



Legg Lake

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Prepared for the Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee  
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# Table of Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS	i
Land Acknowledgement	1
INTRODUCTION	2
Purpose	2
Context of the SOEP	2
1. WATERSHED AREA DESCRIPTION	7
Physical Characteristics	7
Special Landscape Feature	9
Social Characteristics	10
2. INTERESTED PARTY MAPPING	14
3. VISION FOR SUCCESS FOR THE RIO HONDO OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM	15
Evaluation Criteria	15
4. STRATEGIES	17
Strategies within the Context of the SCWP	17
5. COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS	23
Bibliography/References	25
Acknowledgements	26
Appendices	27
A. Parks and Golf Courses in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area	
B. Operable Units (OUs)	
C. Interested Party Mapping	
D. USEPA San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan	
E. SCWP Regional Coordination Suggested Questions List	
F. Languages Spoken in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area	
<u><a href="#">Tables and Figures</a></u>	
Figure 1. Census-Designated Places (Unincorporated) in Rio Hondo Watershed Area	11
Figure 2. Disadvantaged Community Areas within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area	12
Table 1. Safe, Clean Water Program 2020-21 Regional Tax Return Estimates	18
Table 2. Safe, Clean Water Program 2020-21 Local Tax Return Estimates	19

## List of Acronyms

CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
EWMP	Enhanced Watershed Management Program
GLAC	Greater Los Angeles County
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Permit)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SCWP	Safe, Clean Water Program
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
WASC	Watershed Area Steering Committee
WHAM	Measures W, H, A, and M in Los Angeles County
WMP	Watershed Management Program

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



## Land Acknowledgement

The Watershed Coordinator team acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tonvaangar (Los Angeles Basin, Southern Channel Islands). Historic villages in or near the Rio Hondo Watershed area include Akuranga, Aleupkinga, Comicranga, Guichi, Hahamonga, Houtnga, Juyubit, Shevaanga, Sibanga, Toviseanga. We pay our respects to Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders), and 'eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present, and emerging.

### Sources:

Greene, Sean and Curwen Thomas. *Mapping the Tongva Villages of L.A.'s Past*. Los Angeles: LA Times.com, 2019.

Mapping Indigenous LA, Los Angeles, CA. (Website)

Tongvapeople.org (Website)



## Introduction

### Purpose

This initial **Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)** for the Rio Hondo Watershed Area has been prepared to provide the Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) with a plan for outreach and engagement for review and adoption as its plan for overseeing the Watershed Coordinator’s program and actions for assisting the WASC to achieve the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program established by the Los Angeles Regional Safe, Clean Water Program Ordinance (Flood Control District Code Chapter 18).

The purpose of the SOEP is to establish a framework for implementing the Watershed Coordinator role within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area, as well as a framework for the WASC to provide oversight of the coordinator program and evaluate the performance of the Watershed Coordinator team. This document discusses the context of the SOEP and presents an overview of the Watershed, a discussion of interested parties, a vision for the outreach and engagement program within the WASC, proposed metrics for evaluating the performance of the Watershed Coordinator, a set of outreach and engagement strategies, and an overview of evolving collaboration opportunities.

The SOEP initiates the work of Task 1 of the scope of work for the Watershed Coordinator which is to facilitate community engagement in the Program. The goal is to develop and foster meaningful engagement between community members, municipalities, other Watershed Area stakeholders, and the SCWP, including developing strategies that support engagement of diverse and disadvantaged communities.

### Context of the SOEP

The primary context for development of the SOEP is Chapter 16 of the Flood Control District Code adopted as Measure W by a positive vote of 69.45% of the electorate on November 13, 2018. Section 16.02 of the code says:

“This ordinance is adopted to achieve the following purpose and directs that the provisions hereof be interpreted in order to:

- A. Impose a Special Parcel Tax upon parcels of property within the boundaries of the District at the rate of two and one-half (2.5) cents per square foot of Impermeable Area, except as exempted, to be used for the purposes set forth herein.

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



B. Provide funding for Programs and Projects to increase Stormwater and Urban Runoff capture and reduce Stormwater and Urban Runoff pollution in the District, including Projects and Programs providing a Water Supply Benefit, Water Quality Benefit, and Community Investment Benefit.”

Section 16.03 contains many relevant definitions., Section 16.04 contains the expenditure plan, Section 16.05 A.2 contains a list of eligible expenditures, and Sections 16.05 B, C, and D describe the functions of the District, Municipal, and Regional Programs. Section 16.15 discusses amendments to the Ordinance, and Section 16.16 includes specific directions to the Board.

The second major context is Chapter 18 of the Flood Control District Code, the “Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance.” The purpose of this Chapter of the Code is “to establish additional criteria and procedures related to implementation of the Los Angeles Region Safe, Clean Water Program described in Chapter 16 of this code.” Section 18.02 contains additional definitions that apply to implementation of the Ordinance. Section 18.04 is especially relevant to the SOEP because it specifies that “the Los Angeles Region Safe, Clean Water Program shall be implemented consistent with the following **goals**:



The San Gabriel Mountains seen from Monrovia.

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area

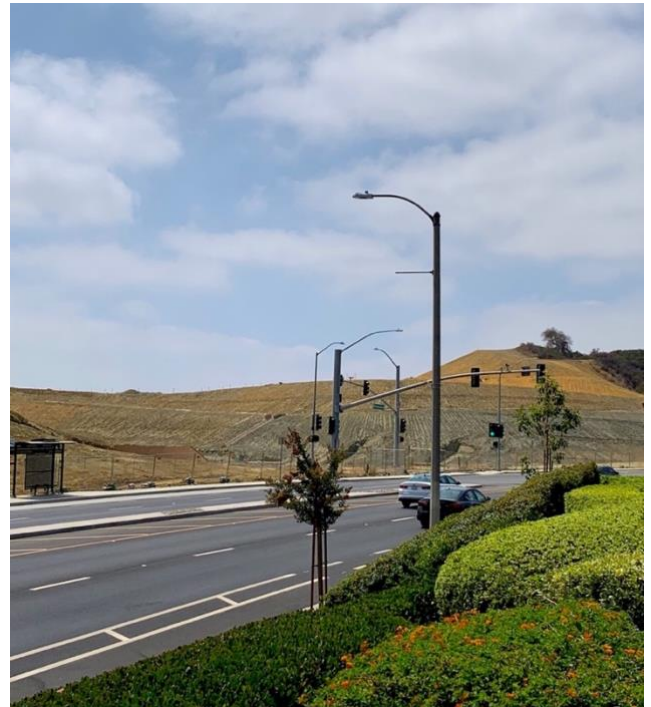


H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.

I. Invest in independent scientific research.

J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.

K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.



View south across N. Montebello Road toward graded hills.

L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.

M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.

N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.

Section 18.07 – Regional Program Implementation – is especially relevant to the WASC and the SOEP because it specifies how the Regional Program is to be implemented. Section 18.07.D.3 specifically discusses Watershed Coordinators and Section 18.07 G discusses the Watershed Area Steering Committee.

Section 18.07.D.3.c says that the **duties and responsibilities of Watershed Coordinator(s)** center around connecting potential applicants with technical resources and building inclusion and meaningful engagement in pursuit of SCW Program Goals and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Work with Technical Assistance Teams to bring resources to potential Infrastructure Program Project Applicants;

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



- (2) Work with Municipalities and Stakeholders to identify and develop Project concepts that may be elevated to the Watershed Area Steering Committees and Technical Assistance Teams to assist with development of Feasibility Studies;
- (3) Identify and help leverage and secure additional funding sources for Regional Projects and Programs;
- (4) Engage Municipalities, community groups, and other watershed Stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives are included in planning and implementation of the Regional Program;
- (5) Conduct community outreach to diverse communities, with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities;
- (6) Provide leadership in community outreach efforts related to watershed planning;
- (7) Facilitate collaborative decision-making between private and public entities to develop and implement actions that best address community priorities;
- (8) Integrate community, municipality, and regional priorities through partnerships and extensive networks;
- (9) Organize public outreach events included in SIPs, such as workshops, demonstrations, community forums and restoration activities, to educate Stakeholders on stormwater-related topics;
- (10) Serve as non-voting members of the Watershed Area Steering Committees for the respective Watershed Areas; and
- (11) Collaborate with all other Watershed Coordinators and the District to help ensure consistency in implementation and to inform each other of effective efforts, outreach, and communication approaches, including sharing best practices and resources.

Collectively, the direction in 16.02 pertaining to interpreting the provisions in Chapter 16 of the Flood Control District Act, the Goals for the Safe, Clean Water Program in Section 18.04 of the Implementation Ordinance, the specification of the range of duties and responsibilities of Watershed Coordinators specified in Section 18.07 D.3 of the Implementation Ordinance, and the discussions of Watershed Area Steering Committee membership requirements and meeting procedures in Section 18.07.G. mean that both the strategies in the SOEP and the decisions of the WASC must balance between the diverse and sometimes competing goals and requirements of the Safe, Clean Water Program. To the extent feasible, the strategies and actions outlined in



# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Section 4 of this SOEP represent an appropriate balance of the perspectives of members of the WASC and the Watershed Coordinator's current understanding of the needs of the Watershed Area.

A third potentially significant context for development of the SOEP is the work of the WHAM Taskforce that was convened by the County Chief Executive Officer after being directed to do so by the Board of Supervisors on December 3, 2019. The goals of the Taskforce include creating efficiencies across the implementation of Measures W, H, A, and M through coordinated planning and multi-benefit projects, increasing inter-agency and community coordination, and leveraging these funding sources with other local, state, and federal funding opportunities.

An amending motion directed that a subcommittee focused on workforce development be convened. In February 2020, a consultant was retained to support both the Taskforce and the subcommittee. The WHAM Taskforce Workplan outlines nine programmatic goals and policy areas that are very similar to the duties and responsibilities of Watershed Coordinators.

During the past year, as part of the WHAM Taskforce Work Plan, CBOs active in each of the Supervisorial Districts worked to identify 10 multi-benefit projects broadly supported by communities that could be completed within the next 10 years. These CBOs had advocated an integrated approach to WHAM projects, but the responsible agencies have continued to follow their individual decision-making processes. During the summer of 2021 a paper entitled, *"Mobilizing the Transformative Power of WHAM: Overcoming Obstacles to Integrated Infrastructure Investment in Los Angeles County"*<sup>1</sup> was published. This paper contains a series of findings and recommendations. If the recommendations are implemented, the resulting program could become very important and could impact the activities of Watershed Coordinators and other aspects of the Safe, Clean Water Program.

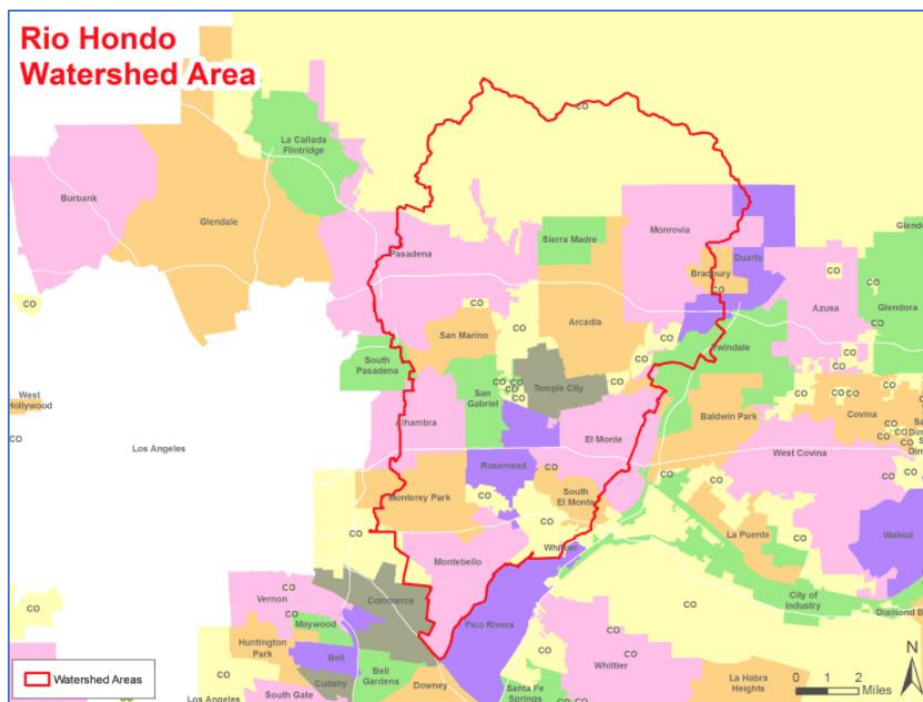
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<sup>1</sup> *Mobilizing the Transformative Power of WHAM: Overcoming Obstacles to Integrated Infrastructure Investments in Los Angeles County*. Christensen, Jon (UCLA) and Pritchard, Michele (Liberty Hill Foundation). Summer 2021.

