships that will be necessary to achieve the magnitude of change necessary to achieve ecological health in the Watershed. The Task Force may also want to consider the option of becoming a non-profit organization, to assure continued operation and provide opportunities to obtain grants for projects and/or operational support.



**BALLONA CREEK AND TRAIL FOCUSED  
SPECIAL STUDY**

The centerpiece of this Plan will remain the potential to enhance, improve and possibly restore Ballona Creek. The first step in that process is to implement to recommendations of the Ballona Creek and Trail Focused Special Study, which will make significant progress towards converting the Creek into a valued-community resource.

**LOWER BALLONA CREEK INTERAGENCY  
TASK FORCE**

The City of Los Angeles, along with other jurisdictions and organizations are working to study options for joint management of natural resources in the lower Ballona Creek Watershed. If successful, not only will management of these resources be improved, this effort can also serve as a model for the type of interjurisdictional cooperation that is necessary to improve natural resources across the Watershed.