Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:00am-11:30am Executive Board Room 5000 Clark Avenue Lakewood, CA 90712

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)
Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)
Adam Galia (Resident)
Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains
Conservancy)
Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)

Delfino Consunji (Downey) Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood) Melissa You (Long Beach) Marlin Munoz* (La Mirada) Vicki Smith (Whittier) Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower) Tammy Hierlihy (Central Basin)

Committee Members Not Present:

Michelle Yanez (San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership)

Marissa Christiansen (Friends of the LA River)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Rapp, the Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River WASC, called the meeting to order.

All committee members made self-introductions and quorum was established.

2. Public Comment Period

Mr. Rich Watson recommended that once the SIP is approved, the Safe, Clean Water Program initiate discussions about bond measures in order to fund more projects upfront. Comment card was collected by District Staff.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2020

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Rapp asked the committee members for comments or revisions. The committee had no comments.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 25, 2020 (14 approved, 1 abstention)

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



4. Committee Member and District Updates

Ms. Rapp provided a summary of the Meeting of Chairs/Vice Chairs on Thursday, February 27, 2020.

Mr. Kevin Kim (District) also provided an expanded version of the WASC Review Sheet to help guide discussions.

5. Discussion Items

a) General discussion on submitted projects and studies

Ms. Rapp stated that she received evaluation criteria recommendations from the committee members and after careful review, determined that developing a WASC specific weighting system would not be feasible. Alternatively, Ms. Rapp proposed discussing the merits of each project as a group.

The committee discussed the <u>El Dorado Regional Project</u>. Ms. Rapp noted that the request is for planning and design only. Ms. Bloxom expressed her support of the constructed wetlands and groundwater recharge component. Ms. Ruffell expressed her concerns about MS4 compliance and the effectiveness of wetlands in addressing bacteria concerns and would like to see the results of the Scientific Study before proceeding. Mr. O'Grady noted that this is one of the first of four projects within Coyote Creek. Mr. Consunji expressed his support for the regional benefits, community benefits, open space, etc. that the project provides but was concerned about accessibility to the public. Ms. Reynolds clarified that site is a multi-modal location and that it is not currently accessible, but the Project can be easily expanded to incorporate access. Ms. Reynolds also clarified that the site is in the City's master plan.

The committee discussed <u>Hermosillo Park</u>. It was noted that the project did not receive Proposition 68 – California State Parks funding as it was highly competitive but that it would not affect the SCW funding request. Mr. O'Grady noted that the tributary area overlaps with the Cerritos Sports Complex. Mr. Hunter clarified that the projects were modeled in conjunction with each other but that there were opportunities to expand or modify if one was not constructed. Mr. O'Grady also noted that this is one of the first of four projects within Coyote Creek.

The committee discussed the <u>Cerritos Sports Complex</u>. Ms. Ruffell acknowledged the regional benefits and large watershed area but noted that there are a number of concerns with the landfill. Mr. O'Grady stated that the project could be relocated to alleviate landfill concerns, but due to the high cost he may prefer investing in smaller projects. Mr. O'Grady also noted that this is one of the first of four projects within Coyote Creek. Ms. Rapp proposed moving construction funding requests to future years. Mr. O'Grady confirmed that delaying construction funding is not a deal breaker and would not impact MS4 compliance as long as other projects are implemented within the watershed. Mr. Kim clarified that this could not be referred to the Technical Resources Program (TRP) this year and would need to resubmit next year. Ms. Ruffell cautioned against sending the project through the TRP as the District may not evaluate feasibility to the WASC satisfaction. Mr. Consunji expressed his support for the project but recommends the applicant resubmit after further feasibility analysis is complete.

The committee discussed the <u>Adventure Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project</u>. Mr. O'Grady noted that this is one of the first of four projects within Coyote Creek. Mr. O'Grady also noted that a portion of the tributary area is in the Upper San Gabriel River watershed, but funding from the USGR WASC is not necessary due to the significant amount of matching funds from Caltrans. In addition, this project primary falls within the LSGR watershed boundary, thus the project will only be considered for funds allocated for LSGR WASC.