# 1. Watershed Area Description

## Physical Characteristics

This section is intended to provide an overview of the physical characteristics of the Watershed Area.



The Rio Hondo Watershed Area is a fascinating area. It encompasses 132.25 square miles, with a local relief of approximately 5,500 feet from its high point elevation of approximately 5,700 feet just south of Mount Wilson near the north central edge of the area down to an elevation of approximately 150 feet at the southern tip of the area just north of I-5 in Montebello.

The northern tier of cities, including Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Bradbury, and Duarte are either entirely or partly in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. From the toe of the foothills, the valley floor gently slopes south/southeasterly toward the Merced Hills, the Montebello Hills, and the Rio Hondo. This portion of the Watershed Area includes the valley floor portions of Pasadena, Arcadia, Monrovia, and Duarte, plus San Marino, San Gabriel, Temple City, and Rosemead, as well as portions of Irwindale, El Monte, South El Monte, Monterey Park, Alhambra and South Pasadena, and several unincorporated communities. The southern hills include portions of the unincorporated County, Montebello, and Monterey Park. South of the hills

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



is another gentle gradient plain that includes portions of Montebello, Monterey Park, and unincorporated community of East Los Angeles within the Watershed Area.

A large number of parks and golf courses are scattered across the Watershed Area. A list of these facilities is included in this SOEP as Appendix A that needs to be checked for completeness with the municipalities and community groups. The parks, in particular, need to be assessed for the quality of improvements and the opportunities for the development of multi-benefit projects.

Another important element that could influence the future landscape of the Watershed Area is the “Emerald Necklace – Forest to the Ocean Vision Plan” proposed by Amigos de los Rios and the Conservation Fund. The Emerald Necklace Vision started in 2005 with a case study that involved the Cities of El Monte, South El Monte, Baldwin Park, and Irwindale. The Vision is intended to make Southern California a better place to live, work, and play. It builds on the 1930 Olmsted-Bartholomew Plan for Los Angeles and involves a green infrastructure recreational network of trails, parks, and natural habitat. The Watershed Coordinator team plans to learn more about its status from Amigos de los Rios to be able to assess its relationship to future SWCP project work.

A critical element of the Watershed Area is groundwater. Most of the Watershed Area is underlain by the Main San Gabriel Basin, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster – the agency charged with administering adjudicated water rights and managing groundwater resources within its portion of the Watershed Area. The surface area of the Main San Gabriel basin is approximately 167 square miles. A separate basin, the Raymond Basin, underlies the northwesterly portion of the San Gabriel Valley. The Raymond Basin is bounded on the north by the San Gabriel Mountains, on the west by the San Rafael Hills, and separated from the Main San Gabriel Basin on the Southeast by the Raymond fault. The surface area of the Raymond Basin is about 40.9 square miles. The basin lies under much of the city of Pasadena and the unincorporated area of Altadena, as well as portions of Arcadia and Sierra Madre. The area overlying the Basin is largely urbanized. The Basin is adjudicated. A 1974 modification of the adjudication allows parties to the adjudication credit for spreading of canyon diversions in spreading grounds in the vicinity of the Arroyo Seco, Eaton Wash, and Santa Anita Creek Canyon. A 1984 modification of the adjudication established the Raymond Basin Management Board as the Watermaster for the Raymond Basin.

The southern portion of the Watershed Area is underlain by the northern portion of the large Central Basin, which underlies approximately 227 square miles, including most of Montebello. It is covered by a Water Master Service Area, which includes an administrative body (the Water Replenishment District of Southern California) and the Central Basin Water Basin Water Rights Panel, the decision-making body composed of representatives of municipal and private water purveyors.

Water is largely provided by capture and infiltration of rainwater over the groundwater basins, and discharges from the San Gabriel Mountains. The mountain discharges enter a series of washes

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



after passing through debris basins to remove debris and sediment. These washes, include the Rubio Wash, the Eaton Wash, the Arcadia Wash, the Santa Anita Wash, and the Sawpit Wash, all of which transport surface flows to the Rio Hondo. The Rio Hondo flows into the Los Angeles River, and ultimately through Long Beach to the Pacific Ocean. Other waterbodies/hydrologic features include Legg Lake (at Whittier Narrows), Peck Road Water Conservation Park, the Alhambra Wash, which originates in San Marino rather than in the San Gabriel Mountains or foothills.

The Rio Hondo Watershed Area is also served by the San Gabriel Valley Water Authority, which coordinates the cleanup of polluted groundwater. There are 32 active groundwater treatment plants within the San Gabriel Basin, including EPA Superfund sites. A few EPA Superfund Site areas are within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area. To manage the areas and the cleanup more efficiently, EPA divided the four San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites into sections called operable units, or OUs. The OUs that relate to the Watershed Area are referred to by EPA as [Area 1](#) and Area 3. (See Appendix B for descriptions of OUs.)

### Special Landscape Feature

The Rio Hondo Watershed Area is bordered by, and contains a portion of, the San Gabriel Mountains to the north, with a high watershed area elevation of approximately 5,700 feet just south of Mt. Wilson. The [Angeles National Forest](#) is a significant protected upland area that is partly in the Watershed Area. This relationship with the mountains and Angeles Natural Forest is part of geographic diversity in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area that most of the members of the Watershed Area Steering Committee commented upon during the Watershed Coordinator's interviews with them prior to the writing of this SOEP. The area is subject to the Wilderness Act of 1964, which was enacted to preserve wild, open space public lands.



Source: USDA Forest Service Website

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Large campuses or managed parcels (over 50 acres) in Rio Hondo Watershed Area\* include:

- California Institute of Technology (124 acres)
- City of Hope National Medical Center (120 acres)
- East Los Angeles College (82 acres)
- Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden (127 acres)
- Methodist Hospital of Southern California (122 acres)
- Pasadena City College (53 acres)
- Santa Anita Racetrack (320 acres)
- San Gabriel Valley Airport (formerly known as El Monte Airport) (103 acres)

\*Excluding parks and golf courses that are listed in Appendix A.



Aerial view of San Gabriel Valley Airport, El Monte (Courtesy CASC)

## Social Characteristics

The Rio Hondo Watershed Area (WA) is an urban watershed area in Los Angeles County with 17 cities in part or wholly within its boundaries, along with portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The city jurisdictions include: Alhambra, Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, El Monte, Irwindale, Montebello, Monterey Park, Monrovia, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South El Monte, South Pasadena, and Temple City. Several of these cities are additionally located in the Upper Los Angeles River or Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Areas. The estimated population of the Rio Hondo Watershed Area (based on the 2016 American Community Survey by

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



the U.S Census Bureau) is 744,634, with 259,860 residents living in areas considered disadvantaged communities (35%).

The unincorporated Los Angeles County Census Designated Places (CDPs) within the WA include Altadena, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Mayflower Village, North El Monte, South Monrovia Island, South San Gabriel, and portions of East Los Angeles. Additional communities in the unincorporated County areas of the WA include Kinneloa Mesa, Northeast San Gabriel, and San Pasqual. (See Figure 1.)



Map courtesy of Los Angeles Almanac ([laalmanac.com](http://laalmanac.com))

**FIGURE 1 – Census-designed places (unincorporated) shown in white.**  
*(Watershed Area does not include unincorporated areas adjacent to or east of I-605)*

The cities of Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, and Sierra Madre have been working together with the County of Los Angeles and the Flood Control District as members of the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group on an Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) pursuant to the Los Angeles Regional Water Board’s NPDES permit requirements.

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area

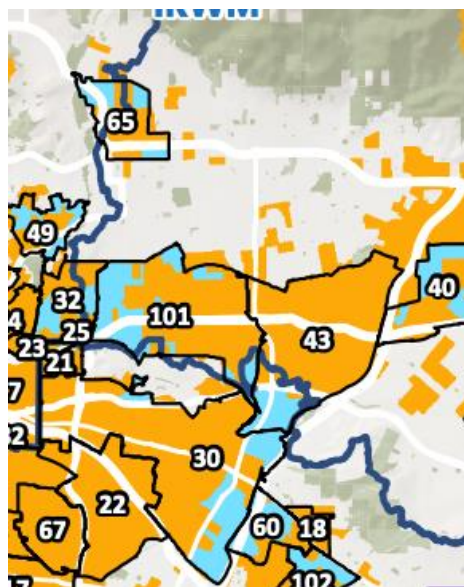


Ten Cities in the Watershed Area, including Alhambra, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South El Monte, South Pasadena, and Temple City are working together as members of the large Upper Los Angeles River EWMP Group.

The organization of these two EWMP groups predated the designation of Watershed Areas in Measure W. The result was that all of the cities - except El Monte, which has an independent WMP, and Irwindale, which is baseline (no WMP) - have partial allegiance to a watershed management group that are strongly influenced by cities in other WASCs.

The original Rio Hondo/San Gabriel EWMP was modified by the Enhanced Watershed Program (“rEWMP”) for the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group. It states in its Guiding Principles section that “the process was driven by the philosophy that each decision and outcome must be meaningful, measurable, and achievable” and that those metrics provide value in determining final outcomes. The Watershed Coordination team appreciates this approach and thinks it could be valuable in communicating SCWP Goals to area stakeholders.

As noted by most members of the Steering Committee when they were interviewed, the Rio Hondo Watershed Area has a highly diverse social and economic structure. The wealthy neighborhoods are primarily, but not entirely, in the north, and the poorer neighborhoods are primarily in the south. Four major disadvantaged communities were defined in the Watershed Area and mapped by the Council for Watershed Health in 2013. In addition, the Council mapped several small areas that meet the state definition of disadvantaged community scattered across the northern portion of the developed part of the Watershed Area.



**Figure 2. Disadvantaged Community Areas within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area**

Portion of Disadvantaged Communities map designed for the Council for Watershed Health

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



The demographics of the area are also quite diverse. Of the 17 cities represented in whole or in part in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area, 10 have a primary spoken language other than English; according to data collected via U.S. Census and Neighborhood Scout, Chinese is the dominant language in the contiguous central and western cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, and Temple City, and Arcadia in the north. Spanish is the dominant spoken language in the eastern cities of El Monte, Irwindale, and South El Monte, and the southern city of Montebello. English is the dominant language in the northern cities of Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Marino, and South Pasadena. Diversity is one of the strengths of the area, but it will also make outreach and engagement more challenging.

Spanish is the second most common language in the Watershed Area and is spoken by an increasing proportion of the population across the County. Although Spanish currently is the dominant language of approximately 28% of the Rio Hondo Watershed Area population, the importance of the Chinese population, Chinese investment, and Chinese tourism in the central part of the Area along the Valley Blvd. corridor across the central cities of Alhambra, San Gabriel, and Rosemead was demonstrated in an August 28, 2021 article in the Los Angeles Times entitled “Valley Blvd. off its peak.” The article discusses the impacts of the pandemic and the strained relationship between China and the United States on Chinese investment.



