

# City of Los Angeles Integrated Resources Plan

## **Public Outreach Program**

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Prepared for

City of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works  
Bureau of Sanitation  
and  
Department of Water and Power

Prepared By:

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# *Final Report*

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# Volume 8 – Public Outreach Program

## Report: Glossary

Term	Definition
Advisory Group	Stakeholders who volunteered to participate in the City of Los Angeles' Integrated Resources Plan project through evening meetings held in various locations throughout the city; provided comments and suggestions for consideration by the City and the Steering Group.
Capital Improvements Program (CIP)	Program to plan, finance and implement capital improvements, such as infrastructure, facilities, systems
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	A document required by law that describes a particular project in its existing setting, describes the impacts it will have on the environment both on and adjacent to the property, and proposes mitigation measures
Facilities Plan	A master plan or strategic plan that focuses on facilities and programs; in the case of the IRP, the facilities are the City of Los Angeles wastewater, recycled water, and runoff management infrastructure that will be needed in the year 2020
Financial Plan	A master plan that focuses on methods to be pursued in financing the recommended facilities (see facilities plan above); in the case of the IRP, this includes budgets, sources of funding, schedule, and miscellaneous requirements to ensure that funding will be in place at designated implementation milestones
Glendale – Burbank Interceptor Sewer or GB IS	A large, “collector” sewer projected to be designed and constructed in the future from approximately the Los Angeles Zoo to the Toluca Lake area
Implementation Strategy	Strategy for determining the timing of recommended IRP facilities or programs; includes projects that will begin design very soon after the certification of the Final EIR – called “Go-Projects” – and others that may or may not be implemented at a later date depending upon certain “triggers” occurring – called “Go-If-Triggered Projects” (e.g., flows through an existing sewer may increase to a certain average level as the population grows, and after that, construction would begin on additional sewer capacity). The IRP implementation strategy also includes “Go-Policy Directions” on many aspects of the overall project
Information Group	Stakeholders who volunteered to stay informed of the City of Los Angeles' Integrated Resources Plan project by receiving ongoing information, primarily through newsletters and share the IRP information to other people in their neighborhoods or offices.
Integrated Plan for the Wastewater Program, IPWP	Phase 1 of the Integrated Resources Plan; developed guiding principles and fundamental alternatives further developed in Phase 2 of the Integrated Resources Plan
Integrated Resources Plan, IRP	Overall stakeholder-driven plan for municipal infrastructure in 2020; integrated resource planning considers the goals and needs of separate but interrelated systems of wastewater, stormwater, recycled water and drinking water



<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Management Advisory Committee	Committee of managers, primarily from the City of Los Angeles, that met frequently to jointly discuss the policy, management, and other big-picture drivers and criteria for the key facilities planning decisions to be made over the course of the project
Neighborhood Councils	City-certified, independent, self-governing organizations that focus on local neighborhood interests; open to community stakeholders who live, work and/or own property in a Neighborhood Council area (see <a href="http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com">www.lacityneighborhoods.com</a> for more information)
North East Interceptor Sewer or NEIS	Part of the major new sewer lines which will be constructed to gather wastewater from neighborhoods and convey the flow to be treated at the City's Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.
Steering Group	Stakeholders who volunteered to participate in the City of Los Angeles' Integrated Resources Plan project through a series of half-day workshops; key group to participate in the stakeholder-driven planning process to provide an on-going input on a regular basis on technical, environmental and financial development of the project.
Technical Advisory Committee	Committee of technical experts, primarily from the City of Los Angeles Departments of Public Works and Water and Power, that met frequently to jointly discuss the technical drivers and criteria for the key facilities planning decisions to be made over the course of the project

# Section 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The City faces many challenges, including: the dynamic nature of current and projected regulations affecting the recycled water, runoff, and wastewater programs; potential community concerns with siting new wastewater, runoff and recycled water facilities in neighborhoods; potential funding needs for the proposed facilities and programs; and the importance of inter-agency coordination to handle jurisdictional issues. To address these challenges, the City of Los Angeles (City) embarked on a public outreach program using a unique approach of technical integration and community stakeholder involvement to guide policy decisions and water resources facilities planning. This unique approach is called the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

The IRP incorporates a future vision of water, wastewater and runoff management in the City that explicitly recognizes the complex relationships that exist among all of the City's water resources, activities and functions. Addressing and integrating the water, wastewater and runoff needs of the City in the year 2020, the IRP also takes an important step towards comprehensive basin-wide water resources planning in the Los Angeles area, and preparing to adapt to changing conditions in the future.

This integrated process is a departure from the City's traditional single-purpose planning efforts for separate agency functions, and it will result in greater efficiency and additional opportunities for citywide benefits, including potential overall cost savings. This integrated process also highlights the benefits of establishing partnerships with other citywide and regional agencies, City departments, and other associations, both public and private.

The IRP sought to accomplish two basic goals as part of developing an implementable facilities plan:

- Integrate water supply, water conservation, water recycling, and runoff management issues with wastewater facilities planning through a regional watershed approach, and
- Enlist the public in the entire planning and design development process at a very early stage beginning with the determination of policy recommendations to guide planning.

The IRP is a multi-phase program:

- Phase I [Integrated Plan for the Wastewater Program (IPWP)] (completed in 2001): Focused on defining the future vision for the City by developing in partnership with stakeholders a set of guiding principles and objectives to direct future, more-detailed water resources planning.
- Phase II (Integrated Resources Plan): Focuses on the more detailed planning and public outreach necessary to develop a facilities plan, environmental impact report and financial plan and their implementation. Their implementation includes future concept reports (2005 and beyond), studies, design, and construction projects to implement the capital improvement program (CIP).

