

## Five Year Implementation Plan 2002-2007

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The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is a broad-based partnership, chaired by the Resources Agency and supported by the State Coastal Conservancy. Through this partnership, public agencies, non-profits, scientists, and local communities work together to acquire and restore wetlands, watersheds and streams in coastal southern California. The long-term vision of the Wetlands Recovery Project is to reestablish a mosaic of fully functioning wetlands systems with a diversity of habitat types and connections to upland communities to preserve self-sustaining populations of species. The Wetlands Recovery Project's geographic scope is from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the international border with Mexico.

The WRP Regional Strategy defines a set of overarching goals to guide the efforts of the Wetlands Recovery Project and its partner organizations. The regional goals provide a framework for setting policies and priorities for the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of coastal wetlands and coastal watersheds. The WRP's six regional goals are:

1. Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems.
2. Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds.
3. Recover native habitat and species diversity.
4. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.
5. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.
6. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.

The Five Year Implementation Plan is a chapter of the WRP Regional Strategy that outlines both short and medium-term steps that the WRP will use to realize the six regional goals. When the Five Year Plan was developed in 2001, it was anticipated that it would be periodically updated and refined. In July 2005, a status report on the implementation plan was presented to the Board of Governors (Attachment 1). Over the past several months, the plan has been updated to represent the current priorities and activities of the Wetland Managers Group, the County Task Forces, the Science Advisory Panel and the Public Advisory Committee. The Wetland Recovery Project's revised plan is intended to be a living document, updated as new strategies and opportunities emerge.

The purpose of the implementation plan update was to identify the strengths and successes of the Wetland Recovery Project and focus future efforts in those areas where the WRP can make unique and effective contributions. Some actions were deleted, generally these are areas where other partners or organizations that are already working. Other actions were added based on the priorities of the branches of the WRP. The major changes to the plan are summarized below:

- *Recommend adding new agencies to the Board of Governors:* At this meeting, the Chair will **recommend adding the Wildlife Conservation Board to the Wetlands Recovery Project.** Staff will continue to follow-up on this suggestion and will coordinate with other entities, including Caltrans, DWR and Dept of Agriculture and Tribal representatives to determine if there are other entities that should be added to the partnership.

- **Project Selection and Implementation: Identify priorities and strategic role for the WRP in removing invasive plants from watersheds and wetlands.** Almost 20% of the Work Plan project proposals received in 2005 focused on invasive plant removal. Most of these projects restore riparian habitat by removing *Arundo donax* and other invasive plants. Because invasive plant removal projects make up an increasing share of the WRP Work Plan, the Wetland Managers Group recommended that the WRP work with project partners to identify a strategic role for the WRP in helping remove invasive plants from watersheds and wetlands.
- **Public Outreach: Focus on promoting education about wetlands rather than access to wetlands.** The Five Year Implementation Plan identified a number of activities related to promoting compatible public access to wetlands. Because other entities have responsibility for managing public access, the County Task Forces, the Local Assistance Program, and the Public Advisory Committee of the Wetland Recovery Project will focus on actions related to education and sharing of information about the importance of wetlands.
- **Data and Information Management: Develop a data collection and information management system that supports and integrates the Work Plan database, the wetland inventory, and regional monitoring data sets.** This system should coordinate with other statewide data collection and management efforts.

The general structure of the implementation plan did not change. Table 1 includes the actions listed in the 2001 Plan and the changes made in this update. Following the table is a narrative section that describes the strategies and implementation actions in more detail.

**Table 1. Summary of Changes to the Implementation Actions**

<b>Implementation Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1. Develop and implement preservation, restoration, and enhancement projects.</b> (Regional Goals 1-3)	
Project Selection	
1.1 Develop a decision support tool to help assess both preservation and restoration potential based on ecological objectives.	On-going
1.2 Identify needs for each watershed in the region.	Complete
1.3 Identify restoration priorities for steelhead trout.	On-going
1.4 Identify preservation and restoration priorities for the Santa Monica Mountains and south Santa Barbara coastal watersheds.	Complete
Identify priorities and strategic role for the WRP in removing invasive species from watersheds and wetlands	New
Project Development	
1.5 Continue project evaluation and selection process for annual Work Plan.	On-going
1.6 Coordinate with regional agencies on mutual priorities.	On-going
1.7 Target project development efforts to priority areas.	On-going
1.8 Develop projects with multiple benefits.	On-going
Project Implementation	
1.9 Build capacity and expertise of local agencies and organizations.	On-going
1.10 Create a regional watershed network.	Deleted
1.11 Continue to implement projects.	On-going
1.12 Secure project funding from state, federal, local, and private sources.	On-going
1.13 Facilitate regulatory coordination for WRP projects.	On-going