The Watershed Coordinator is including in this SOEP’s Interested Party Mapping section the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, which has continued its efforts to connect potential investors in Asia with American opportunities throughout the downturn. The Partnership has also worked hard to bridge the gap between communities and the other members of the Partnership. They have specifically found that there is a need for a “friendly call” or text in first languages of all business people to navigate the complexities of regulations, grant opportunities, and general business advice to keep communications open with local minority-language groups. The Partnership had 169 members, including 29 cities, in 2019-2020<sup>2</sup>. The Partnership’s Board is large, multi-racial, and includes representatives of three cities in the Watershed Area. Their findings and observations will influence the implementation of the outreach and engagement program.

<sup>2</sup> San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership 2019-2020 Annual Report, p. 16-17





## 2. Interested Party Mapping

One critical step in building and implementing a successful outreach and engagement process is the development and maintenance of a robust list of groups and individuals to target. The Watershed Coordinator team started developing its initial interested party list through interviews with each of the fifteen (15) members of the Rio Hondo WASC to take advantage of their knowledge of local community groups and environmental stewardship organizations. Two of the sixteen questions asked of each WASC member dealt directly with building inclusion, building meaningful engagement, and identifying overlooked interested parties. Additional potential interested parties were identified through research regarding several categories of groups or individuals that the Watershed Coordinator plans to contact in the first year of its outreach and engagement program. The interested party list will continue to expand as initial contacts lead to other potential interested parties.

The initial list of potential interested parties includes community-based organizations; environmental stewardship organizations; Native American/tribal organizations; city and County government organizations and individuals; councils of governments; regional agencies; State and federal agencies; water wholesalers; water retailers; educational organizations; school districts; and other recommended contacts. Several groups and individuals included in the list work with disadvantaged and underserved communities and will be able to help identify key individuals and organizations in their communities. The Watershed Coordinator will utilize the December 30, 2013 *Disadvantaged Community Outreach Study* prepared by the Council for Watershed Health for the California Department of Water Resources, and CalEnviroScreen 4.0, which was released in draft form in June 2021, to help identify disadvantaged communities and active organizations in these communities to direct initial SCWP outreach efforts. The Watershed Coordinator team also will consult with the project managers for TreePeople and the Council for Watershed Health who are working on implementation of the community outreach and needs assessment tasks of the GLAC Region Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP). These resources will be very helpful in expanding the interested party list with key, currently active groups within the targeted communities.

Another area of Interested Party Mapping that the Watershed Coordinator team anticipates building is a list of private landowners of large lots – especially those located near storm drains – that could be suitable locations for future projects.

Please see Appendix C for the current list of potential Interested Parties.



### 3. Vision for Success for the Rio Hondo Outreach and Engagement Program

**Long-Term Vision for Success:** The Rio Hondo Outreach and Engagement Program will help the Rio Hondo WASC meet the Safe, Clean Water Program goals in a fair and inclusive manner.

**Short-Term Vision for Success:** During the first year, the Rio Hondo Outreach and Engagement Program will make significant progress implementing each of the strategies in the five strategic focus areas addressed in Section 4 of this SOEP.

#### Evaluation Criteria for Short-Term Implementation of Strategies in SOEP Section 4

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Evaluation Criterion</u>
1.a.	Contacts established with staff in each municipality with at least two check-ins with each staff contact by June 30, 2022.
1.b.	Relationships established with at least six CBOs and/or NGOs operating in Watershed Area, including organizations operating in at least three disadvantaged communities with at least two check-ins with each CBO and NGO by June 30, 2022.
2.a.	Reports on input solicited from individuals and groups identified by municipalities in at least three WC updates by June 30, 2022.
2.b.	Reports on input solicited in the identified major disadvantaged communities in at least three Watershed Coordinator updates by June 30, 2022.
2.c.	Identification and/or development of at least three project concepts by June 30, 2022.
2.d.	Consultation with Technical Assistance Teams regarding assistance to at least two project proponents before June 30, 2022.
3.a.	Monitor Scoring Committee and Regional Oversight Committee discussion of each proposed project and report to WASC.
3.b.	During the evaluation of each submitted project, community input will be received by the WASC related to each project.

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



- 4.a. Reports on involvement of members of disadvantaged communities in at least three Watershed Coordinator updates
- 4.b. Reports on the progress of the GLAC Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program in at least three Watershed Coordinator updates.
- 5.a. Reports on Flood Control District educational programs in at least three Watershed Coordinator updates.
- 5.b. Reports on joint development and implementation of educational programs with other Watershed Coordinators in at least two Watershed Coordinator updates.



## 4. Strategies

This section builds on the previous sections to suggest a set of strategies to address **five focus areas** specified in the SOEP template provided to Watershed Coordinators. The five areas are:

1. Engage stakeholders, municipalities, community groups
2. Solicit input, connect to technical assistance (TA) opportunities
3. Ensure diverse perspectives are shared with the District and WASCs
4. Identify and ensure the involvement of members of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities
5. Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological, and community involvement

The Watershed Coordinator team has endeavored to focus on development of a limited number of strategies to address the above five areas of focus that could be adopted by the WASC and implemented in the first year of the Watershed Coordinator program. The Watershed Coordinator team has considered the fourteen (14) goals of the SCW Program (goals A-N, see p. 2), the eleven (11) duties and responsibilities of the Watershed Coordinator specified in Chapter 18 of the Flood Control District Code (see p. 3), and the nine consolidated tasks in our contract with the District within the context of providing helpful support and advice to the WASC as a non-voting member of the Steering Committee, while developing a meaningful and implementable outreach and engagement program.

### Strategies within the Context of the SCWP

Before discussing the specific strategies, it is necessary to put this section in the context of the SCWP, especially the programmatic structure and the likely availability of money. The Program now anticipates receiving approximately \$280 million per year, although the amount could be reduced if more senior exclusions are requested and approved or businesses do more onsite projects that reduce the impervious area and runoff that is not captured and/or treated to meet water quality standards.

Table 1 shows the amount of money currently estimated to be available for investment in the Regional Program (50% of total revenues received). The adoption ordinance (Chapter 16 of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code) specifies that at least 85% of the available Regional Program funds should be spent on Infrastructure Projects, up to 10% can be spent on



Technical Assistance Projects (including the Watershed Coordinator), and up to 5% can be spent on scientific studies.

**Table 1: Regional Estimates:**

**SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM  
2020-21 REGIONAL TAX RETURN ESTIMATES**

Central Santa Monica Bay	\$17.42M
Lower Los Angeles River	\$12.72M
Lower San Gabriel River	\$16.56M
North Santa Monica Bay	\$1.83M
Rio Hondo	\$11.49M
Santa Clara River	\$5.87M
South Santa Monica Bay	\$17.58M
Upper Los Angeles River	\$38.44M
Upper San Gabriel River	\$18.78M
<b>REGIONAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$140.6M</b>

Table 2 shows the estimated annual local tax return for municipalities in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area and the total 5-year estimated return based on the current annual estimated return. It also indicates whether a municipality is fully or partly in the Watershed Area. The estimated local returns are proportional to the taxes generated in the municipalities, and the taxes generated are based on the amount of estimated impervious area. Only three municipalities in the Watershed Area receive more than \$1 million per year: Arcadia, El Monte, and Pasadena. The Municipal Program is more flexible than the Regional Program with regard to how money is spent, but there are rules about expenditures and municipality is subject to audits.



**Table 2: Local Return Estimates**

Safe, Clean Water Program – Rio Hondo Watershed Area Local Tax Return Estimates <sup>1</sup>			
Municipality	Annual Local Return	5-Year Local Return	Fully or Partly in WA
Alhambra	\$0.86 M	\$4,300,000	Partly (w/ULAR)
Arcadia	\$1.02 M	\$5,100,000	Fully
Bradbury	\$0.05 M	\$50,000	Partly (w/USGR)
Duarte	\$0.25 M	\$250,000	Partly (w/USGR)
El Monte	\$1.10 M	\$5,500,000	Partly (w/USGR)
Irwindale	\$0.44 M	\$2,200,000	Partly (w/USGR)
Monrovia	\$0.53 M	\$2,650,000	Partly (w/USGR)
Montebello	\$0.90 M	\$4,500,000	Fully
Monterey Park	\$0.74 M	\$3,700,000	Partly (w/ULAR)
Pasadena	\$1.56 M	\$7,800,000	Partly (w/ULAR)
Rosemead	\$0.57 M	\$2,850,000	Fully
San Gabriel	\$0.45 M	\$2,250,000	Fully
San Marino	\$0.23 M	\$1,150,000	Fully
Sierra Madre	\$0.15 M	\$750,000	Fully
South El Monte	\$0.45 M	\$2,250,000	Partly (w/USGR)
South Pasadena	\$0.25 M	\$1,250,000	Partly (w/ULAR)
Temple City	\$0.45 M	\$2,250,000	Fully
Uninc. County	(fraction of \$11.24 M)		Partly

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2020-21 Local Tax Return Estimates. This table will be updated based on 2021-22 estimates.

Before analyzing new project proposals, the Watershed Coordinator team plans to review previously submitted project applications and approved projects to understand the Watershed Area’s current status with respect to projects that address SCWP objectives. The team needs to look at Infrastructure Projects, Technical Resource Projects, and Scientific Studies individually and collectively in order to propose an approach to Year 4 and other future projects. The team will use its experience in watersheds where it has served in a consultant role, and its observations of other WASCs, as it reviews proposed future projects in the Rio Hondo WASC.

The team’s approach to reviewing projects (approved and proposed) will be to consider existing regulatory standards, proposed amendments to those standards, and the unique characteristics of the Rio Hondo Watershed Area.

Our proposals for [initial strategies](#) to address the five required strategy areas are as follows:

1. Engage stakeholders, municipalities, community groups.

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



- a. Focus initially on meeting with city staff and city councilmember offices to gain a better understanding of individuals and groups in or serving their jurisdictions that could help educate residents about the Safe, Clean Water Program and identify potential projects and proposals.
  - b. Develop strong relationships with selected CBOs and other NGOs, especially those working in communities in which the dominant languages are Spanish and Chinese in order to facilitate collaborative outreach and engagement efforts throughout the Rio Hondo Watershed Area in order to educate community members and organizations about the Safe, Clean Water Program and to find potential infrastructure and technical assistance projects.
  - c. Consider the suggestions in the appendices to EPA’s Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for Area 1 in the San Gabriel Valley<sup>3</sup>, which includes a list of “Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants.” This section includes suggestions for outreach and engagement to non-English speaking communities in San Gabriel Valley Area 1, El Monte, South El Monte, and Whittier Narrows.
2. Solicit input connected to technical assistance (TA) opportunities.
- a. Initially solicit input from individuals and groups identified by city staff and City Councilmember offices and the selected CBOs and NGOs with which relationships have been established.
  - b. Focus initially on neighborhoods in the major West San Gabriel Valley/10 Freeway disadvantaged community (dominant language – Chinese) and either the Greater El Monte Disadvantaged Community or the Montebello portion of the East LA/Montebello/Pico Rivera Disadvantaged Community (dominant language – Spanish) as identified by the Council for Watershed Health in 2016.
  - c. Use our experiences as a consultant and subconsultant in three watershed groups in two other Watershed Areas to help us identify and develop project concepts.
  - d. Use our numerous contacts at the County and Flood Control District to make contact and work with staff managers and consultants working on Technical Assistance teams to assist project proponents in the Watershed Area.
3. Ensure diverse perspectives are shared with the District and the WASC

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<sup>3</sup> San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan, USEPA, November 2018. (See Appendix D, p. 23-25)

