Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 2:00pm – 4:00pm WebEx Video Conferencing

Attendees

Committee Members

Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)
Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles – Sanitation)
Art Castro* (LA Dept. of Water and Power)
David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith)
Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)
Teresa Villegas* (Los Angeles)
Patrick DeChellis (La Canada Flintridge)
Miguel Luna (Urban Semilla DakeLuna Consultants)

Paul Alva (Los Angeles County Public Works)
Genevieve Osmena (Los Angeles County Flood
Control District)
John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park
Association)
Max Podemski* (Los Angeles)
Rafael Prieto* (Los Angeles)

Committee Members Not Present:

Cathie Santo Domingo (LA Recreation & Parks) Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300) Yazdan Emrani (Glendale) Kris Markarian (Pasadena)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attachment for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. CJ Caluag of the District called the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC meeting to order.

District staff facilitated roll call voting for attendance and quorum was established. He provided an overview of the WebEx interface and provided instructions for a member of the public to provide a comment during the Public Comment Period.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 28th, 2020

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes from the May 28th meeting, and asked the WASC members for comments or revisions, there were none. Mr. David Nahai motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Teresa Villegas seconded the motion. The WASC did a roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes from May 28, 2020 (unanimous).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Mr. Caluag provided an update on the Year 2 Call for Projects, which ended on October 15, 2020. There were over 83 submissions across the 3 different subprograms: 62 Infrastructure Program, 9 Technical Resources Program, and 14 Scientific Studies. More information will be shared during the presentation pertaining to Item 6 in today's agenda. There were 16 Infrastructure Program, 2 Technical Resources Program, and 6 Scientific Studies submissions to the ULAR WASC.

Upper Los Angeles River





The new Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Portal map has gone live, with a quick portal training later in the agenda.

Regarding the SCW Watershed Coordinator (WC) interview and schedule update, there were a total of 67 proposals received from 21 different applicants. There were 10 proposals for the ULAR Watershed Area. The District is finalizing the Work Plan, and anticipates scheduling WC interviews starting in December 2020. The resulting list and WASC interview questions will be distributed and posted in advance in accordance with the Brown Act. The WC onboarding is tentatively scheduled for February 2021. Details of the interview process are still being finalized.

Mr. Caluag then gave a brief update on the fund Transfer Agreements (TA). For the Municipal TAs, the District distributed agreements to all the cities following the June adoption date. The District has received most agreements and reminded agencies that if they have not submitted their executed transfer agreements and annual plans, to please do so as soon as possible. For the Regional TAs, the Scope of Work is due 45 days after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adoption of the Stormwater Investment Plan. If applicable, the CEQA determination is required if the requested funding activities during the disbursement fiscal year (this fiscal year) may impact the environment according to the definition of CEQA. This includes projects that are in the construction or operations and maintenance phase and scientific studies that may impact the environment this fiscal year.

Ms. Teresa Villegas asked if they receive a summary of important SCW dates. District staff noted the presentation during agenda item #6 will have milestone dates and will be part of the meeting minutes and emailed to the committee.

The committee requested more information on the CEQA determination. All project applicants received an email with more information and deadlines for CEQA determination.

Mr. David Nahai asked about on progress reports from projects that were in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). There is quarterly reporting for all the Infrastructure Program projects and Scientific Studies. For projects in the Technical Resources Program (TRP), District staff started requesting that consultants prepare a cost proposal and scope of work. Reporting will be shared with the committee as that information is important when finalizing the SIP.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Mr. Caluag asked if any WASC members have any disclosures to present to the group.

Ms. Teresa Villegas was involved in the process of reviewing projects from the City of Los Angeles submitted to the SCWP.

Ms. Veronica Padilla-Campos shared that Pacoima Beautiful worked with GeoSyntec on some projects submitted to the SCWP in the Sun Valley area.

Mr. Miguel Luna shared that he worked on projects submitted to the SCWP from the City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Mr. Art Castro shared that he has purview on the projects submitted from the City of Los Angeles to the SCWP.

