



## Ventura River Watershed Protection Project

### Fact Sheet

The **Ventura River Watershed** Protection Project is a planning and implementation project designed to integrate and evaluate resource issues such as water supply reliability, groundwater recharge, habitat restoration, water quality, and flood management under a single watershed-wide plan framework. The project brings together diverse stakeholders within the watershed such as wholesale water providers, retail water suppliers, environmental organizations, groundwater management agencies, cities, the County of Ventura, special districts within the watershed, unincorporated communities, and community members. This process will insure that the people who depend on the natural resources in the watershed will have the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation process for this project.

Spearheaded by the **Ventura County Watershed Protection District**, this project will provide an overall planning framework for all future projects to be undertaken in the Ventura River Watershed. It is intended to be a living document, designed to be updated and changed in response to evolving needs within the watershed. An integrated watershed plan including both public safety and good environmental resource management is the approach selected by the stakeholders in the watershed to attain the following goals: a more reliable water supply, improved water quality, optimal groundwater management, improvement of natural habitat areas, increased recreation opportunities, and better flood management. The project expects to have a watershed protection plan deliverable developed before July 2011.

The \$2.1 million project includes several components:

- Formation of a Watershed Council, drawn from diverse local stakeholders, to address resource issues facing the watershed and to act as the decision-making body for plan development and project implementation;
- Compilation of published materials related to the watershed in order to form a single database and to identify gaps in information;
- Development of a watershed characterization baseline planning document utilizing already existing studies and initiating specific new studies as needed to give a picture of the watershed and its needs;
- Identification of problem areas within the watershed with preliminary suggestions on how to best address them;
- Development of an action plan to set priorities for implementation of project solutions for identified problems; and
- Development of mechanisms to keep the public aware of the progress and implementation of the protection plan.

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.