



Section 4 Objectives

4.1 Methodology of Determination

Planning objectives represent what the stakeholders in the region want to achieve regarding the watershed, including, but not limited to, water supplies, water quality, flood management, ecosystem restoration and recreation. Through two stakeholder workshops and extended email communication, the group created a preliminary list of objectives used to define solutions to challenges facing the region. The following paragraphs further describe how the objectives were selected.

The County held a stakeholder meeting on June 27, 2007 to introduce the concept of Integrated Regional Watershed Planning Management and develop draft objectives for the region. At this initial meeting, stakeholders were divided into three groups and brainstormed for planning needs in the area. Each group presented these issues and proposed draft objectives to fulfill these needs. Large arrays of objectives were developed but common themes emerged. The County then summarized the stakeholders' ideas into a workable list of draft objectives to address the stakeholders' broad range of watershed related priorities. Each objective was followed by a short description how the objective relates to the region. Sub-objectives provided further explanation of the objectives. Draft objectives were sent out to stakeholders for comments and revisions. The County then revised the draft objectives according to stakeholder comments and redistributed the revised objectives.

The main focus of a second stakeholder workshop, held on December 5, 2007, was to finalize the draft objectives. The workshop began with a group exercise discussing each objective that were then analyzed in detail by the stakeholders. After an extensive discussion the stakeholders agreed on the overall objectives. The stakeholders next step was to rank the objectives by participating in two weighting exercises; one to show individual rankings of the objectives and the other to determine an overall group ranking. In the first exercise, stakeholders evaluated individual objectives to demonstrate the relative importance to other objectives. For the individual weighting, each stakeholder ranked the objectives 1 to 10; with 1 as the most important and 10 as the least important. This weighting process is essential to ensure that stakeholder needs are being considered.



The second exercise was the group weighting. Stakeholders used a process called “dot voting” in which each objective was displayed individually on a large poster and the stakeholders “voted” by placing dot-shaped stickers beside the objective. Each member received 20 dots, or votes, to assign to objectives. The stakeholder could assign more dots to the objectives he/she felt were most important to the region. Stakeholders were encouraged to discuss amongst the group the importance of the various objectives. The objective that received the most dots was rated the most important according to the group. All stakeholders including those not in attendance were given until the end of January 2008 to provide additional comments on the objectives.

4.2 Ranking of Objectives

Stakeholders representing cities, water districts, wastewater agencies, flood management agencies, non profit and private entities participated in the ranking of the objectives. Table 4-1 presents the summary of the ranking results. Rankings will be used later on in the stakeholder process to form a project prioritization method as the IRWMP is further developed to incorporate specific projects. For example, each project will be ranked in accordance with the likelihood the project or program achieves IRWMP objectives.

Table 4-1 Dot Voting Results		
Objective	Total # of Dots	Dot Ranking
Protect and Enhance Water Quality in Region	86	1
Manage Runoff and Its Related Impacts from Existing and Future Land Uses	65	2
Enhance Local Water Supplies	64	3
Enhance and Maintain Wetlands/Coastal Areas and Wetland Functions	50	4
Enhance Recreational Opportunities in the Watershed	41	5
Promote Flood Management	35	6
Maximize Funding from State and Federal Sources	34	7
Promote and Support Public Education Programs and Available Information	27	8
Reduce Invasive Species and Enhance and Maintain Habitat	27	8
Promote Environmental Justice	20	9