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5. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

6. Discussion Items

a) Safe, Clean Water Program updates, review of WASCs roles and responsibilities, schedule and timeline (Presentation by District and Stantec)

The District presentation was conducted by Mr. Caluag (District) and Mr. Mike Antos (Stantec).

The District reviewed the SCWP goals and themes. Mr. Mike Antos reviewed WASC roles and responsibilities and encouraged committee members review the WASC operating guidelines. Mr. Mike Antos summarized the communities represented by the WASC, watershed management, and watershed coordination. The District summarized the WASC structure, regional program revenue, FY 20-21 SIP, FY 21-22 call for projects, call for projects timeline, WC timeline, SIP process, programming guidelines, programming tools, and additional WASC member responsibilities.

Mr. David Nahai asked for clarification on the approximate due date for the SIP. June 2021 is the ideal due date for the SIP to be developed for Board approval. The committee will reconvene at the next meeting and discuss whether one WASC meeting per month will be sufficient to meet SIP deadline.

Ms. Teresa Villegas asked for clarification on the Low-Income Senior Exemption form. District navigated to the Safe, Clean Water Tax Information, Forms & Tools website and explained the tax relief programs, including the General Income-Based Tax Reduction form and the Appeals tool. The committee asked how this information is being communicated to the community. There has been outreach in the past and currently, residents are contacting the Safe, Clean Water hotline. There are multi-lingual forms (Chinese and Spanish) for the tax reduction forms and a group of translators. The committee asked if it is possible to share general statistics on tax relief. District typically shares information on the amount of funds associated with tax relief and will verify with the District team if it can be shared in more detail to the WASCs.

The committee asked if the selection of WCs will be done in parallel with the WASC evaluating the projects as well. The ULAR WASC may require more meetings to develop the SIP.

7. Public Comment Period

Mr. Carlos Moran asked if the SCW Portal shows projects that were not funded in the previous years because it may have implications for what is working or not for project submittals. The SCW portal does not show this, but the District will coordinate with the District team to see if it is possible to include these projects.

8. Voting Items (please note that item 8, Public Comment Period, in the agenda was conducted first before Item 7, Voting Items, in the agenda)

a) Selection of Chair(s)

The election of any Chair and Vice-Chair should be revisited on an annual basis per the SCWP WASC Operating Guidelines.

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Mr. David Nahai provided short justification for why he should be re-considered for the role of Chair.

Mr. Patrick DeChellis motioned to approve Mr. David Nahai to continue being Chair. Ms. Teresa Villegas seconded the motion. The WASC did a roll call vote to vote on the motion (unanimous). District staff facilitated roll call voting.

The committee decided to give Mr. Ackley Padilla an opportunity to be re-considered for role of Vice-Chair during the next meeting since Mr. Ackley Padilla is not present.

b) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration

The District conducted a Completeness Review of all submitted projects and reached out to applicants to gather missing information from the original submittal. Today's vote is to send projects submitted to the Infrastructure Program to the SCW Scoring Committee (SC) for scoring. The scored projects will then be returned to the WASC for SIP deliberation and consideration. Note projects submitted to the Technical Resources Program and Scientific Studies do not get scored. The committee expressed agreement with this process.

Mr. David Nahai motioned to send all projects submitted to the Infrastructure Program to the Scoring Committee to receive a score. Ms. Veronica Padilla-Campos seconded the motion. The WASC did a roll call vote on the motion (unanimous).

9. Items for next agenda

Mr. Caluag shared that the District's tentative agenda items include WC interviews, summary of projects submitted to the Technical Resources Program and Scientific Studies Program, and an update on the schedule for project applicant presentations.

The committee suggested to get updates on SCW generated funds. The projection last year was approximately \$285M, but approximately \$278M was collected. Therefore, the WASC can base projections off that information. Mr. Caluag continued to explain that the SIP Planning Tool will include all the necessary funding information and may require more tabs/features to do so. The SIP Planning Tool will continue to be developed.

