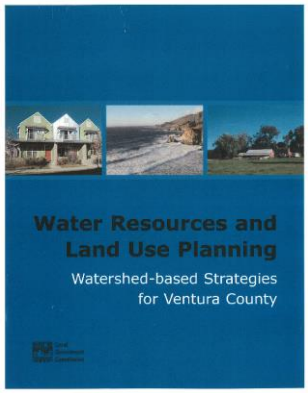
SECTION 11.0 - RELATONSHIP TO LOCAL WATER PLANNING

11.1 Relevant Local Water Planning Documents and Activities - Relationship to IRWM Plan

The purpose of this section is to identify the relevant water management planning documents and processes used to prepare and implement the IRWM Plan and guide stakeholders in selection and implementation of projects which achieve the Plan's goals.



As discussed in Section 9 (Data Management and Technical Analysis) and outlined in the References section, there are many local water planning efforts underway and numerous documents and other resources that address water management. These efforts include monitoring and management of groundwater and surface water, water quality, stormwater and flood management, watershed planning, urban and agricultural water use, climate action, ecosystems and habitat, emergency plans, and water supply reliability through alternative water supplies (desalination, recycled water, etc.). These documents and planning efforts were reviewed and consulted as part of developing the IRWM Plan to assure consistency and appropriate integration.

Each of these planning activities helps address and/or benefit one or more of the six goals of the WCVC IRWM Plan. Table 11-1 below highlights how these efforts help address the IRWM Plan Goals.

Table 11-1
Relationship of Local Water-Planning Documents with IRWM Plan Goals

Types of Planning Document	Water Supply	Water Quality	Integrated Flood Management	Ecosystem Protection	Recreation and Access	Climate Adaptation
Land-Use Plans	♦		♦	♦		♦
Groundwater Management/Sustainability Plans	♦	♦				♦
Urban Water Management Plans	♦	♦				♦
Stormwater Quality Management Plans and Permits and Stormwater Resources Plan	♦	♦				♦
Water Quality Management Plans	♦	♦				♦
Integrated Flood Management Plans			♦	♦		♦
Emergency Response Plans	♦		♦	♦		♦
Climate Resilience/Adaptation Plans	♦	♦	♦	♦		♦
Water Supply Plans and Models	♦	♦				♦
Recycled Water Plans	♦	♦				♦
Habitat Protection or Conservation Plans	♦	♦		♦	♦	♦
Watershed Assessment and Management Plans	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Parkway or Recreation Plans			♦	♦	♦	♦

Local Water- and Watershed-Related Plans

Below is a summary of the most relevant local water or watershed-related plans developed by public water resource and land use planning agencies, which contribute to development and implementation of the WCVC IRWM Plan. Please see the References Section for a more complete list of specific documents

and plans. Most of these plans are updated on a regular basis – typically every five years or as mandated or needed.

General

City and County General Plans

Organizations: County of Ventura, Local Cities

Local jurisdictions are required by the state of California to prepare and update general plans, which provide the local government's long-term blueprint for development and land use. General plans must address certain elements, including land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open-space, noise, and safety; and they generally include the equivalent of goals, policies, and programs for each of these elements.

General plans developed by the County and local cities within the Region include many policies which influence watershed issues, including water conservation, groundwater management, flood control, open space protection, protection of wetlands and significant biological resources, agricultural preservation, water-related infrastructure, parks and recreation, fire protection and risk management, and more.

The "vision" of general plans is implemented through the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance (sometimes called development code). General plans and zoning ordinances complement one another and must be compatible.

The County of Ventura is currently engaged in preparing a comprehensive update to the County's General Plan. This effort will be completed in 2020. The updated General Plan, which will include a Water Resources Element, also includes updated background information regarding water resources, infrastructure and natural resources, and climate change as well as updated policies and implementation programs. The draft Ventura County General Plan Update 2040 includes a Climate Action Plan (Appendix B). The Local Coastal Plan Update includes a sea-level rise vulnerability assessment, as does the City of Oxnard's Local Coastal Plan. Please see Sections 12 and 13 for more information.

Water Supply

Urban Water Management Plans, 2015

Organizations: All Urban Water Purveyors with 3,000 customers or serving 3,000 acre-feet of water to urban water users

Urban water management plans (UWMP) are comprehensive, long-term plans developed to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water demands.