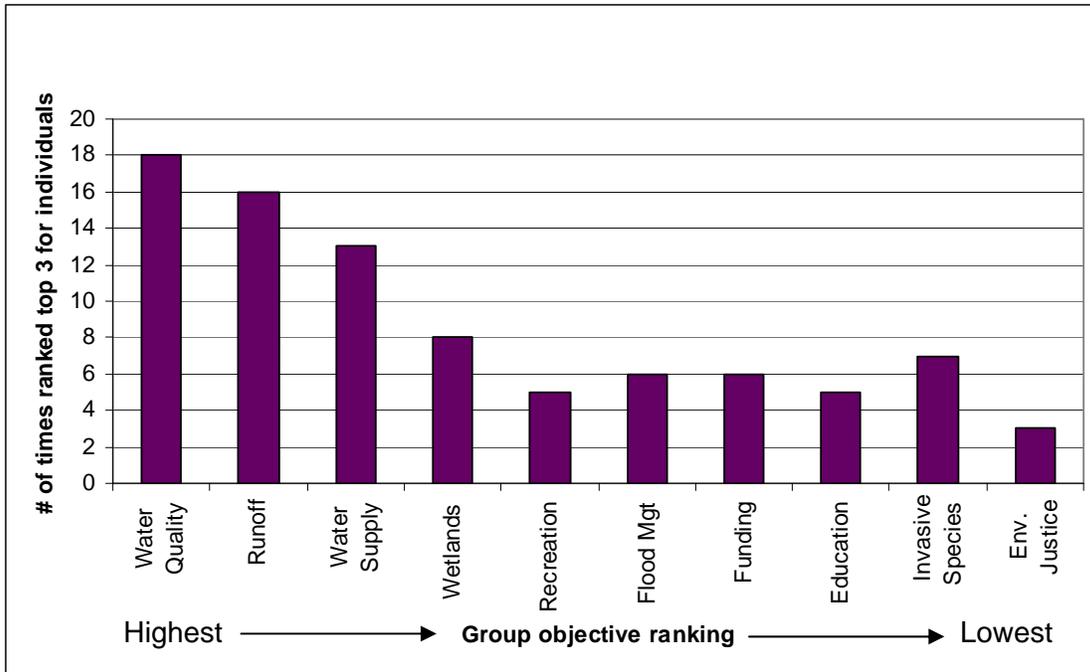


Figure 4-1
Summary of Individual Results Relative to Group Voting

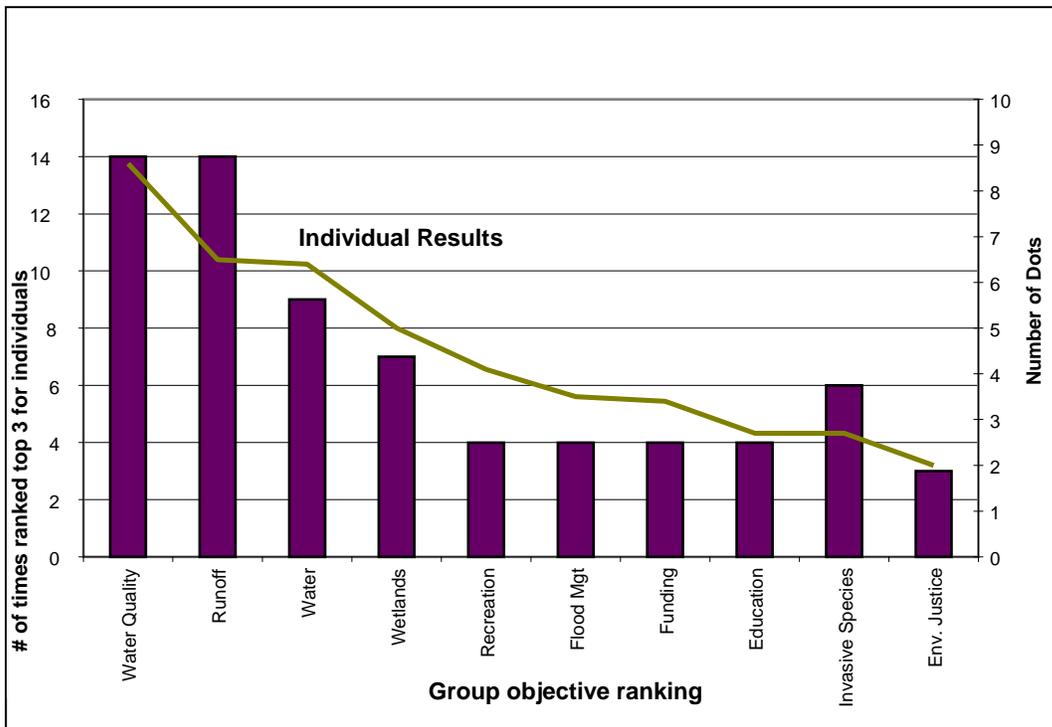


Figure 4-2
Individual Results Relative to Group Voting
One Representative per Agency