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



- a. Monitor and interpret comments made during Scoring Committee and Regional Oversight Committee meetings, and report on these comments during Watershed Coordinator updates to the WASC.
- b. Communicate regularly with municipal representatives, CBOs and other NGOs, and non-municipal project proponents and include summaries of their perspectives in Watershed Coordinator updates to the WASC.
4. Identify and ensure the involvement of members of disadvantaged communities and under-represented communities.
  - a. Continue research on the disadvantaged communities in the Watershed Area identified earlier by the Coalition for Watershed Health, focusing initially on the East LA/Montebello/Pico Rivera, Greater El Monte, Northeast Pasadena, and West San Gabriel Valley/10 Freeway disadvantaged communities, since they are the largest disadvantaged communities in the Watershed Area and are likely to include overlooked neighborhoods.
  - b. Maintain contacts with the leaders of the Greater Los Angeles County (GLAC) components of the Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) since this program is designed to ensure the involvement of disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, and underrepresented areas in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWP) planning efforts to help ensure the involvement of disadvantaged communities in the SCWP.
5. Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological, and community involvement.
  - a. Identify and work with managers of the Flood Control District SCW educational programs to be funded with not less than 20% of District Program funds using a rolling five (5) year period. These programs involve public education programs, local workforce training, and school education and curriculum program in order to partner with the District to collaborate on educational programs about watershed planning, ecological, and community involvement education program.
  - b. Use developed relationships with selected CBOs and other NGOs operating in the Watershed Area to facilitate collaborative educational efforts.
  - c. Work with other watershed coordinators through monthly watershed coordinator meetings and regular meetings with coordinators in the adjacent Upper and Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Watershed Areas on joint development of



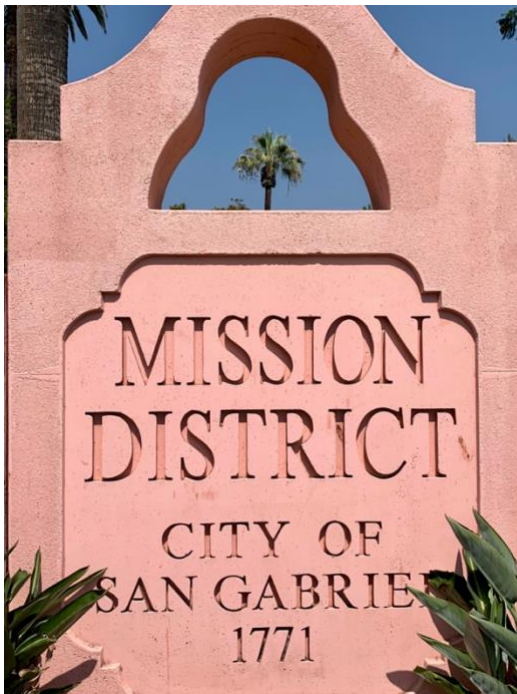
# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



educational programs. The Watershed Coordinator team is planning with Alfredo Camacho (Day One), the Watershed Coordinator for the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed, to schedule monthly meetings since our two Watershed Areas share a significant number of municipalities and communities.

While implementing these initial strategies the Watershed Coordinator will make use of the series of questions suggested by the SCWP Regional Coordination team to help develop an expanded suite of appropriate strategies. (See Appendix E.) The Watershed Coordinator team will also regularly review the interview answers provided by WASC members during development of this SOEP. Please also see Appendix F for a chart detailing the languages spoken in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area.





## 5. Collaborative Efforts

The Watershed Coordinator initiated collaborative efforts by contacting the Watershed Coordinators in the four adjacent Watershed Areas – Lower LAR, Lower SGR, Upper LAR, and Upper SGR – and by participating in the kickoff coordinator meeting of the twelve (12) Watershed Coordinators hosted by Stantec in June 2021. Subsequently, RWA planned and hosted the first regular monthly meeting of Watershed Coordinators – these meetings are to be hosted by a different Watershed Coordinator each month. The RWA Watershed Coordinator team plans to participate regularly in the monthly meetings and meet regularly during the year with each of the Watershed Coordinators in the four adjacent Watershed Areas. There will be more frequent meetings with the Watershed Coordinators for the Upper LAR and Upper SGR Watershed Areas because of the extensive shared boundaries with these areas.

There will also be regular meetings with those groups participating in the ongoing Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP), especially with the Council for Watershed Health and TreePeople. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator team will develop cooperative efforts with the two Watershed Management Groups within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area and with the Municipal Program through the individual municipalities entirely or partially within the Watershed Area and through contacts with SCWP staff.

The Watershed Coordinator team is committed to reaching out and engaging with community members across the Rio Hondo Watershed Area, and to providing education materials and opportunities to enable stakeholders from across the area to participate in SCWP. The Outreach and Engagement component of the Program is intended to prepare interested community members and stakeholders who might not traditionally have project experience to propose projects to the WASC for consideration. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator team seeks to support the broader WASC membership in building capacity and relationships within the Watershed Area, in order to facilitate ongoing dialog with Rio Hondo stakeholders. Supporting connections among the different stakeholder groups in the Watershed Area is critical to being able to secure the consideration of diverse perspectives and connect interested parties to needed technical assistance.

This SOEP describes the actions the Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator team is planning to take to encourage the involvement of stakeholders across the spectrum – from community members to elected officials – in collaborative implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program. The Plan is designed to provide transparency and to be a dynamic, working guidance document that will be updated annually, as lessons learned during Program implementation help us to better understand the needs of the Watershed Area and to refine methodologies used in pursuit of ongoing Program effectiveness and success in achieving SCWP goals.

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Other areas of potential collaboration involve regional and Countywide programs. Two of these are the WHAM Initiative and the *Our County: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan*. Initial activities related to these opportunities for collaboration will focus on monitoring and communication with key staff.

The current status of the WHAM Initiative is summarized briefly in Section 1. The WHAM Taskforce is currently in the middle of a two-year workplan, and addressing how to move forward. The Watershed Coordinator will monitor implementation of the workplan and cover future public Taskforce meetings.

The Sustainability Plan was published in August, 2019. The Department of Public Works is currently preparing a draft County Water Plan, which is scheduled for completion in 2022 and will complement the Sustainability Plan. The Watershed Coordinator will monitor development of the County Water Plan and consult periodically with the Chief Sustainability Office regarding implementation of the Sustainability Plan to determine opportunities for collaborative efforts.



View of the San Gabriel Mountains from City of Hope, Duarte

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

## Rio Hondo Watershed Area



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[Emerald Necklace. Amigos de los Rios](#)

[Google Maps](#)

[Los Angeles Almanac](#) (Demographic data)

[Los Angeles Water Hub Website](#)

["Mobilizing the Transformative Power of WHAM: Overcoming Obstacles to Integrated Infrastructure Investments in Los Angeles County."](#) Christensen, Jon (UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation and Institute of the Environment and Sustainability) and Prichard, Michele (Liberty Hill Foundation). Summer 2021.

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["A Park for Everyone Offers a 'Vision of What California Might Be.'" Matthews, Joe. ZocaloPublicSquare.com, February 2, 2021.](#)



## Acknowledgements

In addition to the members of the Rio Hondo WASC and the District staff directly supporting the WASC, the Watershed Coordinator would like to acknowledge the following individuals who contributed ideas and/or information that supported development of this SOEP:

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Mike Antos, Stantec (Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team)

Alfredo Camacho, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, Upper San Gabriel River WASC)

Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, Lower LA River WASC)

Clarasophia Gust, Council for Watershed Health (Co-Watershed Coordinator, Upper LA River WASC)

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Mikaela Randolph, Heal the Bay (Co-Watershed Coordinator, Central Santa Monica Bay WASC)

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Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, South Santa Monica Bay WASC)

Michelle Struthers, SGA (Co-Watershed Coordinator, Central Santa Monica Bay WASC)

Melina Sempill Watts (Watershed Coordinator, North Santa Monica Bay WASC)



Historic Mission San Gabriel Postcard



Visitor in Monrovia



## Strategic Outreach and Implementation Plan LIST OF APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A - Parks and Golf Courses in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area
- APPENDIX B - Operable Units (OUs) – Excerpt from EPA Superfund Site Fact Sheet and Excerpt from SGVWQA 2019-2020 Annual Report
- APPENDIX C - Interested Party Mapping
- APPENDIX D - Excerpts from USEPA San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
- APPENDIX E - SCWP Regional Coordination Suggested Questions List
- APPENDIX F - Languages Spoken in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area



## Appendix A

### Parks and Golf Courses in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area

## Parks and Golf Courses in the Rio Hondo Watershed

Park	Jurisdiction
Acuna Park	Montebello
Alhambra Municipal Golf Course	Alhambra
Altadena Golf Course	Altadena
Arcadia City Golf Course	Arcadia
Arcadia Regional Park and Santa Anita Golf Course	Arcadia
Ashiya Park	Montebello
Barnes Park	Monterey Park
Bonita Park	Arcadia
Cascades Park	Monterey Park
Central Park	Pasadena
Defenders Parkway	Pasadena
Duarte Sports Park	Duarte
Duarte Park	Duarte
Eaton-Blanche Park	Pasadena
Eaton Canyon Park	Unincorporated County
Eisenhower Memorial Park	Arcadia
Fletcher Park	El Monte
Jess Gonzalez Sports Park	Rosemead
Garvey Ranch Park	Monterey Park
Granada Park	Alhambra
Grant Park	Pasadena
Guess Park	Rosemead
Hamilton Park	Pasadena
Chet Holifield Park	Montebello
Lacy Park	San Marino
Lambert Park	El Monte
Lindarxa Park	Alhambra
Live Oak Park	Temple City
Vincent Lugo Park	San Gabriel
McKinley Park	Pasadena
Memorial Park	Pasadena
Memorial Park	Sierra Madre
Montebello City Park	Montebello
Montebello Country Club	Montebello
Monrovia Library Park	Monrovia
Monrovia Wilderness Preserve	Monrovia
Moore Park	Duarte
Newcastle Park	Arcadia



Northview Park	Duarte
Lucinda Garcia Park	Monrovia
Pioneer Park	El Monte
Grant Rea Park	Montebello
Recreation Park	Monrovia
Hugo Reid Park	Arcadia
Reggie Rodriguez Park	Montebello
Rosemead Park	Rosemead
San Gabriel Country Club	San Gabriel
Saybrook Park	East LA (South Montebello community)
Sequoia Park	Monterey Park
Sierra Vista Park	Monterey Park
Singer Park	Pasadena
Smith Park	San Gabriel
Story Park	Alhambra
Sally Tanner Park	Rosemead
Mary Van Dyke Park	El Monte
Washington Park	Pasadena
Whittier Narrows Golf Course	Rosemead
Whittier Narrows Recreation Area	South El Monte



## Appendix B

Operable Units (OUs) –  
Excerpt from EPA Superfund Site Fact Sheet  
and  
Excerpt from SGVWQA 2019-2020 Annual  
Report



# San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites Progress Update

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • May 2021

## San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Cleanup Continues

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to make significant progress in our decades-long effort to clean up groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV). EPA, along with the State of California and local agencies, is protecting the groundwater by removing toxic chemicals from contaminated portions of the aquifer.\* This fact sheet describes cleanup progress at four Superfund sites within the SGV. The sites are called San Gabriel Valley Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, and Area 4.

### CLEANUP HIGHLIGHTS SINCE 2002



More than 200 billion gallons of contaminated water have been treated, and more than 100,000 pounds of contaminants removed.



Through EPA legal work, the companies responsible by law to clean up the sites' contamination paid an estimated \$470 million for cleanup.



In 2019, EPA hosted the SGV Superfund Job Training Initiative, an environmental job readiness program. The program provided job training for 20 trainees living near the SGV Superfund sites.

