



**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

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## 4. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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### A. INTRODUCTION

The goals and objectives described in Chapter 3 are intended to improve water quality, expand open space and improve the quality of life for Watershed residents and respond to the concerns and issues expressed in the Community Action Team meetings. To respond to all of these goals and objectives, this Plan identifies various actions that if implemented, will result in improved water quality, additional open space, and enhance the quality of life for watershed residents. While some of these actions are somewhat general, more specific strategies and priorities to improve water quality are discussed in Chapter 5.

Because most of the Watershed is already occupied with homes, businesses, roads and other built features, a wide range of actions will be necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the Plan. Potential actions which could be taken to meet the various objectives of each goal are described below, organized by the major goal headings of water, land, and community. Following a discussion of each action, a list of potential stakeholders that could implement the action is provided. The potential stakeholders are listed in order of hierarchy, from

federal government through municipalities and local organizations. In the stakeholder list, the term “cities” refers to all cities in the Watershed, although for some actions, specific cities are identified. In addition, the term “community based organizations” generally refers to nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations, but also relates to organizations such as block clubs, environmental organizations, or other special interest groups. Although individual action is a powerful mechanism for change, the suggested responsibilities identified below do not include individuals, although many could be implemented by any person interested in improved water quality, expanded open space and an improved quality of life. For a more detailed discussion of stakeholders, refer to Chapter 7 (Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement and Funding).

developed the Nonpoint Source Program Strategy and Implementation Plan (1998–2013) (or PROSIP) which identifies actions to reduce nonpoint pollution, and a companion volume, the California Management Measures for Polluted Runoff (CAMMPR) Review Document, which identifies a range of management measures for agriculture, forestry, urban areas, marinas and recreational boating, hydro-modification (including modification of stream channels, water impoundments, and stream bank erosion), and wetlands, riparian areas and vegetated treatment systems. Additional information on sources of nonpoint pollution and measures to reduce and/or treat polluted runoff is provided in the California Nonpoint Source Encyclopedia, developed by the State Water Resources Control Board.



A comprehensive program to reduce stormwater pollution has been established by the Stormwater and Urban Runoff NPDES permit (Order No. 01-82, CA50004001) issued to the County of Los Angeles (and the incorporated cities in the Watershed), which regulates the discharge of runoff from municipal storm sewer systems (MS4s), or the storm drain. The permit prohibits nonstormwater discharges into the storm drain system, limits discharges to receiving waters that would cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards, and requires

**1. Water**

**GOAL 1A: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY**

**Objective:** Implement projects, BMPs, and other methods to reduce pollutant loads and improve water quality, consistent with TMDL implementation

**Action:** Implement projects, BMPs, and other methods to reduce the presence of contaminants in stormwater runoff

To conform to the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and the federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990, the State of California has

implementation of a Stormwater Quality Management Program (SQMP) that includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the discharge of pollutants identified on the 303(d) list for Compton Creek and associated water bodies. The SQMP includes seven programs, which are summarized below.

The Industrial/Commercial Facilities Control Program covers industrial and commercial facilities, including restaurants, automobile service facilities, retail gasoline outlets, automobile dealerships and other federally-mandated facilities.

The Development Planning Program requires implementation of a Standard Urban Runoff Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) for commercial developments on sites 1 acre or greater in area, automotive repair shops, retail gasoline outlets, restaurants, home subdivisions with ten or more homes, parking lots with twenty-five or more spaces (or are greater than 5,000 square feet in area), single-family hillside residences, and locations within, or directly adjacent, or discharging to, environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, substantial redevelopments (resulting in the creation of more than 5,000 square feet of impervious surface) are also subject to SUSMP requirements. The Development Planning Program and SUSMP requirements include the following:

- Minimize impacts of stormwater on natural drainages and water bodies
- Maximize pervious surfaces to allow percolation of stormwater to the ground
- Minimize the quantity of stormwater to impervious surfaces and the storm drain system
- Provide appropriate permanent measures to reduce pollutant loads
- Control post-development peak runoff to prevent erosion in natural drainages
- Conserve natural areas; minimize pollutants of concern; protect slopes and channels
- Provide storm drain stenciling and signage
- Minimize pollution from parking lots using treatment control BMPs and good housekeeping practices
- Proper design of storage areas, loading dock areas, repair bays, vehicle/equipment wash areas, gasoline fueling areas, and parking areas (to minimize conveyance of pollutants to storm drain systems)
- Proper design and maintenance of BMPs to reduce vector breeding (e.g., mosquitoes)
- Require BMPs to meet design standards and/or numerical design criteria; and provide evidence of BMP maintenance

In September 2002, the County of Los Angeles prepared a manual for SUSMP preparation entitled *Development Planning for Stormwater Management*, which is available online (refer to Chapter 8 References). In addition, the City of Los Angeles created a SUSMP manual entitled “Development Best Management Practices Handbook—Part B Planning Activities,” which is also available on the Watershed Protection Division’s website at [www.lastormwater.org](http://www.lastormwater.org).

The Development Construction Program requires control of runoff from construction sites through a combination of BMPs, inspections, and for projects over 1 acre in area, preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), per the Construction Activities Stormwater General Permit (Order No. 99-08-DWQ). Depending on the site characteristics, the SWPPP may include measures to minimize disturbed areas, stabilize disturbed areas, protect slopes and channels, control the site perimeter, retain sediment on site, practice good housekeeping, and contain materials and wastes.

The Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Elimination Program requires the County and the cities to: track and map all illicit connections and discharges to the storm drain system; train employees in methods of identification, investigation, termination, cleaning of illicit connections and discharges; screen storm drain systems for illicit connections; investigate and determine sources, nature and volume of discharge and responsibility for illicit connections; terminate illicit connections using enforcement authority; respond to illicit discharges with activities to abate, contain, and clean up within one business day of discovery; and investigate illicit discharges and take enforcement action, as appropriate during or following containment.

The Public Agency Activities Program consists of maintenance, inspection, and response to minimize stormwater impacts from public agency activities. These include management of sewerage systems (including overflow and spill prevention), construction activities, vehicle maintenance/material storage facilities/corporation yards, landscape and recreational facilities, parking facilities, storm drains, streets and roads, and emergency procedures.

The Public Information and Participation Program requires measures to increase awareness, change behavior, and involve the public in mitigating the impacts of stormwater pollution. For many pollutants of concern, reducing pollutant discharge at the source (generally referred to as source control) may be the most cost-effective method of reducing pollutant discharge to Ballona Creek and Santa Monica Bay.

The Countywide Monitoring Program requires measures to assess receiving water impacts, identification of sources of pollution, evaluation of BMPs, and measure of long-term trends in mass emissions.