The combination of Phases I and II constitutes the documentation and overall implementation plan for the IRP, which is intended as an integration of the City’s water (water reuse/recycle and water conservation), wastewater (collection, treatment and biosolids) and runoff (dry weather and wet weather) service functions. By using this integrated approach, the City will establish a framework for a sustainable future for the Los Angeles basin, one where there are sufficient wastewater services, adequate water supply, and proper and proactive protection and restoration of the environment.

## 1.2 Overview of Document

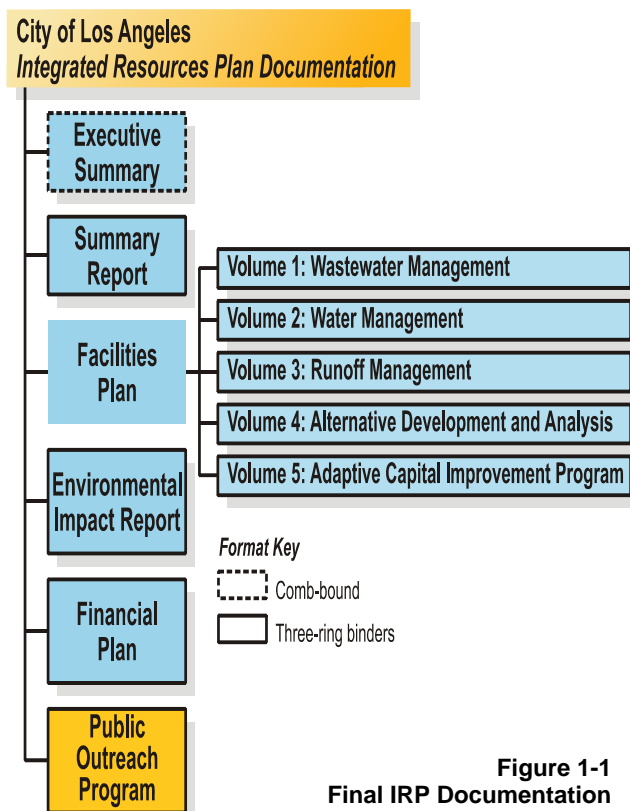


Figure 1-1  
Final IRP Documentation

The IRP documentation includes a series of volumes including an Executive Summary; Summary Report; Facilities Plan (5 Volumes); Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR); Financial Plan; and Public Outreach Program Report. Figure 1-1 illustrates the organization of these volumes.

The *Public Outreach Program* focuses on the extensive, ongoing public outreach and stakeholder involvement conducted to educate people about the IRP process, its elements and potential effects; obtain broad-based input from varied constituencies; and inform those potentially impacted by proposed facilities to solicit their ideas for mitigation.

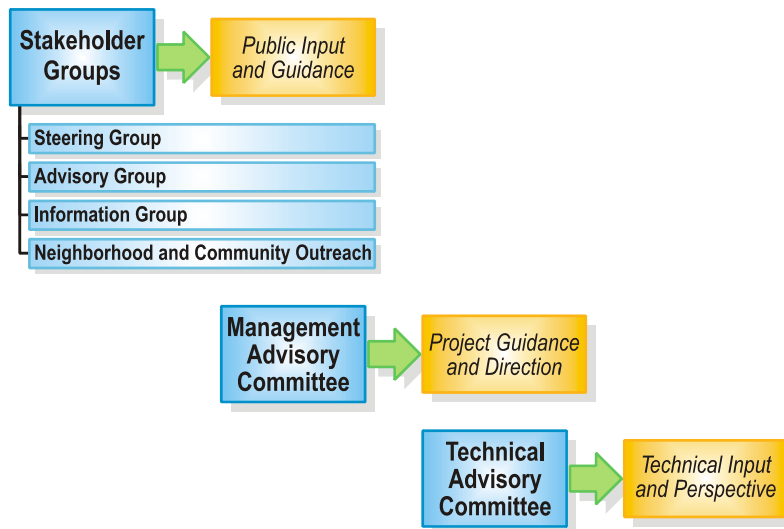
# Section 2

## Outreach Approach

### 2.1 Introduction

Stakeholder participation is one of the hallmarks of the City of Los Angeles Integrated Resources Plan. From the beginning of Phase II of the IRP, a large number of community, business, and environmental leaders were involved. They were dedicated to the success of the IRP because of their role in Phase I of the project.

The outreach program included three categories of participants, each with a different role and source of membership. Stakeholders, Management Advisors, and Technical Advisors comprised the membership of the IRP. (See figure 2-1)



The remarkable thing is how much stakeholder participation increased over time, where typically the reverse is true for large-scale, multi-year projects. At the start of Phase II of the IRP in 2002, there were approximately 50 members of the Steering Group committed to continuing on through the IRP.

**Figure 2-1**  
**Categories of Participants**

By the end of 2006, upon the certification of Final Environmental Impact Report, participation had grown as follows:

- The Steering Group nearly tripled in size and its members participated in a series of 13 workshops.
- The Advisory Group also nearly tripled and participated in a series of meetings held citywide between February and April 2003 in seven locations.
- The Information Group nearly quadrupled and received project newsletters annually for four years.

Over 140 public workshops and meetings were held during the four-year project, including 50 meetings in the months prior to the release of the draft EIR with groups and organizations representing communities that could potentially be impacted by construction of future infrastructure associated with the IRP.

Another outstanding characteristic, besides the number of people who became involved, was the diversity of stakeholder representation and depth of involvement. People were invited to become actively involved with the Integrated Resources Plan program by direct invitations from the Bureau of Sanitation and Department of Water and Power; through referrals from all 15 City Council offices; through outreach to the City's 90+ neighborhood councils; by way of interest resulting from presentations and booths at citywide and regional Congresses of Neighborhoods; and grass roots outreach and media relations.

