

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, March 10, 2022
1:00pm – 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Russ Bryden, LA County Waterworks Districts (Agency), Co-Vice Chair
Chad Christensen, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
Madelyn Glickfeld, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability UCLA (Community), Co-Vice Chair
Kirsten James, Resident (Community)
Harry Semerdjian, LA Area Chamber of Commerce (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)
Alex Farassati, Calabasas (Municipal)
*Joe Bellomo, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Sophie Freeman, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Mark Johnson, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal)
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Doug Marian, California Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors (Community)
Jessica Forte, Agoura Hills (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

District staff welcomed Committee Members and facilitated a brief WebEx tutorial.

David Pedersen, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2022

District staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes, by Member Bruce Hamamoto. Co-Vice Chair Madelyn Glickfeld seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the December 9, 2022 meeting minutes.

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update:

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- On March 1, the Board of Supervisors voted to continue meeting virtually, acting under the authority of Assembly Bill 361 which authorizes public committees to meet without complying with all the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when warranted. The Board is reviewing its position every 30 days.
 - For the Municipal Program, FY 22-23 Annual Plans are due April 1st of every year. The Municipal Program Reporting Module has been updated to add functionality and streamline the Annual Plan Process. The District hosted an information session on March 7th, 2022. Recording, along with the Frequently Asked Questions document will be available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website soon.
 - The 2022 SCWP Interim Guidance document is available for public review on the website. The 30-day public review period ends on March 17, 2022. (On March 14, 2022 the Flood Control District extended the due date for comments to March 27, 2022). Details on how to provide comments are posted on the website.
 - The District reminded the committee members that it is important for the WASC and the work of the Regional Program to remain transparent and fair. These principles are built into the SCWP and are represented by the *ex parte* disclosures on each agenda. WASC members whose job connects them to specific projects should ask colleagues or consultants to attend WASC meetings to share about or advocate for those projects during Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberations and should avoid using their position as WASC members to advocate for projects from their home entities. Not all projects are connected to a WASC member's full-time job and must advocate for their inclusion during the managed opportunities (the application itself, presentation(s), questions from the WASC, and the public comment period). Ensuring each project gets treated fairly during discussion and voting agenda items and that all proponents have equal access to engage the WASC discussion needs to be part of how the WASC manages itself.
 - The District reminded the committee members that the intent of the SCWP is to ensure project completion so that benefits claimed can be realized. Partial funding in phases without secure funds and a clear pathway to completion is highly discouraged. Whether it be structured accordingly with the initial request or a consideration by the WASC during the SIP development, the messaging will be that if the WASC decides to consider partial funding in phases such that future phases are dependent on subsequent SCWP funding requests, the WASC must consider and anticipate the future costs during SIP deliberation even if it is not formally earmarked or shown in the projections for planning purposes. For future SIP transmittals to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), the District will also include a discussion of anticipated future costs, including operations and maintenance, and phases beyond design. Inclusion of those anticipated costs will better inform the ROC and Board for decision-making.
 - Reminder that the intent of the SCWP is to ensure project completion so that benefits claimed can be realized. Partial funding in phases without secure funds and a clear pathway to completion is highly discouraged. Whether it be structured accordingly with the initial request or a consideration by the WASC during the SIP development, the messaging will be that if the WASC decides to consider partial funding in phases such that future phases are dependent on subsequent SCWP funding requests, the WASC must consider and anticipate the future costs during SIP deliberation even if it is not formally earmarked or shown in the projections for planning purposes.
 - For future SIP transmittals to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), the District will also include a discussion of anticipated future costs, including operations and maintenance, and phases beyond design. Inclusion of those anticipated costs will better inform the ROC and Board for decision-making.

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Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld disclosed a conversation with Member Jessica Forte concerning the science of bacteria reduction in daylighting streams. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld reached out to Heal the Bay, Member Forte, and a fellow colleague at UCLA to discuss the viability of this BMP. The group discussed the possibility of funding a UCLA graduate student to study the issue and asked whether any cities have available funds to help this research effort.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts provided an update.

- Regarding facilitating community engagement, Watershed Coordinator Watts shared that they have been speaking to the Topanga Town Council and planning a Nature-Based Success Stories Conference on November 10 which will include a presentation and subsequent tours with tentative dates sent. If Members are interested in helping to coordinate, please reach out to Watershed Coordinator Watts.
- Regarding identification and development of project concepts, Watershed Coordinator Watts has been in contact with UCLA, Agoura Hills, and Westlake Village constituents.
- Regarding the Technical Resources Program (TRP), Watershed Coordinator Watts is proposing a TRP application to the City of Malibu and considering a TRP application for various schools in the Watershed Area, but noted there are currently no funds for this.
- Watershed Coordinator Watts has been meeting with Topanga and Malibu City Councilmembers and walked Calabasas High School to discuss community priorities. Watershed Coordinator Watts shared a list of the partnerships and potential networks they have been considering to integrate priorities, as well as a list of cost-share partners for future opportunities.
- In an update related to leveraging funding, Watershed Coordinator Watts also attended the GLAC IRWM meeting and the Scoring Committee meeting and received notes on federal funding opportunities.
- The next NSMB Watershed Community meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of June 30 to incorporate local stakeholders' interest in education regarding cisterns.
- Lastly, Watershed Coordinator Watts shared how they have been collaborating with other watershed coordinators.

