# Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Coordinator: Alfredo Camacho, Day One

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Quarterly Report: 1 December 16, 2021 August 1, 2021

#### A. Summary of Activities

Provide a high-level summary of activities completed this quarter and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work.

The role of the Watershed Coordinator is to educate & build capacity in communities and to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement with the Safe, Clean Water Program. The duties and responsibilities of Watershed Coordinators center around connecting potential Regional Program applicants with technical resources and building inclusion and meaningful engagement in pursuit of SCW Program Goals.

This first quarter was primarily spent on completing the Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan, which involved a large amount of time spent on research and information-finding, which was used to inform the watershed area description and interested party mapping. We also conducted various interviews and held meetings with Watershed Area Steering Committee members, community-based organizations and existing partners to ask about their priorities that they would like reflected in the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan.

During this time, we also completed various outreach events, engagement meetings and educational events. Our outreach during August through October focused on general community priorities on stormwater capture and community needs. To maximize our efforts and reach wider audiences, we conducted a majority of our outreach in collaboration with existing events.

#### Strategies used to integrate priorities for the community, municipalities, the watershed area, and the region

- Worked with existing partnerships and coalitions expanded network and held separate meetings to discuss SCWP, stormwater capture projects and community priorities. These include Nature 4 All, Pomona ACTS, East San Gabriel Healthy Neighborhood and El Monte Partnership for Youth & Families.
- Developed community safe clean water survey to quantify community priorities and needs.
- Met with a majority of Watershed Area Steering Committee Members to discuss community priorities, municipal challenges and potential solutions.
- To reach Bassett/Avocado Heights Area, worked with Bassett Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community (BAAEC) to coordinate outreach efforts, identify existing partners and close gaps.
- Attended public meetings for water agencies in the watershed area to learn more about community needs, existing projects and to identify potential partners – these agencies include Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the Spadra GSA.

#### Document the extent of partnerships and networks you have engaged

- Municipal, County, Government and Special Districts we engaged with city staff that is represented in the WASC, this included Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Glendora, Industry, Pomona and La Verne. We also met with representatives from Supervisor Hilda L. Solis' office. Will continue to engage these municipalities and others in the third quarter as we move in to project development.
- State, Federal & Regional agencies or universities Connected with representatives from various state elected officials to introduce ourselves as watershed coordinator and to potentially partner on outreach efforts – these included Assm. Freddie Rodriguez, Assm. Chris Holden, Sen. Anthony Portantino and Sen.

Connie Leyva. This quarter was not heavily focused on connecting with state of federal elected officials, as we were focused on gathering community priorities and completing the SOEP.

- our SOEP, however we had opportunities to engage with various environmental stewardship organizations by completing other tasks. For example, Heal the Bay, Council for Watershed Health and Tree People are all watershed coordinators, we communicate with them often to share best-practices and learn from each other. Other organizations we've engaged with include the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, who will help us reach the unincorporated areas in the Southern portion of the Watershed Area and the El Monte, West Covina areas with their upcoming projects in 2022. Day One is a member of the Nature 4 All Coalition, and we continue to track progress, partner on projects and funding/share cost-sharing opportunities as they come up. We have also engaged with Clean & Green Pomona and Sustainable Claremont and will continue working with these groups to help identify other potential partners and opportunities.
- Community Organizations connected with our existing community partners, including Latino/a
   Roundtable of Pomona Valley, Pomona Economic Opportunity Center, Active SGV, East SGV Healthy
   Neighborhood, El Monte Partnership for Youth & Families, Nature 4 All, Pomona Chamber of Commerce.
- Regional Collaboration We have continued to track the efforts of Our County Sustainability Plan and the WHAM Taskforce; we will provide relevant updates and recommendations as they arise. We also worked to establish a working relationship with both Ohana Vets and RWA Planning, who are the Watershed Coordinators in the neighboring watersheds of Lower San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo, respectfully. To date we have not engaged with any existing MS4 compliance groups at their meetings, but have met with member agency representatives. We plan on engaging with them in 2022.

