

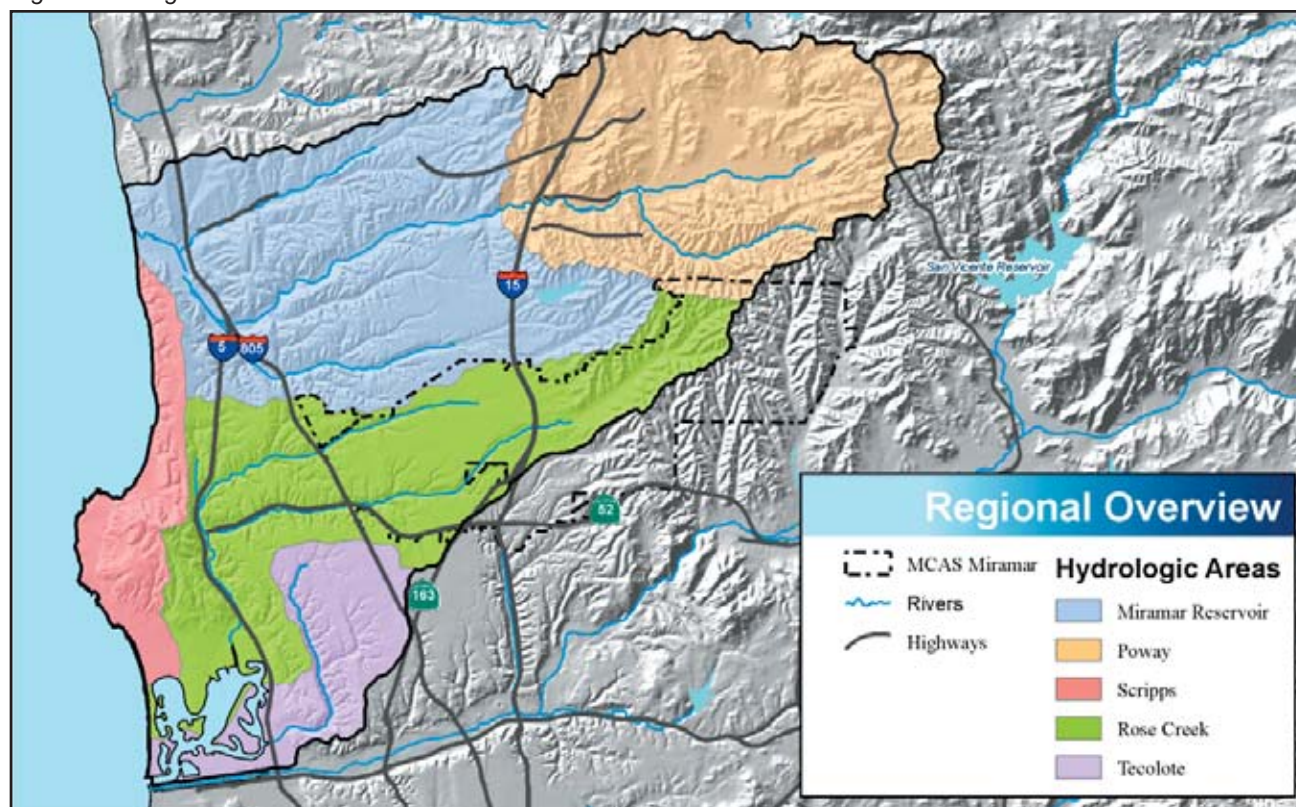
1 Introduction



1.1 Study Area

The Rose Creek Watershed is part of the Penasquitos Hydrologic Unit. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) has sub-divided the Penasquitos Hydrologic Unit into two Watershed Management Areas: 1) the Penasquitos Watershed Management Area; and 2) the Mission Bay Watershed Management Area which is comprised of the Scripps (906.3), Miramar (906.4), and Tecolote (906.5) Hydrologic Areas. The Miramar Hydrologic Area (aka Rose Creek Watershed) is roughly 27,667 acres or 37 square miles (Figure 1-1).

