

Safe, Clean Water Program

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)

E.J. Caldwell (West Basin)

Diane Gatza (Water Replenishment District)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Darryl Ford* (Los Angeles Rec & Park)

Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider)

Guang Yu Wang (SMB Restoration Commission)

Hany Fangary (Fangary Law Group)

Wendy Butts (LA Conservation Corps)

Julio Gonzalez (Carson)

Susie Santilena (Los Angeles)

TJ Moon (LA County Public Works)

John Dettle (Torrance)

Shawn Igoe* (EWMP: Beach Cities)

Heecheol Kwon (EWMP: Dominguez)

Ken Rukavina (EWMP: Peninsula)

Committee Members Not Present:

None.

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

The District facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

Hany Fangary disclosed that his assignment to the SSMB WASC is as a business liaison/businessperson. He stated he has resigned as Councilmember for the City of Hermosa Beach and confirmed with County Supervisorial staff that he can continue to be part of the WASC since his service as a Councilmember was not related to his appointment to the committee.

Kristen Ruffell discussed housekeeping items and further expanded on the WebEX features and public comment participation.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Kristen Ruffell asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Susie Santilena made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Darryl Ford seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes. (14 Approved and 2 Abstained, see Vote Tracker sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

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Kirk Allen provided the District update, noting: all Infrastructure Program (IP) projects have been scored; except for one project which will be officially scored by the Scoring Committee on January 27, 2021, seven of the nine WASCs have selected their Watershed Coordinators (WC), upcoming meetings will consist of project presentations and the presentations will be posted with the meeting minutes and on the Safe Clean Water Portal, Transfer Agreements (TA) for 16 of the 18 cities in the Watershed Area have been executed and there are 6 outstanding annual plans; which will be posted on the Safe Clean Water Program website, several Regional TAs have been executed and the District is currently reviewing the scopes of work; a CEQA determination will be required prior to the execution of the TAs and disbursement of funds (where applicable), tax relief options are available for low income senior owned properties as well as general income based tax reductions (due in early May 2021); cities were reminded to have tax relief forms available at public counters.

District noted that it is developing an interactive web-based Stormwater Investment Plan planning tool that all members will have access to and will be introduced in early March 2021.

John Dettle asked if Heal the Bay was approved to be selected as a WC, since Heal the Bay is being considered at other WASCs, or would the position go to an alternate agency; District noted that Heal the Bay's capacity was for three positions on their proposals, therefore, their application would move forward regardless of other WASC selections.

District noted that Heal the Bay's appointed WC was in attendance today.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

5. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No Ex Parte Communication disclosures.

b) Summary of Feasibility Studies, Project Concepts, and Scientific Studies submitted for South Santa Monica Bay WASC for consideration

The District provided an overview of the features of the Safe Clean Water Portal website.

c) Presentations for Technical Resources Program

- i) Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Benefit Flow Diversion Project – City of Rolling Hills Estates

No questions from Committee Members.

- ii) Prioritization of Parkway BMPs for Dominguez Channel/Harbors Toxics TMDL – City of Torrance

TJ Moon asked the applicant if there is any preliminary soils data that shows the presence of the sandy layer, since infiltration is difficult in the Machado Lake watershed. Applicant responded they have three groundwater wells in the area and their results are based on work done to date; their study would include additional analysis to determine the size of the sand layer.

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Susie Santilena asked for clarification if alternatives were being considered besides dry wells and to clarify if this project is a Technical Resource Program (TRP) application or Scientific Study. John Dettle responded that this project is a TRP application and that there are five groundwater wells that have been consistently showing a sandy layer below the clay layer.

Julio Gonzalez had the same questions as TJ Moon.

Kristen Ruffell asked District staff if there are intentions to use project borings to determine feasibility as part of the TRP. Kirk Allen responded that development of a Feasibility Studies require certain information to be made available; a geotechnical test may need to be performed if there is no other available data/analyses for projects in order to determine feasibility; this would be vetted at the WASC level.

Kristen Ruffell commented on Committee Member Diane Gatza's knowledge of potential infiltration in the region and called upon her expertise in relation to this project. Diane Gatza noted that in the West Coast Groundwater Basin, the infiltration that occurs will not become part of the water supply anywhere within this area due to the presence of a confined aquifer.

