

Volume One Unabridged
Watershed Characteristics Report

Chapter 1
Introduction

SANTA CLARA BASIN



Prepared for the
Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative

by

Watershed Assessment Consultant

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Watershed Characteristics Report

Chapter 1: Introduction

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter contains a description of the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) and its purpose. General information on the characteristics of Santa Clara Basin (the Basin) is provided together with a summary of other plans and studies and their relationship to the WMI.

1.1 Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative

1.1.1 Purpose

The Basin is defined as the portion of San Francisco Bay (the Bay) south of Dumbarton Bridge and the 840-square-mile area of land that drains to it. Great strides have been made over the last two decades to reduce pollution levels and sources into the Bay. However, contaminant levels of concern still exist throughout the Bay and its tributary streams. In the Basin, which drains to the South Bay, efforts are being made to address the existing pollution problems, which are derived from numerous diffuse sources as well as pollution “legacies” that were introduced to the Bay decades ago but still persist. Further improvement will depend on putting into effect a management program that takes into account all of the human activities that influence watershed health and aquatic resources, a program that is not limited just to municipal wastewater and urban runoff discharges, which have been the focus of most regulatory attention to date. **The purpose of the WMI is to develop and implement a comprehensive watershed management program, one that recognizes that healthy watersheds mean addressing water quality problems and quality of life issues for the people, animals, and plants that live and work in the watershed.**

In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), working with local government agencies and special interest groups, established the WMI as a pilot project for California’s Watershed Management Initiative. The Watershed Management Initiative is a statewide effort to manage water resources at the watershed scale.

For this effort, a watershed is defined as a land area in which surface water flows to a particular river, stream, or creek. Watersheds are also places where people live, work, and recreate. Watersheds provide habitat for wildlife and plants. In urban areas today, many streams have been altered by modern development so that watershed boundaries are not necessarily obvious. But they are there nevertheless. The WMI is being guided by a group of stakeholders, that is, individuals and representatives of organizations, who have a stake or interest in the outcome of the WMI. The stakeholders include representatives of local, state, and federal government agencies; business, agricultural, and industry associations; and environmental and civic groups.

1.1.2 Goals of the Watershed Management Initiative

The six primary goals developed by the stakeholders for the WMI are as follows:

- Ensure that the WMI is a broad, consensus-based process.
- Ensure that necessary resources are provided for implementation.
- Simplify compliance with regulatory requirements without compromising environmental protection.
- Balance the objectives of water supply management, habitat protection, flood management, and land use to protect and enhance water quality.
- Protect and/or restore streams, reservoirs, wetlands, and the Lower South Bay for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and human uses.
- Develop an implementable watershed management plan that incorporates science and will be continuously improved.

A work plan has been developed to guide the WMI through completion of its ultimate product, a comprehensive watershed management plan. The WMI plans to publish the plan in four volumes along with a number of supporting documents. The four volumes will consist of this watershed characteristics report, a watershed assessment report, a watershed action alternatives report, and a watershed action plan. The four documents are referred to collectively as the watershed management plan. This watershed characteristics report contains an overall description of the Basin's natural, cultural, and regulatory setting.

1.2 Location and Characteristics of the Santa Clara Basin

1.2.1 Study Area Definition and Regional Location

The Basin is defined as the portion of the Bay south of Dumbarton Bridge and the 840-square-mile area of wetlands and uplands that drains to it. The basin is located at the southern end of the San Francisco Bay Area as shown on Figure 1-1. It is bounded by Dumbarton Bridge to the north, the crest of the Diablo Mountains to the east, and the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west and south.

1.2.2 Political Boundaries

The Basin includes about one-half of Santa Clara County and smaller portions of San Mateo and Alameda counties. Twenty cities lie within the Basin in whole or in part. The boundaries of the cities and counties in the Basin are shown on Figure 1-2. A number of special districts exist within the Basin. They include the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Water District), which is the primary water wholesaler in the Basin and is also responsible for flood protection.