As required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act, every urban water supplier in California that either provides over 3,000 acre-feet of water annually or serves more than 3,000 or more connections, is required to submit an UWMP to the state which includes supply and demand projections for the next 20 years, and describes strategies to assure adequate supplies during average, single-year, and multi-year drought conditions. UWMPs also contain plans to implement a 20% reduction in per capita urban water use by the year 2020, as required under the Water Conservation Act of 2009. UWMPs must be

updated every five years. Seventeen local water purveyors are required to prepare and update UWMPs which must address climate change and drought response.

Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Groundwater Management Plans

Organizations: Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Management Agencies and Stakeholder Groups

In September of 2014, the California Legislature enacted comprehensive legislation aimed at strengthening local control and management of groundwater basins throughout the state. Known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014, the legislation provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for state intervention when necessary to protect the resource. According to the California Department of Water Resources, "For the first time in its history, California has a framework for sustainable, groundwater management - "management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results." (source – DWR website).

As outlined in Section 113 of the California Water Code," It is the policy of the state that groundwater resources be managed sustainably for long-term reliability and multiple economic, social, and environmental benefits for current and future beneficial uses. Sustainable groundwater management is best achieved locally through the development, implementation, and updating of plans and programs based on the best available science."

SGMA requires governments and water agencies of high and medium-priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Under SGMA, these basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans. For critically overdrafted basins, that will be 2040. For the remaining high and medium-priority basins, 2042 is the deadline.

The process laid out by the legislation requires that local agencies form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) to address groundwater basins determined by the state to be of high or medium priority. In the County, seven (7) basins are designated as medium priority, and four are designated as high priority. 10% of all medium and high priority basins are in Ventura County. In addition, three basins in the County are designated as critically overdrafted (Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, Cuyama Valley).

A total of eight (8) GSAs have formed in Ventura County to manage these seven (7) medium and high-priority basins. These include: Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Paula Adjudicated Groundwater Basin, Upper Ventura River GSA, Fillmore-Piru GSA, Mound GSA, Arroyo Santa Rosa GSA, and the Cuyama Valley GSA. The first three agencies listed existed prior to enactment of SGMA. Except for the Santa Paula Adjudicated Basin, the GSAs must develop a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP), or provide an acceptable alternative plan, that includes measurable objectives and interim milestones that ensure basin sustainability. These plans must consider and address the impacts of climate change on the basins. All plans must be completed on a schedule set forth by the State; the earliest deadline is 2020 for critically overdrafted basins. The remaining plans are due in 2023. As these plans are adopted, the IRWM Plan will be revised, including incorporation of information related to climate-change mitigation and adaptation required under SGMA.

Prior to passage of SGMA, Groundwater management plans were prepared for several local groundwater basins including those managed by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA), the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA), a collaboration of entities managing the Fillmore – Piru Groundwater Basins and a management plan for the Tapo-Gilibrand Basin in Simi Valley. These plans included broad goals, policies, and action elements and are typically developed to bring the basins into balance, reduce overdraft, and extend supplies.

Urban Water Efficiency Plans and Reports

Organization: Cities and Water Agencies
Several local agencies have developed water use efficiency plans, in addition to their UWMP or water master plan. Signatories to the California Water Efficiency Partnership (formerly the California Urban Water Conservation Council) MOU prepare bi-annual reports regarding implementation of water use efficiency best-management practices. Another example of an urban water use efficiency plan is the city of Ventura Water Efficiency Plan that provides a road map to buffer the city from impacts from water supply reductions—such as from extended drought, environmental restrictions, groundwater quality limitations, or litigation actions—and to improve the water reduction targets they have already attained.

Water Quality

Basin Plan

Organization: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Each of the California's nine water quality control regions has developed regional water quality control plans to address water-quality issues specific to that region. The Ventura River watershed is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The RWQCB's water quality control plan, called the Basin Plan, was last completely updated in 1994 and is periodically amended as new water quality objectives and TMDLs are adopted. The Basin Plan revolves around a concept called "beneficial uses." These are the resources, services, and qualities of aquatic systems that the regulations aim to protect. Examples of beneficial uses include water supply, recreation, navigation, and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources. Beneficial uses can be existing, potential, or intermittent uses. Once beneficial uses have been designated for various waterbodies, then appropriate water quality objectives can be developed to protect those uses.

Stormwater Resources Plans

Organization: Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program
Stormwater management planning is addressed within Ventura County's MS4 permit and the associated Technical Guidance Manual and Hydromodification Control Plan, developed to implement some of the MS4 permit requirements related to new development and redevelopment.

The Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Program, comprised of representatives of all ten cities and the County, initiated and funded development of the Ventura Countywide Municipal Stormwater Resource Plan which was adopted by County and cities in 2017 and subsequently added to the WCVC IRWM Plan as Appendix J.

Ventura County NPDES (MS4) Permit

Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), from which it is often discharged untreated into local waterbodies. To prevent harmful pollutants from being washed or dumped into an MS4, operators must obtain an NPDES permit and develop a stormwater management program. The County of Ventura and local co-permittees (cities) are responsible for implementing the plan and related best-management practices and land use regulations. The Watershed Protection District (Principal Permittee), the County of Ventura, and the incorporated cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura, (each a Permittee and collectively known as Permittees) operate municipal storm-drain systems and discharge stormwater and urban runoff pursuant to the countywide NPDES Permit (Board Order No. 10-0108 or Permit). The current Permit was adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) in. Though the Permit technically expired in 2015, the Regional Board provided an administrative extension to allow more time for the County and the other Permitees to develop a watershed approach for the next Permit. Subsequently, the Regional Board determined that Los Angeles and Ventura County should be combined into a Regional Permit, which they are scheduled to adopt in early 2020. Los Angeles County has been implementing their most recent watershed planning-based Permit since 2015 and have shared their experiences and lessons-learned with the County.

Flood Management

Flood Mitigation Plan for Ventura County, 2005

Organization: Ventura County Watershed Protection District

The Ventura County Flood Mitigation Plan addresses planning for risks associated with flooding, post-fire debris flow, and dam failure. Flood hazards are identified and profiled, assets are identified, and vulnerability as well as capability is assessed. A mitigation strategy for reducing potential hazards, including goals, objectives, and actions is also included. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Ventura County has taken the place of the Flood Mitigation Plan and was most recently adopted in 2015. See Page 11-10 for more information.

Resource Management/Ecosystem Protection

Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan, Central Coast from Pt. Conception to Pt. Mugu, 2009

Organization: The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON)

Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plans (CRSMP) are part of a larger, statewide effort to address sediment management by the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup, which is a collaborative task force of state, federal, and local/regional entities concerned about the adverse impacts of coastal erosion on coastal habitats.

BEACON's CRSMP is intended to develop a comprehensive road map that addresses how to conserve and restore the valuable sediment resources along its coastline to reduce shoreline erosion and coastal storm damages, protect sensitive environmental resources, increase natural sediment supply to the coast, preserve and enhance beaches, improve water quality along the shoreline, and optimize the beneficial use of material dredged from ports, harbors, and other opportunistic sediment sources.

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) is a Joint Powers Authority composed of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and the six cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme.

Los Padres National Forest, Land Management Plan

Organization: US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
The legislative mandate for the management of national forests requires that public lands be conservatively used and managed in order to ensure their sustainability and to guarantee that future generations will continue to benefit from their many values.

The land-management plan for the Los Padres National Forest describes the strategic direction at the broad-program level for managing the land and its resources over the next 10 to 15 years, and in a way that assures the coordination of multiple-uses (e.g., recreation and environmental education opportunities, forest health and management, air, soil, and water quality, watershed, and wildlife) and the sustained yield of products and services.

The plan identifies the 'tools' resource staff will use to accomplish the objectives that contribute to the realization of the desired conditions. In addition, the 'rules' or design criteria that the USFS will adhere to in implementing projects and activities are outlined. The land-management plan also includes monitoring and evaluation requirements that provide a framework for ensuring USFS programs and projects are meeting land-management plan direction, and that desired conditions will be achieved over time.

Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan, 2012

Organization: National Marine Fisheries Service
The federal endangered species act (ESA) mandates that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation (recovery) of listed species. Recovery plans identify recovery actions, based upon the best scientific and commercial data available, necessary for the protection and recovery of listed species. Recovery plans published by NMFS are guidance documents, not regulatory documents.

Steelhead in southern California comprise a “distinct population segment” (DPS) of the species *O. mykiss* that is ecologically discrete from the other populations of *O. Mykiss* along the West Coast of North America. Under the ESA, this DPS qualifies for protection as a separate species.

Habitat Conservation Plans – Under Development

Organizations: Affected Entities
Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are planning documents required as part of an application for an incidental take permit. They describe the anticipated effects of the proposed taking; how those impacts will be minimized or mitigated; and how the HCP is to be funded. HCPs can apply to both listed and non-listed species, including those that are candidates or have been proposed for listing. Conserving species before they are in danger of extinction or are likely to become so can also provide early benefits and

prevent the need for listing. There are two habitat conservation plans under development in the Region – in the Ventura River and Santa Clara River Watersheds.