The Steering Group was comprised of community leaders involved in business and industry (e.g., Chambers of Commerce and associations of construction professionals), several environmental organizations, religious institutions, labor, contract cities, public policy and environmental justice organizations, residents associations, neighborhood councils, academia and interested individuals. Twenty neighborhood councils were represented at Steering Group workshops, along with 35 other residents/homeowners associations and religious institutions. Eight contract cities participated and twenty of the region's largest and most active environmental organizations were members of the Steering Group. Representatives came from every one of the City's 15 City Council Districts.

While the public had three levels of participation to select Steering, Advisory, and Information groups, government agencies and others involved in the eventual implementation of the IRP were encouraged to participate in one of two levels of committees: the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) or the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). These two committees met frequently to jointly discuss the drivers and criteria for the key facilities planning decisions to be made over the course of the project.

The roles of each of three main IRP stakeholder groups are shown in Figure 2-2. These groups participated throughout the four-year planning process. They provided input and guidance, many ideas that were incorporated into the IRP alternatives, and support for the IRP process. They served as a sounding board and advised the IRP City and consultant team about concerns or issues that needed further consideration for the final project to be successfully accepted in this extremely diverse City.

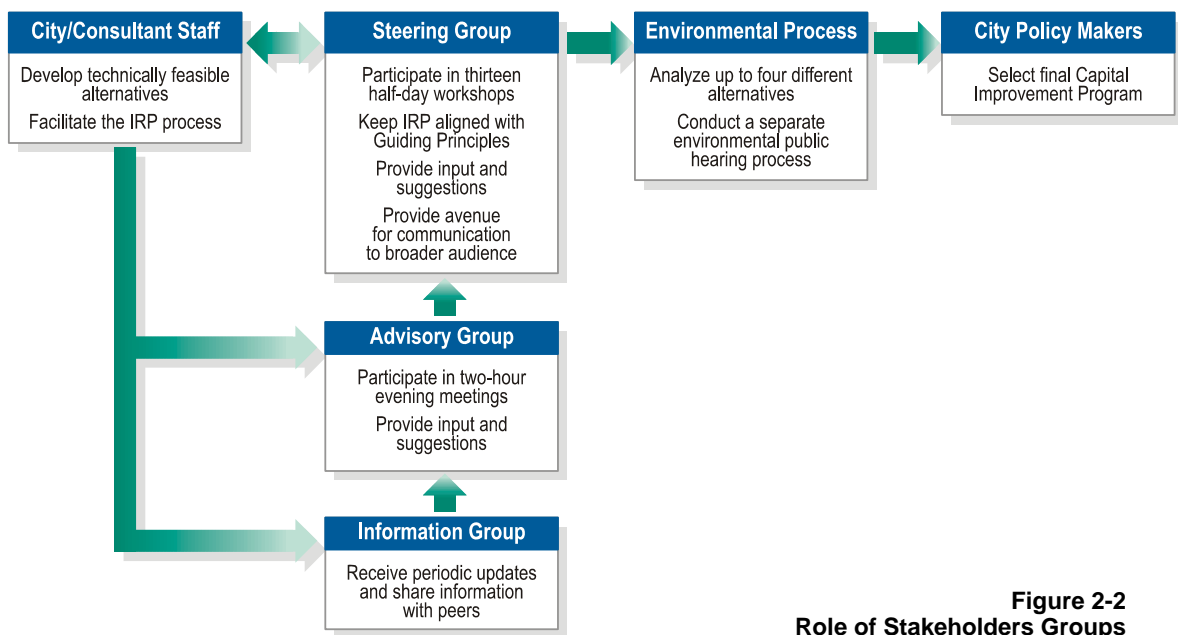
The extraordinary stakeholder-driven IRP planning program was honored by City and regional leaders. In October 2006, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) recognized the City of Los Angeles Integrated Resources Plan program by selecting it for the RWQCB 2006 Water Quality Award in the field of Water Quality Protection. "Water Quality Awards are presented to individuals, organizations, businesses and public agencies that have worked tirelessly and

successfully to protect and restore water quality in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties,” said the RWQCB Executive Officer in his letter to Adel Hagekhalil, IRP program manager.

## 2.2 Stakeholder Groups

### 2.2.1 Steering, Advisory and Information Groups

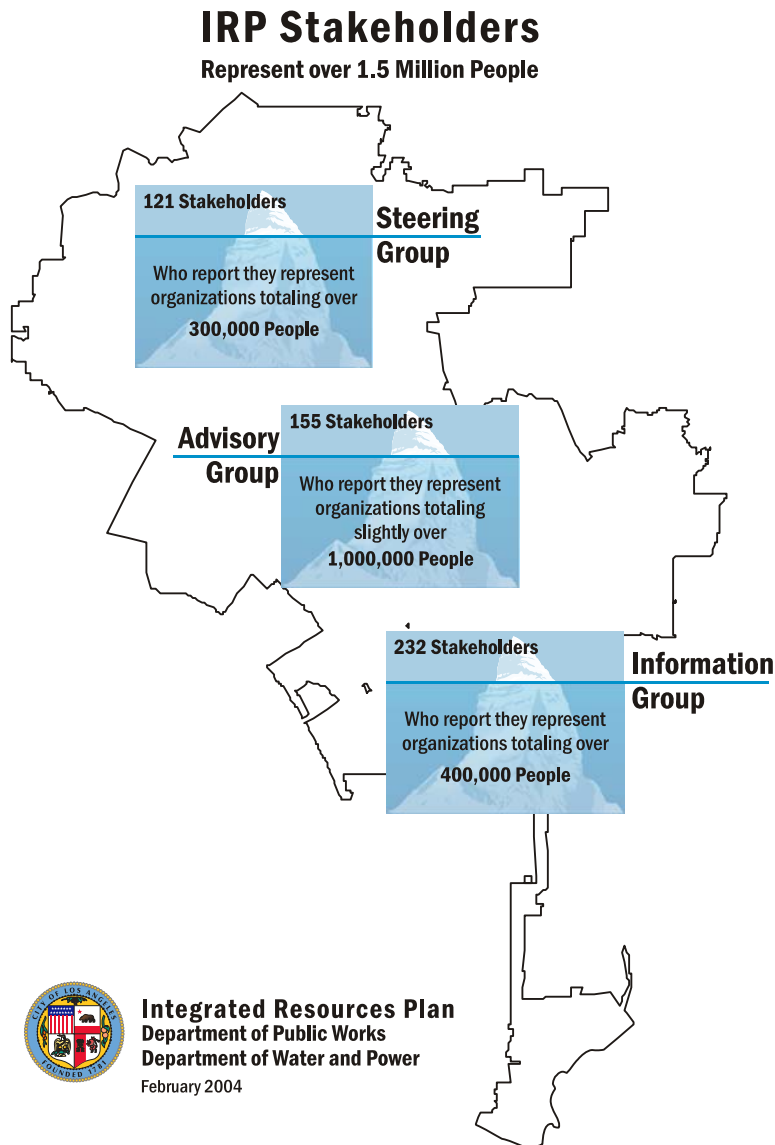
The structure of Steering, Advisory, and Information Groups worked well for Phase I of the Los Angeles Integrated Plan for the Wastewater Program (IPWP), so these were carried forward into Phase II of the IRP. These different tiers recognized that individuals have different perspectives and perhaps limited amounts of time to volunteer, as well as varied levels of interest. (See figure 2-2.)



