Working Collaboratively for Effective Watershed Management

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“The biggest influence on future water supplies and quality in California is local land use planning.”

Celeste Cantu, Executive Director
California State Water Resources Control Board
THE
CHALLENGE
is to make this...
act like this...
Smart Growth Principles

1. Mix land uses.
2. Take advantage of compact building design.
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
4. Create walkable neighborhoods.
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.
Restorative Redevelopment Strategies

Let’s recreate our “old” urban infrastructure in a water-friendly manner

- Reduce & disconnect stormwater pathways
- Emphasize multifunctional green space
- Maximize redevelopment opportunities
- Rehabilitate trees & soils
- Restore stream buffers
Restorative Redevelopment

1. It is still a PLANNING issue!

2. Make use of nature’s restorative power

3. Cooperate among disciplines/departments

4. Educate and engage the community
1. Plan for Restoration

1. Inventory what you have
2. Prioritize resources
3. Develop Plan
4. Develop Implementation Schedule
2. Make Use of Nature’s Restorative Power
3. Cooperate and Communicate between Disciplines and Departments

Planning
Public Works Engineering
Economic Development
Parks and Recreation
Environmental Compliance
Elected Officials
4. Educate and Engage the Community

**KEY AUDIENCES**

- Land Use Decision-makers
- Development and Design Professionals
- The Public
- Neighbors and Youth
Two Collaborative Models Leading to Solutions

- **Restorative Development Process**
  - Watershed Friendly Re-Development

- **Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Council**
  - A Regional Solution Focusing on Collaborative Decision-making

- **California Water and Land Use Partnership**
  - A Statewide Solution Focusing on Connecting Solutions to Decision-Makers
A Watershed Council:

- Is Local
- Advocates for the Watershed
- Uses Good Science and Policy
- Provides a Neutral Forum for Different Points of View
- Is Directed by a Coalition of Stakeholders
- And Recognizes the Complexity of the Challenge
To facilitate an inclusive consensus process to preserve, restore, and enhance the economic, social, ecological health of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers watersheds through education, research, and planning.
LASGR Joint Watershed
Collaborative effort to advance Low Impact Development and sound planning to protect water supplies and natural resources.
CA WALUP

• Statewide Network
• Outreach to Decision Makers
  – Delivering practical tools and technical information to protect natural resources and encourage informed land use decisions
  – Coordinated education, training, technical assistance.
• Information sharing (successful projects, tools)
• Connection to research community to address needs of decision makers.
CA WALUP

Delivery of Solutions to Decision Makers
• General education
  – Local Government Commission: Water Principles (lgc.org)
• Training on new techniques: LID
  – UC Davis: Center for the Integration of Water and Land Use Planning
• Tools & technology: GIS, visualization software, ISAT
  – OEHHA: ISAT development
• Demonstration projects
• Facilitation of dialog: bring different departments together for same training
CA WALUP

Mission Statement

- Educational program to deliver practical tools and technical information to protect natural resources and encourage informed land use decisions at the local level.
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