



Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County



Integrated Regional Water Management Plan *2006*

2013 Administrative Addendum

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1. OVERVIEW OF PROCESS AND PROJECTS

a. Introduction

In 2006, the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) adopted the first WCVC Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan). More than 30 entities, including all 10 cities as well as water districts, special districts, the County, and other entities adopted the IRWM Plan. The existing IRWM Plan conforms to the Proposition 50 IRWM Plan Standards.

In 2010 an administrative addendum was prepared to add a few new projects, for the purposes of the Round 1 Implementation Grant. In 2010, the WCVC began preparation of an update to the IRWM Plan to address changes that have occurred since 2006 and to bring the Plan into compliance with the 2010 Proposition 84 IRWM Plan Standards. The existing IRWM Plan is a guiding document for water management programs and projects being implemented throughout the WCVC IRWM Region (Region).

As stated in the Plan, "The IRWM Plan is a dynamic planning document. There will be an ongoing process for keeping this proposed project list up-to-date, through regular updates with additional revision as needed before major grant applications, as conditions change, funding is identified, projects are implemented and objectives revised."

The purpose of this 2013 Administrative Addendum to the WCVC IRWM Plan is to add new projects not included in the 2006 IRWM Plan or the 2010 Administrative Addendum. These additional integrated implementation projects were developed to address the IRWM Plan objectives and help meet the Region's water and water-related needs and to resolve water management conflicts.

This 2013 Administrative Addendum to the IRWM Plan has been prepared and approved in accordance with the process outlined in the WCVC Charter and Section 6.2c of the 2006 IRWM Plan (see excerpt below).

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Section 6.2c - Proposed Future Projects

“Process For Developing Additional Project Ideas for Future Implementation

The WVCV has begun the process of recommending future projects and project concepts to help achieve the objectives of this IRWMP. Appendix G contains a list of future specific projects and conceptual projects, some of which were developed several years ago and others more recently, that need to be further analyzed and coordinated with the sponsoring agencies. These projects will be tied to specific water management strategies, and will address long-term needs and objectives in each of the Watersheds.

Early in 2007 the WVCV will begin the process of reviewing and prioritizing the proposed projects and project concepts. They will be reviewed at the watershed level, through the Watershed Committees, for how well they meet watershed objectives, water management strategies and other identified priorities. These projects will also be assessed for how well they are integrated within and across watersheds to provide multiple benefits. A database has been developed for all projects to display and manage this information.

2007 IRWM Plan Addendum

By June of 2007¹, the WVCV will release the first update to the IRWMP, in the form of an addendum, which will include the projects selected for future implementation and the potential funding sources. The addendum will include all projects which have been assessed and prioritized, by the watershed committees and the WVCV.

The IRWM Plan is a dynamic planning document. There will be an ongoing process for keeping this proposed project list up-to-date, through regular bi-annual updates with additional revision as needed before major grant applications, as conditions change, funding is identified, projects are implemented and objectives revised.”

b. Process to Develop Addendum

Overview:

The process for adding projects to the WVCV IRWM Plan, and including them in subsequent proposals for funding, is detailed in Section 6.2c of the adopted 2006 IRWM Plan. These projects were reviewed by stakeholders in the three watershed committees, the Steering Committee and the General Membership as detailed in the section that follows. Once the final suite of projects was selected and approved, this Addendum was prepared to formally add to the WVCV IRWM

¹ The WVCV did not prepare an IRWM Plan Update in 2007 as planned due to delays in the release of Proposition 84 IRWM Funding Guidelines.

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Plan those projects not included in the 2006 IRWM Plan. This Addendum also contains a project that will be included in an application for a Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management grant.

Details of the Stakeholder Process:

The process to develop the Administrative Addendum began in June of 2012 with a call for projects in each watershed. Project proponents prepared and submitted detailed project input forms that contained information about the project, including how it was consistent with the WCVV IRWM Plan. Each of the three watershed committees reviewed the proposed projects for their watersheds. Each project evaluated was determined to be ready to implement, met the criteria for Proposition 84 IRWM funding, and also met multiple objectives in the WCVV IRWM Plan. The Proposition 84 Guidelines include criteria, which were used to evaluate the projects. These criteria require that the projects be well-integrated, address water management needs in the WCVV IRWM Region, meet statewide priorities and program preferences, address the needs of local DACs when possible, improve water use efficiency, and be otherwise consistent with the WCVV IRWM Plan.

In August 2012, each of the watershed committees met to review the project input forms and finalize and prioritize their list of projects to be considered by the WCVV Steering Committee for inclusion in the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant proposal.

On October 16, 2012 the Steering Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of 6 of the 7 projects for inclusion in the final suite of projects for the Proposition 84 Round Two Implementation Grant proposal. They also recommended including a new project in the administrative addendum that will seek funding from the Proposition 1E – Stormwater Flood Management grant program.

On October 18, 2012 the WCVV General Membership unanimously ratified the Steering Committee's recommendation to approve the suite of 6 projects the Implementation Grant proposal and authorized staff to prepare the 2013 IRWM Plan Administrative Addendum including all seven projects (including the project for Prop. 1E), as described in the meeting summary provided in Appendix 1. Table 1 provides a summary of the WCVV stakeholder actions regarding project selection.

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Table 1
Project Addition and Approval Milestones

Committee	Action	Date Action Taken
Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County - General Membership	Initiate call for projects	June 2012
All Watershed Committees	Review Proposed Projects	August- September 2012
Calleguas Creek Steering Committee	Approve list of projects for the watershed for Steering Committee consideration	September 19, 2012
Santa Clara River Watershed Committee	Approve list of projects for the watershed for Steering Committee consideration	September 20, 2012
Ventura River Watershed Council	Approve list of projects for the watershed for Steering Committee consideration	September 6, 2012
WCVC Steering Committee	Recommend Action on Suite of Projects	October 16, 2012
WCVC General Membership	Approve Final Suite of Projects Approve/Direct Staff to prepare Administrative Addendum to IRWM Plan	October 18, 2012

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c. Summary of Projects Included in Addendum

Seven projects were reviewed by the WVCV and included in this Addendum (see Table 2 for summary list). These projects include all the projects considered for funding in Round 2 of the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant as well as one project for Proposition 1E – Stormwater Flood Management funding.