<b>Implementation Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>2. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.</b> (Regional Goal 4)	
2.1 Coordinate with agencies working on related efforts to ensure wetlands objectives are considered.	On-going
<b>3. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.</b> (Regional Goal 5)	
3.1 Develop guidelines for compatible access.	Deleted
3.2 Perform needs assessment regarding regional availability of accessible wetland areas and interpretive centers.	Deleted
3.3 Create a regional wetlands and watersheds calendar.	Deleted
3.4 Create a web-based guide describing the location, accessibility, sights, and activities at wetlands and watersheds throughout the region.	Deleted
3.5 Establish a means to track or estimate visitors to the region's wetlands and riparian areas.	Deleted
3.6 Continue to educate federal, state, and local decision-makers.	On-going
3.7 Identify key educational themes for region's wetlands.	Deleted
3.8 Inventory wetlands materials in the five counties.	Complete
3.9 Develop web site for sharing and disseminating education resources.	Complete
3.10 Continue to develop needed outreach materials and activities.	On-going
3.11 Ensure that the WRP addresses the needs of the region's ethnically diverse population.	On-going
3.12 Establish means for private sector to play more active role in the WRP.	On-going
<a href="#">Promote the Small Grants Program to provide support for projects that build capacity and involve diverse communities in hands-on restoration projects.</a>	New
<b>4. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.</b> (Regional Goal 6)	
4.1 Develop regional habitat objectives for the WRP.	Complete
4.2 Develop regional monitoring program based on regional habitat objectives.	On-going
4.3 Develop monitoring guidelines for WRP projects.	Ongoing
4.4 Promote an extramurally-funded research program.	On-going
<a href="#">Update the Wetlands Inventory and supplement with regional historic ecology information to assist restoration planning</a>	New
<b>5. Promote information exchange and dissemination.</b> (All Regional Goals)	
5.1 Expand the WRP Information Station.	On-going
5.2 Establish Watershed Contact Network.	Deleted
5.3 Expand WRP web site.	Complete
5.4 Continue to hold WRP Symposium every two years.	On-going
5.5 Coordinate with related efforts to disseminate information.	On-going
<a href="#">Develop a data and information management system that integrates the Work Plan database, the wetland inventory, and regional monitoring data and is coordinated with other statewide data collection efforts.</a>	New
<b>6. Partner Agencies</b> (All Regional Goals)	
6.1 Identify specific roles or actions for each of the 17 state and federal partner agencies to further the WRP's regional goals.	On-going
<a href="#">Identify additional state and federal partner agencies to participate in the WRP, identify appropriate roles for those partner agencies.</a>	New
<b>7. Funding Objectives</b> (All Regional Goals)	
7.1 Secure project funding from the state each fiscal year.	On-going
7.2 Increase proportion of federal, local, and private funding.	On-going
7.3 Pursue long-term project funding.	On-going
7.4 Pursue long-term funding for the County Task Forces and Local Assistance Program.	On-going
7.5 Secure funding for the Science Advisory Panel and its Research Program.	On-going

## Strategy #1: Develop and implement preservation, restoration, and enhancement projects.

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of state and federal agencies working with local governments and environmental organizations to acquire, restore and enhance coastal wetlands and coastal watersheds in the region. Development and implementation of acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects is the primary tool the WRP uses to achieve its regional goals, particularly the ecological objectives. Actions to improve and facilitate project selection, development, and implementation are outlined below.

### Project Selection

- 1.1 Develop a decision support tool to help assess both preservation and restoration potential based on ecological objectives.
- 1.2 Identify restoration priorities for steelhead trout.
- 1.3 Continue project evaluation and selection process for annual Work Plan.
- 1.4 Identify priorities and strategic role for the WRP in removing invasive species from watersheds and wetlands.

