

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, June 18, 2020

12:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian (Cordoba Corp.)

Diana Tang (City of Long Beach)

Kristine Guerrero (League of Cities)

Belinda Faustinos (Nature for All)

Barbara Romero (City of Los Angeles) – Co-chair

Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay) – Co-chair

Lauren Ahkiam (LAANE) – Vice-chair

Elva Yanez (Prevention Institute)

Charles Trevino (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

Carl Blum* (LA County Flood Control District)

Irma Munoz* (LA Regional Water Quality Control Board)

Committee Members Absent:

None

*Non-voting members

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Barbara Romero chaired the meeting. She provided an overview of the agenda and welcomed the committee members and the public. The District conducted a roll call of the committee members and a quorum was confirmed.

Mr. Matt Frary acknowledged the importance of the meeting and noted that the Regional Program is where it is today because of over 90 governance committee meetings and recognized the extensive efforts of countless stakeholders and committee members across the region. He provided a review of WebEx functionality and meeting protocols for both the committee members and the public. He also reiterated the distributed materials and their availability on the webpage.

2. Approval of May 20, 2020 meeting minutes

The District displayed a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting and the Chair invited discussion and comments.

Mr. Charles Trevino moved to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Belinda Faustinos seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously via a roll call vote.

3. Public Comment Period

The Chair reiterated the 4 methods available for public comment and the order they would typically be addressed (comments cards submitted in advance, WebEx raised hands, callers, and requests in chat box), and then asked the District to facilitate. Mr. Frary acknowledged that there were 15 comment cards or letters submitted (attached to these minutes) in advance. He started by calling on each to unmute and share their comment and proceeded to facilitate additional comments via the other methods, reminding each to remain within the allotted 2 minutes.

Mr. Jim Stahl, LARWQCB, stated his support for the innovative City of Los Angeles Ballona Creek project that treats dry weather runoff and first flush and provides high-quality water for the wetlands. This project could serve as a template for the watershed to provide a high volume of treatment in a cost

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effective manner and the CSMB Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) should reconsider this project for inclusion in its proposed Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).

Mr. Shahram Kharagahani, Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN), stated that the Ballona Creek project received a high score and provides multiple benefits. LASAN previously withdrew the project from consideration in order to verify and further substantiate the benefits of this project but now requests it receive consideration. This cost-effective Project will meet the dry weather Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL, would protect the members of the community that recreate in the downstream estuary, and would support the cities of Ballona Creek watershed to meet their MS4 permits. The Project also protects downstream aquatic life by treating and releasing clean water back to the Ballona Creek which then provides a new supply of water for recycled water production. He requested the SIP be sent back to the CSMB WASC to be reconsidered for implementation. This would give LASAN an opportunity to present additional finding on the benefits this project brings to the surrounding disadvantaged communities.

Ms. Lisa O'Brien for Daniel Keesey, City of La Verne, read the City's letter submitted to the ROC. The USGR SIP funds the final design for 6 infrastructure projects, provides full funding for construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study, funds 5 technical resource programs, and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator. The proposed SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed. It allows for the preparation of final design plans to further inform actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY22-23). The proposed SIP allows project proponents to seek grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding ultimately required for construction, allows cities to best meet water quality objectives in their Watershed Management Programs, and allows for more robust future coordination with eventual Watershed Coordinators.

Ms. Kim Orbe, Our Water LA Coalition (OWLA), commented regarding Transfer Agreements (TAs). She recommend tracking DAC investments that require more robust reporting and community engagement requirements. The TAs for Regional and Municipal recipients should be consistent and include preservation of native vegetation for nature-based solutions. Reporting module should be transparent and available for public review to ensure projects are aligned with the bulk of the SCWP that the voters approved.

Mr. Josh Nelson, city of Industry, echoed the comments of Lisa from La Verne and recommended the USGR SIP be approved as submitted today.

Mr. Kevin Kearney, city of Bradbury, expressed the city's full support for the USGR SIP.

Ms. Julie Carver for Chris Diggs, city of Pomona, added their support for the USGR SIP as submitted.

Ms. Samantha Matthews, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), expressed their support for USGR and Rio Hondo SIPs. The projects included in the SIPs are crucial for our cities and DACs, assist cities with the MS4 permit compliance, increase local water supply, and protect public health. The SGVCOG supports projects and programs its member jurisdictions' effort to protect the region's water quality. The inclusion of these projects in the respective SIPs is crucial for advancing these projects. We encourage the ROC to support the work of these WASCs and approve these SIPs to support jurisdictions' MS4 compliance.

Ms. Gloria Crudginton, Monrovia City Council, expressed support for both Rio Hondo and USGR SIPs. She explained that her focus on compliance with the MS4 permit and work with the LARWQCB has led to a redeveloped WMP that has reduced the total cost to the watershed area without compromising water quality compliance. She expressed concern that the County has most of the shovel ready projects and would take most of the funding. She also expressed concern about the current pandemic, civil unrest, and reduced budgets. She commended emphasis for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

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Mr. Shahriar Eftekharzadeh, SEITec, stated his comment is regarding the ULAR SIP and the inclusion of two projects: Lankershim Blvd and Oro Vista, that include large diameter storm drains, which neither capture nor reduce pollution. The projects' benefits are provided by the dry wells in their scope. He expressed concerns about cost effectiveness. He recommends the ULAR SIP be returned to the WASC for reconsideration of spending money elsewhere and mentions the questions for the projects included on the comment card.

Ms. Annalisa Moe, Heal the Bay and OWLA, stated that SCW funds should be allocated to the best projects that will clean our water and meet other objectives of water conservation and community investments. She was concerned the current lack of Watershed Coordinators and technical assistance may have resulted in projects that are not developed to meet all of these objectives. She supported the approach that only the highest scored projects in this round be funded to ensure future projects can be used for projects that meet all objectives. She also expressed specific positions for 3 SIPs:

- Opposes USGR SIP and recommends returning to WASC for reconsideration of only the highest scored projects and stay below a maximum of 50% of the revenue.
- Supports CSMB yet has concerns regarding the assessment of DAC benefits.
- Supports ULAR SIP yet has concerns regarding vetting FCD projects that address stormwater capture elements. SCWP funding should be allocated for the stormwater components of these projects and not the entire project cost.
- Supports the LLAR SIP.

Ms. Josie Clerfond, South LA Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z), stated her support for the Slauson Avenue Metro Rail to River/South LA Climate Commons project that is included in the ULAR SIP. The project promotes economic opportunity and connectivity to green spaces in addition to enhancing water quality. Allocation of funding to the Rail to River project will address equity and create park space for park poor communities. This project aims to connect the LA River Watershed and surrounding conservation projects to other major resources for the South LA Community including the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Parklands to include portions of South LA that have historically been left out of natural resource conservation funding. Significant resources have already been expended on this project and SCW Program funds will help ensure the project comes to fruition.

Mr. David Diaz, Active SGV, expressed the projects have room for improvement in the area of multi-benefit approaches and community engagement. He expressed concern regarding the investment of limited financial resources and with overcommitting the funds for the USGR SIP. He would like to see stronger proposals that support water quality and water supply, but also consider local hire, open space development, increased safety, and public health. We have an opportunity to change the environment and resources of the SGV. We need to not only think about capital investment but human investment. Recommends sending the USGR SIP back to the WASC for reconsideration.

Mr. Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All, stated concern about the USGR SIP and recommend the SIP be returned to the WASC. The USGR SIP was built upon the thought that they could fund design only, and while everyone understands the desire to spread the funds around, the program was structured to fund the best projects fully. Projects chosen for design and not implementation could result in less implemented projects. He stated that this may signal to taxpayers that dollars are not being used effectively because they don't turn into built projects. He expressed concern with funding pieces of projects and not projects fully supported through implementation. Finally, he expressed concern that the WASC overcommitted the funds over 5-years.

Officer Iris Santin, LAPD, stated her support for the MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Park project included in the CSMB SIP. She supports funds used to clean up the lake, improve the park, and help families feel safe.

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Mr. Aydin Pasebani, representing Supervisor Hilda Solis of the First District, stated the First District's concern about the USGR SIP and reiterated the responsibility of committee members to think regionally, inclusively, and collaboratively to best steward public funds. The recommended USGR SIP contradicts core themes of SCW Program, including funding sustainability, regional consistency, and supporting DACs. The USGR WASC awarded funding to complete the design phase for all projects regardless of merit or score. This action moved non-design funding to a future funding column and otherwise over-programmed available 5-year funding. The First District wants to ensure the integrity of the SCW Program is upheld and that the USGR WASC develops a sustainable and equitable SIP. He urged the SIP to be returned to the USGR WASC for reconsideration.

Mr. Algis Marciuska on behalf of Adam Raymond, city of Glendora, supported the USGR SIP, stating that it includes very good multi-benefit regional projects, final design for 6 infrastructure program projects, full funding for Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project located within a disadvantaged community, funds for a scientific study to examine infiltration rates, funds 5 TRP, and allows for the hiring of WC. The proposed SIP covers entire Upper San Gabriel area. The cities have been highly affected with Covid-19 and these funds will allow the cities to meet the water quality objectives and permit compliance.

Mr. Eli Lipman, co-chair of SLATE-Z transit workgroup, supports the \$8.45 million funds for the Active Transport Rail to River project included on the ULAR SIP. The area of South and Southeast LA has some of the poorest health and environmental index scores in the region. A majority of the cost of the project is for the cleanup of pollution; over the past decades the community has suffered various negative environmental effects. Providing SCW Program funds will address issues of urban runoff and water recycling. He recommends supporting the ULAR SIP and inclusion of Active Transport Rail to River Project.

Mr. Bryan Matsumoto, Nature For All, stated that the scoring guidelines and program need to be tightened on three issues – DAC project claims, community investment, and local support/community engagement. LAANE, SCOPE, and Nature for All will submit a report with recommendations to tighten rubrics in the scoring to help produce better quality outcomes. He stated the level of budget information in the current application is limited; the water quality and water supply metrics are clear, but the community investment benefits have no specific way to quantify points. Their analysis showed the highest scoring DAC projects had minimal outreach activity in the application. He encouraged development of a new point-based rubric, suggested a community engagement spectrum, and suggested a specific consultant to get these metrics into the program.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

Ms. Romero began with an acknowledgement of the Covid-19 pandemic and civil unrest. There is a lot to be done with historic disinvestment and structural racism that needs to be addressed. She acknowledged that the committees represent communities that need representation and it is upon us to deliver a program and projects that address disadvantaged community issues that have been raised.

Mr. Carl Blum identified the need to more clearly define goals and what is needed for each watershed. Each watershed is unique. Before spending too many big dollars, we need to understand what is being addressed. He suggested the SIPs frontload with project concepts and studies to lead to those watershed goals and that the first year not overcommit projects for future years. Watershed Coordinators will give a better idea of what to expect for each area in the future.

Ms. Elva Yanez concurred with Ms. Romero that we have a unique opportunity to think about the issues of disinvestment given what is going on today. She agreed with Mr. Blum about not over-committing funds and would like to use the technical dollars in a way to plan for the long term and future opportunities.

Ms. Belinda Faustinos also echoed Ms. Romero's and Mr. Blum's statements and agrees that the ROC is in a sensitive position. She stated that there are projects that should be/need to be implemented to

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address the water needs and other projects that need careful consideration. She expressed some concerns related to Transfer Agreements and regarding transparency of the reporting process and how well it will capture data needed to track the investments.