These projects were reviewed by stakeholders in the three watershed committees, the Steering Committee and the General Membership. Subsequent to the selection and approval of the final suite of projects, the Administrative Addendum was prepared to add those projects not included in the adopted 2006 WVCV IRWM Plan to the IRWM Plan.

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TABLE 2 – NEW PROJECTS ADDED TO THE IRWM PLAN

Project Name	Project Proponent	Project Description	Total Project Cost
Proposition 84 – Implementation Grant			
C-20 North Pleasant Valley Groundwater DeSalter	City of Camarillo	Build a groundwater desalter facility, using reverse osmosis treatment. The proposed facility would remove salts accumulated in the north Pleasant Valley Basin. The facility would produce up to 7,300 af/yr of potable water available to residents in Camarillo and Calleguas MWD purveyors.	\$ 50 M
C-21 West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project	City of Simi Valley	The Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 (City of Simi Valley) will construct Phases 1 and 2 of the West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project to extend an existing recycled water distribution system to serve up to 45 additional large irrigation and other non-potable water use customers. The Project would improve regional water supply reliability by offsetting water imports up to 600 acre-feet per year.	\$ 9.6 M
C-22 Moorpark Recycled Water Project – Phase IV	County Water Works District No. 1	Construction of approximately 16,500 linear feet of recycled water pipeline from the Recycled Water Reservoir near Championship Dr/Grimes Canyon Rd. in Moorpark to Rustic Canyon Golf Course to deliver 425 acre feet of recycled water to residential, commercial and recreational customers.	\$ 4.2 M

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Project Name	Project Proponent	Project Description	Total Project Cost
SC-12 B South Oxnard Flood Protection and Community Enhancement Project	County Watershed Protection District	This is a two-pronged multi-benefit flood protection project in partnership with the City of Oxnard and The Nature Conservancy. First, in partnership with the City of Oxnard, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District plans to replace the deficient trapezoidal concrete J Street Drain channel from Hueneme Road to Pleasant Valley Road, with buried reinforced concrete box culverts that will provide enhanced flood protection to the area as well as enhance future plans for community connectivity, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities in adjoining South Oxnard neighborhoods, which are identified environmental justice communities. A covered box will allow the City of Oxnard, in partnership with the surrounding South Oxnard communities, to develop plans for a linear park area with a pedestrian and bicycle trail in the future. The linear park may also incorporate bioswales to improve low-flow (non-storm) water quality, a significant concern in this community. Second, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, approximately 20 acres of land would be purchased in the Ormond Beach area, adjacent to the power plant, to remain as open space with opportunities for public recreation.	\$8.4 M
SC-13 Invasive Plant Control, Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Protection	U.C. Santa Barbara	This project proposes an arundo (<i>Arundo donax</i> ; giant reed) control and habitat restoration program in the Santa Clara River floodplain for the river reach between Sespe Creek and Santa Paula Creek (7 river miles). This project will implement the strategic plan for arundo (giant reed) treatment and post-treatment revegetation for the lower watershed. Existing and new information will be synthesized to identify and prioritize properties in the riparian zone for invasive plant control, restoration, and protection.	\$ 2.9 M

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Project Name	Project Proponent	Project Description	Total Project Cost
V-11 Ventura River Watershed Invasive Plant Removal and Ecosystem Restoration	County Watershed Protection District	The project will facilitate the removal of non-native, invasive species in the Ventura River Watershed on parcels of land adjacent to the Ventura River beginning at Hwy 150, and moving south to an area below Foster Park. The Project will target prioritized parcels of land in this reach which are either owned and/or maintained by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy, and/or public agency project partners. The project will enhance recreational / public access at the Ventura River Steelhead Preserve, via the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's development of an Education & Conservation Center using existing historical structures. The Center will also serve as a visitor center, and at this core of the preserve it will have, among other elements, interpretive exhibits, a trailhead and a short interpretive trail. Finally, the Project will strive to integrate project benefits with collaborative efforts by the Friends of the Ventura River to develop implementation initiatives identified in the recently released Ventura River Parkways Plan.	\$2 M
Proposition 1E – Stormwater Flood Management Grant			

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Project Name	Project Proponent	Project Description	Total Project Cost
SC-12 A South Oxnard Stormwater Flood Management Project	County Watershed Protection District	<p>The Ventura County Watershed Protection District plans to replace the deficient trapezoidal concrete J Street Drain channel (current maximum capacity is the 10-year storm) with a combination of open and covered channel improvements outlined in the Phasing Plan described below that will provide 100-year or one percent annual chance flood protection to the project area.</p> <p>Phase 1, from Ormond Beach Lagoon to Hueneme Road, will be an open channel in order to preserve habitat for endangered species. Phase 1 will also incorporate a trash boom near the upstream end, and include a Beach Elevation Management Plan at the downstream end to facilitate seasonal discharge of storm runoff from the lagoon to the ocean. Phase 2A from Hueneme Road to Pleasant Valley Road, will include open channel improvements but will be constructed in such a manner that will allow future covering of the channel in Phase 2B.</p> <p>Once funding is secured, it is anticipated that Phase 2A construction improvements will be converted to reinforced concrete box culverts to support future covering of this open channel by the City of Oxnard to create a linear park, in consultation with the adjacent South Oxnard Communities. Local community residents and the City of Oxnard strongly support for the channel to be covered.</p>	\$9.4 M
TOTAL			\$ 86.5 M

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d. Consistency with IRWM Plan Objectives

The projects included in this Addendum have been reviewed for consistency with the 2006 WVCV IRWM Plan Objectives. Please see Table 3 for a checklist of projects and their consistency with IRWM Plan Objectives. Objective #1 was divided into two columns in order to emphasize projects that reduce dependence on imported state water.

Section 4 of the 2006 WVCV IRWM Plan identified five major objectives, listed and summarized in the excerpt below, to provide guidance in selecting and prioritizing implementation projects.

“WVCV IRWM Plan Objectives:

1. Reduce dependence on imported water and protect, conserve and augment water supplies.

The Region’s water supply comes primarily from two sources; surface flows and groundwater. Calleguas Municipal Water District imports State Water, which is supplied to the Cities within its boundaries. The primary issue with surface flow is capturing and storing the annual storm flows, either by surface storage in lakes or reservoirs or through groundwater basin recharge. Key concerns with groundwater supplies are maintaining the supply, through recharge, protecting groundwater basins from pollution, and improving the quality of the groundwater, which is naturally high in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Water supply issues also include providing the infrastructure to collect, treat, store, and transport the water, and the need to provide back-up systems that will protect water users from the Region’s periodic droughts. Last but not least, implementation of this goal includes measures to use existing water supplies more efficiently.