5. Public Comment Period

A public comment letter was received from Principal Engineer Michael Scaduto from the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Community Centered Optimization of Nature-based BMPs Starting with Gaffey Nature Center Facility. The public comment card will be posted along with the approved meeting minutes to the SCWP website.

6. Discussion

a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld held a brief meeting with Ken Schiff from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) after the submittal of the summary of peer reviewed Scientific Studies and discussed approaches to review the potential projects.

Member Mark Johnson met with Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld, Watershed Coordinator Watts, the Los Angeles County Public Works Director, and the Environmental Sustainability Director to discuss funding strategies available to stormwater projects.

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Member Cung Nguyen met with Member Forte to discuss a non-SCWP project proposed in Liberty Canyon by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Member Nguyen also met with Chair Pedersen, Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld, Co-Vice Chair Russ Bryden, and Member Forte to discuss the projects that are being proposed at Liberty Canyon. Member Nguyen clarified and discussed the differences between the two projects: the Flood Control District is leading the Liberty Canyon Channel Greenway Project and Los Angeles County Public Works is leading the Liberty Canyon Road Greenway Project. The Los Angeles County Public Works' Liberty Canyon Road Greenway Project is the project requesting for SCWP funding.

Member Roxanne Hughes met with Watershed Coordinator Watts and Member Forte to discuss opportunities and constraints between their respective cities on how projects can achieve water quality improvements to score more points in the application process.

b. FY21-22 Funded Project Updates

Alberto Grajeda (Los Angeles County Public Works, Project Developer) provided an update on the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvement Project. The design phase of the project is finished but requires minor changes. Grajeda anticipates the construction phase will begin in late 2022. The current schedule for this project in the SIP will be updated in the next quarterly report. The project developer confirmed the \$400,000 budget in the FY 22-23 SIP, which is anticipated to be delayed to the next fiscal year, and they will provide justification in the next quarterly report. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld requested clarification on why the project is being delayed, and Grajeda responded that small edits to the design have caused minor delays to the current project schedule. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld emphasized their desire to see this infrastructure project come to completion, as progress on infrastructure projects has been slow in the past few years, to which Grajeda concurred. Co-Vice Chair Bryden confirmed with the project developer that the project concept will not be altered and that changes include only minor design edits for ease of access for stormwater maintenance.

c. Summary of Scientific Studies from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (continued)

i. [Regional Pathogen Reduction Study](#)

Because the applicant was not present, the WASC moved to the next Scientific Study.

ii. [Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility](#)

Regarding the Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility, Dr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh (SEITec, Project Applicant) addressed comments that were made during the review on how the scope of the study was too broad.

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld noted that the panel also thought the cost was too high and asked if Dr. Eftekhazadeh could provide an explanation for this as well. Dr. Eftekhazadeh explained that specific details regarding the implementation of the study were criticized, but that the research team needs to first take over this facility to understand what details, such as plot placements, should be added to the scope.

Member Christensen had a question about whether the applicant could discern priorities between including native plants that may not have as large of a yield compared with other benefits. Dr. Eftekhazadeh explained that all benefits, including inclusion of native plants, would be assigned a

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weighted level of importance. The study also includes yields for community benefits, such as community gardening, and noted that tradeoffs between benefits would be considered.

Member James expressed concern that the SCCWRP reviews differed greatly from one another, in their evaluation of the study's benefits. Member James suggested that additional details on the studies would help further the Committee's ability to make a decision. Dr. Eftekhazadeh also expressed a desire to better understand the SCCWRP's review variety and responded that their team would also like to address comments concerning detail.

Chair Pedersen also pointed out the discrepancy between reviews and asked if a representative of SCCWRP could attend a future meeting. District staff explained that SCCWRP engages three anonymous reviewers for each project, and then synthesizes the reviews so that they can be digested in a less technical manner while still accurately reflecting the original reviews, SCCWRP therefore does not provide their own recommendation.

District staff noted that Richard Watson, applicant for the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, was unable to attend to discuss their study's reviews. District staff encouraged both Scientific Study applicants to attend the April WASC meeting to field any further questions or concerns.

Chair Pedersen confirmed with District staff that no voting actions will be made today.

d. North Santa Monica Bay Fiscal year 2022-2023 Stormwater Investment Plan Discussion (FY22-23 NSMB Presentation & Submittals Summary, [SCW Portal](#))

- i. Scientific Studies Program (SS)
 - 1. Regional Pathogen Study
 - 2. Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-Based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility
- ii. Infrastructure Program (IP)
 - 1. Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld noted that District staff is planning to send out the preliminary ranking worksheet (an online questionnaire) prior to the next meeting, and that if Committee members don't receive this, that voting to approve the SIP would need to be further delayed to May. District staff explained that the questionnaire is a ranking survey for the Committee members to use as a tool to prioritize projects and asked the Committee Chairs if this would be useful for this WASC given that there are only a few projects available for consideration. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld requested that the survey still be shared and recommended that Committee members review the SIP Tool prior to next meeting.

District staff indicated that they will go over the SIP tool during the next meeting. District staff confirmed with the Committee Chairs that no ranking survey will be sent out, but that the spreadsheet version of the SIP tool will be shared with the rest of the Committee Members.

e. Draft 2022 Interim Guidance

Chair Pedersen invited Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) to present the Draft 2022 Interim Guidance. Antos presented the guidance which has two new components: Strengthening Community Engagement and Support, and Water Supply, and includes two older components: Programming of Nature-Based Solutions, and Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program.

