



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Claire Robinson Organization\*: Amigos de los Rios  
Email\*: claire@AMIGOSDELOSRIOS.ORG Phone\*: 6266765027  
Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/14/2023

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments  
\*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

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(ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

## Comments

We would like to have the opportunity to share a public comment.

We would like to share some input from our perspective as a non profit participant in the SCW TRP/Implementation Grants process on systematic challenges we are facing. Our hope is to raise these issues so we can brainstorm solutions together and move forward successfully = and improve path forward for increased non profit sector participation in SCW.

Thank you.  
Claire Robinson -  
Managing Director  
Amigos de los Rios



SAFE  
CLEAN  
WATER  
PROGRAM

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To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit [www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)



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# CHANGING THE COURSE?

WHAT'S WORKED, WHAT HASN'T, AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SCWP

*AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRST THREE ROUNDS OF THE SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM  
REGIONAL FUNDING PROGRAM*

FEBRUARY 2023

# OVERVIEW OF TESTIMONY

- Outline high level findings (LAW assessment)
- Overarching themes for review
- Process for biennial review development
- Available resources/Next Steps

# WHERE WE ARE

## Celebrate Success!!!

Complex, multi-benefit program launched with significant programmatic success

## Identify areas for improvement

SCWP designed for adaptive management

## Perfect time for a deep breath before moving forward together!

Biennial review

# A COMPLEX PROGRAM GETS OFF THE GROUND AND ACHIEVES NOTABLE SUCCESS

- \$700M earmarked (Regional Program) in 3 rounds
  - 101 infrastructure projects (26 design, 69 construction, 6 O&M)
  - 35 Technical Resource Program projects
  - 14 scientific studies
  - 12 Watershed Coordinators hired
- \$368M in leveraged (matching) funds
- 36% of funded projects located w/in Disadvantaged Communities

Safe Clean Water Program Funded Infrastructure Projects



# POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Up to 50k AFY captured/reused; enough for ~553k residents
- 394M gallons/stormwater capacity per typical storm (5-10B gallons)
- 4,280 new trees being planted + 1.7M sq ft of vegetation
- 20 exemplar projects identified



## EARLY FUNDING TRENDS SUGGEST SCWP FUNDING IS HELPING TO CLEAR BACKLOG OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS...

- Applicants down over time (especially rounds 3-4)
- Projects are getting smaller