2. Protect and improve water quality.

Water quality issues are closely related to water supply, since the water supplies must be of sufficient quality to permit the use of the water for its intended purpose. As noted above, specific water quality issues involve reducing or avoiding pollution from urban and agricultural uses and treating groundwater to eliminate the naturally high TDS levels.

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3. Protect people, property, and the environment from adverse flooding impacts.

Management of floodwater flows is intricately involved with water supply and environmental habitat protection/ecosystem restoration, as floodwaters are retained to provide for wetlands and natural habitats and to recharge groundwater basins. Land use measures to control the types and intensities of development that occur in flood-prone areas are key. One approach to this is through widely applicable land use restrictions. A second approach is to acquire strategically situated properties, remove inappropriate land uses, and establish natural habitats where surface waters can be naturally filtered and allowed to disperse into the groundwater basins. Both of these approaches reduce the need for expensive flood control structures. To the extent flood water can be diverted, captured and treated it solves water quality challenges and creates new supply.

4. Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds.

The use of water supplies to protect natural habitat and restore ecosystems is being accepted as a need equivalent to urban and agricultural uses. In fact, these uses are interrelated as wetlands may often function to filter out urban and particularly agricultural pollutants, and to provide groundwater recharge. Within the Region, this goal involves identifying and prioritizing important natural habitats and ecosystems for restoration and preservation, while factoring in additional considerations such as floodwater management and groundwater recharge.

5. Provide water-related recreational, public access, and educational opportunities.

Effective water resource management can also provide additional recreational benefits that foster respect and understanding of the region's water supply and water quality needs. Ventura County is bounded on one side by the Pacific Ocean, and residents have ample ocean-related recreational opportunities in their backyard, however, there are additional opportunities for swimming, hiking, biking, and/or boating in and along the region's fresh water reservoirs, rivers and streams that could help encourage greater stewardship of the region's watersheds. Access to these resources can offer significant educational opportunities and create public awareness about the environment and water-dependent habitats and species."

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Table 3 Consistency with WVCV IRWM Plan Objectives

Project #	Implementation Projects	Reduce dependence on Imported Water	Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies	Protect and improve water quality	Protect people, property and environment from adverse flooding impacts	Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems	Provide water related public access, recreational and educational opportunities
C-20	North Pleasant Valley Groundwater DeSalter	✓	✓	✓			
C-21	West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project	✓	✓	✓			
C-22	Moorpark Recycled Water Project – Phase IV	✓	✓	✓			
SC-12 B	South Oxnard Flood Protection and Community Enhancement Project			✓	✓	✓	✓
SC-13	Invasive Plant Control, Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Protection		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
V-11	Ventura River Watershed Non-Native Invasive Plant Removal Integration with Ventura River Parkway Enhancement Project		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SC-12 A	South Oxnard Stormwater Flood Management Project				✓	✓	

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SECTION 2.0 – PROJECT INFORMATION

This section contains further detail regarding the seven projects included in the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant and Proposition 1E Grant proposals reviewed by WCVV stakeholders for inclusion in this Addendum.

a. Projects Included in Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Proposal

C-20 City of Camarillo North Pleasant Valley Groundwater Desalter

Project Description

The City of Camarillo (City) currently delivers a blend of local groundwater (40%) and imported water (60%) to its customers. The northeastern portion of the Pleasant Valley Groundwater Basin (PV Basin), which underlies the City, has experienced an ongoing decline in water quality and a rise in groundwater levels. This situation has reduced the effectiveness of water blending operations, which has prompted the need to remove one of the groundwater wells from regular service. The construction of the North Pleasant Valley (NPV) Groundwater Desalter is part of an integrated strategy to improve water quality and enhance water supply reliability in the Calleguas Creek Watershed (CCW). The proposed desalter will allow currently unsuitable brackish groundwater to be used beneficially, thereby increasing water supply reliability, and removing salts from the watershed through brine disposal.

The NPV Groundwater Desalter consists of the construction of the treatment facility (chemical treatment, two-stage reverse osmosis [RO] membranes, storage tanks, cartridge filters, UV disinfection, decarbonators, pipelines, etc.), distribution pipelines (raw groundwater and brine), and two additional extraction wells. The NPV Groundwater Desalter would produce 7,500 acre-feet/year (AFY) or about 6.7 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated groundwater to be served to City water customers. The new treatment facility is planned to be located in the northeastern area of the City where brackish groundwater will be pumped from the northern area of the PV Basin. RO treatment technology will be used to remove salts, iron and manganese in the raw groundwater. The brine flow stream produced by the facility would be discharged to the Regional Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP) operated by Calleguas Municipal Water District for ocean discharge. The NPV Groundwater Desalter would be jointly-owned by the Cities of Camarillo and Thousand Oaks and Camrosa Water District (project proponents). The NPV Groundwater Desalter location is depicted in Figure 1.

Project Cost: \$ 49,870,000

Grant Request: \$5,000,000

Cost Share: \$ 44,870,000 (90%)

Project Benefits:

- Increased water supply reliability in the Calleguas Creek Watershed

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- Enhanced use of local, currently unusable, groundwater supplies - production of 7,500 AFY (~6.7 mgd) of treated groundwater
- Reduce dependence on energy-intensive imported water supplies
- Improved water quality throughout the watershed
- Improved salt management in the watershed through brine disposal via the SMP – removal of more than 4,3000 tons per year of salts from the watershed
- Increases opportunities for recycled water use by contributing to reduced chloride concentrations in Camarillo Sanitary District recycled water – chloride concentrations will decrease from 200 mg/L to 120 mg/L

FIGURE 1
LOCATION OF NORTH PLEASANT VALLEY GROUNDWATER DESALTER



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C-21 City of Simi Valley

West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project – Phases 1 and 2

Project Description

The City of Simi Valley, Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 (District), is proposing the West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project, Phases 1 and 2, to expand an existing recycled water distribution system to serve 50 additional customers. The project would offset 600 AFY of potable water, currently used by prospective customers. The District is almost entirely dependent on imported water, therefore by developing an alternative local water resource, the District will reduce dependence on imported water.

