



TreePeople



Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report

A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: Santa Clara River
Watershed Coordinator: TreePeople
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Quarterly Report No: 3
Contract Year: 2
Year 2 Contract Start: 4/27/2022
Date of Submission: 1/31/2023
Period Covered: 11/1/2022 to 1/31/2023

A. Summary of Activities

TreePeople is honored and grateful to serve as Coordinator for the Santa Clara River Watershed Area. Following is a summary of activities completed during the third quarter of Year 2, and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work.

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

TreePeople moved further on project development for unincorporated areas in the watershed, drawing on resources provided by the WaterTalks Program (IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program). This is a continuation of a key strategy began in Year One. These projects have a variety of Technical Assistance being offered and should be wrapped up by late summer 2023. Outcomes vary based on the nature of the project or program:

- Septic System Education Support Program
- Acton Flooding Multi-benefit Solution
- Native American Land Restoration with the Tataviam Land Conservancy
- Tap Water Quality Testing Program
- Small Water System Partnership

Another project, the Rural Water Supply Reliability program, was funded in 2022 and is getting underway with a Community Meeting scheduled for February 15 to launch the program. This will become an independent project of TreePeople, and no longer be part of WaterTalks or SCWP.

We also began conversations with schools; Facilities staff at Saugus Unified School District reached out interested in SCWP funding to enhance renovations already planned at multiple campuses. We were able to connect them with a tour of a school in LA that has incorporated stormwater capture and other BMPs. We're also in touch with the iLEAD school in Agua Dulce asking for guidance on a small stormwater capture demonstration project they have assembled.

2. Partnerships and networks engaged

We continued support for the new Santa Clara Valley Environmental Coalition including the California Native Plant Society, Citizens Climate Lobby, Sierra Club, Santa Clarita Hiking Club, and Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment, among others. We are connecting this Coalition to a series of in-depth trainings being provided by WaterTalks.

We continued support for multiple organizations involved in the Watershed-Wide Arundo Management Group (WWAM). A \$1.75M proposal was submitted in Quarter 2 to the Strategic Growth Council to provide coordination across the watershed but was not funded. Additional sources are being sought to provide multi-year coordination to help define a Watershed-wide management structure and launch campaigns to secure major funding for implementation. Core members include the Santa Clara River Conservancy, Friends of the Santa Clara River, the Nature Conservancy, Fernandeno Tataviam, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, CalTrout, UC Santa Barbara Institute of Marine Biology and public agencies from both LA and Ventura counties.

Another major network continues to be the collective of Watershed Coordinators across the SCWP. We attended monthly Coordinator meetings throughout the quarter and supported other Coordinator's efforts. Of special note was our collaboration with Watershed Coordinators on outreach and a day of stormwater site tours (Dec 3) in collaboration with South and Central Santa Monica Bay Coordinators.

3. Engagement of conventional and unconventional stakeholders

We participated in both public workshops of the Metrics and Monitoring Study, as well as the MMS Stakeholder Advisory Committee. We advocated for the need for a watershed approach to planning that looks at the Water Supply goal of the program as unique to each Watershed Area and allows scoring that reflects this uniqueness. The current scoring system pushes proponents to stretch their approach and design elements just to get the scoring points, rather than truly serve the needs of the Watershed Area.

Amanda has continued her role as a spokesperson for SCWP, appearing recently on KPCC’s AirTalk to share about at-home approaches to capturing the rain we’re currently blessed with.

Following a public request made at a WASC meeting in 2022 by a Bouquet Canyon resident, we conducted research into the situation (reduction of flows to groundwater from the reservoir) and continued outreach to resident contacts. We connected them with a County Town Hall sharing updates on long-term efforts to improve the situation.

Updates on our activities were provided to the WASC as well as Town Council leaders throughout the period. Engagement has increased with the Val Verde Civic Association and through our monthly presence at the Canyon Country and Newhall Farmers markets.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Summary (required elements)

Element	Minimum	This Qtr.	Total YTD
Engagement meetings held	4	3	9
Educational events held	2	2	5
Other meetings attended	0	27	87
Cost-share partner relationships	0	1	5
Leveraged funding pursuits	0	0	3

