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**NEWS FROM:**

**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

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**For Immediate Release:**

**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AREA**

LOS ANGELES, CA (October 11) – A draft of a comprehensive plan that lays out the issues and possible solutions to water supply, water quality and the water pollution problems along the Los Angeles County coast has been released to the public, according to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. This Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) should help bring funding resources from the State level for regional projects to reduce water pollution and dependency on imported water, increase native habitat area, open space and parkland, and organize stakeholders of the various area watersheds, all while maintaining and enhancing flood protection.

Members of the County Board of Supervisors have expressed support for the planning process and encourage public participation, which can be as simple as visiting [www.lawaterplan.org](http://www.lawaterplan.org).

"This plan is a tool that can help us bring more recreation opportunities to the County of Los Angeles while also addressing our water management issues," First District Supervisor Gloria Molina said. "It is yet another way we are working to improve the quality of life in this area."

Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky agrees. "It's a huge challenge for an area as large as the L.A. basin to identify and implement the kinds of programs and projects that will really improve things in our urban watersheds. But the payoff is really

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worth it, and I'm committed for the long haul to the effort to clean up our beaches, enhance our wetlands to clean stormwater runoff, encourage water reuse and reduce the need for imported water supplies."

Fifth District Supervisor and County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich said, "This collaborative effort will improve the competitiveness of the County of Los Angeles for future State and Federal grant funds to enhance regional water supplies, protect the environment, and provide for flood management."

Since February 2006, a broad coalition of over 400 local agencies and organizations have been collaborating and holding public workshops to develop the IRWMP. This multi-agency process was undertaken to combine efforts, develop partnerships, find cost-effective solutions, and to identify projects in an area that encompasses Los Angeles County south of the Angeles Mountains, and small portions of Ventura and Orange Counties. Projects are being considered that would have multi-purpose objectives such as capturing stormwater runoff that typically ends up on our beaches, treating runoff through a natural process, then infiltrating the water into the groundwater basins. Such a project could consequently improve beach water quality in areas such as the Santa Monica Bay where pollutants have been a problem for decades and also help meet our water supply needs. Other benefits the IRWMP hopes to provide include protecting, restoring and enhancing natural processes and habitats, protecting and improving groundwater and drinking water quality, enhancing public infrastructure related to water resources and water quality, and providing increased open and recreational space to residents.

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The coalition is seeking public input on the draft plan, which can be viewed at: [www.lawaterplan.org](http://www.lawaterplan.org). Members of the public are encouraged to get involved by submitting comments on the IRWMP and attending upcoming workshops in their respective areas, as well as a regional workshop that will be held specifically to address comments on the plan.

Current schedule of public meetings to discuss the draft plan:

**South Bay Watersheds**

Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 to 11:30 am  
City of Torrance Department of Public Works  
20500 Madrona Avenue, Torrance

**North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds**

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas

**Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Watersheds**

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 - 3:30 pm  
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority,  
1720 Cameron Avenue, West Covina  
Suite 100

**Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watersheds**

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 11:00 am  
County Sanitation Districts  
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier  
Conference Rooms E & F

**Region-Wide Workshop**

Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to Noon  
Metropolitan Water District,  
700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles

A finalized version of the IRWMP, which will be a living and evolving document, could be adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors by the end of 2006.