The source of the recycled water is the City of Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant (WQCP), which in 2011 discharged an average of 8.8 million gallons per day (9,900 AFY) of tertiary-treated effluent. In contrast, recycled water usage is currently about 50 AFY.

The proposed project consists of two additional pump units at the existing Recycled Water Pump Station at the WQCP, a 1.25 million gallon tank on District property, and 22,000 feet of distribution pipeline within public streets.

The West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project has three additional planned phases that are not part of this Project application. Future phases would serve an additional 20 customers delivering another 650 AFY. A project map is provided in Figure 2.

Project Cost: \$9,604,000

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

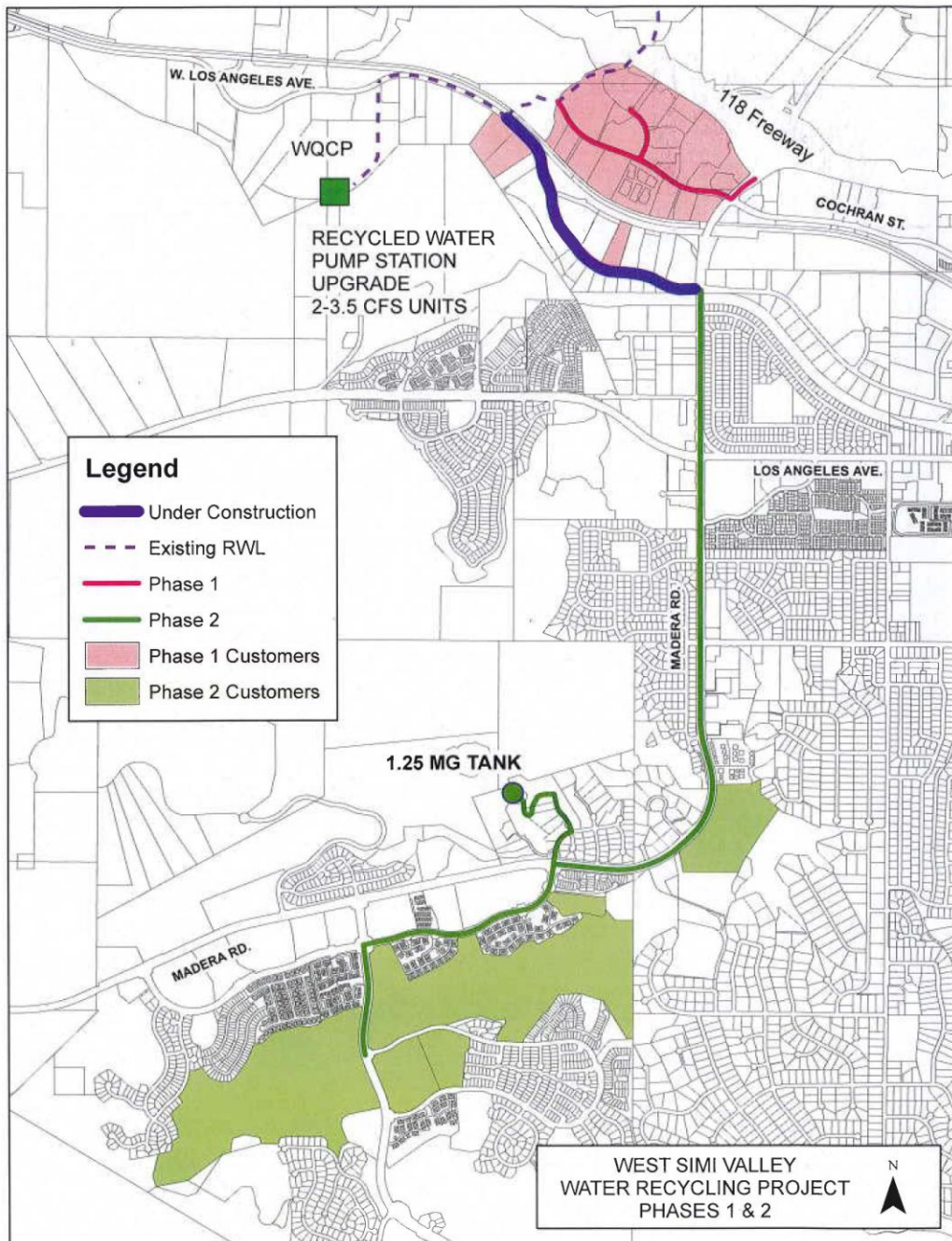
Cost Share: \$6,604,000 (69%)

Project Benefits:

- Increase local recycled water use by 600 AFY
- Offset potable water demand and reduce dependence on energy-intensive imported water
- Increase supply reliability by diversifying the regional water resource portfolio
- Reduce salt importation related to imported water, thereby reducing salt loading to impaired local basins and surface waters

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FIGURE 2
WEST SIMI VALLEY WATER RECYCLING PROJECT



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C-22 Ventura County Water Works District No. 1 Moorpark Recycled Water System Phase IV

Project Description

The Moorpark Recycled Water System Phase IV is being proposed to expand the recycled water distribution system of Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 (VCWWD 1). Approximately 1.5 mgd is currently tertiary treated at the Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant for reclamation and beneficial use. VCWWD 1 has been developing its recycled water system in four phases, in order to serve customers identified in a 1990 feasibility study.

Phase IV, the proposed project, consists of the construction of approximately 16,500 linear feet of recycled water pipeline and a booster pump station from the existing recycled water reservoir in Moorpark to the Rustic Canyon Golf Course. This phase will enable the provision of 425 AFY recycled water to offset potable water demands, including imported water supplies. See Figure 3.