The committee found the Safe, Clean Water Program Overview presentation provided during agenda item 6.a) to be very useful and requested that they receive a copy of it. The presentation will be including in the meeting minutes and emailed to the committee.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Caluag announced that a meeting poll to help schedule upcoming meeting may be distributed to the committee. He thanked the WASC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:00AM – 12:00 PM

Upper Los Angeles River November, 4, 2020

	Quorum Present			Voting Items			
Member Type	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	David - Chair	Send IPs to SC
Agency	Genevieve Osmena	х	Carolina Hernandez		Α	Υ	Υ
Agency	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	х	Υ	Υ	Υ
Agency	Paul Liu	Х	Rafael Villegas		Υ	Υ	Υ
Agency	Alfredo Magallanes	Х			Υ	Υ	Υ
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo		Javier Solis				
Community Stakeholder	Ernesto Pantoja		Sergio Rascon				
Community Stakeholder	Miguel Luna	Х	Yvette Lopez-Ledesma		Υ	Υ	Υ
Community Stakeholder	John Luker	х	Wendi Gladstone		Υ	Υ	Υ
Community Stakeholder	David Nahai	Х	Jacob Lipa		Υ	Υ	Υ
Community Stakeholder	Veronica Padilla-Campos	Х	Felipe Escobar		Υ	Υ	Υ
Municipal Members	Yazdan Emrani						
Municipal Members	Patrick DeChellis	х			Υ	Υ	Υ
Municipal Members	Barbara Romero		Teresa Villegas	х	Υ	Υ	Υ
Municipal Members	Ackley Padilla		Max Podemski	х	Υ	Υ	Υ
Municipal Members	Jeff Camp		Rafael Prieto	х	Υ	Υ	Υ
Municipal Members	Paul Alva	х	TJ Moon		Υ	Υ	Υ
Municipal Members	Kris Markarian		Sean Singletary				
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	12	13	13
Total Voting Members Present	13			Nay (N)		0	0
Agency	4			Abstain (A)	1	0	0
Community Stakeholder	4			Total	13	13	13
Municipal Members	5				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendees Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - November 4, 2020

Safe Clean Water LA Courtney Semlow
CJ Caluag - LACFCD Dawn Petschauer

Mike Antos k m

Alvin Cruz - LACFCD John Luker
Art Castro david nahai
Mike Antos Conor Mossavi

Joe Venzon Jon Ball

TJ Moon John Robinson
Eric Shaphran Haris Harouny
k m Jim Rasmus

Patrick DeChellis Teresa Villegas
Wendi Gladstone Brianna Datti
Paul Liu Paul Alva
Vik Bapna Sarah Rascon
Danielle Chupa Julian Lee

A M Veronica Padilla Genevieve Osmena (P) Brian Baldauf Bronwyn Kelly Conor Mossavi

shahram kharaghani ilene .

Thuan Nguyen Jessica Quach

melissa levitt Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources

Cameron McCullough Karin Wisenbaker
Merrill Taylor Carlos Moran
A M Rafael Prieto

Johanna Chang Mark O

Miguel Luna Susie Santilena

Carmen Andrade Max

Sarah Diringer Sarai Bhaga Jud Warren Melissa Levitt Clint Boschen Oliver Galang Michael Gagan Phuoc Le

Sheila Brice Kirk Allen Hans Tremmel

Delon Kwan D KWAN Joe Venzon



Regional issues...





Themes of Safe, Clean Water Program

Collaboration

Asset Management

Equity

Good **Stewardship** of Public **Funds**

Education & Community **Engagement**

- Developed & implemented with diverse stakeholders
- Unique dedicated funding for multi-benefit stormwater projects
- Comprehensive and diverse governance committees

- Funding for operation and maintenance
- Investments for longterm sustainability and resiliency
- **Emphasis on Nature-Based Solutions**

- Dedicated investments into **Disadvantaged Communities**
- **Watershed Coordinators** build inclusion and connect communities with resources
- **Technical Assistance**

- Accountability
- **Transparency**
- Reporting & Auditing
- Comprehensive tax relief options
- **Public & School Education**
- **Workforce Training**
- Collaboration with other programs
- Community engagement throughout project stages





WASC Roles and Responsibilities

Bring together each members' personal experiences, expertise, and perspectives in a collaborative setting to put forth the best multi-benefit projects for the region that addresses the Watershed Area's priorities and needs, meets the SCW Program Goals, and demonstrates a fiscally responsible and balanced use of SCW funds.