As noted above, source control may be the most cost-effective method to reduce the discharge of pollutants, but requires personal action on the part of individuals. The proper disposal of hazardous materials and the use of alternative materials and less toxic substances have great potential to reduce water-borne contaminants. As trash remains a major contributor to poor water quality, incentives for product substitution (e.g., alternative packaging materials) may achieve substantive reductions in the pollutant discharge. For some pervasive pollutants, legislative action may be necessary, similar to the methods employed to improve air quality in the region.

The LACDPW has established the BMP Task Force to serve as an ongoing forum to facilitate the selection, implementation, and financing of effective BMPs through: data gathering, analysis, and exchange; stakeholder coordination; and outreach. The Task Force maintains a website (refer to Chapter 9 References) that provides information about BMPs and the activities of the Task Force.

The California Stormwater Quality Association has developed four stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks to provide general guidance for selecting and implementing BMPs to reduce pollutants in runoff from (1) New Development & Redevelopment sites, (2) Construction sites, (3) Industrial & Commercial facilities, and (4) Municipal operations. The handbooks describe planning techniques for stormwater pollution prevention and provide information on a wide range of BMPs, aggregated into various categories for each

handbook, including erosion and sediment control, site and material management, source control, and treatment control measures.

For the purposes of this plan, BMPs can be grouped based on the general technique used, and include (1) Storage (multi-use retention basin, cistern, extended detention basin, underground retention/infiltration, and underground detention); (2) Infiltration (porous pavement and dry well); (3) Filtration (wetland systems, bioretention, catch basin inserts and media filtration); (4) Conveyance (vegetated swale or basin); (5) Practices (tree planting, reduce impervious surfaces, mulching, stormwater-supplied irrigation, reduce directly connected impervious surfaces, source control, acquisition or relocation, flood proofing, flood warning, and policies or ordinances); (6) Outreach (public education); and (7) Proprietary Systems. More detailed information on BMPs is provided in Appendix B (Best Management Practices).

In addition to implementation of BMPs and other source control methods, various projects have the potential to reduce the presence of pollutants in stormwater, including those that increase or restore open space, reduce impervious surfaces, or treat stormwater. The watershed management strategies and projects included in Chapter 5 could also improve water quality. In addition to projects, other programs also have the potential to improve water quality, such as the Air Quality Management Plan for the South Coast Air Basin, which has the potential to reduce aerial deposition of certain contaminants.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Federal, state, and regional agencies that operate facilities in the watershed, County of Los Angeles, cities, NPDES point source dischargers, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Implement projects, BMPs and other methods to reduce volume of stormwater runoff

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One of the difficulties in meeting current and future TMDLs will be treating the enormous volumes of stormwater associated with major rainfall events. One possible strategy would be to implement projects, BMPs and other methods to reduce the volume of

stormwater. BMP categories that have the potential to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff include storage, infiltration, and to a lesser extent, filtration, conveyance, practices, and outreach. In addition, the implementation of SUSMPs for new development and substantial redevelopment projects also has the potential to reduce runoff volumes. Expansion of SUSMP requirements (e.g., reducing the size of development subject to the requirements) could further reduce runoff volumes. It should be noted for some contaminants, for a given unit of pollutant, the larger the volume of runoff, the lower the resultant concentration. Thus reducing the volume of stormwater runoff could increase the concentration of certain pollutants, unless pollutant loads are also reduced. In addition to implementation of BMPs and other runoff reduction methods, various projects have the potential to reduce stormwater volume, including those that increase open space and reduce impervious surfaces. The watershed management strategies and projects included in Chapter 5 discuss specific methods of addressing these approaches.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Federal, state, and regional agencies that operate facilities in the watershed, Caltrans, County of Los Angeles, cities, NPDES point source dischargers, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Install filtration devices to intercept contaminants at entrance to storm drains

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With limited exceptions, once a contaminant reaches a storm drain, it is conveyed directly to Compton Creek, the Los Angeles River, and then San Pedro Bay. Although comments from the Community Action Team meetings indicated a preference for on-site treatment, to reduce the introduction of contaminants into the storm drain system, a filtration device could be installed at the entrance to a storm drain (e.g., at the below grade catch basin found on most storm drains). Depending on the efficiency of the filtration device (e.g., the size of material retained) and the frequency of maintenance (as such devices can become clogged), the extent of capture can be considerable. To implement the Trash TMDL, filtration devices may be installed at many catch basins throughout the Watershed.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Federal, state, and regional agencies that operate facilities in the watershed, Caltrans, County of Los Angeles, cities, and other NPDES permit holders*

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**Action:** Install in-line treatment systems in storm drains and/or channels

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Although on-site treatment methods are preferable, once stormwater has entered the storm drain network, contaminants could be removed during conveyance (before reaching Compton Creek) by the installation of an “in-line” treatment device or mechanisms. These could include filtration devices, UV treatment, storage or detention facilities, constructed wetlands, or other methods. Given the size of the watershed, opportunities for in-line treatment may be extensive; however, the accessibility of storm drains (to install the device), the availability of space to accommodate the treatment device, and the ease of access for periodic maintenance may limit applicability other than in the channel itself.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Caltrans, County of Los Angeles and cities*

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**Action:** Consider watershed-based NPDES permits

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Currently, one single NPDES permit covers most of the municipal separate storm sewers in County of Los Angeles. Future permits could be developed on the basis of individual watersheds (e.g., Compton Creek), which may facilitate increased coordination between relevant jurisdictions and focus efforts on programs and practices that are relevant to individual watersheds.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*

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**Action:** Establish, implement, and monitor Total Maximum Daily Loads

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As noted in Chapter 2, a TMDL for trash in the Los Angeles River has already been established, and the metals TMDLs is in progress; however, the other TMDLs for the Watershed have yet to be established. To establish TMDLs, develop waste allocations, and suggest effective implementation strategies, additional research on pollutant concentrations, sources, geographic distributions, and

BMP effectiveness is needed. The City of Los Angeles, leader of the Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs (CREST) group, has proposed to take the lead on a stakeholder-sponsored development of future TMDLs for the Los Angeles River. Once the TMDLs are established, NPDES permit holders will be required to develop implementation plans and conduct water quality monitoring. The trash TMDL provides for a 10-year implementation schedule (with a possible two year extension), although a 20-year implementation schedule may be suggested for other TMDLs.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, federal, state, and regional agencies that operate facilities in the watershed, Caltrans, County of Los Angeles, cities, and NPDES point source dischargers*

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**Action:** Consider extension of SUSMP requirements to smaller projects