Project Cost: \$4,200,000

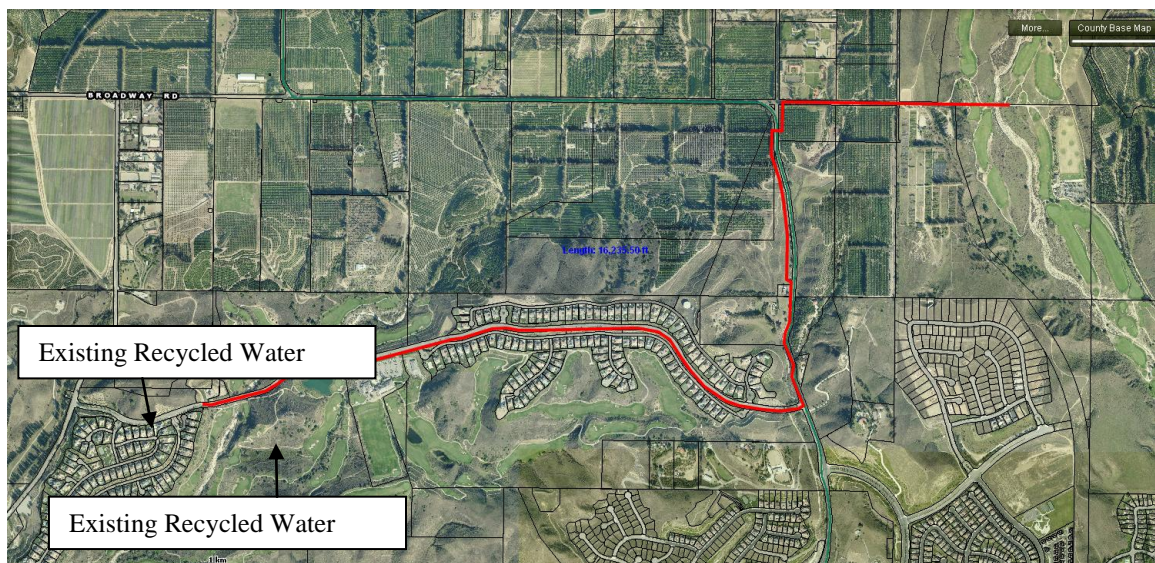
Grant Request: \$2,000,000

Cost Share: \$ 2,200,000 (52%)

Project Benefits:

- Expand VCWWD 1 recycled water distribution system and increase recycled water use by 425 AFY
- Offset potable water demands with drought resistant water supplies
- Enhance local supply reliability and reduce dependence on energy-intensive imported water supplies
- Reduce salt importation related to imported water

**FIGURE 3
RECYCLED WATER PHASE IV ALIGNMENT**



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SC-12B Ventura County Watershed Protection District South Oxnard Flood Protection and Community Enhancement Project

Project Description (Phase 2B)

Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) plans on replacing the deficient trapezoidal concrete J Street Drain channel (current maximum capacity is the 10-year storm) with a combination of open and covered channel improvements outlined in the Phasing Plan below that will provide 100-year or one percent annual chance flood protection to the area. This project, implementation of Phase 2B (described below), is one component of a comprehensive project plan.

On March 27, 2012, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the J Street Drain Project, approving and authorizing District funding for open channel design and construction for Phases 1 and 2, and directing Watershed Protection District staff to pursue grant funding opportunities necessary to fund the additional cost of constructing the covered box design for Reaches 2A, 3 and 4 in the future.

Phase 1, from Ormond Beach Lagoon to Hueneme Road, will be an open channel in order to preserve habitat for endangered species. Phase 2A, will also include open channel improvements from Hueneme Road to Pleasant Valley Road. Phase 2A will be constructed in a manner that will allow future covering of the channel in Phase 2B.

Phase 2B will build upon channel improvements that will be undertaken during Phases 1 and 2A. Phase 2B consists of the covering of the flood control channel from Hueneme Road to Pleasant Valley Road. The covering will be done in a manner that will allow the City of Oxnard to construct a linear park in the future. The linear park may also incorporate bio-swales to improve non-storm water quality, a significant community concern. This will enhance community connectivity, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities in adjoining South Oxnard neighborhoods, which are identified environmental justice communities.

In addition, the Watershed Protection District is partnering with The Nature Conservancy in the purchase of 20 acres of land in the Ormond Beach area, to the southeast of the channel improvements. This property will then remain as open space and provide opportunities for public recreation. Please see Figures 4, 5 and 6 for graphical depiction of these project components.

Project Cost: \$8,404,673

Grant Request: \$4,500,000

Cost Share: \$3,904,673 (46%)

Project Benefits:

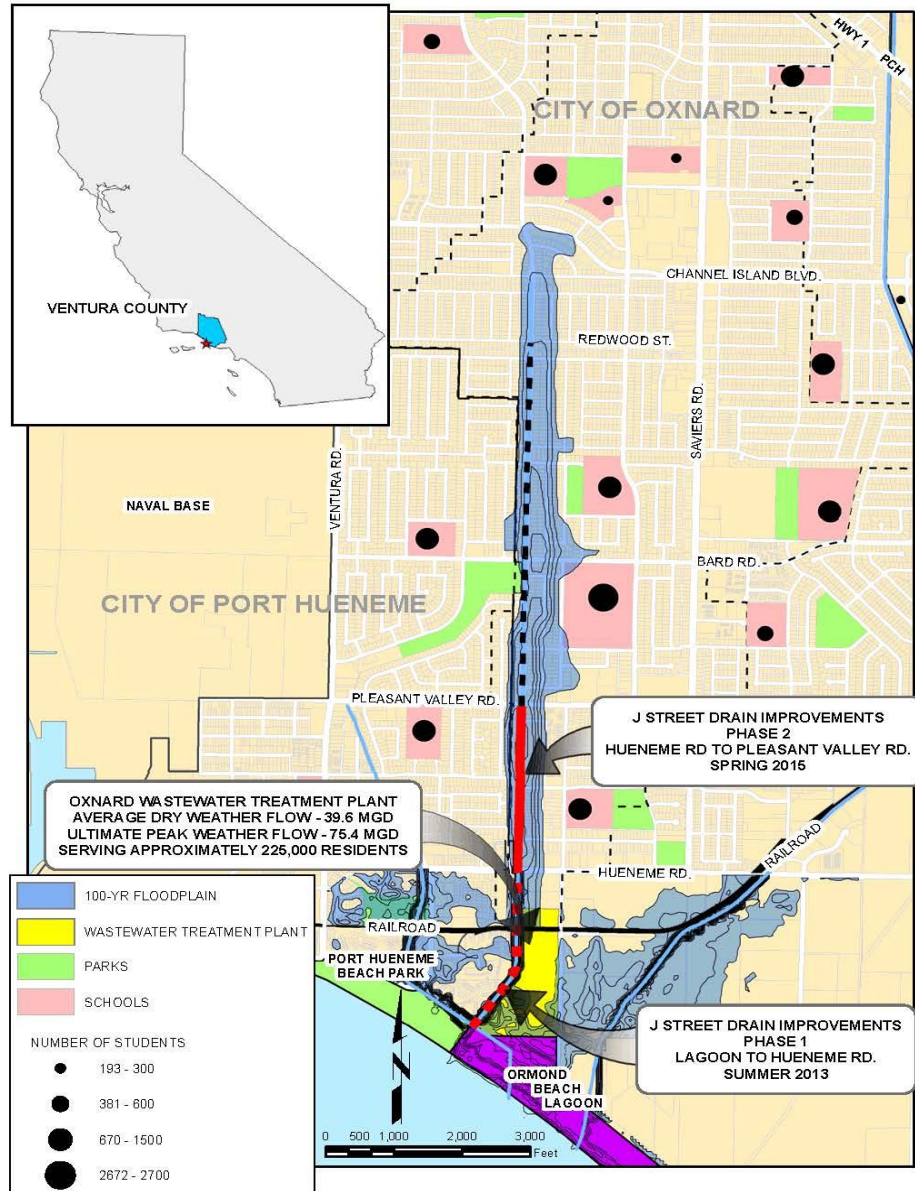
- Environmental: reduces trash in the Ormond lagoon, supports Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration, and support for endangered and sensitive species
- Water Quality: reduces trash and other contaminants conveyed to the lagoon by covering the channel
- Public Safety: covering provides safe passage for school children, pedestrians, and bicyclists off streets