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The purpose of the Interim Guidance is to incorporate adaptive management practices in the program to guide future projects. No modifications to Feasibility Study guidelines, scoring criteria, or functions of the SCWP were made in the Interim Guidance.

Antos went through the requirements for strengthening community engagement and what the guidance includes regarding engagement best practices, with additional resources outlined in the presentation slides.

Antos presented that the purpose of the Water Supply Guidance is to establish a shared understanding of water supply benefit considerations so that all stakeholders can better discuss project benefits. The guidance provides five scenarios regarding water supply benefits and related requirements. Further evaluation of water supply will be included in future guidance.

There were no substantive changes to the guidance regarding Programming of Nature-Based Solutions. There were also no substantive changes regarding Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program. Antos also provided updates on the Metrics & Monitoring Study (MMS) and future visions for the guidance.

Chair Pedersen opened the floor for questions, and first asked Antos to describe the process of how District staff and Regional Coordination staff generated the interim guidance, noting that the guidance is being presented very close to the deadline for public review. Antos explained that there were delays in the MMS, which the District staff used to inform the guidance. District staff had planned to update the guidance this spring and thus incorporated new information and insight as it became available. The decision was made to present the guidance now so it might inform project discussion for this year and prospective project applicants for call for projects round 4. Chair Pedersen requested that District Staff provide this presentation to all WASCs and requested that the deadline for the public review period be extended. Chair Pedersen also wanted to know why the concept of water supply for nature, which was discussed in the Committee previously, was not addressed in the updated guidance. Antos responded that the concept requires more discussion and could not be adequately addressed in the interim guidance update, though it was specifically included in the future vision portion of the guidance document.

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld reiterated that the NSMB WASC has suggested changes to the scoring criteria related to water supply for three years with no success and noted that there has only been one project in the NSMB Watershed Area that has met the criteria so far. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld went on to explain how achieving water supply benefits under the current criteria is difficult for this WASC due to its geographic limitations (no major groundwater basin) and has become an issue as multiple cities and the County are now subject to fines. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld re-emphasized the request to change the scoring criteria related to water supply for areas with such geographic limitations.

Antos replied that changes to the scoring criteria would require more time in order to ensure that the criteria's ability to accurately and effectively assess projects is not affected and noted that although water supply points account for a large portion of the score, there are still ways to meet the project eligibility point threshold without water supply points. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld reiterated that the Committee has experienced frustration in moving projects forward that have nature-based solutions because of the absence of a usable groundwater basin, to which Antos acknowledged the difficulty and maintained that there is still room to create space for projects under the current constraints and voiced appreciation for the WASC's continued advocacy for change.

Member Hughes voiced support for Co-Vice Chair's Glickfeld's concerns. Chair Pedersen requested that this concern be documented in next updated Interim Guidance if an actual amendment is not possible,

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citing and acknowledging the Committee's concern that the issue was not adequately reflected in this update. Antos pointed out a few points in the future plans portion of the guidance and presentation that may encompass the Committee's concerns.

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld asked if any District leadership were present at the meeting, to understand the urgency the Committee expresses. Co-Vice Chair Bryden, who was involved in the original creation of the Safe, Clean Water Program, explained that District staff would benefit from details on how difficult it has been for projects to reach the minimum score threshold.

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld noted that community members have voiced support for stormwater capture in cisterns and naturalizing for the many tributaries that exist in this area, but commented that the County has prioritized larger infrastructure projects. According to Co-Vice Chair Bryden, property-based best management practices (BMPs) such as those mentioned were researched during program development and were not found to be effective. Co-Vice Chair Bryden offered that a more distributed approach may be effective.

Watershed Coordinator Watts suggested that a conversation with West Basin Municipal Water District should be held to discuss cisterns larger than a rain barrel, to which Co-Vice Chair Bryden agreed.

Co-Vice Chair Bryden suggested that the City's utilize the SCWP Municipal Program or local City funds to design regional projects after acknowledging the difficulty in creating projects for this Watershed Area. Co-Vice Chair Bryden said that they will discuss these concerns with District staff. Antos suggested that mid-size projects that involve multiple cities and discrete implementations may be a viable option to meet the scoring threshold for project size and agreed that pooling funding from multiple cities may be a good idea. Watershed Coordinator Watts agreed that a collaborative effort across cities would be a productive step forward.

Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that during community outreach, many community members interpreted "nature-based solutions" to be ecosystem restoration efforts. Watershed Coordinator Watts suggested projects should incorporate such nature-based solutions, since that's what community members of this watershed area were seeking when voting for Measure W.

f. [NSMB Proposed Scoring Criteria Amendment](#)

Chair Pedersen provided background on how there was already difficulty in 2020 regarding receiving points in the water supply category in the NSMB Watershed Area. The Committee had drafted a letter that the District said to hold on to until the program was more mature. Chair Pedersen worked with Watershed Coordinator Watts and Co-Vice Chairs Glickfeld and Bryden to update the original document submitted to the District and summarized that the document discusses the NSMB Watershed Area's geographic challenges in generating water supply without a viable groundwater basin and requests that the District enable a different approach to achieve the water supply benefits. The proposal includes refining the scoring criteria in such a way that still awards water supply points to projects with a lower quantity of water supply benefits than originally defined as well as projects that can provide water for ecosystem functions. Chair Pedersen then opened the floor up for discussion on if this amendment can be submitted to District staff for review.