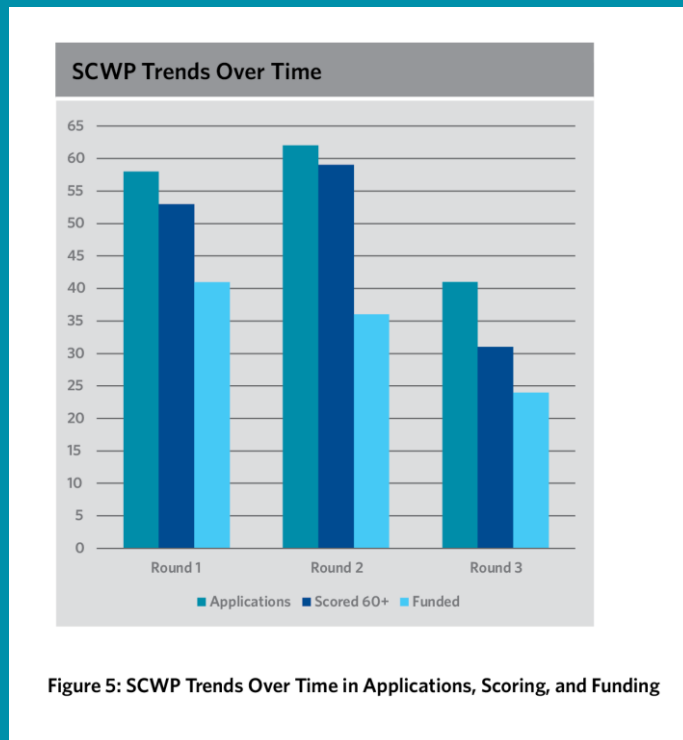


Figure 5: SCWP Trends Over Time in Applications, Scoring, and Funding

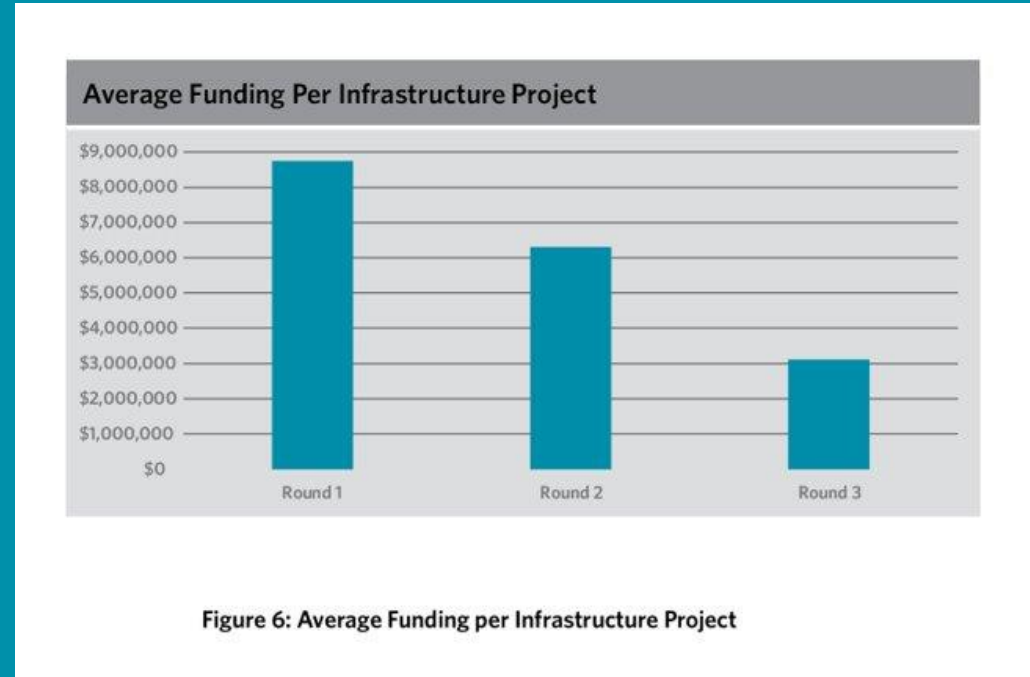


Figure 6: Average Funding per Infrastructure Project



# LARGER PUBLIC AGENCIES NAVIGATE PROCESS BETTER; OTHERS STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESS

Applicant	# of Applications Submitted	# of Applications Funded
LA Metro (Transit)	2	2
LA County	23	20
City of LA	26	18
Other Cities	73	46
NGOs	8	4
LAUSD	10	0*
Other School Districts	6	2



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STARTED SLOW, BUT IS GAINING TRACTION

- Community engagement is improving over course program
- Projects w/NGO involvement generally had higher levels of community engagement
- Technical Resources Program is generally working as intended
- Watershed Coordinators are onboard and should continue uplifting community voices
- Formal community outreach, education, and workforce development programs have not yet rolled out (slated for 2023)

# SOME PROJECT BENEFITS HARD TO CONFIRM

- Lack of specific metrics/clear definitions around community benefits
- No assessment of net benefits (or negative impacts) of projects
- Some benefits (e.g., water supply) may not be fully realized

