

4.2 Goals and Objectives



Goals and Objectives

As a result of the two-day eco-charette for One Water One Watershed (OWOW) 1.0 back in 2007, the Steering Committee, as well as the Pillar leaders, met on several occasions to develop goals and objectives based on the eco-charette exercises. There also was interest in matching the quality of water delivered to the water quality needed for a specific purpose. For example, highly treated drinking water is not needed for agriculture or landscaping use. The Steering Committee members and Pillar Co-Chairs discussed the impacts of land use decisions on water quality and the quantity of water available. There was a desire for better communication and coordination between the water industry and those charged with land use planning. Furthermore, Steering Committee members and Pillar Co-chairs also discussed how much public open space is dedicated to grass and how much of residential personal outdoor space can be maintained in grass versus other plantings that would be less water dependent. They acknowledged the need for grass play areas while seeing opportunities for water savings by replacing grass with drought tolerant plantings in other areas. The Steering Committee and Pillar Co-chairs suggested that the price paid for water by the consumer versus the actual cost of water, including environmental, wheeling, and infrastructure replacement costs, be reconciled.

With this guidance in mind, a draft set of Goals and Objectives was established after extensive stakeholder outreach and review. The final 2007 product of their efforts is shown below in **Table 4.2-1**, which summarizes the goals and objectives developed in consensus by the group.

Table 4.2-1 OWOW 1.0 Goals and Objectives

| Goals | Objectives |
|--|---|
| Provide reliable water supply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce dependency on imported water Meet current and future water demands during all hydrologic conditions Meet water demands during emergency or catastrophic conditions Maximize water use efficiency Increase use of recycled water |
| Preserve and enhance the environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance the ecological function of open-space Protect and enhance water-related habits Reduce or eliminate invasive riparian and aquatic species Protect sensitive marine and estuarine environments Consider ecological functionality in new development |
| Promote sustainable water solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote strategies that link land and water use Reduce greenhouse gas emissions Reduce energy consumption and promote urban greening projects Develop partnerships for planning and implementation of economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable watershed projects |
| Ensure high quality water for all users | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attain water quality standards in fresh and marine environments Match water quality with intended uses Protect and improve source water Manage salinity |
| Provide economically effective solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage existing financial and infrastructure assets Minimize capital, O&M, and life-cycle cost Promote aggressive pursuit of grants and loans Pursue innovative, non-traditional revenue-generating concepts Protect and value green infrastructure |
| Improve regional integration and coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage stakeholders in planning and implementation of watershed projects Increase communication and coordination Search for projects that meet multiple goals across geographic and water resource services |
| Manage rainfall as a resource | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide appropriate flood control capacity and other benefits to the community Maximize beneficial use of rain water |
| Preserve open-space and recreational opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for recreation and open-space Provide useable open-space for all residents of the watershed |
| Maintain quality of life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance quality of life, and social, environmental, and economic impacts when implementing projects Consider the needs of disadvantaged communities |

These goals and objectives were created with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Program Preferences and the California Water Plan in mind. These goals and objectives are at the core of the OWOW 1.0 Plan and the Pillar groups. Additionally, **Table 4.2-2** shows how the OWOW Plan complies with the CWC§10540(C) Objectives. These goals were not prioritized based on the need for OWOW governance to have the flexibility to weight the objectives in accordance with funding opportunities or current water resource challenges that may change over time.

Table 4.2-2 OWOW Plan Goals and CWC§10540(C) Objectives

| CWC§10540(C) Objectives | Corresponding OWOW Plan Goals |
|---|--|
| Protection and improvement of water supply reliability, including identification of feasible agricultural and urban water use efficiency strategies | Provide reliable water supply Promote sustainable water solutions Provide economically effective solutions Improve regional integration and coordination Manage rainfall as a resource |
| Identification and consideration of the drinking water quality of communities within the area of the Plan | Ensure high quality water for all users |
| Protection and improvement of water quality within the area of the Plan consistent with relevant basin plan | Ensure high quality water for all users |
| Identification of any significant threats to groundwater resources from over-drafting | Provide reliable water supply Promote sustainable water solutions Manage rainfall as a resource |
| Protection, restoration, and improvement of stewardship of aquatic, riparian, and watershed resources within the region | Preserve and enhance the environment Promote sustainable water solutions Improve regional integration and coordination Preserve open-space and recreational opportunities |
| Protection of groundwater resources from contamination | Ensure high quality water for all users Promote sustainable water solutions |
| Identification and consideration of water-related needs of disadvantaged communities in the area within boundaries of the Plan | Provide reliable water supply Provide economically effective solutions Improve regional integration and coordination Maintain quality of life |

OWOW 2.0 Goals and Objectives Update

While all of the goals and objectives under OWOW 1.0 pave the way to a sustainable watershed, SAWPA recognized the need for a common method of measuring progress on meeting the goals and objectives, as well as the health of the Santa Ana River Watershed. As a first step, SAWPA engaged the services of the Council for Watershed Health, formerly known as the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Watersheds Council, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that helped develop a methodology for the California Watershed Assessment Framework (WAF), a derivative of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board framework (EPA 2002). The techniques and technology of the Framework developed by the Council are well accepted by DWR and also play a role in the development of the California Water Plan 2013 Update. The value of the assessment is particularly important to the OWOW 2.0 process, as the current guidelines from DWR require inclusion of performance monitoring in all Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning efforts.