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As discussed above, SUSMPs are currently applicable to commercial developments on sites of 1 acre or greater, home subdivisions with ten or more homes, and parking lots with twenty-five or more spaces (or greater than 5,000 square feet). If these thresholds were reduced (e.g., fewer square feet, housing units or impervious area), additional parcels would be covered, stormwater runoff quality improved, and runoff volumes could be further reduced.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*

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**Action:** Implement the Air Quality Management Plan for the South Coast Air Basin

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Some contaminants in stormwater runoff and dry weather flow are the result of aerial deposition of air pollutants. Implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan for the South Coast Air Basin will improve air quality and reduce aerial deposition of air pollutants and thereby contribute to improved surface water quality.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*South Coast Air Quality Management District*

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**Objective: Prioritize on-site water quality solutions before end-of-pipe water treatment**

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**Action:** Implement projects, BMPs, and other methods to reduce the presence of contaminants in stormwater runoff

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As discussed above, various BMPs, projects and other methods could be implemented to reduce the presence of contaminants in stormwater, including storage, infiltration, filtration, conveyance, practices, public education, and outreach. If it is not possible to achieve all applicable water quality standards with these methods, end-of-pipe treatment systems or devices could be installed at strategic discharge points to reduce the load of pollutants that enter the Creek and San Pedro Bay. These systems could be in the form of natural systems (e.g., constructed wetlands), filtration devices, or trash nets. Appropriate placement would require source assessment to identify discharges with high pollutant contributions.

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**Objective: Expand Water Quality Monitoring**

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**Action:** Implement the Compton Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program

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As discussed in Chapters 2 and 6, some monitoring of water quality in Compton Creek currently occurs, but additional monitoring is necessary to better understand the quality of stormwater and urban runoff and sources of contaminants locations. The monitoring program proposes to monitor additional contaminants locations and increase the frequency of monitoring activities and toxicity monitoring within the earthen-bottom portion of the Creek.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**GOAL 1B: IMPROVE WETLAND & RIPARIAN HABITAT QUALITY & QUANTITY**

**Objective:** Improve wetland habitat in the natural bottom portion of Compton Creek

**Action:** Implement the Compton Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program

As discussed above, the Compton Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program proposes to conduct monitoring for toxicity within the earthen-bottom portion of the Creek, which would provide information on the feasibility of improving wetland habitat.

**Action:** Develop and implement a plan to improve wetland habitat in Compton Creek

Based on the information provided by the proposed toxicity monitoring, a plan could be developed to improve the wetland habitat within the earthen-bottom portion of the Channel. This would include removal of trash within channel sediments (and an assumed future reduction of trash, in accordance with the TMDL for trash), removal of exotic and non-native species, planting native plant species, and future maintenance. As the introduction and maintenance of wetland plant species could increase the surface roughness of the channel bottom and thereby reduce flood conveyance capacity, any plan for wetland habitat restoration must be coordinated with actions to maintain flood protection, as discussed below.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Coastal Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, and community-based organizations*

**Objective:** Create wetland and riparian habitat where feasible

**Action:** Introduce riparian vegetation along Compton Creek or tributary streams or open space projects where feasible

Limited riparian vegetation has been planted along the Compton Creek right-of-way (e.g., along the earthen-bottom portion), with additional plantings in conjunction with bike path improvements within the City of Compton and unincorporated County of Los Angeles. As the channel and tributaries are mostly lined

with concrete, any such plantings may be limited by the absence of favorable hydrologic conditions along riparian corridors. However, the introduction of vegetation along the creek can serve as demonstration projects and mimic historical conditions. In addition, riparian vegetation may be appropriate in parks or other open space projects along drainage swales or where soil conditions favor water retention (e.g., with high clay content).

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, County of Los Angeles, cities and community-based organizations*

**Action:** Introduce wetland vegetation where feasible

Historically, wetland vegetation was found in limited areas around the creek channel or where topography favored pools of stormwater runoff. Currently, wetland vegetation is mostly limited to the earthen-bottom portion of Compton Creek. Wetlands have the potential to remove contaminants from stormwater and urban runoff, create native habitat for wildlife, and provide educational opportunities to demonstrate the value of natural systems in urban settings. Projects intended to improve water quality, expand open space, and improve the quality of life for watershed residents should incorporate wetland vegetation wherever feasible to cleanse stormwater and urban runoff.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**Objective:** Daylight tributary streams and restore riparian habitat wherever feasible

**Action:** Study potential opportunities to daylight and/or restore current/historic stream channels

As the storm drain network was established, the Creek and tributary streams were encased in concrete and mostly buried underground. Daylighting streams means bringing them back to the surface by removing concrete culverts or drainage pipes, and recreating a “natural” channel with riparian and wetland vegetation. Throughout the watershed, existing storm drains could

be daylighted to cleanse stormwater and provide habitat for native wildlife. Opportunities for daylighting include storm drains adjacent to, or within, schools, parks or other open spaces, along street medians, and rail or power line transmission corridors.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, colleges & universities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Daylight a storm drain as a demonstration project

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Although stream daylighting has been proposed in many local watersheds and has been implemented in the Bay Area, it remains a proposal in the Los Angeles region. The Compton Creek Watershed provides an excellent opportunity for a demonstration project in a highly urbanized setting. Once a demonstration project has been successfully implemented, additional daylighting projects in the watershed could be implemented in conjunction with parks and open space projects or individually to improve water quality.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**GOAL 1C: MAINTAIN FLOOD PROTECTION**

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**Objective:** Limit modifications of the storm drain network to locations where flood protection can be preserved or enhanced

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**Action:** Demonstrate maintenance of flood protection levels as a condition for channel modifications and stream daylighting

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The restoration of wetland vegetation in the earthen-bottom portion of Compton Creek could increase channel roughness and thereby reduce channel capacity. Stream daylighting could expose adjacent land uses to flooding during major events. As a condition of approval for any channel modification or stream daylighting, the ability to maintain, and where feasible enhance, flood protection must be demonstrated.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective:** Encourage onsite stormwater detention to reduce runoff volume

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**Action:** Implement SUSMPs as required on new development and redevelopment

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As discussed above, implementation of SUSMPs can reduce the initial volume of runoff from individual sites, and cumulatively reduce stormwater discharge in Compton Creek. It should be noted that during major storm events, the extent to which SUSMPs can reduce stormwater volumes may be limited, as the volumes of runoff during major events may exceed the capacity of SUSMPs to hold, capture, or infiltrate stormwater.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles and cities*

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**ACTION:** Consider extension of SUSMP requirements to smaller projects

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As discussed above, SUSMP thresholds could be reduced to cover additional parcels, which would improve stormwater runoff quality and reduce runoff volumes further.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*

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**Objective:** Implement nonstructural stormwater management methods to the maximum extent feasible

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**ACTION:** Study nonstructural (programmatic) stormwater management measures

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Over time, as BMPs and SUSMPs are implemented, as streams are restored, and as riparian vegetation is planted along Compton Creek and tributaries, nonstructural methods and management measures may become more prevalent. To assist in fostering such practices, a study of nonstructural opportunities could identify candidate programs, provide examples of relevant projects in other watersheds, and provide an assessment of the feasibility of implementing such methods in the Watershed.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, County of Los Angeles, cities, colleges & universities, and community-based organizations*

**GOAL 1D: OPTIMIZE WATER RESOURCES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED WATER**

**Objective: Expand water conservation programs**

**Action:** Develop a watershed-wide water budget

To appreciate the value of water conservation, a water budget for the Compton Creek Watershed should be developed by measuring and estimating water inputs (precipitation, groundwater inflow, and imported water) and output, including groundwater recharge, stormwater discharge, wastewater generation, and evapotranspiration by plants).