Figure 1-1 (front)

Figure 1-1 (back)

Figure 1-2 (front)

Figure 1-2 (back)

1.2.3 General Characteristics

Currently, about 1.9 million people reside in the Basin, a little less than half of them in the most populous city, San Jose. Silicon Valley, the birthplace of the semiconductor industry and home to many advanced technology-based businesses, is partially located within the Basin.

Until World War II, the Basin was devoted almost exclusively to agriculture, initially as a producer of field crops and later of fruit. Beginning in the 1930s, the establishment of the U.S. Naval Air Station at Moffett Field acted as a magnet for technology-based businesses. By the 1960s, the booming electronics industry had taken root and Santa Clara Valley had become one of the fastest growing urban areas in the U.S. Today, in the northern part of the Basin, most of the orchards have been replaced by residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. The southern portion of the Basin remains largely rural and is devoted to cattle ranching, water supply catchments, and scattered low-density residential development.

1.2.4 Watersheds

For the purposes of the WMI, the Basin has been divided into 13 subbasins or watersheds and the Baylands. The locations and boundaries of the watersheds are shown on Figure 1-3. The 13 watersheds are associated with the main streams in the Basin and the lands that drain to them. The Baylands consist of the tidal wetlands bordering the Bay that lie between mean low water and the highest observed tide¹. All watersheds include the channels through which their draining streams reach the open waters of the Bay. It should be noted that Upper Penitencia Creek is discussed in the report as a subwatershed within the Coyote Creek watershed. It is also possible that the Coyote Creek watershed will be divided at Anderson Dam into two watersheds for future WMI analyses: Upper Coyote and Lower Coyote. The 13 watersheds and the Baylands, as described in this report, are listed in Table 1-1.

The streams that drain three of the watersheds, Coyote Creek, Arroyo la Laguna, and Lower Penitencia Creek, have their headwaters in the Diablo Mountains. The headwaters of the streams draining the other ten watersheds are in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The lower reaches of all the streams are confined between levees or within concrete- or rock-lined channels, and sometimes enclosed in culverts, as they flow through urban areas to the Lower South Bay.

1.3 Elements of the Watershed Management Plan

The watershed management process was divided into four phases as shown diagrammatically on Figure 1-4 (this figure is commonly referred to as the “Roadmap”). The phases are:

¹ The Wetlands Advisory Group has proposed a more refined definition of the Baylands for use by the WMI in future analysis and reporting (see Glossary in Attachment B and discussion in Section 7.2.1).

Table 1-1 Watersheds Within the Santa Clara Basin ¹	
Watershed	Area (square miles)
Coyote Creek	321
Guadalupe River	170
Arroyo la Laguna	74
San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creeks	45
San Francisquito Creek	43
Baylands	33
Stevens Creek	29
Lower Penitencia Creek	29
Calabazas Creek	21
Permanente Creek	17
Matadero/Barron Creeks	17
Adobe Creek	11
Sunnyvale West Channel	8
Sunnyvale East Channel	7

¹ Eleven of the watersheds lie wholly within Santa Clara County. The Arroyo la Laguna and San Francisquito Creek watersheds lie primarily within Alameda and San Mateo counties, respectively. Watershed boundaries and areas were delineated by EOA, Inc.

- **Characterization:** Overall characterization of the environmental setting of the Basin (Watershed Characteristics Report)
- **Assessment:** Assessment of the watersheds and determination of their ability to support desired uses (Watershed Assessment Report)
- **Problem Identification and Development of Alternative Management Strategies:** Identification of the factors that prevent waterbodies from supporting the desired uses and development of alternative management strategies that will enable the uses to occur (Watershed Action Alternatives Report)
- **Selection and Prioritization of Management Strategies:** Selection and prioritization of management strategies for protecting and enhancing watersheds, and development of an implementation plan (Watershed Action Plan)

A report will be prepared at the conclusion of each phase. The names of each report are shown in parentheses above.