**Figure 2-2**  
Role of Stakeholders Groups

- The Steering Group had members who could commit to active participation in a series of 13 half-day workshops held over four years and would participate directly in more detailed planning that would result in a selected project with a Capital Improvements Program and an implementation plan.
- The Advisory Group had members who were interested in the IRP and preferred to meet in their communities on a quarterly basis. They provided input on IRP issues discussed at their two-hour meetings, which was then reported to the Steering Group.
- The Information Group received information about the IRP – primarily newsletters -- with the understanding that they would, in turn, share that information with others in their organizations or offices.

Significant outreach was done in 2002 to invite the public to participate in any of the three groups. This included mailing letters of invitation, distributing flyers to various communities throughout Los Angeles, inviting the City's neighborhood councils, and press releases to regional and local media. As "buzz" built around the significance of the IRP and success of the IPWP, word of mouth was also a means of expanding the membership of the three stakeholder tiers. When surveyed in early 2004 for information about who and how many they represented, members of the Steering, Advisory and Information groups reported that their participation in the IRP represented over 1.5 million people.



**Figure 2-3**  
Reported Reach of the IRP Steering, Advisory, and Information Groups

## 2.2.2 Neighborhood and Community Groups

An additional stakeholder group became engaged in the IRP planning process during the last two years during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. It was comprised of dozens of community organizations, businesses and neighboring cities that could be impacted by facilities included in any of the four IRP alternatives analyzed in the draft EIR.

The group had a unique role in the IRP planning process. One of the keys to successful public participation is to engage those elements of the public that would potentially live with the impacts of construction of major infrastructure nearby, and/or the presence of new wastewater, stormwater or other public facilities in their communities. Not only was it critical to make these stakeholders aware of their right to comment on the draft EIR; the City also felt strongly they should have the opportunity to talk with project planners about what could happen in their neighborhoods or parks, what could be done to lessen impacts, and how they could participate fully in the environmental process.

Discussions with this group of stakeholders focused on the project timing, impacts, mitigation, and long-term benefits. The City team listened to concerns and, for the most part, developed mitigation measures that worked for all parties.

## 2.3 Management Advisory Committee (MAC)

The Management Advisory Committee (MAC) comprised of decision-makers representing the many offices that would be responsible for implementing the Facilities Plan of the IRP. These included all wastewater/recycled water and stormwater-related divisions of the City's Bureaus of Sanitation and Engineering, the Department of Water and Power, the Mayor's office, several City Council offices and other City Departments such as Environmental Affairs and Planning, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River, and the liaison to the City's neighborhood councils. It also included representatives of the Southern California Association of Governments, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and members of the CH:CDM consulting team, including the subconsultants TreePeople.

This group of decision-makers met approximately monthly to discuss core integrated resources planning issues like: facility design parameters, flow projections and the various factors that affect those estimates, treatment plant capacities, various investigations including the LA River studies, and current events. A wide range of alternatives were brainstormed by MAC members, some of which advanced to being included in the facilities plan and others that did not because they were not implementable and/or did not align with the Guiding Principles. Valuable insights details, and concerns were gained through the time spent at MAC meetings covering all major IRP planning issues – from technical to environmental to public outreach.



MAC members discussed all of the information that was subsequently presented to and discussed with the IRP Steering and Advisory groups. MAC members listened very carefully to the continuous flow of input from the IRP Steering and Advisory groups. The MAC's meetings and the outcomes of its decisions demonstrate clearly the intensity with which they considered stakeholder involvement and how input from the varied stakeholder groups affected the decisions being made by the City of Los Angeles. The MAC stands out as one of the most important forums where stakeholder input drove the final outcome.

The MAC was also a forum for discussing parallel projects, as an opportunity for agencies of related interests to share progress first-hand.

## **2.4 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was continued from the IPWP (Phase 1) to bring together some of the City's most technically competent and innovative experts in the fields of wastewater, recycled water, stormwater and water conservation. TAC was designed to provide valuable technical insight on the emerging IRP issues to help guide the MAC as well as the CH:CDM team.

TAC members included representatives of nearly all divisions of the Bureau of Sanitation including the Financial Management Division, several divisions of the Bureau of Engineering, and representatives of several agencies like the State of California DOT, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, contract cities, the Watermaster, as well as other City departments like Planning and the Department of Water and Power.

TAC contributed technical guidance on a wide range of issues including runoff management, wastewater flows and treatment plant capacity, funding strategies, innovative (smart solutions) means of managing dry weather runoff, costs, and other details related to potential IRP alternatives.