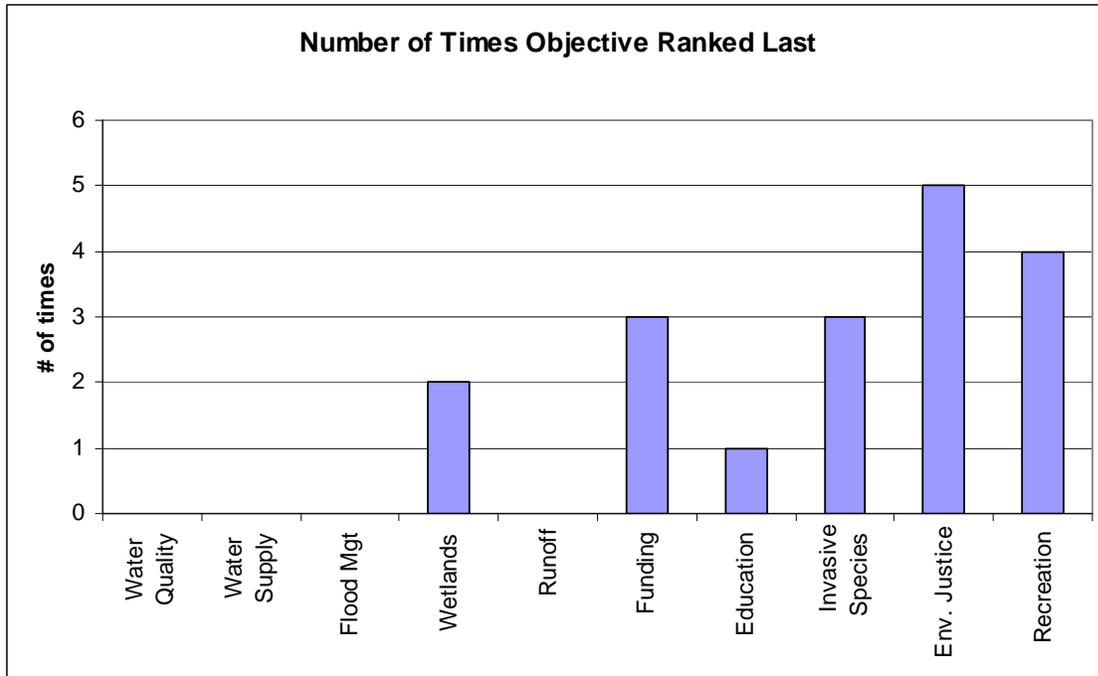


Figure 4-3
Number of Times Objective Ranked Last

4.3 Objectives

The objectives and descriptions described in this section are the result of the second workshop and incorporated comments

Protect and Enhance Water Quality in Region

- ◆ Protect and improve the surface water quality in the rivers, streams, harbors and channels within the North Orange County Watershed Management Area, in order to reduce impacts on these systems and their receiving waters;
- ◆ Address current and planned Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); and
- ◆ Protect the quality of surface waters and groundwater, consistent with their appropriate beneficial uses and promote programs and projects that improve water quality.

Enhance Local Water Supplies

- ◆ Reduce reliance on imported water by supporting groundwater recharge, groundwater supply and treatment programs, and implementing demand management measures, including development and use of recycled water and water conservation strategies;



- ◆ Reduce the vulnerability of water supply systems to droughts, seismic and other related emergencies, and the effects of climate change; and
- ◆ Protect groundwater from contamination and seawater intrusion. Evaluate new local water supplies, such as ocean water desalination.

Promote Flood Management

- ◆ Develop and maintain flood protection through cooperative multipurpose water quality and flood management programs and projects;
- ◆ Promote projects and programs that provide flood protection; and
- ◆ Protect and restore habitats and ecosystems while balancing flood protection and public safety needs.

Enhance and Maintain Wetlands/Coastal Areas and Wetland Functions

- ◆ Improve habitat and water quality by constructing wetlands, restoring streams and daylighting storm drains;
- ◆ Strive to provide the maximum possible benefit to the public and habitat by coordinating wetland restoration with groundwater protection in cooperation with vector control and other entities;
- ◆ Integrate wetland ecosystem restoration with watershed water quality goals;
- ◆ Protect wetlands and coastal areas by reducing urban runoff;
- ◆ Restore habitat and ecosystem processes throughout the Watershed Management Area including but not limited to the coastal zone; and
- ◆ Promote sewage biosolids composting and re-use for soil fertilization/conditioning, where appropriate.

Manage Runoff and Its Related Impacts from Existing and Future Land Uses

- ◆ Support programs and projects that provide solutions that are part of a comprehensive, regional, watershed approach to improve quality and reduce quantity of runoff and its related impacts from existing and future land uses;
- ◆ Increase capture and infiltration of dry weather and storm water runoff into the aquifers and implement infiltration and detention to reduce peak discharge rates to assist with storm water control and watershed management; and
- ◆ Improve treatment of urban runoff.



Maximize Funding from State and Federal Sources

- ◆ Ensure IRWMP projects are funded by state and federal funds through writing state and federal grants and implementing a local cost share agreement to fund regional priority projects; and
- ◆ Cooperate with the region and groups across the County to participate in local and regional funding for the projects and programs of priority in this plan.

Promote and Support Public Education Programs and Available Information

- ◆ Compile or develop information to engage all generations to facilitate understanding of water supply, water quality, waste water, stormwater, and conservation and develop programs to disseminate information to public; and
- ◆ Develop or support programs that create awareness and understanding of the opportunities for benefits and consequences of not implementing these integrated water management programs.

Reduce Invasive Species and Enhance and Maintain Habitat

- ◆ Identify water related invasive species that are a danger to habitat, water supply or other economic or beneficial use impacts to the environment;
- ◆ Throughout the Watershed Management Area develop and implement invasive species removal through partnering efforts;
- ◆ Promote education and demonstration projects;
- ◆ Protect open spaces and restore habitat for terrestrial, aquatic, and threatened and endangered species; and
- ◆ Promote the use of California Friendly, non-invasive landscapes.

Promote Environmental Justice

- ◆ Consider environmental justice when selecting and implementing projects and programs and consider the needs and views of disadvantaged communities in the watershed; and
- ◆ Solicit disadvantaged communities to participate in the IRWMP process and implementation.

Enhance Recreational Opportunities in the Watershed

- ◆ Protect and increase parkland, public access, and open space opportunities, such as trails and nature centers;

North Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan

- ◆ Consider recreation opportunities in multipurpose projects and programs; and
- ◆ Add trail connectors and extensions to provide and improve regional recreation opportunities.

