

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Santa Monica, showing a dense urban grid, a bay, and mountains in the background. The image is partially obscured by a dark teal overlay on the left side where the text is placed.

# Blackwelder Community Greenbelt BMPs and Landscape Improvement

Technical Resources Program

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Central Santa Monica Bay

Project Lead(s): Nancy Ngugi, Mike Meador, Michael Berns

Presenter Name(s): Nancy Ngugi, Michael Berns



# Project Overview

Our proposed Blackwelder Community Greenbelt project will create a green infrastructure network along the boundaries of the Adams Chanel and Ballona Creek; consisting of stormwater gardens, bike trails, and walking paths can unite this portion of the Lower Ballona Creek while increasing opportunities for the pollination of the native flora. Pathways and seating gardens can be set within abundantly landscaped areas with native plant materials selected to transform the current site conditions. Beyond habitat restoration, the project design promotes public interaction with the surrounding natural environment through increased access points, seating areas, and educational signage. Landscape improvement at the selected sites shows potential to create an outdoor classroom by providing histories of the Gabrielino/Tongva, and about the systems, habitats, and species required for restoring natural resources.

- **Primary Objective:** to capture and clean stormwater
- **Secondary Objectives:** to balance climate equity and DAC resilience
- **Project Status:** TRP
- **Total Funding Requested:** \$300,000





# Project Background

- **Why was the Project Location selected?**
  - The Blackwelder/ Adams Channel was selected based on community interests and needs. Additionally, the potential to maximize multi-benefits was a main criteria
- **How was the Project developed?**
  - Community Outreach workshops were conducted in 2018-2019 (CGW is currently still engaged with our stakeholders about Blackwelder)
  - Distillation and analysis of community feedback created 22 points of improvement
  - A feasibility study was compiled in 2018 which assessed BMPs via nature-based solutions to help with the project's goals



## Project Background, cont.

- Which regional water management plan includes the proposed project?
  - CGW is in the process of finalizing introjection into IRWM
- Description of benefits to municipality/municipalities
  - Water quality and stormwater capture enhancement
  - Opportunities for engagement between local businesses and community
- Description of benefits to Disadvantaged Communities
  - Easier/ increased access to green spaces
  - Connectivity to more green spaces (Park to Playa)
  - Climate resiliency for vulnerable communities