The TAC met approximately monthly from the beginning of the IRP through September 2003. At that point, the TAC and MAC were merged into a larger, more technically robust management advisory committee.

See Appendix A for the list of MAC and TAC committee members.

# Section 3

## Steering Group

### 3.1 Introduction

The Steering Group had members who could commit to active participation in a series of 13 half-day workshops held over four years. The members of this group participated directly in more detailed planning that resulted in a selected project with a Capital Improvements Program and an implementation plan.

The Steering Group grew early in the four-year IRP, with most original participants going the distance to see the completion of their work. This group met with the City and consultant team to learn about a range of alternatives that would meet the guiding principles established in the IPWP as well as the facilities needs of the individual process streams (wastewater, recycled water, urban and stormwater runoff). The Steering Group provided invaluable guidance that led to the identification of four alternatives that were analyzed in the draft and final EIR. Many Steering Group members served as vital links to their respective communities.

### 3.2 Members

The 125 members of the Steering Group reflected most geographical areas of Los Angeles as well as the cultural diversity of the City's population. Members included representatives of community groups, environmental and business organizations, regulatory agencies, contract cities, other agencies, and policy makers including several City of Los Angeles Council offices.

Stakeholders were invited to become actively involved with the Integrated Resources Plan program by direct letter invitations from the City's IRP team, or were referred by City Council offices and/or through their neighborhood councils. The database that had been developed from initial outreach during the IPWP (first phase) had nearly 600 stakeholders representing a vast range of interests and all areas of Los Angeles. This listing was used for the initial mailing to potentially interested stakeholders, asking them to become part of the Steering, Advisory, or Information Groups of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Integrated Resources Planning effort. The individuals, organizations and offices that responded and participated in the IRP workshops are listed in Appendix B.

### 3.3 Workshops

The heart of the participatory decision making process was the workshops, as shown in Table 3-1. Thirteen half-day regular workshops plus one special reflections workshop were held between 2002 and 2006.

Workshop Number	Date	Topic
1	November 19, 2002	Orientation to the IRP
2	January 28, 2003	Setting the Targets and Defining the Process
3	March 27, 2003	Defining the Objectives
4	May 22, 2003	Considering our Wastewater Options
5	June 26, 2003	Wastewater Alternatives
6	July 24, 2003	Runoff Alternatives
7	September 25, 2003	Runoff: Local and Neighborhood Solutions
8	November 5, 2003	The Integrated Alternatives
9	February 9, 2004	Hybrid Alternatives
10	April 22, 2004	Financial Analysis of IRP Alternatives
Special	July 15, 2004	Reflections Workshop
11	October 28, 2004	Tour of TreePeople Center for Community Forestry and Sustainability Analysis of IRP Alternatives
12	October 20, 2005	Environmental Analysis of IRP Alternatives
13	July 7, 2006	IRP Recommendations

In addition to the workshops shown above, the IRP team conducted a refresher / new member “IRP 101” workshop on December 10, 2002. This 101 workshop covered one-hour sessions on water, wastewater and runoff infrastructure to allow new members to get background information.

Prior to each workshop, a package of information (including an agenda, minutes of the previous session, responses to questions raised at the previous meeting, copies of the workshop slides to be presented, and other supporting information) was sent to each Steering Group member. Steering Group members reviewed the materials in advance so they would be well-prepared for each workshop.

Each workshop was conducted following the participatory decision-making process. Stakeholder input, like the technical studies, was a crucial element in developing the Facilities Plan, Financial Plan, and alternatives analyzed in the draft and final Environmental Impact Reports.

Appendix C contains all Steering Group workshop minutes and feedback reports, and reference presentations.

### 3.3.1 Participatory Decision Making

All of the Steering Group workshops involved stakeholders in the various stages of IRP facilities planning. However, Workshop no. 3, held in March 2003, was – by design – one of the most important participatory decision-making activities of the project. In this workshop, Steering Group members were given information that would enable them to perform a “weighting exercise” that ultimately guided the selection of IRP alternatives. The weighting exercise looked closely at the primary objectives from the IPWP (Phase I): protect health and safety of the public; effectively manage system capacity; protect the environment; enhance cost efficiency; protect quality of life; and promote education. The purpose of the exercise was to weigh each objective against the others.

A survey was designed to enable Steering Group members to compare any two objectives and pick the one that was of higher weight (or importance) for them. Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> workshops, 117 survey forms were distributed to Steering Group members; 30 were completed and returned.

The IRP team continued to encourage Steering Group members to complete and turn in their forms. An additional workshop was held to allow for further discussion so that Steering Group members not only understood the weighting exercise but also had confidence in the results.

The results reflected a consistently high interest in protecting the environment and natural resources. All other objectives – cost, environmental justice, efficient use of assets – were valued, but carried less weight when compared to environmental protection objectives.

The results were used to help define the initial IRP options for wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and recycled water. The results were considered not only as the preferences of the members of the Steering Group, but also as a vital indication of public acceptability at-large. The preference for solutions that valued environmental protection was taken into account, along with technical parameters such as projected shortfalls in wastewater conveyance or treatment capacity within the City’s infrastructure. When considered together, these shaped the options that were analyzed by the technical team, the TAC and MAC, and the Steering and Advisory groups in subsequent meetings.



# Section 4

## Advisory Group

### 4.1 Introduction

The Advisory Group had members who were interested in the IRP and preferred to meet in their communities on a quarterly basis. They provided input on IRP issues discussed at their meetings. This input was then reported to the Steering Group.

### 4.2 Members

The Advisory Group membership swelled from 74 during the IPWP to 218 participants total during the IRP. Earlier meetings relied upon inviting those members who provided their contact information and designated themselves as Advisory Group members. Because of fairly low participation levels at the first meetings, the outreach team conducted a one-time effort to attract additional members to the third meeting series by distributing flyers and press releases. That effort helped increase the numbers of people attending. A list of IRP Advisory Group members can be found in Appendix B.