Ms. Maria Mehranian concurred with the comments preceding her. She pointed out the validity of the process that occurred to date and that the amount of public comments for USGR and CSMB show lack of agreement on these SIPs. She stated that this meeting is a good forum for further discussion and that more attention to these two SIPs should be given. She suggested that watersheds with lesser agreement regarding their SIPs should perhaps be most strongly considered to be sent back to the WASC to be reanalyzed and reconsidered.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam also echoed the imperative of this movement in addressing racial and systemic inequity and carrying that forward in being thoughtful and proactive in how we think about investments in disadvantaged communities. She would like to add additional questions to the applications to get better and consistent information. She also agreed with Mr. Blum's statement about not allocating all of the funds in the first year.

Ms. Irma Munoz echoed the comments made before her and stated the program did not predict the pandemic and serious economic consequences when it was being developed. She would like to better define community engagement and ensure input is obtained regarding how to engage these communities and how to measure achievement of such community engagement. She expressed her disappointment that the proposed Ballona Creek project did not appear on the CSMB SIP, as the watershed has been out of compliance since 2013. She suggested the SIP be sent back to the WASC for reconsideration.

Ms. Kristine Guerrero stated that local governments understandably seek to be in compliance as the cost to be out of compliance is very costly. She would like to see how the regional goals align with the EWMPs and WMPs for comparison and suggested those shared goals should be the primary metrics used for assessment. She also indicated that the projects that also incorporate benefits to DAC and included more community engagement should be highly considered. She stated that the committee needs to remember that if not supporting compliance efforts, then the Program is hurting the same communities that we are trying to help because those funds would be going to third parties.

Mr. Frary provided the District updates. He indicated that the next ROC meeting on 6/24 would be used to finalize the ROC recommendations and/or feedback on any remaining SIPs under consideration following today's meeting. He also announced that a tentative ROC meeting is scheduled for July 20th should the ROC decide to send a SIP back to the WASC for reconsideration and therefore need to meet again to review final WASC recommendations. The Board of Supervisors would consider the SIPs in late August or early September.

The Transfer Agreement templates recently approved by the Board included extensions to certain timelines for submittals, clarifications as appropriate, and additional requirements regarding certain details to be included in reporting. Mr. Frary stated that 42 Transfer Agreements would be executed upon approval of the recommended SIPs as they are today and that he'll provide more info to set up the discussion of the recommended SIPs.

The Watershed Coordinator solicitation opened at the end of May and remains open through July 20th. Answers to submitted questions, including those received during the two info sessions, will be distributed soon.

The Year 2 Call for Projects deadline was extended from end of July to October 15th. There are also modifications to the Project Module in progress to help gather additional information up front to be available to the committees during the discussion and selection process.

The District is developing tools to help with evaluation of the program and has explored or initiated parallel efforts through academia, SCCWRP, Pacific Institute, and the WHAM committee. Additionally,



the reporting required through the transfer agreements will also help inform future tracking and representation of benefits realized by the program.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam asked if the hiring freeze for the County would impact the District's ability to bring on staff for the program. Mr. Frary stated there is no final word on that process but acknowledged the dedicated funding source for program administration.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Multiple members disclosed the communications received from Supervisor Solis and Active SGV regarding the USGR SIP and from LASAN regarding the Ballona Creek project and the CSMB SIP.

Ms. Munoz spoke with James Stahl about his planned comment at the ROC meeting.

Ms. Faustinos disclosed general OWLA meeting participation.

Ms. Luce reported meeting on June 16th with LASAN on the Ballona Creek project and their requested reconsideration for the CSMB SIP.

Ms. Romero disclosed a phone call with LASAN regarding the Ballona Creek project.

6. Public Comment Period

The Chair acknowledged the unique role of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the committee's desire and request to hear their feedback on the proposed SIPs. Ms. Jenny Newman was invited to speak and indicated that the majority of the projects included on the SIPs were identified in WMPs that help comply with the MS4 permit. It was not clear for a few of the projects that emphasized water supply benefits whether those projects would lead to permit compliance. She also noted that a few projects appear to have already been funded and the requests for SCW Program funding seem to be an effort to recoup costs that have already been incurred. The RWQCB does not support the use of funds in this way and the funds should be used for implementation of future projects. The RWQCB recognized the significant impact the pandemic had on certain local funding and supported the use of SCW Program funds to honor commitments of funding that had not yet been funded. Ms. Newman provided RWQCB comments on all 6 of the SIPs up for consideration.

For the LLAR SIP, both infrastructure projects are included in the Lower LA River Watershed Management Program (WMP) and RWQCB supports this SIP.

For the USGR SIP, 5 of the 7 proposed projects are identified in a WMP. Only one of the projects includes construction funds and the others are broken into design and planning only. Design is an important use of funds and the projects should move forward as they are included in management plans. From an MS4 compliance perspective, RWQCB does not object to this SIP.

For the Rio Hondo SIP, both projects are included in a WMP. The East LA Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project appears fully funded and RWQCB does not support the recoup of costs already incurred.

For the CSMB SIP, all recommended projects are included in a WMP and several are signature projects. It appears that the Ladera Park Stormwater Improvement Project and Washington Blvd Stormwater and Urban Runoff projects are requesting funds to recoup costs already incurred.

For the SSMB SIP, all recommended projects are in a WMP. The recommended FY20-21 funds are for planning and design only. The RWQCB does not oppose this approach, especially since the allocated percentage of funding over 5-years is not too high.

For ULAR SIP, most of the projects are in a WMP and collectively will treat large capture areas and will lead to significant water quality benefits. The Roosevelt Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project seems to be fully funded and the RWQCB does not support the recoup of costs already incurred. The RWQCB supports this SIP overall.



Ms. Tiffany Wong, on behalf of SCOPE LA and OWLA, stated that South LA faces environmental impacts due to disinvestments. The OWLA coalition supports the CSMB SIP and ULAR SIP as presented, and that the Ballona project could be considered later in CSMB. She expressed her concern with District projects that have been dressed up with stormwater capture elements; SCW Program funds should be used to address stormwater components and not the total project cost. She called for more robust community engagements, tracking metrics for engagements, and utilizing local community-based organizations for engagement. She also called for more Nature-Based Solutions and voice support of the ULAR Rail to River project.

Mr. Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper, stated his frustration. Compliance is important, but not the main purpose of the SCW Program. Measure W was sold to the people as a multi-benefit program to increase water quality but also to provide additional benefits and with a focus on disadvantaged communities – i.e., those that have historically been underinvested in and communities that are park poor or suffer disproportionately with air and water pollution, heat island effect, and lack of recreation. He stated he does not oppose the Ballona Creek project itself and would have supported it if it could have been partially funded, but he does not think the project should receive \$32M of Regional funding, especially when the City of LA gets \$38M in local return. The project is a traditional low flow diversion project and multi-benefit merit is questionable; he expressed that today's problems were yesterday's solutions and would like to see more nature-based solutions and multi-benefits. The project is a TSO project; environmental groups have traditionally opposed new funding for projects that have otherwise been required. It was not initially submitted as providing a DAC benefit; it would dilute the meaning of benefit to a DAC to include this project as benefiting a DAC. He questioned the use of providing DAC benefits to other projects that were scored. Funding Ballona Creek would pre-commit most of the funding for 5 years, and not allow for other future projects such as Inglewood that is recommended for technical resources funding and incorporates nature-based solutions.

Ms. Munoz stated the importance of defining community engagement in projects, in addition to water quality and water supply benefits. Project proponents should engage with the very people in the community that the proposed projects will serve. She suggested that revisiting Ballona Creek may be prudent.

7. Discussion of Available Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Recommendations

Ms. Romero began the discussion of the SIPs explaining that the ROC does not have veto power but can send the SIPs back with feedback for consideration.

Mr. Fray reiterated that the role of the ROC per the LACFCDC Code is to assess and make recommendations to the Board on whether SCW Program Goals are being achieved. He acknowledged that this should be done in the context of the current stage of SCWP implementation, the state of the region, and all other appropriate factors. He displayed two graphics, one representing the proposed funding breakdowns across all 9 SIPs as recommended (97% for Infrastructure Program, 1% for Scientific Studies, and 2% for Technical Resources Program) and one representing the scored benefits across all 9 SIPs as recommended (water quality being the largest benefit of the proposed suite of projects). He also noted that the recommended SIPs propose over \$96M be allocated for year 1, which includes 42 of 58 Infrastructure Program projects, 17 of 21 Technical Resources Program concepts, and 4 of 7 Scientific Studies. Further, it was noted that the proposed SIPs include all types of projects, address a variety of pollutants, provide a variety of community enhancements and nature-based solutions, capture water from over 63,000 acres, and add an estimated annual supply benefit of almost 3,000 AF/yr. He reminded the committee that any motion made during this discussion should be held for voting until item 9 on the agenda.

The committee discussed the logistics of the discussion and voting and agreed to a hard stop at 3pm. Ms. Luce proposed to not have a presentation of the SIP from the chairs but rather to have their discussion with the ability to ask the respective WASC Chair any questions as needed. Mr. Trevino



seconded this approach. The committee did not object to this method, and the committee began discussions in the order they were listed on the agenda.

- **Rio Hondo (RH) SIP**

Ms. Luce requested clarification regarding projects that have funding allocated or have been completed. She asked if there are any provisions in the Code that prohibit funding of projects that have already been completed and if this information was disclosed to the WASCs.

Mr. Frary clarified that expenses incurred after November 6, 2018 are indeed eligible and confirmed that the WASCs were aware of the status of such projects. For the RH SIP, Mr. James Carlson added that the requested and recommended amount for the East LA Median Project was only \$7M of the \$36M in total.

Mr. Trevino moved to approve the Rio Hondo SIP. The motion was seconded by Kristine Guerrero and additional discussion ensued

Ms. Faustinos stated that the Baldwin Lake project was credited with DAC benefits not because it was not located in a DAC, but because the project proponent made a strong commitment to providing applicable educational programs for disadvantaged youth. She supported the commitment.

Ms. Yanez felt it was troubling that the projects on this SIP lacked more community engagement and indicated it should be improved in the future.

Upon no further discussion, Mr. Frary suggested holding the vote for item 9 (after public comment) and that any other motions during discussion could be voted on sequentially at that time.

- **Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) SIP**

Ms. Mehranian stated that there was lack of consensus and would like to suggest sending the SIP back to the WASC. Ms. Mehranian made a motion to send back the SIP to the WASC for better consideration of the individual project scores.

Ms. Faustinos seconded the motion with a caveat stating that she would like the SIP to consider prioritization of individual projects to help ensure funding is not overcommitted over the next 5 years. She was concerned about committing to projects without a high degree of certainty that there will be funds available for full implementation, especially because the community investments typically are installed at the end of the project.

Ms. Luce recommended that the scoring for the projects be considered for that prioritization, as the WASC appears to have ignored the scoring and their preliminary rankings when developing the SIP. Ms. Mehranian agreed to the amended motion.

Ms. Mehranian clarified the motion to return the USGR SIP to the WASC with a request to consider the scoring of the projects and community participation as well. Mr. Frary further clarified and summarized the resulting motion for the committee – Return the USGR SIP to the WASC recommending three considerations: prioritization of projects based on scoring by Scoring Committee and preliminary rankings by WASC members, assurance that funding is not overcommitted over the current 5-year period, and additional investigation into project-specific community engagement.