The Work Plan is used by the Wetlands Recovery Project to identify and promote priority projects that are ready to be implemented that help achieve the Regional Goals. The Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the Wetland Managers Group, will continue the process of soliciting project proposals, evaluating potential projects, and selecting a set of candidate projects for the Work Plan. The Work Plan selection criteria were developed with input from the Science Advisory Panel. Recently the WRP began coordinating the Work Plan with the Fish & Game's Southern California Steelhead Recovery Grant Program. Due to the decline in funding, the Wetlands Recovery Project now solicits new projects for the Work Plan every other year.

As an open solicitation, the Work Plan is an opportunistic process for identifying projects. The WRP has also worked to identify regional priorities and develop projects that address those needs. Along with the Work Plan, this proactive planning is an ongoing activity. The first white paper of the Science Advisory Panel identified regional habitat objectives (available online: [www.scwrp.org/SAP.htm](http://www.scwrp.org/SAP.htm)). The Science Advisory Panel is continuing to work with NOAA to develop the Southern California Riparian Ecosystem Assessment Method, a GIS-based tool to identify priorities in riparian areas based on ecological objectives. In addition, several sub-regional assessments have been completed, including studies of Steelhead Restoration Priorities on the Conception Coast, the 2004 Santa Monica Mountains forum and the Santa Monica Mountains Steelhead Assessment. A grant from NOAA has funded the Local Assistance Program staff to identify Steelhead restoration priorities in the rest of the region.

The Regional Strategy, written in 2001, identified wetland restoration priorities within the region and in each County. In 2002, with funding from the State Water Board (Proposition 13), Environment Now staff developed a report on watershed planning in the WRP region that identified existing efforts and priority gaps for future work. As part of this project, watershed coordinators in each of the five counties reviewed watershed plans, restoration plans, and related documents. Some County Task Forces have used this work to identify watershed restoration priorities in their Counties.

Almost 20% of the Work Plan project proposals received in 2005 focused on invasive species removal. Most of these projects restore riparian habitat by removing *Arundo donax* and other invasive plants. Because invasive species removal projects make up an increasing share of the WRP Work Plan, the Wetland Managers Group recommended that the WRP work with project partners to identify a strategic role for the WRP in helping remove invasive species from watersheds and wetlands. An initial meeting of that group took place in January 2006. A report is being prepared that will include recommendations ranging from support for mapping the extent of certain priority species to facilitating workshops on best practices. The WRP will play a role communicating regional priorities to statewide partnerships such as the California Biodiversity Council and the Steering Committee for the California Noxious and Invasive Weed Action Plan.

### Project Development

- 1.5 Coordinate with regional agencies on mutual priorities.
- 1.6 Target project development efforts to priority areas
- 1.7 Develop projects with multiple benefits.
- 1.8 Build capacity and expertise of local agencies and organizations

There are many agencies and organizations working in Southern California to develop and implement wetlands and watershed projects. Most of these agencies focus on a specific geographic area and/or a specific resources issue (e.g., water quality). The Wetlands Recovery Project coordinates with many agency partners to reduce redundancy and help identify mutual priorities; partners include: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Opportunities for wetlands acquisition and restoration in Southern California are limited, which requires the WRP to remain flexible and ready to act opportunistically. However, as discussed above the WRP has worked to identify regional priorities and through the Local Assistance Program and the County Task Forces to develop the priority projects and to get them ready for implementation, one example of this work is the Orange Coast River Park. The County Task Forces and the Small Grants Program focus on building capacity of local agencies and organizations to implement projects. As discussed below (Strategy 5), the Wetland Recovery Project has also sponsored several applied trainings to help project partners develop the skills to implement projects.

Most of the projects on the Work Plan have multiple benefits such as recreational opportunities, education programs, storm water treatment, and scientific research elements. The WRP will continue to work with its partners to develop projects that achieve multiple objectives. These types of projects are particularly important in the most highly urbanized areas of the region, such as the Los Angeles basin, where open space is extremely limited and its use must be maximized for both humans and wildlife.

