

ATTACHMENT 11 – PROGRAM PREFERENCES

**San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed  
IRWM Implementation Grant, Step 1**

The IRWM Grant Program Guidelines (November 2004) indicate that the California Water Code and implementing legislation will give preference to specific project types. These Program Preferences are reflected in the IRWM evaluation criteria and will be taken into consideration during the review process.

All of the components in this implementation proposal for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed meet many of the following Program Preferences. Due to space limitations, only a few examples are provided below.

**A. Include integrated projects with multiple benefits**

El Dorado Park Lakes Water Usage and Wetlands Restoration integrates water conservation, water quality, habitat restoration and recreational use benefits. Reclaimed water will be used to create a continuous, natural stream flow through the park lakes. The creation of a stream will restore riparian habitat. Wetland habitat will be created within a detention basin that will improve water quality and support a variety of wildlife species. Expansion of the existing Nature Center, introduction of native habitat into the regional park, and expanding environmental education enhancements will offer diverse recreational opportunities in the regional park.

Invasive Weed Control in Riparian Habitat is a project with multiple benefits. Removal of invasive weeds will restore natural riparian habitat, conserve water, enhance surface water flow to spreading grounds, improve water quality, and improve flood protection capabilities.

The Large Landscape Conservation/Runoff Reduction Management and Educational Program integrates water supply reliability, water quality, and public education components that will be used at parks, schools, and other large landscaped areas. This project, which will evaluate and implement a large landscape water management program that uses centralized weather-based irrigation controllers to reduce total water use and runoff associated with over-watering of landscaped areas, will conserve an estimated 20-50% of water. In addition, reducing runoff will reduce the migration of pollutants from fertilizers entering the waterways.

Peck Water Conservation Park is a multi-benefit park improvement project that includes recreational opportunities, restoration and enhancement of habitat, water conservation demonstration gardens, and educational resources for the public. The park will allow residents to learn about methods to improve water quality and conserve water that they can implement in their own homes.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Facilities Project protects the water quality of surface water in two watersheds, protects the water of the Central and Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basins, increases water supply reliability by maximizing water recycling and reclamation, and provides economic benefit through the use of lower cost recycled and reclaimed water. It enhances recreational use activities at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area through the use of recycled water for irrigation of parks and sport facilities. Improvements in water quality will enhance the aquatic habitat downstream of the plant discharge.

**B. Support and improve local and regional water supply reliability**

The Large Landscape Conservation/Runoff Reduction Management and Educational Program improves local water supply reliability by conserving an estimated 20-50% of water use at parks and schools by installing centralized weather-based irrigation controllers.

Morris Dam Water Supply Enhancement Project will improve local water supply reliability by increasing the volume of local water conserved in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin annually. The dam serves as the cornerstone to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's water conservation and conjunctive use facilities. The effective capacity of the reservoir will be increased by 5,720 acre-feet. Consequently, this will increase the amount of local water that is captured and available for recharge within the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

Peck Water Conservation Park will improve local water supply by exposing visitors to tangible and attractive BMP demonstration projects and educating them on water resources, including the Region's dependence on imported water and the necessity for water conservation in the Region. This project will improve local and regional water reliability by decreasing demand for potable water through the use of water conserving irrigation systems, and installation of drought tolerant plants.

The Southeast Water Reliability, Phase I Water Recycling Project will provide treated wastewater for use as recycled water for non-potable sources to customers who would otherwise use imported water or groundwater. The benefits of using recycled water are multi-faceted. There is a direct reduction in the amount of imported water or groundwater that is used. And, since recycled water is always available, both local and regional water supply reliability is improved.

The Whittier Narrows Conservation Pool improves local supply reliability by conserving an additional 2,900 acre-feet per year of stormwater that would otherwise be wasted to the ocean. This directly reduces the quantity of imported water that must be purchased by the Water Replenishment District to provide artificial replenishment.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Facilities Project protects local and regional water supply reliability through the continued use of an average flow of up to 13 MGD of tertiary treated and disinfected effluent. Although this water is blended with surface runoff and natural storm percolation, this amount of water by itself would supply the per capita needs of approximately 130,000 people indefinitely. This water will meet Department of Health Services Title 22 standards and will be disinfected with ultraviolet light (UV) for unrestricted reuse. It provides a drought proof resource, making the Region less reliant on imported water. Since the Central Groundwater Basin is fully adjudicated, any volume of water that is withdrawn, and not replaced with reclaimed water, would need to be replaced with imported water. Therefore, protecting the continued use of this reclaimed water for groundwater recharge will decrease reliance on imported water.