The committee discussed the <u>Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project</u>. Ms. Bloxom asked about how the water is being used. Mr. Watson clarified that captured dry-weather flows would be used

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



to address irrigation needs for Bellflower Simms Park and Mayfair Park. Ms. Ruffell noted that the project is not as cost effective and if delayed, the project could be further refined.

The committee discussed the <u>Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture Project</u>. Mr. Watson clarified the project history and noted that the American Golf Corporation is in support of the Project and that the project may supplement the Golf Course's irrigation.

b) Regional Scientific Study

Ms. Rapp provided a summary of the Meeting of Chairs/Vice Chairs and noted that the District is considering engaging a third-party technical review of Scientific Studies in future years.

The committee discussed comments made by Renee Purdy (RWQCB) and Heal the Bay at the NSMB WASC expressing their concerns with the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health. In light of these comments, the committee decided to delay consideration of the Scientific Study. Ms. Ruffell noted that if the Scientific Study is not approved, the Infrastructure Program Projects may need to be modified to provide more physical storage.

c) Operation & Maintenance Projects

The committee discussed the Mayfair Park, Caruthers Park, and Bolivar Park Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Projects. Ms. Smith noted that the construction costs were funded by Caltrans and that this could be considered a significant amount of matching funds. Mr. Juarez would also like to see leveraged funding for O&M since the total funding request for the Watershed Area exceeds available funding. Ms. Bloxom asked if the applicant can leverage Municipal Program funds. Ms. Rapp clarified that Municipal Program funds are earmarked by cities for maintenance activities, to fund smaller projects, and to develop projects for future submittal.

d) Disadvantaged Communities benefit

The committee discussed disadvantaged community (DAC) benefits for each project. The committee concurred with all DAC benefits claimed by the project applicants. They also determined that the Adventure Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project would provide DAC benefits as it is located less than half a mile from DAC and would be utilized by DAC communities.

e) SIP programming guidelines

Mr. Kim provided an overview of the SIP programming guidelines. The District clarified that for multiyear infrastructure program projects, the WASC may distribute funding without changing the total funding request. If a project that has been programmed into the SIP experience changes in project cost or scope, a revised application will need to be submitted, which will also be re-scored by the scoring committee as requested by the WASC. The committee expressed their concerns regarding the ambiguity of what constitutes a scope change and how re-distributing funding could affect leveraged funding commitments. The committee also expressed their concerns about obtaining city counsel approval for projects when funding for future years is not committed.

f) Ranking process and tool

The District explained the ranking process. The committee determined that only the Infrastructure Program Projects would be ranked, and the Scientific Study ranking would be deferred to a later date.

6. Voting Items

a) Assign percent allocation target

The committee decided to defer voting on this item to a later date.

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



7. Stormwater Investment Plan discussion and development

a) Rank and discuss Infrastructure Program Projects and Scientific Studies

The Committee ranked the Infrastructure Program Projects and the District tallied the results.

Program	Project Name	# of Votes	Score	Overall Place
IP	El Dorado Regional Project	14	106	1
IP	Adventure Park Multi Benefit Stormwater	14	101	2
IP	Hermosillo Park	14	100	3
IP	Bolivar Park	14	93	4
IP	Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwat	13	80	5
IP	Mayfair Park	13	77	6
IP	Caruthers Park	13	76	7
IP	Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture	14	56	8
IP	Cerritos Sports Complex	8	34	9

Ms. Rapp stated that she would like to fund design of all projects. Mr. Juarez and Ms. Ruffell voiced their concerns about Cerritos Sports Complex and the lack of support.

Ms. Bloxom would like clarification on what data would be requested as part of the quarterly reporting.

8. Items for next agenda

The District recommends the following items for the next agenda:

- a) Continue Stormwater Investment Plan discussion and development
- b) Confirm final Stormwater Investment Plan

Ms. Rapp solicited additional recommendations from the committee for the next agenda.

Ms. Ruffell and Ms. Rapp proposes the committee discuss Project inclusion in the SIP starting with the lowest ranking Projects. Once the list of projects is established, they propose spending the remainder of the meeting re-distributing funding, as needed.