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- Improved Recreational Access: covering the channel improves community access to Ormond Beach
- Will serve to unify adjacent South Oxnard neighborhoods, which are identified as environmental justice communities, by facilitating the ability of residents to readily cross the covered channel.
- Economic benefits from improved tourism

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FIGURE 4
LOCATION OF SOUTH OXNARD STORMWATER FLOOD MANAGEMENT
AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS



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FIGURE 6

South Oxnard Property Acquisition Location
Ormond Beach (20 Acres)



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SC-13 University of California at Santa Barbara Invasive Plant Removal, Ecosystem Restoration, and Habitat Protection in the Santa Clara River

Project Description

This project proposes an arundo (*Arundo donax*; giant reed) control and habitat restoration program in the Santa Clara River floodplain for the river reach between Sespe Creek and Santa Paula Creek (six river miles) in the town of Santa Paula, in an identified critical wildlife zone. The proposed project is part of a large-scale effort to eliminate arundo from the watershed to improve water resources in the region with the goal of creating a large, contiguous riparian zone through a series of related, but stand-alone restoration projects.

Currently, arundo has been removed from 26.6 acres within the project area. This project proposes restoring between 150 and 200 acres of riparian habitat over a period of four years, by removing arundo and other invasive plant species, and using passive and active revegetation strategies to re-establish riparian forests. The project area is within a larger 1000 acres area made up of a mix of degraded and restored properties within the floodplain target for restoration (see Figure 7). The California Coastal Conservancy's strategic plan for arundo treatment and post-treatment revegetation (2011) for the lower watershed will be used to guide project implementation.

Project Cost: \$2,886,023

Grant Request: \$1,998,244

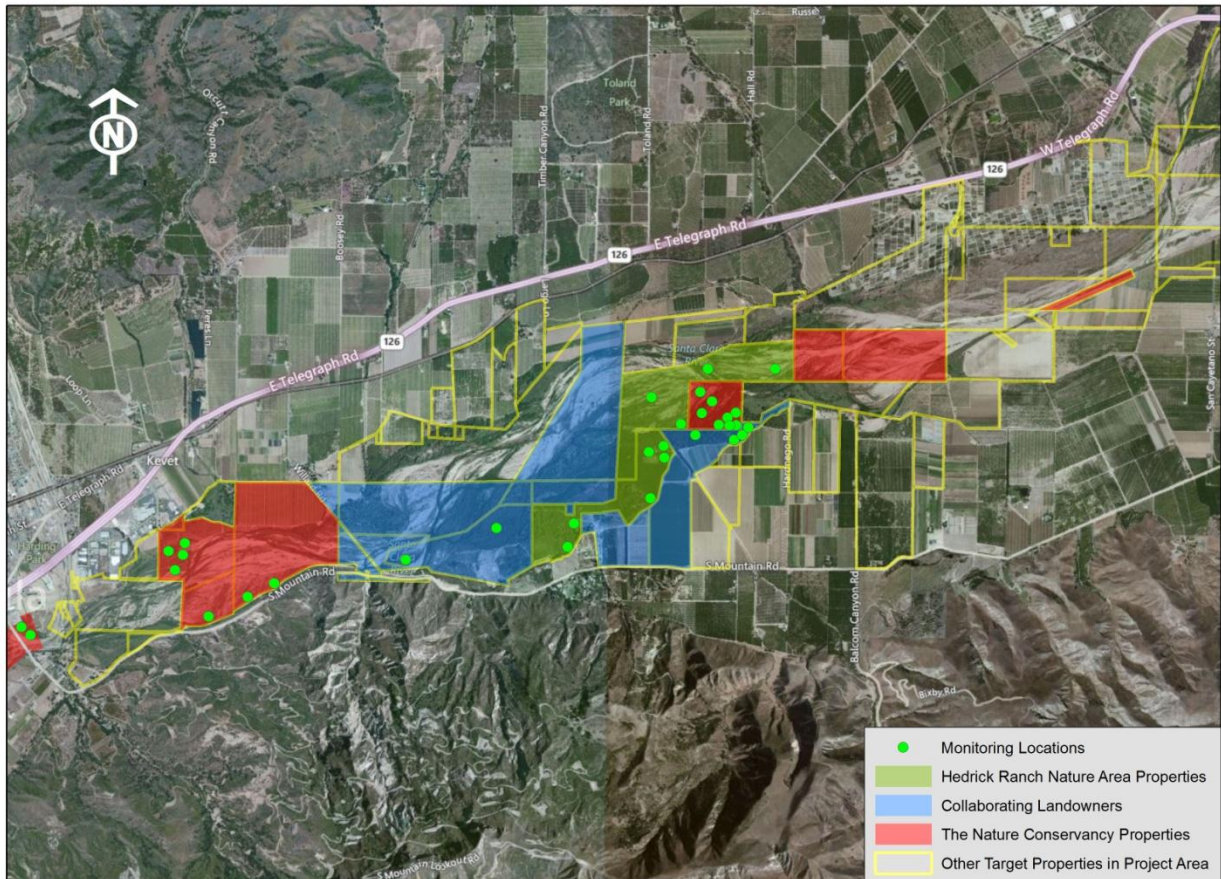
Cost Share: \$ 887,779 (31%)

