

## Chapter 2 Project Approach and Objectives

The Vista Grande Watershed Study is a joint study between Daly City and the CCSF. The study focuses on addressing flooding issues throughout the Vista Grande drainage area in a manner that minimizes cost and maximizes benefits. As such, a watershed approach is taken for the planning effort which includes both stakeholder involvement and development of project objectives to help the identification and evaluation of preliminary project alternatives. This chapter describes the project approach, including stakeholder involvement, and outlines the goals and objectives of the Vista Grande Watershed Study.

### 2.1 Project Approach

The Vista Grande Watershed Study is intended to serve as a planning level document to identify conceptual solutions to meet the goal of resolving flooding at the Vista Grande canal and in the Vista Grande drainage basin for the 10-year storm event. The study takes a watershed approach by incorporating stakeholder input into the planning process, developing a set of objectives to help guide the development and selection of potential solutions, and looking watershed-wide, at both upstream and downstream options, for potential solutions to addressing flooding in the watershed. Because flooding affects multiple agencies and areas within the watershed, and because potential solutions may have an interface with Lake Merced and a number of environmental and regulatory considerations, stakeholder coordination was an important component of the project.

#### 2.1.1 Stakeholder Involvement

A number of different stakeholders have been consulted with in development of the Vista Grande Watershed Study. The stakeholder outreach process included meetings with different stakeholders interested in management of stormwater in the Vista Grande watershed area to discuss background issues, potential project concepts, and regulatory and environmental issues. The organizations and agencies involved in these meetings included:

- City of Daly City Department of Public Works
- San Francisco Department of Public Works
- San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
- The Olympic Club
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Coastal Commission
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- California Native Plant Society
- California State Parks
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- City of Daly City Department of Water and Wastewater
- Lake Merced Task Force's Water Committee
- Friends of Lake Merced
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Fish and Game
- San Mateo County Department of Public Health
- Local Homeowners Associations
- Local Residents

In addition to the smaller group meetings to discuss the objectives and project concepts, a public meeting was held on July 27, 2005 in Daly City to provide attendees with information on the Vista Grande Watershed Study, the goals of the study, and different alternatives being analyzed as part of the study. Stakeholders were invited to submit comments on planning process and the alternatives being analyzed as part of the study. Both previously contacted stakeholder groups and the general public were invited to the

workshop, with over 25 stakeholders attending. The list of stakeholder attendees is included in Appendix B. In addition to the July 2005 workshop, a second public workshop was held on March 30, 2006, coinciding with the release of the Draft Watershed Study to the public for review and comment. The list of stakeholder attendees for the March 2006 workshop is included in Appendix H.

## **2.2 Study Goal and Objectives**

As stated above, the overall goal of the Vista Grande Watershed Study is to define improvements to resolve flooding at the Vista Grande canal for the 10-year storm event in a manner that maximizes benefits and minimizes costs. In order to meet this goal, a number of objectives have been developed to serve as the foundation for the identification, development and, ultimately, the selection of, conceptual projects to alleviate flooding issues at Vista Grande canal and within Vista Grande drainage basin. The objectives were developed with input from Daly City and the CCSF, and other stakeholder groups with an interest stormwater management in the Vista Grande watershed.

Both primary and secondary objectives have been developed to specifically define projects that meet the project goal. Primary objectives are designed to address the flood protection issues associated with flooding at the Vista Grande canal and in the drainage basin including erosion, public safety and water quality concerns. Secondary objectives are developed to take advantage of emerging opportunities and stakeholder input to consider multiple benefits when developing project concepts including water supply enhancement, Lake Merced lake level enhancement, habitat protection and recreation and public education opportunities. The primary and secondary objectives are listed in Table 2-1 below.

**Table 2-1 Primary and Secondary Objectives Developed for the Vista Grande Watershed Study**

Resource Area	Objectives
<b>PRIMARY OBJECTIVES</b>	
Flood Protection	Eliminate overflows from Vista Grande canal for the 10-year design storm  Eliminate flooding throughout the Vista Grande drainage basin for the 10-year design storm
Erosion Reduction	Eliminate erosion along John Muir Drive and the banks of Lake Merced for the 10-year storm event  Stabilize existing bank erosion as part of an overall flood protection and erosion reduction program
Public Safety	Eliminate flood flows and standing water on public roadways and property throughout the Vista Grande drainage basin  Incorporate public safety measures into improvements
Water Quality Protection	Manage stormwater discharges to ensure public health protection  Manage stormwater discharges to ensure beneficial uses of receiving waters
<b>SECONDARY OBJECTIVES</b>	
Water Supply Enhancement	Maximize recharge of the Westside Groundwater Basin  Utilize stormwater to augment surface water supplies for appropriate uses
Lake Merced Level Enhancement	Utilize stormwater as appropriate to restore Lake Merced to desired levels  Utilize stormwater as appropriate to maintain desired Lake Merced levels
Habitat Enhancement	Enhance Lake Merced shoreline and wetland habitats  Protect aquatic habitats of Lake Merced
Recreation and Public Education	Protect and enhance recreational features  Incorporate educational features into improvements