The next meeting was extended to 11:30am.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Rapp thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	Р	Julia of
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	А	
Diane Gatza	Water Replenishment District	dgatza@wrd.org	Р	
Lyndsey Bloxom	Water Replenishment District	lbloxom@wrd.org	А	Guy Br
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov	Р	V
Meredith Reynolds	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Meredith.Reynolds@longbeach.gov	А	,
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsd.org	Р (Post me Rull
Mike Sullivan	Sanitation Districts	msullivan@lacsd.org	А	
Tammy Hierlihy	Central Basin	tammyh@centralbasin.org	Р	Thun Hield,
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Kayla Slatten	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	kkellyslatten@cclb-corps.org	А	
Adam Galia	Resident	agalia81@gmail.com	Р	Oden Sole
Thalia Campos	Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment	thalis887@gmail.com	А	1/2/ (24
Michelle Yanez	San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership	myanez@sgvpartnership.org	Р	
Marissa Christiansen	Friends of the LA River	marissa@folar.org	Р	
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	mstanley@rmc.ca.gov	Р	

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Joseph Gonzalez	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Jgonzalez@rmc.ca.gov	Α /	my
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos	mogrady@cerritos.us	Р	
Rebecca Scott	Cerritos	rscott@cerritos.us	А	Λ
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Vicki Smith	Whittier	vsmith@cityofwhittier.org	Р	Vin & hutt
Kyle Cason	Whittier	kcason@cityofwhittier.org	А	

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
JORI	GKL ANG	CAAFTWATER BOKG	d iver ga anoxo raftwater ne co
	KLUG	STAUTEC	JORI, KLUE a STANTEC. COM
John	Hunter	JLITA	I Hunter @JLHA. MeT
Bryce	Lee	JLHA	blee @ joha. net
Robelott	Comet	LALFOD	rj gone 7 apr. Krown .g:
Richard	WATSON	RWA	rovation fruitlanning cox
Iven	Tsen	LAZPW	
Fred	Gonzalez	LACFCD	fgonzal@dpw.laconsty.gov



Public Comment Form

Krohad WATSON

Organization: RWK/LCC WS Group

Email: Twatson & Twaplanning. 1 Phone: 949-394 8495

Meeting: Lower SCR WASC

Date: 03 MARCH 2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

Comments

I have two comments this morning. One relates to local mutches and on relates to The conjust of a bond measure that I mentioned during the last meeting.

With respect to locate mother, I wanted to out that the los Corrtos channel watershel, like the Country did In advertur Park project, entered into cooperation In pleasant Expressions for projects that totaled \$ 54.5 million for project that did not have to be funded through Mosesur W, except for 0 & M.

With speed respect to the bond mean idea, I planet around with number our the weekend to see him all of our the prejects lauld be funched using 80% of the mean we arrival estimate for those years and the certifing Bond mean many I think a \$150-160 million 25 year Bond would allow an to do what is nevery to next wat greath objection in the near town,