- Meet, confer, coordinate, collaborate, and cooperate with one another, in good faith
- Share expertise and provide guidance, and information
- Develop annual SIP so to benefit stakeholder perspectives.

Refer to WASC Operating Guidelines for additional details



The communities you represent



- Most of the 10 million people in Los Angeles County
 - About half of whom live in low-income and pollution burdened census areas
- If a state, LA County would be 10th largest.
- 1 in 35 Americans
- >\$700 Billion in economic activity annually



The communities you represent



- Have decided to invest in improving environmental water quality (as required by MS4 permits)
- The decision included, however, ensuring the investments were community enhancing and job creating, overcoming of injustices and enhancing of water supply resilience.



Watershed Management in the SCWP

- Watershed Management encompasses
 - How challenges and opportunities resolve at water scales, not political scales
 - Upstream impacts downstream
 - Understanding and mimicking the system-of-systems that engages water, land, biology, policy, infrastructure, etc.
- Watershed Coordination
 - Relationships between people, and good communication are necessary
 - Listening to community expertise, developing investments that align with what the community requests



Member Type	Position
Agency	Flood Control District
Agency	Water Agency
Agency	Groundwater / Water Agency 2
Agency	Sanitation
Agency	Open Space
Community Stakeholder	At Large
Community Stakeholder	At Large
Community Stakeholder	Environmental
Community Stakeholder	Business
Community Stakeholder	Environmental Justice
Municipal Members	

Chair/Co-Chairs: Represent the Committee and facilitate Committee and Meetings

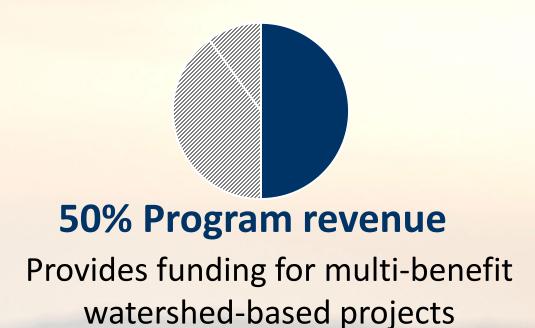
Vice-Chair: Support the Chair with their responsibilities and act on behalf in case of an absence of the Chair

District Staff: Assist with meetings and administer the SCW Program

Each committee member should assign an **Alternate** to attend on behalf of the **Primary** in case of an absence.

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Regional Program



WATERSHED AREA	ANNUAL RETURN
Central Santa Monica Bay	\$17.3 Million
Lower Los Angeles River	\$12.4 Million
Lower San Gabriel River	\$16.4 Million
North Santa Monica Bay	\$1.8 Million
Rio Hondo	\$11.3 Million
Santa Clara River	\$5.8 Million
South Santa Monica Bay	\$17.6 Million
Upper Los Angeles River	\$37.6 Million
Upper San Gabriel River	\$18.5 Million



Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) FY 2020-2021

Board of Supervisors approved the 9 SIPs on October 13th

Program	Total SCW Funding Allocated FY20-25	Projects Submitted	Projects Recommended
Infrastructure Program (>85%)	\$358.2 M	58	41
Technical Resources Program (≤10%)	\$16.4 M	21	16
Scientific Studies Program (≤5%)	\$4.3 M	7	4
TOTAL	\$378.9 M	86	61

Forty-One Infrastructure Program Projects will:

- Capture stormwater from over 61,000 acres
- Reduce pollutants and support MS4 compliance
- Leverages nearly \$340M in other funding
- Includes 37 projects providing at least 3 community investment benefits
- Invests in projects benefiting members of disadvantaged communities
- Will be spread across 21 Municipalities, but benefitting the whole region
- Includes 37 projects incorporating natural processes or natural materials



