

# San Gabriel River - Upper/Rio Hondo Watersheds

## Spearheading improvement efforts in the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watersheds

Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties; Senate Districts 21, 22, 24, 29, 30, 32, Assembly Districts 44, 49, 57, 58, 60, 61

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Watershed Coordinator for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments worked to improve a watershed area that includes 31 cities and many unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

The Watershed Coordinator developed numerous planning tools to help stakeholders identify watershed stewardship projects. The Coordinator oversaw an action plan to identify opportunities for capturing stormwater via Best Management Practices (BMPs). He also created a database for open space planning for use by local municipalities and other organizations. The Coordinator created maps to prioritize streams for day-lighting and identify locations where community gardens are most needed.

One of the Coordinator's projects, the Cattle Canyon Project, helped improve water quality by addressing the widespread issue of litter in natural areas. Trash cans, picnic benches, and interpretive signage were added, and an interpretive program was established to provide the public with information on the negative impacts of trash in natural stream systems. Other public outreach efforts included the development and production of the Landscaping Lightly 2012 Calendar. Delivered to 2,500 residents, the calendar provided helpful resources for residents to improve water quality and conserve in their daily lives.

For more information visit the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments website at <http://www.sgvkog.org>

***"The seeds that this grant has sown will continue to grow and serve the region as the plans turn to action and greater water conservation in the watershed is achieved."***  
***- Rob Romanek, Watershed Coordinator***



- Designed and built a 1,000 foot bioswale in Encanto Park
- Planted a 3000 sq. ft. native garden which also serves as a stormwater retention demonstration site within the River Wilderness Park in Azusa
- Created a 10,000 sq. ft. public open space and interpretive center at the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy office building
- Coordinated two river clean-up and park beautification events and removed more than 6 yards of trash along the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo
- Headed the development of the Emerald Necklace grassroots effort for an interconnected network of multi-use trails, urban parks, and multi-benefit greenways
- Played a key role in the development of the region's Open Space Preservation Policy

**PARTNERS INCLUDED:** Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee • Water Resources Working Group • Watershed Conservation Authority • San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy • Council for Watershed Health