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*County of Los Angeles, cities, water utilities, colleges and universities, and community-based organizations*

**Action:** Expand public education and outreach on water conservation

Following the drought in the 1980s, public education and outreach related to water conservation was commonplace, but is no longer a major focus for most water agencies. While previous efforts focused on scarce supplies and the high cost of imported water, inclusion of a “watershed stewardship” theme could expand public interest in such practices and result in additional water savings. The program developed by the Irvine Ranch Water District was highly successful and could serve as a good model.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*State Department of Water Resources, County of Los Angeles, cities, water utilities, community-based organizations, and individuals*

**Action:** Expand rebates and technical assistance for water conservation

Some water agencies provide financial incentives for the installation of ultra-low-flush toilets and water

efficient washing machines, technical assistance programs for business and industry, and large landscape irrigation efficiency programs. Such programs help reduce dependence on imported water and should be continued.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*Water utilities/agencies*

**Action:** Encourage expansion of water conservation programs

Dry weather runoff is a major source of contaminants in Compton Creek. Expansion of water conservation programs related to landscape irrigation and other wasteful uses of water (e.g., washing, instead of sweeping driveways) would reduce dependence of imported water, runoff the volume of dry weather runoff, and assist in meeting TMDL requirements. “Be Water Wise” is a campaign sponsored by the Family of Southern California Water Agencies. It encourages water-use reduction by way of using native plants. CALFED grants also are available for programs in Southern California provided they reduce dependency on Northern Californian water sources (specifically the San Francisco Bay Delta).

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*California Department of Water Resources, County of Los Angeles, cities, utility agencies, and community-based organizations*

**Objective: Extend the distribution and range of uses of reclaimed water**

**Action:** Study expanding the range of uses for recycled water

The California Department of Health Services regulates the use of recycled water for various applications. Revisiting the prohibited uses could eventually expand the range of uses for recycled water.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*Cal EPA, California Department of Health Services*

**Action:** Extend Central Basin Municipal Water District’s recycled water distribution system

The Central Basin Municipal Water District distributes

treated recycled water obtained through the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, delivering approximately 3,500 acre-feet of recycled water annually to almost 200 industrial, commercial, and landscape irrigation customers. Central Basin Municipal Water District's Recycled Water Master Plan evaluates the potential for new customers and is currently being updated in hopes of extending the distribution system for increased recycled water use.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Central Basin Municipal Water District*

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**Action:** Site end-of-pipe treatment plants in proximity to locations that can utilize recycled water

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Although on-site water quality treatment options are favored, at some locations end-of-pipe treatment facilities may be necessary for Compton Creek or other major tributaries. To the extent feasible, siting of such facilities should consider the proximity of public or other major land uses (e.g., schools, shopping centers) that could utilize recycled water for landscaping or other purposes. The SMURF plant in Santa Monica is an example of such a facility.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles and cities*

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**Action:** Provide incentives for on-site treatment and reuse of reclaimed water

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Larger scale commercial facilities could incorporate on-site treatment systems for wastewater. Utility agencies, cities, and County of Los Angeles should consider providing incentives for such systems, which would reduce wastewater discharge and dependence on imported water.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Utility agencies, County of Los Angeles, and cities*

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**Objective: Promote on-site collection of stormwater for irrigation and percolation**

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**Action:** Implement BMPs and projects to reduce stormwater runoff, implement SUSMPs, and extend SUSMP requirements

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As discussed above, implementation of BMPs and projects that reduce stormwater runoff and implementation and extension of SUSMPs all have the potential to increase groundwater recharge, which could reduce dependence on imported water.

## 2. Land

### GOAL 2A: IMPROVE HABITAT QUALITY AND QUANTITY

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**Objective: Create linear greenbelts along Compton Creek and transportation and utility corridors**

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**Action:** Develop and Implement the Compton Creek Garden Plan

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As noted in Chapter 1, a plan to create a linear greenbelt along Compton Creek and within the City of Compton has begun. Following the completion of that plan, the recommendations of the Garden Plan should be implemented, to increase the amount of landscaping along the Creek and establish a linear greenbelt along the Creek to the extent feasible.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*City of Compton*

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**Action:** Create greenbelts along power line transmission corridors

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Three power line transmission corridors cross the watershed:

1. An east/west corridor along Greenleaf Avenue (owned by Edison)
2. A second corridor (owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) runs just east of and parallels Avalon Boulevard in the southern half of the Watershed

3. A third east/west corridor joins with the Avalon corridor at 98th Street and runs all the way across the watershed from Southern Avenue in the City of South Gate to the East and into the city of Inglewood (just outside of the watershed) in the West.

The corridor along Greenleaf Avenue is mostly occupied by nursery operations, while portions of the LADWP corridor are unoccupied. These corridors provide opportunities to create linear greenbelts with new park space, community gardens, open space areas to cleanse stormwater and enhance groundwater recharge, daylighted streams, and trails and bike paths. Landscaped with native plant species, these greenbelts could provide visual relief for urbanized neighborhoods and create places to attract native wildlife such as birds, and insects.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, Southern California Edison, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and community-based organizations.*

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**Action:** Study opportunities to expand landscaping along the Alameda Corridor and the Metro Blue Line

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The Alameda Corridor and Metro Blue line generally cross the watershed in north-south alignments, which include landscaping at various locations. Additional landscaping with native plants, particularly along the Metro Blue Line, could expand habitat and enhance the visual appearance of these linear corridors.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Los Angeles County, cities, Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Transit Authority, and community-based organizations.*

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**Objective:** Establish native plant habitat on publicly owned land where consistent with use

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**Action:** Adapt the Los Angeles River Landscape Guidelines for use in public sector projects in the Compton Creek Watershed

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The County of Los Angeles, with the assistance of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, in conjunction with the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, prepared Landscaping Guidelines and Plant

Palettes for the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The guidelines identify a range of native, regionally-adapted, and drought-tolerant plants that may be used in projects along the Los Angeles River, which could be adapted for projects along Compton Creek and at other locations in the Watershed.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, water utility agencies, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Encourage the use of native, regionally-adapted, and drought-tolerant landscaping in all public sector projects

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Although drought-tolerant landscaping has been utilized in many public projects, the use of native and regionally-adapted plants that are drought-tolerant should be required, wherever feasible with proposed uses (e.g., for landscaping but not to replace lawns used for recreation).

