

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
M E M O R A N D U M**

Date: April 21, 2004

To: San Dieguito River Watershed Stewardship Initiative  
Group – WPGG or WSIG (Group)

From: Bob Collins, City of San Diego, Water Department

Subject: Revised Issues of Concern Memo - the San Dieguito River Watershed

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At the meeting of March 25, 2004, the WSIG (Group) reviewed the Issues of Concern Memo dated March 12, 2004, and asked that the memo be further refined to reflect specific issues in the San Dieguito River watershed.

**While not exhaustive, the memo serves as an outline to —*suggest specific issues*— which could be addressed. Further work will be required to have the Group agree on the issues of concern to be addressed in the Watershed Stewardship Initiative for the San Dieguito River.**

The Issues of Concern Memo has its origin from an exercise which took place at the WSIG's (Group) first meeting in January 2004 when members were asked to identify a list of issues of concern.

The four broad areas of the Issues of Concern are:

- 1) Water quality and quantity, both surface water and groundwater
- 2) Land use planning; including residential and commercial development, agriculture, impervious surfaces, open space, and recreation
- 3) Habitat, fish and wildlife, and vegetation management
- 4) Public participation in the Watershed Management Plan and implementation of the Plan

The WPGG further asked that the above issues of concern be further detailed. The following is a more fully developed outline of each of the issues of concern listed above. Background information is provided in outline form to identify existing documents, regulations, and regulatory/governmental authorities which affect the issues of concern. After some of the issues of concern, actions are listed to address the issues of concern. **Specific issues which relate to the San Dieguito River Watershed have been added to each of the categories in bold type.**

- 1) Water quality and quantity, both surface water and groundwater
  - a. Water Quality
    - i. Water quality is regulated by the Federal Clean Water Act, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the State Porter-Cologne Act (aka State Clean Water Act), and the State Safe Drinking Water Act
    - ii. The above laws and regulations are administered by the USEPA, the State Water Resources Control Board, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the State Department of Health Services

- iii. The RWQCB's Basin Plan identifies nine (9) beneficial uses of surface water and four (4) beneficial uses of groundwater in the San Dieguito River Watershed, plus eight (8) beneficial uses of San Dieguito Lagoon – **protection of surface and ground water**
- iv. Point source discharges – **Waste Dischargers**
- v. Non-point source discharges – **Urban Runoff, agricultural runoff, and domestic animals**
- vi. Water quality stressors
- vii. The RWQCB lists seven (7) impaired water bodies in the San Dieguito River Watershed, see <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/303dlist/Listed%20Waterbodies-2002.pdf>
- viii. Water quality monitoring – **Monitoring is conducted above drinking water reservoirs and at the Coast – Should more monitoring be done in more places in the Watershed?**

***Action Plan – Create a monitoring plan which incorporates all the monitoring being conducted in the watershed to get a more accurate reading of the general health of the watershed.***

Water quantity

- a. There are five (5) distinct hydrological basins in the watershed
  - b. There are five (5) surface water reservoirs in the San Dieguito River Watershed (San Dieguito, Hodges, Ramona, Poway, and Sutherland) with a combined capacity of ?? acre-feet
  - c. There are five (5) major groundwater basins in the San Dieguito River Watershed (Solana Beach, Hodges, San Pasqual, Santa Maria, and Santa Ysabel) with a combined capacity of ?? acre-feet. **Uses of Lake Hodges and Sutherland?**
  - d. There are seven (7) municipal water districts and ?? small community water systems in the watershed which provide potable water to residents and businesses
  - e. Surface Water and Hydrology – The San Dieguito River begins at the crest of Vulcan Mountain and flows to the Pacific Ocean
  - f. The larger tributaries of the San Dieguito River are:
    - i. San Ysabel Creek
    - ii. Santa Maria Creek
    - iii. Temescal Creek
    - iv. Guejito Creek
    - v. Hatfield Creek
    - vi. Lusardi Creek
    - vii. ???
  - g. Restoration of in-streams flows
  - h. Flooding – **What measures should be taken to protect / reduce the impacts of flooding?**
  - i. On average the watershed receives about ten inches of rain per year at the coast and nearly 40 inches of rain per year in the mountains
- 2) Land use planning; including residential and commercial development, agriculture, impervious surfaces, open space, and recreation

- a. Land use
  - i. existing (2000)
  - ii. planned (2020) – **about 25% of the vacant and undeveloped land in the watershed is available for residential development – How should the development proceed to protect water quality and accommodate the projected increase in population in the San Dieguito River Watershed?**
- b. Population
  - i. existing (2000) – **125,000**
  - ii. future population (2020) – **Projected to be 210,000 in year 2015**
- c. Water use
  - i. existing (2000)
  - ii. forecast water use (2020)
- d. Land Use/Water Quality Impacts/Habitat/Agriculture/Impervious Surface Open Space and Trails
- e. **Interface with Government agencies on use of property (Cities, County , Forest Service, Bureau of Land Development)**
- f. **Interface with Native American Reservation Development**

*Action Plan – devise a plan to address and mitigate the impacts of existing land uses and new development on water quality*

**The San Dieguito River Watershed is home to diverse vegetation and habitat communities. For Example, a total of 32 vegetation types, included within nine vegetation communities, occur in the San Dieguito River Park. These vegetation communities include beach, scrub, chaparral, riparian, southern oak woods and forests, marsh and emergent wetland coniferous forests grasslands. Within these vegetative communities, 15 wildlife habitats have been identified. Additionally a total of 23 sensitive plant species and five sensitive animal species are known to occur in the River Park. The Watershed is also home to the San Dieguito Lagoon which has been restored and serves as an ecological reserve. An additional 135 acres of coastal wetlands and 158 acres of surrounding upland are planned for restoration close by the Lagoon.**

- 3) Habitat, fish and wildlife, and vegetation management
  - a. Description of important habitats
  - b. Identification of existing habitat plans
  - c. Identification of wetlands, upland and riparian corridors, and sensitive habitats to be maintained, restored and enhanced
  - d. Identification and location of **exotic and** invasive species
  - e. Identification of listed and sensitive species
  - f. Identification of existing multiple species management plans
  - g. **Interface between governmental agencies with regard to preservation, management and protection of habitat, fish and wildlife, and vegetation**

*Action Plan - Identify and prioritize the projects in the watershed to restore and enhance habitat, fish and wildlife, and native vegetation*

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- 4) Public participation in the Watershed Management Plan and implementation of the Plan.
  - a. The Watershed Management Plan does not have a CEQA process associated with it
  - b. The projects identified in the Watershed Management Plan which are implemented will require CEQA documentation
  - c. Each governmental jurisdiction in the watershed will have to decide its own implementation strategy
  - d. The public will be involved in the process to affirm the work of the WPGG (or WSIG) and add or subtract to the work of the WPGG
  - e. **How should the public participation component of the watershed plan be crafted to reach the largest audience?**
  - f. **What actions should be considered in the watershed's plan development to assure its implementation and ensure it (the Plan) is a living document?**

*Action Plan - A public participation program will be devised by the WPGG to ensure the participation of the public in the development and implementation of the watershed plan for the San Dieguito River.*