Figure 1-3 (front)

Figure 1-3 (back)

Figure 1-4 (front)

Figure 1-4 (back)

1.3.1 Phase I Watershed Characterization

In the watershed characterization phase, information was compiled on the overall environmental setting of the Basin. Environmental elements characterized included history, culture, demography, land use, and natural resources. Information was also compiled on the regulatory and organizational setting and current water management practices.

1.3.2 Phase II Watershed Assessment

The purpose of the watershed assessment phase is to characterize environmental conditions in individual watersheds of the Basin and to determine whether the waters and waterways of the Basin are supportive of certain beneficial uses and stakeholder interests, referred to collectively by the WMI as primary uses. The primary uses include four state-designated beneficial uses – protection of fish and wildlife, protection of rare and endangered species, use of water for municipal water supply, and use of waterbodies for water-contact recreation – and a stakeholder interest, protection from flooding.

Three watersheds, the San Francisquito Creek, Upper Penitencia Creek (a subwatershed of Coyote Creek), and Guadalupe River, will be analyzed in Phase II. The ability of stream reaches and waterbodies to support the desired uses will be evaluated in the watershed assessment report and recommendations will be made for future data collection and monitoring. The detail of the assessment will be a function of available data because no field data collection will be undertaken as part of Phase II. Information concerning conditions in the Baylands area will also be included.

1.3.3 Phase III Problem Identification and Development of Alternative Management Strategies

Following the assessment phase, a determination will be made of the reasons stream reaches or waterbodies are unable to support desired uses. The WMI will then develop a list of possible corrective actions and evaluate their technical and economic feasibility. The possible corrective actions will be largely programmatic rather than site-specific. Programmatic corrective actions are those that apply to an entire watershed or perhaps the entire Basin. However, potential site-specific corrective actions may be developed and evaluated where supportable by the available data. The results of Phase III will be documented in a Watershed Action Alternatives Report.

1.3.4 Phase IV Watershed Action Plan

In Phase IV, the WMI will develop and propose policy and regulatory changes and remedial and restoration projects for implementation. The selected actions will be detailed in a watershed action plan. The plan will include estimated costs of selected actions, a schedule for implementation, and a delineation of the roles and responsibilities of WMI stakeholders in implementing the plan and monitoring its effects. The plan will describe how success will be

determined and how the plan should be modified in the future in response to new data and lessons learned.

1.4 Watershed Characteristics Report

1.4.1 Purpose

Before assessing watersheds in detail and identifying and evaluating management alternatives, it is important to first develop a common understanding of environmental conditions in the Basin as a whole. The information contained in this watershed characteristics report has been reviewed and approved by the stakeholders and provides the factual basis for moving ahead with the next phases of the WMI process.

1.4.2 Report Preparation

The overall approach to preparing the watershed characteristics report was developed by the Report Preparation Team (RPT). The RPT prepared the Consolidated Action Plan (CAP), which described the tasks to be conducted, the schedule, the work products, and the party responsible for conducting the work. The CAP also identified the process and steps for review and approval of all work products. Work was conducted by stakeholders, organized into several groups, with support provided by consultants. Financial resources to fund consultants and in-kind services were provided by various WMI member agencies, including the Water District, the City of San Jose, and the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. Grant funding was also provided by the Regional Board in the form of a 205(j) Grant and a grant from the joint federal/state CALFED Program. Quality assurance efforts included convening a technical review panel to review key technical products that provided the basis for conducting the assessment.

1.4.3 Structure and Content of Report

The watershed characteristics report contains eight chapters. Following this introduction, Chapter 2 contains a description of the methods used to prepare the report. The overall technical approach is described together with the roles of various participants in the report preparation process and the arrangements for quality assurance/quality control. Chapter 3 describes the cultural characteristics of the Basin including a brief history and information on the Basin's current population. Current and future land uses are described in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 identifies various governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the Basin with an interest in the environment. These include environmental, business, community, agricultural and recreational organizations and local government. A description of the regulatory setting is contained in Chapter 6. It includes a summary of laws and regulations pertaining to air and water quality, natural resources, use of the land, and other human activities that may affect environmental quality. The roles and responsibilities of regulatory agencies are also described in Chapter 6. The natural resources of the Basin are described in Chapter 7 with particular emphasis given to those species that depend on waterways and riparian corridors. Current water management practices are described in Chapter 8.