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, water utility agencies, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Develop maintenance protocols for public sector native landscapes

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Although much progress has been made towards the inclusion of native plants in public sector projects, the long-term maintenance of such landscaping has been less successful. Maintenance protocols for native landscapes would help provide maintenance staff with the knowledge and skills to assure the long-term survival of native plants and reduce water demand.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, water utility agencies, and community-based organizations*

**GOAL 2B: IMPROVE ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FOR ALL COMMUNITIES**

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**Objective:** Increase public open space by targeted, prioritized programs of land acquisition

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**Action:** Acquire additional open space and parklands

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Many neighborhoods in the watershed have limited open space, mostly in the form of existing public parks and schools. Targeted acquisition of pocket parks, land along Compton Creek and tributaries, and undeveloped lands in the watershed could expand open space. Vacant parcels, under-utilized public land, brownfields, and land along Compton Creek or tributaries could be acquired to provide new parks, including large traditional parks at various locations and pocket parks throughout the watershed to provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*California Department of Parks and Recreation, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Maintain existing, and acquire additional, urban Community Gardens

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Several community gardens in the Watershed provide opportunities for passive recreation and attraction of wildlife (such as birds and butterflies), provide opportunities to grow vegetables and fruits, demonstrate the value of using open space to retain runoff, provide educational opportunities for residents to learn how composting can reduce green waste and how to incorporate native plants in urban landscapes, and introduce natural spaces into the urban landscape.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Study opportunities to acquire freight rail lines to create linear greenbelts or rail spurs to create pocket parks.

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Several rail lines used exclusively for freight transport cross the watershed and should be targeted for acquisition

to create linear greenbelts that cross the watershed. These greenbelts could include native landscaping, trails and bike paths, play space for children, community gardens, as well as opportunities for constructed wetlands and stream daylighting. In addition, numerous rail spurs are located along these rail corridors, many of which are no longer used. Depending on their location, these unused rail spurs create potential opportunities for land acquisition to create pocket parks. In some cases, access to these spurs for public use may not be convenient or desirable. Vegetated drainage swales could also be installed in these areas to improve water quality.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*California Department of Parks and Recreation, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective:** Improve public access to Compton Creek

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**Action:** Develop pedestrian and bicycle trails along Compton Creek

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As discussed in Chapter 1, trail projects along the Creek are proposed, or have been partially implemented. The City of Compton has developed a bicycle trail along segments along the Creek and proposes an equestrian trail in the same area. These trails could be extended along additional segments of the Creek and street crossings could be improved. LACDPW has begun a trail along the Creek from the confluence with the Los Angeles River to just above the 91 Freeway, which should be completed.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, Cities of Compton and Los Angeles, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Connect creekside projects to adjacent communities

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The concept of creekside development projects (e.g., creekside cafes, bicycle rental shops, pocket parks) along Compton Creek has been suggested. In addition to providing a creekside frontage that enhances public access, these developments also need to serve as a bridge between the Creek and the adjacent communities.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, Cities of Compton and Los Angeles, and community-based organizations*

*Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective: Connect open spaces to bike paths and transit access points**

**Action:** Enhance access to existing parks and consider public access in planning for new open space

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**Action:** Study opportunities to generate revenues for maintenance of parks, open space, and trails

Parks and other open spaces need to be accessible to the entire community, with safe, convenient bicycle and public transit access. Pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to existing parks should be improved, and future parks and open spaces should be planned at locations that can be easily accessed without a vehicle.

In addition to funding from granting agencies, other opportunities could be explored to generate revenues that could be dedicated to maintenance of open space and parks. This could include user fees, property or sales taxes, assessment districts, concession sales, donations, or corporate sponsorship (e.g., logos on trash cans). As this problem is not unique to the Compton Creek Watershed, regional solutions to this issue should be explored.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*California Department of Parks and Recreation, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, cities and community-based organizations*

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**GOAL 2C: IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCESS AND SAFETY**

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**Objective: Provide for maintenance of parks, open space, and trails**

**Action:** Include maintenance funding in project grants

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**Objective: Create a network of trails and bike paths throughout the watershed to link public facilities and open spaces**

**Action:** Develop trail projects along Compton Creek

Most granting agencies provide funds for acquisition and/or open space development without providing funds for the maintenance of that space, which can create a burden on local agencies with many competing demands on local revenues. In most instances, the provisions of the fund source (e.g., the language of a proposition or the implementing legislation) do not provide for such funding, and thus no maintenance assistance is available for long-term maintenance of parks and open space. In some instances (e.g., County of Los Angeles’s Proposition A) limited fund for maintenance have been provided. That practice needs to become more widespread to permit the expansion of open space in the watershed with some assurance that these spaces will be adequately maintained.

As discussed above, current trail projects along Compton Creek should be completed and extended.

**Action:** Fund bicycle paths that serve open space areas and provide alternative commute routes

Funding for bicycle routes from transportation entities are typically reserved for routes that facilitate commuting by bicycle. Expanding the eligibility of such funds to routes that serve public open space could enhance their use by recreational users and reduce dependence on the automobile.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*California Legislature, Resources Agency, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Coastal*

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Department of Transportation, Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments, Metropolitan Transit Authority, County of Los Angeles, and cities*

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**Action:** Encourage stewardship and maintenance of bicycle paths and routes

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Creation of bike paths provides an opportunity for residents to exercise and access open spaces and parks without increasing traffic and air pollution. However, without proper maintenance, over time, these routes can fall into disrepair and create safety hazards and therefore require regular maintenance.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Department of Transportation, Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments, Metropolitan Transit Authority, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective: Provide for public safety and security along pedestrian and bicycle routes**

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**Action:** Maintain and enhance pedestrian safety at crosswalks

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Federal and State agencies should recognize the need to fund maintenance of existing pedestrian crossings, and the County and cities should work to maintain and enhance pedestrian safety, particularly at crossings on busy streets and along routes that provide access to open spaces.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*US Department of Transportation, Caltrans, Metropolitan Transit Authority, County of Los Angeles, and cities*

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**Action:** Encourage maintenance of bicycle paths and routes

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As discussed above, bicycle paths and routes must be maintained.