Ms. Ahkiam asked if the recommendations to the WASC would need to be included in the motion. Mr. Frary confirmed the three recommendations would be captured and sent back to the WASC in accordance with the summarized motion. The WASC would then discuss feedback and determine to either revise the recommended SIP (and if so, how) or leave it as



is to send back to the ROC with justification, as applicable. In turn, the ROC would review the SIP and forward it to the Board with its findings and final recommendations.

Ms. Yanez asked if it was even allowable to approve design of all projects or to elevate lower scored projects equal to or above high scored projects to be funded. Mr. Frary confirmed that the District conferred with Counsel and the proposed SIP is allowable as-is. Additionally, he confirmed that any project that passes the Threshold Score of 60 points is allowed to be funded. Ms. Faustinos agreed with Ms. Yanez that funding lower scored projects was a concern of OWLA. Ms. Ahkiam expressed concern that funding for design only would be troubling and she would like to see funding for construction that would lead to promotion of green jobs.

Ms. Guerrero asked for clarification on whether other SIPs had recommended projects that were design only; she reiterated the point of the RWQCB that design and planning are important uses of funds. She also stated that the vote for the recommended SIP was 9 to 5, which is not a real close vote, and would like to keep the vote in mind. Mr. Frary stated that other SIPs included design only in the first year as well (sometimes with later phases in subsequent years but sometimes because applicant only sought design funding), but that USGR was unique in that design funding was provided to all requesting projects with no year-specific projections for future phases (i.e., all potential funding for construction was pushed to future "funding" column).

Ms. Yanez asked for more clarity on whether the Code or guidelines that were developed post-vote prohibited such allocations. Mr. Frary reiterated that there is nothing prohibiting this in the Ordinance passed by the voters or the subsequent Implementation Ordinance. The District's WASC Operating Guidelines and SIP Programming Guidelines provided recommended threshold percentages for funding allocations but included nothing that explicitly prohibits the proposed way of allocating funds. Ms. Yanez stated that this may have been allowable and people voted for it, but it seems that the BOS should be made aware of it and perhaps things should be tightened up to avoid this situation in the future. Mr. Frary noted that this is understood and will be noted for consideration when the District revisits other procedural aspects of the Program.

- **Central Santa Monica Bay (SCMB) SIP**

Ms. Mehranian began the discussion adding that the Ballona Creek project would add multi-benefits, including benefits to disadvantage communities, improving water quality and creating water supply cheaply for the area. She suggested sending the SIP back to the WASC to reconsider and include the Ballona Creek project.

Ms. Luce agreed that she would like to see the project included in the SIP, but she would ideally like to see a partial award and not the full project cost, if it were possible. She is concerned with consuming all of the regional funds for several years on a project that is excellent on WQ benefits but not excellent on nature-based solutions or multi-benefits. Ms. Faustinos agrees with Ms. Luce's concerns and asked if the WASC has the discretion to partially fund the Ballona Creek project. Mr. Frary confirmed that the full funding amount must be considered but may be phased over the 5-year provided that the project could be phased appropriately. Ms. Romero asked who can change the funding request. Mr. Frary explained that the proposal was reviewed as submitted by the applicant, like all proposals, and was all applicants were not able to make a change in scope or cost as it may change the score due to a different cost effectiveness, different realized benefits, or other factors. If the applicant were to change the cost, it would need to be reevaluated by the Scoring Committee, which could be done if the project were re-submitted in Year 2 for evaluation.

Ms. Luce clarified that if we send the SIP back to the WASC, the ROC could be implying that the Ballona Creek project be funded in lieu of other projects currently recommended on the SIP. Mr. Frary reminded the committee that ROC feedback and considerations are to be



focused on alignment with SCWP Goals rather than directly regarding specific projects, so any feedback about a project must be in the context of concern about achieving those goals. He also cautioned that there is no guarantee of what may occur if the WASC were to reconsider the SIP, as the WASC would review feedback and theoretically reconsider all different scenarios to both meet the SIP requirements and best steward funds in their watershed. To meet codified SIP requirements, the WASC would need to make a determination and justification that this project does benefit a DAC.

Mr. Blum stated that this project should use other leveraged funds to buttress the SCW Program funds to avoid having this one large project use such a majority of the available funds.

Ms. Mehranian stated that the \$32M is not requested in the first year but over 5-years. Mr. Kharagahani, LASAN, confirmed that they were willing and able to divide the total construction cost over the 5-years. He suggested the recommended SIP cash flow over 5-years be included on the proposed SIP and presented to the WASC.

Ms. Mehranian made a motion to return the SIP to the WASC for reconsideration and suggested including the Ballona Creek project due to the high score and significant water quality and water supply benefits..

Ms. Faustinos indicated she would support the motion with the modification to not remove or diminish funding for any projects that address DAC issues, particularly MacArthur Park and Monteith Park. She is concerned about whether Ballona Creek truly provides DAC benefits. Ms. Mehranian accepted the modification. Ms. Romero suggested the addition of some green elements to the Ballona Creek project be considered. Mr. Frary clarified that the addition of green elements would need to be carefully crafted and with outside funding to not change the application that was submitted and is currently under consideration. Ms. Romero agreed that perhaps LASAN could make a separate commitment to additional green elements utilizing non-SCW Program funds to boost the multi-benefits of the project.

Mr. Trevino seconded the original motion by Ms. Mehranian. Ms. Mehranian clarified that she accepted the modification to the motion from Ms. Faustinos. Mr. Trevino confirmed and seconded the modified motion.

Ms. Ahkiam wanted to provide additional information to the applicants on what would constitute a DAC benefit and what is needed for community engagement. She asked about the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project for CSMB SIP as it is a 3-part project, and she would like clarity to understand how the multi-part project benefits and total projects costs are estimated and evaluated in terms of the SCW Program.

Ms. Romero added that the City had difficulty assigning Ballona Creek project as a benefit to a DAC because the City did not have complete guidance on what is determined a benefit to a DAC. She would like to see a sliding scale rather than a black and white determination of DAC benefits.

Ms. Guerrero echoed that more guidance should be given to the applicants and would like to provide similar support to the Watershed Coordinators so that everyone has the same guidance and measurements early on.

Ms. Romero stated that, as the ROC, they recognize there is more opportunity to improve understanding and to provide balance of the program goals between compliance and multiple objectives. She acknowledged that the committee also has to move forward as best able for now.



Ms. Faustinos reiterated great concern with considering the Ballona Creek project as a benefit to a DAC or changing the definition of DAC this late in the process; and feels there are not significant DAC benefits for this project.

Ms. Ahkiam asked if the DAC ratio could be addressed over the 5-year period. Mr. Frary confirmed that it is considered over 5-years; however, if the Ballona Creek project is not considered to provide DAC benefit, it is possible that this WASC still cannot meet the DAC ratio as required by the Code.

8. Public Comment Period

Mr. Neal Shapiro, City of Santa Monica, stated that the CSMB WASC generally agreed that the Ballona Creek project is a good project but seemed unfundable due to the high project cost unless it was determined to provide a DAC benefit or there was a change in the funding requested. The WASC decided to exclude the withdrawn project from this year of funding with the understanding that the project would resubmit for the next year of consideration, which allowed the WASC to recommend implementation of other shovel-ready projects. He stated that the process was fair and balanced and provided a good solution for all the agencies.

Mr. Josh Nelson, representing City of Industry on the USGR WASC, stated that the reasoning for funding design only during the first year was due to not having the Watershed Coordinator on board to help decide which projects get built. As such, deferring the decision could better serve the watershed area. He indicated the WASC would like to move construction of projects forward at a later date and with additional information, and acknowledged that none of the projects would provide construction jobs in the first year. He stated that the projects with completed design would be in a better position to apply for additional leveraged funds elsewhere, which would bring down the cost of construction for the later years.

Mr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh, SEITec stated that the Ballona Creek project was not optimized for innovation. SEITec would like to develop an innovative solution that would be less expensive and could be considered in parallel during the next round of applications and demonstrate how the project could be streamlined with better innovation and less cost than the current proposal.

Mr. David Pedersen of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District supported the motion for CSMB to reconsider their SIP and the Ballona Creek project. Las Virgenes is interested in leveraging existing infrastructure to produce water quality and water supply benefits and has an active study in progress. This project is a good example for this effort. In the future, he would like the WASCs to have the ability to work with the project proponents to reduce their funding requests (i.e., allow partial funding) rather than require the applicant to withdraw and apply for a future funding year.

Mr. Shahram Kharagahani commented that \$32M project has over 30% leveraged funds, will provide jobs, achieves water quality compliance of 100%, and also creates water supply and enhances the community and habitat.

Ms. Liz Crosson, City of LA and Chair of CSMB WASC, stated that the recommended SIP was established unanimously by the WASC but after a very robust conversation on this complicated aspect. The committee had learned that, due to its size, including the Ballona Creek project would only work if the project was determined to provide a DAC benefit. LASAN was put in a difficult position given the lack of clarity and guidance on benefits to a DAC and the need for varying degree of benefits. LASAN responsibly decided to withdraw the project; it was not rejected by the WASC. The majority of the WASC members had actually voiced support for the project but had a difficult time trying to figure out how to make it work with this new program. LASAN now would like to present additional findings to the WASC for reconsideration.



9. Voting Items

Voted on the Rio Hondo SIP motion made during Agenda Item 7:

Forward the Rio Hondo SIP to the Board of Supervisors.

The motion was made by Ms. Guerrero and seconded by Mr. Trevino. **The committee voted unanimously to forward the Rio Hondo SIP to the Board of Supervisors. (Ayes: 9, Nays: 0)**

Voted on the USGR SIP motion made during Agenda Item 7:

Return the USGR SIP to the WASC recommending three considerations: prioritization of projects based on scoring by Scoring Committee and preliminary rankings by WASC members, assurance that funding is not overcommitted over the current 5-year period, and additional investigation into project-specific community engagement.

The motion was made by Ms. Mehranian and seconded by Ms. Faustinos. **The committee voted to return the SIP to the USGR WASC for consideration. (Ayes: 7, Nays: 2)**

Voted on the CSMB SIP motion made during Agenda Item 7:

Return the CSMB SIP to the WASC recommending reconsideration to maximize water quality and water supply benefits and potential subsequent inclusion of the Ballona Creek TMDL Project with the caveat that the existing projects that provide DAC benefits are not diminished or removed.

The motion was made by Ms. Mehranian, modified by Ms. Faustinos, accepted by Ms. Mehranian, and then seconded by Mr. Trevino. Ms. Faustinos asked if evidence could be provided demonstrating Ballona Creek project provides a benefit to a DAC. Mr. Frary replied that the WASC would need to make that determination and, if applicable, provide justification when returning the SIP to the ROC. **The committee voted to return the SIP to the CSMB WASC for consideration. (Ayes: 8, Nays: 1)**

10. Items for Next Agenda

Mr. Frary stated that the next ROC meeting on June 24th would consider the last 3 SIPS and that the tentative ROC meeting in July would be necessary to review the returned SIPS.

