




Plan Update Steering Committee #8


Forging Partnerships

May 19, 2026

Work To Date

- #1 – July 24 – Plan Update Introduction, Facilitated Discussion/SWOT Analysis
 - #2 – August 21 – Priority assets, best practices, most important resources
 - #3 – September 18 – Issues Identification/Threats/Concerns
 - #4 – October 16 – Capital Improvement Planning
 - #5 – January 15 – Project prioritization process
 - #6 – March 24 – Regulatory framework
 - #7 – April 21 – Revised Goals and Strategies Discussion
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How are we using this input for Plan Update?

1. Report on SWOT and summarize these meeting
 2. Map key assets in Plan
 3. Revise the Project Prioritization Process
 - Utilize the asset mapping in the process
 - Consult City's CIP plans
 - Weight partnerships more heavily
 4. Revise processes and procedures related to permit review
 5. Update rules, using input from this group
 6. Develop Goals, Strategies, and Action Items
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Mission, Vision, Values

MISSION

- To protect, manage, and enhance/restore natural resources for ecosystem health and the benefit of all through collaboration for a sustainable future within a resilient watershed.

VISION

- An ecologically rich landscape with a restored hydrologic cycle where people and nature exist in balance.

CORE VALUES

- **SUSTAINABILITY:** The District will work to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **CONNECTION:** The District will facilitate connections between people and the natural world.
- **COLLABORATION:** The District will expand its reach through strategic partnerships and community engagement.
- **INTEGRITY:** The District will employ its mission with efficiency, equitability, and transparency.
- **SCIENCE-BASED:** The District will use an adaptable, science-based approach to projects and programs.
- **EFFICIENCY:** The District will use its resources in an efficient and responsible manner.
- **INNOVATION:** The District will use sound science, adapt when needed, and explore new approaches.
- **EQUITY:** The District will approach watershed management in an equitable way.

Goals and Strategies

1. **Sustainable groundwater resources**

- a. Establish groundwater well monitoring program to monitor groundwater levels
- b. Facilitate coordination between state agencies and municipalities for the purpose of groundwater conservation
- c. Educate municipalities on emerging pollutants
- d. Expand grant program to offer private well testing; nitrate watch (testing strips)
- e. Develop threshold baseline flows for streams (IBI index low due to low flow)

2. **Ecologically healthy waters**

- a. Promote healthy upland and aquatic native plant communities
- b. Manage AIS to support healthy aquatic ecosystems
- c. Incentivize BMPs for shoreland health
- d. Increase bluff protection (slope stability rule)
- e. Evaluate Rule C (sedimentation) and refine as necessary
- f. Rule J (stormwater runoff)
- g. Incorporate habitat restoration into all CIPs
- h. Expand the types of pollutants considered in rule establishment

Goals and Strategies

3. **Holistic lake management**

- a. Develop holistic plans for all lakes
- b. Implement the plans

4. **Improved infiltration and evapotranspiration**

- a. Work with cities to improve tree protection ordinances
- b. Require phased grading plans for construction sites (new rule)
- c. Require soil management plan for all development (new rule)
- d. Develop soil specifications (soil composition)
- e. Increase the tree cover
- f. Reduce impervious surface

5. **Preserved remaining ecologically sensitive land and habitats**

- a. Inventory ecologically sensitive land (compile data about undeveloped land)
- b. Develop program for easement of fee-title acquisition
- c. Develop prioritization metric for undeveloped land

6. **Restored and protected natural habitats and stream baseflow**

7. **Enriched connection between natural resources and people**

- a. Evaluate and plan for Spring Road Conservation Project and new WD offices and programs, including options for green infrastructure
- b. Complete a co-benefits analysis on permitted projects


Goals and Strategies

8. **A well-run organization focused on collaboration and efficient use of resources**
 - a. Align capital projects and development projects to enhance others' plans and projects
 - b. Identify value added “opportunistic” partnerships
 - c. Build awareness about future projects and planning efforts, including land use plan and water resources plan updates
 - d. Identify partners and supporters for capital project and development projects
 - e. Develop staff relationships with land use planning divisions in municipalities

9. **Climate resiliency within the watershed**
 - a. Develop baseline resources for impact of climate change on district; develop models and keep them up to date
 - b. Broaden data collection and knowledge of pollutants of concern (PFAS, mercury, nitrogen, plastics)
 - c. Manage floodplain management model
 - d. Increase flood storage
 - e. Promote and incentivize “above and beyond” practices and green infrastructure
 - f. Learn about tax incentive for green infrastructure

Goals and Strategies

10. Strong Partnerships and Coordination with City Stakeholders

- a. Annual connection with city regulatory team (community development, water resources, and natural resources)
 - b. Operationalize early coordination with city staff (procedure or policy document) (ie DRC meeting attendance, concept plan review attendance)
 - c. Explore overlay districts to cover costs of maintenance and management over time (special tax district)
 - d. Work together with cities to enforce BMP maintenance
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Goals and Strategies

11. Ecological solutions that are customer focused


- a. Set criteria for deviations from rules. Assessing project based on “progressive” , upstream benefits.
- b. Applicant initiated solutions for how they will meet the rules or do “better”
- c. Implement more administrative approvals
- d. Incorporate life cycle costs in solution development
- e. Develop a technical assistance program or pre-application meeting for applicants up front
- f. Consider establishment of a development fee be established as a carve out/increase to stormwater management fee (or in addition)?
- g. Update rules to coordinate with city rules and evaluate points of similarity and difference
- h. Create a document tabular format and compare and contrast with city rules with watershed district rules.
- i. Evaluate fee in lieu of meeting rules for WD projects?
- j. Evaluate the coordination of rules review, financial assurances, and maintenance agreements through an MOU or a third party agreement
- k. Update options for applicants to meet rules, on site, off site or fee in lieu

Ease/Effectiveness Grid




Commitments

RPBCWD

1. Quarterly city staff (planning, water, environmental) convening - 2027
 2. Attend DRC when invited
 3. Engage city staff in rules update
 4. Incorporate input into the Project Prioritization decision-making process
 5. Consult and consider city CIP and Comp Plans in Plan Update
 6. Work towards operations and maintenance agreements
 7. Open dialogue about surety coordination
 8. Alternative methods of compliance for public projects (fee in lieu, regional projects)
 - 9.
 - 10.
 - 11.
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City Staff Commitments

Based on the past 8 months of discussion about what is needed, what is one action you can commit to in advancing the plan?

- 1.
 - 2.
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Plan Update Timeline



2025: JUL, SEP, NOV
 2026: JAN, MAR, MAY, JUL, SEP, NOV
 2027: JAN, MAR, MAY, JUL, SEP



Draft plan development: Needs assessment, review others' plans, develop goals/strategies, project prioritization

Draft plan revisions

Revise | **Distribute final plan**


Stakeholder engagement: Prioritize issues, identify strategies

Input on draft plan

Steering Committee Meetings

TAC: Rules review to inform future revisions

Ways to Stay Involved

- Participation in the TAC (as applicable)
 - Fall 2026 – Invite City Staff to Manager Retreat – portion of the meeting
 - Broader community meetings/public hearings on the plan
 - Late 2026 – stakeholder comment on the draft plan
 - 2027- 1st quarterly meeting of this group
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