Co-Vice Chair Bryden voiced support for the intent of the amendment but expressed a desire to refine the exact details of the change before submission. Co-Vice Chair Bryden reiterated the sense of urgency associated with this submission due to the coming deadline for the public review period and requested that the deadline be extended in order for District staff to be able to address the proposed changes.

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Member Chad Christensen voiced support for submitting the amendment, citing the importance of furthering projects to completion.

Member Joe Bellomo and Co-Vice Chair Bryden reflected on the original intent for this specific Watershed Area when first creating the criteria, saying that diverting to recycled water was how it was originally envisioned that projects in this Watershed Area would achieve water supply benefit points.

Chair Pedersen suggested a few approaches on how to move forward. The WASC can submit a narrative without the redlined amendments to the scoring criteria or they can include the exact suggested changes. Member Kirsten James and Member Johnson agreed with the latter approach of providing the exact redlined suggestions.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) also mentioned that it would be valuable for the Committee to also include examples of project proponents who hesitated to even apply due to the current criteria.

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld noted that the County would be one example, and Member Hamamoto offered details on previous projects that were inadequate in the water supply benefits category. The Gates Canyon Project involved a large cistern that did not receive enough water supply points and, with a lack of community benefit points, could not reach the eligibility threshold. A smaller low flow diversion project that also lacked community benefit points did not receive enough water supply benefit points to pass the scoring threshold. Member Hamamoto also noted that the Viewridge project that the Committee approved only barely surpassed the scoring threshold. Co-Vice Chair Bryden appreciated these details as a creator of the program. District staff encouraged continued discussion about specific projects.

Member Nguyen noted that the Greenway project included a partnership between the Flood Control District and the County and supported combining and leveraging local funds for projects to achieve acceptable scores.

Chair Pedersen confirmed with the Committee members that this amendment, including the redlined suggestions as a potential example, will be shared with District staff and asked if there was any strong opposition to this. Member Tevin Schmitt voiced support for submitting this amendment, underscoring the importance of approving projects.

7. Public Comment Period

Dr. Eftekhazadeh (SEITec, Project Applicant) shared a public comment concerning the previous conversation regarding water supply benefits and explained that their organization has developed vertical right of way cisterns that can be included without obtaining land access. Dr. Eftekhazadeh noted that the City of Los Angeles has used these cisterns to capture water in previous pilot projects and that the cisterns are also included in the Scientific Study they have proposed. Dr. Eftekhazadeh noted that the City of South Pasadena was also able to gain water supply points using these cisterns. Dr. Eftekhazadeh will send an email that provides details on the vertical cisterns, as they may be a potential way to achieve water supply benefits.

8. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

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9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 14, 2022 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. See the SCWP website for meeting details.

Items for the next meeting include:

- i. Continue the North Santa Monica Bay Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan Discussion

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld asked if Ken Schiff from SCCWRP will be in attendance to discuss the Scientific Study reviews, to which District staff replied that SCCWRP's scope of work was only to provide a synthesis of reviews and thus will not be in attendance as they would not provide any additional knowledge about the content of the reviews.

10. Adjournment

Chair Pedersen thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - March 10, 2022

		Quorum Present				Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approval of the December 9th Meeting minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Ramy Gindi		y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Russ Bryden	x			y
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen	x			a
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>	x	Dave Roberts		y
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Dave Roberts	x	y
Community Stakeholder	UCLA	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Doug Marian				
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Harry Semerdjian	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Kirsten James	x			y
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte		Kelly Fisher		
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Alex Farassati	x	Alba Lemus		not present
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kerry Kallman		Joe Bellomo	x	y
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Sophie Freeman	x			y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Christine Shen		y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Phillipe Eskandar		y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x			N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Other Attendees

- Kevin klm
- Austine Racelis
- Mike Antos
- Russ Bryden
- Mayra Martinez
- Allen Ma
- Kirk Allen
- Rich Ambrose
- Serena Zhu
- Sophie Freeman
- Annelisa Moe
- Craig Doberstein
- Alberto Grajeda
- Lauro Alvarado
- Kirsten James
- Dee Corhiran
- Tori Klug
- Ryan Edgley
- Josafat Flores
- Amanda Zeidner
- Shahriar Eftekhazrad
- Kelsey Reed
- Jason Casanova



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

**North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Advisory Steering Committee
and
Safe Clean Water L.A.**

Melina Watts

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed
Coordinator

March 10, 2022

10 Slides in 5 Minutes...



1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP

Spoke about SCWP at Topanga Chamber of Commerce and Topanga Town Council

Planning Nature Based Solutions Success Stories Conference with Alex Farassati

- Tentative dates set... want to join?

2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts

- Exploring science projects with UCLA
- Encouraging Agoura Hills to re-apply for big water quality project
- Encouraging Westlake Village to apply for project that drains Russell Ranch behind the Target Center
- Wondering why/how Bassett High School scored 92/100 (!)

