

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## North Santa Monica Bay

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Monday, February 8, 2021  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

#### **Attendees**

##### Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LA County Flood Control District)	Jessica Forte (Agoura Hills)
Dave Rydman (LAC Waterworks)	Sophie Freeman* (LA County Supervisor District 3)
David Pedersen (LVMWD)	Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Doug Marian (CPMCA)	Mark Johnson (Malibu)
Kendal Asuncion (LA Area Chamber of Commerce)	Roxanne Hughes (Westlake Village)
Tevin Schmitt (WCFCV)	Alex Farassati (Calabasas)
Kristen James (Community Stakeholder)	Dave Roberts (LVMWD)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Chad Christensen (MRCA)  
Kerry Kallman (Hidden Hills)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

David Pedersen, chair of the North Santa Monica Bay WASC, called the meeting to order. All committee members made self-introductions, and quorum was established.

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 22, 2020**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. David Pederson asked the WASC for comments or revisions.

Cung Nguyen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Bruce Hamamoto seconded the motion.

The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes. (12 Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

#### **3. Committee Member and District Updates**

Kirk Allen provided updates from the District, noting:

- Scoring Committee (SC) completed the scoring of 62 Projects; 59 Projects met the Threshold Score for Round 2.
  - Watershed Coordinators (WC) for all 9 WASCs have been selected. The 12 selected WCs are in the process of submitting their Letters of Intent and insurance requirements to proceed with Contract Agreements.
  - NSMB WASC project proposers will be presenting to the WASC for SIP funding consideration. SIPs will be available on the SCWP website for review.
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- Many Transfer Agreements (TAs) from the Cities have been received and executed. Cities are advised to communicate with the District for status updates on their respective TAs.
  - Tax relief program, such as for Low-Income Senior-Owned (LISO) properties and General Income-Based Tax Reductions (GIBTR), applications can be found on the SCW program website (due May 1, 2021). Additionally, property owners can apply for the tax Credit Program, which is for property owners who have invested in stormwater management infrastructure on their property.
  - Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met in January to discuss further guidance to assist with programming projects in the SCWP. The ROC will discuss Community Engagement and Disadvantage Community guidance in February.

Jessica Forte requested that the District provide information regarding the Senior Tax Credit relief options.

#### 4. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

#### 5. Discussion Items:

##### a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Mark Johnson noted having email communication with David Pedersen regarding population data. Also, he attended the ROC meeting but was unable to provide public comment due to computer issues.

Madelyn Glickfeld attended the ROC meeting but was unable to provide public comment due to timing of the agenda item.

##### b) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for North Santa Monica Bay WASC for consideration (SCW Program Portal)

The District provided a brief overview of the SCWP Portal and the different filters to locate project information.

Madelyn Glickfeld inquired as to the location of the Appendices/Attachments. The District indicated that these are located on the SCWP portal under Project Application.

##### c) Presentations for Technical Resources Program

- i) Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III – City of Calabasas. Presented by Alex Farassati.

Madelyn Glickfeld asked if there are trash inserts in the storm drains upstream of the Phase I & Phase II projects and asked how the project reduces nutrients. Alex Farassati indicated that the City has installed 156 full capture devices on catch basins and partial capture devices on other catch basins several years ago. Trash is an issue from the nearby landfill and freeway. The project will stabilize the creek's banks and reduce sediment transport and reduce the nutrient load, since the sediment carries nutrients.

Kristen James inquired about the project's priority. Alex Farassati noted that Las Virgenes Creek is the City's major creek and this project is their main priority.

- ii) Liberty Canyon Green Improvement – LA County Public Works. Presented by Aaron Chiang.

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Madelyn Glickfeld asked how the pollutant constituents affecting this area are being monitored and requested clarification on the project's boundary. Aaron Chiang stated that he would get back to the WASC with that information.

Cung Nguyen commented that the LA County Flood Control District has just completed a concept report for the Liberty Canyon Channel Improvements Project, which will address drainage issues but also includes multiuse components. This project will pair itself well with the presented project.