11. Meeting Adjourned

Barbara Romero thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting – June 18th, 2020

A. Blackwell	David Dolphin	Josie Clerfond
Alex tachiki	David Nahai	Joyce Amaro
Alfredo Magallanes	David Pedersen	Julian Juarez
Algis Marciuska	Dawn Petschauer	Julian Lee
Alvin Cruz	Deborah Enos	Julie Carver
Alvin Papa	Dee Corhiran	K. Kearney
Amanda Hamilton	Derar Ayoush	Kathleen McGowan
Annelisa Moe	Diana Tang	Katie Mika
April	Diane Gatz	Katie Ward
Ariel Flores	Drew Ready	Keith Lilley
Art Castro	Dustin Bambic	Kelsey Erisman
Aydin Pasebani	Ed Suher	Kenneth Chow
Barbara Romero	Eli Lipmen	Kevin Kim
Belinda V Faustinos	Elva Yanez	Kim Braun
Brad Wardynski	Enrique Zaldivar	Kim Orbe
Brenda Ponton	Evan Rossnberg	Kirk Allen
Brett Perry	Eve sinclair	Kristin Ruffell
Brian Rowley	Fernando Villaluna	Kristine Guerrero
Brianna Datti	Genevieve Osmena	L. Chung
Bronwyn Kelly	Gerry Greene	Lauren Ahkiam
Bruce Hamamoto	Gloria Crudgington	Lincoln Lo
Bruce Reznik	Greg Jaquez	Lisa O'brien
Bryan Matsumoto	Gregor Patsch	Liz Crosson
Bryant Alvarado	Heather Repenning	M. Martinez
Bryce Lee	Irma Muñoz	M. Passanisi
Carl Blum	Iwen Tseng	Mackenzie Domann
Carmen Andrade	Jacqueline Mak	Maria Mehranian
Chad Helmle	James Carlson	Mark Glassock
Charles D.	James Cramsie	Mark Hall
Herbertson	James Vernon	Mark Lombos
Charles Trevino	Jenny Newman	Matt Frary
Chau Vu	Jessica Quach	Matt Grooms
Chris. M	Jill Sourial	Mayra Cabrera
Christine McLeod	Jim Stahl	Melanie Morita
Christine Wartman	Joe Venzon	Melissa Turcotte
CJ Caluag	Joey Legaspi	Melissa You
Conor Mossavi	John Dettle	Michael Drennan
Craig W.	John Hunter	Michael Gagan
Cadwallader	Jon Ball	Michael Omary
Cristian Duran	Jonathan Lu	Michael Smith
Daniel Bradbury	Joshua Felton	Michelle Kim
David Angel	Joshua Nelson	Mike Antos
David Diaz Avelar		

Attendees

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting – June 18th, 2020

Neal Shapiro
Oliver Galang
Paul Alva
Paul Senker
Peter Tonthat
Phuoc Le
Renee Purdy
Richard Watson
Rita Kampalath
Ruby Wang
Samantha Matthews
Sarah Ahmed
Selim Eren
Seth Carr
Shahram Kharaghani
Shahriar
Eftekhazadeh
Sharon Gallant
Sheila Brice
Shelley Luce
Shiela Holt
Stella Higgins
Stephanie Tong
Steven Sharp
Susie Santilena
Taraneh nik-khah
Thom Epps
Thuan Nguyen
Tiffany Wong
Tom Love
Tori Klug
Traci Minamide
Vik Bapna
Waqas Rehman
Wendy Dinh
Wilson Mendoza
Y. CHEBABI



Public Comment Form

Name:* Kevin Kearney Organization*: City of Bradbury
Email*: kkearney@cityofbradbury.org Phone*: 626-358-3218
Meeting: Regional Oversight Committee Date: 6/18/2020

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

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]"
(ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

On behalf of the City of Bradbury, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). While the USGR SIP is unique from others that have been submitted, this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects, provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed, which benefits all future stormwater projects, funds five technical resource programs, which need funding in order to begin design plans, and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator.

As the financial impacts of COVID-19 on our communities is realized, it is crucial that Cities are awarded a portion of Regional Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet water quality objectives, which are defined in our Enhanced Watershed Management Plans, achieve MS4 NPDES Permit compliance, eliminating pollutants of concern from our waterways, and also to eventually construct multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our residents.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects for the WASC to select from. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside funds for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but any new projects that are developed as part of the Technical Resource Program and advised by the Watershed Coordinator. The chief reason for our support allows project proponents to go after grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing for more projects to be considered.



June 16, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
Safe, Clean Water Program
LA County Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: Upper San Gabriel River WASC Funding Recommendations

Dear Committee Members,

On Monday, June 1st, in a split 9 Yes / 5 No vote (3 members not present), the Upper San Gabriel River WASC approved every design-build infrastructure project before it, committing over 100% of regional funding anticipated for Upper San Gabriel River for the first five-year period of the Safe, Clean Water Program (hereafter the Program).

As community organizations, stakeholders, and constituents concerned about the investment of limited financial resources to improve water quality, increase water supply, and protect public health, we find this course of action deeply problematic and at odds with the intent of the program. The meeting [minutes](#) reflect a contentious outcome. In particular, the undersigned have the following concerns:

- **Infrastructure projects are supposed to be Design-Build**
- **Program was designed to fund projects on an annual basis**
- **Project scoring was not considered in the approved funding recommendation**
- **Funding design with no commitment to construction sets a dangerous precedent**
- **Any changes to Program implementation procedures need to be transparent**

Infrastructure projects are supposed to be Design-Build.

In making its recommendation, the 9 member voting bloc stated that they were only committing to funding the design of these projects at this time. However, Los Angeles County Public Works SCWP staff were unequivocal in stating that the infrastructure category was intended to be for design AND construction of projects, not just design. This intention of the Program was further made clear as the Upper San Gabriel River WASC was the only Watershed Area Steering Committee in Los Angeles County to proceed in this manner.

The Program was designed to fund projects on an annual basis.

By approving infrastructure projects totaling almost \$108 million in a watershed projected to only receive \$18.9 million a year (114% of the available 5-year allocation), the committee has effectively turned a one-year program into a five-year program. Not maintaining any reserves for future applications leaves little purpose for the to-be-selected Watershed Coordinator until 2025-2026, when there will once again be funding for regional projects. An important role of the Coordinator was to reach out and help disadvantaged communities develop community-driven proposals, as well as support greater community awareness of Safe, Clean Water LA.

Project scoring was not considered in the WASC's decision-making.

The infrastructure application includes a clear scoring methodology that evaluates projects on the merits of how well they meet program criteria: water supply and quality benefits, investing in and supporting disadvantaged communities, incorporating public engagement and outreach, and providing multiple benefits to the community, including investments in public health, urban greening, nature based solutions, and climate resiliency. After receiving the Scoring Committee's preliminary scores on each project (see table below), the Committee went through their own ranking process at the [May 4th](#) meeting, and discussed their own ranking of projects at the [May 18](#) meeting. On June 1 however, the 9-member majority bloc ignored both its own and the Scoring Committee's rankings.

Scoring Committee Review (February 19, 2020)

Project Name	Project Lead(s)	Project Type	BMP Type	Approved WQ Plan	Municipality	DAC Benefit Claimed	Water Quality	Water Supply	CIB	NBS	Leveraging Funds	TOTAL
Barnes Park	City of Baldwin Park	Wet	Treatment Facility	USGR EWMP, IRWMP	Baldwin Park	Y	50	5	5	10	0	70
Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project	Los Angeles County	Wet	Infiltration Facility	USGR EWMP	La Puente	Y	50	12	10	10	10	92
Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project	City of Monrovia	Wet	Treatment Facility	RH/SGR rWMP	Duarte		50	2	5	12	0	69
Finkbiner Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project	City of Glendora	Wet	Treatment Facility	USGR EWMP	Glendora		50	12	5	12	0	79
Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project	City of El Monte	Wet	Infiltration Facility	IRWMP	El Monte	Y	50	0	2	5	4	61
MacLaren Hall Property Park and Sports Fields Project - concept	City of El Monte	Wet	Infiltration Facility	El Monte WMP	El Monte	Y						0
Pedley Spreading Grounds	East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group	Wet	Infiltration Facility	ESGV WMP	Claremont		50	0	2	5	4	61
Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project	City of Covina	Wet	Treatment Facility	USGR EWMP, IRWMP	Covina		40	18	5	12	0	75

Level of Public Engagement for Approved Projects

Project Name	Community Support Letter(s) Received	Prior Community Engagement
Barnes Park	No	6 outreach events
Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project	Yes	8+ outreach events
Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project	No	numerous outreach events
Finkbiner Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project	No	TBD
Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project	Yes	N/A
Pedley Spreading Grounds	Yes	1 outreach event
Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project	No	TBD

Note that three projects did not incorporate any community engagement, including the project that was awarded the most funding - Finkbiner Park.

(Source: [Finalized Upper SGR Stormwater Investment Plan report](#))

In voting to advance all projects, the Upper San Gabriel River WASC did an end run around project scoring and the application process. Since the majority bloc voted not to consider each project and conduct a final ranking, we can only refer to their previous May 18 ranking for reference (see table below). On May 18 a majority of committee members did not support that lowest-ranked project and it did not meet the threshold for approval. Then on June 1 the Committee's highest-ranked project (Bassett High School) was recommended for \$3 million in funding, and its *lowest*-ranked project (Finkbiner Park) was approved for \$6 million, the most of any project. This action communicates to future applicants that decision-making was and can be influenced by collusion among voting members, rather than developing the strongest projects per the adopted, formal application process.

Upper SGR Committee Member Rankings (May 18, 2020)

2.5 Preliminary Ranking

The WASC discussed each eligible project, project concept, and scientific study as a group. The applications were preliminarily ranked by each committee member and the scores were aggregated as follows:

Program	Project Name	# of Votes	Score	Program Place
IP	Bassett High School Stormwater Capture M	12	77	1
IP	Barnes Park Project	11	54	2
IP	Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage	10	44	3
IP	Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project	9	41	4
IP	Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project	9	35	5
IP	Pedley Spreading Grounds	8	22	6
IP	Finkbiner Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater	7		
SS	San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation	9	18	1
SS	Regional Scientific Study to Support Pro	5		
TRP	MacLaren Hall Property Park and Sports F	11	40	1
TRP	Fairplex Regional Stormwater Project	13	35	2
TRP	Glendora Avenue Green Street Feasibility	11	25	3
TRP	Brackett Field Stormwater Infiltration	9	22	4

Members were invited to prioritize all the Projects they preliminary thought should be funded. For the Upper SGR WASC, 7 projects were under consideration in the Infrastructure Program. Voting member's top ranked projects received 7 points, and each subsequent project received one less point. Projects that received less than a majority of rankings did not receive a score. (Source: [Finalized Upper SGR Stormwater Investment Plan report](#))

Funding design with no commitment to implementation sets a dangerous precedent.

Deferring construction funding decisions to future years (if even permissible) adds uncertainty for applicants and community partners. It may also pose a risk of liability if approved projects are subsequently not funded. In addition, investing limited funding in projects that may never move to construction -- and not result in more safe, clean water -- may signal to taxpayers that funding is not being used effectively.

Any changes to Program implementation procedures need to be transparent.

If stakeholders believe there are merits to having the SCWP split apart and fund separate categories for Design and Implementation of projects, this should be done in a deliberate, transparent fashion, such as by appealing to the District to restructure the program and process. In this current Year 1 cycle, the program was an Implementation grant. Every other WASC voted in this manner. The Upper San Gabriel River WASC was the sole outlier in only funding design of projects.

The undersigned ask that the Regional Oversight Committee carefully weigh these issues before approving this funding recommendation.

