

Santa Clara River Watershed Greatest Water Needs Discussion

Comments received at July committee meeting and via email. Updated 11.29.17.

Water Supply	Water Quality	Habitat	Information & Monitoring	Other/Management	Coordination	Education & Recreation
Recharging lower SCR groundwater basins, with State Contract Water released from Pyramid and Piru Lake. Keep water in the Santa Clara River Watershed, don't let it go to outside watershed uses.	Improve water quality	Conservation opportunities and cost benefit analysis for prioritizing	Infrastructure Improvements: automated flow meters, real-time flow rates, placed at confluence with tributary and main channel. Leading to better models and sustainable planning.	reliability, sustainability, resiliency	Integrate upper and lower watershed (formally, and coordinate on applications). What upper watershed does impacts lower, how can lower watershed be more involved in upper.	Public access to river, recreation opportunities, creating clear access
Natural water supply projects: Invasive plant removal, multi-benefit restoration/recharge, stormwater capture for recharge, protect floodplains		Knowing our water budget and using it to guide restoration	monitoring of cumulative impacts of water uses on hydrograph	Integrated approach and multi-benefit projects, not just as a multi-benefit project suite	holistic watershed management, acknowledging the connections between upper and lower watershed	education to encourage interest in environmental careers
Groundwater sustainability: Implementation of GSA/GSP identified projects and LCP		recharging groundwater basins to provide instream flows	water budgets, identify water needs and water sources	water + SPP + standardization	Coordinate with upper watershed and planning , concerned about impacts of Newhall	public education, inform people on watershed
Cost benefit analysis on water conservation		GSA/GSP Habitat Conservation Plan		monitoring and quantifying successes, measuring our goals	multi-benefit integrated flood control, stormwater and habitat projects	watershed signage project for watershed education
Recharge of lower groundwater basins				Climate Adaption, sea level rise, flooding, restoration		Coordinated education & access plan for the watershed
Increase groundwater storage, healthy groundwater basins				Reliability, sustainability, resiliency		
Expand stormwater capture projects in DACs, like El Rio retrofit for GW recharge						
Reliability, sustainability, resiliency						

10 Actions in California Water Action Plan

1. Make Conservation a California Way of Life
2. Increase regional self-reliance and Integrated Water Management across all levels of government
3. Achieve the co-equal goals for the Delta
4. Protect and restore important ecosystems
5. Manage and prepare for dry periods
6. Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management
7. Provide safe water for all communities
8. Increase flood protection
9. Increase operational and regulatory efficiency
10. Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities

IRWM Plan Goals and Objectives (2014 plan)

1. Reduce dependence on imported water and protect, conserve and augment water supplies
2. Protect and improve water quality
3. Protect people, property and the environment from adverse flooding impacts
4. Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds
5. Provide water-related recreational, public access, stewardship, engagement and educational opportunities
6. Prepare for and adapt to climate change

Santa Clara River Watershed Objectives

(As found in 2014 IRWM Plan Update SCRW Vision Statement)

- Allow for natural river processes, to the maximum extent feasible, including permitting the river to freely meander within its floodplain and to accommodate flows within the natural range of variation.
- Allows for the preservation and protection of existing and future sustainable uses in the watershed including cultural, agricultural, and educational activities, low impact recreation, scientific studies, and aesthetic and spiritual enjoyment.
- Emphasizes environmentally sensitive flood management that allows for a functional floodplain while minimizing damage to life and property.
- Maintains biodiversity through matrix of native aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat with minimal habitat fragmentation and barriers, with emphasis on enhancing recovery of species of conservation concern.
- Is unimpaired by pollution or invasive non-native species.
- Is managed by cooperating public entities, private landowners, and organizations working toward the common vision.
- Supplies water for agriculture, groundwater recharge, and habitat maintenance.

Santa Clara River Watershed Committee Mission Statement:

The Santa Clara River Watershed alliance is dedicated to the conservation of the Santa Clara River, from its headwaters and tributaries to its estuary, for the mutual benefit of the natural resources dependent on the river and the people who live, work, and recreate along the river.

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