Figure 1-1: Regional Overview



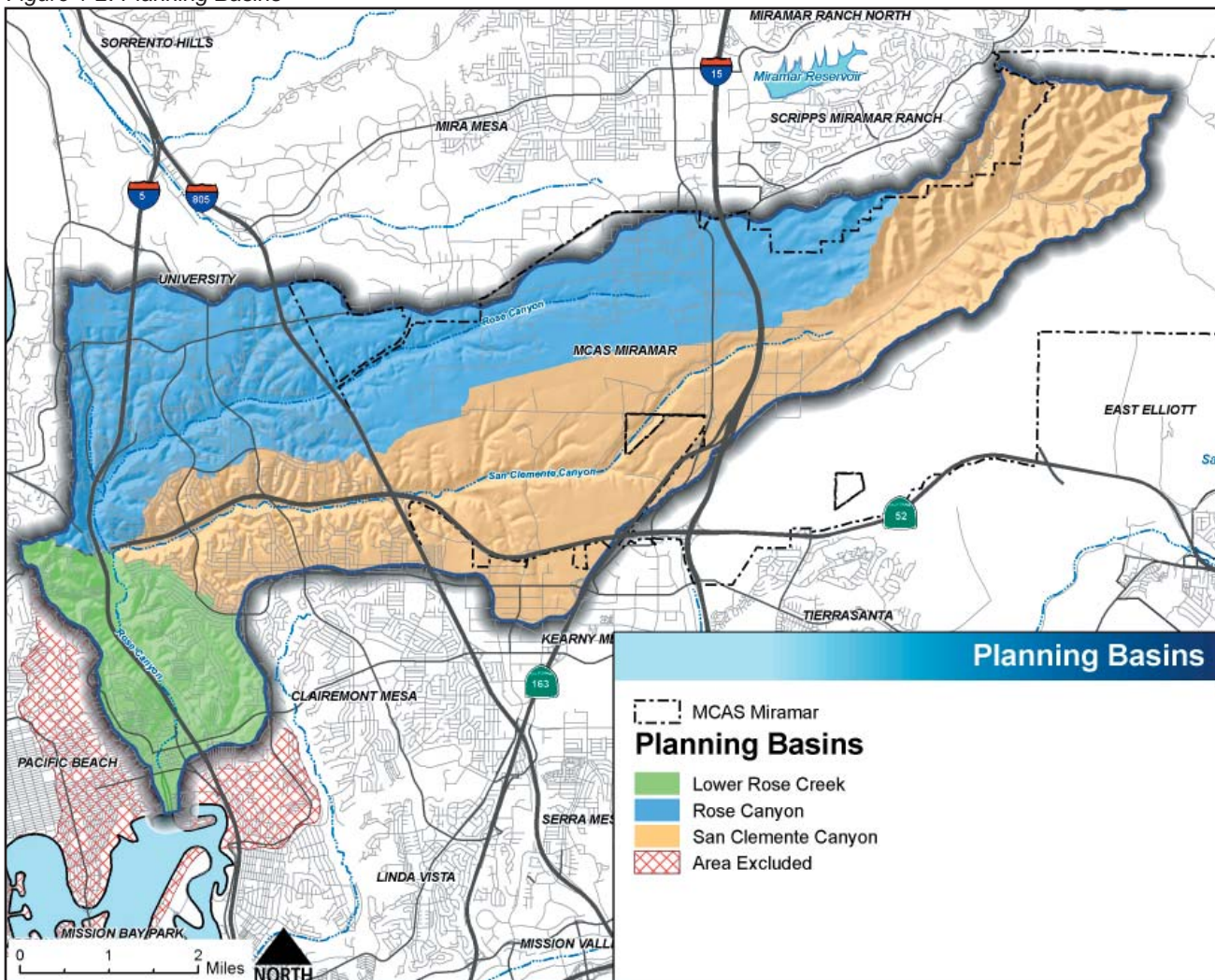
To further analyze the Rose Creek watershed and its boundaries, a topographic delineation was performed to correctly assess runoff and stream flow that discharges from the mouth of Rose Creek into Mission Bay. The watershed delineation refined the boundary of the Hydrologic Area to 23,427 acres or 36 square miles. The area excluded occurs toward the mouth of Rose Creek where it flows into Mission Bay, and includes portions of Pacific Beach and Clairemont (shown as red cross-hatch) that do not drain into Rose Creek, but instead drain directly into Mission Bay (Figure 1-2). For the purposes of this assessment three planning basins were also developed: Rose Canyon, San Clemente Canyon, and Lower Rose Creek, which are also shown in Figure 1-2.

1.2 Project Purpose

The initial purpose of the Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment (Assessment) was to comprehensively assess existing conditions, opportunities and constraints for habitat protection, habitat restoration, enhancement and protection of cultural resources and public access improvements in the Rose Creek Watershed (RCW). As the assessment progressed, public safety and water quality were also added to the list of issues to assess by the stakeholders group. The California Coastal Conservancy provided primary funding to the assessment; the County of San Diego provided additional funding support.

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Figure 1-2: Planning Basins



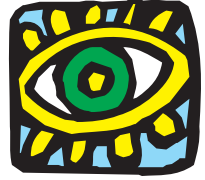
1.3 Rose Creek Watershed Alliance

The Rose Creek Watershed Alliance (Alliance) is an alliance of existing organizations and individuals (Table 1) formed to help guide the planning and implementation of actions within the RCW. The Alliance believes that by taking a watershed-based approach, the watershed will more likely be comprehensively preserved, restored and enhanced for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Table 1-1: Rose Creek Watershed Alliance Members

Organizations
Clairemont Town Council
Friends of Rose Creek
Friends of Rose Canyon
Marian Bear Natural Park Committee
Natural Resources Committee for the League of Women Voters
Pacific Beach Business Improvement District
Rose Canyon Recreation Council
San Diego Audubon
San Diego Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Earthworks - Convener

The Rose Creek Watershed Alliance has proposed these Vision Points to help guide the development of the Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities assessment. *The Assessment should propose:*