Stakeholders who helped develop Measure W, and the public who voted for it, recognized the need for investments to be multi-benefit, climate-resilient, community-supported, and allocated in a fair and transparent manner. Indeed, these very principles were sold to the public in requesting their support at the ballot box. Voters were also informed that each City would receive a share (40% “local return”) -- which could be used for project design -- but the majority of funds (50%) would be set-aside to realize the best regional projects per the adopted guidelines. It is critical that this intent be respected at this time and in the years ahead.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christy Zamani

Executive Director
Day One

Katherine Pease

Director of Science and Policy
Heal the Bay

David Diaz

Executive Director
ActiveSGV

Jill Sourial

Associate Director
The Nature Conservancy

Robert Morales

Chair
Nature for All

Manny Gonez

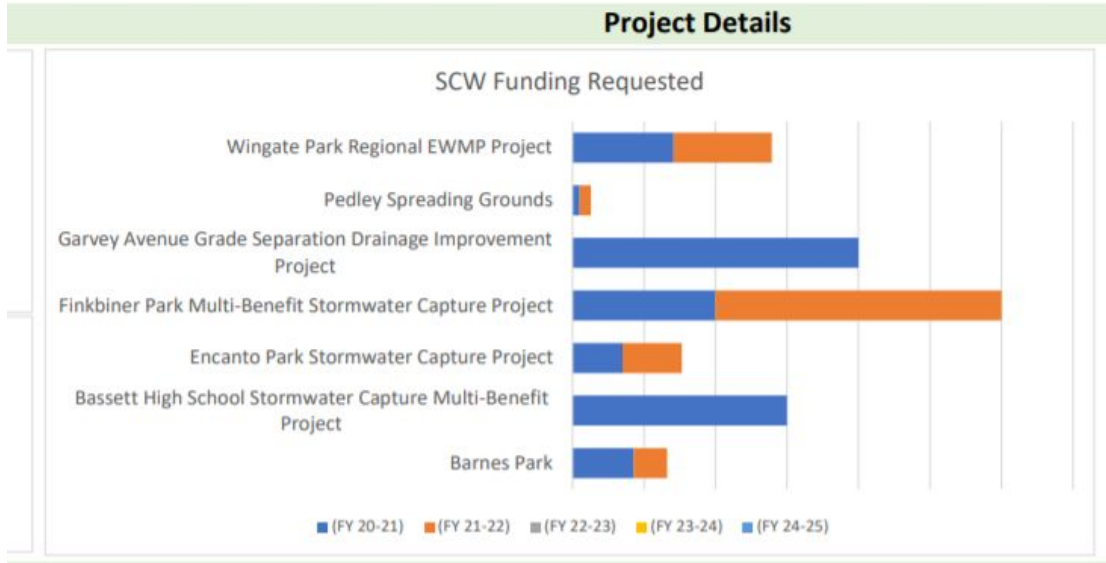
Policy Director
Tree People

Belinda Faustinos

Executive Director
Our Water LA

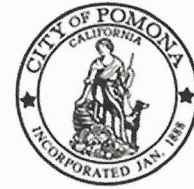
Final, Recommended Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) - Upper SGR

Attachment A
Final Recommended SIP - Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area



On June 1, the dollar amounts of the actual SIP decision for Design were hastily presented, and the graphic chart above was not shared with Committee members or the public. The chart clearly illustrates that the most funding has been set aside for the lowest scoring project. (Source: [Finalized SIP report](#))

THE CITY OF
POMONA



June 15, 2020

TO: Regional Oversight Committee

Via E-Mail: SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov

Subject: Letter of Support for Upper San Gabriel River Stormwater Investment Plan

Dear Regional Oversight Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Pomona, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). While the USGR SIP is unique from others that have been submitted, this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects; provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community; funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed, which benefits all future stormwater projects; funds five technical resource programs, which need funding in order to begin design plans; and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator to assist in community engagement.

Our general fund budgets and the community are being impacted heavily due to COVID-19. It is crucial that cities are awarded a portion of the Regional-Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet the following: water quality objectives; achieve MS4 NPDES Permit compliance; eliminating pollutants of concern from our waterways, and construct multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our community.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects for the WASC to select from. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside funds for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but also any new projects that are developed as part of the Technical Resource Program, and advised by the Watershed Coordinator. The chief reason for our support allows project proponents to go after grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing more projects for consideration.

If have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at (909) 802-7412.

Sincerely,

Chris Diggs
Water Resources Director



CITY OF INDUSTRY

June 16, 2020

Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee
c/o Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLAN

Dear Regional Oversight Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Industry, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). While the USGR SIP is unique from others that have been submitted, this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects, provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed, which benefits all future stormwater projects, funds five technical resource programs, which need funding in order to begin design plans, and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator.

As the financial impacts of COVID-19 on our communities is realized, it is crucial that Cities are awarded a portion of Regional Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet water quality objectives, which are defined in our Watershed Management Plans and Enhanced Watershed Management Plans, achieve MS4 NPDES Permit compliance, eliminating pollutants of concern from our waterways, and also to eventually construct multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our residents.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects for the WASC to select from. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside funds for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but any new projects that are developed as part of the Technical Resource Program and advised by the Watershed Coordinator once selected. The chief reason for our support allows project proponents to go after grant funds or bonds in the next two years

to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing for more projects to be considered.

If you require further assistance or have any other questions, please contact me at (626) 521-6640.

Sincerely,

CITY OF INDUSTRY



Joshua Nelson, PE

Director of Public Works

cc. Barbara Romero, Co-Chairperson
Shelly Luce, Co-Chairperson
Lauren Ahkiam, Vice Chairperson
Paul Alva, USGR WASC Chair
David Diaz, USGR WASC Vice Chair
Kevin Kim, LA County Safe Clean Water Staff



June 17, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
Safe Clean Water Program
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803

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Cynthia Sternquist

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San Dimas
San Gabriel
San Marino
Sierra Madre
South El Monte
South Pasadena
Temple City
Walnut
West Covina

*First District, LA County
Unincorporated Communities*

*Fourth District, LA County
Unincorporated Communities*

*Fifth District, LA County
Unincorporated Communities*

SGV Water Districts

RE: Letter of Support for the San Gabriel Valley Watershed Area Steering Committees' Stormwater Investment Plans

Dear Regional Oversight Committee,

On behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), we are writing to express our support for our member cities' projects included in the Watershed Area Steering Committees' Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs), specifically the Upper San Gabriel River SIP and Rio Hondo SIPs. The projects included in these SIPs are crucial for our cities and disadvantaged communities, as they assist cities with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance, increase our local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.

The SGVCOG represents 30 municipalities, 3 Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts, and the 3 water districts in the San Gabriel Valley and proudly supports projects and programs that promote environmental and sustainable efforts in LA County. The SGVCOG also supports its member jurisdictions' efforts to protect the region's water quality. The County's Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program provides crucial funding to our cities that allows them to modernize water infrastructure and comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements.

Our member jurisdictions' projects included in the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo SIPs are critical. Many of these projects serve disadvantaged communities, and they are crucial for helping jurisdictions meet water quality standards. The inclusion of these projects in the respective SIPs is critical for advancing these projects.

We encourage the Regional Oversight Committee to support the work of these WASCs and approve these SIPs to support jurisdictions' MS4 compliance.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at (626) 457-1800 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Marisa Creter
Executive Director
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599

www.ci.la-verne.ca.us

June 15, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
c/o Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

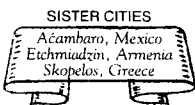
RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR USGR STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLAN

Dear Regional Oversight Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). While the USGR SIP is unique from others, this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects, provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed, (which benefits all future stormwater projects), funds five technical resource programs, which need funding in order to begin design plans, and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator.

As the financial impacts of COVID-19 on our communities is realized, it is crucial that Cities are awarded a portion of Regional Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet water quality objectives, which are defined in our Watershed Management Plans, achieve MS4 NPDES Permit compliance, eliminating pollutants of concern from our waterways, and also to eventually construct multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our residents.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows for the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects for the WASC to select from. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside funds for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but also



General Administration 909/596-8726 • Water Customer Service 909/596-8744 • Parks & Community Services 909/596-8700
Public Works 909/596-8741 • Finance 909/596-8716 • Community Development 909/596-8706 • Building 909/596-8713
Police Department 909/596-1913 • Fire Department 909/596-5991 • General Fax 909/596-8737

new projects that are developed as part of the Technical Resource Program and advised by the Watershed Coordinator. The primary reason for our support of this method, is that it allows project proponents to more easily seek grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing for more projects to be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (909) 596-8726.

Respectfully,

CITY OF LA VERNE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel W. Keeseey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'K'.

Daniel W. Keeseey
Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director

Cc: Barbara Romero, Co-Chairperson
Shelly Luce, Co-Chairperson
Lauren Ahkiam, Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kim, LA County Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, USGR WASC Chair
David Diaz, USGR WASC Vice Chair



June 15, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
c/o Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR USGR STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLAN

Dear Regional Oversight Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Glendora, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). The USGR SIP is unique from others that have been submitted in that this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects, provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed (which benefits all future stormwater projects), funds five technical resource programs (which need funding in order to begin design plans), and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator.

As the financial impact of COVID-19 on our communities is realized, it is crucial that Cities are awarded a portion of Regional Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet water quality objectives (which are defined in our Enhanced Watershed Management Plans), achieve MS4 NPDES Permit compliance (eliminating pollutants of concern from our waterways), and eventually construct multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our residents.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs (not estimates) in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects from which the WASC must select. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside monies for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but also for any new projects that are developed as part of the Technical Resource Program and advised by the Watershed Coordinator. The chief reason for our support allows project proponents to go after grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing for more projects to be considered.

If you require further assistance or have any other questions, please contact me at (626) 914-8201.

Sincerely,



Adam Raymond
City Manager, City of Glendora

cc. Barbara Romero, Co-Chairperson
Shelly Luce, Co-Chairperson
Lauren Ahkiam, Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kim, LA County Sanitation District
Paul Alva, USGR WASC Chair
David Diaz, USGR WASC Vice Chair
Sharon Gallant, Environmental Services Director, City of Covina



June 16, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
c/o Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR USGR STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLAN

Dear Regional Oversight Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Covina, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). While the USGR SIP is unique from others that have been submitted, this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects, provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed, which benefits all future stormwater projects, funds five technical resource programs, which need funding in order to begin design plans, and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator.

As the financial impacts of COVID-19 on our communities is realized, it is crucial that Cities are awarded a portion of Regional Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet water quality objectives. Without award of these critical funds, achievement of MS4 NPDES Permit compliance, the elimination of pollutants of concern from our waterways, and the construct of multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our residents would be impacted.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects for the WASC to select from. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside funds for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but any new projects that are developed as part of the Technical Resource Program and advised by the Watershed Coordinator. Finally, support of the proposed SIP allows project proponents to secure grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing for more projects to be considered.

If you require further assistance or have any questions, please contact me at (626) 384-5409.

