

# Chapter 3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of life is living in agreement with nature.

—Zeno, Greek philosopher

The following goals and objectives were generated through a collaborative stakeholder process. Each goal includes subgoals and related objectives. Collectively, they reflect a single over-arching goal:

To revitalize the Tujunga/Pacoima Watershed, balancing water supply, water quality, community open space needs, environmental protection and restoration, and public safety.

## ■ Optimize Local Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water

- Improve groundwater infiltration:
  - > Develop groundwater management strategy for optimum use of local water resources.
  - > Improve quality and quantity of on-site water recharge to the SFV Groundwater Basin.
  - > Restore natural streams, washes, and floodplains in areas of high soils permeability.
- Reduce dependence on imported water:
  - > Facilitate on-site collection systems for stormwater and graywater.
  - > Expand water conservation programs.
  - > Extend the distribution and range of uses for reclaimed water.
- Integrate groundwater infiltration with other public and/or beneficial uses:
  - > Provide for compatible public activities and uses in infiltration areas.
  - > Restore natural streams, washes, and floodplains and associated habitats.

## ■ Improve Surface Water & Groundwater Quality

- Reduce pollutant loads:
  - > Expand source reduction programs.
  - > Implement Best Management Practices.
  - > Implement institutional controls such as water quality zones, urban forestry, product substitution/ source control, and public outreach and education.
- Maximize “nature’s services” before utilizing manufactured solutions:
  - > Reinstate sediment transport to support assimilative capacity.
  - > Increase permeable surfaces throughout the watershed area.
- Implement a citizen-based water quality monitoring program.

### ■ Restore Hydrologic Function to the Watershed while Maintaining Public Safety

- Reestablish functional streams:
  - > Restore/acquire functional floodplains.
  - > Restore natural, bioengineered streambanks.
  - > Daylight/reestablish tributary streams where feasible.
  - > Develop sediment management strategy.
  - > Establish meanders as needed to facilitate dynamic equilibrium of sediment transport.
- Design restoration projects to maintain flood protection:
  - > Capture and infiltrate stormwater where it falls to reduce runoff volume in streams.
  - > Acquire gravel pits for stormwater detention.
  - > Remove or elevate structures in floodways.
  - > Implement a flood hazard warning system.

### ■ Enhance Quality, Quantity and Connectivity of Native Terrestrial and Riparian Habitats

- Restore, protect, and augment terrestrial and aquatic species habitat:
  - > Create habitat corridors along Tujunga and Pacoima washes.
  - > Restore riparian habitat along historic tributaries where feasible.
  - > Identify, enhance, and restore natural habitat and wildlife corridor between Verdugo and San Gabriel mountains.
  - > Acquire land or conservation easements in ecologically sensitive areas, including along streams.
- Integrate fire and vector management strategies into native vegetation zones.
- Reduce extent of invasive, non-native species.
- Expand use of native plants in landscaping through mandate on publicly-owned lands and through incentives on private lands.

### ■ Improve and Increase a Network of Public Open Space

- Augment overall open space network to meet the national standard for park space per capita ratio:
  - > Protect existing open spaces.
  - > Implement a targeted, prioritized program to utilize surplus properties and acquire land from willing sellers.
- Improve connectivity and access to Tujunga and Pacoima washes and the Angeles National Forest using tools such as easements and greenway linkages.
- Develop a design standard for open space that integrates natural resources management with various recreational needs.
- Provide for maintenance and security of parks, open space, and trails.

### ■ Create Green Transit Linkages and Recreational Access

- Improve multi-modal transit:
  - > Create a watershed-wide network of pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle routes utilizing BMPs in design.
  - > Connect multi-modal transportation routes to communities, public facilities, transit focal points, greenways, and other open spaces.
  - > Design multi-modal routes for user safety.
- Enhance and expand recreational opportunities to meet needs of local communities:
  - > Determine appropriate recreational uses with local community guidance.
  - > Group activities according to use compatibility.
  - > Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities and experiences within each community.

### ■ Promote Watershed Awareness & Increase Stewardship through Public Outreach and Education

- Conduct education and outreach programs to expand appreciation of the natural character of Tujunga & Pacoima Washes and the importance of watershed restoration:
  - > Identify and understand target audiences to develop and deliver most effective outreach and educational programs.
  - > Focus on local eco-system, groundwater/water supply issues, flood safety, sustainable living, and environmental justice.
  - > Develop and deliver an educational curriculum for grades K-12.
  - > Partner with community colleges to gather data, monitor conditions, and implement plan development and also encourage continued participation of local universities.
  - > Use the internet as an informative outreach tool.
- Engage community interest through participation in restoration activities:
  - > Include youth and community groups in watershed restoration activities.
  - > Involve the business community.
  - > Provide opportunities and resources for individuals to participate on their property.
- Protect and interpret natural, cultural, and historic resources.

### ■ Implement Watershed-based Planning and Projects

- Implement ordinances and incentives to protect watersheds and streams:
  - > Require “no net gain” of stormwater runoff on developed sites, based on natural conditions.
  - > Create a River Overlay Zone to acquire floodplains opportunistically or through long term programs.
  - > Incentivize multiple-objective developments and BMP integration in private-sector projects.
  - > Develop alternative approaches to land use designations in order to integrate, preserve, and protect natural systems within urban environments.

- Require integrated open space in mixed use, live/work developments:
  - > Recycle underused sites along Tujunga & Pacoima Washes.
  - > Leverage Quimby and other park funds to acquire parkland in developed areas.
  - > Increase park acreage required by General Plan.
- Preserve agricultural zones.

■ **Improve Collaboration among all Agencies, Organizations & Communities in the Watershed**

- Institute a comprehensive program to facilitate communication and collaboration:
  - > Involve elected officials and their staff, governmental, regulatory and infrastructure agencies, NGOs, CBOs, professional and business organizations and individuals in a cooperative watershed stewardship program.
  - > Assign a liaison with decision-level capability from each agency to communicate with each other and the stakeholders.
  - > Develop a system that fosters early notification and cooperation amongst all stakeholders prior to all project planning.
- Encourage mutual understanding of the goals, objectives, and roles of each individual agency and organization involved.
- Partner with existing local programs and projects where appropriate.
- Develop a collaborative strategy to finance implementation of the Plan.