

4.0 ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is organized into eight sections. The Introduction (Section 4.1) includes relevant background information about the development and intended uses of the San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan (WMP). In addition, the introductory section provides the framework for adaptive management, prioritizing actions, and updating the WMP.

The format of the Action Plan is described in Subsection 4.2. This includes a description of the standardized format used to describe actions, and a reference guide to the Action Plan.

The descriptions of actions (i.e, programs and projects) are organized and presented in four sections that correspond to the four goals and each of the four watershed functions of the WMP. The programs and projects are described within the subsections corresponding to their primary objective. However, many of the actions contribute to more than one goal and/or objective. The multiple benefits of the programs and projects are included in the description of each action.

The action-related sections of the plan are as follows:

- Subsection 4.3 – Actions Associated with the Goal to Protect and Enhance Water Quality.
- Subsection 4.4 – Actions Associated With the Goal to Conserve, Reuse, and Recharge Water Supply.
- Subsection 4.5 – Actions Associated with the Goal to Protect, Enhance, and Restore Native Biological Resources and Habitats.
- Subsection 4.6 – Actions Associated with the Goal to Support Social and Community Resource Needs and Watershed Stewardship

An overall strategy for monitoring the health of the watershed and the effectiveness of actions implemented in support of this WMP is described in Subsection 4.7. Recommendations for monitoring the effectiveness of specific actions are included in the description of each program and project described in Subsections 4.3 through 4.6.

For any given geographic area within the watershed, it will be appropriate to implement a variety of the actions described in Subsections 4.3 through 4.6 to achieve the aim of watershed management to attain a holistic improvement in environmental quality in a cost-effective manner. Subsection 4.8 provides a summary of actions that could be implemented in the different areas of the watershed, and in areas of particular concern that span jurisdictional boundaries. Subsection 4.8 is intended to assist stakeholder planning efforts within particular geographic regions of the watershed.

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Development of Action Plan

The programs and projects described in this Action Plan were developed in consultation with the WSIG during monthly meetings and members of the public during three public workshops held in October, November, and December 2005. The attendees included interested citizens and individuals associated with the following: municipal and state government, the development industry, environmental consulting firms, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, San Dieguito River Park JPA, and Friends of San Dieguito River Valley, The Nature Conservancy, Endangered Habitats League, and Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundations.

4.1.2 Intended Uses of Action Plan

The WMP Action Plan has several intended uses, as follows:

- Provide a linkage between existing land uses, watershed characteristics, and watershed management.
- Identify programs and projects for reducing and ultimately eliminating impairments within the San Dieguito Watershed in coordination with the Section 303(d) List, TMDLs, Municipal Storm Water Management Jurisdictional and Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plans (JURMP and WURMP) for the County of San Diego and Incorporated Cities within San Diego County, Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) for the San Diego Region, City and County Subarea Plans, City and County Multiple Habitat Conservation Programs, San Pasqual Valley Plan, San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan, and City and County Biological and Mitigation Guidelines.
- Identify programs and projects for protecting, enhancing, and restoring beneficial uses (including habitat) in the San Dieguito Watershed consistent with the Local, Federal and County Jurisdictional General Plans. An extensive list of current and future General Plans can be found in the, *Final Existing Conditions Report San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan, Table 2.3-3 Applicable Land Use Plans by Jurisdiction*.
- Provide a framework for adaptive watershed management.
- Support applications of grant funding to implement watershed management programs and projects.
- Solicit Federal or State Appropriations.

4.1.3 Framework for Adaptive Management

Implementation of this Action Plan is intended to integrate and coordinate with the JURMPs, WURMPs, and SUSMPs for the County of San Diego and incorporated Cities within the San Dieguito Watershed. It is recognized that achievement of the goal of reducing the adverse impacts of storm water and urban runoff within the San Dieguito Watershed will largely result from actions carried out in compliance with the JURMPs, WURMPs, and SUSMPs. The WMP provides additional recommendations for programs and projects to augment the ongoing efforts

of the JURMPs, WURMPs, and SUSMPs to monitor and reduce the discharge of urban pollutants and to improve water quality.