Ken Rukavina noted the project's application does not claim a groundwater supply benefit, only infiltration. Their ability to infiltrate the volume they need to maintain the BMP, as opposed to the water supply, is a point to consider.

6. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

7. Voting Items

None

8. Items for Next Agenda

- a) Presentation from FY21-22 Project Applicants

Susie Santilena requested clarification on access to the slide decks. The District noted that tabs will be compiled with the meeting minutes. Today's two presentations will be included.

9. Adjournment

Kristen Ruffell thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - January 20, 2021

		Quorum Present				Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Carolina Hernandez		A
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x	Alex Heide		Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza	x	Lyndsey Bloxom		Y
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Kristen Ruffell	x	Mike Sullivan		Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	Y
Community Stakeholder						
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	x	Mary Simun		Y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission	Guang Yu Wang	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	Fangary Law Group	Hany Fangary	x	Justin Massey		A
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Wendy Butts	x	Bo Savage		Y
Municipal Members	Carson	Julio Gonzalez	x	Maria E. Williams-Slaughter		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ilene Ramirez		Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	TJ Moon	x	Thuan Nguyen		Y
Municipal Members	Torrance	John Dettle	x	Wilson Mendoza		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Stephanie Katsouleas		Shawn Igoe	x	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Heecheol Kwon	x	Mitchell Wagner		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Ken Rukavina	x	David Wahba		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Other Attendees	
Aryana Nazem	Tammy Takigawa
Carlos Moran	Thuan Nguyen
Christine McLeod	Vik Bapna
David Wahba	Wilson Mendoza
Ilene Ramirez	Gregor Patsch
Jacqueline Mak	Benjamin Shorofsky
Jeff Kidd	Gustavo Orozo
Jon Abelson	Melina Watts
Katheleen McGowan	
Katie Harrel	
Katie M	
Lena Nguyen	
Mercedes Passanisi	
Michelle Staffield	
Nancy Shrodes	
Nate Schreiner	
Shahram Kharaghni	



Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Benefit Flow Diversion

Funding Program: Technical Resources Project

Project Lead: City of Rolling Hills Estates

Presenters:

- David Wahba, Rolling Hills Estates Director of Community Development & Public Works
- Mercedes Passanisi, County of Los Angeles
- Kathleen McGowan, McGowan Consulting



Project Overview

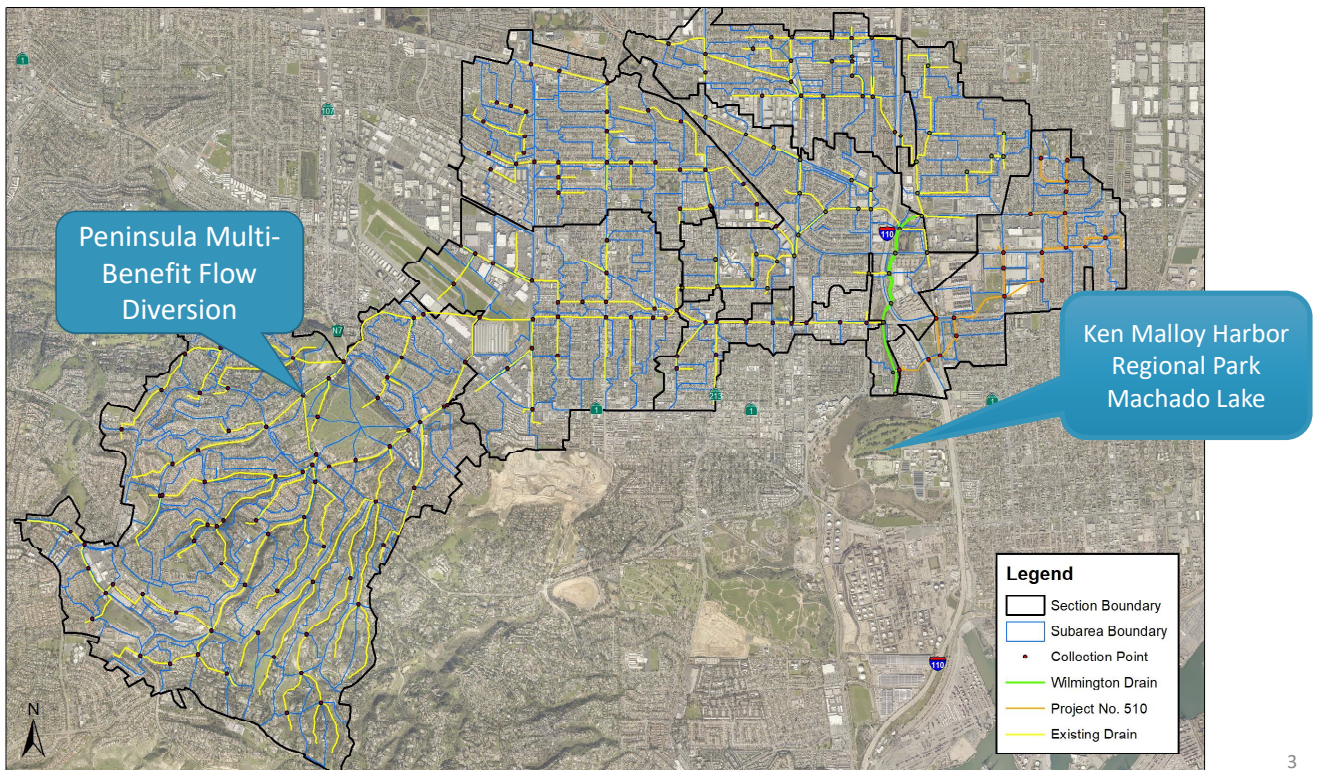
Multi-benefit storm drain flow diversion project to reduce nutrient discharge, offset potable water use, and provide multiple community benefits.