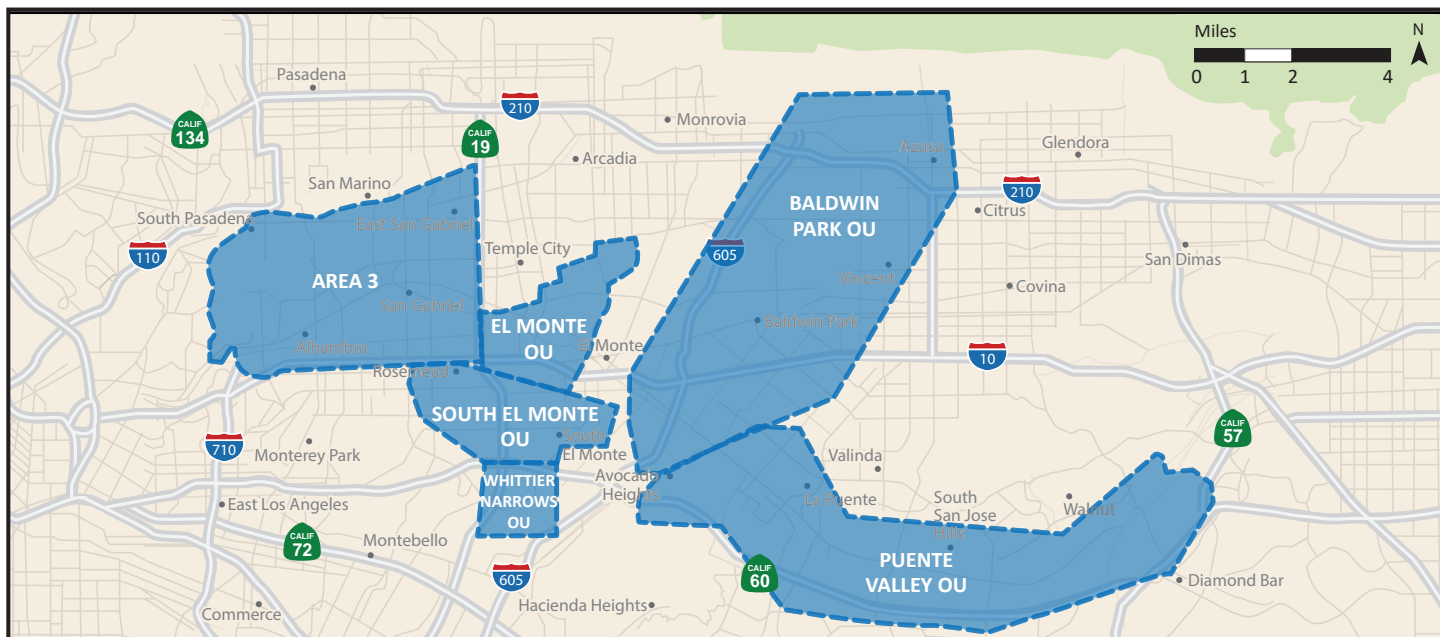
To manage the cleanup more easily, EPA split the four Superfund sites into smaller sections called “operable units” (OUs). There are six active OUs:

- Whittier Narrows OU, El Monte OU, South El Monte OU are in Area 1;
- Baldwin Park OU is in Area 2;
- Area 3 (no OUs in this area because EPA is completing the groundwater investigation); and
- Puente Valley OU is in Area 4. *See map below.*



#### The Valley's Drinking Water

The San Gabriel Basin Aquifer is the main source of drinking water for more than one million residents in the San Gabriel Valley. Water agencies test the area's drinking water wells regularly to ensure drinking water meets state and federal safe drinking water standards.



San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites (boundaries are approximate)

\*An aquifer is an area below the ground that contains water.

# HISTORY AND CLEANUP PROGRESS

Below is a brief history of the sites through key steps of the Superfund cleanup process. *More details on the status of the cleanup at each of the OUs is provided on pages 4 - 9.*

## Discovery and Assessment

In 1979, the state required water providers to increase testing of drinking water supplies. The testing found multiple areas of contamination in the San Gabriel Valley's water supply. In 1984, EPA added four areas of the most contaminated groundwater to the Superfund program. After the sites were added, EPA began a multi-year effort to understand how the water got contaminated and where the contamination went.

## What We Found

EPA found many solvents commonly used for degreasing industrial equipment—such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE)—in the soil and groundwater. EPA also found the chemicals perchlorate, 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3 -TCP); N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA); 1,4 dioxane; and hexavalent chromium. *See page 3 for more information on the contaminants and sources.*

## Ongoing Work

EPA regularly evaluates how its cleanups at each of the Superfund sites are working. Every five years, EPA does a more in-depth review called a Five-Year Review to see if the cleanup plans are working as designed. EPA did reviews for SGV Areas 1-3 from 2016-2017, and will be doing a review for Area 4 in 2021.



## Selecting Cleanup Plans

From 1993 – 2000, EPA developed interim (immediate actions taken to address groundwater contamination) cleanup plans for most of the sites' contaminated groundwater. Since then EPA has ordered, or reached legal agreements with, the companies responsible for the contamination to clean up the sites.

## Cleanup

In 2001, EPA began building the groundwater extraction and treatment systems needed to do the cleanup. There are 14 groundwater treatment systems that operate as part of the SGV Superfund cleanup:

- five in the Baldwin Park OU;
- four in the South El Monte OU; and
- four in the El Monte OU;
- one in the Whittier Narrows OU.

Two systems are being built in the Puente Valley OU, and a third is in the design phase.

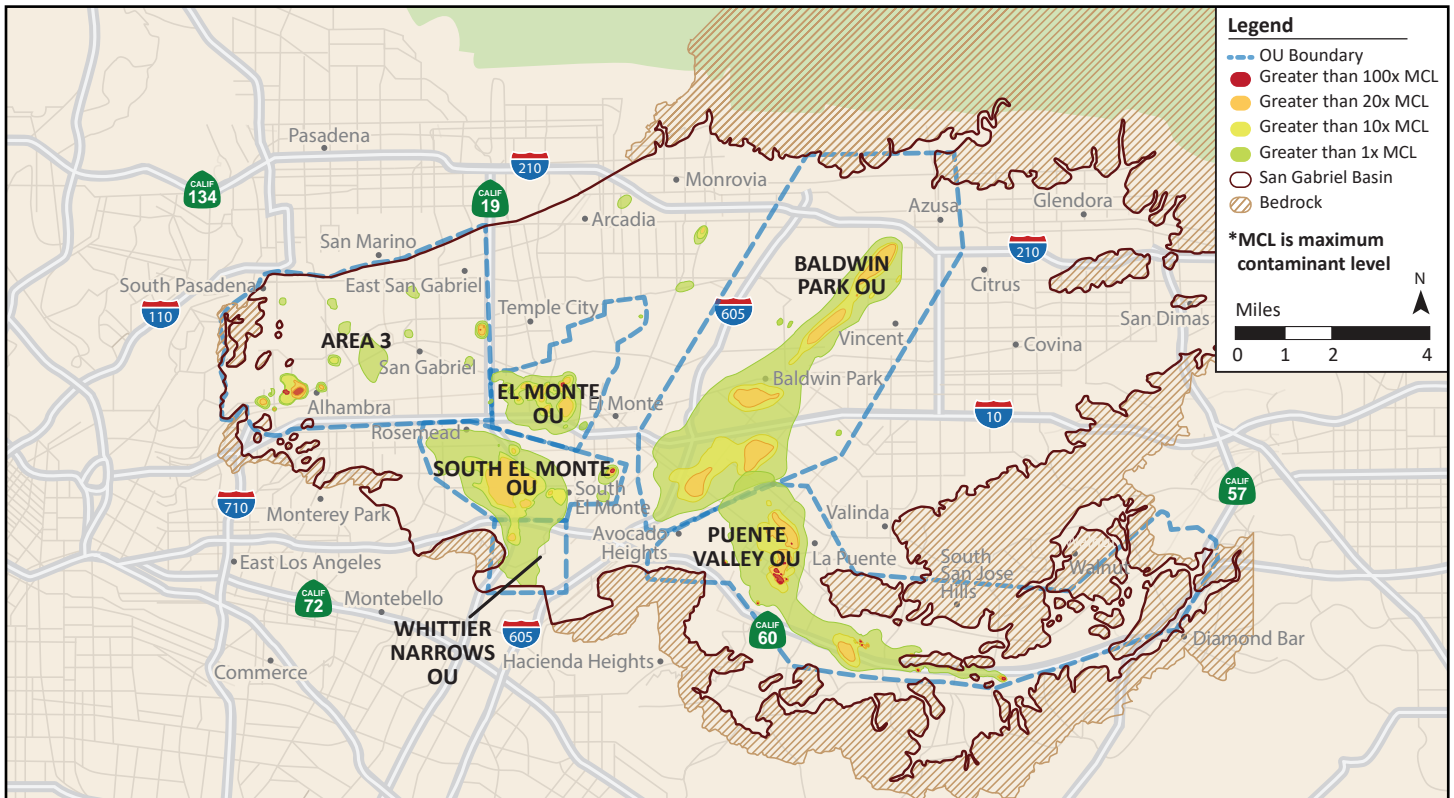
## Community Involvement

EPA involves the community throughout the Superfund process. These activities inform the community of cleanup work and include them in the decision-making process. The EPA Community Involvement Plan guides these activities and is based on research and interviews from community members and other stakeholders. In November 2018, EPA updated its Community Involvement Plans for the SGV Superfund sites. To see the plan, please visit the websites on page 4-9.

## Who Pays?

Hundreds of businesses and companies contaminated over 30 square miles of groundwater in the sites. These Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) may also include individuals, trusts or other entities. These PRPs have paid, or are paying, for most of the cleanup costs, while both local water agencies and PRPs are operating the water treatment systems. EPA and the State of California have also paid for some cleanup costs. EPA oversees cleanup in all of the OUs except Whittier Narrows OU, which the State cleans up and pays for. The following state and local agencies also play important roles in the cleanup process:

- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB);
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC);
- Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster; and
- San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority.



The figure shows approximate locations and concentrations of groundwater contamination from data taken between 2012 and 2017.

## Sources of Contamination

The groundwater contamination is the result of decades of poor chemical handling and disposal practices. Most of the activities that led to the contamination likely occurred between the 1940s and 1970s. This period was before EPA established the Superfund cleanup program and environmental laws covering hazardous waste.

## What chemicals contaminated the groundwater?

Below is a list of the main chemicals found at one or more of the sites, and how they are used.

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which include chlorinated chemicals, such as TCE and PCE, that were commonly used to degrease machinery or for dry-cleaning.
- 1,4-Dioxane may be found in industrial solvents, paint strippers, greases, and waxes.
- 1,2,3-TCP may have been used as a sealant and soil fumigant.
- NDMA and Perchlorate have been associated with the manufacture and testing of rockets.
- Hexavalent chromium is used in chrome plating facilities.



For more information, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has a series of summaries about contaminants called ToxFaq's that can be found at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs)



Water Quality Authority

# ANNUAL 2019-2020 REPORT

San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority

## Technology Upgrades and Expanded Treatment Areas Propel Cleanup Forward

**T**he WQA coordinates groundwater cleanup across six operable units in the San Gabriel Basin. These six areas are: Area Three Operable Unit (ATOU); Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU); El Monte Operable Unit (EMOU); Puente Valley Operable Unit (PVOU); South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU); and Whittier Narrows Operable Unit (WNOU). The largest in geographic size and most significant in terms of the severity of contamination is the BPOU. Progress continues in all of the operable units with significant new developments in the PVOU and ATOU.

### PUENTE VALLEY OPERABLE UNIT

#### Treatment Plant Construction Continues

Construction activities on the intermediate zone remedy ramped up in 2019. All treatment equipment has been positioned on site. The influent pipeline from the existing off-site wells to the treatment plant has been installed. Startup testing is scheduled to begin in late 2020. La Puente Valley County Water District will operate and maintain the plant. Northrop Grumman Corporation is paying for the treatment facility that will also clean up naturally occurring contaminants to make the water drinkable, in addition WQA has contributed approximately \$5.5M of federal funding.

As of June 30, 2020, other PVOU facilities have treated more than 96,884 acre-feet of water and removed approximately 5,176 lbs. of VOCs.



### UTC Engages in Shallow Remediation

United Technologies Corporation (UTC) continues to make progress on the shallow zone north remedy. Activities include the development of work plans necessary for the installation of additional monitoring wells and the preparation of an updated discharge options study to accommodate re-injection of the treated groundwater. WQA will continue to help facilitate and coordinate with state and federal agencies to ensure shallow zone remediate stays on track.