Project Benefits:

- Improve ecosystem health in the Santa Clara River Watershed
- Increase groundwater availability and conserve local water supplies by removing non-native plant species that consume large volumes
- Enhance wildlife value of restored and protected wetlands
- Reduce flood and wildfire damage and risks
- Improve water quality
- Enhance recreational benefits of the Santa Clara River Watershed

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FIGURE 7
PROPOSED PROJECT AREA INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, AND
HABITAT PROTECTION SANTA CLARA RIVER



Properties and monitoring locations within the proposed project area.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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V-11 Ventura County Watershed Protection District Invasive Plant Removal and Ecosystem Restoration Project

Project Description:

The project will facilitate the removal of non-native, invasive species in the Ventura River Watershed originally begun as an element of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Project advances and enhances implementation of the removal of such species on parcels of land adjacent to the Ventura River beginning at Hwy 150, and moving south to an area below Foster Park.

The Project will target prioritized parcels of land in this reach which are either owned and/or maintained by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC), the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy (VHC), and/or public agency project partners. The project will enhance recreational / public access at the Ventura River Steelhead Preserve, via OVLC's development of an Education & Conservation Center using existing historical structures.

The Center will also serve as a visitor center, and at this core of the preserve it will have, among other elements, interpretive exhibits, a trailhead and a short interpretive trail. Finally, the Project will strive to integrate project benefits with collaborative efforts by the Friends of the Ventura River to develop implementation initiatives identified in the recently released Ventura River Parkways Plan. The area targeted for invasive species removal is shown in Figure 8 below.

Project Cost: \$ 2,150,000

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

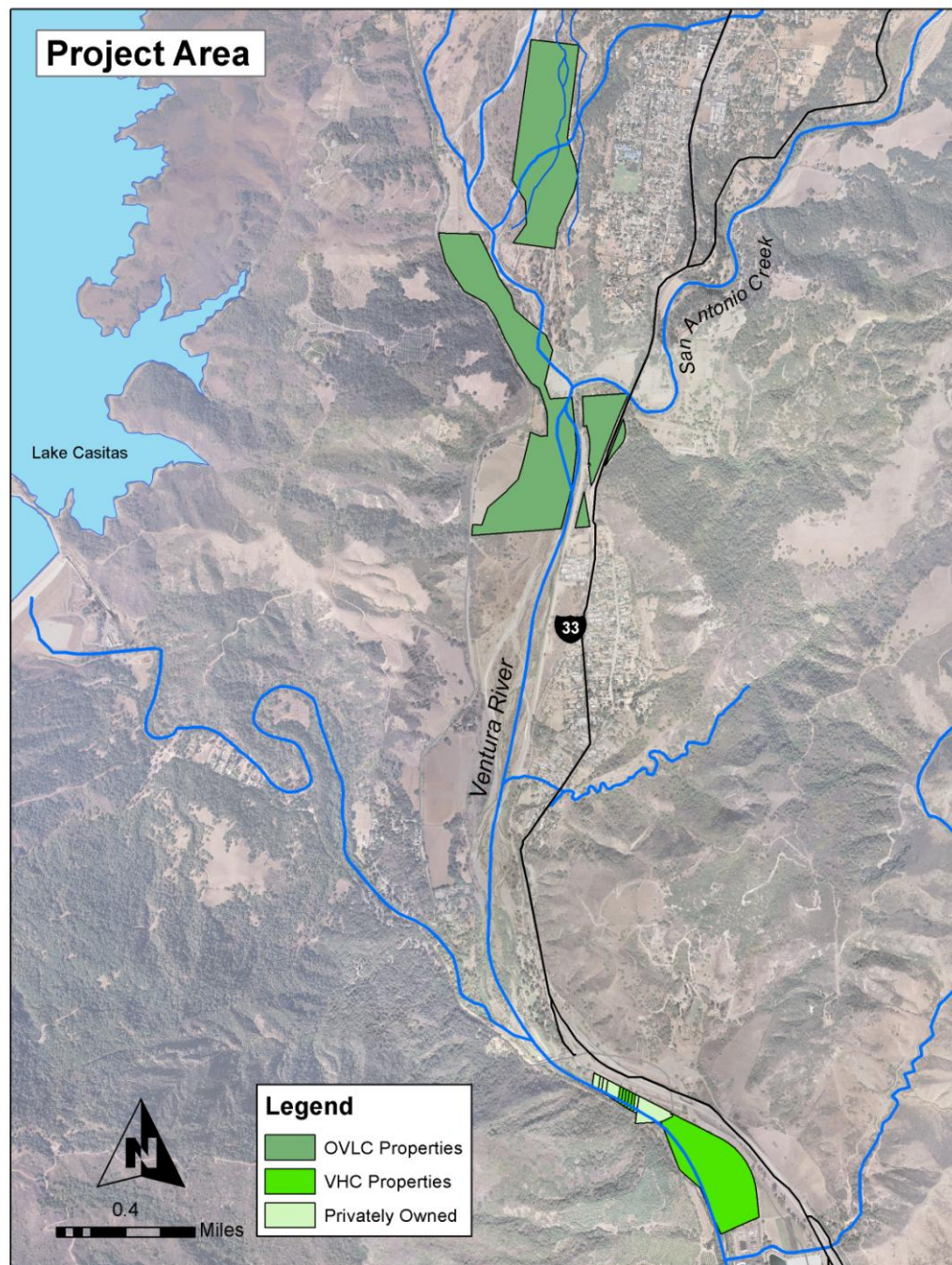
Cost Share: \$ 650,000 (30%)

Project Benefits:

- Helps maintain Ventura River watershed independence from imported water
- Conserves local water supplies
- Protects steelhead and other endangered and sensitive species
- Facilitates flood and fire protection efforts
- Increased tourism through enhancement of recreational features
- Increased public awareness and utilization of planned improvements listed in the Ventura River Parkway Plan.