David Pedersen asked about alternative funding. Aaron Chiang stated he would get back to the WASC with funding information.

Dave Rydman asked if there was coordination and/or conflicts with Liberty Canyon's wildlife crossings. Aaron Chiang noted that the intent is to address this in the Feasibility Study.

Bruce Hamamoto noted that the County has used its own in-house resources for the feasibility work and that the project now includes the City of Agoura Hills which has increased the project's need for TRP funding.

Richard Ambrose inquired about the project's opportunities for irrigation and natural treatment systems. Aaron Chiang indicated these considerations would be part of the feasibility study.

#### **d) Presentations for Infrastructure Program (if time permitted) (NSMB Scoring Rubric)**

i) Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project – LA County Public Works. Presented by Alberto Grajeda.

David Pedersen asked how the community's previous concerns were being addressed. Alberto Grajeda noted that the community had expressed safety concerns related to potential impacts to the designated Public Safe Refuge area. Project team worked with the LA County Fire Department and LA County Sheriff's Department to address concerns. No adverse effect to the area were anticipated, however, brakes in the center median along Viewridge Road were recommended and have been incorporated into the project design.

Richard Ambrose asked who would maintain the project's landscaping. Alberto Grajeda indicated that the center median would be maintained by the County's Road Maintenance Division and the parkways would be maintained by the homeowners. Homeowner would be provided options for the type of vegetation planted in the parkways.

Lynn Levitt, representing her homeowner's association commented that they are not in support of the project and expressed various concerns about the benefits of the project. Bruce Hamamoto indicated that they will be available for further discussion.

Madelyn Glickfeld recommended that the WC coordinate with the residents.

Elizabeth Heron, Viewridge resident asked if the water at the top of Topanga had been sampled and how would the filtered water flowing into the Canyon contribute to the project's goals. Alberto Grajeda indicated that dry and wet weather samples were conducted, but sampling was not performed at the top of Topanga. He noted that the project addresses water quality at the source prior to discharge into the creek. Elizabeth Heron expressed concerns about the project benefits. Bruce Hamamoto noted that they are open to hosting a virtual meeting and/or small group meeting to further discuss the resident's concerns.

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## **6. Voting Items:**

None.

## **7. Items for next agenda**

None.

## **8. Adjournment**

David Pedersen thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - February 08, 2021**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes 12/22/20
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Dave Rydman	x	Russ Bryden		Y
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen		Sarah Rascon		
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>	x	Dave Roberts		Y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Dave Roberts	x	
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Doug Marian	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Jessica Duboff		Kendal Asuncion	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Kirsten James	x	Fran Diamond		Y
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte	x	Louis Celaya		Y
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Alex Farassati	x	Alba Lemus		(not present during voting)
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kerry Kallman		Joe Bellomo		
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Katy Yaroslavsky		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
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	12
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	12
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Other Attendees
Aaron Chiang
Alberto Grajeda
Allen Ma
Katie Harrel
Lynn Levitt
Maritsa CRA
Melina Watts
Suzette Waller
Richard Ambrose
Caitlin Gray
Laura Dampf
Elizabeth Herron
Katie M



# Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project (Phase III)

Funding Program (IP/TRP)

Lead: City of Calabasas

Presenter: Alex Farassati, Project Manager



# Project Overview

- The project plans to improve water quality and reduce nutrient loading by stabilizing the nearby slopes and the banks of the creek. Rip rap will be installed in front of 25 outlets and natural erosion control blankets will cover slopes that are in danger of failing.
- A pedestrian midblock crosswalk will be installed to provide a safe route for the public to travel between the educational overlook area located on Lost Hills Road and De Anza Park.
- An additional recreational trail will be created along the creek to connect to the existing Lower Natural
- Trail and provide an additional view of Las Virgenes Creek for the public.
- The proposed work also includes the removal of fish barriers that were recently discovered within the creek, the removal of dead and/or broken mature trees, and the planting of new native oak trees.
- The funding request is to prepare a feasibility study.