## GOAL 2D: PRACTICE STEWARDSHIP OF THE LANDSCAPE

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**Objective: Expand use of native plants in landscaping**

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**Action:** Encourage the use of native, regionally-adapted, and drought-tolerant landscaping in all public sector projects

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As discussed above, the use of native and regionally-adapted plants that are drought-tolerant should be required, wherever feasible

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**Action:** Adapt the Los Angeles River Landscape Guidelines for use in public sector projects

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As discussed above, the Landscaping Guidelines and Plant Palettes for the Los Angeles River Master Plan should be adapted for projects along Compton Creek and at other locations in the Watershed.

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**Action:** Develop maintenance protocols for public sector native landscapes

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As discussed above, maintenance protocols for native landscapes would help provide maintenance staff with the knowledge and skills to assure the long-term survival of native plants.

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**Action:** Expand public education and outreach regarding appropriate landscaping

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Although some water agencies and cities provide some outreach regarding the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, more outreach on the use of native, regionally adapted, and drought-tolerant landscaping would increase public interest, reduce water demand, and reduce dependence on imported water.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, colleges and universities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective: Identify and preserve historical sites and cultural landscapes**

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**Action:** Encourage identification, preservation, and restoration of historic sites and cultural landscapes

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Historic sites and cultural landscapes provide opportunities to appreciate the role of humans in modification of the watershed and provide tangible evidence of the history of human development. These sites should be identified, preserved, and restored as part the social and historical fabric of the Watershed.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

### 3. Community Goals

#### GOAL 3A: USE WATERSHED RESTORATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

**Objective:** Promote restoration of Compton Creek and other watershed resources

**Action:** Establish an entity to promote watershed restoration and provide a forum for public participation

Various cities, agencies, and community-based organizations have expressed interest in restoration of watershed resources and are working to implement programs and projects that improve water quality and restore some resources. However, no single entity has been identified to lead this process or coordinate efforts between these jurisdictions and groups. Creation of a single entity, perhaps in the form of a non-profit group or a joint powers authority could facilitate watershed restoration and create a single forum for public participation in all aspects of watershed restoration.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**Action:** Encourage agencies, cities, and community-based organizations to seek common solutions to issues and form partnerships for projects

To make progress towards achieving ecological health for the Watershed, cities, agencies, and community-based organizations need to work together for mutual benefits. Partnerships provide opportunities to leverage scarce public resources, share knowledge and experience, and broaden agency and public participation in watershed restoration.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**Action:** Consider incorporation of Compton Creek WMP Objectives into General Plans

As the County and cities update their General Plans, the

objectives identified in this Watershed Plan should be incorporated into the Conservation, Open Space, and other General Plan elements to the extent feasible.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles and cities*

**Action:** Encourage public agencies to consider cumulative impacts to watershed resources through CEQA analysis of projects

Per the California Environmental Quality Act, plans and/or projects require consideration of potential environmental effects, often in the form of an Environmental Impact Report. Such analysis should include consideration of the potential cumulative effects that could result from the implementation of the proposed projects in conjunction with other development in the project area. Lead agencies should be encouraged to include a rigorous assessment of potential cumulative impacts to water quality and other natural resources in the Watershed for projects that have the potential to affect such resources.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, CEQA lead agencies, and community-based organizations*

#### GOAL 3B: PROTECT & ENHANCE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

**Objective:** Expand programs and actions to improve public health and safety

**Action:** Design projects to promote public safety

New parks, retrofit of existing schools and parks, stream daylighting projects, community gardens and other open spaces provide opportunities for active and passive recreation and to improve the appearance of neighborhoods. However, such spaces also create opportunities for illicit activity and loitering by undesirable persons and thus must be designed to maximize visibility, minimize hiding places, limit access where necessary to protect the public, and assure ease of access by law enforcement and emergency response personnel.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Encourage jurisdictions to consider quality of life when approving development and regulating businesses

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The type and location of businesses can affect the quality of life for nearby residents, either in a positive way, such as providing retail services within walking distance, or in a negative way, such as an over-concentration of establishments that sell alcohol. The City of Los Angeles has established a program to regulate the sale of alcohol in certain areas which could serve as a useful model for other jurisdictions. Although such programs must be carefully applied to protect private property rights and not stifle economic activity, the potential for adverse effects on adjacent neighborhoods warrants consideration.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Enforce anti-dumping and littering laws and regulations

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Although littering and dumping of trash are prohibited, enforcement of these laws, ordinances, and regulations is not consistent across the Watershed. The creation of a trash TMDL for the Los Angeles River (and Compton Creek as a tributary) is likely to require increased enforcement of anti-littering and dumping laws to meet the TMDL requirements and improve the appearance of the Watershed.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Enforce vagrancy laws and other prohibitions against public nuisances in public spaces

---

Although laws to prohibit vagrancy, consumption of alcohol, and illicit drug sales in public places exist in all jurisdictions, the enforcement of these laws and ordinances is inadequate in some portions of the Watershed. Lack of enforcement contributes to a perceived lack of safety in many parks and public spaces and must be resolved to assure that residents can feel safe in parks, take pride in their open spaces, and foster a sense of stewardship of these spaces.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Expand social service programs to address homelessness and substance abuse

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Increased enforcement laws to remove the homeless, drug dealers, or intoxicated persons from parks or open space may make parks safer, but may also relocate undesirable elements to other locations. Social services in the Watershed must be expanded to offer solutions such as transitional housing, mental health services, and substance abuse to provide longer term solutions to societal problems. Additionally, when designing open space the potential use of these spaces by homeless people and drug users should be considered. Services to the homeless and drug users should be incorporated into the design of parks, or should be provided in concert with the provision of new park space. Expansion of these programs will require funding from the federal and state government.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Congress, US Department of Health and Human Services, California Legislature, California Department of Mental Health, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Encourage community participation in public safety programs

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Enforcement actions by law enforcement agencies are not the only means to improve safety in public spaces and neighborhoods. Community-based organizations, including block clubs and other neighborhood groups, youth organizations, religious groups, and other community service organizations should all be involved in public safety programs.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Promote cross-jurisdictional coordination of public safety programs

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Within the Watershed, the County of Los Angeles and seven cities have jurisdiction within their own

boundaries for law enforcement, fire protection, and trash collection. This patchwork of responsibility creates variation in responses and priorities, which may reduce the effectiveness of some activities (e.g., if dumping laws are enforced on one block, but not the next). Law enforcement and emergency response agencies should work cooperatively to assure mutual response assistance and consistent application laws that protect public safety.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Maintain and enhance vector control

