



**NEXT STEPS**

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## 8. NEXT STEPS

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### A. INTRODUCTION

Watershed restoration is a long-term process, as many years will be required to improve water quality, meet applicable water quality standards, expand open space, and harness the watershed restoration process to improve the quality of life for watershed residents. This Chapter describes several implementation strategies, suggests a timeline for implementation, and procedures for future updates of the Plan.



## B. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

This Plan proposes a series of actions to meet the goals and objectives and suggests responsibilities for those actions. However, with the exception of actions related to improved water quality, which are based on NPDES permits and current and pending TMDLs (and thus reflect regulatory mandates), most of the actions proposed in this Plan are voluntary. Many of the agencies and jurisdictions identified as responsible parties have already begun work on various plans, programs, and projects to improve water quality, expand open space and improve the quality of life for Watershed residents. It is assumed that those current activities will continue.

This Plan includes an action to “establish an entity to promote watershed restoration and provide a forum for public participation.” If a single group, agency, or jurisdiction assumes the role of the primary proponent for watershed restoration and stewardship, that entity would also take the lead in implementing strategies for the actions identified in this Plan.



Until such an entity is established, several agencies, jurisdictions, and groups have the potential to work towards the goals identified in this Plan, and to do so in a coordinated fashion. The County of Los Angeles and the cities in the Watershed have been identified as responsible stakeholders for the vast majority of the actions identified in this Plan, as the suggested projects, programs and activities would occur within the cities and

the unincorporated portions of the County within the Watershed. Many of the actions could be incorporated into existing programs and planned projects, but some will require additional resources. The Coastal Conservancy and Rivers and Mountains Conservancy have potential roles for about two dozen of the actions related to projects, parks, and open space. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has responsibility for nearly a dozen actions related to water quality.

Altogether, these entities have some responsibility for all of the actions identified in this Plan. Individual agencies, jurisdictions, and groups could continue their ongoing efforts towards watershed restoration, using this Plan as a guide on how to expand their activities. Stakeholders are strongly encouraged to adopt, or agree to consider, the principles promoted in the Plan in future planning processes. As many of the Watershed problems are unlikely to be solved in isolation, the formation of partnerships is also encouraged, to leverage scarce resources, share experience and information, and build broader support for watershed restoration. A coordinating group of these agencies and jurisdictions could be established to work cooperatively towards plan implementation. As community-based organizations also have the potential to work towards, or participate in, many of the actions, a liaison to such groups is needed to expand public participation in this process. In the short term, LASGRWC and Heal the Bay will assume these roles in order to promote Plan implementation.

In the short term, LASGRWC and Heal the Bay will assume these coordination and stewardship roles. The Coastal Conservancy has demonstrated its commitment to the Watershed with grants to LASGRWC and Heal the Bay to begin Plan implementation. With this funding, these two entities will continue outreach to promote the Plan goals and principles, coordinate establishment of a Watershed group to provide continued stewardship, and work with Watershed stakeholders to prioritize projects and initiate implementation.

**C. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE AND MILESTONES**

**1. Watershed Plan**

To achieve the goals and objectives articulated in Chapter 3, various actions have been identified within this Plan. Because of the heavily-urbanized condition of the Watershed, the actions required to improve water quality, expand open space, and improve the quality of life may require a long time to be fully realized. To facilitate Plan implementation, a suggested timeline for specific actions is presented below, with some key priorities sorted within three timeframes. The near-term actions described first are considered top priorities for actions that can be achieved quickly, within a year or two, that will provide a foundation for water quality improvements, reduce trash, and demonstrate commitment to Watershed restoration.



**▣ Short-Term Actions**

- Translate, print, and distribute Spanish version of Plan Executive Summary
- Presentations on Plan to City Councils and other elected official, City Managers, Parks & Recreation, and Planning Departments in Watershed cities and County to increase awareness of Plan principles

- Establish an entity to take the lead in promoting watershed restoration and provide a forum for public participation
- Implement the Compton Creek Watershed Monitoring Program
- Conduct required studies and develop a specific plan to improve wetland habitat in Compton Creek
- Conduct required studies and develop design plan to implement at least one stream naturalization project
- Install trash capture device at upstream end of earthen bottom channel, and install catch basin inserts to meet 2006 trash TMDL target
- Develop “Watershed Crash Course” and conduct one-day training to promote watershed awareness and advocacy among active watershed members
- Identify additional priority projects that meet Plan goals and initiate project development
- Research upcoming funding sources, timelines, and grant deadlines; assist local organizations connect with funding process for priority projects
- Adopt LA River metals TMDL and develop implementation plan for the Compton Creek Watershed