## Project Location



**1.5 mile of Creek from  
Agoura Road to the end  
of Lost Hills Road**



## Project Background

Phase I of the project was completed in March 2008





## Project Background

Phase II was completed in April 2019





## Project Background

Phase II was completed in April 2019





## Project Background

Phase II was completed in April 2019

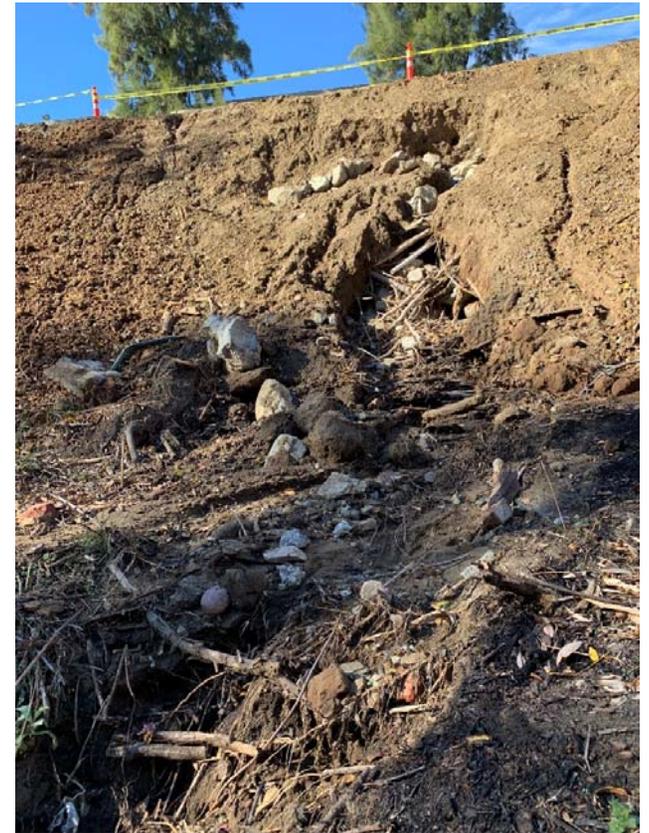




# Project Details

## Existing conditions

Eroded banks:





