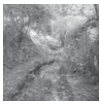




CHAPTER | THREE



Kenter Creek



CHAPTER THREE

goals and objectives

A. STAKEHOLDER ISSUES OF INTEREST

In January 2002, following a series of “start-up” meetings that began in August 2001, 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 intended to capture specific project suggestions, hopes and aspirations, doubts and concerns about the planning process that lie ahead. These issues were prioritized by task force members in March 2003 and are listed on the following page.



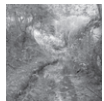
View from Baldwin Hills

B. WATERSHED PROBLEMS

The Issues of Interest, the minutes of the BCWTF, and other sources permitted identification of several watershed problems, which were generalized under the basic themes of water, land, and planning:

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

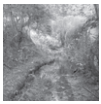
- Planning by individual jurisdictions often does not adequately consider downstream or watershed-wide implications
- Many public projects are planned to achieve single, rather than multiple, benefits
- Planning does not always integrate sound scientific concepts and principles
- Public appreciation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

BCWTF stakeholders subsequently developed a more specific “Issues of Interest” list over the course of four meetings, early in 2002. After sessions of brainstorming, eliminating duplicates, and sorting, problems and project ideas were categorized under larger group headings. Stakeholders participated in a “sticky dot” exercise to identify which general categories were most important to them. The following list, with groupings identified by bold print headings, represents key stakeholder priorities, with categories of the greatest interest or concern listed first, and descending according to a waning frequency of responses.

WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY (SOURCE WATER)

- Beneficial reuse
- Constructed wetlands
- Flood protection
- Groundwater basin
- Groundwater recharge
- North outfall treatment facility
- Permeability
- Reclaimed water
- Seasonal and 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

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

PUBLIC BENEFITS

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

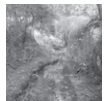
- Public art
- Urban forestry

SUBSYSTEMS

- 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

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



LAND USE

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

MAINTENANCE

ECONOMICS

- Revitalization along the creek
- Tourism and fishing

MAPPING

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

MONITORING

JURISDICTIONS

VECTOR CONTROL

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.**

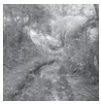


Ladera Park

To further articulate this overarching 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 Natural 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



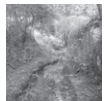
2. LAND

- A. Improve Terrestrial 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, the following objectives have been articulated by the BCWTF:



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
Restore Natural Hydrologic Function to Ballona Creek and Tributaries Where Feasible	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
Optimize Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water	Expand groundwater recharge facilities
	Restore tidal flushing to lagoons and wetlands where consistent with flood protection objectives
Improve Aquatic, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitat Quality and Quantity	Restore natural hydrologic conditions in stream channels where feasible
	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

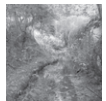
Provide for public safety and security along pedestrian and bicycle routes

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	<p>Employ comprehensive cost-benefit analysis to evaluate multiple-objective projects</p> <p>Leverage planned single-purpose infrastructure projects by incorporating multiple objectives and partnerships</p> <p>Provide incentives to promote sustainable, multiple-objective private sector projects</p> <p>Incorporate sustainability objectives and practices in all projects</p>
Use Science as a Basis for Planning	<p>Base plans and projects on scientifically-derived principles, practices and priorities</p> <p>Utilize applied scientific research to guide public policy</p>
Involve the Public through Outreach and Education	<p>Conduct public educational and outreach programs to promote watershed restoration.</p> <p>Establish a process for project participation by stakeholder representatives and the public.</p> <p>Incorporate appropriate interpretive signage and educational elements and facilities in watershed restoration projects.</p>
Utilize the Plan in an Ongoing Management Process	<p>Periodically assess progress towards meeting Watershed Plan objectives and revise as appropriate</p> <p>Develop benchmarks to assess watershed status by a regular monitoring process</p>
Realize the Potential of Watershed Restoration for Sustainable Economic Development	<p>Recycle underused sites along Ballona Creek as frontage for new, sustainable mixed-use development.</p> <p>Encourage compatible residential, commercial, and service uses adjacent to rehabilitated creek.</p>