**▣ The Following Actions Should Be Implemented within Two to Five Years**

- Complete bike path along Compton Creek
- Implement plan to improve wetland habitat in Compton Creek
- Establish remaining TMDLs for the Compton Creek Watershed
- Adopt a watershed-based NPDES permit
- Complete other currently planned trail projects along Compton Creek
- Complete and implement the Compton Creek Garden Plan

- Expand enforcement of anti-dumping and littering laws and regulations
  - Install in-line treatment systems in storm drains and/or channels
  - Introduce native riparian vegetation along Compton Creek or tributary streams, or within open space projects where feasible
  - Daylight a storm drain as a demonstration project
  - Study additional opportunities to daylight and/or restore current or historic stream channels
  - Create a greenbelt along one power line transmission corridor
  - Implement the City of Los Angeles's Integrated Resources Plan
- **To assure continued progress towards Plan goals, the following actions should be implemented within five to ten years:**
- Study opportunities for acquisition of freight rail lines
  - Develop a comprehensive watershed water budget
  - Expand distribution lines for recycled water
  - Adopt requirements for use of native plants in all public projects
  - Create incentives for re-use of vacant sites
  - Study revenue generation options for maintenance of parks and open space
  - Develop educational curricula for schools specific to the Compton Creek Watershed
  - Continue to promote water-use efficiency
  - Acquire additional open space, parkland, and community gardens in all communities
  - Develop a sponsorship program for natural resources in the Watershed
  - Incorporate one or more Watershed Plan goals into General Plans
  - Adoption of sustainability program by all cities and County of Los Angeles

## 2. Water Quality Improvements

A timeline for improving water quality in Compton Creek, and the removal of the 303(d) listings for lead, copper, coliform, pH and trash can be estimated based on the adopted and proposed TMDLs for trash and metals. The trash TMDL included a two-year period for baseline monitoring, followed by a 12 year compliance timeline, while the metals TMDL suggests a 22-year timeline. Each TMDL also provides interim targets for incremental improvements towards meeting the waste load allocations established in the TMDL. It is assumed that future TMDLs (for coliform and pH, if required) will adopt similar timelines, thus the existing water quality impairments in Compton Creek must be resolved within approximately 20 years. Therefore, the watershed management strategies described in Chapter 5 must be implemented in order to meet the incremental targets identified in the individual TMDLs and achieve total compliance with applicable water quality standards by 2015 for trash, and 22 years from the effective date of the metals TMDL.

## 3. Milestones

The ultimate goal of the Plan is to achieve applicable water quality standards in Compton Creek. In order to do so, quantifiable interim targets must be set and progress must be measured incrementally. Chapter 5 discusses specific BMPs and projects that will begin to achieve this goal, as well as ways to measure progress. As noted in Chapter 5, while the success of these actions in achieving interim targets can be measured, it is difficult to predict the actual effects because sufficient data to quantify effectiveness of BMPs do not exist. As individual projects are monitored, we can begin to assess their effectiveness and estimate their impact on water quality. Additionally, the recommended monitoring program (Chapter 6) will provide data to quantify long-term impacts, total pollutant loads, and water quality changes in the Creek on a subwatershed basis, for both wet and dry weather concentrations.

Specific milestones are summarized below.

▣ **20% Reduction in Trash by September of 2006**

The trash TMDL calls for a 10% reduction per year of trash discharge, with a zero discharge limit by the year 2015. The first compliance milestone is a 20% reduction in trash by September of 2006. As stated previously, there will be over 1,500 catch basin inserts installed by the City and County of Los Angeles in an area representing over 62% of the Watershed. These installations were prioritized by need, and thus should meet this target milestone.

▣ **50% of Watershed Should Meet Dry-Weather Standards for Copper and Lead by 2012**

The metals TMDL for the Los Angeles River and tributaries was adopted by the Regional Board in June 2005, but has not yet been approved by EPA. The proposed schedule would require total compliance within 22 years following adoption of the TMDL and provides interim targets, including 50% compliance for dry weather standards and 25% for wet weather standard within 6 years. Assuming adoption within the next year, then the target date for 50% compliance for the dry-weather standard would be 2012.

▣ **Bacteria Source Assessment by 2010**

While the bacteria TMDL has not yet been proposed, a significant milestone will be to assess specific sources of bacteria and identify “hot spots” so that implementation planning can be appropriately targeted to known problem areas. Based on the current schedule for adoption of the Los Angeles River bacteria TMDL by 2008, the specifics of the wet-weather bacteria TMDL for Santa Monica Bay and the assumption that the Los Angeles River bacteria TMDL will be consistent, it can be assumed that a source assessment for bacteria will be required.