Detail

No.	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	ATTCH #
1	WASC	11.03.22	Quarterly update	WASC, public	Attended	
2	LA County San Tour	11.05.22	Outreach and education	Public	Attended	
3	Agua Dulce Town Council	11.09.22	SCWP update	Community	Attended	
4	Val Verde Civic Association	11.10.22	SCWP update	Community	Attended	
5	Sierra Club Local Mtg	11.10.22	Outreach and education	Members	Attended	
6	Citizens Climate Lobby	11.12.22	SCWP update	Community	Attended	
7	Metrics & Mon. Study	11.15.22	Study feedback	Community; Our Water LA	Attended	
8	Metrics & Mon. Study	11.16.22	Study feedback	Community	Attended	
9	Canyon Country Farmers Mkt	11.16.22	Outreach and education	Local residents	Attended	

10	Soil Mgmt Webinar	11.17.22	Present home BMPs / Education	Community	Hosted	
11	Newhall Farmers Mkt	11.19.22	Outreach and education	Local residents	Attended	
12	Blue Table Talk	11.20.22	Supported HTB on outreach	Community	Attended	
13	Acton Town Council	11.21.22	Outreach and education	Local residents	Attended	
14	WWAM group	11.23.22	Funding for river restoration	Multiple Orgs.	Attended	
15	(WC) Schools & Stormwater Grp	11.29.22	Engage schools in SCWP	Watershed Coordinators	Attended	
16	Saugus USD	11.30.22	Response to inquiry	SUSD facility staff	Hosted	
17	SCWP Scoring Comm	12.01.22	SCR project under review	Interested parties	Attended	
18	WASC	12.01.22	Monthly update	WASC, public	Attended	
19	SCMB Tour event	12.03.22	Led tour of TP Gardens / Education	Public	Co-hosted	
20	Watershed Coord check in	12.07.22	Monthly discussion	Watershed Coordinators	Attended	
21	Bouquet Canyon Creek mtg	12.07.22	Outreach and education	Local residents	Attended	
22	Val Verde Civic Association	12.08.22	Discuss local septic issues	Local residents	Attended	
23	Steelhead Trout Coalition	12.08.22	Gave SCWP update	Multiple Orgs.	Attended	
24	FTBMI Fruit Tree Dist. (San Fernando)	12.10.22	Outreach Event	Tribal members	Co-hosted	
25	Sierra Club Comm Education	12.17.22	Presented SCWP website tour	Club members, public	Attended	
26	Newhall Farmers Mkt	12.17.22	Outreach and education	Local residents	Attended	
27	Agua Dulce Town Council	1.11.23	Monthly update	Local residents	Attended	
28	Metrics & Mon. Study	1.18.23	Review progress and next steps	Stakeholder Advisory	Attended	
29	WaterTalks Agency Wkshp.	1.19.23	Working with CBOs	Community leaders	Attended	
30	Watershed Coord check in	1.25.23	Monthly discussion	Watershed Coordinators	Attended	
31	WWAM group	1.26.23	Funding for river restoration	Multiple Orgs.	Attended	
32	Fruit Tree Giveaway w/ FTBMI	1.28.23	Tribal Climate Resilience Plan	Tribal members, residents	Hosted	

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	ATTCH #
1	CA Strategic Growth Council	1.13.23	Feedback on RCC Proposal (not awarded)	Funding for Watershed Wide Arundo Management	
2	CA Strategic Growth Council	1.18.23	Grant guidelines workshop	Funding for Watershed Wide Arundo Management	

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	ATTCH #
1	None this period		

E. Detailed Progress Report

Task #	Task Name	LOE per Work Plan	LOE this period	LOE YTD
1	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	40%	57%	61%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	10%	25%	18%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	5%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate, ID and Represent Community Priorities	10%	0%	0%
5	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships / Networks	5%	5%	2%
6	Cost-Share Partners	5%	2%	1%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	0%	10%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	7%	4%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	4%	4%
	Overall	100%	100%	100%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

TreePeople engaged a dedicated Community Organizer for the watershed area in Quarter 1, who canvassed state-defined Disadvantaged Communities in general outreach and is now participating in monthly Farmers Markets in Canyon Country and Newhall. In January, we hosted a fruit tree giveaway in Newhall for lower-income residents and members of the Fernandeño Tataviam.

TreePeople also continued to prioritize outreach efforts to support WaterTalks project development during the period on unincorporated communities in the Watershed Area. These areas are considered “underrepresented” by the WaterTalks program.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

There were no scheduling concerns during this period.

H. Expected activities next quarter

- Apply for funding for Watershed Wide Arundo Management program
- Support for WaterTalks project development and education programs
- Support an educational Earth Day event with the Santa Clarita Environmental Coalition

(End Report)