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FIGURE 8
LOCATION OF INVASIVES PLANT REMOVAL AND ECOCYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT
OJAI VALLEY AND VENTURA HILLSIDES LAND CONSERVANCY PARCELS



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b. Project Included in Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Proposal

SC-12A Ventura County Watershed Protection District South Oxnard Stormwater Flood Management Project

Project Description (Phases 1 and 2A)

Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) plans on replacing the deficient trapezoidal concrete J Street Drain channel (current maximum capacity is the 10-year storm) with a combination of open and covered channel improvements outlined in the Phasing Plan below that will provide 100-year or one percent annual chance flood protection to the area. This application requests grant funding for implementation of Phase 2A (described below) of a comprehensive project plan.

On March 27, 2012, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the J Street Drain Project, approving and authorizing District funding for open channel design and construction for Phases 1 and 2, and directing Watershed Protection District staff to pursue grant funding opportunities necessary to fund the additional cost of constructing the covered box design for Reaches 2 through 4 in the future.

Phase 1, from Ormond Beach Lagoon to Hueneme Road, will be an open channel in order to preserve habitat for endangered species. Phase 1 will also incorporate a trash boom near the upstream end, and include a Beach Elevation Management Plan at the downstream end to facilitate seasonal discharge from the lagoon to the ocean in response to storm runoff. Phase 2A, will also include open channel improvements from Hueneme Road to Pleasant Valley Road. Phase 2A will be constructed in a manner that will allow future covering of the channel in Phase 2B.

The existing J Street Drain was constructed in 1956, and concrete-lined in 1961. The life of a concrete channel in a marine environment is 50 years due to alkali-aggregate reaction, sulfate attack and corrosion of steel. There is limited life remaining in the deficient flood conveyance channel, and increasing the capacity from the current 10-year storm event in Phases 1 and 2 will provide flood protection from a one-percent annual chance flood for 58-single family units, 13-multi-family units, 5 commercial units and the large, regional Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant serving 225,000 residents (with daily throughput capacity ranging from 39.6 MGD for average dry flow up to 75.4 MGD for ultimate peak weather flow). See Figure 4 on page 21.

For the IRWM Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Project, the District requests state grant funding for flood conveyance channel improvements in Phase 2A. This is consistent with the primary focus of Proposition 1E. The Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) authorized \$4.09 billion statewide in general obligation bonds to rebuild and repair California's most vulnerable flood control structures.

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Project Cost: \$9,400,000

Grant Request: \$4,000,000

Cost Share: \$5,400,000 (57%)

Project Benefits:

- Replace a deficient, 57-year old flood sub-standard conveyance facility that has exceeded its useful life, and which only provides a maximum of 10-year flood protection
- Avoid up to \$30.9 Million in potential flood damages to 58 single family unites, 13 multi-family units, 5 commercial units, and a large, regional wastewater facility, the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant (OWWTP) located adjacent to the Ormond Beach Lagoon
- Minimize potential flooding of the OWWTP and surrounding residential land uses by implementing a Beach Elevation Management Plan (BEMP) to facilitate natural breaching of the Ormond Beach Lagoon in response to storm water flows.
- Reduce conveyance of trash by 9 tons annually to the ecologically sensitive Ormond Beach Lagoon by installing a trash boom in Phase 1, and in the future, preventing dumping and blowing-in of trash through the covering of the channel in Phase 2B.
- Improving public, safety and welfare of the South Oxnard environmental justice communities impacted by the project reaches.

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APPENDIX 1

WCVC General Membership Summary of Meeting October 18, 2012

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Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC)

(www.watershedscoalition.org)

MEETING #30

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2012

**Ventura County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura
Hall of Administration**

MINUTES

Chair: Sue Hughes County of Ventura CEO's Office

1. Public Hearing - Notice of Intent to Prepare IRWM Plan Update

Public Comment Henry Graumlich commented that the IRWM plan update would include the projects recommended by the WCVC General Membership for the pending IRWM implementation grant application.

The General Membership unanimously approved a motion to direct WCVC staff to update the 2006 WCVC IRWM Plan, including the two technical associated studies, so that it is consistent with the 2010 IRWM Program Guidelines published by the California Department of Water Resources.

2. Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grant – Round 2

a. Approve the WCVC Steering Committee recommendations regarding the suite of projects for inclusion in the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant application

Action Taken: WCVC Members voted unanimously to approve the suite of 6 projects approved by the Steering Committee on October 16, 2012. The approved project list is attached to these minutes.

b. Determine entity that will apply on behalf of WCVC for the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant and direct staff to prepare authorizing resolution

Action Taken: WCVC members unanimously agreed to authorize the County of Ventura to apply on their behalf for Implementation Grant funds for the suite of projects adopted in Item 3a. above. It was further agreed unanimously that a resolution should be adopted by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors authorizing the CEO's office to apply for the Implementation Grant.

c. Administrative Addendum to IRWM Plan to Include New Projects

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Action Taken: WVCV Members unanimously agreed to authorize staff to prepare an administrative addendum to the WVCV IRWM Plan to include those projects approved in Item 3a. above, which were not already included in the Plan (per WVCV IRWM Plan Section 6.2.C), including adding a seventh project (SC 12A – South Oxnard Stormwater Flood Management Project) which will be seeking funds from Proposition 1E.

3. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Project Number and Name	Project Proponent	Total Project Cost	Total Grant Request
Proposition 84 Implementation Grant			
C-20 North Pleasant Valley Groundwater DeSalter	City of Camarillo	\$ 50 M	\$ 5 M
C-21 West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project	City of Simi Valley	\$ 7.4 M	\$ 3 M
C-22 Moorpark Recycled Water Project – Phase IV	County Water Works District No. 1	\$4.2 M	\$ 2 M
SC-12 B South Oxnard Flood Protection and Community Enhancement Project (Phase 2B)	County Watershed Protection District	\$ 8.4 M	\$ 4.5 M
SC-13 Invasive Plant Control, Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Protection	UC Santa Barbara	\$2.9 M	\$ 2.0 M
V-11 Ventura River Watershed Non-Native Invasive Plant Removal Integration with Ventura River Parkway Enhancement Project	County Watershed Protection District	\$2 M	\$ 1.5 M
Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant			
SC-12 A South Oxnard Stormwater Flood Management Project (Phases 1 and 2A)	County Watershed Protection District	\$ 9.4 M	\$ 4 M
TOTAL		\$ 86.5 M	\$ 22 M