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Vector control refers to the control of pests, including rodents and mosquitoes which can harbor disease and pose a threat to public health. Several vector control agencies have jurisdiction in the Watershed and should be maintained to continue these programs. Watershed restoration projects, particularly those related to water quality or stream restoration, should be designed to minimize concerns related to the presence of animals, insects, or other organisms which may be a vector for disease.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

**GOAL 3C: INVOLVE THE PUBLIC THROUGH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

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**Objective:** Conduct public educational and outreach programs to promote watershed restoration

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**Action:** Encourage continued environmental education in K–12 schools

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Continued inclusion of environmental education in school curricula will foster an understanding of human impacts on the environment among school children and improved understanding of how individual action can reduce trash and improve water quality.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*K–12 school districts, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Encourage development of K–12 educational curriculum focused on the Compton Creek Watershed

---

An ecosystem is often an abstract concept to people living in urbanized areas. Creating curricula to generate an appreciation of the Compton Creek Watershed will help foster the next generation of watershed stewards.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*K–12 school districts, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Coordinate outreach activities with other jurisdictions and organizations to improve awareness of issues related to stormwater and urban runoff

---

As discussed above, as part of the NPDES permit, the County and the cities are required to implement a Public Information and Participation Program to increase awareness of water quality issues and an understanding of how personal action can reduce water pollution. Coordination amongst the jurisdictions would maximize the impact of such programs and provide a common appreciation of the Watershed.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles and cities*

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**Action:** Encourage localization and distribution of the “Living Lightly” watershed brochure

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First developed for the Topanga Creek Watershed, *Living Lightly in our Watersheds* was subsequently adapted for the Malibu Creek Watershed and is being localized for other watersheds in the Los Angeles area and provides good examples of how individual action can improve watershed health.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

---

**Action:** Encourage cities and agencies to include interpretive signage and educational elements in public projects

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To foster an understanding of how projects contribute to watershed health, public agencies should include interpretive signage and educational elements in projects.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Develop a sponsorship program for natural resources in the Watershed

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To facilitate a better appreciation of natural resources in the Watershed, a sponsorship program could be developed, similar to the “Adopt-A-Highway” program, with signage to identify the resource and recognize the sponsor’s contribution to restoration or protection of those resources.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective: Encourage participation of existing community-based organizations in watershed restoration activities**

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**Action:** Promote ongoing watershed stewardship over sporadic clean up events

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Although clean up events can be a useful tool to expand public awareness of the need for watershed restoration, fostering stewardship of watershed resources assures broad-based, long-term restoration and preservation of open spaces, parks, creeks, and other watershed restoration.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Provide for public participation in development of project proposals

---

Some cities and agencies provide a process for public participation in the identification or development of project proposals, although notification of such processes could be improved. Fostering public participation improves public agency decision-making and assures that projects reflect public priorities.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Action:** Provide for public participation in development of grant guidelines, identification of project evaluation priorities and funding solicitations

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Most agencies providesomeprocessforpublicparticipation in the development of grant guidelines, or the approval of projects, although notification of such processes could be improved. Fostering public participation improves public agency decision-making and assures that watershed projects reflect public priorities.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**GOAL 3D: IMPLEMENT MULTI-OBJECTIVE PLANNING AND PROJECTS**

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**Objective: Incorporate sustainability objectives and practices in all public projects**

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**Action:** Consider adoption of a sustainability program

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Sustainability refers to meeting existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The City of Santa Monica’s Sustainable City Program (first adopted in 1994) may serve as a useful model for other cities and agencies to follow. As an initial step, cities and agencies could consider the adoption

of a requirement for obtaining LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in all city projects (as the City of Los Angeles has already done). Consideration of sustainability principles in the development of public sector projects and other public agency actions could reduce water demand, wastewater generation, solid waste disposal, and consumption of nonrenewable resources and thereby contribute to watershed health.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

---

**Action:** Implement the Integrated Resources Plan

As discussed in Chapter 1, the Integrated Resources Plan for the City of Los Angeles, currently in development, will provide a comprehensive program to address solid waste, wastewater generation, stormwater, and urban runoff, and will address these issues in portions of the headwaters of the Watershed. This program could also serve as a model for other jurisdictions in the Watershed.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*City of Los Angeles, potentially County of Los Angeles and other cities*

---

**Action:** Include a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis in evaluation of public sector projects

Although cost-benefit analysis is sometimes prepared for public sector projects, the application is typically limited to large infrastructure projects and includes limited information on a project’s contribution to watershed health. A more comprehensive assessment, such as that developed for TreePeople’s Trans-Agency Resources for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (T.R.E.E.S.) program, should consider a range of environmental and socioeconomic conditions including water availability and quality, flood control, air quality, energy demand, green waste supply, capital and operational costs, employment and quality of life. County of Los Angeles has funded a study to assess the economic value of watershed management, and the results of that analysis could be relevant to future cost-benefit studies.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective: Leverage planned single-purpose infrastructure projects by incorporating multiple objectives and partnerships**

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**Action:** Encourage agencies, cities, and community-based organizations to seek common solutions to issues and form partnerships for projects

To make progress towards achieving ecological health for the Watershed, cities, agencies, and community-based organizations need to work together for mutual benefits.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

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**Objective: Provide incentives to promote sustainable, multiple-objective private sector projects**

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**Action:** Study incentives for incorporation of sustainability concepts in private sector projects

Although some organizations have willingly incorporated sustainability principles into private-sector projects, a study of potential incentives that the cities and the County of Los Angeles could incorporate as general plan policies, ordinances or other programs could increase public awareness and encourage broader application of such principles.

**Stakeholder Responsibility:**

*Resources Agency, County of Los Angeles, cities, colleges & universities, and community-based organizations*

### GOAL 3E: REALIZE THE POTENTIAL OF WATERSHED RESTORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Objective:** Recycle underused sites along Compton Creek as frontage for new, sustainable mixed-use development

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**Action:** Identify incentives for sustainable development along Compton Creek

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As improvements to Compton Creek occur, opportunities for development along the creek may become more prevalent. Incentives for sustainable development might include a density bonus, a reduction in other requirements (e.g., parking) or tax benefits. Such incentives could encourage development that reduces water demand, wastewater generation, solid waste disposal, single-occupant vehicle trips, and consumption of nonrenewable resources and thereby contribute to watershed health.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*County of Los Angeles and cities of Compton and Los Angeles*

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**Action:** Consider revisions as appropriate to General Plans to encourage compatible residential, commercial, and service uses adjacent to Compton Creek

---

The County of Los Angeles and the cities of Compton and Los Angeles have jurisdiction over the frontage along Compton Creek and should consider General Plan revisions where appropriate to encourage mixed-use development that take advantage of proximity to the creek.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*County of Los Angeles and cities of Compton and Los Angeles*