- 1^o objective: reduce nutrient pollutant discharge from the Palos Verdes Peninsula to Machado Lake to support attainment of the Machado Lake Nutrient TMDL
 - 2^o objective: offset potable water for irrigation of ball fields at Ernie Howlett Park
 - 2^o objective: enhance passive open space recreation via habitat restoration
- Requesting technical resources funding to complete a feasibility study
- Total Funding Requested: \$ 300K



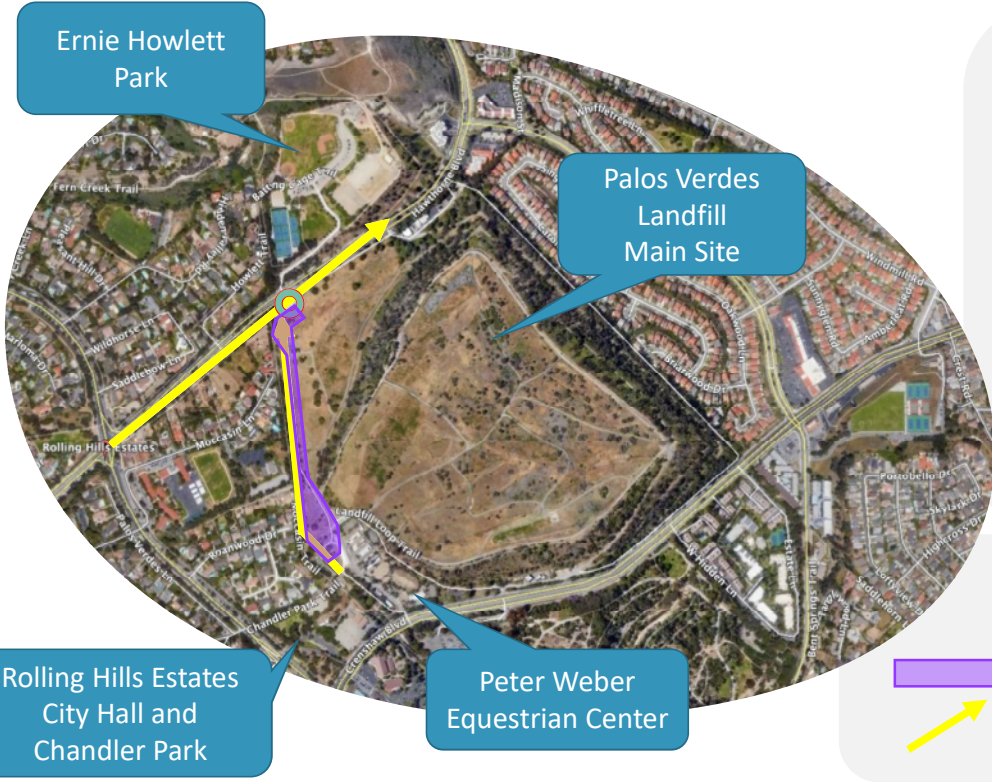


Project Location


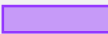





Project Background



- Multiple opportunities for use of baseline flow
- Nearby site for construction of storage & treatment system
- Opportunities for recreational enhancements
- Connectivity with future downstream regional projects
- Included in EWMP, Stormwater Resources Plan and LA IRWMP