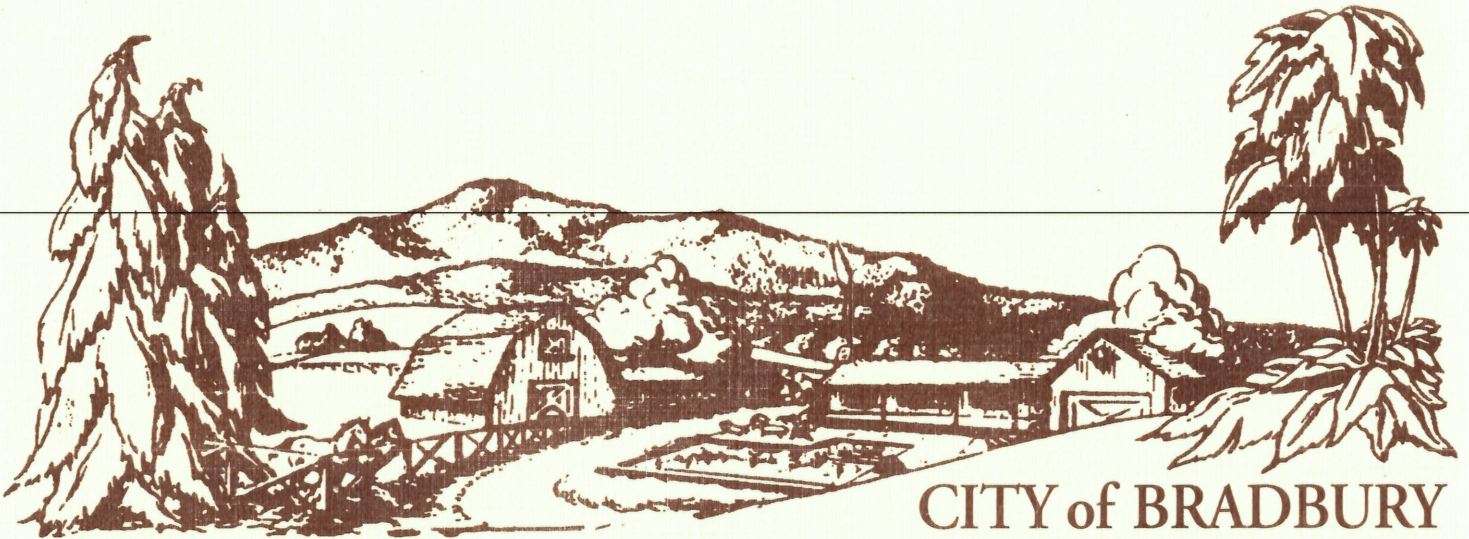
Sincerely,

CITY OF COVINA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris", written in a cursive style.

Chris Marcarello
City Manager

cc. Barbara Romero, Co-Chairperson
Shelly Luce, Co-Chairperson
Lauren Ahkiam, Vice Chairperson
Paul Alva, USGR WASC Chair
David Diaz, USGR WASC Vice Chair
Kevin Kim, USGR WASC Staff



CITY of BRADBURY

Incorporated July 26, 1957

June 17, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
c/o Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR USGR STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLAN

Dear Regional Oversight Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Bradbury, we would like to express our support for the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). While the USGR SIP is unique from others that have been submitted, this plan funds the final design for six infrastructure projects, provides full funding of construction costs for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drain located within a disadvantaged community, funds a scientific study to examine infiltration rates throughout the watershed, which benefits all future stormwater projects, funds five technical resource programs, which need funding in order to begin design plans, and allows for the hiring of a Watershed Coordinator.

As the financial impacts of COVID-19 on our communities is realized, it is crucial that Cities are awarded a portion of Regional Safe Clean Water funds for projects designed to meet water quality objectives, which are defined in our Enhanced Watershed Management Plans, achieve MS4 NPDES Permit compliance, eliminating pollutants of concern from our waterways, and also to eventually construct multi-beneficial projects that provide critical infrastructure and recreational opportunities for our residents.

The proposed USGR SIP serves the needs of the entire USGR watershed, by disseminating 73% of FY 20-21 funds to the projects listed above, which covers the entire watershed area. It allows the preparation of final design plans in order to provide actual costs, not estimates, in Round 3 (FY 22-23). These final design plans will bear out the best and most beneficial projects for the WASC to select from. The proposed USGR SIP also sets aside funds for future funding for not only the projects listed above, but any new projects that are developed as part of the Technical

Resource Program and advised by the Watershed Coordinator. The chief reason for our support allows project proponents to go after grant funds or bonds in the next two years to help offset the amount of regional funding required for construction costs, thus allowing for more projects to be considered.

If you require further assistance or have any other questions, please contact me at (626) 358-3218.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kearney
City Manager

cc. Barbara Romero, Co-Chairperson
Shelly Luce, Co-Chairperson
Lauren Ahkiam, Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kim, LA County Sanitation District
Paul Alva, USGR WASC Chair
David Diaz, USGR WASC Vice Chair



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Telephone (213) 974-4111 / FAX (213) 613-1739

HILDA L. SOLIS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

June 16, 2020

Maria Mehrenian
Sent Via Email: mmehranian@cordobacorp.com

RE: June 1st WASC Upper San Gabriel River Meeting

Dear Maria Mehrenian,

I am writing to you to express my concerns about the events that took place on Monday, June 1st, 2020 at the Upper San Gabriel Valley Watershed Area Steering Committee (Upper SGV WASC) meeting. The committee members of the Upper SGV WASC have a unique responsibility to think regionally, inclusively, and collaboratively in order to best steward public funds. The Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) that was approved during this meeting contradicts core themes of the Safe, Clean Water Program including funding sustainability, regional consistency, and supporting disadvantaged communities.

Safe, Clean Water Program investments are intended to improve quality of life, especially for communities most exposed to pollution and vulnerable to climate change. During the June 1st, 2020 meeting, there was an effort from several members of the Upper SGV WASC to direct funds away from high-scoring, multi-benefit infrastructure projects that demonstrated strong community engagement and disadvantaged community benefits in favor of spreading funding geographically. Despite concerns raised about creating an oversubscribed SIP for the Upper San Gabriel River, the Upper SGV WASC proceeded to award funding to complete the design phase for all projects regardless of merit or score. This action also moved non-design funding into a "Future Funding" column, leaving the construction phases for infrastructure projects unfunded while simultaneously over-programming available funding. The Upper SGV WASC's actions were inconsistent with those of other Watershed Area Steering Committees that awarded funding based on merit and benefits to disadvantaged communities, and allocated funds so that subsequent years have funding available to be programmed. The Upper SGV WASC members did not come to a consensus organically and there was strong opposition from numerous members to the approved SIP.

Transparency is expected from all of our Safe, Clean Water Program Committee members. It is imperative to disclose any ex parte conversations held outside of a Committee meeting that may impact decisions related to the SIP. Moving forward, I want to ensure the integrity of the Safe, Clean Water Program is upheld and that the Upper SGV WASC develops a sustainable, equitable SIP that considers the needs of our most vulnerable communities, and I urge you to refer the approved SIP back to the Upper SGV WASC for re-consideration.

Maria Mehrenian
Page 2
June 16, 2020

Thank you for your attention, and please feel free to contact Aydin Pasebani, Assistant Environmental & Special Projects Deputy at AyPasebani@bos.lacounty.gov or at 213-974-4111 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS

Chair Pro Tem

Supervisor, First District

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI

MAYOR

June 16, 2020

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FAX: (213) 485-2979
WWW.LACITYSAN.ORG

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Central Santa Monica Watershed Steering Committee
Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP)
Los Angeles County Flood Control Program

Dear Ms. Crosson and Mr. Herbertson:

REQUEST TO CONSIDER ADDING THE BALLONA CREEK TMDL PROJECT TO THE CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLAN (SIP) THROUGH A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WATERSHED AREA STEERING COMMITTEE TO VOTE ON THE INCLUSION OF THE PROJECT PRIOR TO JUNE 24, 2020.

The City of Los Angeles is respectfully requesting that the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) reconsider including the Ballona Creek TMDL Project into the Central Santa Monica Bay FY 20/21 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) through a special WASC meeting and vote prior to June 24, 2020.

The objective of the Regional Infrastructure Program under the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) is to plan, build, and maintain multi-benefit watershed-based projects that improve water quality, increase water supply, and/or enhance communities. The LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) of the City of Los Angeles, on behalf of the Cities of Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Culver City, and Inglewood, along with LA County and LA County Flood Control District, submitted the Ballona Creek TMDL Project (Project) for Round 1 funding from the Regional Infrastructure Program of the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area. During the May 21, 2020 CSMB WASC meeting, it was clear that the Project meets many of the stated objectives on a scale that exceeds any other project submitted this year. However, LASAN withdrew the project from consideration in order to verify and further substantiate the benefits that this project will bring to disadvantaged communities. LASAN fully supports the SCWP's commitment to focus benefits in underserved communities and to ensure that equity is a driving force in our infrastructure investments. We request the opportunity to share our findings with the WASC before the Regional Oversight Committee considers the Round 1 SIP Projects.

As you are aware, the Project is a watershed-wide multi-benefit project designed to perform a combination of treat-and-release water quality improvements and water supply improvements through diversion. From a water quality standpoint, the Project will result in the achievement of the Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL during dry-weather which will protect members of our community that recreate in the downstream estuary. Improving water quality, attaining water quality requirements, and in this case, achieving the TMDL, are the primary goals of the SCWP. Further, attaining the TMDL will support the cities in the Ballona Creek watershed to comply with their MS4 permits. While this is an enormous achievement in and of itself, the Project also protects downstream aquatic life by treating and releasing

zero waste • one water

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER


clean water back to the Ballona Creek. From a water supply standpoint, the Project's innovative design provides a new supply of water for recycled water production.

As you are also aware, the Project was scored highly, but it was not funded due to concerns that the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) benefit requirement was not met due to the Project being physically located outside of a DAC. The Project is not physically located within a DAC because its goal is to repurpose existing facilities near the waterway, thereby minimizing construction and associated environmental and community impacts. It should be noted that a DAC benefit is defined as a project either being in a DAC or a project providing benefits directly to a DAC population. The decision to not select the Project was made without sufficient time to discuss the benefits in relation to the communities we are trying to support through the SCWP DAC requirements. The Project clearly provides benefits directly to those communities that recreate and fish in the Ballona Creek watershed (including subsistence fishing, educational opportunities, job creation, etc.). The members of the community engaging in those activities are diverse and include individuals residing in DACs.

There are few opportunities to implement multi-benefit projects that singularly can significantly improve water quality at watershed-wide scale and in a measurable way that directly translates to protecting the large and diverse communities recreating in our watersheds. The Ballona Creek TMDL Project is one of those opportunities and the only one proposed in the SIP that addresses water quality, water supply, and cost effectiveness on such a large scale. Thus, we request that the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) ask the Regional Oversight Committee to delay consideration of its SIP to allow the WASC time for reconsideration of this Project as part of the FY20/21 SIP. This would give LA Sanitation an opportunity to present additional findings on the benefits this project brings to the surrounding disadvantaged communities. We were compelled to move quickly on this work and request, because of the postponement of SCWP Round 2 Call for Regional Projects to October 2020, and the necessity of moving forward with this project as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Shahram Kharaghani, Acting Assistant General Manager, overseeing LASAN SCWP, at 213-761-2251, or shahram.kharaghani@lacity.org.

