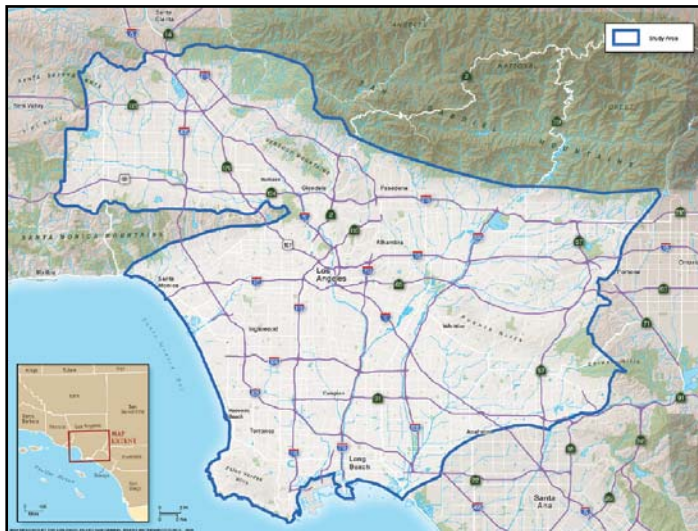


Los Angeles Basin Water Augmentation Study

Background

The Bureau of Reclamation forged a unique partnership with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council (Council) on the ten-year Los Angeles Basin Water Augmentation Study (Study). The study goal was a regional analysis and implementation strategy for decentralized stormwater projects and practices. Los Angeles County is home to nearly 30% of California's citizens and includes the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watersheds (Watersheds). The Watersheds are subject to increasingly unreliable water supplies due to drought, growing urban and industrial demands, and environmental water user competition.



With nearly 2 million acre-feet of unused storage capacity in local groundwater basins, capturing more runoff for infiltration could substantially increase local water supplies without the need for new surface storage facilities. Reducing urban stormwater volumes reduces pollutant loads and demand on the flood control system. Increasing infiltration also helps restore the natural hydrology and treatment function of the soil.

The Water Augmentation Study occurred in three phases:

- Phase 1 (2000-2002): Investigated water quality ramifications of infiltrating stormwater by monitoring water quality at two sites in the Los Angeles area.
- Phase 2 (2002-2005): Expanded water quality monitoring to four additional sites. Determined that stormwater infiltration had no negative impacts on groundwater quality.
- Phase 3 (2005-2010): Analyzed viability of region-wide infiltration in terms of potential quantity, physical constraints, social and institutional issues, and compared the costs of developing this water supply relative to other possible sources. Phase 3 planned for the Elmer Avenue Neighborhood Retrofit Demonstration Project (Project), which was completed in 2010. This Project occurred at the neighborhood scale and showed how existing infrastructure can be retrofitted to locally manage stormwater and incorporate a variety of other sustainable watershed management practices. Completed the Water Augmentation Study Research, Strategy, and Implementation Report, available at www.lasgrwc.org/WAS.

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