#### Document your effort to engage a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders

Our plan was to engage with WASC members and then get connected to potential stakeholders, but we also had success just attending various events and connecting with stakeholders in that manner. We were able to conduct outreach at various community events. Upon completion of event or meeting, our staff completed a meeting/event summary to capture priorities/trends that arose during engagement. Our engagement efforts and dates are listed below.

#### • Lessons Learned, Community Priorities, Insights

- o This quarter was heavily focused on base-building, connecting with new and existing partners and setting the state for the Safe Clean Water Program in the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area. What we learned early on was that the Safe Clean Water Program, although approved by the voters in 2018, was a very new concept for the general public. Before diving in depth about the Safe Clean Water Program, the projects and the funding, our staff found that it was necessary to conduct outreach that just introduces folks to the program and the concept of stormwater capture. Overall, residents, parents, and community partners had never thought about stormwater capture, water quality, water supply or knew that we had a river that was the outlet for all of our shared waterways. It was exciting to be able to share this new knowledge, but also reminded us about the undertaking that it would be to a) educate the general public about stormwater capture and the SCWP, b) gather feedback from community about what they would like to see and, c) work with partners and community members to help develop project concepts.
- Overall, community priorities have emphasized parks/open space and pedestrian/bike roadways as opportunities for SCWP stormwater capture projects. Various community members and community partners shared in one form or another the need to create connectivity in the form of a multiuse walking

or bike path in the region, examples highlighted have been the Pacific Electric Trail, the Emerald Necklace, the LA River Revitalization and the opportunity to develop the San Jose Creek. When mentioning stormwater, the channelized creeks came up often, as did the opportunity to create synergy between schools and "washes" as they were referred to; park improvements also came up a lot, particularly the creation of walking paths, splash pads, more shade and opportunities to connect with nature, such as hiking or nature walk opportunities.

o In addition, because many of the projects are still concepts and awaiting additional funding or have other barriers, it has been a challenge to share a concrete project concept that residents can get excited about. In the future, as projects move into the design and community engagement phase, we will be more effective in gathering community specific feedback. For now, most of our work and outreach has been in collaboration with existing events. As we move forward with the Safe Clean Water Program and receiving giveaways, materials and visuals from project concepts, engagement efforts will kick-up and involve more than informational/educational outreach.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended
The table below provides a high-level summary of the engagement events I have held or attended this quarter.

	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	Attachments #
1	Nature 4 All Community Education Course	8/18/21	Engagement Meeting - Water, Drought, Action	Nature 4 All, SGVMWD, Azusa Residents	Attended	A-1
2	Nature 4 All Community Education Course	8/25/21	Engagement Meeting - Greening, Parks, Public Lands	Nature 4 All, SGVMWD, Azusa Residents	Attended	A-1
3	Movie Screening with Latino/a Roundtable of Pomona Valley	8/27/21	Engagement Meeting - Tabling Event	Pomona residents, Latino/a Roundtable, Pomona Parks & Recreation Commissioners	Attended	
4	Ganesha High School Back-to-School Night	9/1/21	Engagement Meeting - Virtual Event	Pomona Unified (PUSD) Administrators, PUSD Board Members, PUSD Parents	Attended	
5	Pomona ACTS Working Group	9/7/21	Engagement Meeting - Virtual Meeting	PVTA, City of Pomona Public Works, SGVCC, PUSD, National CORE, Grid Alternatives, Clean & Green Pomona, Latino/a Roundtable, Fairplex, Western University, Conexion de Padres	Attended	A-2
6	El Monte Mid-Autumn Moon Festival	9/18/21	Educational Event – Resource Fair	El Monte/South El Monte Residents, AAPI Community	Held	A-3
7	Grocery Outlet Pop-Up Event at Grocery Outlet	10/1/21	Educational Event - Pop-Up Event	Active SGV, Clean Air Coalition, Bassett/Avocado Heights Residents	Held	A-4
8	Protecting Our Water IG Live Event	10/5/21	Educational Event - Instagram Live Event	Online Viewers – San Gabriel Valley	Held	A-5
9	City of Monrovia Clean Air Day Event	10/6/21	Educational Event – Tree Planting and Tabling	Monrovia Residents	Attended	
10	Lopez Farm Tour & Family Fall Event	10/6/21	Educational Event - Lopez	Pomona, Claremont, La Verne families, Lopez	Held	A-6