The use of the framework initially was applied by the Council for Watershed Health in 2010 to a watershed located in Los Angeles County called the Aroyo Seco watershed, and provided a template for an assessment process. Under OWOW 2.0, the development and analysis of a framework for indicator assessment was kicked off as a collaborative process among SAWPA, the Pillars, the Council for Watershed Health, and Dr. Fraser Shilling of UC Davis.

One of the key strengths of the Framework is that it uses existing watershed management goals as the focus of the assessment. This allows a variety of managers to participate in creation of the assessment, and assures actionable results for implementation. The watershed management goals drive the selection of indicators and metrics that often can be drawn from existing datasets or data collection efforts.

The process included presentations of the Framework and its application in working sessions orchestrated by SAWPA for stakeholders. This learning process included both small-group meetings with SAWPA staff, as well as larger-scale stakeholder sessions with the Pillars.

Under the facilitation and guidance of the Council for Watershed Health, goals and objectives from the original OWOW Plan were compared to the OWOW 2.0 Framework to identify and fill gaps. The Pillars selected five areas for which to update goal definition for OWOW 2.0: water supply, hydrology, open spaces, beneficial uses, and effective & efficient management. The goals and objectives for each of these five areas are detailed in this section.

Water Supply

Goal: Maintain reliable and resilient water supplies and reduce dependency on imported water

Objectives:

- Decrease water demand
- Increase water-use efficiency
- Increase use of rainfall and snowpack as a resource
- Increase use of recycled water
- Sustainably develop local water resources
- Maintain sufficient storage to overcome multi-year (3 year) drought over a ten year hydrologic cycle
- Reduce green-house-gas emissions and energy consumption from water resource management

The Santa Ana River Watershed, among all the services it provides, is the source of a great deal of the water used by human communities, and virtually all of the non-human communities. In fact, approximately 70% of the supply is of local origin coming from local groundwater, local precipitation and surface flows, and recycled water. The supply of water to communities is foremost in the management effort of the watershed, and this goal seeks to understand the effectiveness and efficiency of the water supply system.

Hydrology

Goal: Manage at the watershed scale for preservation and enhancement of the natural hydrology to benefit human and natural communities.

Objectives:

- Preserve and restore hydrologic function of forested and other lands
- Preserve and restore hydrogeomorphic function of streams and water bodies
- Safely co-manage flood protection and water conservation
- Include ecosystem function in new development planning and construction

The physical processes of the watershed exist on the land and in the water. This goal highlights how managers of water and land (and the relationship between the two) are striving to protect and restore natural processes that benefit other goals within the watershed, like supply or habitat augmentation.



Open Spaces

Goal: Preserve and enhance the ecosystem services provided by open space and habitat within the watershed.

Objectives:

- Increase the capacity of open space to provide recreational opportunities without degrading its quality or increasing its consumption of water and energy
- Protect existing and restore native habitats
- Protect and maintain healthy forests
- Manage aquatic and riparian invasive species
- Protect estuarine and marine near-shore habitats
- Reduce ornamental irrigated landscapes
- Improve management support for landscaping that utilizes native and drought tolerant vegetation
- Protect and Restore wildlife corridors
- Protect endangered and threatened species and species of special concern through improved habitat



Like the Hydrology goal, the desire to protect open spaces reveals efforts to maintain land in a natural condition. Here, however, the focus is more on the habitat and recreational value of the open space. Changing the ethic for managing developed open space, even at the household scale, also is included here, found in the objectives to diminish irrigation and water-intensive ornamental landscapes.

Beneficial Uses

Goal: Protect beneficial uses to ensure high quality water for human and natural communities

Objectives:

- Attain water quality standards in fresh and marine environments to meet designated beneficial uses
- Protect and improve source water quality
- Achieve and maintain salt balance in the watershed

Strong Federal and State regulatory authority drives water quality management. This goal acknowledges the need for water quality on the surface and in the ground to be improved through management changes.

Effective & Efficient Management

Goal: Accomplish effective, equitable and collaborative integrated watershed management

Objectives:

- Improve regional integration and coordination
- Ensure high quality water for all users
- Balance quality of life and social, environmental, and economic impacts when implementing projects
- Maintain quality of life
- Provide economically effective solutions
- Engage with disadvantaged communities to eliminate environmental injustices
- Engage with Native American tribes to ensure equity
- Reduce conflict between water resources and protection of endangered species

This goal is at the heart of the OWOW process, saying that only through inclusive collaborative processes can the necessary unity of purpose be achieved. Managing the Santa Ana watershed requires actors at multiple scales and with vastly different authorities and responsibilities. Through an adaptive management process OWOW seeks to achieve the correct organization of decision-makers for the decisions that must be made.

The watershed assessment and the indicators for the updated goals and objectives under OWOW 2.0 are explained in detail under **Chapter 9.0 Data Management and Plan Performance Monitoring**. The assessment is an effective tool that can be repeated in a time interval to include a set of metrics that express trends. The assessment conducted in this exercise is a snapshot of the current day in the Santa Ana River Watershed, and many of the goals are specifically designed to encourage progress. In five years, perhaps sooner, this assessment can be repeated to uncover laudable progress and spots where efforts should be redoubled.