1.5. Previous Related Studies and Plans

The plans developed by the WMI are founded on or coordinated with many earlier and contemporaneous studies and plans for water quality and natural resource management in the Basin. The following paragraphs are a description of other plans and studies relevant to the WMI and indicate how the WMI's work is linked to them.

1.5.1 Clean Water Act-Related Plans and Studies

Several of the earlier plans and studies most relevant to the WMI were prepared to satisfy the requirements of two laws: California's Porter-Cologne Act and the federal Clean Water Act. The Porter-Cologne Act of 1969 established the institutional arrangements for regulation of water quality in California and called for the preparation of regional water quality control plans to guide water pollution abatement efforts. The Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, later referred to as the Clean Water Act, put in place national technology-based standards for municipal and industrial discharges and established a nationwide permitting system to ensure compliance with the standards (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES). The Clean Water Act also called for the preparation of regional plans for water pollution control. In California, the overlapping regulatory requirements of the two laws are administered by the State Water Resources Control Board, and in the Basin, by the board's regional arm, the Regional Board.

1.5.1.1 Water Quality Control Plan for San Francisco Bay Basin

The San Francisco Bay Region Water Quality Control Plan or "Basin Plan" was first released in 1973 and has been amended repeatedly, most recently in 1995. The regional planning requirements of both the Porter-Cologne Act and the Clean Water Act are fulfilled by the Basin Plan.

The Basin Plan includes a list of major waterbodies in the Basin and lists the beneficial uses that they currently support or could be reasonably expected to support in the future. Numerical and narrative objectives or standards for water quality in each of the waterbodies are contained in the Basin Plan. If water quality is in compliance with the standards, then the waterbodies are expected to support their designated beneficial uses. The Basin Plan also provides the basis for setting effluent limits in individual wastewater discharge permits that are consistent with the Clean Water Act's technology-based discharge requirements and overall water quality objectives for receiving waters.

From the early 1970s to the present, the Regional Board has issued NPDES permits to all dischargers of municipal and industrial wastewater in the Basin in accordance with Basin Plan and Clean Water Act requirements. Many millions of dollars have been invested by communities in the Basin to bring their wastewater discharges into compliance with permit

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requirements. As a result, water quality in some waterbodies in the Basin, especially in the Lower South Bay, has improved compared to 1970 conditions.

The Regional Board, the agency with primary responsibility for updating and implementing the Basin Plan, is a participant in the WMI. It is expected that the results of the WMI's work will be incorporated into future amendments to the Basin Plan.

1.5.1.2 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and 305(b) List

Under Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act, California is required to conduct a water quality assessment survey every 2 years and prepare a list of waterbodies that are not meeting water quality standards after the application of the required technology-based controls. The list is submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The most recent submittal for the San Francisco Bay Area lists many waterbodies in the Basin as out of compliance with water quality standards, including the Lower South Bay.

It is expected that the watershed assessment conducted as part of the WMI will produce information the Regional Board could use in preparing its next 303(d) and 305(b) list for waterbodies in the Basin.

1.5.1.3 Total Maximum Daily Load Process

A waterbody is listed as 'impaired,' under Section 303(d), when the water quality standards for a particular contaminant are exceeded even after control measures have been applied. When a waterbody is listed, the Clean Water Act requires that a total maximum daily load (TMDL) of the contaminant be established. A TMDL is the maximum amount of the contaminant that can be discharged into the waterbody without exceeding the water quality standard or objective for that contaminant.

The Lower South Bay is the main receiving waterbody for the Santa Clara Basin – all of the streams in the watershed flow into the Lower South Bay. The southernmost part of the Bay was put on the Section 303(d) list as early as 1996 because water quality monitoring had determined that the levels of metals, particularly copper and nickel exceeded the water quality standards/objectives set for the Bay. Sources of copper and nickel include stormwater runoff and discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants.