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org

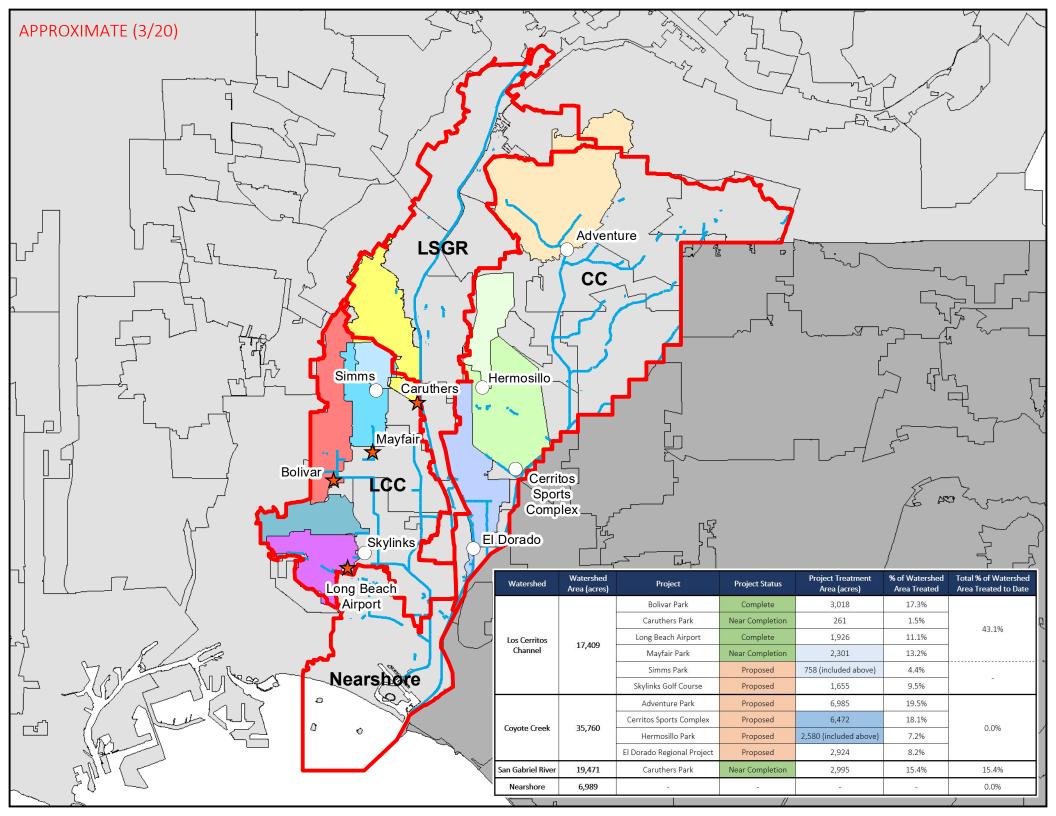
Comments can be mailed to:

ATTN: Safe, Clean Water Program

LA County Public Works

P.O. Box 1460

Alhambra, CA 91802-1460



Safe, Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2020-2021 SIP Programming Guidelines



Infrastructure Program

- WASC shall review and recommend projects as they were submitted.
- The SIP shall program the total requested funding amount by the applicant or none. For multi-year infrastructure program projects, the WASC may re-distribute funding without changing the total funding request. There are other methods, which are detailed out in "Attachment A".
 - If a project that has been programmed into the SIP experience changes in project cost or scope, a revised application will need to be submitted, which will also be re-scored by the scoring committee as requested by the WASC.
- The 85/10/5% ratios and DAC benefits will be evaluated over a rolling 5-yr period each year. These criteria are calculated based on the funding allocated, not the regional funding available.
- If the WASC determines a project provides DAC benefits and the project is included in the SIP, the full funding amount will be used toward the DAC criteria calculation.
- Municipality benefits and spectrum of project types and sizes will be evaluated using total project cost, to the extent feasible, over a rolling 5-year period each year. Additional methodology and process to be determined by District in year 2.

Technical Resources Program

- The District has committed to complete feasibility studies for a rate of \$300,000 to be approved and budgeted in the SIP. If less, the excess will be returned to the WASC. If more, District will use District Program SCW Funds to cover the excess cost.
 - The WASC may choose to allocate more than \$300,000 to a TRP, if they choose. Unused funds will be returned to the WASC regional program funds.
- The resulting feasibility studies will, at minimum, address the 19 requirements outlined in the SCW Feasibility Study Guidelines. Additional technical analysis will be included at the District's discretion.
- Projects that do score above the threshold score cannot be referred to the Technical Resources Program.
- A placeholder of \$200,000 shall be programmed in the current SIP for watershed coordinator services.

General Notes

- For the current year, the District recommends the WASCs allocate no more than 80% of the estimated revenue to account for potential lesser revenue due to tax relief programs, to ensure future capacity for new projects and consider contingencies for programmed projects. For the subsequent 4 years, the District recommends the WASCs earmark no more than 50% of the estimated revenue.
- Under extenuating circumstances where the SIP criteria cannot be met, an exception may be permitted
 and disclosed in the SIP. For example, if very few IP projects were submitted such that it significantly
 restricts available funding for TRPs and SSs, up to 10% and 5% of revenue generated by the Watershed
 Area can be allocated towards TRP and SS, respectively.
- As a part of quarterly/annual reporting, applicants will have the opportunity to adjust their funding distribution for consideration during programming next year's SIP.