### 4.3 Meetings

As shown in Table 4-1, the IRP team met four times with the Advisory Group at seven locations between February 2003 and April 2004. For each series the meeting content was the same, but was repeated in seven locations throughout the City to gain regional feedback.

After that, outreach shifted away from organized Advisory Group meetings to general presentations citywide and EIR-focused presentations to organizations that may have been impacted by any of the final draft alternatives. The role of the Advisory Group was to give feedback on IRP issues to be taken into consideration by the IRP team and the Steering Group.

In the meetings held in 2003 and 2004, the same information provided to the Steering Group was condensed and presented to the Advisory Group.

<b>Meeting Series Number</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	February – March 2003	Setting the Targets
2	April – May 2003	Alternatives Analysis
3	August – September 2003	Wastewater and Urban Runoff Alternatives
4	April – May 2004	Proposed Alternatives

Advisory Group meetings were held in these locations:

- Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
- Lake View Terrace Community Center
- Van Nuys State Building
- Marvin Braude Constituent Center, Van Nuys
- San Pedro City Hall
- El Segundo Public Library
- DWP Crenshaw Office
- Pan Pacific Recreation Center, Hollywood
- Baldwin Hills
- Ward AME Church

Appendix D contains the Advisory Group meeting minutes.

During the meetings, members were encouraged to ask questions and provide comments and suggestions. Interactive exercises were part of each meeting to solicit valuable input and increase active participation. A section called “What do you think?” was featured in most agendas.

It should be noted that Advisory Group meeting participation varied quite a bit from one meeting series to the next. The IRP outreach team provided background information at the beginning of each meeting to bring everyone up to speed and enable Advisory Group members present to provide thoughtful advice and suggestions to carry forward to the Steering Group.

After receiving input from the Advisory Group about the proposed alternatives (meeting series 4), outreach efforts were redirected towards meeting with neighborhoods and organizations that could potentially be impacted by construction or operations of proposed alternatives. (See section 6.2 Focused Outreach).

# Section 5

## Information Group

### 5.1 Introduction

The Information Group received information about the IRP – primarily newsletters -- with the understanding that they would, in turn, share that information with others in their organizations or offices.

Two hundred thirty-two people formed the Information Group – people from organizations, agencies, neighborhoods and a variety of interest groups that received periodic newsletters to remain up-to-date on the progress of the developing IRP Facilities Plan and alternatives recommended for analysis in the draft and final EIR.

### 5.2 Newsletters

Four issues of the newsletter were created between 2003 and 2006; the second two were translated to a Spanish version. Newsletters were also posted on-line ([www.lacity.org/san/irp](http://www.lacity.org/san/irp)).

In addition to the newsletters, the IRP team also created a “General Information Fact Sheet” in English and Spanish. The Fact Sheet was distributed widely and was also posted on-line.

Information Group members are included in Appendix B. Copies of the newsletters are provided in Appendix E.

### 5.3 Web Site

The City of Los Angeles developed a web site to provide ongoing information sharing about the IRP. One of the members of the Steering Group – Charles Brink – worked with the Bureau of Sanitation to modernize the look and functionality from a user’s viewpoint. This collaboration resulted in a highly accessible, customer oriented format that allowed the public to retrieve a tremendous amount of program-related information in a timely manner. The web site includes reports of technical studies, all issues of the project newsletter, minutes and announcements of public meetings, the draft and final Environmental Impact Report, and links to a number of related programs and projects. The web site further encourages site visitors to provide their ideas and input on the IRP.

The website can be accessed at: [www.lacity.org/san/irp](http://www.lacity.org/san/irp)





# Section 6

## Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

### Outreach

#### 6.1 Introduction

In summer 2004, the IRP team began the year-long environmental analysis of the final draft alternatives identified in collaboration with the Steering and Advisory groups. In parallel, the IRP outreach team began a series of presentations to organizations throughout Los Angeles to increase awareness of the overall integrated resources planning program. The outreach team contacted 35 neighborhood councils that would potentially have IRP facilities within their jurisdictions and gave presentations as requested.

The Department of Public Works, Public Affairs Office included the IRP in their updates to community organizations across the City. The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) highlighted the IRP as part of their public outreach on other Bureau programs, for example in presentations to all neighborhood councils about the sewer service charge increase approved in 2005. Additionally, the BOS gave presentations to the Contract Agencies informing them of the final draft alternatives. Every opportunity was taken to broaden awareness and knowledge of the IRP.

#### 6.2 Focused Outreach

At the beginning of the environmental process, in late July 2004, public scoping meetings were held to learn the issues and concerns that the public wanted to be addressed in the Draft EIR. During the development of the environmental document, the IRP Team briefed several Los Angeles City Council offices, and conducted focused outreach to neighborhood groups from Spring 2005 to mid-November 2005. The Draft EIR was released in November 2005, and four public meetings were held in January 2006 to receive comments on the draft document.

Focused outreach brought in a new set of stakeholders – those who could be impacted by the IRP projects in the future. The purpose of focused outreach to the organizations and offices listed in Table 6.1 below was multi-fold:

- Ensure that these unique stakeholders – those who could be impacted by construction or operations – were aware of the IRP and the alternatives
- Answer questions about how the project alternatives could affect their neighborhoods and how impacts could be mitigated
- Invite these stakeholders to comment on the draft EIR

Table 6-1 below summarizes the focus of outreach for the organizations who met with the IRP team, in some cases several times, and highlights of the exchange of

information. Additional information about focused outreach meetings can be found in Appendix F.