Sincerely,


Enrique C. Zaldivar, P.E.
Director and General Manager
LA Sanitation and Environment

ECZ:SK:tn

c: Irma Munoz, LARWQCB
Susie Santilena, Mayor's Office
Mark Pestrella, Los Angeles County
Paul Alva, Los Angeles County
Traci Minamide, LASAN
Shahram Kharaghani, LASAN
Alfredo Magallanes, LASAN
Vivian Marquez, LASAN



Ballona Creek Water Quality Improvement Project:

Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

Context

+ The Ballona Creek Water Quality Improvement Project:

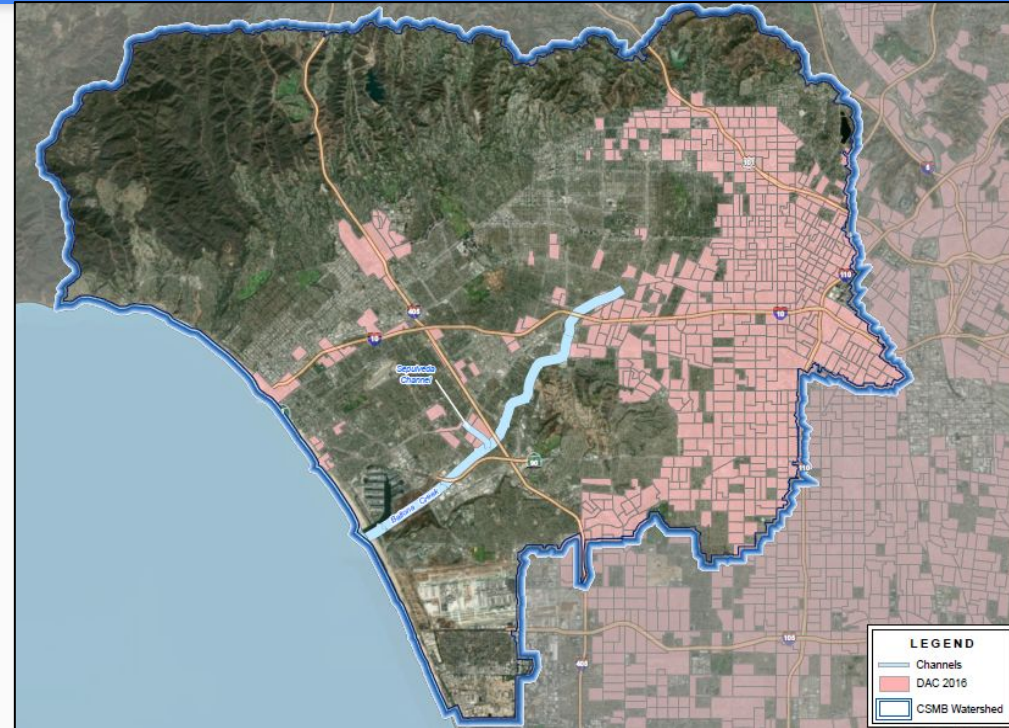
- ❖ Watershed-Wide project (over 75,000 acres of highly urbanized area)
- ❖ Collaborative solution for protecting existing Clean Water Act beneficial uses in the Ballona Creek waterways
- ❖ Region's most effective Project to meet an entire TMDL for healthier communities and 100% dry weather compliance (~330 days of the year)

+ SCW Definition of Disadvantaged Community:

- ❖ Census Block Group with annual median household income less than 80% of the State median (~\$51,000)

+ SCW Definition of Benefit:

- ❖ "A Water Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or Community Investment Benefit located in a disadvantaged community (DAC) or providing benefit directly to a disadvantaged community population."



Key Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

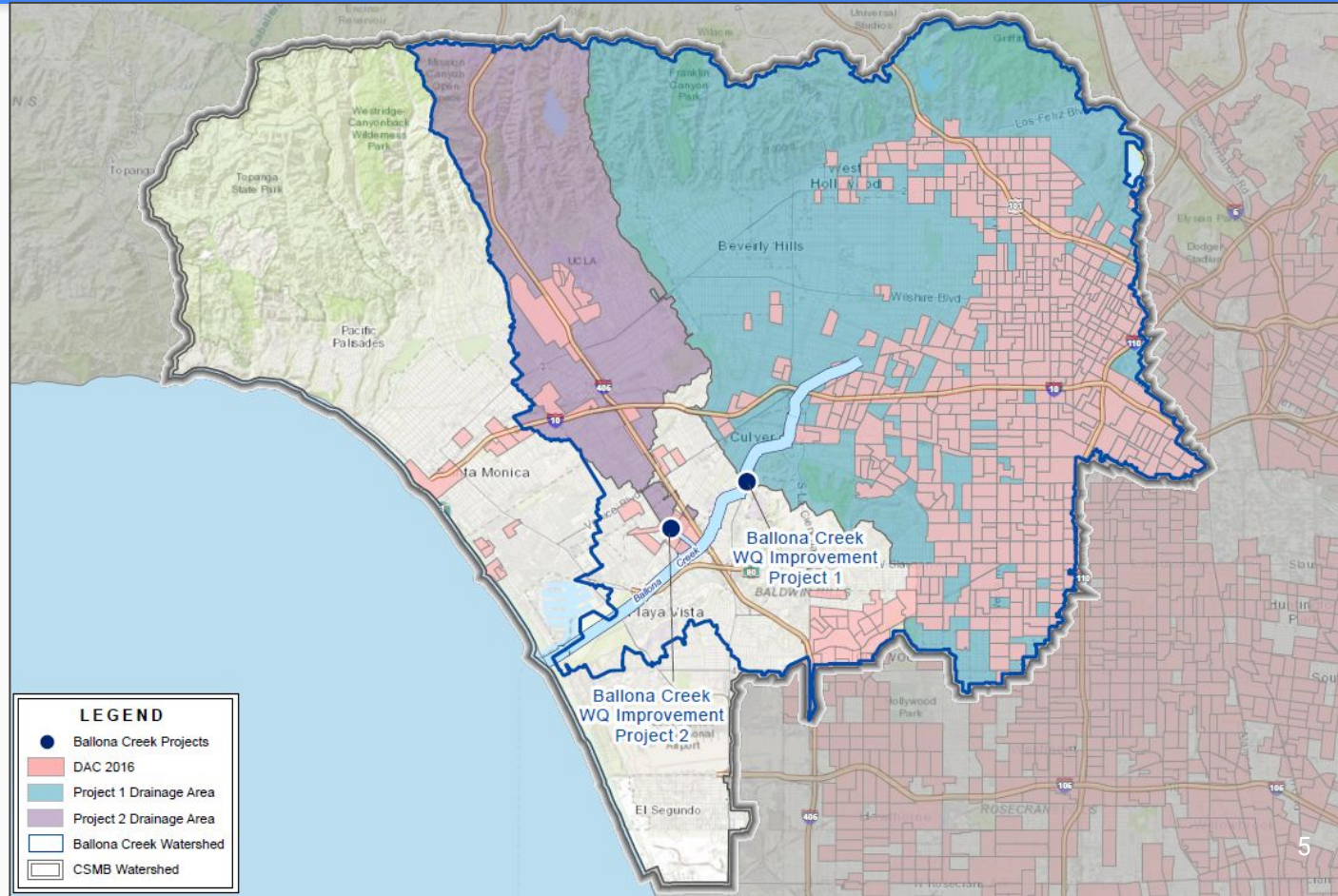


- ❖ The Project is unique as its major contributions to the region are observed outside of the Project boundary.
- ❖ The Project is able to ensure observably improved conditions throughout the watershed for the majority of the year.
- ❖ **Implementation provides:**
 - **Water quality benefits to support beneficial uses**
 - **Improves conditions to reinforce the community's connectivity to a healthy creek**
 - **Acts as a springboard for future green networks**

Water Quality Benefits to Support Beneficial Uses

Compliance for Disadvantaged Communities

- ❖ Disadvantaged communities make up 33.5% of the area within the Ballona Project's drainage area.
- ❖ Prevent penalty assessments of up to \$48 million per year in compliance violations.
- ❖ This loss of potential investment disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities.



Public Health



+ A variety of different populations are observed at Ballona Creek:

- ❖ Local communities that interact with the watershed
- ❖ Homes directly along the channels
- ❖ Regional “tourism” through public transit

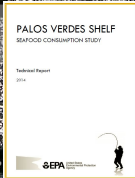
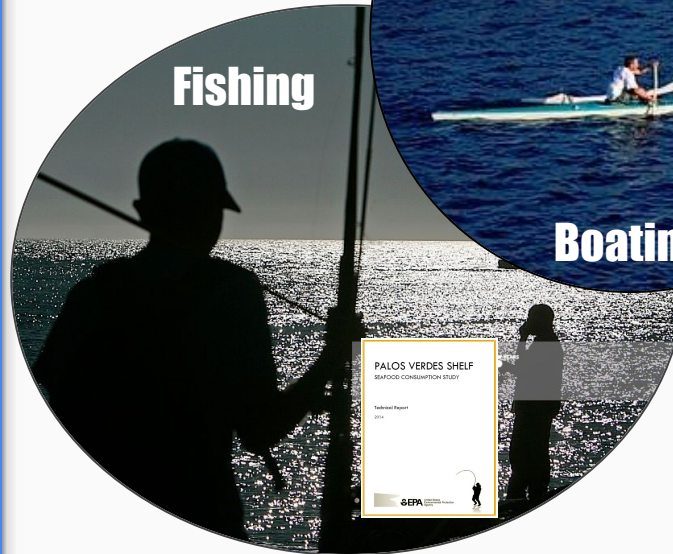
+ Each group encompasses identified disadvantaged communities

+ This project protects the health of all, including the most vulnerable, who use these resources:

- ❖ Reduced pollutant loads
- ❖ Removal of odor
- ❖ Visual improvements
- ❖ Prevention of hazardous algae blooms and fish kills



Protect a Regional Water Resource



Basin Plan Beneficial Uses:

- Water Contact Recreation (**REC-1**)
- Limited Water Contact Recreation (**LREC-1**)
- Non-contact Water Recreation (**REC-2**)
- Navigation (**NAV**)
- Commercial and Sport Fishing (**COMM**)
- Warm Freshwater Habitat (**WARM**)
- Estuarine Habitat (**EST**)
- Marine Habitat (**MAR**)
- Wildlife Habitat (**WILD**)
- Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (**RARE**)
- Migration of Aquatic Organisms (**MIGR**)
- Spawning, Reproduction, Early Development (**SPWN**)
- Shellfish Harvesting (**SHELL**)
- Wetland Habitat (**WET**)

**Improves Conditions to Reinforce
the Community's Connectivity to
a Healthy Creek**

Ballona Creek Bike Path

A popular walking/bike path runs along Ballona Creek for approximately 8 miles, with 13 access points, from Culver City to Playa Del Rey.