### Project Implementation

- 1.9 Implement projects.
- 1.10 Secure project funding from state, federal, local, and private sources.
- 1.11 Facilitate regulatory coordination for WRP projects.

The WRP will continue to implement wetland acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects, utilizing its model of working in partnership with local government agencies and/or nonprofit organizations.

Forty three projects have been completed from the Wetlands Recovery Project Work Plan and seventy four projects are currently being worked on. Approximately 2,700 acres have been acquired and protected. Restoration projects have been completed that have enhanced more than 800 acres. A detailed update on the status of project implementation is provided in the 2006 Work Plan Report.

Eight priority projects were identified in the 2001 Regional Plan and significant progress has been made implementing each of these projects:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Status</i>
Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program	The first phase of this project was completed in 2000 and planning for the second phase is underway. Construction of sediment management projects was completed 2005.
South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge	USFWS has developed an enhancement plan for the South San Diego Bay and restoration could begin in 2008.
San Elijo State Ecological Reserve Wetlands	The first phase of enhancement, restoring tidal action, has been completed. Funds have also been provided for acquisition and invasive species removal projects.
Bolsa Chica Wetlands	Restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetlands began in October 2004. Acquisition of adjacent upland habitat was completed this year with funds from Wildlife Conservation Board.
Los Cerritos Wetlands	The Cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach, the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy and the Coastal Conservancy have agreed to form a Joint Powers Authority to acquire and manage restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands.
Ballona Wetlands	Acquisition of the Ballona Wetlands was completed in 2004, restoration planning is underway.
Ormond Beach Wetlands	The Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Nature Conservancy have acquired several high priority properties and negotiation for additional acquisition is on-going. Conceptual restoration planning is underway.
Santa Clara River Parkway	Approximately 2,400 acres along 10 miles of riparian corridor have been acquired, additional acquisitions are being pursued.

The WRP has obtained significant funding for its projects, primarily from the State of California, through allocations to the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Coastal Conservancy, the Regional Boards and other partner agencies. The WRP will continue to work with State agencies, while also attempting to diversify its funding to include more significant contributions from federal, local, and private sources, refer to Strategy 7: Funding Objectives below for more details.

Strategy #2: Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.

2.1 Coordinate with agencies working on related efforts to ensure wetlands objectives are considered.

Through the Wetland Managers Group, the WRP will continue to work to coordinate our objectives with other agency initiatives and programs such as California's Watershed Action Plan Strategic Plan. Coordination is also ongoing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Program, which will result in an inventory of state wetlands and riparian habitat. WRP is also working with the State Resources Agency to investigate and report on the implementation of the state's Wetland Conservation Policy. This project will result in development of a strategic plan for statewide wetland monitoring and data management. As part of that effort, the WRP is working to develop a data collection and information management system that supports and integrates the Work Plan database, the wetland inventory, regional monitoring data sets and other statewide data collection and management efforts.

One of the key functions of the County Task Forces is to share information and coordinate the goals of the WRP with other initiatives. The County Task Forces have been used as a forum for input into several regional initiatives, including: the Critical Coastal Areas Program and the Southern California Open Space Council.

WRP Work Plan projects and partners are included in many of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plans and associated grant applications being prepared for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funding. These plans seek to develop comprehensive plans to address water supply, water quality, habitat and other needs. As discussed above, the WRP seeks to develop and implement multi-objective projects where possible to integrate other public objectives such as compatible public access, education, and flood management into wetland restoration activities. The WRP will continue to work with other agencies pursuing other public objectives to be sure that these projects consider benefits and/or impacts to wetlands.

In January, the five County Supervisors who co-chair the County Task Forces initiated a project to compare the ordinances in each County that protect wetland and habitat resources. The goal of this project is to share information about successful local strategies to protect resources.

Strategy #3: Promote public understanding of the importance of wetland and watershed resources and support for the Wetlands Recovery Project

- 3.1 Continue to educate federal, state, and local decision-makers.
- 3.2 Identify key educational themes for region's wetlands.
- 3.3 Inventory wetlands materials in the five counties.
- 3.4 Develop web site for sharing and disseminating education resources.
- 3.5 Continue to develop needed outreach materials and activities.
- 3.6 Ensure that the WRP addresses the needs of the region's ethnically diverse population.
- 3.7 Establish means for private sector to play more active role in the WRP.
- 3.8 Promote the Small Grants Program to provide support for projects that build capacity and involve diverse communities in hands-on restoration projects.

