

Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County



Integrated Regional Water
Management Plan
2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Acknowledgements.....	i
List of Acronyms	ii
About the Plan.....	iii
Section 1.0 Introduction	
1.1 History of Water Management in Ventura County.....	1
1.2 Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Overview.....	4
1.3 Purpose of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP	5
Section 2.0 Region Description	
2.1 Region Overview – Countywide.....	6
2.1.1 Major Land Use Categories	10
2.1.2 Land Use Policies	13
2.1.3 Ecological Processes/Environmental Resources	16
2.1.4 Areas of Special Biological Significance	18
2.1.5 Marine Protected Areas	18
2.1.6 Impaired Water Bodies	19
2.1.7 Social and Cultural Make-up of Regional Community	20
2.1.8 Water Supply	22
• Groundwater	23
• Surface Water.....	26
• Imported Water.....	28
2.1.9 Water Quality	29
2.1.10 Water Demand	44
2.1.11 Watershed Flooding Problems and Issues	47
2.1.12 Major Water Related Infrastructure	49
2.2 Watersheds.....	52
2.2.1 Calleguas Creek Watershed Description	52
2.2.2 Santa Clara River Watershed Description	54
2.2.3 Ventura River Watershed Description	58
Section 3.0 Stakeholder Review Process	
3.1 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County	61
3.2 Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee	63
3.3 Santa Clara River Watershed Committee.....	64
3.4 Ventura River Watershed Council.....	64
3.5 Former Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Group	65

Section 4.0 Plan Objectives and Priorities

4.1 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Objectives 66
 4.2 Regional Priorities for Plan Implementation..... 72
 4.3 Statewide Priorities and Program Preferences 75

Section 5.0 Water Management Strategies Used to Meet Plan Objectives

5.1 Overview of this Section 77
 5.2 Water Management Strategies..... 78
 5.2.1 Conjunctive Use 79
 5.2.2 Desalination 87
 5.2.3 Ecosystem Protection and Restoration 96
 5.2.4 Flood Management 110
 5.2.5 Groundwater Management..... 117
 5.2.6 Imported Water 128
 5.2.7 Land Use Planning 138
 5.2.8 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control..... 144
 5.2.9 Recreation and Public Access 153
 5.2.10 Stormwater Capture and Management 157
 5.2.11 Surface Storage 167
 5.2.12 Water Quality Protection and Improvement..... 170
 5.2.13 Water Recycling..... 186
 5.2.14 Water Supply Reliability 195
 5.2.15 Water Transfers 203
 5.2.16 Water Treatment and Distribution Water Quality..... 209
 5.2.17 Wastewater Treatment and Collection 218
 5.2.18 Water Use Efficiency..... 226
 5.2.19 Watershed Planning..... 232
 5.3 Integration of Water Management Strategies..... 242

Section 6.0 Implementation Projects and Project Priorities

6.1 Types of Projects and Programs 243
 6.2 Proposed Implementation Projects by Watershed 254
 6.3 Impacts and Benefits of Plan Implementation 271
 6.4 Beneficiaries and Financing Options for Plan Implementation 272
 6.5 Consistency with and Implementation of Statewide Priorities 272

Section 7.0 Data Management and Analysis

7.1 Technical Analysis and Plan Performance..... 275
 7.2 Data Collection, Management and Dissemination 276

Section 8.0 Coordination with Planning and State/Federal Agencies

8.1 Coordination with, and Relation to, Local Land Use Planning **280**
8.2 Coordination with State and Federal Agencies **281**

Section 9.0 Bibliography of Relevant Local Plans and Reports282

Glossary of Terms287

Appendices

A. Authorizing Resolutions for Formation of WCVC.....**295**
B. IRWMP Plan Standards from Prop. 50.....**300**
C. Water Quality Information & Section 303(d) Impaired Waterbodies.....**304**
D. Data Inventory Table.....**313**
E. Water Plan Data Table Relationships.....**314**
F. Annotated List of Relevant Water Management Reports and Plans.....**321**
G. Proposed Projects and Project Concepts for Future Consideration.....**329**
H. WCVC Brochure.....**338**
I. Adopted Resolutions.....**341**