Attachment A

SIP development for multi-year Infrastructure Program Projects- Example Scenarios/Methods

Infrastructure Program Project Developer (IPPD) desires \$30 M over 3 years (design/construction) for Project A; \$20 M elsewhere (\$50 M total)

	SIP	TOTAL SCW FUNDS REQUESTED	FY 20-21 (Budgeted)	FY 21-22 (Projection)	FY 22-23 (Projection)	FY 23-24 (Projection)	FY 24-25 (Projection)
Scenario			IN	IFRASTRUCTURE PI	ROGRAM		
1	Project A	\$30 M	\$10 M	\$10 M	\$10 M		
2	Project A	\$10 M	\$10 M				
3	Project A	\$30 M	\$10 M	\$10 M	\$10 M		
4	Project A	\$30 M	\$5 M	\$10 M	\$15 M		
5	Project A	\$30 M	\$30 M				
6	Project A	\$30 M				\$30 M	

Scenario 1: Project is structured in phases (or re-structured into phases without changing the overall scope or project cost) that can be funded annually; IPPD receives \$10 M in year 1 with documented anticipation of two subsequent \$10 M allocations for Phases 2 and 3.

Scenario 2: Project is structured in phases that can be funded annually; IPPD receives \$10 M in year 1 but needs to request future \$10 M allocations because the total project cost was not requested initially. This option is discouraged for planning purposes.

Scenario 3: Project is <u>not</u> structured in phases, but IPPD demonstrates the capacity and acknowledges the risk of performing the work without encumbering the entirety of funds in advance (with documented earmarks/anticipation of two subsequent \$10 M allocations)

Scenario 4: Project is <u>not</u> structured in phases and WASC chooses to allocate funding over multiple years/SIPs to be accrued by IPPD. The IPPD will begin work once all funding is in hand (annual amounts accrued could vary).

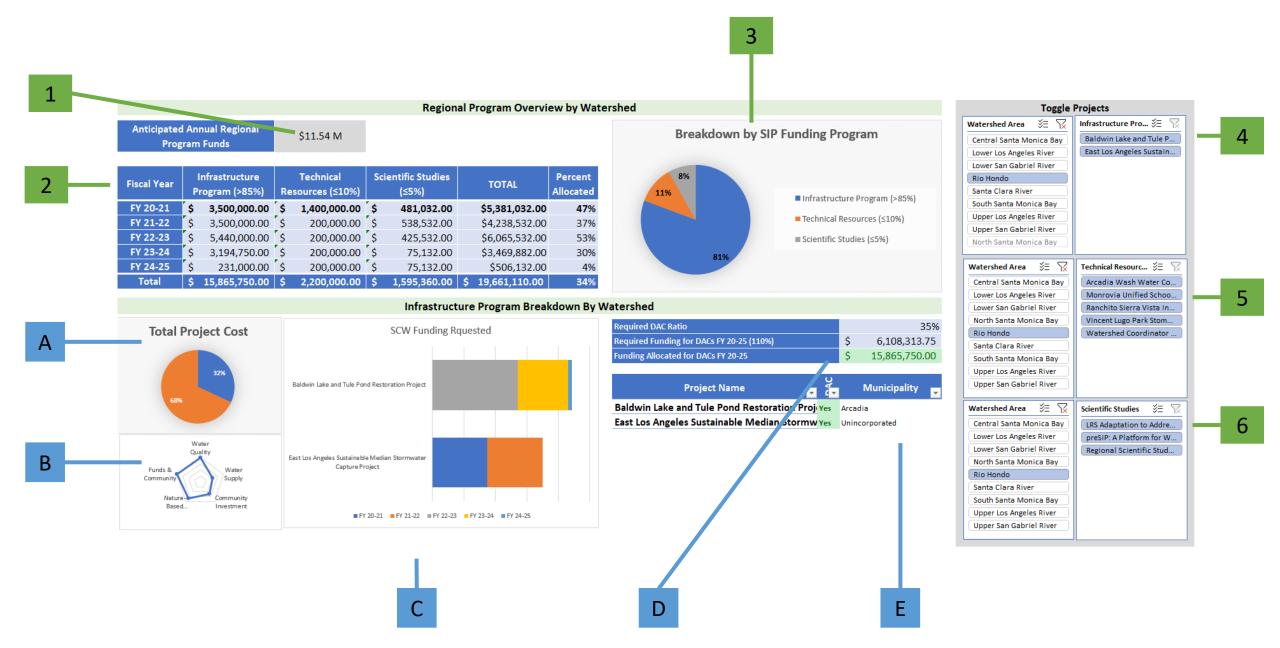
Scenario 5: Project is granted full request in its entirety up front, even if start of construction is multiple years away. This option is discouraged due to likely long-term uncertainties.