### AREA THREE OPERABLE UNIT

#### Cleanup Continues

The City of South Pasadena and City of Alhambra continue to operate their treatment facilities in the ATOU.

The USEPA installed additional monitoring wells in Alhambra to further characterize groundwater contamination in the area. As of June 30, 2020, the ATOU facilities have treated more than 36,299 acre-feet of water and removed approximately 1,290 lbs. of VOCs.



## BALDWIN PARK OPERABLE UNIT

### Tremendous Progress Made in Cleanup

More than three years into a historic 10-year agreement to clean up contaminants in the BPOU, WQA reports continued success. The five treatment plants continue to operate. The San Gabriel Valley Water Company began construction of its new 3rd generation advanced oxidation (AO) treatment equipment utilizing ultra-violet (UV) light technology at its Baldwin Park Plant B6. The new treatment equipment is replacing outdated AO treatment. The cost of the upgrade is being partially funded via a State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 1 grant.

The BPOU facilities have treated 917,838 acre-feet of water and removed approximately 110,183 lbs. of VOCs as of June 30, 2020.

## EL MONTE OPERABLE UNIT

### Enhancements Underway

The parties responsible for westside shallow zone remedy have constructed additional extraction wells to enhance containment of the contaminant plume and are working closely with USEPA to ensure compliance. The work party is also investigating solutions to enhance the intermediate zone remedy to ensure compliance.

The City of El Monte continues to operate a series of wells and treatment facilities built with the assistance of WQA federal funds. It is treating water from El Monte and Rosemead.

The EMOU facilities have treated 71,707 acre-feet of water as of June 30, 2020 and removed approximately 2,430 lbs. of VOCs.

## SOUTH EL MONTE OPERABLE UNIT

### New Site Investigation

In 2019, WQA used a Proposition 1 grant to conduct expanded site investigation activities upgradient of the Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility. Based on the results, WQA was successful in amending its current Prop. 1 grant by an additional \$200,000 for more site investigation activities.

In addition, in 2020, WQA was awarded another Prop. 1 grant in the amount of \$2,000,000 to conduct regional site investigations within the SEMOU at 12 high priority properties.

As of June 30, 2020, the SEMOU facilities have treated more than 222,367 acre-feet and removed approximately 27,157 lbs. of VOCs.

## WHITTIER NARROWS OPERABLE UNIT

### Public/Private Partnerships

The Department of Toxic Substances Control continues progress on the required infrastructure to return the WNOU intermediate zone remedy back into a potable water supply project. The project is funded via public and private partnerships included Proposition 1 grant funds.

The WNOU facilities have treated 89,020 acre-feet of water and removed approximately 3,470 lbs. of VOCs as of June 30, 2020.



Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan  
Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Appendix C  
Interested Party Mapping



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

## APPENDIX B: INTERESTED PARTY MAPPING

Community-Based Organizations	
Name	
A3PCON – Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council	
API Forward Movement	
Active SGV	
Communities for a Better Environment	
Day One El Monte	
From Lot to Spot	
Groundwater Resources Assn of California	
Investing in Place	
LA Neighborhood Land Trust	
Prevention Institute	
SGV Civic Alliance	
San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	
Water Education for Latino Leaders	

Environmental Stewardship Organizations	
Name	
Amigos de los Rios	
Council for Watershed Health	
Friends of Baldwin Lake	
Los Angeles WaterKeeper	
Nature for All	
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)	
Our Water LA	
Sierra Club San Gabriel Valley Taskforce	
Think Earth Foundation	
TreePeople	
Trust for Public Land	

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

## Native American/Tribal Organizations

Name
American Indian Chamber of Commerce
American Indian Community Council
Gabrieleño-San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Kizh Nation
Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People

## City and County Government

Organization/Individual
Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis – 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger – 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Alhambra – Katherine Lee (District 1), Mayor
Alhambra – Ross J. Maza (District 2), Councilmember
Alhambra – Jeffrey Koji Maloney (District 3), Vice Mayor
Alhambra – Sasha Renée Pérez (District 4), Councilmember
Alhambra – Adele Andrade-Stadler (District 5), Councilmember
Alhambra – Jessica Binnquist, City Manager
Alhambra – Ray Martin, Director of Public Works
Alhambra – Andrew Ho, Director of Community Development Department
Alhambra – Michael Macias, Director of Parks and Recreation
Arcadia – Sho Tay, Mayor
Arcadia – Paul P. Cheng, Mayor Pro Tem
Arcadia – Tom Beck, Council Member
Arcadia – Roger Chandler, Council Member
Arcadia – April A. Verlato, Council Member
Arcadia – Dominic Lazzaretto, City Manager
Arcadia – Tom Tait, Public Works Services Director
Arcadia – Jason Kruckeberg, Development Services Director
Arcadia - Recreation & Community Services Director
Bradbury – Elizabeth Bruny (District 5), Mayor
Bradbury -Bruce Lathrop (District 4), Mayor Pro Tem
Bradbury – Richard G. Baraket (District 3), Councilmember
Bradbury – Richard T. Hale, Jr. (District 1), Councilmember
Bradbury – D. Montgomery Lewis, (District 2), Councilmember

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

Bradbury – Kevin Kearney, City Manager
Bradbury – Jim Kasama, City Planner (Contractor)
Duarte – Brian Urias (District 6), Mayor
Duarte – Margaret Finlay (District 4), Mayor Pro Tem
Duarte – Tzeitel Paras-Caracci (District 1), Councilmember
Duarte – Vinh Truong (District 2), Councilmember
Duarte – Jody Schulz (District 3), Councilmember
Duarte – Samuel Kang (District 5), Councilmember
Duarte – Tony Lewis (District 7), Councilmember
Duarte – Daniel Jordan, City Manager
Duarte – Amanda Hamilton, Public Works Manager
Duarte – Craig Hensley, Community Development Director
Duarte – Manuel Enriquez, Parks and Recreation Director
El Monte - Jessica Ancona, Mayor
El Monte - Martin Herrera, Councilmember
El Monte - Victoria Martinez Muela
El Monte - Dr. Maria Morales, Councilmember
El Monte - Alma Puente, Mayor Pro Tem
El Monte - Alma Martinez, City Manager
El Monte – Sal Mendez, Public Works and Utilities Director
El Monte – Betty Donovanik, Community & Economic Development Director
El Monte – Amber Servin, Interim Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Irwindale – H. Manuel Ortiz, Mayor
Irwindale – Larry G. Burrola, Mayor Pro Tem
Irwindale – Albert F. Ambriz, Councilmember
Irwindale – Mark A. Breceda, Councilmember
Irwindale – Manuel R. Garcia, Councilmember
Irwindale – William Tam, City Manager
Irwindale – Arsanious Hanna, Director of Public Works & Chief Building Official
Irwindale – Marilyn Simpson, AICP, Community Development Director
Irwindale – Paula Fajio, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Monrovia - Tom Adams, Mayor
Monrovia - Alexander C. Blackburn, City Council Member
Monrovia - Gloria Crudgington, Mayor Pro Tem
Monrovia - Becky A. Shevlin, City Council Member
Monrovia - Larry J. Spicer, City Council Member
Monrovia - Dylan Feik, City Manager
Monrovia - Todd Hull, Deputy Dir. of Public Works

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

Monrovia - Alex Tachiki, Deputy Dir. of Public Works
Monrovia – Craig Jimenez, Community Development Director
Monrovia – Sean Sullivan, Public Works Director
Montebello - Kimberly Ann Cobos-Cawthorne, Mayor
Montebello - Angie Jimenez, Council Member
Montebello - Salvador Melendez, Council Member
Montebello - Scarlet Peralta, Council Member
Montebello - David Torres, Mayor Pro Tem
Montebello - Rene Bobadilla, City Manager
Montebello - James Enriquez, P.E., Dir. of Public Works/City Eng.
Montebello – Joseph Palombi, Planning & Community Development Director
Montebello – David Sosnowski, Director of Recreation and Community Services
Monterey Park – Yvonne Yiu, Mayor
Monterey Park – Henry Lo, Mayor Pro Tem
Monterey Park – Fred Sornoso, Council Member, District 3
Monterey Park – Hans Liang, Council Member, At-large
Monterey Park – Peter Chan, Council Member, At-large
Monterey Park – Ron Bow, City Manager
Monterey Park – Frank Lopez, Director of Public Works
Monterey Park – Jason Moquin, Planning Manager
Monterey Park – Robert Aquirre, Director of Recreation and Community Services
Pasadena - District 1 - Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Pasadena - District 2 - Councilmember Felicia Williams
Pasadena - District 3 - Councilmember John J. Kennedy
Pasadena - District 4 - Councilmember Gene Masuda
Pasadena - District 5 - Councilmember Jess Rivas
Pasadena - District 6 - Councilmember Steve Madison
Pasadena - District 7 - Vice Mayor & Councilmember Andy Wilson
Pasadena - Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
Pasadena - Steven Mermell, City Manager
Pasadena - Kris Markarian, Acting Dir. of Public Works
Pasadena – David Reyes, Planning Department Director
Pasadena – Jed Aplaca, Director of Parks and Recreation Department
Rosemead – Polly Low, Mayor
Rosemead – Sean Dang, Mayor Pro Tem
Rosemead – Sandra Armenta, Council Member
Rosemead – Margaret Clark, Council Member
Rosemead – Steven Ly, Council Member
Rosemead – Gloria Molleda, City Manager

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

Rosemead – Christopher Dasté, Director of Public Works
Rosemead – Angelica Frausto-Lupo, Director of Community Development
Rosemead – Tom Boecking, Director of Parks and Recreation
San Gabriel - Chin Ho Liao, Mayor
San Gabriel - Tony Ding, Vice Mayor
San Gabriel - John R. Harrington, Councilmember
San Gabriel - Denis Menchaca, Councilmember
San Gabriel - Jason Pu, Councilmember
San Gabriel - Mark Lazzaretto, City Manager
San Gabriel - Greg de Vinkck, Director, Dept of Public Works
San Gabriel – Samantha Tewasart, Planning Manager
San Gabriel – Rebecca Perez, Director, Community Services
San Marino - Steven W. Huang, DDS, Council Member
San Marino - Susan Jakubowski, Vice Mayor
San Marino - Gretchen Shepherd Romey, Council Member
San Marino - Steve Talt, Council Member
San Marino - Ken Ude, Mayor
San Marino - Marcella Marlow, City Manager
San Marino - Michael Throne, PE - Dir of Parks and Public Works/City Eng
San Marino – Aldo Cervantes, Community Development Director
Sierra Madre - Rachele Arizmendi, Mayor
Sierra Madre - Edward Garcia, City Council Member
Sierra Madre - Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem
Sierra Madre - Kelly Kriebs, City Council Member
Sierra Madre - Robert Parkhurst, City Council Member
Sierra Madre - Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Sierra Madre - Chris Cimino, Public Works Director
Sierra Madre – Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning & Community Preservation
South El Monte – Gloria Olmos, Mayor
South El Monte – Richard Angel, Mayor Pro Tem
South El Monte – Manuel Acosta, Councilmember
South El Monte – Hector Delgado, Councilmember
South El Monte – Gracie Retamoza, Councilwoman
South El Monte – Ian McAleese, Assistant Planner, Planning Division
South El Monte – Ariana De La Cruz, Recreation Supervisor
South Pasadena – Diana Mahmud, Mayor (District 5)
South Pasadena – Michael A. Cacciottia, Mayor Pro Tem (District 4)
South Pasadena – Evelyn G. Zneimer, Councilmember (District 1)