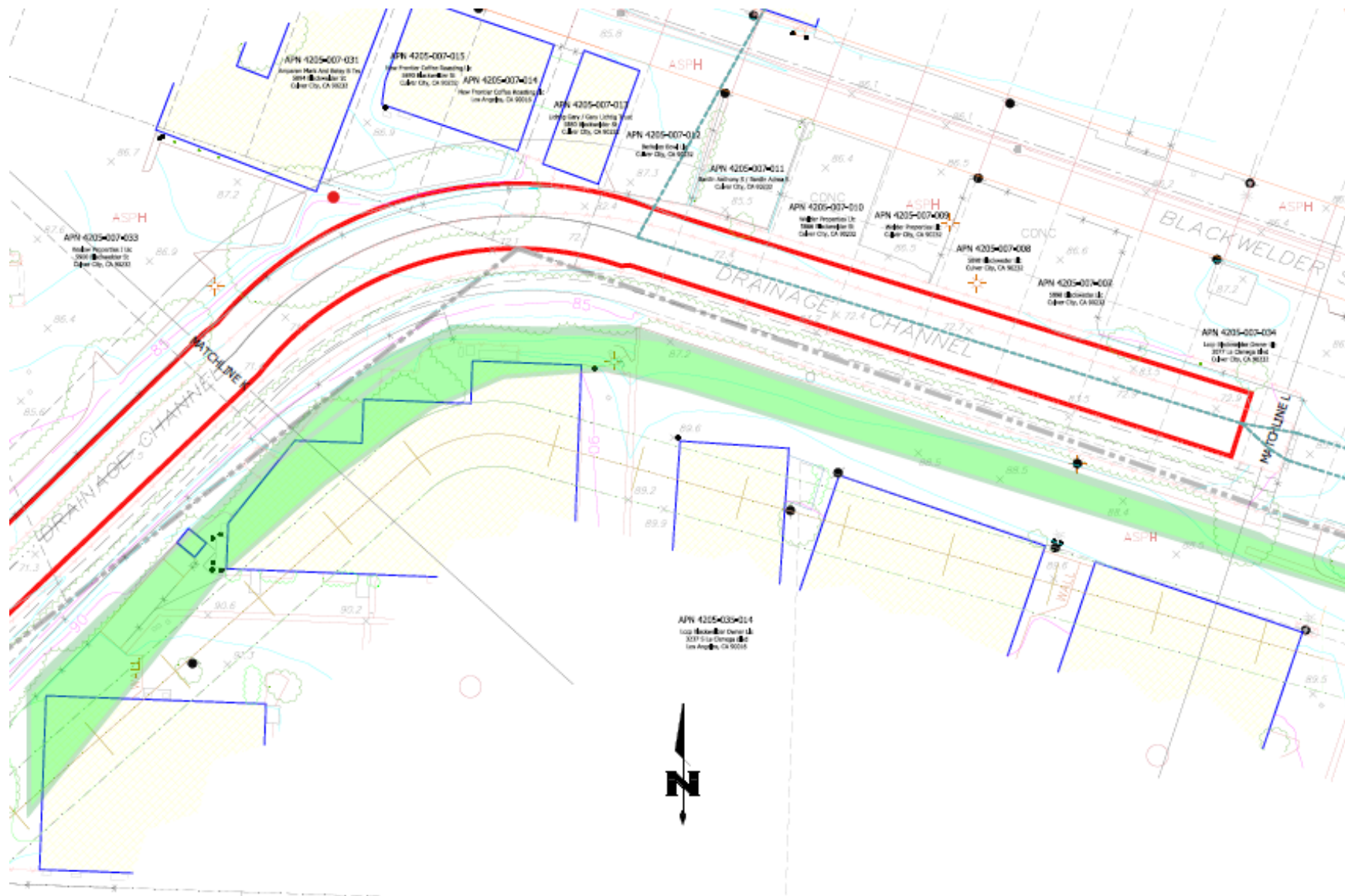
# Partners

- Who are the implementation partners already identified?
  - California Conservation Corp, Duane Border Design, LADWP
- What communities or groups have expressed support for the project?
  - Baldwin Hills Conservancy, California Conservation Corp, Ballona Creek Renaissance, Streets for All
- Have you received a letter of concurrence from the municipality (if needed)
  - NA
- Have you received a letter of concurrence from the Flood Control District (if needed)
  - NA
- Have you yet engaged the appropriate vector control district about the project concept?
  - NA