Naval Base Ventura County and Channel Islands Air National Guard Station Water Management Planning

Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) is composed of three main operating areas (Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island) and eight special areas. NBVC Point Mugu is located in the unincorporated Ventura County, and NBVC Port Hueneme is located in the City of Port Hueneme. NBVC plays a vital role in national security missions, supporting approximately 80 tenant commands and over 20,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs within Ventura County.

The Channel Islands Air National Guard Station (ANGS) shares the airfield with NBVC Point Mugu, but it is housed on property owned by the United States Air Force and is located in unincorporated Ventura County. Channel Islands ANGS supports missions for both the federal government and the State of California. The federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters or civil disturbances).

Water sustainability is critical to military sustainability, resiliency, and compatibility. NBVC's primary water supply is groundwater extracted from the Forebay subbasin by United Water Conservation District, blended with imported water from the Calleguas Municipal Water District. It is delivered to NBVC Port Hueneme and NBVC Point Mugu via the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline, contracted through and in partnership with the Port Hueneme Water Agency. NBVC groundwater use currently represents approximately 1 percent of groundwater pumped in the Oxnard Pleasant Valley basin. NBVC also operates one groundwater well on Port Hueneme with limited pumping, listed as a back-up drinking water source. It is used primarily for landscaping and water system operations. Channel Islands ANGS is supported by two water sources: a groundwater well, permitted through the County of Ventura, which is used for irrigation only, and a potable water pipeline that is part of the NBVC water supply.

To protect access to, and ensure the sustainability of, the groundwater supply, NBVC and CIANG have engaged in the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Oxnard Subbasin by Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency. The California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) specifically acknowledges that Federal Reserve Water Rights be respected in full, and in any conflict, federal law shall prevail, per Water Code Section 10720.3. The Federal Reserve Water Right includes the amount of water that supports the mission and includes a provision for growth.

NBVC has leaned forward for decades to ensure groundwater sustainability by voluntarily reporting groundwater extractions, shifting pumping away from the coast to protect the aquifer, and working with United Water Conservation District to expand the groundwater model in the areas of Point Mugu and Port Hueneme. NBVC has achieved significant water conservation resulting in water reductions by more than half of NBVC's total consumption between 2000 and 2016. NBVC engaged in these initiatives as a matter of comity and as a good neighbor, rather than as a function of state law and local ordinance to assist with regional comprehensive planning efforts to achieve groundwater sustainability.

NBVC has committed to being a good steward of water resources and to exploring partnerships that help to achieve groundwater sustainability, including projects that benefit both the Navy and the community. For example, NBVC has collaborated with United Water Conservation District efforts to expand the

groundwater model in the areas of Point Mugu and Port Hueneme. The purpose of the modeling effort is to determine the best locations for extraction wells to both clean up existing groundwater degraded by seawater intrusion and to establish an extraction barrier well field to prevent seawater intrusion from impairing water quality within the confined aquifers of the Oxnard Plain basin. NBVC has also expanded the Area of Interest for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program to include the lower Santa Clara River Valley and Forebay Subbasin, creating the opportunity for Navy investment in conservation and restoration efforts that contribute to groundwater recharge and sustainability. These and other such efforts help to preserve Navy access to a sustainable and secure water supply as local partners confront groundwater overdraft conditions and seawater intrusion.

Public Recreation and Access Plans

Vision Plan for the Lower Ventura River Parkway

Organizations: Trust for Public Land and California State Coastal Conservancy

The Vision Plan for the Lower Ventura River Parkway (Vision Plan) was created by the 606 Studio, a consortium of faculty and graduate students in the Department of Landscape Architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; and was sponsored by The Trust for Public Land, Ventura Hillsides Conservancy, and the California Coastal Conservancy.

Although not an adopted plan, this document is important to many stakeholders in the watershed as offering a vision for a river parkway along the lower six miles of the Ventura River. The plan is intended as an analysis, planning, and design tool for government and non-governmental agencies and the surrounding community to help in the creation of a river parkway that is compatible with recreational use, stewardship, river function, and regional ecosystems.

Santa Clara River Parkway Project

Organization: California Coastal Conservancy

The Santa Clara River Parkway is a project of the California State Coastal Conservancy, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy's LA-Ventura Project, Friends of the Santa Clara River, private landowners and local governments, to acquire and restore floodplain land along the lower Santa Clara River for habitat, flood protection, and recreation.