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

South Pasadena – Jack Donovan, Councilmember (District 2)
South Pasadena – Jon Primuth, Councilmember (District 3)
South Pasadena – Armina Chaparyan, City Manager
South Pasadena – Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director
South Pasadena – Joanna Hankamer, Director of Planning and Building
South Pasadena – Sheila Pautsch, Community Services Director
Temple City - Tom Chavez, Councilmember
Temple City - William Man, Councilmember
Temple City - Cynthia Sternquist, Mayor Pro Tem
Temple City - Fernando Vizcarra, Councilmember
Temple City - Vincent Yu, Mayor
Temple City – Bryan Cook, City Manager
Temple City – Community Development Director Scott Reimers
Temple City – Adam Matsumoto, Parks & Recreation Director
Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Los Angeles County Public Works

## Councils of Governments

### Entity

MAD Town Council (representing unincorporated areas of Monrovia, Arcadia, and Duarte)  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

## Agencies – Local and Regional

### Entity

Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA)  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)  
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster  
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority  
San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control Community Affairs  
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Southern California Assn of Governments (SCAG)  
Watershed Conservation Authority

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

## Agencies – State and Federal

### Entity

California Conservation Corps
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Stormwater Program
State Water Resources Control Board
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

## Water Wholesalers

### Entity

San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District

## Water Retailers

### Entity

Amarillo Mutual Water Company
Cal-Am Water Company (Duarte)
Cal-Am Water Company (San Marino)
Cal Water Service Company
City of Alhambra
City of Arcadia
City of El Monte
City of Monrovia
City of Monterey Park
City of Pasadena
City of Sierra Madre
City South Pasadena
Del Rio Mutual Water Company
East Pasadena Water Company
Golden State Water Company
Montebello Land and Water Company
Rurban Homes Mutual Company
San Gabriel CWD (County Water District)



# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

San Gabriel Valley Water Company
South Montebello Irrigation District
Sterling Mutual Water Company
Sunny Slope Mutual Water Company
Valley CWD Duarte

## Educational Institutions

Entity
Art Center College of Design (Pasadena)
California Institute of Technology (CalTech) (Pasadena)
East Los Angeles College (Monterey Park)
LA College of Music (Pasadena)
Pasadena City College (Pasadena)
Providence Christian College (Pasadena)
University of the West (Rosemead)

## School Districts

Entity
Alhambra Unified School District (incl parts of Monterey Park)
Arcadia Unified School District
Duarte Unified School District (incl Bradbury, parts of Irwindale)
El Monte City School District (incl parts of S. El Monte)
El Monte Union High School District (incl part of S. El Monte)
Monrovia Unified School District
Montebello Unified School District (incl parts of Monterey Park)
Mountain View School District (El Monte/S. El Monte)
Pasadena Unified School District (incl Sierra Madre)
Rosemead School District
San Gabriel Unified School District
San Marino Unified School District
South Pasadena Unified School District
Temple City Unified School District
Valle Lindo School District (S. El Monte)

# Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Revision Date: 05 September 2021

Business Organizations	
Entity	
Chambers of Commerce for Rio Hondo Watershed	
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership	

Other - Individuals	
Entity	
Belinda Faustino (Recommended Contact)	
Karen Suarez (Recommended Contact)	
Brian Tindel (Recommended Contact)	

Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan  
Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Appendix D  
Excerpts from USEPA San Gabriel Valley Area 1  
Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan  
(CIP)



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AREA 1 SUPERFUND SITE

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

# THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

EPA spoke with 19 key stakeholders representing a cross section of the community and conducted interviews in November 2016 and January, February, May, June, August and November 2017. These interviews significantly contributed to the creation of this CIP, determining how EPA will continue to develop and enhance communications regarding the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site.

## Ongoing Communication

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EPA will continue to work with area water suppliers, city and county staff and elected officials, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, DTSC, and community organizations and community members to ensure that any important update or information regarding the Site is shared directly with the public. It has been made clear in interviews that an ongoing EPA presence is important to the community. The community has been supportive and appreciative of EPA's efforts and encourages updates, information sharing and enhanced coordination with the agencies and organizations listed above.

## Communication Tools

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Community members expressed a preference for a combined approach to information sharing. This means that EPA will use various methods to provide the community with information, including printed and online materials and public meetings. The most common tools that EPA will implement are fact sheets, community meetings, presentations and outreach at existing community events, briefings with city and county officials, and print and social media updates. These communication tools will continue to promote collaboration and establish a deeper connection between EPA and the community. EPA is committed to using various methods to provide the community with information and to communicate the progress of the cleanup with the public.

### 1. Fact Sheets and Flyers

Fact sheets and flyers provide the public with regular updates on the cleanup, upcoming community meetings and other pertinent information. The fact sheets and flyers will be clear and easy to read (in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese) and contain graphics when necessary. EPA will continue to coordinate with DTSC to develop and distribute the fact

sheets and flyers, and will distribute information to water suppliers about specific activities and findings that directly affect them, allowing them to respond to customer inquiries and provide feedback to EPA. Fact sheets will continue to be distributed via email, mail and door-to-door outreach. The materials will include contact information to allow direct access to EPA staff and ensure timely responses from EPA.

### 2. Community Meetings

EPA will host public meetings for community members to learn about the Site and the cleanup efforts and to provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site. A Spanish-speaking interpreter and translated materials will be available for the public. Other interpreters may be available as other language needs arise. Meetings will be held at a central location that is easily accessible. These meetings can be held at city halls in South El Monte, El Monte and Rosemead, community and senior centers, churches, area schools, the Jeff Seymour Family Center, or another location convenient for the majority of the community. The community has stated an overall preference for midweek evening meetings, with daytime meetings on weekends as an alternative option.



Community meetings could be held at South El Monte City Hall.

### 3. Stakeholder Meetings

EPA will continue to host periodic stakeholder meetings to update water providers, governmental agencies, schools and community organizations about site activities. These stakeholder meetings are currently held quarterly at the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority offices in West Covina.

### 4. Door-to-Door Outreach

EPA will continue to distribute flyers to the commercial businesses and residential neighborhoods where cleanup activities and investigations are ongoing.

### 5. Presentations and Outreach at Existing Community Events

EPA will ensure that site-related information is widely available in the community. Specific outreach opportunities include city council

meetings, community meetings at the South El Monte Community Center, the South El Monte Senior Citizens Center, the El Monte Community Center, the El Monte Senior Citizens Center and the Rosemead Community Center, the annual Earth Day Community Festival hosted by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Saturday Stewardship Days hosted by Amigos de los Rios.

### 6. Briefings with Local Officials

EPA will brief the El Monte, Rosemead, and South El Monte City Manager, City Council and Planning Commission as well as Los Angeles County and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments officials upon their request for information or in correspondence with relevant site cleanup information.

### 7. Print and Online Media

EPA will use the daily *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* newspaper and the daily *Pasadena-Star News* newspaper to publicize important information or to give public notice related to the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site.

EPA maintains a website where site-related documents are available for viewing at [www.epa.gov/superfund/sangabrielelmonite](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sangabrielelmonite). Web pages and technical documents are in English only, but some site information, such as fact sheets, will continue to be posted in Spanish and other languages as well as English. EPA also will coordinate with several organizations that may link their websites to the EPA website.

### 8. Mailing List

EPA will continue to maintain and update the site mailing list. The list has been developed from meeting sign-in sheets, community interviews, and email and telephone inquiries. To be added to the mailing list, please send a request by email, telephone or standard mail to EPA (see “Key Contacts” on page 11).

## 9. Community Outreach and Education

Educating and informing the public on the history of the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site, progress of the cleanup efforts, and current and future cleanup and monitoring efforts was a reoccurring comment received from the interviewees. Efforts to reach community members will be made through previously discussed communication tools.

## 10. Information Repositories

EPA has established several locations in the community where site documents can be reviewed. Information repositories are maintained at the El Monte, Rosemead, South El Monte and West Covina public libraries, in addition to the EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center. Each information repository includes copies of site deliverables (e.g., work plans and reports), monitoring and progress reports, Five-Year Reviews, the CIP, and other data and information designated by EPA. These documents may be reviewed during normal library hours. A complete copy of the Administrative Record is also available for review by community members and is maintained by EPA at its regional office in San Francisco.

## Information Repository Locations:

### El Monte Library – LA County Library

3224 Tyler Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731  
(626) 444-9506

### Rosemead Library – LA County Library

8800 Valley Boulevard  
Rosemead, CA 91770  
(626) 573-5220

### South El Monte Library – LA County Library

1430 North Central Avenue  
South El Monte, CA 91733  
(626) 443-4158

### West Covina Library – LA County Library

1601 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, CA 91790  
(626) 962-354

### EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street  
Room 403  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 820-4700



Site documents can be found at the Rosemead Library.

## Community Benefitting from Additional Outreach and Engagement

### Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants

**Area 1 site communities** could benefit from more accessible information about the Site.

- Use more graphics, charts and maps in outreach materials and include references on what specific amounts mean (for example, providing a reference for how much 3 parts per billion is).
- Provide information in plain language, relatable terms and examples, and avoid the use of acronyms.
- Continue to provide information by postal mail.
- Include information about the document repository on fact sheets and other materials.
- Design a one-page, condensed fact sheet on site activities that provides a general overview so that readers are not overwhelmed by information.
- Create a timeline on site activities for distribution.
- Include photos in the fact sheets, such as photos of homes, to make them more accessible to readers.
- Have non-technical meetings in a central location with easy parking.
- Design a large map that clearly outlines site boundaries and the properties affected within each city.
- Keep all the technical documents for the Site in one easily accessible place online.
- Ensure that materials include information on costs and how any taxpayer dollars are being used, as well as how PRPs are paying to clean up contamination.
- Use bright colors like hot pink or orange for the text and catchy headlines in documents to draw the reader's eye.
- Consider the January/February timeframe each year for sending out documents, as it is winter, and many people are home.
- Have meetings midweek in the evenings for the best turnout.
- Make sure that if a contact is listed for additional information that person is ready and available to take calls, as people have complained about leaving messages and not receiving calls back.
- Design and distribute a map of vapor intrusion areas and how long vapor intrusion is expected to last in each area.
- For longer informational materials, provide the most important information on the front page.
- Use small groups, questionnaires and posters with dot stickers at meetings to help attendees to stay engaged.
- Set up a booth at events to conduct a survey for better response rates than through the mail.
- Attend events in person. Emails and direct mailings do not always reach people as well as talking with them in person.
- Update existing EPA maps and charts so that the materials are more recent.
- Provide assistance with designing and posting site signage.
- Provide information on a comparison of vapor intrusion versus other contaminants in the air.
- Provide information directly from EPA so that residents are receiving materials from an organization other than the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority.
- Engage a medical professional to help answer questions about health issues from residents living near a facility. The water companies, EPA and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority are not equipped to answer those questions.



Community Benefitting from Additional Outreach and Engagement	Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants
<p><b>Residents directly affected</b> by the Site could benefit from specific outreach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold separate meetings for residents directly affected by the Site, in a location convenient for them.</li> <li>• Provide outreach materials specifically for residents directly affected by the Site (such as those who have mitigation systems).</li> <li>• Continue to talk with residents one-on-one to answer their questions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-English-speaking communities</b> could benefit from culturally-sensitive and linguistically-specific outreach about the Site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide materials in English and Spanish at a minimum, and Chinese and Vietnamese when possible.</li> <li>• Provide translators at community meetings.</li> <li>• When working with some communities, make it clear that EPA is there to help protect them from the site contamination and will not involve other federal agencies.</li> <li>• Feature the primary language of the area on the front of a document, with English on the back, to provide a more targeted outreach.</li> <li>• Keep English language materials brief and written at a fifth-grade level, so that school-age children can read them to their non-native English-speaking family members.</li> <li>• Provide information to the non-English-speaking population currently distrustful of the safety of tap water to reassure them that it is safe to drink.</li> <li>• Ensure that the correct dialects are used in written translations, as it is possible to alienate the community if the wrong dialect is used.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cities, elected officials and community organizations</b> that community members may go to for questions could benefit from specific outreach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide materials for city and community organization staff to reference when they receive questions about the Site. These materials may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ A general site “cheat sheet” with key information about the Site.</li> <li>◦ A list of resources/contacts for additional information.</li> <li>◦ A list of health-driven questions-and-answers related to the Site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide briefings for city staff and elected officials so they can better understand the Site.</li> <li>• Give a presentation on plans for work at contaminated areas in Rosemead to Rosemead City Council.</li> <li>• For community meetings, partner with cities to help build trust.</li> <li>• For community meetings, work with water organizations so they can help answer community questions.</li> <li>• Make use of the Jeff Seymour Family Center – it is a health and wellness resource in the area.</li> <li>• Consider partnering for outreach with area organizations such as Council for Watershed Health, Day One El Monte, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, San Gabriel Mountains Forever, the El Monte Boys and Girls Club, and Communities for a Better Environment.</li> <li>• Have a booth at the annual Earth Day Community Festival hosted by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to reach people and update them on site-related activities.</li> </ul>

Community Benefitting from Additional Outreach and Engagement	Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants
<p><b>Additional sectors of the community</b> could benefit from specific outreach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider holding some meetings during the day at a senior center for older community members.</li> <li>• Partner with school districts and school boards for outreach.</li> <li>• Ensure that meeting facilities meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards, have ample parking and have restrooms. Provide water at meetings.</li> </ul>

### Recommendations for Technical Assistance

TASC contractors believe that the community would benefit from implementation of the recommendations described below. These recommendations are specific to technical assistance and could be fulfilled by EPA and the State of California, with support from the TASC program or other technical assistance programs where appropriate.