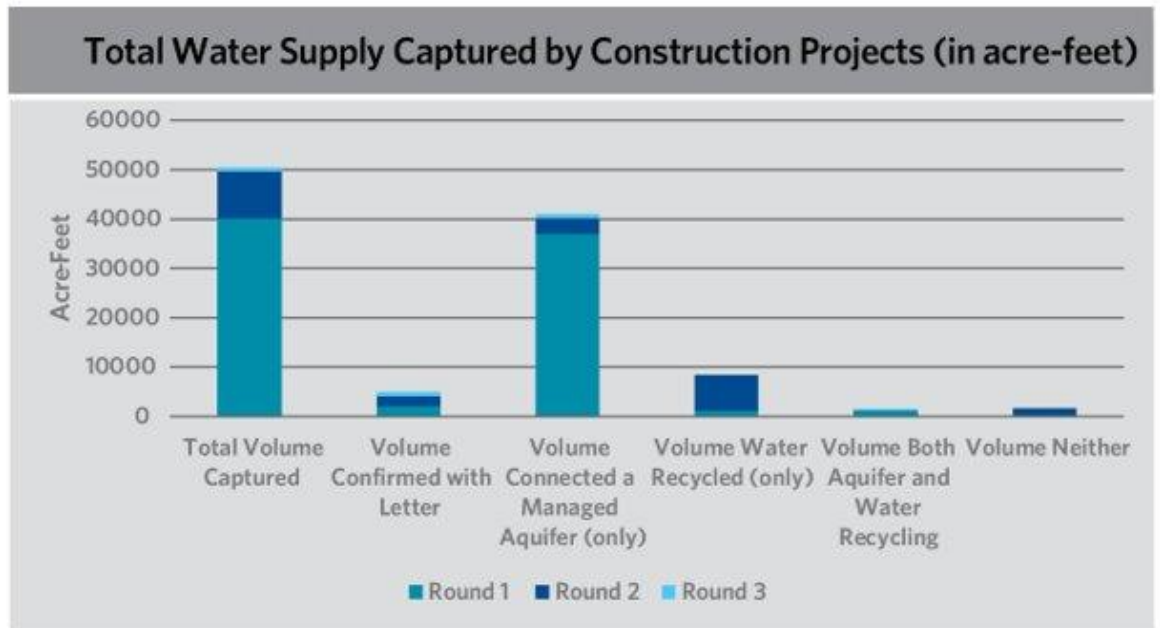


Figure 23: Total Water Supply Captured by Construction Projects by Method in acre-feet

## ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACH TO PROJECT PHASES AND WATERSHEDS FALLS SHORT IN SOME AREAS

- Difficult to compare projects at different stages
- Different watersheds present different stormwater management opportunities & challenges

