



Frequently Asked Questions...



1. What is the goal of the Calleguas Creek Integrated Watershed Protection Plan (IWPP) Phase II Management Strategy Project?

The goal of the Calleguas Creek Integrated Watershed Protection Plan (IWPP) Management Strategy Study is to select the best approaches for the future management of the Watershed. This decision is based on input from a diverse group of stakeholders. The management strategy includes flood and sediment control, water quality improvements, ground water recharge, mitigation and environmental protection issues, agricultural requirements, and recreational opportunities.

2. What are the project study limits?

This study domain includes Calleguas Creek, Arroyo Las Posas, Arroyo Simi (from Hitch Boulevard to Madera Road in the City of Simi Valley), Revolon Slough and Beardsley Wash, Mugu Lagoon, the Cities of Camarillo and Moorpark, Conejo Creek from the confluence point to Las Posas Road, and the unincorporated areas in the Calleguas Creek Watershed, located in Southern Ventura County, California. The Study will include pre-development conditions, existing conditions, and future conditions for all cases.

3. When does the project start and end?

The project started on August 21, 2007, and ends on June 30, 2009.

4. Why do we need the Calleguas Creek IWPP Phase II Management Strategy Project?

Development in the Calleguas Creek Watershed has increased significantly over the past 50 years, including major growth in the Cities of Simi Valley, Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, and Camarillo. Almost 70 percent of the available land in these cities has been developed. Increased development translates to more impervious ground cover, resulting in increased runoff to our creeks and streams. These increased flows can—and do—cause erosion, sedimentation, and flooding problems. The increased flows may also carry more pollutants from paved surfaces and agricultural lands into the waterways. This situation creates challenges and opportunities within the Watershed that we can shape to enhance environmental and conservation opportunities.

5. What is a “stakeholder”?

A stakeholder is a person, group, organization, or system who affects or can be affected by an organization's actions. Because almost everyone in the Watershed is affected by efforts made to control flooding, everyone has some interest in the actions taken (or not taken, as the case may be). Often, those most directly impacted are those who are the most involved stakeholders.

6. Why do you need *me* as part of the process? In particular, why do you need me now?

The project seeks the best strategy to solve the major problems faced by property owners and communities in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. As a Calleguas Creek

stakeholder, your participation is crucial to this process. Become part of the process and let your voice be heard! It is never too late to add your thoughts and ideas for solving the problems. It is also the best time for you to be involved in helping to shape the direction solving the potential problems. We want your ideas, input, and support before we reach a final decision.

7. Where are we in the process?

There have been four stakeholders outreach meetings. The first stakeholders meeting (February 12, 2008) presented the *existing* Watershed conditions and identified challenges and opportunities within the Watershed. The second stakeholders meeting (July 15, 2008) reviewed possible alternative approaches to flood protection, and resulted in priority ranking of the alternatives: (1) land management; (2) watershed BMPs; (3) regional basins; (4) protection level; and, (5) channel improvements. The third stakeholders meeting (August 21, 2008) presented the project concepts and its findings to the agricultural landowners. The fourth stakeholders meeting (January 13, 2009) presented the current status of the project and its findings. Based on the above-listed priorities, the consultant presented the results of technical and cost analyses conducted by combining the various alternative approaches into possible scenarios.

8. What is the next step in the process?

The key purpose of the Study is to select the preferred scenarios and combination of applicable alternatives for the different reaches in the Watershed. The “preferred” scenario should be the most feasible solution for the existing problems: flooding, sediment transport deficiencies, water quality improvements, ground water recharge, mitigation and environmental protection issues, agricultural requirements, and recreational opportunities.

9. What will happen if we do nothing?

The potential flood damages if a 100-year flood occurred in the Calleguas Creek Watershed are estimated at \$734,076,000 (2009 prices). This estimate only includes property damages, not economic loss, which could more than triple this figure.

10. What is meant by a Q-100 or 100-year storm event?

In discussing the magnitude of a storm, a “Q” followed by a hyphen and number indicates the probable frequency of occurrence of a storm of that magnitude. In other words, a Q-1 storm has a 100% chance of occurring in any given year. A Q-10 storm has a 20% chance of occurrence, and a Q-100 storm has a 1% chance of happening in any given year. Does that mean that, if you have a storm that is rated as a Q-10 event there will not be another storm of that level for 10 years? No, it only designates the probability of a storm of that magnitude occurring in a given year. It is quite possible to have a Q-25 storm one year followed by another Q-25 storm 5 years later. This is statistical terminology.