▣ **Stakeholder Acceptance of Plan Principles**

In addition to water quality improvements, Plan goals address increased recreation and habitat, and an enhanced environment for Watershed residents. Achieving these goals will require the engagement and participation of all

stakeholders in the Watershed. Although formal adoption of the Plan is not required, and the recommended actions in the Plan are largely voluntary, little progress will be achieved without a deliberate and coordinated effort. Therefore all stakeholders are encouraged to consider the goals and recommendations of the Plan in all programs and projects that could impact water quality, and to incorporate the recommended actions and multi-purpose watershed management strategies into future planning for development and infrastructure management.

#### D. PROCEDURES FOR PLAN UPDATES

The Compton Cree Watershed Management Plan was developed to identify the current physical and environmental conditions in the Watershed, articulate goals and objectives for the Plan, identify methods and mechanisms that would achieve the goals, identify opportunities to expand water quality monitoring programs, and identify stakeholder commitments towards implementing projects and potential fund sources for those projects. Over time, it will be appropriate to update or revisit Plan elements to gauge progress, include new concepts or projects, and reflect changes in stakeholder goals or objectives. This update could retain the existing format and elements of this Plan, or be produced as a periodic “State of the Watershed” report.



## 1. Plan Elements Potentially Subject to Updating

Of the various elements of this Plan, the following components could be subject to future updates:

### ▣ Background

The list of concurrent planning efforts could be expanded and the status of those efforts updated.

### ▣ Physical and Environmental Conditions

Changes in the physical and environmental conditions could be noted, including updates of the (303[d]) list of impaired water bodies and the establishment of TMDLs and trends in water quality.

### ▣ Goals and Objectives

Stakeholders could elect to identify new goals and/or objectives or modify those included in this Watershed Management Plan.

### ▣ Watershed Strategies

The Project Inventory could be revised to add new projects or update project status.

The list of Best Management Practices could be revised, based on the results of a BMP prioritization project (currently underway in the Ballona Creek Watershed) or to add new BMPs.

The list of Watershed Project Types could be expanded as appropriate.

The Success Indicators should be used to gauge progress towards meeting Plan goals.

### ▣ Community-Based Monitoring Program

The parameters subject to monitoring could be revised as new data are evaluated.

Frequency of monitoring would also be similarly modified.

### ▣ Stakeholder Commitment and Funding

As new projects are identified, new stakeholder commitments could be identified.

As new fund sources become available, the list could be revised.

A cumulative total of projects funded and completed could be compiled, to identify the level of investment in improving watershed health and progress towards achieving Plan goals.

## 2. Frequency of Plan Updates

Because of the amount of information that could be required to update the plan (identified above), it is recommended that the plan be updated every 3 to 5 years.



### 3. Options for Plan Updates

Future updates to the plan will require a funding mechanism to assure that the update occurs, and happens at the desired frequency. Given the amount of information that could be required to update the Plan, various options are described below.

#### ▣ County of Los Angeles DPW Staff

Staff of the LACDPW Watershed Management Division could prepare future updates of the Plan. This assumes that the LACDPW is willing to assume responsibility, can identify the resources necessary, and can identify a responsible individual or position to update the Plan on a periodic basis.

#### ▣ Academic Institutions

A local academic institution, such as the University of Southern California, California State University Dominguez Hills or Compton College, could perform regular Plan updates as part of an instructional or research program. For an instructional program, the update could be the subject of a class exercise, where individual students or student teams are given responsibility for updating individual sections of the report. As a research program activity, grant funds may be necessary to support the time required for research (e.g., by graduate students and/or faculty). This would require a commitment from an academic department or research unit to assure that future updates are pursued.

#### ▣ Community-Based Organizations

A local non-profit group, such as the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council or a new Compton Creek Watershed-based group, could assume responsibility to update the Plan. This assumes that the Watershed Council or other non-profit entity could identify the resources and secure the staff necessary to update the Plan on a periodic basis.

#### ▣ Grant Funding

The County of Los Angeles, cities in the Watershed, or other group could seek grant funds to perform the update, which could be conducted by a consultant. Recent and currently available funds have been available for watershed planning and projects to improve water quality and restore watersheds, however, none of these fund sources have explicitly identified watershed plan updates as eligible projects. Monitoring of water quality might be eligible for some funding sources.

#### ▣ Local Funds

The County of Los Angeles, the cities in the watershed, and/or any concerned NGOs or entities could apply for or allocate funds to hire a consultant to perform the update. This would require funding at intermittent intervals, a commitment from the County and/or cities, and a selection process to identify and retain a consultant.