The long-term success of the Wetlands Recovery Project depends on public understanding of the importance of wetland and watershed resources and support for activities that protect and enhance these resources. The 2001 Implementation Plan identified a number of activities related to promoting public access to wetlands. In this update, the priority actions of the Wetland Recovery Project are focused on actions related to education and sharing of information. This focus matches the strengths, capacity and priorities of the partners that implement these actions, the County Task Forces, the Local Assistance Program, and the Public Advisory Committee.

The Small Grants Program supports restoration projects that include an educational component. Preference is given to projects that involve diverse and non-traditional stakeholders. During the past 5 years, more than 50 projects have been funded in the five counties.

Significant effort has also been devoted to educating federal, state and local decision makers through the efforts of the County Task Forces and project tours. The Sacramento Legislative Education Day educates state decision-makers about the projects and priorities of the Wetland Recovery Project. Recently, the event has been co-hosted with Cal-Coast and the Watershed Network. The Local Assistance Program and other partners continue to coordinate tours, make presentations, staff event tables and participate in community events to share information about the Wetlands Recovery Project.

The Wetlands Recovery Project has improved its website [www.scwrp.org](http://www.scwrp.org). The Local Assistance Program and County Task Forces have worked with other partners to set up a number of websites and distribute information. For example, The Los Angeles County Task Force helped get a grant to create a database of all watershed and wetland educational materials in Los Angeles County. The Public Advisory Committee is working to update the outreach materials for the Wetlands Recovery Project.

#### Strategy #4: Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California

- 4.1 Develop regional habitat objectives for the WRP.
- 4.2 Develop regional monitoring program based on regional habitat objectives.
- 4.3 Develop monitoring guidelines for WRP projects.
- 4.4 Promote an extramurally-funded research program.
- 4.5 Update the Wetlands Inventory and supplement with regional historic ecology information to assist restoration planning

The Science Advisory Panel has developed a white paper identifying specific regional habitat objectives to help the WRP to achieve its Regional Goals and has been working to develop a regional monitoring program to enable the WRP to assess both the effectiveness of its own efforts, as well as the overall ecological health of southern California wetlands. The wetland condition assessment questions that drive the monitoring program are based on the regional habitat objectives. A white paper detailing the proposed regional monitoring program for estuarine systems has been developed and the Science Advisory Panel is working with the Managers Group to evaluate implementation options for this program.

The Science Advisory Panel has also begun to focus on project level monitoring, through the work of the Ballona Science Advisory Subcommittee. A major challenge is to develop project level guidelines that can be integrated into the regional monitoring program while also addressing the unique elements of an individual project.

The Science Advisory Panel staff at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project has been very successful in obtaining additional funds to support research and other projects that complement the goals and efforts of the Wetland Recovery Project. For example, the staff has begun study on the habitat benefits of water-quality treatment wetlands. In addition, the Science Advisory Panel has been involved in developing the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for assessing wetland condition. This method is a tool that can serve as a core component of the regional monitoring program. It has been used to evaluate performance of mitigation projects and it could be used to evaluate the performance of restoration projects. Development of CRAM was largely funded by US EPA.

Future priorities of the Science Advisory Panel include:

- Updating the Wetland Inventory to include more comprehensive historic ecology information for southern California coastal wetlands.
- Developing a regional riparian habitat assessment component for stream monitoring programs.
- Evaluating information management tools to improve tracking of restoration and mitigation projects.

Strategy #5: Promote information exchange and dissemination.

- 5.1 Expand the WRP Information Station.
- 5.2 Expand the WRP web site.
- 5.3 Continue to sponsor WRP Symposium or other conferences every two years.
- 5.4 Coordinate with related efforts to disseminate information.
- 5.5 Coordinate Data and Information Management

Information exchange and dissemination is critical for achieving all six of the WRP's Regional Goals. A new action for the WRP is to develop a data collection and information management system that supports and integrates the Work Plan database, the wetland inventory, and regional monitoring data sets. This system should coordinate with other statewide data collection and management efforts.