---

**Objective:** Recycle vacant sites to foster development and expand open space

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**Action:** Identify incentives for reuse of vacant sites

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The presence of vacant lots, abandoned structures, and brownfields diminishes the visual appearance of many neighborhoods and depresses property values. The

productive use of such sites creates opportunities for economic development, expanded housing supply, and new open spaces and pocket parks. Incentives for new construction, adaptive reuse of existing structures, and creation of new open spaces should be identified and implemented. Incentives for sustainable development might include a density bonus, a reduction in other requirements (e.g., parking) or tax benefits. To encourage conversion of vacant lots into pocket parks, a transfer of development rights to other parcels might be considered.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

---

**Action:** Expand programs and actions to expedite clean-up and remediation of contaminated sites

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Federal and state regulations govern the adaptive use of sites that have been contaminated by prior use. In many instances, the cost of remediation creates an economic barrier to re-use and results in the long-term neglect of such sites. Federal and state grants may be used to fund clean up, but long-term liability issues complicate the implementation of such programs. Programs to expedite clean up have been proposed, but raise concerns about public safety from long-term exposure from such sites. Federal, state, and local agencies should work cooperatively to expedite clean-up and remediation of such sites, so they can contribute to the economic vitality of the watershed and expand open space.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

*Federal Environmental Protection Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, Resources Agency, County of Los Angeles, cities, and community-based organizations*

### B. SUCCESS INDICATORS

Based on the goals and objectives articulated in Chapter 3, and the actions included above, various indicators can be identified to gauge success towards plan implementation, as listed in Table 4-1:

**Table 4-1 Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan Success Indicators**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Success Indicators</i>
<b>WATER</b>	
Improve Water Quality	EPA 303(d) delisting of the pollutants for which Compton Creek is currently impaired Number of new projects and BMPs implemented with specific features to reduce stormwater contaminants (target: 1 per subwatershed in 3–5 years) Measurable reductions in contaminants identified on the 303(d) list of impaired waters entering Compton Creek Measurable reduction in dry weather runoff volume entering within Compton Creek or tributary channels Adoption of a watershed-based NPDES permit for the Compton Creek Watershed Establishment of remaining TMDLs for identified impairments Implementation of recommended water quality monitoring program and monitoring of additional constituents or factors Demonstration of SUSMP compliance for all applicable projects
Improve Wetland and Riparian Habitat Quality and Quantity	Completion of a plan to improve wetland habitat in the earthen-bottom portion of Compton Creek with identified funding options and responsibilities for implementation Linear feet of new riparian vegetation planted Acres of new wetland vegetation Acres of exotic vegetation removed from the Creek right of way and earthen bottom section of the Creek Completed study of creek daylighting opportunities with prioritized list of locations and funding plan Linear feet of daylighted streams Completion of hydraulic study for each planned channel modification or stream daylighting project Linear feet of restored or daylighted streams
Maintain Flood Protection	Expansion of SUSMP requirements beyond current project parameters A completed study identifying opportunities and locations for nonstructural flood protection that identifies responsibilities and funding options
Optimize Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water	Development of a comprehensive watershed water budget Number of brochures, public service advertisements, or utility bill inserts related to water conservation education Linear feet of new distribution lines for recycled water Number of evapotranspiration-based irrigation controllers installed and water reduction achieved Number of adopted ordinances that establish incentives for on-site wastewater treatment and reuse Increases in water use efficiency measurable in the number of completed water use awareness surveys, and system water audits conducted
<b>LAND</b>	
Improve Terrestrial Habitat Quality and Quantity	Completion of the Compton Creek Garden Plan and the number of projects implemented Acres of additional landscaped open space Number of new projects with native landscaping Number of jurisdictions that adopt new requirements for native plants in public projects Number of jurisdictions that adopt and/or adapt the LA River Landscape Guidelines Number of jurisdictions that implement native plant maintenance training programs for staff

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

**Table 4-1 Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan Success Indicators**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Success Indicators</i>
<p>Improve Access to Open Space and Recreation for All Communities</p>	<p>Acres of additional parkland or open space                      Acres of additional Community Gardens                      Number of projects that address both the Creek and community                      Linear feet of new bike paths or trails                      Number of new parks within one block of an existing trail or bike path                      Number of project grants that include maintenance funding                      A completed study that identifies revenue generation options for maintenance of parks and open space</p>
<p>Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety</p>	<p>Number of new trail projects completed                      Linear feet of new bicycle paths                      Linear feet of bicycle paths subject to regular maintenance                      Number of intersections with renovated or new pedestrian safety enhancements</p>
<p>Practice Stewardship of the Landscape</p>	<p>Number of brochures, public service advertisements, or classes held to educate the public about landscaping with native plants                      Number of cultural sites that are preserved, restored, or adaptively reused</p>
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
<p>Use Watershed Restoration to Improve Quality of Life</p>	<p>Creation or identification of a watershed-wide entity to promote Watershed stewardship and promote projects based on community input                      Number of Watershed projects with two or more project sponsors                      Number of jurisdictions that incorporate one or more Watershed Plan goals into their General Plans                      Number of community-based organizations newly involved in environmental stewardship programs (e.g., block clubs)</p>
<p>Protect and Enhance Public Safety</p>	<p>Number of new projects that include features to maximize visibility across the site and limit hiding places                      Number of jurisdictions that adopt new measures to regulate businesses that sell alcohol for off-site consumption                      Visible reduction in trash and illegal dumping activity                      Number of community-based organizations newly involved in public safety programs (e.g., block clubs)</p>
<p>Involve the Public through Outreach and Education</p>	<p>Number of school districts with environmental curricula                      Number of school districts with curricula specific to the Compton Creek Watershed                      Number of printed and distributed copies of a Living Lightly brochure focused on Compton Creek                      Number of Watershed projects that include interpretive signage                      Number of parks, creeks, or other watershed resources that have been sponsored by an organization or company                      Number of agencies or jurisdictions with procedures for public input in grant guidelines, project evaluation priorities, funding solicitations, or project proposals</p>
<p>Implement Multi-Objective Planning and Projects</p>	<p>Number of agencies or jurisdictions that adopt a sustainability program                      Number of agencies or jurisdictions that adopt requirements for comprehensive cost-benefit analyses for Watershed projects                      Number of agencies and jurisdictions that identify and adopt incentives for sustainability concepts in private projects</p>
<p>Realize the Potential of Watershed Restoration for Sustainable Economic Development</p>	<p>Number of jurisdictions that identify incentives for sustainable development along the Creek                      Number of General Plans that incorporate incentives for development along Compton Creek                      Number of vacant sites reused for open space, parks, housing or commercial uses</p>