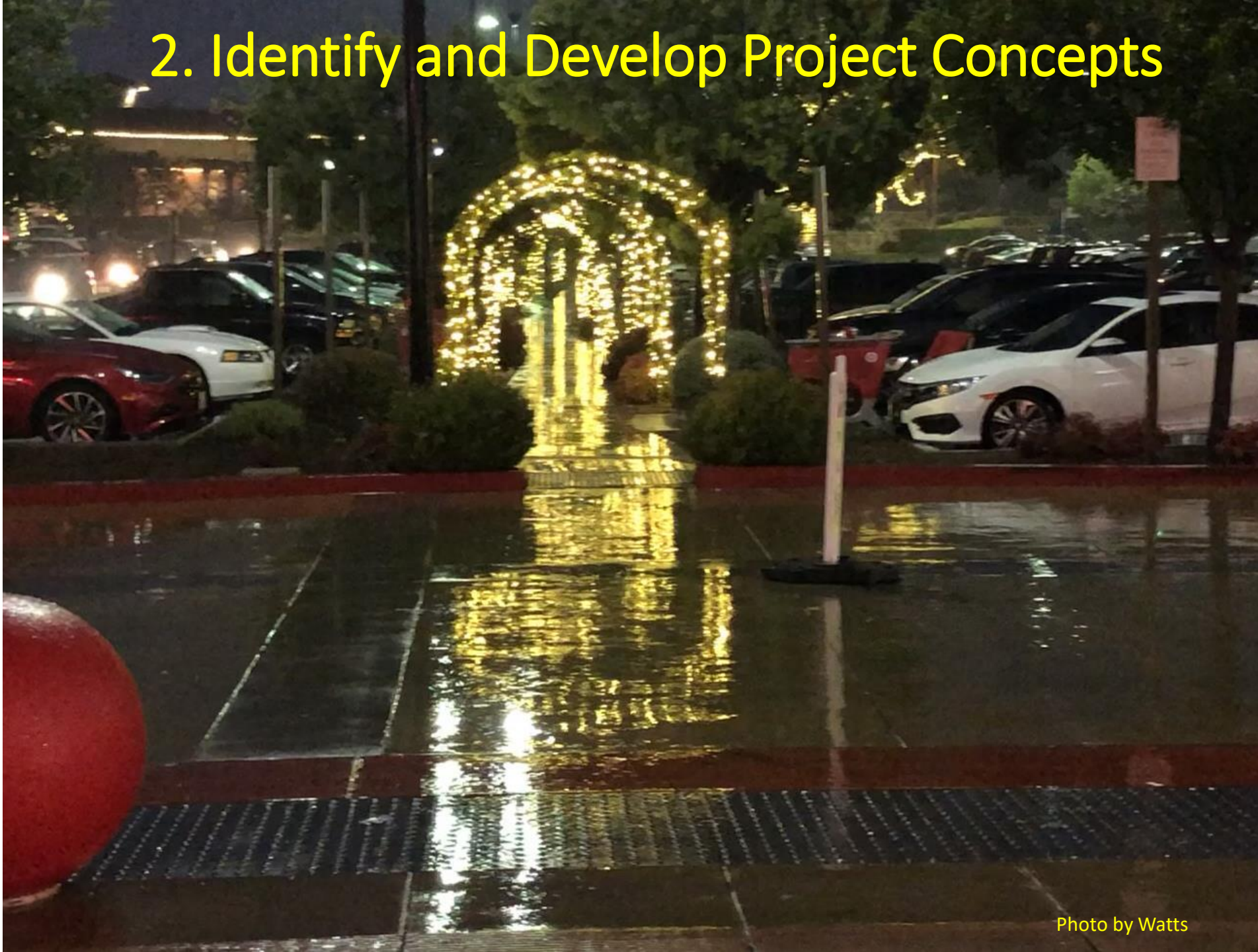




Photo by Watts

3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

- Proposing TRP application to Malibu City
- Considering TRP application to LAUSD for Topanga Elementary School project, possibly Malibu High School, possibly school in Santa Monica, possibly Calabasas High School

4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

-
- Topanga
 - Malibu City Councilmember Mikke Pierson
 - RCDSMM and WBMWD
 - Walked Calabasas High School
 - NSMB SOEP; revisions due March 22nd.



Photo by Watts

5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks



- Center for Watershed Health
- California Watershed Network
- ARLA / Dashboard Earth / Native Plants Kit
- Little Lost Streams, Jessica Forte and Jessica Hall
- Santa Monica Bay
- Cornell Winery + Dr. David Jassby, UCLA
- UCLA IOES
- Mark Abramson
- Wildlife Conservation Board

6. Cost-Share Partners

- ARLA/Native Plants Kit, Supervisor Kuehls Discretionary Fund
- IRWM Idea
- WBMWD / RCDSMM
- RCDSMM / State Parks
- RCDSMM / NPS
- MWD





7. Leverage Funding

- **Attended Scoring Committee**
- **Attended GLAC IRWM**
- **Appreciated notes from Marisa Perez-Reyes, Stantec, on federal funding via Southern California Water Dialogue**

Photo by Watts

8. Local Stakeholder Education

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- Next NSMB Watershed Community meeting is June 30, 2022. Thinking of doing 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
 - Monthly Newsletters
 - Attending 2 Earth Day events
 - Creating 2 Earth Day events



9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration



Contact Information

- Melina Sempill Watts
- nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com
- 310-383-9978

Join the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community



Photo by Watts

2022 SCWP Interim Guidance Documents Overview

Public Review Draft, comments due 3/17/22



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2022 Guidance Components

- Strengthening Community Engagement and Support (New)
- Water Supply Guidance (New)
- Programming of Nature-Based Solutions (no substantive changes from 2021 guidance)
- Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program (no substantive changes from 2021 guidance)

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/public-review-of-scw-program-2022-interim-guidance/>



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Guidance Background

- Program Guidance is part of the Regional Program's adaptive management and will guide the subsequent call for projects, scoring, and SIP development
- The District released interim program guidance for Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Nature-Based Solutions in May 2021
- The District has now drafted guidance for Water Supply and Community Outreach and Engagement
- Modifications to the Feasibility Study Guidelines, Scoring Criteria, or Chapter 16 and 18 of the Flood Control District Code are not included in the 2022 Interim Guidance and may be addressed at a future date.