Call for Projects FY 2021-2022

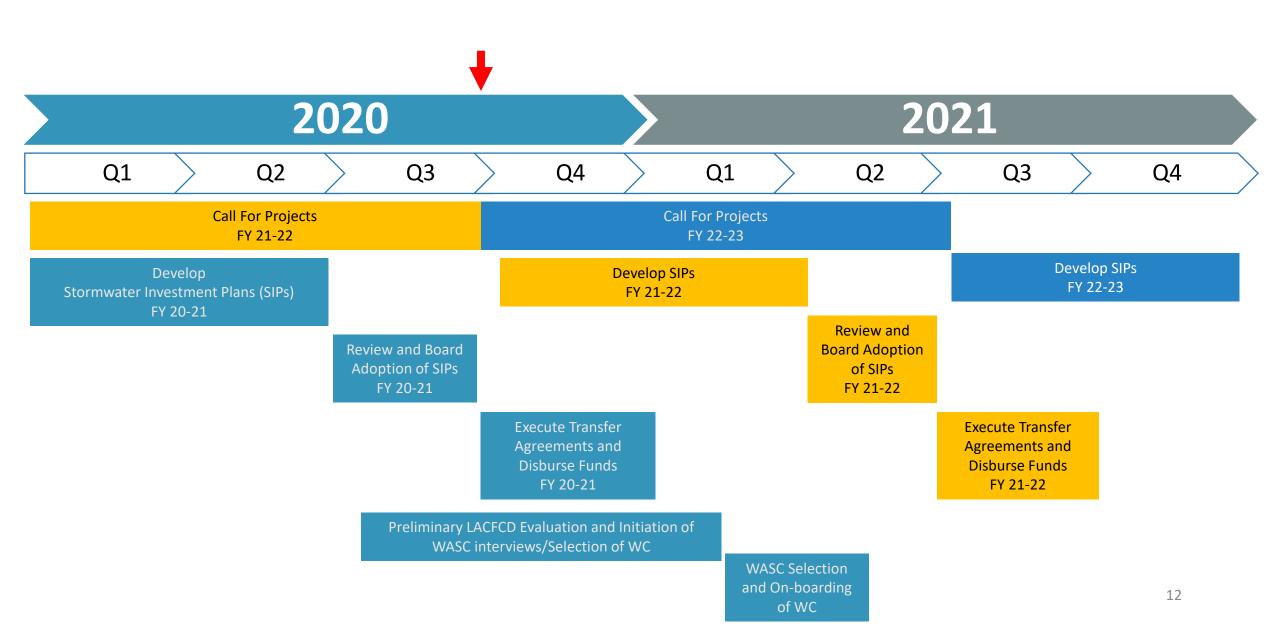
Call for Projects closed on October 15th

Program	Total SCW Funding Requested	Projects Submitted
Infrastructure Program (>85%)	\$547.4 M	62
Technical Resources Program (≤10%)	\$13.1 M	9
Scientific Studies Program (≤5%)	\$4.2 M	14
TOTAL	\$564.7 M	85

	Watershed Area	Approximate Number of IP Projects
	Central Santa Monica Bay	9
	Lower Los Angeles River	8
	Lower San Gabriel River	5
	North Santa Monica Bay	2
	Rio Hondo	9
	Santa Clara River	0
Sou	South Santa Monica Bay	7
(Upper Los Angeles River	16
	Upper San Gabriel River	6
	Grand Total	62



Call for Projects and Timeline





Watershed Coordinator Timeline

• The Qualified Proposers will be invited to provide a presentation of their Capabilities and Qualifications to the applicable WASC who will conduct an interview at a public meeting to select the Watershed Coordinator(s) in November/December.