The Action Plan also is intended to integrate and coordinate with the Conservation and Land Use Elements of the General Plans of the county and the incorporated cities within the watershed. Several of the recommended programs and projects are to protect, enhance, and promote beneficial uses within the San Dieguito Watershed.

It is recognized that not all actions will be implemented. Available funding will limit the number of actions that can be implemented. In addition, other actions recommended through future mandatory and/or regulatory processes such as TMDL development, may be considered more critical to implement and take precedence over some of the voluntary actions recommended in this plan. This Action Plan provides a range of recommendations that should enhance the flexibility of the County and the incorporated cities within the San Dieguito Watershed in their planning efforts not only to meet permit requirements, but also to meet goals associated with their General Plans. The plan is also intended to support other stakeholder efforts to implement projects to improve environmental conditions within the watershed.

Each program and project is composed of a series of activities. The activities should be viewed only as guidance. It is recognized that actual methods may vary during implementation, as appropriate. Most projects described in this Action Plan could be implemented at several locations and in different areas of the watershed, as such several potential locations are identified in this plan. Other suitable locations also may exist that could be identified by the jurisdictions and/or other stakeholders involved in implementation of actions recommended in this plan.

Monitoring is included as an integral element of each activity and project so that the effectiveness of the action can be assessed. It is envisioned that monitoring results from implementation of a project at a particular location will be shared among stakeholders and/or jurisdictions so that subsequent implementation at other locations could be adapted based on lessons learned from implementation at the first location. Monitoring results may include but are not limited to water chemistry, water flow, or biological data or educational effectiveness surveys for example.

The County and incorporated cities will be evaluating the effectiveness of the JURMP and WURMP, which includes implementation of structural and non-structural BMPs to reduce and eliminate pollution runoff into the MS4, enforcement, dry weather water quality monitoring, and public education and outreach programs. Actions taken as part of the WMP will be evaluated for effectiveness through monitoring and coordination with many of the same assessment tools established for the JURMP and WURMP.

It is envisioned that actions implemented in association with this WMP that demonstrate effectiveness in contributing to the reduction of impairments and promoting beneficial uses will be continued, and actions with less than desirable effectiveness will either be modified or will be discontinued. Thus, the results of monitoring and effectiveness evaluations of the municipal storm water JURMP and WURMP and the WMP are to be used as a tool to support adaptive

management decisions by the County and incorporated Cities in implementing watershed management actions.

4.1.4 Framework for Implementing Actions

It is envisioned that the stakeholders within the San Dieguito Watershed together with the Watershed Council will prioritize what actions they would like to implement in addition to or as part of activities implemented in compliance with current regulations.

It is expected that some actions will be implemented immediately while others will have to wait until funding is available, and yet others may not be implemented for years because of substantial constraints. Several factors will affect the order in which actions are implemented, including:

- Staff availability.
- Funding.
- Cost to benefit relationship.
- Land ownership constraints.
- Time frame to implement.
- Time frame to achieve measurable benefits.
- Public expectations.
- Direction received from a jurisdiction's governing body.
- Legal issues.
- Technology.

4.1.5 Framework for Updating the WMP

The WMP will be periodically updated using the adaptive management framework to add and/or to modify actions and objectives of the Action Plan, as appropriate. The plan will be updated every five years, as appropriate. A Watershed Council, which will be developed as part of this WMP, will oversee the updating of the plan. Please refer to Section 4.6.4.1 for a more detailed discussion of the Watershed Council. Activities will include:

- Revision of objectives based on results of implementation of the JURMP, WURMP, SUSMP, and WMP and their assessment programs, as appropriate.
- Review of actions implemented and not implemented from the original WMP, and selection of actions to be retained and/or dropped from the updated WMP.
- Revision of activities associated with retained actions in the updated WMP based on lessons learned during implementation of actions, as appropriate.
- Development of new actions based on consideration of the status of watershed health and available technologies.
- Revision of activities associated with changing or modified regulator compliance requirements.

Updates to the WMP will be made available for review by the public, WSIG, SDRWQCB, and resource and regulatory agencies. While the formalized process for updating the WMP will be conducted every five years, it is envisioned that modifications to how an action may be implemented (i.e., activities associated with an action) could be modified on a more frequent basis depending upon the effectiveness of the action.