11	Pomona Pride Center Gayla	10/8/21	Urban Farm Tour & Family Activities Engagement Meeting - Networking Dinner	Farm Staff, Healthy in Pomona  LGBTQ+ residents and allies from Pomona, Diamond Bar, Walnut, Claremont, La Verne and San Dimas	Attended	
12	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pomona 5K Run/Walk	10/16/21	Educational Event – Tabling Event	Pomona/SGV Residents	Held	
13	Advanced Energy Homes Luncheon	10/19/21	Engagement Meeting - Networking Luncheon	North Whitter, Bassett, Avocado Heights, La Puente Residents, LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis' Office, The Energy Coalition	Held	
14	El Monte Movie Night		Educational Event – Tabling Event	El Monte/South El Monte Residents	Held	
15	Safe Clean Water Presentation - Mt SAC Engineering	10/23/21	Educational Event – Community College Presentation	Mt. SAC Students	Held	
16	Spooky Treats & Eats Event	10/28/21	Educational Event – Tabling Event	Pomona residents	Attended	
17	El Monte Farmer's Market Trunk or Treat	10/28/21	Educational Event – Tabling Event	El Monte/South El Monte Residents	Attended	
18	City of Pomona Trunk or Treat	10/30/21	Educational Event – Tabling Event	Pomona Residents	Attended	A-7

### C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

No cost-share partners were contacted during this quarter. Time was spent learning about community needs and completing the strategic outreach & engagement plan. After project budget needs are identified, will work with project applicants to identify cost-share priorities. We did attend various meetings to identify potential cost-sharing opportunities that overlap with continuing projects in the Watershed Area; these are listed below:

	Potential	<b>Date First</b>	Project name / type	Nature of potential	Attachments #
	Partner Name	Contacted		partnership	
1	Three Valleys	7/5/21	No specific project; spoke	Potential Cost-sharing for new	
	Municipal Water		about existing SCWP	projects that meet TVMWD	
	District - Carlos		projects and TVMWD	needs.	
	Goytia, Director				

			needs; potential cost- sharing in future projects.		
2	Spadra Basin GSA – Carlos Goytia	7/20/21	Spadra Basin GSA Tour	Potential Cost-sharing for projects that meet Spadra Basin GSA needs.	
3	Norma Martinez and Rene Jimenez – SGVCC, Executive Director and Operations Director	7/29/21	No specific project; discussed SCWP existing projects and SGVCC future project plans and potential to collaborate/cost-share	To help dentifying cost-share opportunities and help facilitate community outreach and education.	
4	Kyle Brown – Cal Poly Pomona Landscape Architecture Professor and Clean & Green Member	8/9/21	No specific project; discussed existing SCWP projects and Clean & Green's upcoming projects.		
5					

# D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

No leveraged/outside funding was pursued during this quarter. Time was spent learning about community needs and completing the strategic outreach & engagement plan. After project budget needs are identified, will work with project applicants to help seek leveraged and outside funding.

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	Attachments #
1			
2			
3			

# E. Detailed Progress Report

Provide an update on the amount of effort expended for each Task this quarter and note percentage complete:

Task #	Task	Total Task Level of Effort (from workplan)	LOE this quarter	Accumulated LOE to-date (from monthly reports)
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	23.25%	44%	44%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	10%	9%	9%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	11.75%	2%	2%

4	Facilitate Identification and	10.75%	10%	10%
	Representation of Community			
	Priorities			
5	Integrate Priorities through	9.25%	8%	8%
	Partnerships and Extensive			
	Networks			
6	Cost-share Partners	3.25%	2%	2%
7	Leverage Funding	4.75%	2%	2%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	9.25%	20%	20%
9	Watershed Coordinator	7.75%	4%	4%
	Collaboration			
	Overall	100%	100%	100%

#### F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

Our engagement efforts are broken up into either SCWP Education & Outreach or Project Input Outreach. Early on, we identified potential target areas that we can engage with when we learn more about continuing projects and the outreach efforts conducted that we could collaborate with project applicants on to fill any necessary gaps. Thus far, we have only conducted SCWP Education & Outreach efforts and they have all taken place in a disadvantaged community, this includes the outreach efforts outlined in A. Summary of Activities. We plan to work with project applicants to identify disadvantaged communities in or near project area and brainstorm strategies to engage these communities in the project planning process.

