



**Integrated Resources Plan (IRP)
A New Strategy for LA's Water Infrastructure
Information Sheet**

The Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) is an inaugural visionary process for stakeholder-based integrated water resources planning. The IRP incorporates the values of Los Angeles communities into infrastructure planning and integrates planning for the three interdependent water systems: wastewater, recycled water and stormwater. By realizing the relationships among these interdependent water resources and planning on a watershed basis, the community and the environment can get the highest benefit for the least overall cost with the least impact to our communities. Over 100 community leaders have joined the City in planning the future of wastewater, recycled water and urban runoff management in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles is facing many challenges. These challenges include a growing population, an aging infrastructure for wastewater and stormwater, polluted waters at our beaches and waterways, a shortage of parks and open space, a dependence on imported water and a shortage of necessary funding. The IRP is the solution for these challenges.

After an intensive 4-year process that was built on the stakeholder preferences, 21 initial alternatives were narrowed down to 4 alternatives. These alternatives will meet 20% projected increase in wastewater flow over the next 20 years while maximizing the beneficial reuse of recycled water and urban runoff, optimizing the use of our existing facilities and water resources, reducing pollution, and reducing our dependency on imported water.

The IRP provides these multi-benefits:

- Meet future wastewater needs*
- Increased use of recycled water*
- Increased local water supply*
- Reduced stormwater pollution*
- Improved water quality*
- Clean beaches*
- Regulatory compliance*
- Improved water quality*
- Increased open space*
- Enhanced quality of life*
- More jobs*

The benefits will be profound. The IRP includes alternatives that emphasize water reclamation, which not only helps the water environment of California, but also makes perfect sense for the semi-arid region in which we live. The IRP alternatives reflect the community's very strong desire to clean up urban runoff and stormwater, but also to use the current wasted resources locally and regionally. Last, but not least, the alternatives do NOT include a new wastewater or water reclamation plant, but emphasize maximizing use of the City's existing plants in the San Fernando Valley and at the Hyperion Treatment Plant in Playa del Rey.

In November 2005, the City released draft IRP and draft Environmental Impact Report for a broader review by the public. This plan is being developed with the community and for the community and promises to be an example of how we can all work together to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods, improve our water quality, protect the environment.

The IRP alternatives under consideration include the following elements:

- Provide adequate wastewater treatment capacity for increased future, and dry weather runoff diversion to treatment plants. Expand the treatment plants by about 50 Million Gallons per Day (MGD). Construct three new major sewers to prevent sewer overflows.



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- Optimize existing plant capacities without siting a new plant.
- Implement advance treatment in upstream plants to enhance water quality and increase beneficial reuse of recycled water.
- Include diversity of plant expansion(s) to show tradeoffs in cost and flexibility
- Increase levels of water conservation including a program to individually meter apartments and encourage use of cisterns and gray water systems.
- Increase recycled water use by providing additional recycling of 40,000 to 60,000 acre-ft/yr (equivalent to water for 80,000 to 120,000 homes).
- Enhance water quality and beneficial use and management of dry and wet weather runoff by managing 26% to 47% of dry and wet weather runoff (based on runoff from a 1/2" Strom). Dry weather runoff management potential: 25 MGD (26%) to 41 MG (42%). Wet weather runoff management potential varies from 660 MGD (39%) to 800 MGD (47%). Runoff management includes smart irrigation devices, dry weather runoff diversion to sewers, more green space, use of porous pavements, treat/beneficial use through a constructed wetlands or urban runoff plant, onsite treatment/discharge or percolation for new or redeveloped areas, schools and government properties, onsite storage and beneficial use, neighborhood and non-urban recharge.
- Increase water conservation potential by more than 15 MGD
- The estimated cost for the IRP with full implementation of planned elements for the IRP alternatives vary from \$2.9 Billion to \$3.6 Billion. The estimated breakdown is 62% for runoff management, 15% for recycled water enhancements and 23% for wastewater system upgrades

Multi-Benefit Transformation Opportunities

Creating Green Space, Reducing Polluted Runoff and Beneficially Using Runoff