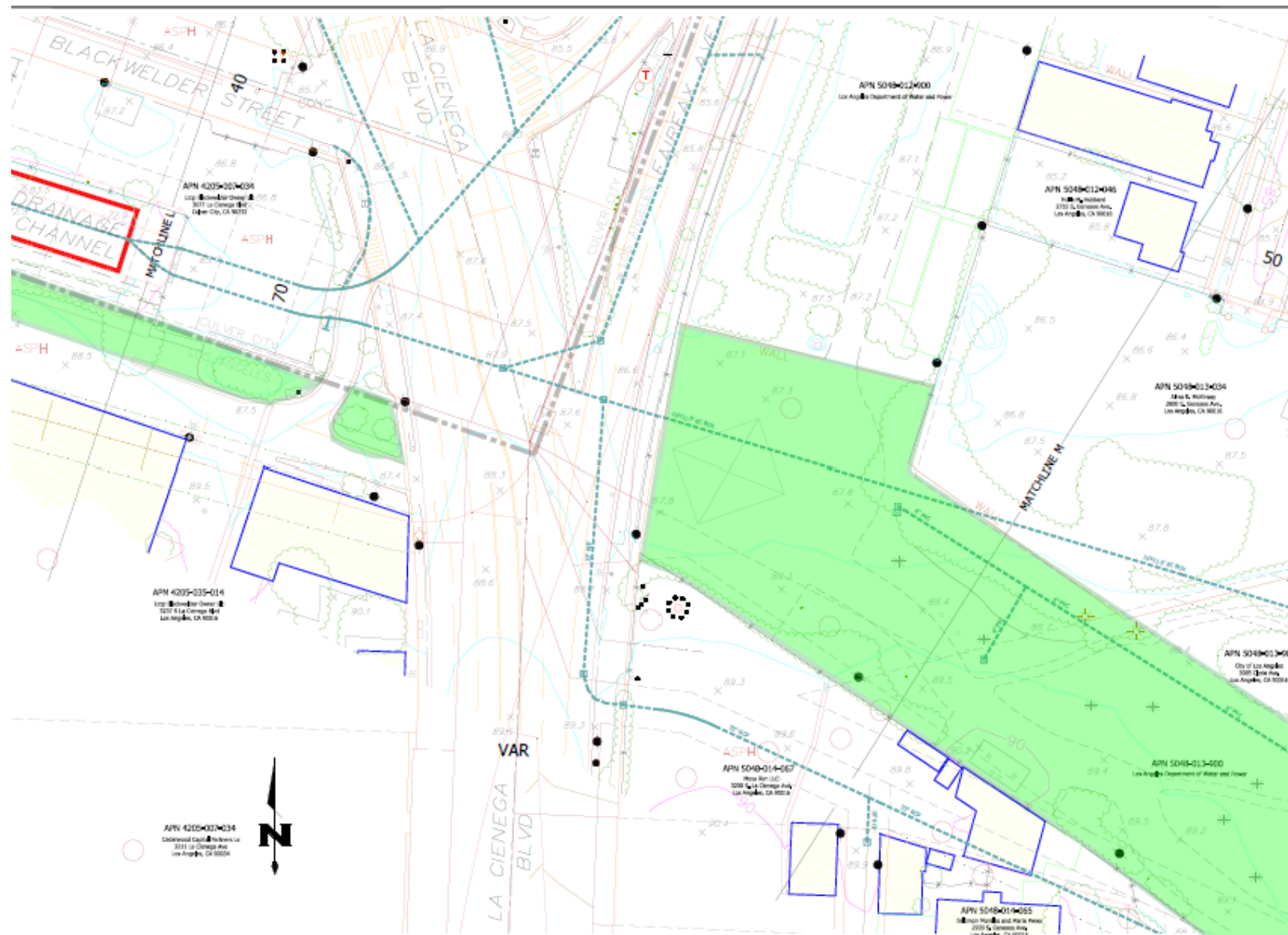


# Project Details, site location B





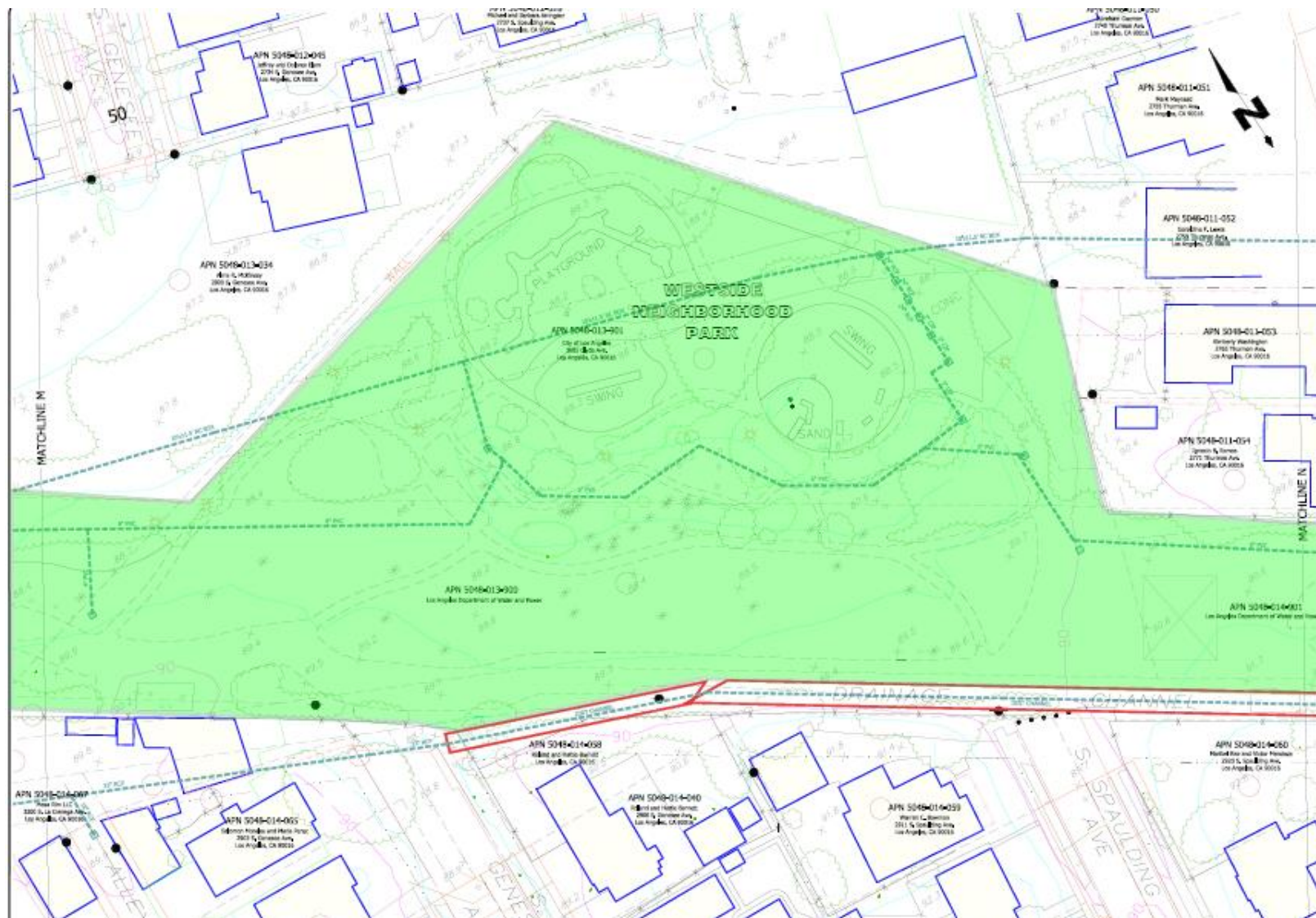
# Project Details, site location C





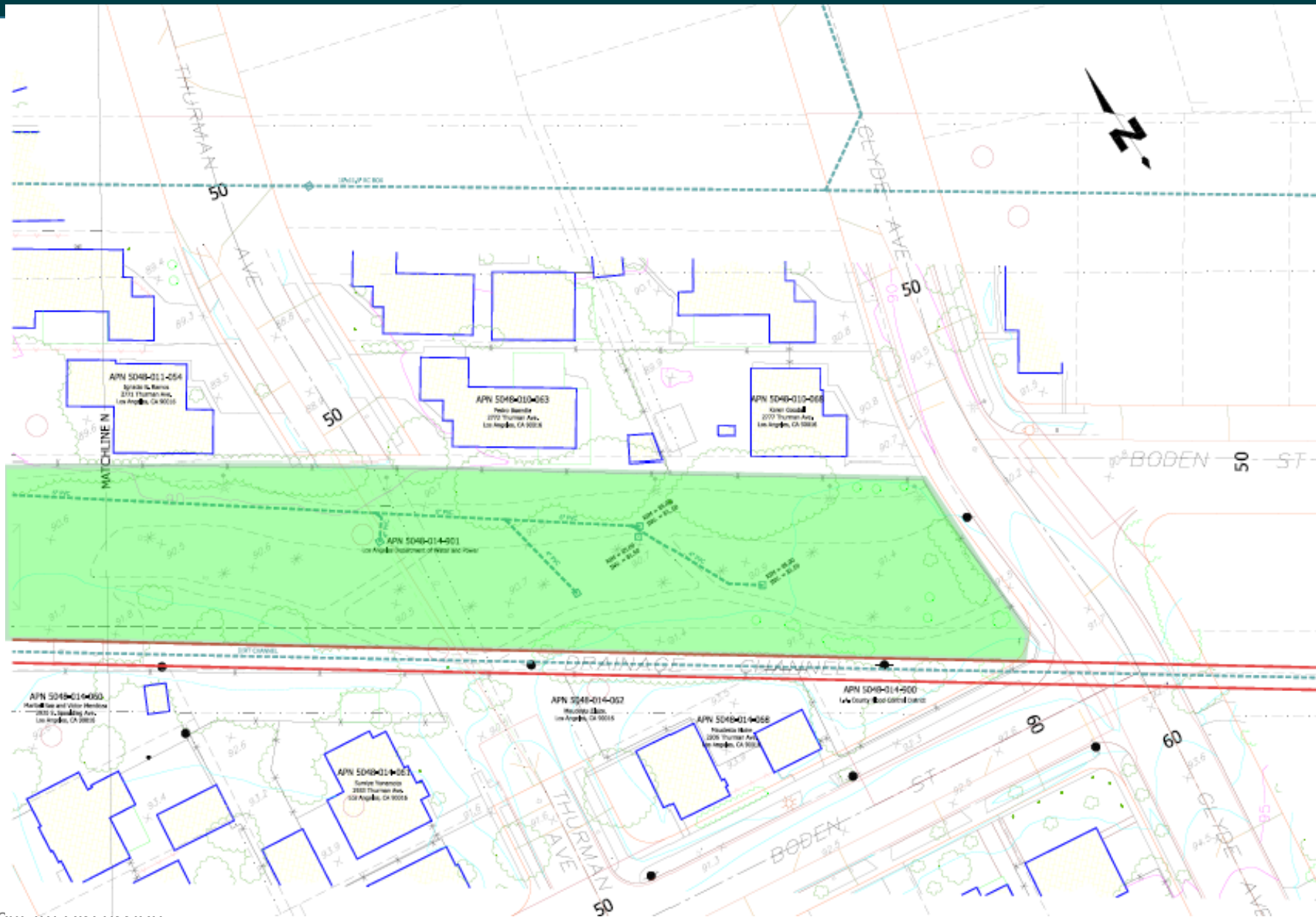


# Project Details, site location D





# Project Details, site location E





## Project Details, cont.

- Description of current site conditions and completed studies/analysis
  - a narrow, dense drainage channel corridor surrounded by major arterial streets, industrial buildings, and commercial buildings
  - Blackwelder Tract drainage area is less than half a mile from high-density housing development that serve low-income minority population
  - Adams Channel straddles Culver City and Los Angeles, however the proposed project is solely on the LACFCD easements, in Los Angeles
- Description of any alternatives considered
  - A macro-level hydrology analysis was performed to determine overall drainage patterns and quantify runoff at discharge locations along an approximately one mile stretch of the Ballona Creek from Washington Boulevard to Higuera Street