Scenario 6: Project is earmarked for full funding in a future SIP year. WASC may anticipate or plan for rolled over funds from prior years to allow for full funding in single future budget but is not guaranteeing any official recommended budget at this time.

NOTES:

- Future funding requests are subject to WASC annual confirmation of budget, scope, and schedule, and ultimately Board Approval.
- Example assumes that the SIP has met other requirements in LACFCD Code and accompanying guidelines (85/10/5; DAC %; etc.)
- Contingencies should be built-in to recommended SIP allocations at WASCs discretion.
- Operations and Maintenance still can be requested.

SIP Planning Tool Overview



Regional Program Tools Overview

Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds:

- This amount is what the District estimates the watershed area will have for programming into the Stormwater Plan (SIP).
- This estimate does not show the reductions for the Credit Program, tax exemptions and reductions.
- This estimate is used for the estimated projected income

2

Fiscal Year Totals: • Financial data provided by applicants Displays the

- sum of toggled projects, concepts, and studies
- Calculates the percentage of funds allocated for the fiscal year
- District recommends programming 80% for the first year and 50% for subsequent fiscal years

3

SIP Funding Program: Breakdown by

• Displays the percentage of funding allocated to each of the subprograms (Infrastructure, Technical Resources, and Scientific Studies) over the next five years based on the selected projects, concepts and studies toggled on for selection.

4

Infrastructure Program: • The available selections for Infrastructure Program.

- The blue color indicates the project has been selected.
- Data from the Project Module and Scoring Committee is pulled into the SIP Tool.

5

Technical Resources Program:

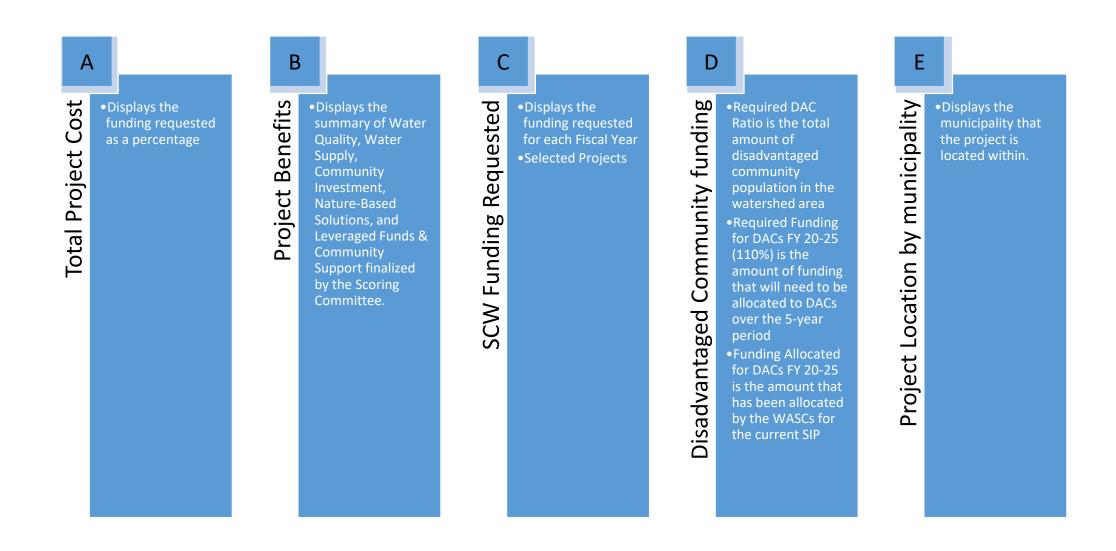
• The available selection for the Technical Resources Program.