 Storm Drain Diversion
 Storage/treatment
 Major Storm Drains



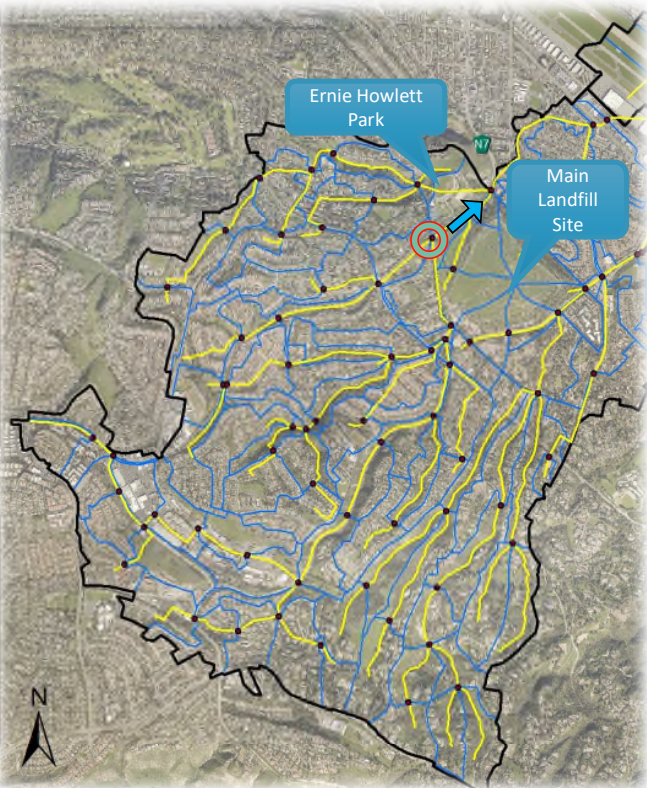
Disadvantaged Community Benefits






- Restore & protect Machado Lake water quality and habitat
- Reduce nitrogen & phosphorus loading
- Prevent algae blooms, oxygen depletion



Project Details



- Approximately 1500-acre tributary area
- Near intersection of two major storm drains
- 37 AFY baseline (year-round) flow
- Nearby irrigation demand for beneficial use

-  Storm Drain Diversion
-  Tributary Area
-  Flow Direction



Funding Request for Technical Resources Assistance

- Assistance generating key information for Feasibility Study:
 - Geotechnical Investigation to determine extent of buildable (non-fill) area
 - Flow monitoring at proposed point of diversion to fully assess baseline flow available
 - Water balance analysis to optimize design storage volume for irrigation use/demand against baseline flow
- Project conceptual design and cost estimate



Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Est. Cost	Est. Completion Date
Feasibility Study	Feasibility study, flow monitoring, geotechnical investigation, preliminary design, Community Engagement,	\$300,000	December 2022
Planning & Design	CEQA and Permitting, Community Engagement, Final Design	\$700,000	December 2024
Construction	TBD	TBD	TBD
O&M	Anticipated operational life	TBD	20 - 30 years