In January 1998, with funding from the City of San Jose, several WMI stakeholders began a 4-year project to develop copper and nickel TMDLs for the Lower South Bay. Using the WMI's Bay Monitoring and Modeling Subgroup to convene the process, the TMDL project emphasized stakeholder collaboration through a TMDL Work Group. The Work Group brought together representatives from the cities responsible for municipal wastewater treatment plants, stormwater programs, regulatory agencies, environmental and civic groups, industry and business, as well as scientists to address the complex issues and review the technical studies associated with the TMDL process.

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Over the last 2 years, a comprehensive environmental assessment was conducted using existing data to evaluate the condition of the beneficial uses of the Lower South Bay as part of the TMDL process. The Impairment Assessment Report was completed in June 2000; the Work Group issued three key findings to the Regional Water Quality Control Board:

- The impairment of the South Bay due to copper or nickel is unlikely.
- Copper and nickel should be removed from the Section 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies.
- Site-specific objectives for copper and nickel should be established.

The Regional Board is expected to adopt these recommendations in October 2000 and the result will be the development of additional action plans that will serve to prevent any further water quality degradation due to copper or nickel. The tasks associated with these action plans will be incorporated into regulatory requirements included in wastewater and stormwater permits as well as in the recommendations of the Watershed Action Plan. The success of this stakeholder-driven copper/nickel TMDL process serves as a model for future TMDLs that will be conducted over the next several years.

Under this model, the WMI will serve as the stakeholder clearinghouse for TMDL studies in the Lower South Bay, including the mercury TMDL process in the Guadalupe River watershed and the sediment TMDL in the San Francisquito Creek. It is expected that the recommendations of these TMDL processes will be incorporated into the WMI's Watershed Action Plan to ensure that the burden and the benefits of these recommendations are agreed upon and shared by all stakeholders.

1.5.1.4 San Francisco Estuary Project

Section 320 of the Clean Water Act established the National Estuary Program. As an estuary judged to be of national significance, San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta were selected for the program. The San Francisco Estuary Project was created to prepare a plan to protect and restore the estuary. Finished and approved by the Governor and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1993, it is known as the San Francisco Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The chair of the WMI Core Group sits on the committee responsible for implementation of the CCMP and is thus able to facilitate coordination of CCMP and WMI activities.

1.5.1.5 Stormwater Management Plans (see also Section 8.4.2)

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act included the requirement that NPDES permits be obtained by municipalities that operate separate storm sewer collection systems to control urban stormwater discharges to waters of the U.S. The County and the 13 cities in the Basin operate collection systems that convey stormwater from streets and paved surfaces to the watershed creeks through a system of inlets, underground pipes, and outfalls and are subject to the permit.

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The Water District has jurisdiction over the stream channels and is considered a key agency for the purpose of protecting beneficial uses and maintaining water quality. Stormwater permits to discharge stormwater from these urban areas were first issued to the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program, a consortium of these cities, Santa Clara County and surrounding counties, and the District as co-permittees in 1990. Conditions in the permit require co-permittees to implement state-approved stormwater management plans currently called Urban Runoff Management Plans. The plans call for the implementation of a broad range of programs that incorporate best management practices (BMPs) designed to reduce the discharge of contaminants in stormwater to the “maximum extent practicable.” The BMPs are primarily nonstructural urban “good housekeeping” measures including public education programs, elimination of sanitary and illegal dumping into stormdrains, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and standards for new development that will limit the emission of water pollutants. In addition, the permit requires that these agencies work together to develop watershed management measures through a watershed management strategy for the Basin. The ‘Watershed Management Measures’ element of the permit is a major driver for agency participation in the WMI and development of the Watershed Management Plan.

1.5.2 Plans Prepared by Santa Clara Valley Water District

Several plans have been developed by the Water District to fulfill its responsibilities for water supply and flood management in much of the Basin. Both responsibilities need to be considered by the WMI.

