

## SECTION 8.0 COORDINATION WITH PLANNING AND STATE/FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 8.1 Coordination with and Relation to Local Land Use Planning

The Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) IRWM Plan represents the consolidation and augmentation of two IRWM plans - the Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management (VCIRWM) Plan developed for the areas within the two western watersheds in Ventura County (Santa Clara and Ventura Rivers) and the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan (CCWMP) for Calleguas Creek – into a single plan.

The Interim VCIRWM Plan, submitted to the State by the VCIRWMP Group in July 2005 and this Final IRWM Plan, was prepared through a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Ventura and a number of local agencies by Ventura County's Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. This is the land-use planning agency responsible for land use decisions in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County. There are ten Cities, each with their own land-use planning agencies. Most projects envisioned within this Plan in some way affect, or are affected by, land use planning. Development of this IRWM Plan and associated implementation strategies, is being coordinated with the ten Cities through the City/County Planning Association (County and City Planning Directors) and direct contact with each City's planning agency. A number of water management strategies can be effectively implemented through land-use policies and controls, many of which are already in place throughout Ventura County.

The Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan/IRWMP was prepared under the auspices of the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee and included stakeholders from local Cities, water districts and planning entities, among many others. The Land Use Subcommittee of the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee provides a link between local planning agencies and the IRWMP by offering a forum for discussion in their meetings, providing accurate, consistent land-use planning information, and incorporating local planning documents and goals into the project objectives.

Examples of existing controls and/or policies which address water supply, water use, protection of wetlands and other aquatic habitats (streams, lakes), water quality and flood control, include water efficient landscape ordinances, general plan policies, specific plan policies, conditions on new development regarding efficient plumbing fixtures, zoning ordinance requirements, requirements to use recycled wastewater for large scale turf areas when feasible, CEQA mitigation measures, stormwater management best management practices, requirements for developments to obtain "can-and-will-serve" letters to assure adequate supply of water to meet future needs, and others. Under consideration are land use policies which restrict development within a certain number of feet of a water course (setback requirements), other means to restrict certain types of developments and uses in the floodplain, "bio-friendly" drainage courses, and greater opportunities for percolation in hardscaped areas.

Among the WCVC members are representatives of local Cities and the County. Each City has its own land use planning agency, as does the County. Some Cities also supply water. The general plan (long-range plan) is the primary land use planning document adopted by Cities and the County which addresses water resources and infrastructure. Urban water management plans, watershed plans, stormwater management plans and water master plans are the types of plans

typically adopted by water agencies. General plans developed by land use planning agencies are coordinated with water agencies, and the plans developed by water agencies are typically coordinated with land use planning agencies.

The WCVC IRWMP has been based, in part, on the numerous water plans and studies that have been developed in recent years (See Appendix F and Bibliography for more information about these studies and plans).

In addition to the list of plans and studies, the WCVC has been closely involved in the preparation of the IRWMP. The WCVC members represent virtually all of the stakeholders in water management, and their comments and review have been critical in ensuring that existing plans and documents have been included and taken into account.

In addition, local land use planning agencies have been involved, through the City/County Planning Association (CCPA), which meets monthly, and through individual efforts with each City planning agency to assure coordination of appropriate land use plans, programs, and policies. The CCPA has been asked to help develop a menu of guidelines and policies which positively affect water use and management (i.e., watercourse setback policies, CEQA mitigation measures, development standards, landscape requirements) and to encourage their policy-makers to adopt these within their jurisdictions.

## 8.2 Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

The County of Ventura has a long history of working with State and Federal agencies to address water management issues. County staff and Board members, and staff and elected officials from local water agencies and other organizations, have worked closely over the years with staff/Board members from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Health Services, the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others. The County has received numerous grants and low interest loans over the past 35 years, beginning with the Section 208 Water Quality Management program grant.

As mentioned in the Stakeholder section above, there is already extensive coordination and cooperation among local agencies through the WCVC and the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA). The WCVC consists of over 60 local agencies that are actively participating in the development of Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Grant proposals as well as guiding development of the WCVC IRWM Plan. The Association of Water Agencies has over 150 members representing water districts large and small, consultants, suppliers, and large water users.

WCVC and AWA members have a long history of cooperative relationships with State and Federal agencies. These agencies include the Regional Water Quality Control Board/State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The distribution list of interested parties includes over 100 names/agencies. Local agency members regularly work with State and Federal agencies. These local agencies will continue to act as liaisons with State and Federal agencies, as well as providing information on State and Federal agency regulations, data protocols, and other necessary information.