Milestone	Anticipated Completion Date
WASC Interviews	December 2020
Execution of Agreement	January 2021
Start of Agreement	February 2021

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Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs)

Current Year:

- 5 year plan
- Assign funding for
 - Infrastructure Program
 - Technical Resource Program
 - Scientific Studies Program
- Budget for current year is transferred to Project Developers subject to the transfer agreement

Regional Program Budget Infrastructure Program (not less than 85%) Project 1 Project 2 Project 3 Project 4 Project 5 Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	
(not less than 85%) Project 1 Project 2 Project 3 Project 4 Project 5 Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	
Project 2 Project 3 Project 4 Project 5 Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	_
Project 3 Project 4 Project 5 Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	Project 1
Project 4 Project 5 Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	Project 2
Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	Project 3
Scientific Studies (up to 5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	Project 4
5%) Special Study Monitoring Technical Resources	Project 5
Monitoring Technical Resources	-
Technical Resources	Special Study
	Monitoring
Program (up to 10%)	Technical Resources Program (up to 10%)
Feasibility Study 1	Feasibility Study 1
Feasibility Study 2	Feasibility Study 2
Feasibility Study 3	Feasibility Study 3
Watershed Coordinator	Watershed Coordinator
Grand Total	Grand Total



FY 21-22 SIP Programming Guidelines

- The 85%/10%/5% ratios, DAC benefits, Municipality benefits, and spectrum of project types and sizes will be evaluated over a rolling 5-yr period.
- WASCs have set the precedent of **reserving budget** to allow SIPs to handle unexpected decreases in revenue in the program, and so future project proponents have available resources.

Technical Resource Program

Infrastructure Program

Scientific Studies Program



FY 21-22 SIP Programming Guidelines

- The District has committed to complete feasibility studies for a rate of \$300,000 to be approved and budgeted in the SIP.
- A placeholder of \$200,000 shall be programmed in the current SIP for watershed coordinator services.
 - (for Upper LA River and Central Santa Monica Bay WASCs it is \$200,000 per coordinator)

Technical Resource Program

Infrastructure Program

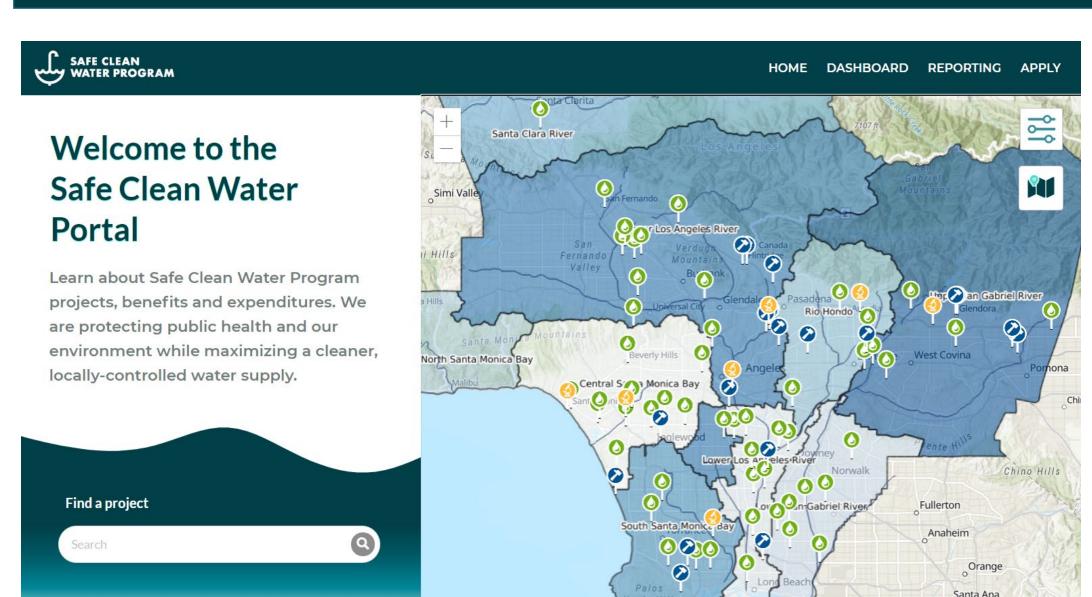
Scientific Studies Program



FY 21-22 SIP Programming Guidelines

- The District intends to develop and include additional guidelines for FY 21-22 which will be available for public review.
 - This includes guidance for allocating partial funding, documenting disadvantaged communities benefits, assessing Nature-Based Solutions, Community Engagement and Water Supply benefit.
 - Once available, adopted guidance could inform governance committee discussions, begin establishing standard terminology, and be fully available for Round 3 considerations.