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Guidance Review Period

- The 30-day public review period for all four guidance documents will be from February 16, 2022 to March 17, 2022
- Comments are to be sent to SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov
 - Reference the corresponding guidance document, section, and/or page, if applicable



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Strengthening Community Engagement and Support



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Background

- Goal to ensure that SCWP projects and expenditures deliver tangible and welcomed benefits on the ground
- Focus is on community engagement for, and in support of, Infrastructure Projects submitted for the Regional Program
 - Principles in the guidance can also be helpful for other aspects of the SCWP



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Related SCWP Policies and Requirements

- Feasibility Study must include outreach/engagement plan
- Scoring – up to 4 points for Infrastructure Program applications that demonstrates strong local, community-based support and/or have been developed as part of a partnership with local NGOs and CBOs
- Community engagement woven into the SCWP through:
 - Watershed Coordinator role
 - District Education Program
 - Municipal Program requirements for engagement
- Transfer Agreement requirements for community engagement



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Guidance: Before & After SCWP Application

1. Engagement Prior to Application: Policies for establishing and documenting that community engagement has occurred (and to what level) and/or support for a Project exists (and to what level)
2. Engagement Plan for Project Implementation: Clarification of how Project proponents and WASCs can interpret and substantiate commitment to Community Engagement once a project is funded and being implemented.

Project applicants are encouraged to seek input from Watershed Coordinators to achieve desired goals based on Project phase.



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Guidance: Engagement by Phase

- Planning
 - Identify stakeholders and involve them in identifying community needs, concerns, and objectives, as well as the potential solutions
 - Prioritize and secure resources (including Municipal Funds) for early-on engagement
- Design
 - Further solicitation, evaluation, and incorporation of stakeholder input, as applicable and able, such that project decision making is done iteratively and equitably
- Construction through Monitoring and O&M phases
 - Maintain relationships and sustained education
 - Communicate project progress and benefits to best prepare for long-term success
 - Volunteerism and workforce development activities related to O&M can be important elements of community engagement and are both aspects of SCWP goals



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Best Practices

	Good	Better	Best
Engagement Levels	<p><u>Inform</u> – provide information</p> <p><u>Consult</u> – gather input</p>	<p><u>Involve</u> – ensure community input, needs, and assets integrated into processes</p> <p><u>Educate</u> – grow community understanding of infrastructure, SCWP opportunities, etc.</p> <p><u>Learn</u> – grow your own understanding of community needs, concerns, history, etc.</p>	<p><u>Collaborate</u> – leverage and grow community capacity to play a leadership role</p> <p><u>Incorporate</u> – include community in decision-making</p> <p><u>Partner</u> – community-driven project concepts, solidify formal partnerships</p>



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Best Practices

	Good	Better	Best
Example Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Open houses • Presentations • Listening sessions • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive workshops and tours • Community Forums • Canvassing • Transparent responses to community comments • Document expanded understanding and commitment to ongoing relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOUs or support letters with CBOs and/or elected officials • Community organizing • Citizen advocacy committees • Community-driven planning • Participatory Action Research



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Guidance: Additional Best Practices

- Budget for outreach and engagement activities
- Communicate early and often with your respective Watershed Coordinator
- Engage with elected representatives to benefit from existing conversations, relationships, and planning efforts
- Leverage the engagement expertise of local CBOs and NGOs
- Use methods appropriate in scale, type, and language to the community
- Review recent engagement efforts with the same community to become familiar with community goals and wishes
- Use multiple platforms (online media, grassroots outreach, etc.)



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Guidance: Documenting Engagement and Support

- Should address specific SCWP benefits and goals
- Documentation may include, but is not limited to:
 - Letters from involved community leaders, NGOs/CBOs, individuals, and elected representatives stating their support
 - Community engagement plans that incorporate best practices
 - Letters of support from CBO/NGOs explaining how they contributed to shaping the proposed project
 - Verification that the benefits provided directly address identified community needs



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Guidance: Tools and Strategies for WASCs and Scoring Committee

- To evaluate Community Engagement and Support:
 - Read application's justification about Community Engagement and Support for the project
 - During presentations by project proponents or SC evaluations, ask questions about the Community Engagement and Support for the Project.
 - Ask Watershed Coordinator(s) to evaluate and report to the WASC how the people, city and county agencies, and other stakeholders would describe community needs, concerns, and objectives in the Watershed Area.