1. Implement the strategies outlined in the Community Involvement Plan, with the following additional considerations to further improve community understanding of the Site and cleanup:
  - a. Provide one-to-two plain language fact sheets or informational handouts each year to address specific topics in addition to providing a general status update.
    - i. Include information about the eight topics listed previously or new topics as they are identified by community stakeholders in the fact sheets and handouts.
    - ii. Include graphics, charts and maps in fact sheets and handouts.
    - iii. Translate fact sheets and handouts into Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese, and other languages as needed and coordinated with the community. When possible, work with the community to make sure that translations are appropriate. Consider sharing translations with community representatives for review.
    - iv. Include information about the site repository. Many community members and stakeholders who participated in Community Involvement Plan interviews were not aware of the repository.
    - v. Target fact sheet and handout distribution to address the needs of directly-affected residents, city and organization staff members, students, and the general public as appropriate.

- vi. Work with Area 1 communities, school officials, local governments, community organizations and PRPs on opportunities to locate educational signage, including maps and other visuals, near major remedial features.
- b. Host separate community meetings for directly-affected residents and the general public as appropriate. Work with cities and water organizations as appropriate and provide translators as coordinated with the community. Work with schools, senior centers and other organizations as appropriate to make sure meetings are accessible to everyone. Additionally, continue to talk with affected residents one-on-one to answer their questions. Continue to be considerate of cultural sensitivities in outreach.
- c. Provide regular briefings and site information to city staff, elected officials, and water and other organizations so that they can help distribute information to the community. Organizations may include those listed above and in the Community Involvement Plan.
  - i. Consider providing a train-the-trainer-type workshop for city staff, as well as for representatives of elected officials and community organizations to help them better understand the Site and help them share information with community members.
  - ii. Consider developing a question-and-answer fact sheet or a simple handout with key information so that city staff and representatives for elected officials and community organizations can easily help answer community questions and direct community members to appropriate contacts and resources.
2. Check in with community stakeholders after a specified period to revisit the TANA and review community needs. Based on community interest at that time, consider supporting the community in developing a plan for outreach to further enhance understanding of the Site, and reach community members who may benefit from targeted outreach.



Appendix E  
SCWP Regional Coordination Suggested  
Questions List

For each [Strategy] below is a series of questions that can help Watershed Coordinators develop a suite of appropriate strategies.

1. Engage Stakeholders, municipalities, community groups.

- **Who are the interested parties in the Watershed Area? Which groups have expressed an interest, and which groups have an interest but may not yet be engaged?** (This is interested party mapping, as described above.)
- Are there marginalized groups or people who need support to become engaged? Have you evaluated equitably the entire community of the Watershed Area to ensure that harder-to-reach, smaller, or often overlooked interested parties will be engaged?
- Within the Watershed Area, who are the correct contact people, and what is their contact information, at the municipalities and county departments related to the Safe, Clean Water Program?
- What regional collaboratives exist that have engaged with the Program, either public sector or within civil society? Are there collaboratives that aren't but should be engaged? School districts, special district governments, private utilities?
- Are there tribal governments or indigenous leaders that need to be engaged directly by the Flood Control District or the County? What can be done to strengthen those interactions as they relate to the SCWP?
- What are the best ways to communicate messages out, and receive messages in, to the SCWP from the interested parties? What technology is appropriate? What venues (city council, community meetings, etc.) or media will be used (web, newspaper, radio, etc.)?

2. Solicit input, connect to technical assistance (TA) opportunities.

- What are the most effective places to attend and listen to the Watershed Area community? Can interviewing, tabling, or surveys draw valuable input? How will community voice be conveyed into the SCWP?
- How can SCWP interface and benefit from other efforts that are currently or recently soliciting input from communities?
- How can the Watershed Coordinator interact with the broader SCWP education program, with its three elements of education, school programs, and workforce development?
- Are there project concepts already held by interested parties but that need help accessing the Technical Resources Program?
- How can the Watershed Coordinator support interested parties having greater engagement with existing public elements of the program (WASC, ROC, Scoring meetings, website, calls-for-projects, low-income and senior assistance program, etc.)

3. Ensure diverse perspectives are shared with the District and WASCs.

- How will the “diversity” in this work effort be defined?

- How can the SCWP listen for diverse perspectives? What ways can perspectives be shared with the District and WASCs; written reports, presentations by the Watershed Coordinator, direct presentations by those holding related perspectives, or other methods?
- Is there overlooked existing information in reports from other programs either past or ongoing that can provide diverse perspectives?
- Would non-English forms of engagement in the Watershed Area enhance this work effort?
- How can diverse perspectives, once shared with the District and WASCs, also be shared across the interested parties?

#### 4. Identify and ensure the involvement of members of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

- Where are the communities considered disadvantaged by policy in the Watershed Area? Are there overburdened communities being omitted because of how the policy is written?
- What people are considered “underrepresented” in the Watershed Area? This term is undefined by policy, so how will a shared understanding of its use in the Watershed Area be developed?
- Are there existing or recent past efforts that have engaged disadvantaged communities which can be a source of involvement, and relationships of trust? Are their chosen and trusted representatives currently participating in SCWP?
- How will the expertise and assets held by members of communities be elevated alongside the challenges and needs?
- What barriers to involvement exist in how the program is currently engaging communities? What capacities exist that have been effective at ensuring involvement?

#### 5. Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological and community issues.

- How can the SCWP in general be educated about community issues?
- What education can be delivered to the WASCs that will enhance their understanding of Watershed Area strengths and needs as defined by all interested parties?
- What expertise and understanding already exists among interested parties that can be built upon with further education?
- Which educational efforts, alone or in partnership with the broader education program, will resonate with the interested parties of the Watershed Area?
- What other efforts exist or have recently existed that sought to deliver educational programming? What was their curricula, and their experience?

## Identifying Collaborative Efforts

Each SOEP will also identify and describe collaborative efforts and who will be responsible for those efforts across Watershed Area boundaries, or in the two areas with multiple coordinators, how they will collaborate.

Coordinators are expected to play a critical role among local agencies and between WASCs to reduce redundant actions; identify opportunities for cooperative projects. This section of the SOEP will describe the approach to collaboration, including:

- How neighboring or hydrologically-connected Watershed Area Watershed Coordinators will be engaged.
- How will other programs be engaged, for instance, the ongoing Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP), the MS4 compliance groups (e.g., WMP or EWMP), the OurCounty Plan implementation, or the WHAM Committee?
- How will the Watershed Coordinator seek connection to the Municipal Program of the SCWP?

## Resources

There are many valuable references for watershed coordination in the SCWP, and more generally within the region and California. Below is a list, with links. It is not exhaustive, and this list will move to a shared platform that all coordinators will be able to add to and keep up-to-date.

- SCWP Digital Spatial Library (available on the Resources page at <https://safecleanwaterla.org/>).
  - <https://arcg.is/rbKfm>
- Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management
  - <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/irwmp/>
- Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management
  - <https://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/scr/>
- Los Angeles IRWM Funding Region Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program
  - <https://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/irwmp/Prop1DACIP.aspx>
- Redesign LA – A strategic initiative of the Council for Watershed Health
  - <https://www.redesign.la/>



Appendix F  
Languages Spoken in the  
Rio Hondo Watershed Area



Rio Hondo Watershed Area - Estimate of Languages Spoken by % (Data Reflect Total Populations of Cities Wholly or Partly within the Watershed Area)																			
Languages	Total Avg	Alhambra	Arcadia	Bradbury	Duarte	El Monte	Irwindale	Montebello	Monterey Park	Monrovia	Pasadena	Rosemead	San Gabriel	San Marino	Sierra Madre	South El Monte	South Pasadena	Temple City	Uninc County Communities **
English	40.0%	27.9%	37.7%	59.8%	45.9%	16.0%	37.4%	26.4%	24.9%	56.7%	55.1%	17.7%	26.3%	47.5%	81.9%	17.7%	65.60%	33.2%	42.4%
Spanish	27.9%	25.7%	6.5%	6.4%	36.6%	56.2%	62.0%	59.6%	19.2%	27.6%	27.3%	25.8%	17.0%	5.2%	6.3%	68.1%	11.0%	12.5%	29.2%
Chinese	21.0%	33.9%	40.9%	21.3%	7.2%	16.3%	*	4.8%	42.8%	6.2%	5.3%	36.5%	44.0%	39.2%	6.5%	5.9%	11.4%	42.2%	14.2%
Vietnamese	2.94%	4.1%	1.5%	1.0%	*	8.1%	*	0.6%	3.8%	*	*	14.6%	5.8%	*	*	7.2%	0.7%	3.2%	2.3%
Tagalog	1.59%	1.8%	2.3%	1.1%	4.6%	1.2%	*	1.7%	1.7%	2.2%	1.7%	1.4%	2.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	1.3%	2.1%	1.5%
Japanese	1.10%	1.0%	1.3%	*	0.5%	*	*	1.3%	4.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	2.3%	1.4%	*	2.4%	1.2%	1.4%
Korean	0.93%	1.2%	1.9%	*	*	*	*	0.6%	1.2%	0.5%	1.4%	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	*	4.3%	1.4%	1.4%
Languages of India	0.66%	0.6%	1.9%	3.3%	0.6%	*	*	0.7%	*	*	1.5%	*	*	0.9%	*	*	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Other Asian Languages	0.42%	0.6%	2.0%	*	*	*	*	0.6%	0.5%	*	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	*	*	*	0.5%	*
Arabic	0.37%	*	0.5%	4.8%	0.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.5%	*	*	*	*	0.4%
Pacific Island Languages	0.34%	0.9%	1.0%	*	*	*	*	*	1.0%	*	*	*	0.8%	0.5%	*	0.5%	*	1.5%	*
German/Yiddish	0.15%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.5%	0.6%	*	*	0.7%	0.5%	*	0.5%	*	*
Armenian	0.13%	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.8%	*	*	0.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.0%
French	0.12%	*	*	1.0%	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.5%	*	*	*	0.6%	*	*	*	0.1%
Polish	0.08%	*	*	0.9%	*	*	0.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Persian	0.04%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.7%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
African Languages	0.03%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.6%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
West Germanic Languages	0.03%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.6%	*	*	*	*
Italian	0.03%	*	*	*	*	*	0.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

\* Percentage less than 0.5% of population

\*\* Reflects data available for the following Census Designated Places (CDPs) and other LA County unincorporated communities located wholly or partly within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area: Altadena, East Los Angeles, Kinneloa Mesa, Mayflower Village, North El Monte, San Pasqual, and South San Gabriel

Source: NeighborhoodScout.com