#### G. Scheduling concerns or issues

Our watershed coordinator services had a late start due to meeting contracting needs that needed to be met before we began working. During this first phase of us serving as the watershed coordinator, we came in to an already approved Stormwater Investment Plan. We also hit the ground running to complete the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. We finally began conducting community engagement during in October, which was the last month of the quarter. During this month, we began scheduling meetings with continuing project applicants to learn more about the status of projects and to identify project completion needs. We ended the quarter with a few meetings on the calendar. Among of the biggest scheduling issue or concern is the internal coordination of projects, which is something we are working to address since it came up toward the end of the quarter. We identified a need to learn about all the moving parts, the projects that are moving forward that require our energy and the projects who are stagnant to potentially resolve challenges; this is essential for us to understand where to prioritize our energy and time.

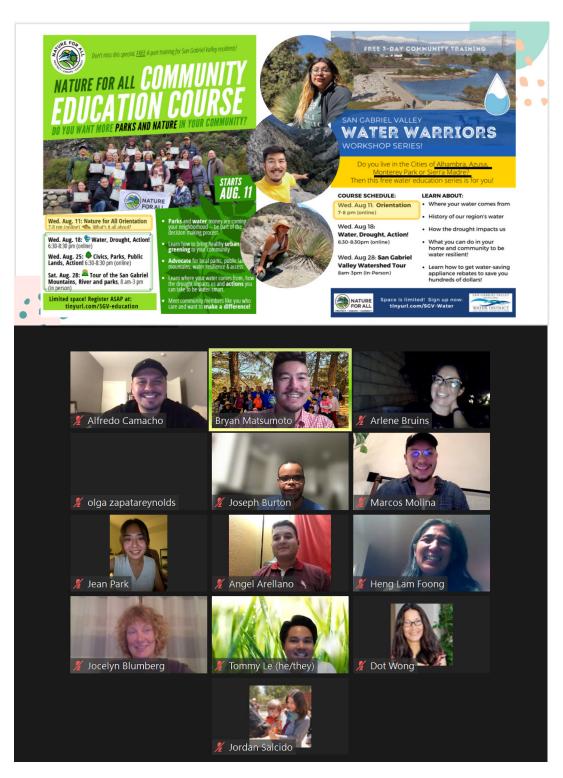
#### H. Expected activities next quarter

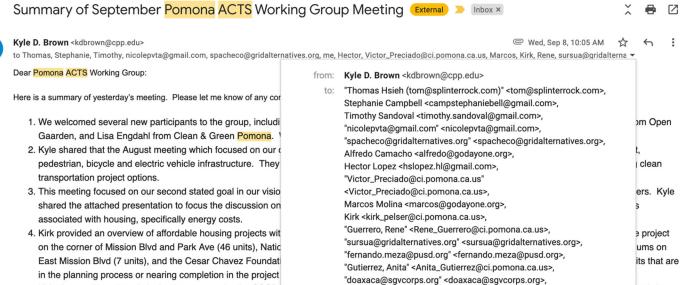
In November, December and January we plan to continue conducting outreach efforts throughout the USGR watershed area, with particular focus on areas identified by project proponents. We also will continue to track continuing projects to find opportunities for community input, we also plan on working with community-based organizations to connect them with the TRP program to move projects forward.

We will meet with project applicants and municipal staff to learn more about community priorities and find opportunities to include them in new and existing projects when feasible. We plan on continuing to work with our existing partners to provide them with updates about the SCWP and bring them opportunities for input when

available. We will also spend time in the project areas to speak with constituents and discuss community priorities, needs and potential impacts that construction may cause the community.

