

# Section 1

## Introduction

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### AUTHORIZATION

LACDPW retained MWH to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Sun Valley Watershed under Contract Number PW12456 approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and dated December 4, 2001.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Sun Valley Watershed Plan project scope of work consists of three (3) reports, a Watershed Management Plan (WMP), a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and a Funding Report. This document is the WMP. The Funding Report was completed and submitted under separate cover. The Draft Program EIR is complete. As part of the scope of work associated with the WMP, MWH prepared five (5) technical memoranda intended to present interim progress at key schedule milestones. MWH also completed five (5) Phase 1 site concept reports along with a Phase 1 Site Monitoring Plan. The technical memoranda and Phase 1 reports have been incorporated into the WMP.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan is to solve the chronic local flooding problem with a multipurpose solution, acknowledging that rainfall is a significant component of our water supply in this semi-arid region. The Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group (Stakeholders) has been meeting since late 1998 to address the flooding problem in Sun Valley under the leadership of the Watershed Management Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LACDPW). The Watershed Management Division was formed in recognition that integrated solutions can address flood protection, water supply, and stormwater quality needs of the County. The Stakeholders defined a mission for the Sun Valley watershed that is consistent with this philosophy. The mission of the Stakeholders is:

*“...to solve the local flooding problem while retaining all stormwater runoff from the watershed, increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution.”*

The Stakeholders also developed a list of detailed project objectives that expand on the mission statement. The project objectives are:

- Reduce Local Flooding
- Increase Water Conservation
- Increase Recreational Opportunities in the Watershed
- Increase Wildlife Habitat
- Improve Water Quality

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- Provide Additional Environmental Benefits
- Increase Multiple Agency Participation

### PROJECT PROCESS

The watershed management planning process is based on an organized methodology for development and evaluation of alternatives. The process includes the following steps:

- Define project objectives
- Define BMP elements
- Evaluate opportunities and constraints
- Assemble into alternatives
- Evaluate and refine alternatives
- Select and evaluate final alternatives.

This process was developed in order to select a final set of cost-effective solutions from the range of potential solutions available. The process was successfully applied to narrow the range of options available to a final set of four feasible sample alternatives. In this case, they are termed “sample” alternatives, because the individual components of the watershed plan may vary, which would cause significant variation in project costs and schedule. The process also included extensive input from the community and other stakeholders. Stakeholder involvement and public outreach in the watershed management planning process are briefly discussed below.

### Stakeholder Involvement and Public Outreach

The project framework included an organized approach to stakeholder involvement and public outreach in order to assure that the final alternatives were acceptable to the community. The ultimate aim was to assure that a solid base of community support was developed for the final set of components that are likely to be constructed.

A stakeholders group with individuals who either hold a stake in the project outcome or have some ability to influence project decisions has been meeting since 1998. Monthly stakeholder meetings are open to the public. **Table 1-1** provides a list of individuals and organizations that have been involved in the stakeholder process to date.

**Table 1-1  
Organizations involved in Sun Valley Stakeholder Process to Date**

A-Mehr, Inc.	David Evans and Associates, Inc.
American Society of Civil Engineers	Enartec, Inc.
California Coastal Coalition	Fresh Creek Technologies
California Department of Fish and Game	LA Byproducts, Inc.
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Land Design Consultants, Inc
California Department of Transportation	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Native Plant Society	Los Angeles Unified School District
California State Assemblymember Cindy Montañez	Los Angeles/San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council
California State Senator Richard Alarcon	Los Cerritos Wetland Stewardship, Inc.
California Wildlife Conservation Board	Lynne Dwyer & Associates
City of Burbank	MWH
City of Burbank Department of Public Works	North East Trees
City of La Cañada Flintridge	Rick Goacher Planning, Inc.
City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers & Mount. Conservancy
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks	Southern California Association of Governments
City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
City of Los Angeles Councilmember Greuel's Office	Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce
City of Los Angeles Councilmember Padilla's Office	Sun Valley Neighborhood Improvement Organization
City of Los Angeles Councilmember Cardenas' Office	Targhee Inc.
City of Los Angeles Councilmember LaBonge's Office	TreePeople
City of San Fernando	Upper Los Angeles River Area Watermaster
Civiltec Engineering, Inc.	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Congressman Brad Sherman	U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service
Congressman Howard Berman	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	Vulcan Materials Company
County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts	Vulcan Solution Strategies, Inc.
County of Los Angeles Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky	

These stakeholders have played a critical role in decision-making at key points throughout the process of defining and selecting specific project components and final alternatives.

**DATA SOURCES**

**Rainfall Data**

The County provided rainfall data for the Sun Valley area (station 14). Rainfall data for downtown Los Angeles is obtained from the National Weather Service.

**Hydrologic Data**

The final four sample Sun Valley Watershed management plan alternatives, discussed in the Alternatives Evaluation Process section, are simulated using LACDPW's F0601 program with the Watershed Modeling System (WMS) graphical interface. The WMS base model is created using a file provided by LACDPW from a study completed for the Watershed Management Division on May 23, 2002. The GIS database provided by LACDPW is used to support development of the F0601 model.

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### **Water Quality Data**

LACDPW provided water quality data gathered as part of the Sun Valley Watershed Storm Water Runoff Monitoring Program. Water quality data does not represent a statistically complete set at this time.

### **REPORT OUTLINE**

This report is organized in the following sections:

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 2 – Existing Conditions of the Sun Valley Watershed

Section 3 – Description of Potential Improvement Projects

Section 4 – Alternatives Evaluation Process

Section 5 – Implementation Approach

### ABBREVIATIONS

acre-ft	acre-feet
acre-ft/yr	acre-feet per year
BCA	Benefit/Cost Analysis
BMP	Best Management Practice
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
chromium-6	hexavalent chromium
CO	carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
DHS	California Department of Health Services
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substance Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
GIS	geographic information system
LACDPW	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
LADoT	Los Angeles Department of Transportation
LADWP	City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
MPN	most probable number
MRZ-2	Mineral Resource Zone 2
MWDSC	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrite
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OU	operable units
PCE	perchloroethylene
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
RAP	City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
ROW	right-of-way
RWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SFGB	San Fernando Groundwater Basin
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCE	trichloroethylene
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
ULARA	Upper Los Angeles River Area
USEPA	Environmental Protection Agency
VOC	volatile organic compounds
WMP	Watershed Management Plan
WMS	Watershed Modeling System

