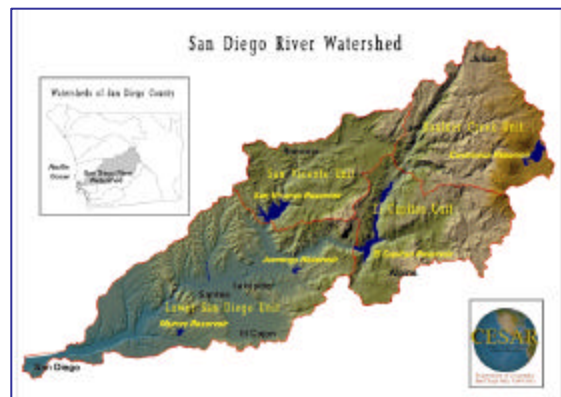


SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP SUMMARY

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2002**



Lewis Michaelson, the workshop facilitator, started the meeting with a brief overview of its purpose. Participants were thanked for their attendance and informed that this was the second in a series of three workshops aimed at soliciting the public's input and ideas on the development of a watershed management plan (WMP) for the San Diego River Watershed.

Teresa Brownyard, County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH), provided an overview of the project. After describing the scope of the project, Ms. Brownyard provided an overview of the many important environmental resources in the watershed. She emphasized the importance of public participation in ensuring that the WMP reflects the public interest. Participants were then provided with an overview of the project schedule. It was noted that prior to completion of the WMP in February 2005, there would be two more rounds of public workshops in mid-2004 and early 2005. In addition to the workshops, Ms. Brownyard encouraged interested members of the public to participate on the San Diego River Watershed Workgroup, which meets on the second Friday of even months from 1-3 p.m. at the City of Santee, 10601 Magnolia Avenue, Building 8. She informed everyone of the project website (www.projectcleanwater.org) and emphasized that it should be used as an informational resource as well as an avenue for providing input.

Ivan Holler then spoke on behalf of the County of San Diego's Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU). Mr. Holler informed attendees that project management duties for WMP development would soon be transferring from DEH to the DPLU.

Mr. Holler's remarks were followed by a planning update by Eliana Barreiros of the City of San Diego's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program who tied in the City's current planning efforts with the development of the WMP.

After the presentations, participants were asked if they required any clarification on the information presented. Following this, they were encouraged to provide input on two aspects of the development of Plan:

- What should the goals and objectives of the Watershed Management Plan be?
- What methods should be employed to accomplish these goals?

Participants were informed that they would first address these issues in a facilitated discussion, following which they would be asked to write their suggestions and concerns down on index cards for consideration in the development of the WMP.

During the open discussion, participants were free to raise issues and make comments on any topic they chose. To facilitate the reader's understanding, however, comments have been grouped into categories by topic. The categories are listed in the order of the number of comments received, starting with topics receiving the most frequent comments.

DISCUSSION

1. Wildlife Habitat/Wetlands (5)

- a. Take advantage of the opportunity to improve wildlife habitat areas, especially in Mission Valley and westward. There are areas to be cleaned up and where invasive vegetation can be removed. Identify works spots along the San Diego River and clean them up.
- b. It may be more glamorous to look at highly impacted areas, and clean them up, but also look to pristine areas and focus on the preservation and maintenance of these areas to keep them this way.
- c. Purchase of property and acquisition of wetlands and buffer zones needs to be accomplished.
- d. Exotic species control should be addressed.
- e. Focus on the San Diego River itself. There has been a battle for a long time over preservation or restoration. Look into the future 20 or 50 years, and decide whether to preserve or restore.

2. Water Quality (4)

- a. Clean water and the protection of water. Water gets polluted as it travels from the mountains down to the oceans through various industrial and residential areas.
- b. Management and control of the cleanliness of discharge. Must address safety issues as well as cleanliness.
- c. Coastal waters are a priority. The natural progression of the watershed and the quality of the water once it finally reaches the ocean should be looked at.
- d. Encourage more sea parks. An example is La Jolla Cove. The water around this area is clear and clean. Until it is safe to surf and

swim in our ocean this plan is useless. Focus on the end where it all dumps out.

3. **Other** (4)

- a. Coordination among stakeholders is imperative.
- b. Funding has to be looked at. Are federal funds available for data collection?
- c. Determine a sensible balance between conservation and recreation. Along with recreation opportunities come the opportunities to educate.
- d. Must have one coordinated plan for the entire San Diego River.