## Project Details

### Fish Barriers:





# Project Details

## Eroded Storm Drain Outlets:





## Project Details

### Areas Prone to Flooding:





# Project Details

## Gullies:





## Project Details

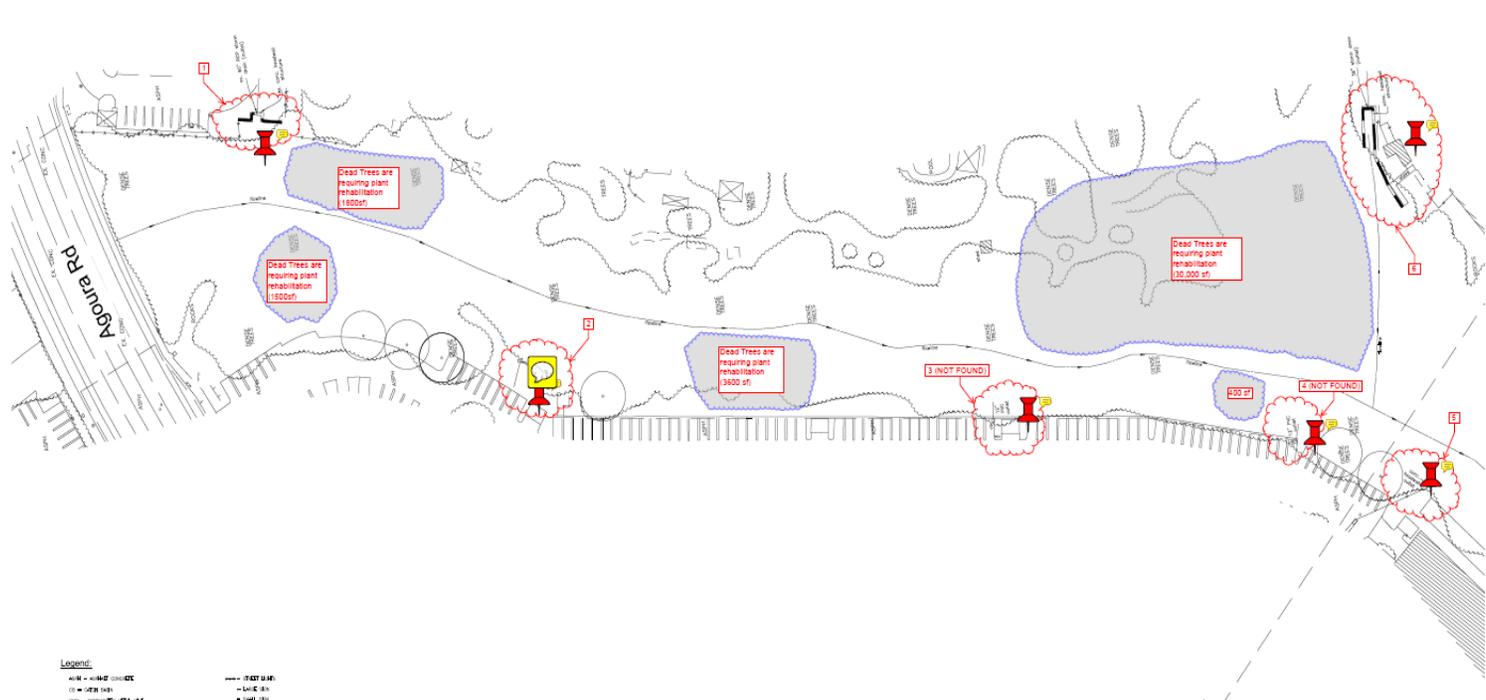
### **Key features of the project include:**

- Installation of rip rap for approximately 25 outlets to ensure that erosion does not occur in front of these outlets;
- Restoration and rehabilitation of areas along Las Virgenes Creek that were severely damaged by storms;
- Bank stabilization and erosion control in order to reduce nutrient loading in the creek; Outlet
- Building an extension of the Lower Natural Trail will also be built in order to expand public access to another area to view the creek in a natural environment;
- Building cross walk on Lost Hills Road for safe pedestrian access to the creek.
- The City of Calabasas needs a feasibility study as a prerequisites for construction of Las Virgense Creek Restoration Project (Phase III).



## Project Details

The project site was selected in various plans such as Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP), Creeks Master Plan, Trails Master Plan and IRWMP. Some concept design have been developed:



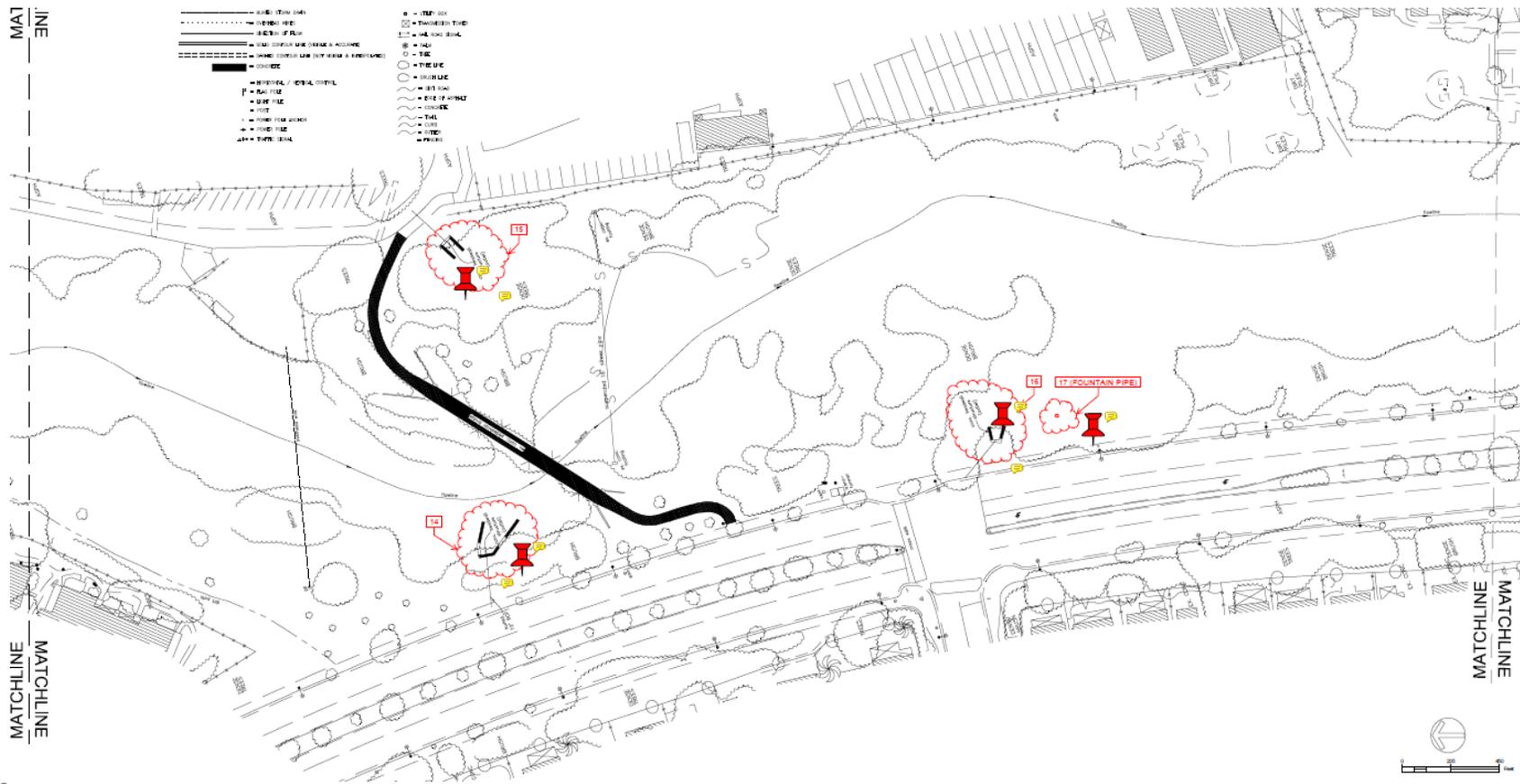






# Project Details

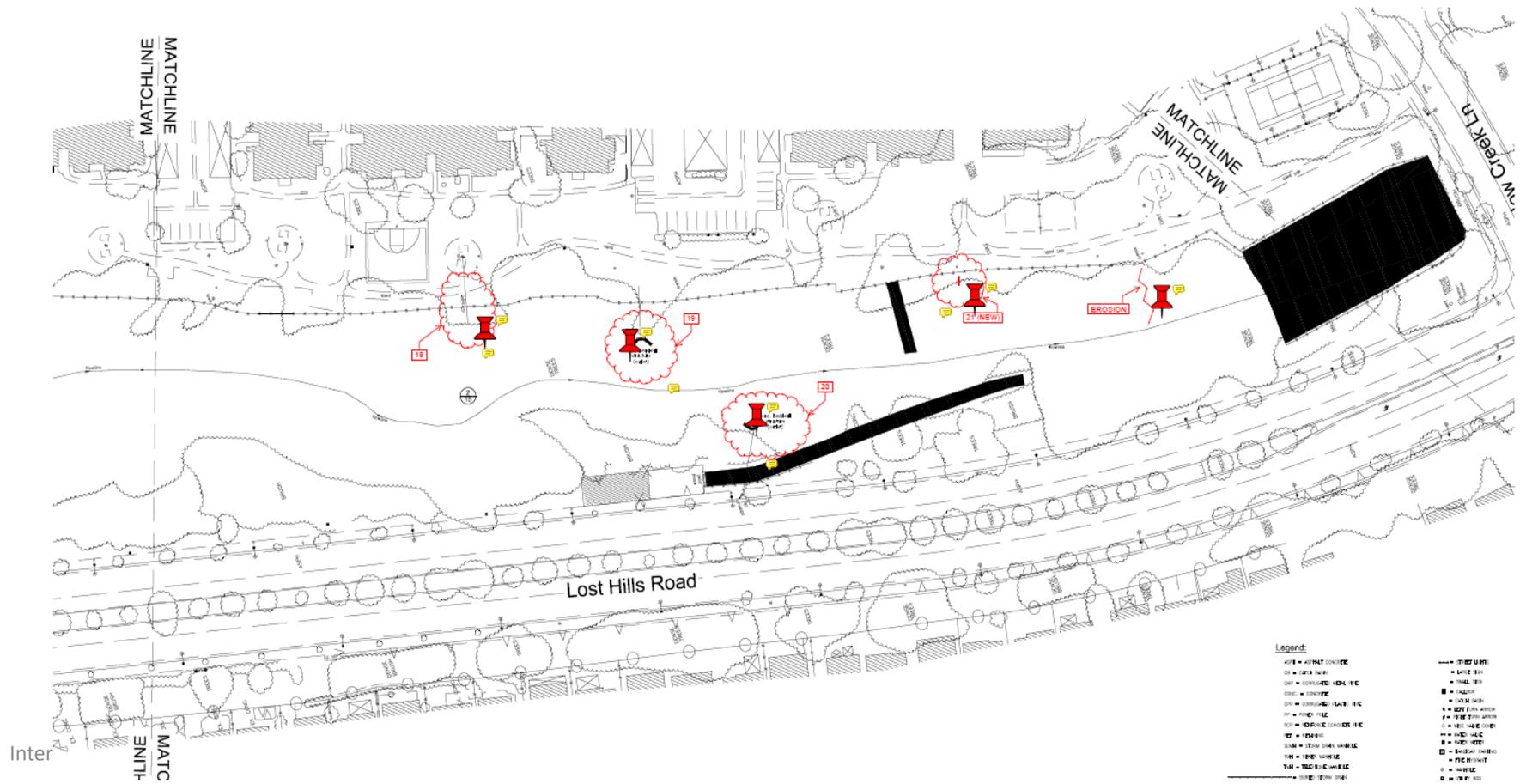
## Concept Designs for Bank Stabilization, Storm Drain Outlet Retrofit & Plant Rehabilitation





# Project Details

## Concept Designs for Bank Stabilization, Storm Drain Outlet Retrofit & Plant Rehabilitation







## Project Details

### Establish Connection Between Don Wallace Trail and Las Virgenes Trail





## Project Details

### Establish Connection Between Las Virgenes Trail East and West





## Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Feasibility Study	Prepare a feasibility study by a qualified consulting firm	\$300,000	September 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Project Completion</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>September 2022</b>



# Funding Request

Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$300,000	Feasibility Study	
2			
3			
<b>TOTAL</b>			



Questions?

An aerial photograph of the Los Angeles coastline and city grid, showing the ocean on the left and the city extending inland to the right. The image is partially obscured by a dark teal overlay on the left side where the text is located.

# Liberty Canyon Green Improvement

Technical Resources Program  
Los Angeles County Public Works  
Alberto Grajeda, P.E.