List of Tables, Figures and Maps

PAGE

Tables

Table 2-1	Ventura County’s Leading Agricultural Commodities.....	21
Table 2-2	Ventura County Water Use Survey.....	46
Table 5-1	Ventura County Tertiary Treatment Plant Information.....	189
Table 5-2	Summary of Major Water Treatment Plants in Ventura County.....	212
Table 5-3	Summary of Major Wastewater Treatment Plants in Ventura County.....	221
Table 6-1	Project/Program Type.....	243
Table 6-2	Types of Projects and Programs – Consistency with Strategies.....	247
Table 6-3	Proposed Projects – Consistency with Statewide Priorities.....	273
Table 6-4	Proposed Projects – Consistency with IRWMP Objectives.....	274

Figures

Figure 2-1	Groundwater Basins in Ventura County.....	24
Figure 2-2	Seawater Intrusion on the Oxnard Plain.....	38
Figure 5-1	Seawater Intrusion on the Oxnard Plain.....	119
Figure 5-2	Areas Served by Jensen Treatment Plan.....	130
Figure 5-3	History of Chloride Levels in State Water Project.....	132
Figure 5-4	Treated Wastewater Effluent Uses.....	188

Maps

Map 1	Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County – IRWMP Region.....	7
Map 2	Ventura County Land Use Divisions in IRWMP Region.....	11
Map 3	Internal Boundaries - Cities in IRWMP Region.....	14
Map 4	Internal Boundaries -Water Districts in IRWMP Region.....	50
Map 5	Calleguas Creek Watershed.....	53
Map 6	Santa Clara River Watershed – Ventura County Portion.....	55
Map 6a	Santa Clara River Watershed – Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.....	56
Map 7	Ventura River Watershed	59
Map 8	Project Locations – Step 2 Implementation Grant.....	257

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- Calleguas Creek Steering Committee – Members
- Calleguas Municipal Water District
- Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Group
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Planning Division
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
AF	acre feet
APPP	Agriculture Pollution Prevention Plan
ASBS	Area of Special Biological Significance
AWA	Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
BCLA	Biological Core and Linkage Area
BLM	U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
BNR	Biologic Nutrient Removal
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARCD	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Casistas	Casitas Municipal Water District
CCA	Critical Coastal Area
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CCSC	Calleguas Creek Steering Committee
CDF	California Department of Forestry
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
Calleguas	Calleguas Municipal Water District
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CSD	Community Services District
CSU	California State University
CTR	California Toxics Rule
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
CURB	City Urban Restrictive Boundary
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ET	Evapotranspiration
FS	USDA Forest Service
FCGMA	Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
GWTF	Groundwater Treatment Facility
HA	Hydrologic Area
HAS	Hydrologic Sub-Area
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HGM	Hydro-Geomorphic Model
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LA	load allocation
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LF	linear feet

Metropolitan	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
MG	million gallons
MGD	million gallons per day
MMs	management measures
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MRCA	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Agency (Santa Monica Mountains)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWTP	Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint sources (of pollution)
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)
OBGMA	Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
RO	reverse osmosis
RWRMP	Renewable Water Resource Management Program
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SOAR	Save Our Open Space & Agricultural Resources
SSO	site specific objective
SVWQCP	Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWQPA	Storm Water Quality Protection Area
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TCWTP	Tapo Canyon Water Treatment Plant
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UC	University of California
UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geologic Survey
USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
UWCD	United Water Conservation District
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VCIRWMP	Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
VCRCD	Ventura County Resource Conservation District
VCWPD	Ventura County Watershed Protection District
VCWWD	Ventura County Water Works District
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirement
WLA	waste load allocation
WMI	water management initiative
WMP	watershed management plan
WQO	water quality objectives

ABOUT THIS PLAN

This Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is the product of an intensive stakeholder process conducted under the direction of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC). The Plan reflects the unique needs of a diverse region, Ventura County, which encompasses three major watersheds, ten cities, portions of the Los Padres National Forest, a thriving agricultural economy, and is home to more than 817,000 people.

This Plan was prepared with funds provided by local participating agencies and a Proposition 50 Planning Grant. A number of individuals have contributed to the development of the Plan (see Acknowledgements), including consultants, representatives of local agencies and County staff. Development of the Plan has been a true collaborative effort.

This IRWMP is a comprehensive plan that primarily addresses Regionwide water management and related issues. The Plan complies with the State Guidelines for an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and provides for an integration of project and program implementation strategies which best address the needs and objectives of the Region. The Plan supports the development and implementation of individual watershed protection plans for each of the three major watersheds in the Region, which will focus more directly on monitoring and implementing projects that are watershed-specific. Watershed-specific plans will also allow for more localized stakeholder review reflecting input that is more difficult to achieve on the larger scale of the regional IRWMP. One such plan has already been adopted: the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan. Watershed management plans are also being considered for the Ventura River and Santa Clara River Watersheds.