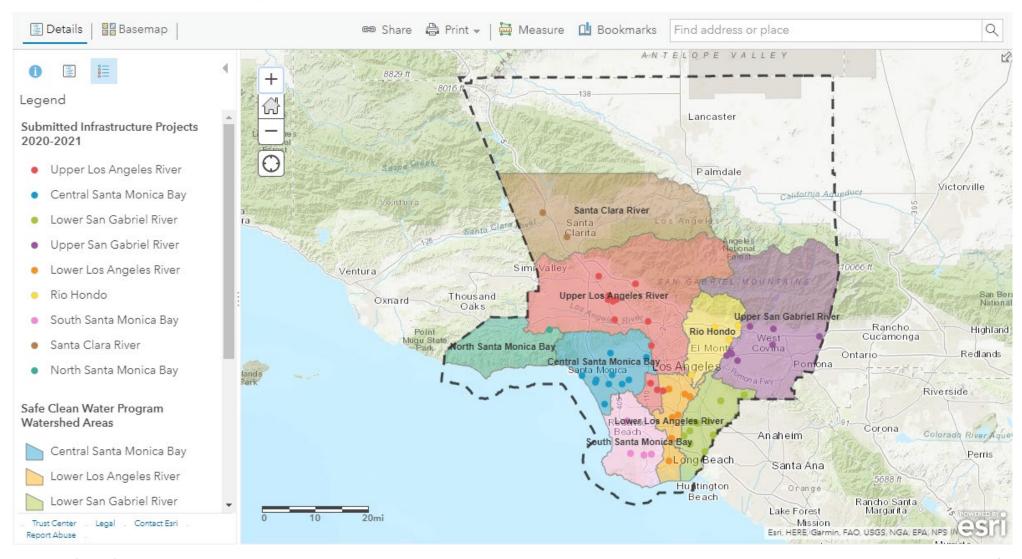
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GIS Reference Map

ArcGIS ♥ Safe Clean Water Program GIS Reference Map

Modify Map & Sign In



Internal SCW Program Discussion



Project Module



Welcome to Safe Clean Water Regional Program **Projects Module**



Login

Email	<u>/</u>
Password -	
Sign Up	Login

Forgot Password?



SIP Planning Tool Overview





WASC Operating Guidelines – Additional Responsibilities

Meetings

- Each WASC shall hold regular public meetings, no less than quarterly.
- An absence of **two** consecutive meetings or more than **three** meetings in one year will make the member eligible for removal from the WASC.
- WASC meetings are subject to the Brown Act.

Quarterly Progress/Expenditure Reports

 WASCs are responsible for reviewing quarterly progress and expenditure reports submitted by project developers for funded projects.

Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Reports

- District staff will prepare a draft WARPP report on behalf of each WASC. Each WASC will be responsible for review and approval of the WARPP before submittal of the report of the ROC.
- First WARRP report is due 6/30/22



Links to important tasks and documents for reference

- Designation of Alternate Member (Please notify District staff via email)
- Regional Program Committee Handbook
- Ex Parte Communication Guidelines
- WASC Acknowledgment Form (Please complete and submit to District staff)
- Conflict of Interest (COI) Training Video (online)
 - COI Training Slides
 - COI Q & A (updated 1/16/2020)
 - <u>COI Acknowledgement Form</u>
- Expectations of Chair, Co-Chair, and/or Vice Chair
- Overview of the Safe, Clean Water Program (presentation)
- SCW Portal
- Video Conference Guidelines
- Supplemental Documents and Online Resources