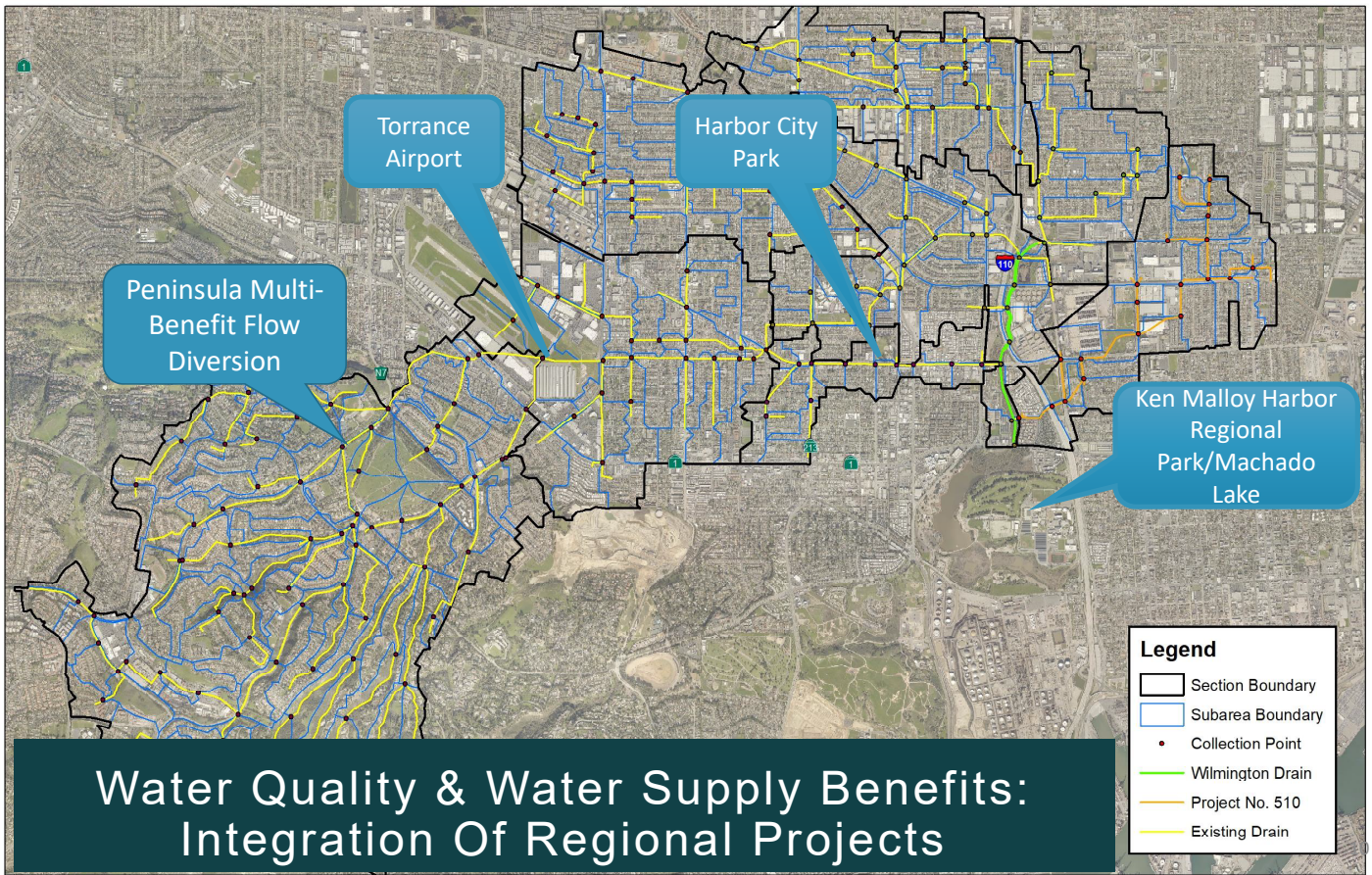
Among potential opportunities to leverage funding:

- Grants
- Municipal SCW funds
- O&M costs offset by reduction in potable water bills



Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits

- Diversion of storm drain flows from 1500-acre tributary area to Machado Lake will:
 - Reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to Machado Lake
 - Support attainment of the Machado Lake Nutrient TMDL waste load allocations
 - Reduce bacteria loading to Wilmington Drain
 - Provide offline storage of stormwater flows for diversion by potential downstream projects
- Opportunity for > 37 AFY baseline flows to be beneficially reused to:
 - Offset existing potable water used for irrigated landscaped areas and ballfields at Ernie Howlett Park (approx. 22.5 AFY)
 - Provide irrigation for open space enhancements at the PV Landfill Main Site





Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions

- **Community Benefits:**
 - Improved water quality in Machado Lake
 - Habitat restoration and open-space enhancements on the PVLF Main Site
 - Potential to create additional recreational and educational opportunities
- **Nature Based Solutions:**
 - Application of nutrient-rich captured flow to turf playing fields and landscaped areas avoids need for fertilizer
 - Use of captured flow for irrigation reduces reliance on imported water
 - Restoration of PVLF Main Site with native, climate appropriate plant species




Leveraging Funds and Community Support

- **Leveraging Funds**
 - Service request between Rolling Hills Estates and LACSD to conduct initial feasibility investigation
 - Funding for future phases can leverage grant funding, SCW Municipal program funds, and reduction in water bills to offset O&M
- **Community Support**
 - Peninsula WMG has been working with LACSD and DTSC to understand project constraints and requirements
 - The City of RHE will consult with County Supervisor Hahn's office to engage the community and stakeholders including:
 - Nearby residents
 - Rolling Hills Estates Environmental Advisory Committee
 - Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
 - Rolling Hills Equestrian Committee
 - Local dog park advocates



Questions?