- The blue color indicates the project has been selected.
- Data from the Project Module is pulled into the SIP Tool.
- Watershed Coordinators is the minimum number determined by ordinance

6

Scientific Studies:

- •The available selection for the **Scientific Studies** Program.
- The blue color indicates the project has been selected.
- Data from the Project Module is pulled into the SIP Tool.



Safe, Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Regional Program Overview



SCW.ID	Watershed Area	Project Name	Municipality	Distance From DAC	DAC Claimed	DAC Justification
18	Lower San Gabriel River	Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System (STAR System) Hacienda Park	La Habra Heights		No	
19	Lower San Gabriel River	Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project	Bellflower	<0.5 mile	Yes	The project plans to improve the park facilities within the community and provides a refreshed and restored park surface. The park is a gathering space for the community and will be rehabilitated with new facilities in conjunction with this storm water capture project. The design will comply with all LA County anti-displacement avoidance measures to ensure local community development.
20	Lower San Gabriel River	Bolivar Park	Lakewood	<1 mile	Yes	Ongoing maintenance will benefit the DAC and other communities by ensuring that the park will be kept in viable condition, primarily through the use of treated runoff for irrigation.
21	Lower San Gabriel River	Caruthers Park	Bellflower	<0.5 mile	Yes	DACs are interspersed throughout the proposed project's drainage area (see the attached DAC map). This project will enhance the existing park and provide multi-benefits to the surrounding communities. The design will follow LA County anti-displacement avoidance measures to ensure local community development.
22	Lower San Gabriel River	Cerritos Sports Complex	Cerritos	<1 mile	Yes	DACs are located throughout the project's tributary area (see attached map). A map of DAC locations is attached. The proposed project will enhance the existing park and provide multi-benefits, including greater recreational opportunities and reduced heat island effect, to the surrounding communities. The design will comply with all LA County anti-displacement avoidance measures to ensure local community development.
23	Lower San Gabriel River	Hermosillo Park	Norwalk	<0.5 mile	Yes	DACs are interspersed throughout the proposed project's drainage area (map attached). This project will enhance the existing park and provide multi-benefits, including greater recreational opportunities and reduced heat island effect, to the surrounding communities. The design will follow LA County anti-displacement avoidance measures to ensure local community development.
24	Lower San Gabriel River	Mayfair Park	Lakewood	<1 mile		This project will allow the park to continue to provide open, grassy, and shaded areas for the public. Several DACs are within the tributary area. Reclaim runoff will provide irrigation for the park. Construction was designed to minimize displacement of trees.
25	Lower San Gabriel River	Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture Project	Long Beach	<1 mile	No	
26	Lower San Gabriel River	El Dorado Regional Project	Long Beach		Yes	El Dorado Regional Park serves the the greater community, offering recreational amenities and open space. The park also serves DAC, the nearest of which is located northeast of the park according to the DAC Mapping Tool (https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/). This DAC is considered a Severely Disadvantage Community (MHI<\$38,270). The project will provide stormwater capture and treatment while adding to local natural amenities and plans for the area. The park space will be significantly enhanced with the construction of the treatment wetland system, and the pathways between the ponds will provide new recreational opportunities. Ultimately, the multiple benefits of the project will be shared with the community. Additionally, the design will comply with all LA County anti-displacement avoidance measures to ensure local community development.
27	Lower San Gabriel River	Adventure Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project	Unincorporated	<0.5 mile	No	