The Coastal Conservancy developed the WRP Information Station which is a web-based watershed information system. The Information Station was attacked by computer hackers in 2004. The Coastal Conservancy has replaced the hardware and reloaded the ARC-IMS software. Unfortunately, re-establishing the functions of the Information Station involves significant effort to rebuild the links in the Geographic Information System. The Conservancy has been exploring ways to ensure the security of the system once the system is back on-line. In addition, the Conservancy and the Science Panel staff are investigating whether the Information Station could be expanded to store and share regional monitoring and project tracking information.

The WRP web site ([www.scwrp.org](http://www.scwrp.org)) is a great tool for sharing information. Resources and links have been added to the website to provide partners with access to information that will help them implement their projects. One of the main functions of the WRP County Task Forces is to exchange and disseminate information. Each County Task Force has an email list-serve that functions as a watershed contact network. The Local Assistance Program has developed a directory of all stakeholders groups by watershed for each county.

The WRP has hosted and co-sponsored a number of conferences to provide training and exchange of information. The biennial WRP Wetland Symposium is a conference that is tailored to information needs of our project partners. In addition to the Symposium, the WRP has co-sponsored the Headwaters to Ocean conference and the Local Assistance Program has hosted or co-hosted more than fifteen trainings, workshops and field tours covering diverse issues, such as a funding workshop, a treatment wetland workshop, a fish passage workshop and an environmental compliance workshops.

#### Strategy #6: Partner Agencies

- 6.1 Identify specific roles or actions for each of the 17 state and federal partner agencies to further the WRP's regional goals.
- 6.2 Identify additional state and federal partner agencies to participate in the WRP, identify appropriate roles for those partner agencies.

One of the principles of the WRP is that the state and federal partner agencies will pursue the WRP's goals both collectively and individually. There is excellent participation by member agencies on the Wetland Managers Group, and the purpose of those meetings is to share information between agency partners and facilitate cooperation. The specific roles of the member agencies are defined on an *ad-hoc* basis. Many initiatives such as the Regional Monitoring Program can only be successfully implemented in partnership with the member agencies.

At the July 21, 2005 Board of Governors meeting, it was recommended that the WRP consider adding other state agencies to the WRP. At the March 2006 meeting, the Chair will recommend that the Wildlife Conservation Board join as a member agency. The Wetland Managers Group will coordinate with other agencies to explore partnerships and other possible additions to the WRP. Potential partners include: Caltrans, Department of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture and representatives from various native-American tribes.

## Strategy #7: Funding Objectives

- 7.1 Secure project funding from the state each fiscal year.
- 7.2 Increase proportion of federal, local, and private funding.
- 7.3 Pursue long-term project funding.
- 7.4 Pursue long-term funding for the County Task Forces and Local Assistance Program.
- 7.5 Secure funding for the Science Advisory Panel and SAP Research Program.

The State of California has committed more than \$330 million to the WRP program and projects. Both the State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board use the WRP Work Plan to identify eligible projects. State funds have been matched by about \$130 million from local agencies and \$30 million from Federal sources. More than \$15 million has been provided from private sources. Increasing federal funding for projects is a high priority. It is especially important to have funding allocated to the Army Corps for projects that are ready to be implemented (*e.g.* Upper Newport Bay).

Earth Island Institute has provided nearly \$800,000 for the Small Grant Program and has committed to provide another \$2,000,000 over the next five years. Through the Public Advisory Committee, the WRP has also received private contributions, from Environment Now and corporate sponsors, to support the annual Sacramento Legislative Education Day. The Local Assistance Program has helped project partners identify and apply for grant funds to implement WRP projects.

Obtaining funding for the WRP is an ongoing priority activity. Funding is needed to complete implementation of the priority projects on the Work Plan and to pay for the ongoing operation and maintenance of those resources. In addition, funds are needed to continue the Local Assistance Program and the WRP County Task Forces. During the past year, the Public Advisory Committee has been re-energized and a major focus of its activity will be working to increase private financial support for the WRP projects and programs.