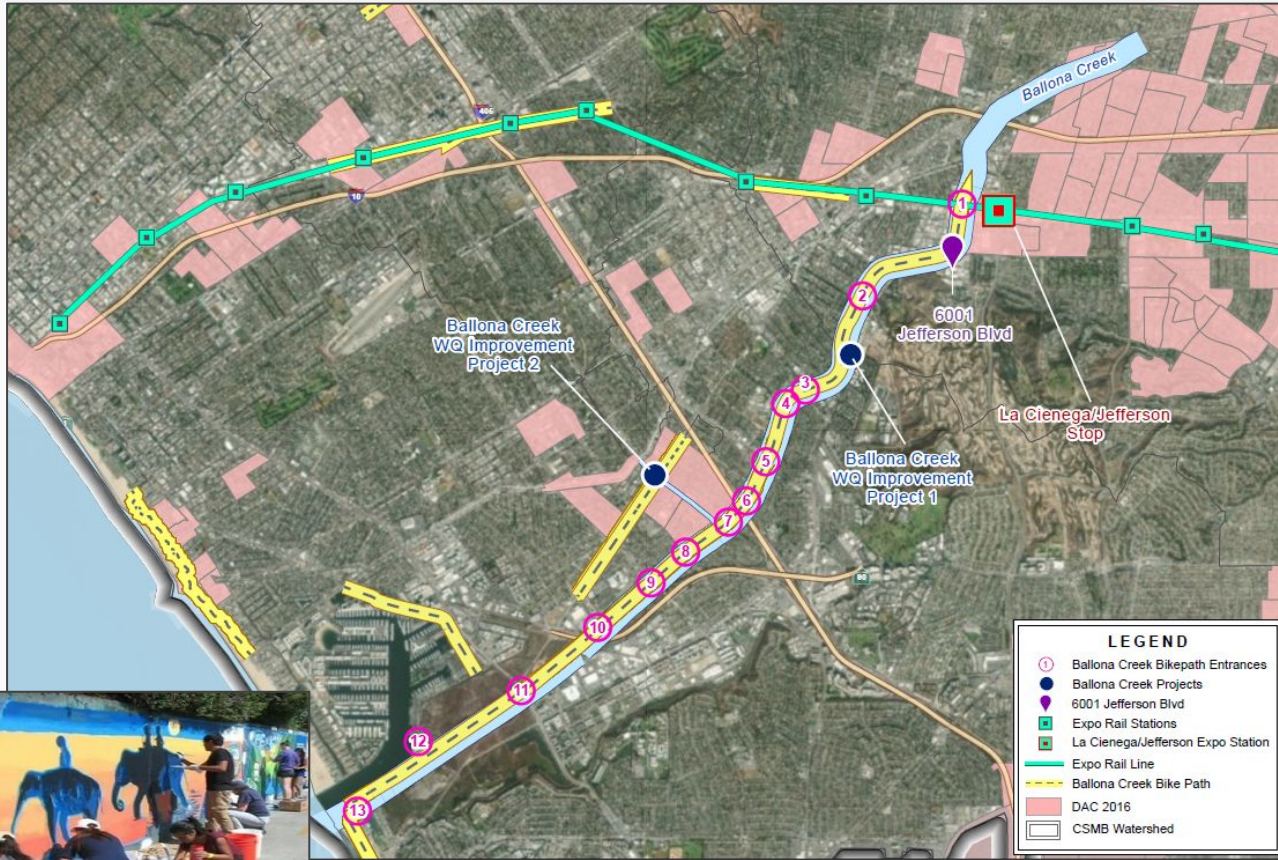


Ballona Creek is “within bicycling distance of more than 2400 youth living below the poverty line in the Del Rey neighborhood alone.”

-Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Final EIR 2019)

The lowest income households bike for transportation and recreation the most in the sampled communities.

-2015 Study PeopleforBikes and Alliance for Biking & Walking



Public Education: Connecting Students to Nature

- ❖ “A total of 2.8 million people live within easy driving distance of Ballona Creek, including 616,809 youth under 18, more than half of them in severely disadvantaged households”
- Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR (2019)
- ❖ The Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts nature trips to an average of 4,000 visitors per year, 2,500 of which are students, in the Ballona Wetlands. The school trips include free transportation and focus on underserved communities -around 90% of which are Title 1 schools.
- ❖ The Baldwin Hills Conservancy and Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority provide programming along Ballona Creek and have invested in projects that enhance access to the water body such as the Milton Green Street.



Source: StreetsBlog



Source: LA Audubon Society



Source: LA Audubon Society

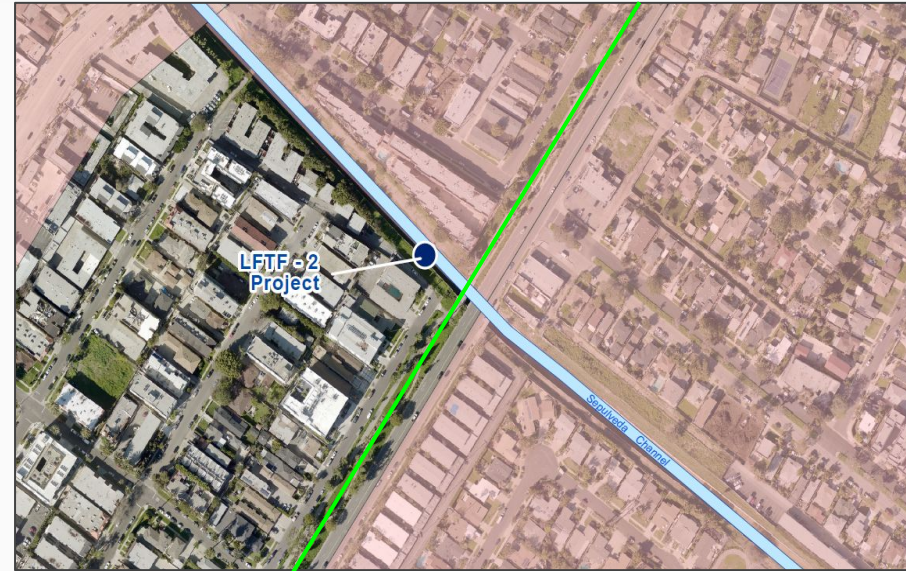
Planned Additions at LFTF-2

+ The LFTF-2 Project is located directly adjacent to:

- ❖ An identified disadvantaged community
- ❖ The Culver Median Bike Path that runs parallel to Culver Blvd

+ Additions are part of current scope and will be discussed with the local community as design is finalized. (e.g. planting, water fill stations, info kiosks, exercise stations, local art, and seating)

+ Traffic safety improvements would contribute towards meeting the City's Vision Zero goals for reduction of pedestrian injuries.



Leveraging Priority Projects



Ballona Creek Overlook & Refill Station

- ❖ Located at 6001 W. Jefferson Boulevard
- ❖ Includes green landscaping, restrooms, bicycle rest stop, and water refill station for the existing Ballona Creek Bike Path.
- ❖ Anticipated Completion Date: FY 23-24
- ❖ Anticipated Budget: \$3M - \$6M
- ❖ Adjacent to Disadvantaged Community

Leveraging Priority Projects

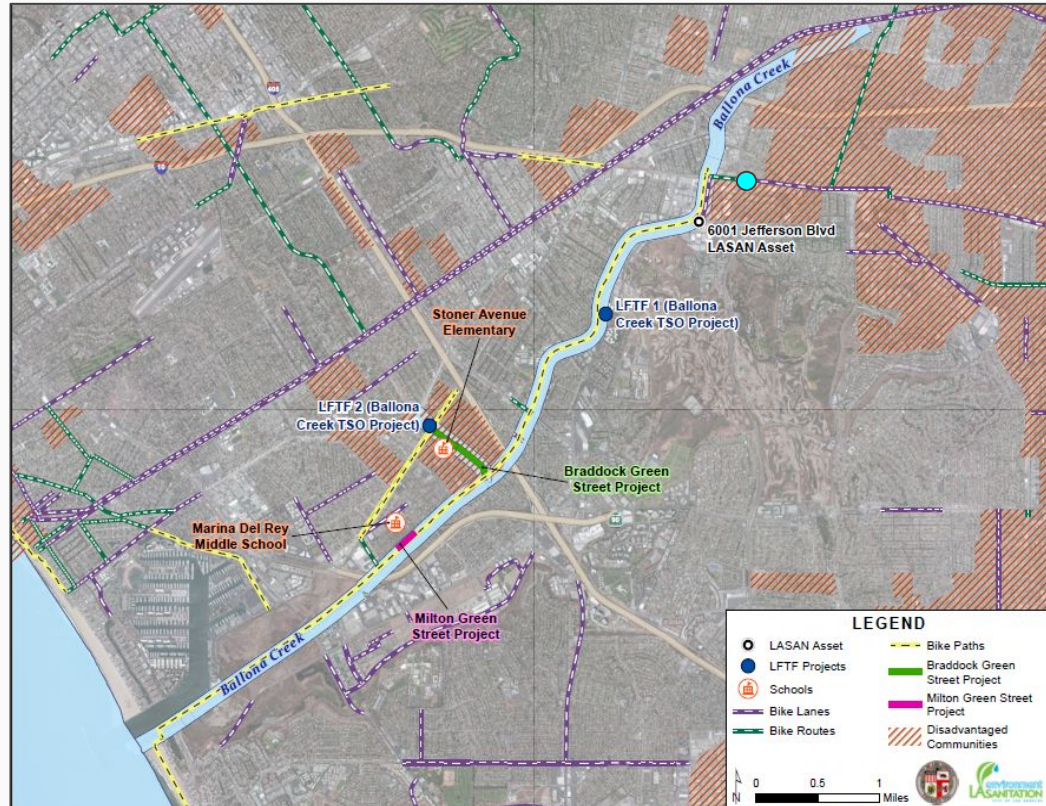


Braddock Green Street

- ❖ Located along Sepulveda Channel
- ❖ Includes a shared bicycle path with landscaping and stormwater capture features in partnership with Baldwin Hills Conservancy.
- ❖ Anticipated Completion Date: FY 24-25
- ❖ Anticipated Budget: \$7M - \$10M
- ❖ Within Disadvantaged Community

Springboard for Future Green Networks

Connecting the Creek and Communities



- ❖ Expansion of bike path usage to increase active transportation
- ❖ Use of green infrastructure to connect and improve communities
 - Quincy-Jones Green Alley Network
 - Central-Jefferson High Green Alley Network
- ❖ Improve Environmental Justice and Climate Resiliency



Envisioning Green Neighborhoods



- ❖ Packages of EWMP projects in neighborhoods providing water quality and multi-benefits
 - Phased neighborhood scale investments of Green streets and Regional Projects
- ❖ Ballona Creek Overlook & Refill Station for bike path users and pedestrians
- ❖ Braddock Green Street, which creates new bike path connecting the Ballona Creek Bike Path and the Culver Median Bike Path
- ❖ Potential Educational Center at LFTF-1

Connecting with the Community

- ❖ **Completed Outreach:**
 - **Completed 2 year CEQA process with direct community outreach.**

- ❖ **Upcoming Outreach:**
 - **LFTF-2 additions along bike path**

 - **Progressive City bidding and contracting policy to support local businesses**

 - **Job creation and training efforts through the City's Targeted Local Hire Initiative**

 - **Input from communities within proposed green networks**



Community Outreach:

- Ballona Creek Renaissance
- Friends of Ballona Creek
- Heal the Bay
- LA Waterkeepers
- Surfrider Foundation
- Council for Watershed Health
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
- Natural Resource Defense Council
- LA Council Districts 5,6,10,11
- Neighborhood Councils (Westchester, Del Rey, West Adams)
- Del Rey Residents Association

LASAN sent consultation notification letters to 11 Tribes, and held formal consultations with representatives of the following three tribal nations:

- Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
- Gabrielino-Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Conclusion

As demonstrated, the Ballona Creek Water Quality Improvement Project is an inspirational, regional project that has:

- **Direct Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities**
 - Enhance Environmental Resources
 - Protect Public Health
 - Economic Investment
- **Established Connectivity to Disadvantaged Communities**
 - Local Community/Mobility
 - Regional Resources
- **Leveraged Investments to Disadvantaged Communities**
 - Prior Investment
 - Priority Infrastructure Investments
- **Support from**
 - Non-Profit Organizations
 - Regulatory & Municipal Agencies
 - Local Community

- ◆ Supports environmental education tours (over 2,500 children/ yr with Audubon Society alone)
- ◆ Protects the health of low income local anglers (average consumption of 18 grams of fish per day)
- ◆ Improves habitat home to at least 9 federally/state listed endangered/threatened species
- ◆ Bolsters regional resource readily available to METRO riders
- ◆ Leverages other priority project commitments
- ◆ Achieves water quality requirements 330 days of the year
- ◆ Leverages City of Los Angeles investment of ~\$6M for permitting, CEQA, outreach, initial studies, and design

