

Discussion Document – For June 24, 2004

Issues of Concern

Developing and refining the issues of concern is an on-going process. This document is a first attempt at organizing the issues of concern received as of June 17, 2004. The goal is to provide a framework for additional information and comments to be documented by stakeholders.

As we begin to refine our collective thoughts we will respond to each comment by sharing information and providing additional details or thoughts as we move through the process.

Please read the comments submitted in response to the issue request. If you have any response or further thoughts please post them in the second row next to the original comment. This will allow a dialogue as we move forward and documentation of our collective thoughts. If something you read sparks a new concern or issue which isn't listed, please add it. This document will be regularly updated.

Thank you.

Issue 1 (as identified in March 12, 2004 memo) – Water Quality and Quantity – Both Surface and Groundwater

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>1. Where does the water in the river below Lake Hodges come from? Can runoff be quantified?</p>		
<p>2. Document the date and particulars of when the Olivenhain dam will contribute to the rise of the Lake Hodges water level. If this happens major floods in the valley will occur if we have a significant rain event.</p>		
<p>3. Secondary water treatment plants transfer or plan to transfer water to the San Dieguito water table (what effect will this have and quantify the water amounts).</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>4. Is there a water to measure the degree of eater saturation of the SD Lagoon water table?</p>		
<p>5. Several golf courses draw water from the water table. Do these water users pay? a. Do they worry about the adequacy of the water supply? b. What is the quality of the water returned to the river? Document and Quantify. c. If these water users draw more water that they return to the river (which they must) we will observe in incursion of saline water upstream. Does it happen? Is that good, bad or indifferent?</p>		
<p>6. Several businesses return to the SD River water with compromised water quality. Golf Courses, Polo Club, 22d District Agricultural... There exits some documentation of water quality that should be analyzed by the consultant; Southern California Edison, Scientific Community... Document and Analyze.</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>7. A great effort has been made by the Regional Monitoring Work Group to collect water quality data, standardize collection procedures and encode the results in large data-bases. (No real relationship exists between the scientific Community and the Government agencies on water quality issues. It is too long to explain what this is so.) But both groups would benefit from communication.</p>		
<p>8. Runoff from golf course west of lake hedges and the Del Mar Fairgrounds Horsepark degrades water quality at the western end of the river valley</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> Horse manure, fertilizers, pesticides</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> West end</p> <p><u>When is it occurring?</u> Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue? Year round</p> <p><u>Is it a wet weather occurrence?</u> More so than dry</p> <p><u>Any additional descriptive information?</u> Evidence of Biological eutrophication in lagoon</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>9. Agricultural run-off degrades water quality downstream from the source as documented (e.g., documented Nitrogen pollution-Dave Gibson : Cloverdale creek).</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> Fertilizers</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> In the river West of the source</p> <p><u>When is it occurring?</u> Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue? Don't know</p> <p><u>Is it a wet weather occurrence?</u> More so, yes because of runoff</p>		
<p>10. Stream flow west of Lake Hodges is inadequate quantitatively (due to Hodges Dam) for water quality at west end of river impacting water quality, recreational opportunities, wildlife.</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> The Dam</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> West of Hodges</p> <p><u>When is it occurring?</u> Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue? All year long except in rare cases of extreme rain when water "tops" the Dam</p> <p><u>Is it a wet weather occurrence?</u> No</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>11. Lack of adequate water quality monitoring between Lake Hodges and the river mouth (where water quality is poor vs. inland) makes it difficult to identify problematic sources of pollution.</p> <p><u>What is the impact?</u> Difficult to improve water quality if the sources of problems cannot be located due to inadequate testing/too few sites.</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> Low interest, low funding,</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> West end</p> <p><u>When is it occurring?</u> Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue? N/A</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>12. Groundwater appears to be a large and mysterious contributor to supply water to the western end of the river (lagoon). The water is potentially of poor quality (under ground sewerage/leachate), but MUST be a major source of water keeping the lagoon full during dry periods when there is no supply from the east the river, not from the ocean since the mouth is closed for long periods.</p> <p>This results in poor water quality, e. coli, eutrophication, low BOD etc</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> Seepage from underground source? Illicit sewers?</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> West end</p> <p><u>When is it occurring?</u> Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue? Evident during dry months/years as full lagoon despite no ocean or river water supply</p> <p><u>Is it a wet weather occurrence?</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Any additional descriptive information?</u> Can be investigated by various means including extensive water quality testing sites.</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>13. With development, buildings and impervious surfaces will be constructed close to the river and exacerbate urban runoff impacts on water quality and flooding potential.</p> <p><u>What is the impact? (i.e.: wildlife, water quality, recreational opportunities) yes</u></p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> West end, Fairgrounds, Crosby estates</p>		
<p>14. <u>What is it?</u> Additional roadway construction (e.g. added lanes to I-5) and road usages will contribute car-related pollution run-off to decrease water quality, especially west of lake hodes and near I-15.</p>		
<p>15. <u>What is it?</u> With completion of the lagoon restoration, tidal exchange may mask poor water quality conditions in the west SD River, make their sources at the western extreme hard to identify than at present, and threaten the beach with pollution formerly retained landward for long periods by the sand berm.</p> <p>What is the impact? (i.e.: wildlife, water quality, recreational opportunities) Recreation by millions at the del mar beach.</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>16. Bacteria and potential TMDL criteria</p> <p><u>What is it?</u> EPA and Regional Board working on establishing numeric limit thresholds for bacteria, based on recreational use of the watershed</p> <p><u>What is the impact?</u> (i.e.: wildlife, water quality, recreational opportunities) water quality and financial penalties for exceedance of TMDL</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> many sources, soil, decaying plant matter, animal waste (domestic and wild), sewer spills, water birds, stagnant lagoons, etc.</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> most attention is focused closest to the beach but the bacteria is found in many locations</p> <p><u>When is it occurring? Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue?</u> more precise testing is making the issue appear recent, but it probably has occurred to some extent before and after urbanization</p> <p><u>Is it a wet weather occurrence?</u> year-round, but more risk exposure during the summer</p> <p>Any additional descriptive information? the City's concern is two-fold - concern for the public health as well as local revenue loss as result of tourist perception, - on the other hand, fines and remediation cost for exceedances in areas where there is little or no public health risk (example: no human exposure in most of the inland water and ocean bacteria levels that result in only minor health issues affecting very few people)</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan

Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
17. Find a special “watershed planning niche” (that fits with and doesn’t duplicate ongoing activities) to improve water quality		
18. Horse Park Recreational Use. Under the jurisdiction of the 22 nd Ag District		
19. Sewer Transport and Leakage		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
20. Dog Beach Recreational Use. Dogs are roaming into the back areas of the lagoon		
21. Rain and Ground Water Run Off		
22. River Valley potential to help meet expanding water supply needs of region A. Groundwater basin potential to assist with potable and/or non-potable supply B. Protection of water quality in 5 reservoirs in the watershed C. Potential for groundwater storage and reuse of recycled water (related to A) D. Analysis of trade off of check dam contributions to water quality and habitat enhancement vs. possible impacts on reservoir volumes.		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 1 – Water Quality- continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>23. Find a special “watershed planning niche” (that fits with and doesn’t duplicate ongoing activities) to improve water quality</p> <p>A. Give improved reservoir water quality a high priority</p> <p>B. Riparian protection measures on “working landscapes”</p> <p>C. Figure out some way to “manage” riparian areas to resolve the dilemma of in-stream cattle causing pollution and habitat destruction but their removal risking invasive plant intrusion</p> <p>D. Evaluate the implications of potential programs for fuel load reduction on water quality and flooding</p> <p>E. Come up with specific programs and projects that can qualify the watershed for funding under Props 40 and 50 and other state programs</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan

Issue 2 – Land Use Planning; including residential and commercial development, agriculture, impervious surfaces, open space, and recreation

Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on Discussion
1. Leverage actions outside the boundaries of the River Park that are critical to Park functioning or that can enhance its values		
2. San Diego Fairground - Proposed Master Plan Improvements (DEIR due out 12/04. True impacts unknown at this time.)		
3. Protect the agricultural production and character of significant portions of the River Valley		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 2 – Land Use Planning.. continued

Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
4. San Dieguito Lagoon Enhancement and restoration project. Anticipated to start Summer 05 and be completed in 4 years.		
5. Double Tracking - Plans and alignments currently being studied		
6. I-5 Expansion - Currently underway, future improvements not know at this time		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 2 – Land Use Planning.. continued

Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>7. How can the Watershed plan be coordinated and integrated with other planning now under way, and with existing plans now being implemented?</p> <p>A. San Dieguito River Park Plan being implemented by the Park JPA</p> <p>B. Plan soon to be implemented for the restoration of the lagoon and adjacent upland area</p> <p>C. Plans the San Diego city water department has for its reservoirs and the basin.</p> <p>D. Planning that should be taking place in Boden Canyon (overcoming the multiple public ownership/different goals problem)</p> <p>E. Planning for the restoration of habitat in Pamo Valley</p> <p>F. Planning underway for the County's recently acquired Santa Isabel Ranch, East and West</p> <p>G. Planning underway by the County for Volcan Mountain</p> <p>H. County's 2020 General Plan Update</p> <p>I. Habitat planning in the watershed – MSCP-metro, MSCP-north, MHCP and MSCP-east</p> <p>J. Water Quality Planning by the Regional Water Quality Board and local jurisdictions</p> <p>K. B.Mainshein's Vision Plan for the San Pasqual Valley</p>		
<p>8. With respect to plans/planning in 7 above, the issues the Watershed Plan needs to address are:</p> <p>A. Habitat management – including control of invasives and habitat restoration</p> <p>C. Restoration of riparian corridors</p> <p>D. Completion of trail system (along the river corridor and with connections to other east-west corridors) that is compatible with water quality protection habitat management, and other resource values</p> <p>E. Protection/improvement of water quality</p> <p>F. Restoration/protection of ground water and management of beneficial use</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 2 – Land Use Planning.. continued

Additional Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>9. Protect the agricultural production and character of significant portions of the River Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Protect economic viability of farm units and work against pressures for urban development conversion B. Promote more sustainable agriculture –less environmentally impactful and provide for local produce (the Chino Farms model) C. Encourage agricultural forms and practices that contribute to resource goals – such as improved water quality and habitat enhancement D. Help preserve “working landscapes” which is called for in SANDAG Regional and County 2020 planning E. Potential for the use of conservation easements to help preserve “working landscapes” that contribute to habitat and water quality 		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 3 – Habitat, Fish and Wildlife, and vegetation management

Original Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>1. There are degraded wetlands in the Western end of the river valley impacting wildlife, flora, endangered species threatened</p> <p><u>What (if known) is contributing to the problem?</u> Paving, uses of wetlands for parking by the fairgrounds, development generally</p> <p><u>Where (geographically) within the watershed is the issue?</u> Western end, perhaps inland too</p> <p><u>When is it occurring?</u> Any information about the duration? How long has this been an issue? Is it a seasonal issue? Worse during dry seasons?</p>		
<p>2. San Dieguito Lagoon Enhancement and Restoration Project</p>		
<p>3. Ensure long-term viability San Dieguito Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
Issue 3 – Habitat, Fish and Wildlife, and vegetation management

Original Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>4. Assist implementation of the Regional Habitat Plans that overlay the River Valley</p>		
<p>5. One issue is invasive species (both native and non-native) in surface water reservoirs. As reservoirs have receded because of lack of runoff during our recent dry winters these plants have proliferated near the water's edge and on land left bare from the receding waters.</p> <p>Impact: In Lake Hodges, for example, as the lake refills (and the plan is for it to do so with imported water by 2008, if not earlier with local runoff) the plant life makes it very expensive to filter.</p> <p>The biggest contributor to the problem is our inability to keep the reservoirs full. Another factor is the difficulty in removing these invasive species because of government regulations.</p> <p>At Lake Hodges the problem has been going on for years and although not "seasonal" it is definitely cyclical--it increases during long dry spells.</p>		
<p>6. Ensure long-term viability San Dieguito Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project</p> <p>A. Lack analytical tools to evaluate</p> <p>B. Reducing sediment loading seems judiciously preventive</p> <p>C. Nutrient loading likely to become significant concern</p>		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan

Issue 3 – Habitat - continued

Original Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion
<p>7. Assist implementation of the Regional Habitat Plans that overlay the River Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Protect the Ramona Grasslands B. Special attention to regional habitat corridors, which in most cases are riparian based C. Concentrate on strategies that will mutually support water quality/supply improvements and habitat improvements 		
<p>8. Leverage actions outside the boundaries of the River Park that are critical to Park functioning or that can enhance its values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Protect critical areas, such as Ramona Grasslands and Rancho Guejito B. Protect riparian corridors that extend beyond River Park Boundaries C. Restoration of riparian corridors 		

San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan

Issue 4 – Public Participation in the Watershed Management Plan and Implementation of the Plan

Original Comments	Group Response/Discussion to Comments	Follow on discussion