We hope to learn about project funding needs and existing cost-share partners to be able to connect existing projects with new funding or identify cost-sharing partners that may have not been engaged. We will also continue to collaborate with other Watershed Coordinators. In this next quarter, we also plan to engage with stakeholders in Diamond Bar, Claremont, La Puente, West Covina, Covina, Irwindale, Walnut and Azusa.





- 5. Kirk also mentioned a relatively new program by the CSCDA COMMUNITY IMPHOVEMENT AUTHORITY that allows for affordability protection for existing apartment complexes. Through CSCDA CIA's Workforce Housing Program, government bonds are issued to acquire market-rate apartment buildings. These properties are then converted to income and rent-restricted units for moderate/middle income households for 30 years, as opposed to 55 years in the case of other affordable housing programs (without displacing any residents). At the end of this time period, ownership of the units is retained by the city. Pomona has received several inquiries recently about this program, and Kirk estimates that it has the potential to add 600-800 affordable units to the project area. More information can be obtained at: <a href="https://cscda.org/workforce-housing-program/">https://cscda.org/workforce-housing-program/</a>
- 6. Kirk also shared details of the city's new Inclusionary zoning ordinance, which requires developers to offer a certain percentage of affordable units in their projects, or pay "in-lieu" fees that can be used to construct affordable units in other places within the city. The specific percentage of affordable units varies depending on the type of housing. As this is a new ordinance, many projects in the pipeline are exempt from this requirement, and the city has yet to develop a plan for how to utilize fees that are captured by this requirement.
- 7. We discussed the potential for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to provide affordable housing in a decentralized way. Michael Witmer share the interest of the Pomona Leadership Network and others in developing a model for the pre-fabrication of ADUs in Pomona as a workforce development opportunity, and

### **Attachment A-3**



doelmonte · Following Jeff Seymour Family Center

doelmonte On Saturday, September 18th, we hosted our very first Mid-Autumn Moon Festival at the @jeffseymourfamilycenter to promote cultural appreciation of Asian Heritage. The event was represented beautifully in bringing our multiethnic, multigenerational community together! We had an outstanding attendance of 250+ community members join us to engage in fun and family-friendly activities, Mooncake tasting, live music from a Traditional Zither Chinese Musician and a movie showing for Over the Moon to end the night. Mayor Pro Tem, Alma Puente even stopped by with her family to thank our partners and attendees for bringing the event together! "

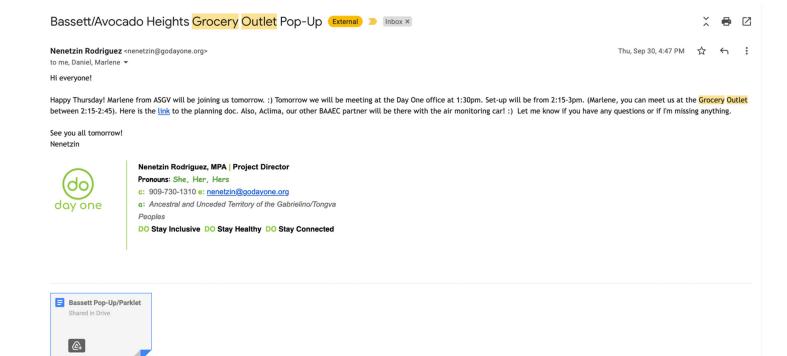
Thank you to our amazing partners for joining us! @elmontecitysd @foothillfamilyorg @camlaorg @rosemead\_chamber @radsgv @activesgv @elmontepromise @volunteercenterofsangabvalley @chinatownservicecenter @ohsillylynn @bnutritiousmeals @jeffseymourfamilycenter @toma\_eitc @wu4schoolboard @puenteforcitycouncil @saviourcenter

#empcyf #elmontemidautumnmoonfestival #healthyelmonte #elmontemovie #community

O O A

 $\Box$ 

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### **Attachment A-6**

#### JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING OF PUMPKIN CARVING AT LOPEZ URBAN FARM





