

Attachment 9 Need

The following sections describe the need for the proposal and each project contained within the proposal.

1 Need for the Proposal

The Los Angeles County South Bay Region faces a variety of water management challenges including:

- **Water Quality** – A major cause of beach pollution is runoff from the highly urbanized areas in the Region.
- **Supply Reliability** – Regionally, there has been a general downward decline in groundwater levels. Causes include increased urbanization with resultant increases in stormwater runoff and decreases in aquifer recharge.
- **Wetland and Other Habitat Restoration** – The Region combines highly urbanized, densely populated areas with sensitive habitat such as beaches, local wetlands and open space, all of which require protection and enhancement.

Currently, water management systems are in place within the Region to address these challenges. The water management systems in the Region include Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation, localized water conservation efforts, limited habitat enhancement and restoration projects, and stormwater infiltration projects.

For long-term solutions, regional water management needs are focused on water supply reliability as the population continues to increase; management of urban runoff to increase water quality within the creeks and Bay; groundwater management to limit seawater intrusion; habitat enhancement; and public education regarding these areas to improve understanding and increase awareness.

1.1 Regional, Economic, Fiscal Impacts

The proposal provides a suite of projects that work both individually and collectively to provide multiple benefits. The regional impacts include the collection and reuse of a local water resource, reduction in use of imported potable water, reduction of urban runoff pollution, improvement of Bay water quality, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and other habitats, increased beneficial uses, and reduction of localized flooding. Through the benefits of improved water quality, beneficial uses, and reduced flooding, higher economic activity and revenues, and lower costs are expected as more individuals visit a cleaner coastal area. Fiscally, higher revenues and lower costs benefit the local economy, government, and residents. Environmentally, improved water quality provides a healthier coastal and inland zone, benefiting birds, mammals, and marine flora and fauna. Development, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands meet the goals and objectives of the California Wetlands Conservation Policy (Executive Order W-59-93), including no overall net loss and long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage in California.

2 Recommended Projects to Meet Needs

The projects were selected through a two-step prioritization process described in the proposal (Attachment 6) and in the Draft IRWMP (Attachment 3). The prioritization and selection process was based, in part, on the project's ability to meet local water management needs. For each project, the following table presents the need, and how the project will meet the expected long-term regional water management needs.

Project	Need for Project	Fulfills Regional Needs
1. JWPCP Marshland Enhancement	The project is needed to deal with water infiltration problems from the current flow pathway that could impact the operation of the neighboring digesters and impact the operation of the JWPCP, potentially resulting in health and safety issues. The project is also necessary to sustain wetland habits, which are threatened by invasive, non-native vegetation.	Project will provide enhanced water quality; wetland habitat development and enhancement; and provide public educational opportunities.

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Project	Need for Project	Fulfills Regional Needs
2. Large Landscape Conservation/Runoff Reduction Management	This project is needed to target urban runoff reduction thus decreasing demand on imported potable supplies.	Key project in increasing supply reliability through reduced demands.
3. 16th Street Watershed Runoff Treatment, Reuse & Infiltration Project	Project is needed to remove dry and wet weather runoff which contributes to flooding, water quality issues, and decreased recreational benefits.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants from entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.
4. Wilmington Drain Restoration Multiuse Project	The project is needed to manage stormwater runoff generated from the upstream area (Machado Lake Watershed). Flows from this area, laden with sediment and trash, flood local surfaces and disrupt downstream water quality.	Precludes further degradation of the Wilmington Drain wetlands, provides recreational opportunities, improves water quality, and enhances and restores habitat.
5. North Santa Monica Watershed Runoff Treatment, Reuse, and Infiltration - Stage 1	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan in reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in marine waters contaminated with bacteria.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.
6. Dockweiler Watershed Runoff Treatment, Reuse, and Infiltration - Stage 1	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan in reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in marine waters contaminated with bacteria.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.
7. Machado Lake Artificial Aeration and Circulation Project	Project is needed to combat eutrophication and other water quality problems within the lake which are in turn leading to reduced water quality, ecological health, public safety, and recreational uses.	Eliminates pollutants impairing the water body restoring water quality, habitat, and recreation.
8. Ozone Park Retrofit Runoff Treatment, Reuse & Infiltration	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan in reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in marine waters contaminated with bacteria.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.
9. Freeway Runoff Infiltration	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan in reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in marine waters contaminated with bacteria.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.
10. Madrona/Palos Verdes Lateral	Project is needed to supply areas outside of current distribution network with recycled water.	Significantly reduces imported potable supplies and thus enhances supply reliability.
11. Grand Blvd Tree Wells	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan in reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in marine waters contaminated with bacteria.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.
12. Los Angeles Harbor Low-Flow Diversion	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Los Angeles Harbor Bacteria TMDL by reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in waters contaminated with bacteria. The project is needed for elimination of dry weather bacterial indicator exceedances in the Los Angeles Harbor.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Los Angeles Harbor. Helps meet long-term water quality needs along with the increased recreational activities.
13. Peck Park Canyon	Needed to reduce the pollutants entering the harbor and San Pedro Bay, and to alleviate the drainage, erosion, maintenance, safety, and vegetative issues that reduce recreational and educational opportunities in the Canyon.	Helps meet long-term water quality needs, habitat, and recreation enhancement needs.
14. Imperial Highway Sunken Median	The project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan in reducing the risk of human illness associated with recreation in marine waters contaminated with bacteria.	Reduces or eliminates pollutants entering the Bay and decreases imported supply demand through harvesting and reuse elements.