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Guidance: Future Vision

- Metrics and Monitoring Study includes community engagement, and will be complete in 2023
- District plans to launch a dedicated portion of the webpage to highlight appropriate community events/engagements
- Future guidance, which will include (non-exhaustive):
 - Refinement of best practices for community engagement
 - Integration with the guidance for implementation of disadvantaged community benefits
 - Integration with work of the Watershed Coordinators, and the District Education program



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Additional Resources

- [The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#)
 - Originally developed by Rosa González of Facilitating Power in partnership with Movement Strategy Center
- [Principios y Comunidad: Principles that Redefine Strategies & Approaches for Impactful Community Engagement](#)
 - Developed by Mujeres de la Tierra
- Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) Envision Manual Section LD1.3
 - Included as an attachment in the guidance document

Water Supply Guidance



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Purpose of this Guidance

- Establish a shared vocabulary for considering water supply benefits
- Clarifies how a project developer or applicant should characterize water supply benefits in relation to the Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria
- Provides guidance to the scoring committee on how projects claiming water supply benefits should be evaluated
- Provides guidance to the nine WASCs about how to assess water supply benefits when evaluating projects and programs



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SCWP Water Supply Benefit Definition

Los Angeles Flood Control District Code Section 16.03.00: ***“Water Supply Benefit”*** means an increase in the amount of locally available water supply, provided there is a nexus to Stormwater or Urban Runoff capture. Activities resulting in this benefit include, but are not limited to, the following:

- reuse and conservation practices,
- diversion of Stormwater or Urban Runoff to a sanitary sewer system for direct or indirect water recycling,
- increased groundwater replenishment or available yield, or
- offset of potable water use.



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Guidance – Five Scenarios

1. Projects in watersheds with existing downstream stormwater capture facilities (or other proposed downstream projects);
2. Projects claiming to capture “first flush” flows that would not be captured by existing or concurrent projects;
3. Projects claiming future water supply benefit due to future projects or infrastructure;
4. Projects diverting onsite runoff to a sanitary sewer; and
5. Project claiming infiltration of water



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Scenario 1

1. Projects in watersheds with existing downstream stormwater capture facilities (or other proposed downstream projects)
 - Project proponents must make good faith effort to understand downstream
 - Scoring Committee consider fact-based analysis provided by proponent
 - Scoring committee is the spot where relationships between projects is established
 - Those with input about these questions should engage at the Scoring Committee to support decision-making

Scenario 2

2. Projects claiming to capture “first flush” flows that would not be captured by existing or concurrent projects.
 - Projects must demonstrate the value of these limited events and volume caught
 - Scoring Committee should use modeled first flush volumes only for benefit assessment

Scenario 3

3. Projects claiming future water supply benefit due to future projects or infrastructure
 - Projects cannot receive water supply benefits that depend on future projects. The future project may be associated with those benefits.

Scenario 4

4. Projects diverting onsite runoff to a sanitary sewer;
 - In the interim, all volume being diverted to a sanitary sewer with capacity will be regarded as water supply
 - This may change in the future when a more refined quantitative analysis becomes available

Scenario 5

5. Project claiming infiltration of water

- Current work between the District and the US Bureau of Reclamation may provide enhancement to this guidance.
- In the interim, if a project provides written concurrence from the agency managing the groundwater basin where the project is believed to increase supply, the full infiltrated volume will be considered a water supply benefit

Future Vision

- Metrics and Monitoring Study includes evaluation of Water Supply Benefits, and will be complete in 2023
- Future guidance, which will include (non-exhaustive):
 - Analysis of hydrogeological conditions, groundwater management on a watershed basis
 - Consideration of watershed areas where it is believed that all dry weather and stormwater runoff is captured or recharged or is accounted for in existing management agreements
 - If and/or how cleaned dry weather or stormwater runoff to streams or waterbodies with habitat beneficial uses could be judged a water supply for nature



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Programming of Nature-Based Solutions

no substantive changes from 2021 guidance



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Nature-Based Solutions in the SCWP

- Section 16.03.V: Nature-Based Solutions means a Project that utilizes natural processes that slow, detain, infiltrate or filter Stormwater or Urban Runoff. These methods may include:
 - relying predominantly on soils and vegetation;
 - increasing the permeability of Impermeable Areas;
 - protecting undeveloped mountains and floodplains;
 - creating and restoring riparian habitat and wetlands;
 - creating rain gardens, bioswales, and parkway basins; and
 - enhancing soil through composting, mulching, and planting trees and vegetation, with
 - preference for native species.



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Nature-Based Solutions Guidance

- Guidance document clarifies how best to prioritize Nature-Based Solutions
- Specifically aims to help the WASCs prioritize Nature-Based Solutions when evaluating Projects and programming SIPs
- Highlights how different individuals and entities can support the SCWP requirement that Regional Infrastructure Program funds “Shall be programmed, to the extent feasible, such that Nature-Based Solutions are prioritized” (Section 16.05.D.1.g)



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Links between Needs, SCWP Goals, and NBS

Identified Need or Desired Outcome	Potential Natural Processes & Nature-Mimicking Strategies	SCWP Benefits
Improved environmental water quality	Bioretention; biofiltration; removed impermeable area; increase of permeability; soil enhancement; green streets	Water Quality Benefit
Increased local water supply	Surface and subsurface infiltration to groundwater; treat and release clean stormwater flows for a justified beneficial use; stormwater capture to offset irrigation with potable water; soil enhancement to offset irrigation with potable water; new native and climate-appropriate planting to offset irrigation with potable water; remove impermeable area; increase permeability	Water Supply Benefit
Improved flood management	Bioretention; native and climate appropriate planting; removal of impermeable area; increase of permeability; microtopography changes; protection or restoration of riparian or wetland systems	Community Investment Benefit (CIB): Flood Management
Improved flood conveyance	Stream daylighting; bioretention; microtopography changes; removed impermeable surfaces; increase of permeability; localized infiltration to groundwater	CIB: Flood Conveyance



Complete table on pages 6-7



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WASC Assessment of Projects

Questions to Ask Regarding Individual Projects

Are there natural processes or nature-mimicking strategies that this Project will use to address watershed needs and deliver SCWP benefits?