Prioritization of Parkway BMPs for Dominguez Channel/ Harbors Toxics TMDL

Jeff Kidd, P.E.

(310) 618-3067

jkidd@torranceca.gov



Study Overview

The Study is to prioritize to Dominguez Channel (including Torrance Lateral) dry well locations to reduce or eliminate 200 CB filter BMPs, reduce long term maintenance and use natural infiltration to address Harbors Toxics TMDL.

- Beach Cities EWMP identified 200 distributed filter BMPs in catch basins for 5,760 acres in City of Torrance due to clay soils
- 30 High Priority catch basins now have BioClean filter BMPs
- City's work for ground water wells shows very sandy old ocean floor 20 feet below clay layer in North Torrance/DC Watershed
- Study is requested to identify strategic dry well locations and perform geotechnical study for design of dry wells to replace proposed CB filters





Study Location

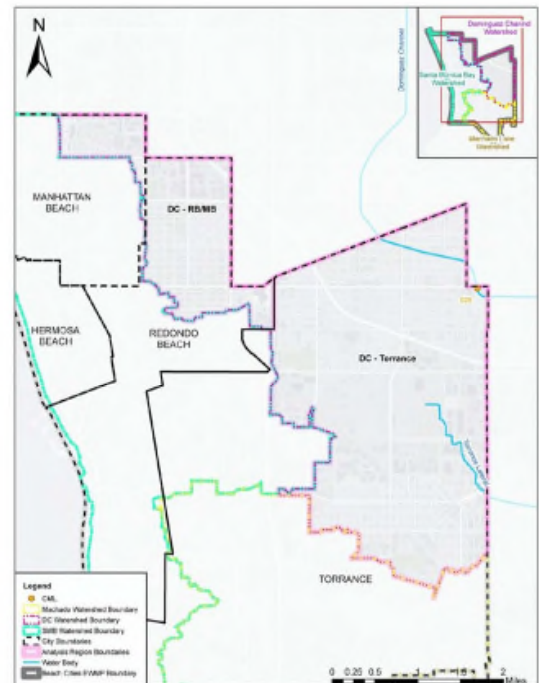


Figure 3-3. Analysis Regions within the Dominguez Channel Watershed portion of the Beach Cities EWMP Area



Study Details

- Study is to address compliance with Dominguez Channel/Harbors Toxics TMDL as described in the Beach Cities EWMP and eliminate dry weather flows
- Due to clay soils the City of Torrance recommended distributed filter BMP in 200 High Priority catch basins.
- Work on groundwater wells in North Torrance have shown a sandy layer/aquifer approximately 20 feet below grade, which would allow for dry wells and infiltration.
- Study Methodology: Review Beach Cities EWMP and storm drain maps to identify streets for dry wells. Field investigations of parkways for feasible locations for dry wells/soil boring locations. Perform soil borings to determine feasibility and for design of dry wells.
- Deliverable is Study that identifies locations of dry wells for stormwater infiltration that would replace 200 distributed catch basin filtration BMPs and quantify stormwater volume to be captured and infiltrated.



Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Pre-Design	Study to locate dry wells	\$300,000	06/2022
TOTAL		\$300,000	



Funding Request

WASC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 4
CSMB					
LLAR					
LSGR					
NSMB					
RH					
SCR					
SSMB	\$300,000				
ULAR					
USGR					
TOTAL	\$300,000				



Summary of Benefits

- Convert 200 catch basin filtration BMPs to dry well infiltration BMPs to capture stormwater from 5700 acres.
- Reduce long term maintenance and costs required for distributed catch basin BMPs.
- Dry wells could capture 100% of dry weather flows.
- Dry wells capture 100% of pollutants, vs. partial effectiveness of filtration systems.



Questions?