4. **Land Use** (2)

- a. Develop guidelines of best management practices to ensure new developments are as “Earth friendly” as possible.
- b. Ensure that sand extraction is folded into the plan. Take this opportunity to make sure that sand extraction and the San Diego Watershed Management Plan are consistent.

5. **Water Quantity and Reliability** (2)

- a. Water conservation and better use of the water is the most important issue.
- b. How does the Emergency Storage Project or other such projects coincide with the Management Plan? Especially since we are in a drought.

6. **Flood and Fire Management** (2)

- a. Controlled burns, without controlled burns brush can build up and feed large fires.
- b. Flood control is important.

After the open discussion concluded, each participant was given index cards to document his or her suggestions and to offer any new ideas not brought up during the discussion. Participants were asked to list the most important issues and objectives that the WMP should address and/or the methods to accomplish them. If they chose, they could number their suggestions to indicate highest to lowest priority. Each set of comments below reflects the comments made by a single individual.

INDEX CARDS

Set 1: *(no particular priority order)*

Goals

- Habitat restoration.
- Buy property along river.
- Preserve wild areas.
- Expand areas that have been started.
- Remove bad industries.
- Widen river around Fashion Valley.
- Encourage school educators to teach children about importance of the watershed and what we all can do.
- Good coordination between agencies and different cities.
- Analysis of problems in readable form, with possible solutions.
- Enhance some recreation opportunities.
- Public input for improvement suggestions.
- Cleanup opportunities for the public.
- Education of public for awareness, support.

Set 2: *(No particular priority order)*

- Restrict/control new construction and associated runoff.
- Encourage preserves.
- Restrict/fine/make rules for excessive runoff pollutants.
- Preserve/enhance wetlands.
- Public service announcements regarding the long-term importance of water quality and preservation of habitat.
- Water treatment/filtration systems should be re-examined, more natural systems implemented.
- How easily things can be restructured-how fatal it is to fail to act.

Set 3: *(No particular priority order)*

- Coordination with appropriate agencies, jurisdictions and departments, e.g. City of San Diego Planning Department.
- Achievement and coordination of San Diego's water quality objectives, storm water plans and land use plans.
- Improved quality of life.

Set 4:

Goals from Perspective of City MSCP

1. Acquire land for open space-endangered species preservation.
2. Minimize impacts from adjacent urban land uses through BMPs, land buffers for habitat.
3. Management of existing habitat through wetland/upland creation, restoration as well as removal of exotic, invasive species.

Set 5:

Goals of Watershed Management Plan (Equal priority)

- Runoff management: protect *natural* flood plain.
- Water Quality: various measures.
- Fire management: controlled burns.
- Riparian zone management: protect riparian woodlands.
- Recreation: as is compatible with above goals.

Set 6:

Goals

1. Preservation of currently undeveloped habitat.
2. Restoration of impacted areas with potential habitat value.
3. Implementation of development guidelines for “smart growth,” including BMPs.
4. Establish buffer along riparian corridors.

Outcomes

1. Healthy ecosystems with abundant wildlife.
2. Clean water

Measures

1. Water quality parameters
2. Biodiversity

Set 7:

Goals

1. Permanently improved water quality.
2. Water design for water management, i.e. conservation, recycling, storage.
3. Seamless coordination among all involved and affected agencies - a central clearing house for watershed management and control.

Set 8:

Goals: Sensible land management that provides great recreation and educational opportunities to create appreciation for the watershed and river.

Outcome: It should become a source of public pride!

Means & Measures:

1. Public land acquisition of contiguous land along the river.
2. Good, ecologically sound planning.
3. Sufficient enforcement of public policy on private land.

Set 9: (No particular priority order)

- Coordinate with current and future projects and combine funding and/or goals.
- Check for federal funding.

- There is a federal initiative calling for “water” restoration projects.
 - Forty-six percent of the 215 million acres of wetlands in the U.S. have been lost in the past 200 years.
 - Find past successful grants for such funding and duplicate it.
- Wetland restoration.
 - Act as buffer zones to storm runoff-which release water gradually preventing down stream flooding.
 - Act as natural water filtration capturing sediments and filtering out pollutants.