<p align="center"><b>Table 6-1</b> <b>Summary of Outreach Meetings Related to Draft EIR</b></p>		
<b>Organization/office</b>	<b>Alternative(s) of interest to that organization/office</b>	<b>Highlights of public input and/or interest</b>
<p>Hyperion-El Segundo Citizens Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 12, 2004</li> <li>• July 14, 2004</li> <li>• November 5, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Hyperion Treatment Plant</p>	<p>Comments on odors, noise, aesthetics</p>
<p>City of El Segundo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 9, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Hyperion Treatment Plant</p>	<p>Comments on odors, noise, aesthetics</p>
<p>Del Rey and Westchester/Playa del Rey Neighborhood Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 25, 2005</li> <li>• September 28, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Hyperion Treatment Plant</p>	<p>General interest in IRP</p>
<p>Glassell Park, Elysian Valley, and Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 13, 2005</li> <li>• June 21, 2005</li> <li>• July 16, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving the Northeast Interceptor Sewer II (NEIS II)</p>	<p>Interest in traffic and opportunities to recycle water</p> <p>Overall positive reaction and understanding based in part because of trust established through proactive, early outreach and past successful interaction with Los Angeles</p>
<p>Atwater Village Neighborhood Council</p> <p>(meetings with Land Use committee as well as the full council)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 21, 2005</li> <li>• July 13, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving NEIS II as well as expansion and/or upgrades of the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant</p>	<p>Interest in traffic, noise, coordination with other large-scale construction, and opportunities to recycle water</p>
<p>Neighbors of Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 14, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving NEIS II as well as expansion and/or upgrades of the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant</p>	<p>Tour conducted</p> <p>General interest in IRP</p> <p>Interest in access for equestrians during and after construction of new sewers</p>
<p>City of Burbank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 22, 2005</li> <li>• November 15, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer</p>	<p>Concerns about impacts of construction</p> <p>Prefer that new sewer alignment avoid any part of Burbank</p>
<p>City of Glendale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 6, 2005</li> </ul>	<p>Alternatives involving NEIS II as well as expansion and/or upgrades of the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant</p>	<p>Interest in impacts to residents</p> <p>Positive reaction towards the potential to increase flow through the Los Angeles-Glendale Water</p>

<b>Table 6-1 Summary of Outreach Meetings Related to Draft EIR</b>		
<b>Organization/office</b>	<b>Alternative(s) of interest to that organization/office</b>	<b>Highlights of public input and/or interest</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 19, 2005</li> <li>• June 2, 2005</li> </ul>		Reclamation Plant (City of Glendale owns 50% of the LAG facility and receives 50% of the recycled water produced)
Greater Toluca Lake, Silver Lake and Studio City Neighborhood Councils  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 12, 2005</li> <li>• October 5, 2005</li> <li>• October 13, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer	Concerns about location of sewer construction pits, particularly those near public parks  Interest in working out alternatives that allowed IRP to move forward with fewer impacts to nearby residents
Los Angeles Equestrian Center  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 21, 2005</li> <li>• September 14, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer	Concerns about location of sewer construction pits, particularly those near riding trails  Interest in working with City project planners to develop equestrian-friendly mitigation measures that would allow IRP to move forward with fewer impacts to riders and their horses
Lakeside Golf Course  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 19, 20</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer	Interest in the sewer project
Griffith Park Resources Board, Mount Sinai Memorial Park, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Gene Autry Museum  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 9, 2005</li> <li>• August 10, 2005</li> <li>• August 11, 2005</li> <li>• August 16, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer and NEIS II	General interest in IRP  Interest in access issues and working with City project planners to develop mitigation measures
Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (Griffith Park section)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 15, 2005</li> <li>• May 11, 2005</li> <li>• May 23, 2005</li> <li>• June 17, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer and NEIS II	Concerns about locations of construction sites within or near Griffith Park
Residents and businesses of Burbank  (led to subsequent, extensive outreach on sewer siting issues)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 5, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer	Concerns about impacts of construction  Prefer that new sewer alignment avoid any part of Burbank

<b>Table 6-1 Summary of Outreach Meetings Related to Draft EIR</b>		
<b>Organization/office</b>	<b>Alternative(s) of interest to that organization/office</b>	<b>Highlights of public input and/or interest</b>
Los Angeles Zoo Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 30, 2004</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer	Concerns about location of construction sites in the Zoo parking lot
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (Sepulveda Basin) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 26, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	Interest in IRP  Questions about opportunities to recycle water, underground storage tanks, and flood basin capacity after projects are completed  Recommendations for outreach to stakeholders interested in the Sepulveda Basin  Interest in continuity of communications about multiple projects for the area (e.g., previous discussions about wetlands)
Japanese Garden Advisory Committee, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Committee, Sepulveda Basin Users Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 16, 2005</li> <li>• June 25, 2005</li> <li>• June 30, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	Interest in IRP  Questions about opportunities to recycle water  Concerns about underground storage tanks  Questions about flood basin capacity after projects are completed  Recommendations for outreach to stakeholders interested in the Sepulveda Basin  Interest in continuity of communications about multiple projects for the area (e.g., previous discussions about wetlands)
Van Nuys Rotary Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 4, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	Interest in IRP and any future activity at the Tillman Plant
Cricket Club Board of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 20, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving storage tanks at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	Interest in coordinating during design and construction
West Van Nuys/Lake Balboa, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys Neighborhood Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 22, 2005</li> <li>• August 22, 2005</li> <li>• September 8, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	Concerns about expanding the presence of Tillman in the Sepulveda Basin  Questions about recycling water

<b>Table 6-1 Summary of Outreach Meetings Related to Draft EIR</b>		
<b>Organization/office</b>	<b>Alternative(s) of interest to that organization/office</b>	<b>Highlights of public input and/or interest</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 12, 2005</li> </ul>		
Army Corps of Engineers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 13, 2005</li> </ul>	Alternatives involving expansion and/or upgrades at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	Questions about flood basin capacity after projects are completed
UCLA Extension Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 5, 2005</li> </ul>	All alternatives	General interest in IRP
Congress of Neighborhoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 22, 2005</li> </ul>	All alternatives	General interest in IRP
Los Angeles City Council offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 11, 2005</li> <li>• March 23, 2005</li> <li>• April 22, 2005</li> <li>• June 14, 2005</li> <li>• June 28, 2005</li> <li>• June 30, 2005</li> <li>• August 3, 2005</li> <li>• October 19, 2005</li> </ul>	All alternatives	General interest in IRP  Specific interests in facilities proposed for respective districts  Substantial facilitation and guidance on outreach to constituents