How To Read This Document

This IRWM Plan has been formatted to address the State Guidelines for IRWM Plans and to meet local needs. Each section contains required IRWM Plan elements, work plan components from the Proposition 50, Chapter 8 IRWM Planning Grant as well as information that serve local needs for data collection and management and future planning. There are nine sections in the Plan, which include an introduction with history and a Plan overview, a Region description (the local "setting" with respect to water and watershed conditions), an overview of the stakeholder process, a section containing plan objectives and priorities, a section addressing the 20 water management strategies that form the core of the Plan, an implementation section addressing specific projects to be implemented, an overview of data and technical analysis, a discussion of coordination with local, State and Federal agencies, and a reference bibliography.

For purposes of the WCVC IRWMP, and unless otherwise indicated, when the term "Santa Clara River Watershed" is used, the term applies to the Ventura County portion of the Santa Clara River Watershed. Stakeholders in the Los Angeles County portion of the Santa Clara River Watershed, also known as the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) Watershed, are investigating the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the USCR Watershed. Should this effort lead to the adoption of an USCR IRWMP, development of a combined IRWMP for the entire Santa Clara River Watershed is envisioned. One of the goals of the combined IRWMP is to identify additional projects to address Watershed-wide issues and identify opportunities for project integration across the Ventura County and Los Angeles County portions of the Watershed.

Unless otherwise stated, references to the Santa Clara River Watershed in the WVCV IRWMP refer to the lower watershed located in Ventura County.

The Appendices include back-up information regarding Proposition 50 (including Plan standards), memorandum of understanding and authorizing resolutions among participating agencies, water quality information and Section 303(d) Impaired Waterbodies in Ventura County, data inventory table and data table relationships, an annotated list of relevant water management reports and plans, proposed projects for future consideration and review, and a brochure describing the WVCV.

There are a variety of terms used in this IRWM Plan which may have more than one meaning when used in other reports or for other purposes. The State Guidelines for IRWMP development do not, in all cases, clearly define the terms used here; therefore, for the purposes of this IRWM Plan, the terms listed below have been interpreted as follows by the WVCV:

Goal – an overarching or general statement regarding a desired outcome

Objective – a specific desired outcome

Strategy – one of the 20 water management strategies; a means by which to effectively manage water resources in the Region

Project or Program – a specific effort to carry out an objective

Integration – a combination of parts or objects that work together well; coordination of projects or programs in the IRWM Plan which provide multiple benefits and/or meet multiple objectives

Proposition 50, Step 2 Implementation Grant Application: For additional information regarding the projects proposed and submitted by the WVCV for Round 1 funding under the Proposition 50, Step 2 Implementation Grant, refer to the application attachments found on the WVCV website at www.watershedscoalition.org.

CEQA Review: Development and implementation of the IRWM Plan will provide a positive benefit to residents, businesses, irrigators and the environment through the resulting improvement to one of the most important resources in the Region – water. The County of Ventura has determined that the WVCV IRWMP is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines.:

The County of Ventura has filed a Notice of Exemption for the WVCV IRWMP. The reason for exemption (Section D of Notice of Exemption) is stated as follows: “This project consists of adoption of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Region encompassing Ventura County. The IRWMP is a planning study which identifies potential projects, programs and policies for possible future actions and is therefore statutorily exempt under the provisions of CEQA under Section 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies. Furthermore, the IRWMP consists of basic data and information collection and includes possible actions, subject to future adoption or approval, which would protect natural resources and the environment and are therefore categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA under Sections 15306, 15307, and 15308.

Future IRWMP Updates:

This Plan is a living document that will help guide complex future water management, land use, flood management and other water-related decisions for the region. In order to keep the Plan current, some elements will require frequent review and updating. The frequency with which the

Plan will be updated will depend on changes in local conditions, changes in State and/or Federal requirements, on-going development of watershed plans for each of the Region's major watersheds, continued public participation, and the availability of financial resources. The intent of the WCVC is to update the Plan as needed, including a planned addendum in 2007 which will include an updated list of proposed projects and further discussion about how the strategies and projects are integrated.

The following symbol - Δ - has been used in the IRWMP as an indication that additional information or revision is planned in the IRWMP update in 2007.

NOTE: When they are received, resolutions adopting this IRWM Plan will be included in the Final IRWMP in Appendix H.