  - Sites were then narrowed down by the volume of storm water runoff, placing priority on sites closest to the largest clusters of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
  - Use of the CalENVIRO tool helped site selection



## Project Details, cont.

- Design and implement green Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) flood management and environmental enhancement goals.
- Create new green space and parkway using nature-based solutions, piloting a new type of land-use on underutilized easements in highly developed urban environment.
  - Improve local water quality and support achievement of the Ballona Creek Enhance Watershed Management Program (EWMP) objectives.
- Restore local ecosystems and habitat connectivity between Ballona Creek, Baldwin Hill Park and Outlook as well as linkage to public transit system.
- Provide access and multiple benefits to disadvantaged communities (DACs) that include recreational and educational opportunities, including out-door learning activities for surrounding communities.
- Engage and increase public participation through stewardship while promoting social responsibility.
- Promote storm water capture and re-use through low-impact-development (LIDs) design elements for landscape improvement consistent with the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).
- Restore habitat and create connectivity to existing Baldwin Hills Park, Scenic Outlook and Ballona Creek.



# Cost & Schedule\*

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Construction Cost	Construction of project	\$1,697,395.00	3-4 years after grant award
Planning and Design	Planning, designing along with technical studies, administrative costs and overhead.	\$1,975,976.80	No more than 2 years after grant award
Annual Maintenance Costs	Maintaining landscape, safety and upkeep	\$40,700.00	30 year life cycle
Annual Operation	Project Management and Admin.	\$65,000.00	First five years after construction is complete
Annual Monitoring	Reports and studies	\$45,000.00	First five years after construction is complete
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,673,371.80/ annually \$150,700</b>	

\*subject to revision based on current market rates



# Questions?

**Nancy Ngugi**

**Michael Berns**