Typically, the IRP team asked for time on the organization’s regular meeting agenda to introduce the overall project and explain the possible future work that might take place nearby. The IRP representatives fielded questions and, when needed, followed up with additional information and/or subsequent presentations. In each outreach opportunity, stakeholders were told when the Draft EIR would be available for their review. Presenters stressed the importance of them reviewing and commenting on the document. Council offices provided the IRP team with recommendations for outreach, including suggestions of constituents groups to reach out to and potential issues to be addressed. The Council offices helped facilitate communications throughout the focused effort.

The focused outreach engaged many people from the organizations that were approached. Some people were supportive from the start and others remained concerned about certain aspects of the alternatives at the time of Final EIR certification.

Outreach was a continual process and extended throughout the EIR process, particularly with City officials and residents of Burbank and Toluca Lake throughout much of 2006. The cities of Los Angeles and Burbank worked on a route for the

Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer (GBIS) that would meet the wastewater system needs while avoiding residential areas to the maximum extent possible.

## **6.3 Scoping Meetings and Public Hearings**

### **6.3.1 Scoping Meetings**

A scoping meeting allows interested members of the public to let project proponents – in this case, the IRP team – know about which concerns they feel should be addressed in an upcoming environmental impact report. The City held a scoping meeting on July 28, 2004, with one session in the afternoon and another in the evening at the same location (the City's Media Center office). Comments ranged from questions and concerns regarding technical issues to advice on giving simpler presentations that would be more easily understood by Neighborhood Councils and other community organizations. Interest in technical issues included odors, the ability to safely construct sewers across earthquake fault zones, water quality and water reclamation. Questions were raised about potential underground storage tanks to serve the City's water reclamation facilities. Stakeholders advised about the meeting presentations, including using terms that were more familiar to the general population, addressing issues that are a priority to residents, and making sure that the atmosphere of the meetings stayed inviting for participants to interact.

### **6.3.2 Public Hearings to Receive Comments on the Draft EIR**

The Draft EIR was released in November 2005 and made available for public comment for 120 days. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was mailed to over 8,000 agencies, organizations and interested persons, including residents within 500 feet of the Northeast Interceptor Sewer II (NEIS II) and Glendale Burbank Interceptor Sewer alignments within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, a notice was published in the *Los Angeles Times* on December 1, 2005, and the Draft EIR was distributed to local libraries. The Draft EIR also was sent to governmental agencies including the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, applicable Responsible and Trustee agencies and other jurisdictions. The Draft EIR also was posted on the IRP Web site for the City and is available for download and review at [www.lacity.org/san/irp](http://www.lacity.org/san/irp).

In January 2006, four public meetings were held to present the findings of the Draft EIR. These meetings were scheduled during the day and in the evenings to accommodate attendees varied schedules. The meetings were scheduled to be accessible to various geographic areas affected by the IRP – the San Fernando Valley (the Van Nuys City Hall in Van Nuys); Central Los Angeles (the LADWP in Los Angeles); West Los Angeles (Council District 11, Los Angeles); and the Los Angeles Zoo at Witherbee Auditorium in Los Angeles. These were well attended, particularly those meetings held closest to the proposed GBIS and NEIS II alignments. Over 2,700 comment letters were received of which 1,600 were form letters.

### **6.3.3 Public Hearings to Certify the Final EIR**

In August 2006, the Final EIR was completed and released to the public. Notices were sent to all parties who sent comment letters, faxes and/or emails and/or attended the January 2006 public hearings or were included in the IRP stakeholder database. Other parties contacted by the City of Los Angeles about the Final EIR included all certified Neighborhood Councils. These councils were contacted via the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and were apprised of the Final EIR contents, including the content of and rationale for the Recommended Alternative.





# Section 7

## IRP Approval

### 7.1 Introduction

The capstone of the Integrated Resources Plan was the certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report, which occurred on November 15, 2006, and filing a Record of Decision. In the time between publishing the Final EIR and its certification by the Los Angeles City Council, other critically important Boards, Commissions, and Council Committees concurred with the findings of the environmental document and, in essence, demonstrated their respective approvals of the overall project.

### 7.2 Reviews and Approvals

As shown in Table 7-1, the following summarizes a series of public meetings during which the Final EIR for the IRP was reviewed by City of Los Angeles decision-making Boards, Commissions, and Council committees.

<b>Table 7-1</b> <b>Summary of IRP Approval Public Meetings</b>		
<b>City Office</b>	<b>Date of Public Meeting</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Board of Public Works	October 18, 2006	Concurred with the findings of the Final EIR and the Implementation Strategy, approved the IRP, and moved forward to the City Council for certification  Stakeholders had the opportunity to speak for or against the project.
Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners	November 7, 2006	Concurred with the findings of the Final EIR and Implementation Strategy; approved the IRP  This was another opportunity for stakeholders to speak and give input.
Los Angeles City Council Energy & Environment Committee	November 1, 2006	Concurred with the findings of the Final EIR and Implementation Strategy, approved the IRP, and moved forward to the City Council for certification  The public had opportunity to address the Committee members with comments or concerns.
Los Angeles City Council	November 14, 2006	Certified the Final EIR and Implementation Strategy

### **7.3 The Happy Ending - New Chapter to Begin**

The IRP team is pleased to say that the Integrated Resources Plan has been approved and is moving forward toward implementation. It has been a delightful partnership for all concerned.