**C. Contribute expeditiously and measurably to the long-term attainment and maintenance of water quality standards**

Installation of the Full Capture Trash Removal Devices will contribute to the long-term attainment of water quality standards by meeting the full capture criteria established by the State Water Resources Control Board, in conjunction with the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL of retaining all particles greater than 5 mm before they reach Compton Creek and the Los Angeles River.

The Montebello Forebay Attenuation and Dilution Studies are hydrogeologic studies that will provide information for water quality standards, specifically, the determination of appropriate final effluent limitations for water reclamation plants (WRPs). The Regional Water Quality Control Board will be able to use the results to determine NPDES final effluent limitations for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) WRPs by Summer 2007.

The Southeast Water Reliability, Phase I Recycling Project distributes treated wastewater from the LACSD to be used as a non-potable water source for irrigation and industrial purposes. The water quality of the San Gabriel River and Pacific Ocean are improved as a result of the reduction in tertiary treated wastewater that would otherwise be discharged and received by these waterbodies.

The Whittier Narrows Conservation Pool will conserve an additional 2,900 acre-feet per year of water by increasing the conservation pool elevation of Whittier Narrows Dam. Upon completion, this project will immediately reduce the amount of urban runoff that reaches the ocean by 2,900 acre-feet per year, thereby improving the quality of the water released to the ocean.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Facilities Project has multiple benefits in terms of protecting the water quality of surface waters, and ultimately our groundwater. By decreasing unwanted disinfection byproducts, this project protects the aquatic environment from ammonia added for chloramination disinfection and from chlorine residual, cyanide, and chloride. UV disinfection will also

decrease the levels of chloride associated with disinfection by chloramination, thereby enhancing the reuse potential of the water.

**D. Eliminate or significantly reduce pollution in impaired waters and sensitive habitat areas, including areas of special biological significance**

El Dorado Park Lakes Water Usage and Wetlands Restoration will significantly reduce the pollution in the six lakes in the Park and Nature Center caused by insufficient water circulation and excessive levels of nitrogen in the water. This is especially important in the sensitive Nature Center lakes. It will also improve storm drain outlet flows into the San Gabriel River Estuary in order to meet water quality standards.

The Montebello Forebay Attenuation and Dilution Studies ensures that final effluent limitations included in permits for discharge within the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River protect receiving water beneficial uses. Studies conducted during this project will determine the appropriate final effluent limits for the protection of the beneficial uses.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Facilities will reduce the generation of final effluent disinfection byproducts. By eliminating ammonia required for chloramination disinfection, the project will reduce the ammonia discharged into the receiving water, therefore benefiting the aquatic habitat in the Whittier Narrows area, including the habitat within the Whittier Narrows Conservation Pool.

**E. Include safe drinking water and water quality projects that serve disadvantaged communities**

El Dorado Park Lakes Water Usage and Wetlands Restoration will improve the quality of water in the City of Long Beach, which is a disadvantaged community. Effluent from a storm drain from a 100-acre shopping center will be intercepted, filtered for trash, and cleansed in a treatment wetland before discharge into the San Gabriel River or Coyote Creek. The project also improves the water quality of the lakes through the desalination of the reclaimed water entering the lakes and replacing an artificially maintained constant water level with a constantly flowing water body.

Full Capture Trash Removal Devices includes installation of trash removal devices in two locations, located in the disadvantaged, unincorporated County communities of East Compton and Rancho Dominguez. The full capture devices will reduce the amount of trash entering Compton Creek and the Los Angeles River, which will result in improved water quality, enhanced aesthetics, and improved beneficial uses of the rivers.

Peck Water Conservation Park will be a regional recreational area that will provide a direct benefit to the numerous disadvantaged communities the park will serve, including the nearby disadvantaged cities of El Monte and Rosemead. At 0.5 parkland acres per 1,000 residents, the open space and recreational resources for these communities are far below the national average of 10 acres per 1,000 residents. In addition, this park is currently listed on the U.S. E.P.A.'s 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for chlordane (tissue), DDT (tissue), lead, odors, and organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen. Signage explaining these impairments and their consequences in multiple languages will educate the public on the importance of protecting drinking water and the need for water quality improvement projects. Interpretive signage explaining the BMPs in the parking lot and demonstration garden will provide examples of practices that could be used throughout the Region to protect water quality and supply.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Facilities Project will help improve the water quality in disadvantaged areas since the majority of the tertiary treated effluent from the plant will be discharged to the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds, where it will replenish the Central Groundwater Basin. From there, the blended water is extracted and treated to become the water supply for over one million residents in the greater Los Angeles area. In the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed, seventeen of the 68 communities that are located within the region, fall into the disadvantaged community category. Therefore, this project helps to ensure safe drinking water in disadvantaged community areas.