- * Linking the problems and opportunities of the Rose Creek Watershed and addressing them concurrently;
- * Creation of a continuous and healthy ribbon of natural habitat and open space from the top to the bottom of the watershed;
- * Improvements to water quality and natural hydrologic function, to restore the watershed's natural functions and features wherever possible;
- * Creation of a continuous non-motorized off-road public trail access from upper Rose canyon to upper San Clemente canyon and further connecting to Mission Bay Park;
- * Improvements to general public safety, including pedestrian and bicycle safety, throughout the watershed;
- * Reducing the threat of natural hazards such as fire and landslides;
- * Telling the story of San Diego thru interpretation of the watershed;
- * Building watershed awareness through public education and outreach;
- * Enhancing the biological and recreational connection to Mission Bay Park; and
- * Compatible economic opportunities throughout the watershed.

In addition to these Vision Points, the Alliance members identified a variety of elements that needed to be addressed while striving to achieve the vision. A dozen of the most crucial elements are listed below.





Elements to Consider:

1. Active participation by public agencies, the private and non-profit sectors and volunteers is crucial to success.
2. All planning efforts should be coordinated to ensure that projects are planned and implemented in a manner that is environmentally sound, that minimizes damage to the watershed while maximizing opportunities to enhance the watershed.
3. Invasive plant and animal infestations have degraded the health of the watershed.
4. Restoring the natural functions and values of the watershed could improve its health.
5. Storm drains are cutting gullies throughout the watershed.
6. Additional hydrology studies, including sediment transport analyses, monitoring and gaging are necessary to define restoration potential throughout the watershed.
7. Off-road hiking and bicycling trails are needed that:
 - a. Connect upper Rose and San Clemente canyons near Interstate 805 and to Mission Bay.
 - b. Provide alternative routes (along a non-trafficked street) for cyclists and pedestrians.
 - c. Best serve the needs of bicycle commuters and recreational riders including the young and elderly.
 - d. Include clear signage within the watershed and to the watershed.




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8. It is currently illegal to cross the railroad tracks in Rose Canyon; crossing is punishable by a fine of \$1,000. To ride or walk continuously from the upper to lower watershed will require at least one crossing. 
9. Address current homeless and crime issues in public open space, especially in the lower watershed.
10. The watershed can be a living laboratory for children if utilized by teachers. At least five schools about the canyon or creek, no transport required for site visits.
11. The City's Mission Bay Park Master Plan addresses wetlands creation at the mouth of Rose Creek; creation hasn't been implemented. How best to create viable, sustainable wetlands at the mouth of Rose Creek?
12. The lower Rose Creek corridor along Santa Fe, Damon and Morena streets may provide an opportunity for economic revitalization with the creek as a focal point. The creek should be seen as an asset, not a liability, to economic development. 

Many of these were also linked with thoughts regarding the logical next steps to move from issue identification to the development of solutions and on to implementation. Many of these can be found explicitly within the Action Recommendations of this assessment, while others are supported by the actions, but are not directly called out.



Next Steps:

1. Seek to build and strengthen partnerships and collaboration including:
 - a. Amend the MOU with the City to include public safety (crime, natural hazards such as fire and landslides) and other components;
 - b. Create agreement with Miramar to encourage cooperation on trail alignments, cultural/historic interpretation and base security; and
 - c. Continue to build and strengthen the Rose Creek Watershed Alliance and member organizations.
2. Make certain the final Assessment meets the city's data needs for a natural resources management plan. Create a city-natural resources management plan for Rose Canyon to complement the Marian Bear plan. Extend the plan to Mission Bay.
3. Define implementation plan to remove invasive plant species.
4. Secure hydrology studies to determine feasibility of concrete storm drain removal and restoration of lower watershed. Design and develop plan to implement.
5. Address on-going debris removal and debris source reduction, including from medians and trail access points. 
6. Integrate recommendations with city trails and bike master plans and address volunteer trails.
7. Create plan to address homeless and crime issues in the lower watershed. Involve police department, area business owners, council offices, civic and social service providers.
8. Identify safe public access points throughout the watershed and add appropriate signage.
9. Fire Prevention:
 - a. Create three regional fire safe councils encompassing Upper Rose Canyon, Upper San Clemente Canyon and Lower Rose Canyon. Each regional council to be organized under a community group for that area.
 - b. Create neighborhood fire safety councils in each region to comply with city regulations for brush management or thinning plus to encourage invasive species removal and use of fire-safe native plants to enhance watershed health.
 - c. Develop a fire management plan for the watershed.
10. Land Slide Prevention: Educate the public on less slide-prone native plant alternatives to ice plant.
11. Follow up on cultural recommendations to do further surveys.
12. Recommend interpretive opportunities.
13. Partner with environmental education group like Aquatic Adventures to write grants to provide outdoor classroom opportunities for schools in the watershed.
14. Encourage service projects where youth can participate.
15. Develop public education materials on such subjects as invasive species and pollution reduction for distribution to residents throughout the watershed. 