1.5.2.1 Integrated Water Resources Plan

The Integrated Water Resources Plan, finalized in 1997, describes the Water District’s preferred strategy for providing a reliable supply of high-quality water to its customers through the year 2020. It is relevant to the WMI because the Water District’s operations profoundly affect the management and distribution of water in the Basin.

The preferred strategy has four new elements, two of which, water banking and long-term water transfers from other water agencies, are expected to produce most of the additional water needed to meet demand in the Water District’s service area in 2020. Water banking involves artificially recharging excess water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers into groundwater reservoirs in the Central Valley in wet years. In dry years, it is withdrawn and used to satisfy water demand that would otherwise have to be met by diverting water from surface waterbodies. Water banking would increase the Water District’s ability to obtain water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in dry years. The other elements are water recycling and demand management (water conservation).

1.5.2.2 Comprehensive Flood Management Program

As part of a comprehensive flood management program, the Water District is currently reviewing flood protection needs on all creeks in its service area. The goal of the program is to

provide protection from a 1 percent flood, that is, a flood with a 1 percent chance of occurrence in any given year. About one-half of the creeks managed by the Water District currently meet this goal, and a number of additional flood management projects are planned in the next few years. Other local government entities, such as the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, will play critical roles on individual sub-basins. It will be important to coordinate the Water District's flood management program with the WMI and all local government entities to meet both the need for protection from flooding (a goal of both the program and the WMI) and the WMI's natural resource enhancement goals. Coordination between all parties is the role of the WMI's Flood Management Subgroup.

1.5.3 Other Studies and Plans

1.5.3.1 San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project

The CCMP developed by the San Francisco Estuary Project identified the protection and restoration of wetlands as one of its highest priorities. The San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project was set up to develop a vision of the habitats that are needed to sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife in the baylands of the Bay. The project assembled available information on the wetlands bordering the Bay, including those within the Basin, assessed their current condition, and established goals for improvements. The Baylands Ecosystem Goals for the Lower South Bay include increasing the area of tidal marsh from 9,000 acres to between 24,000 to 29,000 acres, and improving between 10,000 and 15,000 acres of saline ponds to provide better wildlife habitat.

The Baylands Ecosystem Goals will serve as the foundation for a watershed assessment of the Baylands portion of the Basin.

1.5.3.2 City and County General Plans

City and county general plans delineate current and permissible future land uses within the Basin. Community general plans are updated periodically. Land use in the Basin influences water quality and wildlife habitat values in stream corridors and the amount of water that streams must carry. Protection of natural resources, a goal of the WMI, may require changes in land use plans. The WMI's recommendations for improvements will need to be incorporated into future community general plan updates.

1.5.3.3 Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort

The Water District manages several streams in the Basin, primarily Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek, for water supply and flood control purposes. The Water District has been named in a complaint filed before the State Water Resources Control Board charging that its management practices are having adverse impacts on salmon and steelhead and their habitat. To address the complaint the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) was initiated jointly by the Water District and the California Department of Fish and Game. The

FAHCE involves the completion of a number of studies designed to provide a technical basis for formulating management regimes for the three streams that better balance environmental and economic goals. It is expected that data from the FAHCE will be used in the watershed assessment phase of the WMI.

1.5.3.4 Coordinated Resources Management Planning for the San Francisquito Creek Watershed

The San Francisquito Coordinated Resources Management and Planning (CRMP) group, now called the San Francisquito Watershed Council (Watershed Council) was established under a statewide program designed to facilitate cooperation between government, residents, business and other interested parties on resource management issues. The Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation (now called Acterra) is serving as the non-profit group to house the Watershed Council. The Watershed Council prepared a draft watershed plan focusing on several issues, including natural resources, erosion, pollution, flooding, and several social concerns (damaging flooding occurred on the creek in February 1998). Information from the Watershed Council will be used during the watershed assessment phase of the WMI.

Following the preparation of the draft watershed plan, a new local agency was created, the San Francisquito Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA is a coalition of local government agencies created to plan and implement flood management and watershed protection plans. Development of improvements for San Francisquito Creek will require action by the JPA and coordination with the Watershed Council and the WMI.