11. How many methods did you find to solve the problems? Can we use just one method to solve all of the problems?

There are five alternatives. It is unlikely that any one of the alternatives by itself will resolve—or address—all of the problems in the Watershed.

12. What is Alternative 1?

Alternative 1 is Land Management, which limits future land development and may return developed land to natural floodplain. Over time, this would maximize the amount of land in the floodplain.

13. What is Alternative 2?

Alternative 2 is Watershed Best Management Practices (BMPs). A BMP is a source-control method aimed at keeping future water flows at or below existing levels. Watershed BMPs require governments (cities and county) to adopt laws requiring each new development to control the amount of run-off into nearby creeks and streams by constructing an on-site detention basin. These basins can reduce about 10% of the run-off if all the developed areas have the on-site detention basins.

14. What is Alternative 3?

Alternative 3 is the development of regional basins. Regional basins are strategically located detention and/or sediment debris basins designed to reduce channel flows and offset channel improvements. Such basins would significantly reduce the 100-year peak flows in Calleguas Creek and Revolon Slough and reduce the chance of flooding.

15. What is Alternative 4?

Alternative 4 is protection levels which may be altered from current conditions. Protection levels are defined by the magnitude of storm flows they are meant to contain. For example, the levee in the Lower Calleguas Creek between Mugu Lagoon and the Pleasant Valley Road crossing has a designed protection level of a 25-year flood. This means that in any year, there is a 1-in-25 chance that there will be a flood which will overtop that levee. Protection levels are often set based on the amount of risk the landowners are willing to take that their land will be flooded.

16. What is Alternative 5?

Alternative 5 is channel improvements. These are modifications of the channel designed to contain a greater level of flows within the channel, current design standard being protection for a Q-100 storm event. Channel improvements may widen and deepen the existing channel to get the required 100-year flood capacity. There are a number of reasons why channel improvements are no longer considered the best alternative for flood control. One major problem is limited flood easements. For example, in the downtown area of the City of Moorpark, the District has about a 200 foot-wide flood easement which is insufficient for the channel improvements that would be needed to solve the flooding in that area. Under existing conditions, there is no way to acquire the additional flood easement needed to widen the channel. Another reason is that channel improvements are often not the most environmentally friendly alternatives.

17. What are the alternatives that you are recommending to us?

That decision has not yet been made. It is important that each sector of the community examines the alternatives and provides feedback, both positive and negative. The best solution may be a combination of alternatives. The Calleguas Creek Watershed has been divided into eight reaches. Each reach may require a different combination of alternatives. Perhaps there is an alternative that has not yet been explored. Please give us your thoughts regarding the solution you feel would be best.

18. This is going to be expensive. How will we pay for it?

While the District’s annual Capital Improvement Program will be able to pay for some of the work, these funds will have to be supplemented by grants from federal, state, and private sources, community participation, and public/private partnerships. While the improvements may have a price tag, the goal of the plan is to protect life and property from the devastating storms and achieve sustainable economic development. To do nothing may cost all of us vastly more in economic losses including higher food prices, higher taxes to repair damaged or destroyed infrastructure, lost wages.

19. What is the best source?

It will be necessary to use all of these sources, plus any others that may be identified. The exact mix will need to be determined and adjusted over time.

20. What is the next step of the project?

The next steps of the project are to: summarize the feedback from this survey and determine the selected alternatives for each reach; perform a detailed study and analysis of the selected alternatives; prepare the draft report, and hold the next stakeholder meeting to solicit comments; finalize the report; submit the final report to the cities and Ventura County for acceptance; research and setup the budget; integrate the projects from the study into the Ventura County Integrated Watershed Protection Plan; integrate the priority projects into Ventura County Capital Improvement Plan.

21. Where can I find more information on the project?

Please visit the Calleguas Creek web site at: <http://www.calleguascreek.org/ccwmp/>.

22. If I have more questions, who can I contact?

Please e-mail your questions to: Calleguas.studies@ventura.org. Or, you may contact any of the following staff and/or consultants:

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