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Project	Need for Project	Fulfills Regional Needs
15. Culver City BMPs	This project is needed to achieve the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL as well as the Ballona Creek trash, metals, toxics, and bacteria TMDLs; to manage flooding along Washington Boulevard; and to promote “greening” of commercial areas within Culver City.	Provides water quality protection and habitat enhancement.
16. Stone Canyon Creek at UCLA	This project is needed to serve as a demonstration project for the region of benefits associated with restored urban creeks. Locally the project is needed to protect banks from erosion and improve water quality.	Meets long-term water quality and habitat enhancement goals, along with increased recreational/open space areas.
17. Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project	The project is needed to enhance and restore wetland habitat for the benefit of Endangered and Threatened species.	Enhances and protects wetland and other habitat areas.
18. Lafayette Daylighting	Necessary to daylight stream/restore riparian wetlands, increase access to recreational resources and mitigate flooding peaks.	Meets needs through implementation of water quality, and enhancement elements.
19. Goldsworthy Desalter	Project is needed to reduce imported potable supplies and remove a trapped brackish groundwater plume within the basin.	Helps meet supply reliability needs by reducing dependency on imported supplies by 10 percent within Torrance.
20. Lomita Integrated Storm to Vadose to Water Supply - Cypress Hill Reservoir	Project is needed to cope with stormwater runoff issues within the City of Lomita; including water quality and biological habitat preservation.	Meets water quality and habitat enhancement needs. Also lends to increase supply reliability through infiltration technology.
21. Lomita Integrated Storm to Vadose to Water Supply - Oceanview Depression	Project is needed to cope with stormwater runoff issues within the City of Lomita; including water quality and biological habitat preservation.	Meets water quality and habitat enhancement needs. Also lends to increased supply reliability through infiltration technology.
22. Ballona Bluff Vernal Pool Restoration	The current water management system is for runoff from the proposed 114 homes to be diverted into the Ballona Wetlands fresh water marsh. This marsh is also functioning as a wildlife habitat and is expected to overflow into the adjacent salt water wetlands or into Ballona creek during heavy runoff. By preserving and restoring the vernal pool area of the Ballona Bluff, street runoff into the wetlands will be eliminated from approximately 40 homes. There are many sensitive species that use these wetlands, and they need clean water. In addition, the vernal pool is needed to collect water on site at the Bluff, rather than becoming runoff.	Meets water quality and habitat enhancement needs. Also meets needs via stormwater collection and infiltration.

3 Critical Impacts

Without the implementation of the proposal or individual projects, critical impacts within the Region are expected to occur. These impacts include:

- Reduced supply reliability, especially in planned outages or emergencies
- Poor surface water quality, potentially resulting in wide-spread public health risks and substantial loss of revenue for local beach cities due to beach closures.
- Loss of wetlands and other habitats
- Continued restrictions to recreation, public access, open space, and wildlife habitat
- The groundwater basin will remain degraded by brackish water and unusable as a source of potable water
- Continued waste of imported water through inefficient systems
- Under-exposure of government agencies and the public to watershed approach solutions with multiple benefits
- Development of stagnant pools of water fostering mosquito breeding habitat and possibly the spread of disease