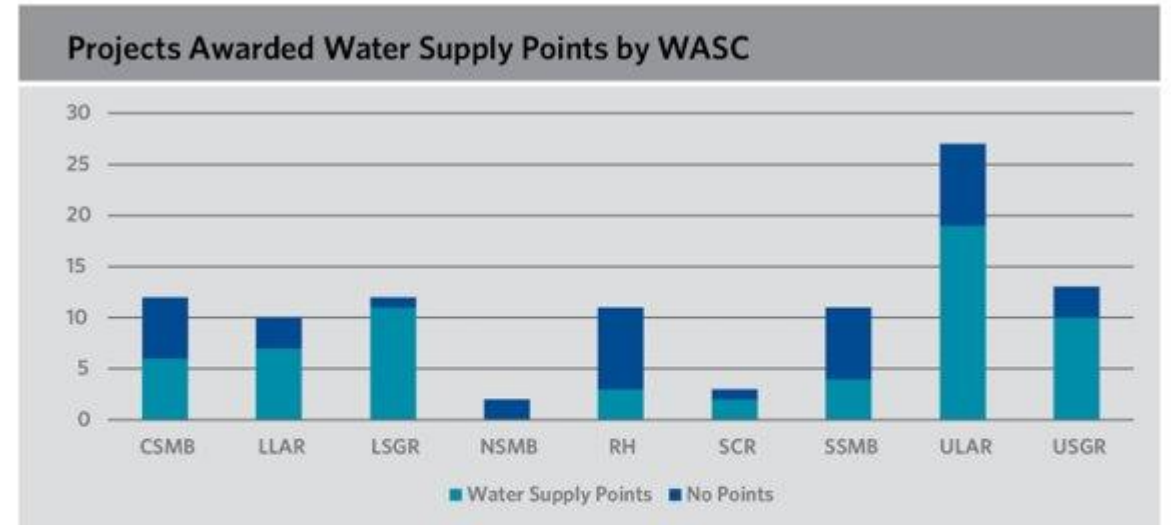


Figure 26: Number of Projects Awarded Water Supply Points by Watershed

Only 6 of 101 funded projects will create new park space or green a school

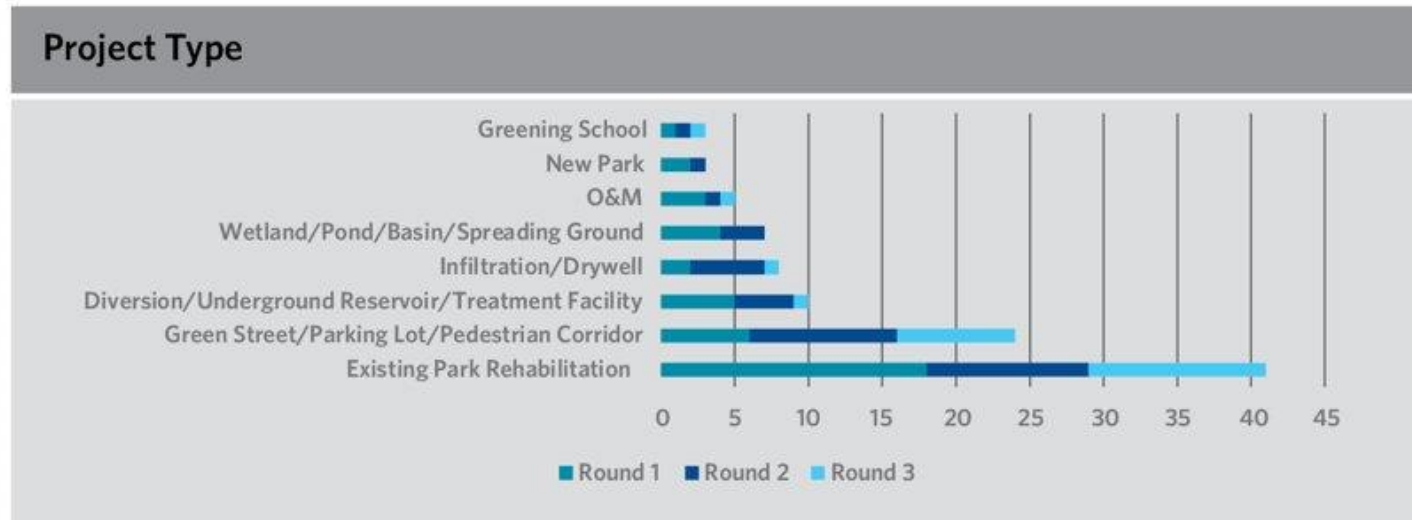


Figure 9: Infrastructure Project Breakdown by Type

## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

- ROC must undertake ROBUST biennial review (starting NOW)!
- Take steps to prioritize hardscape removal, creation of NEW green space -- especially schools and park-poor communities
- Adopt more metrics/clearer definitions around Community Investment Benefits, Community Support & DAC Benefits
- Ensure water quality and supply benefits being met (monitoring)
- Roll out outreach/workforce programs now!



## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE (Cont.)

- Consider more foundational changes – adopt where possible
  - Develop watershed specific rubric
  - Separate out Design/Construction/O&M scoring rubrics
  - Revisit cost-benefit criteria (move towards full-cost accounting)
  - Explore parcel-based programs
  - Be more proactive/visionary (data + robust needs assessment)

## TAKE-AWAYS

- In 3+ years, LA County has gotten California's (and one of the nation's) most ambitious stormwater treatment and capture program off the ground.
- To date, SCWP's Regional Program has funded 101 projects @ ~\$1B.
- The program's success has been uneven, but it has made significant strides.
- The SCWP was designed to be reviewed and improved in an ongoing way – it's a feature, not a bug. **NOW** is the time to make needed changes.

# ROC PROCESS/SCOPE

- **Meeting #1 – intake (presentations on various reports/assessments; public comment) & outline report (June)**
- *Meeting #2 – Water Quality & water supply (deep dive discussion)*
- *Meeting #3 – NBS/CIB/Greening/Green Schools (deep dive discussion)*
- *Meeting #4 – DAC benefitting/community engagement/ support/outreach & education programs (deep dive discussion)*
- *Meeting #5 – Workforce development/labor standards (deep dive discussion)*
- *Meeting #6 – Proactive vision/data collection/watershed specific/needs assessment/parcel-based (deep dive discussion)*
- *Meeting #7 – other elements – municipal program; scientific studies; process improvements; monitoring program; leveraging funding (deep dive discussion)*
- **Meeting #8 – deliberations; develop recommendations**
- **Meeting #9 - review draft report**
- **Meeting #10 – Adopt report (Nov)**



# ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

- **Review other studies/assessments:**
  - MMS (ongoing)
  - ARLA Working Group
  - UCLA Luskin/Stantec (DAC benefits, part of MMS study)
  - SCOPE (community engagement)
  - Scoring Committee notes
  - Prior OWLA letters
- **Undertake additional assessments:**
  - Municipal program
  - District program
  - Other elements of regional program (scientific studies, TRP)

# JOIN US!!!!

- LAW's SCWP Research Showcase
  - Deeper dive into LAW, ARLA, MMS, SCOPE reports
- July 27, 9am-noon (8:30 registration/continental bfast)
- Little Tokyo (RSVP for location)
- Come one/come all (free, public event)

# Q&A

Bruce Reznik, [bruce@lawwaterkeeper.org](mailto:bruce@lawwaterkeeper.org)



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