Vision Plan for Santa Clara River Watershed – Re-imagining Access: ARCS of Experience for the Santa Clara River

Organization: Cal-Poly Pomona Studio 606 Project in Collaboration with the California Coastal Conservancy

Re-imagining Access: ARCS of Experience for the Santa Clara River, is a comprehensive vision plan for public access, education, and stewardship and identifies opportunities for the establishment of a trail system over the full length of the Parkway as well as suitable locations for public access. This project aims to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities of increasing public access to an important waterway while protecting the associated sensitive ecosystems and addressing the interests of adjacent

land use. The report gives particular focus to innovative methods of incorporating history into a comprehensive vision plan for public access and education.

Climate Action and Adaptation/Mitigation Plans

Climate change related plans and planning efforts are described in detail in Section 13 and include the County General Plan Update 2040, local climate action plans, energy action plans, climate studies, coastal resilience planning, and others. These planning efforts have been an integral element of this amendment to the WCVC IRWM Plan and have helped informed assessment of local climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies, selection of projects, revisions to the goals and resource management strategies, and determination of future data needs for the Region.

Hazard/Emergency Response Plans

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Ventura County

Organization: County of Ventura
The 2015 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Ventura County (HMP) was prepared to meet the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) (DMA 2000) and Interim Final Rule (the Rule). The Rule establishes the minimum hazard mitigation planning requirements for states, tribes, and local entities.

Participating organizations include eight local jurisdictions in the county, along with school districts, the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office, water districts, Ventura County Fire Protection District, the Watershed Protection District, and the Sanitary Districts.

By preparing the HMP, all participants are eligible to receive federal mitigation funding after disasters and to apply for mitigation grants before disasters strike.

The plan is intended to enhance public awareness and understanding, create a decision tool for management, promote compliance with state and federal program requirements, enhance local policies for hazard mitigation capability, provide inter-jurisdictional coordination of mitigation-related programming, and achieve regulatory compliance. The upcoming update will include additional information regarding the impacts of climate change and strategies to mitigate and minimize related hazards.

Emergency Response Plans, Public Drinking Water Systems

Organization: Major Water Purveyors
All major water purveyors are required to have an Emergency Response Plan. These are comprehensive plans that describe the actions the water supplier would take in response to various major events such as natural disasters or security problems that could damage or disrupt the ability to serve the public potable water.

Ventura County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Organization: Ventura County Fire Protection District

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) enacted by the U.S. Congress on Jan 7, 2003, established a protocol for the creation of a document that articulated a wildfire safety plan for communities at risk from wildland fires —a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The Ventura County CWPP identifies wildfire risks, clarifies priorities for funding, and describes programs to reduce impacts of wildfire on the communities at risk within Ventura County.

Unit Strategic Fire Plan

Organization: Ventura County Fire Protection District
The Unit Strategic Fire Plan identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the unit (Ventura County Fire Protection District). The overall goal is to reduce total cost and losses from wildland fire in Ventura County by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increased initial attack success.

Local Watershed Assessment and Management Plans

Local watershed assessments and management plans of those of surrounding watersheds can be informative to the WCVC IRWM planning effort. Local and neighboring watershed management plans include the following:

- Ventura River Watershed Management Plan 2015
- Rincon Creek Watershed Plan - 2009
- Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan (Volumes I and II) - 2005
- Santa Clara River Enhancement & Management Plan – 2005
- Malibu Creek Watershed Management Plan - 2001

11.2 Ongoing Coordination with Local Water Management Planning Activities

The WCVC stakeholder process is an inclusive and comprehensive means to collectively manage water related resources in the Region. The agencies responsible for conducting individual or regional water-management programs are all represented in the WCVC IRWM stakeholder process. This includes all ten cities, the County of Ventura, sanitary districts, water purveyors (wholesale and retail), agricultural water management entities, state and federal agencies, open space preservation districts, non-governmental environmental entities, business interests, citizen monitoring groups, public interest groups, and others.

WCVC staff, committee members, and all stakeholder groups work together to coordinate information and develop collaborative solutions. Collaboration on management of water resources within Ventura County began in the late 1970s and continues through the WCVC, the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, the Regional Stormwater Quality Management Program, the County Watershed Protection District and other groups devoted to water management in the Region. New information is shared with WCVC members, as it becomes available.