If not, should this project be revisited for future SIP consideration instead?



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WASC Assessment of SIPs

Questions to Ask Regarding SIPs

Has the WASC prioritized Nature-Based Solutions within this and prior Stormwater Investment Plans?

How are the Nature-Based Solutions funded to-date collectively providing the anticipated benefits to the Watershed Area, and where are the biggest needs or opportunities?

Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program

no substantive changes from 2021 guidance



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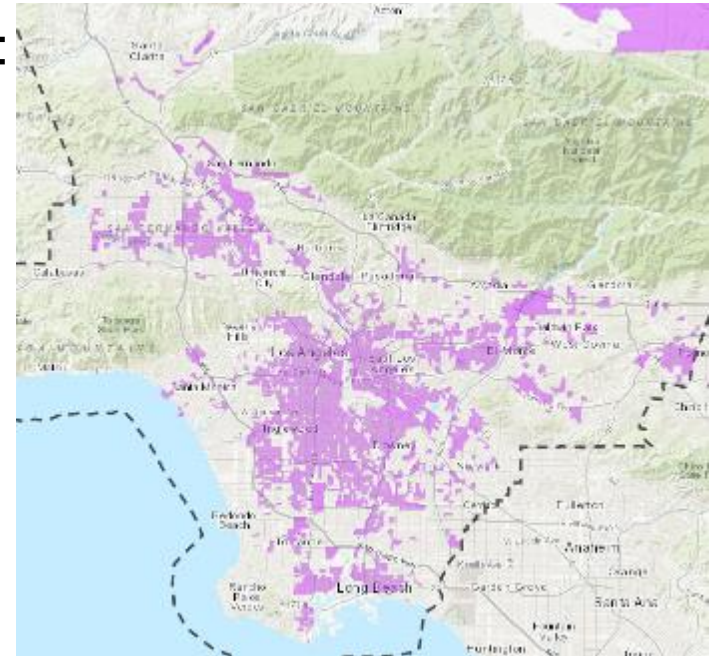


SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Goal

Investing in disadvantaged communities by:

- Locating beneficial Projects within, or
- Such that the benefits of a Project are directly provided to,

Census Block Groups where the median household income is less than 80% of the statewide median household income (MHI)



SCWP Digital Spatial Data Library

<https://arcg.is/rbKfm>



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Interpreting “Disadvantaged Community Benefit”

1. Projects where **any of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community** will be considered “within” a disadvantaged community, and therefore providing a Disadvantaged Community Benefit
2. Projects where **none of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community** can be considered to provide a Disadvantaged Community Benefit **if it provides a “direct benefit” to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community**

Consideration of Direct Benefit

Whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” as used in SCWP policy will be **a decision made by WASCs on a project-by-project basis**, considering:

- the goals of the SCWP,
- the benefits provided to the community by each Project, and
- the area within which those benefits will be felt.



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Consideration of Direct Benefit

Considering different geographic boundaries

Steps to evaluate:

1. Is there a formal or informal community boundary more appropriate than Census Block Group boundaries to consider for the benefit area of a particular Project? If yes...
2. Using that boundary as a community, does the median household income statistic or the current CalEnviroScreen tool consider that community “disadvantaged?” If yes...
3. Does the WASC wish to recommend that the Project will provide benefits across the entire community boundary?

CalEnviroScreen:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/maps-data>



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Community Support

- One of the most effective ways to document if a Project will provide benefit to a community is if the community itself says so and expresses support
- Similarly, decisions by the WASC can rely upon the lack of documented public support, or the presence of documented resistance from members of a community

WASC Tools and Strategies

Tools and strategies to evaluate Disadvantaged Community Benefits that WASC members can use during Project evaluation:

- The WASC can read the justification provided in the application and submitted Feasibility Study about Disadvantaged Community Benefits claimed for the Project.
- During presentations by Project proponents, the WASC members can ask questions about the Disadvantaged Community Benefits claimed for the Project.
- During the agendaized Project Discussion period, any voting WASC member may suggest modifying the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation of a Project in accordance with 18.07.B.2.c and the recommended criteria described above as part of a motion related to the formation of a SIP.
 - When modifying a Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation from NO to YES, where justification was therefore not provided in the Project Module application and submitted Feasibility Study, the WASC may consider the recommended criteria described herein and seek equivalent information to that solicited in the Project Module and otherwise as necessary.



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WASC Tools and Strategies

Tools and strategies to evaluate Disadvantaged Community Benefits that WASC members can use at any time:

- **WASCs can ask their Watershed Coordinator(s) to evaluate and report to the WASC how the people, city and county agencies, and other stakeholders would describe the preferred Disadvantaged Community Benefits in the Watershed Area.**
- **WASCs can invite informational presentations from agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders to better understand potential Disadvantaged Community Benefits sought and challenges faced in the Watershed Area.**



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Metrics & Monitoring Study (MMS)

- MMS is designed to develop recommendations for program metrics and monitoring through a stakeholder driven process.
- Help inform adaptive management of the SCWP, potentially including updates to guidance documents, scoring criteria, monitoring, and project development.



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Questions and Discussion



Full guidance documents available:

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/regional-program-2/>



SCWP Digital Spatial Data Library

<https://arcg.is/rbKfm>



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