# Project Overview

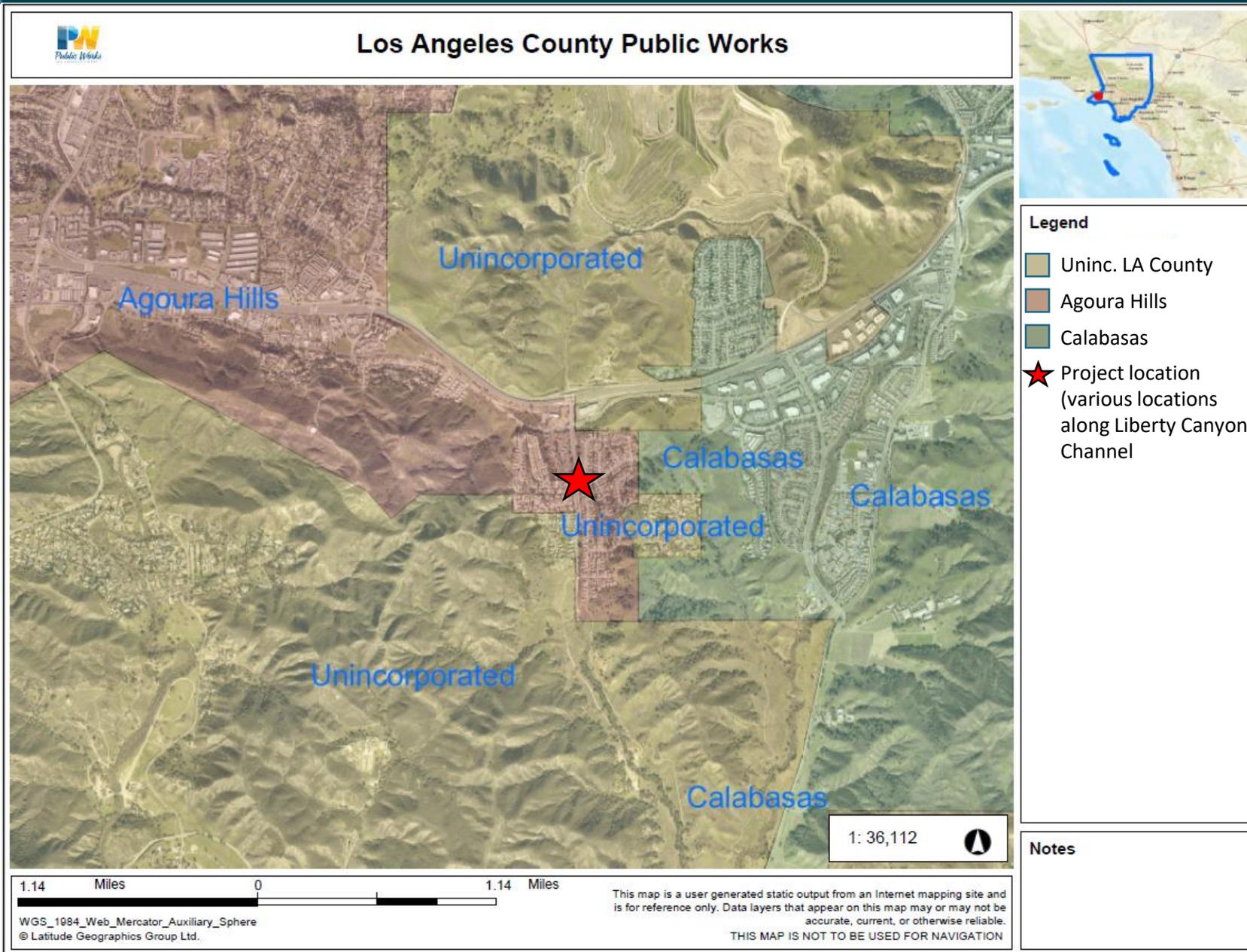
The potential Project will address urban and stormwater runoff as part of a multi-benefit project to improve water quality and enhance the community.

- Water Quality and Community Enhancement
- Requesting SCW funding for current Planning Phase
- \$300,000





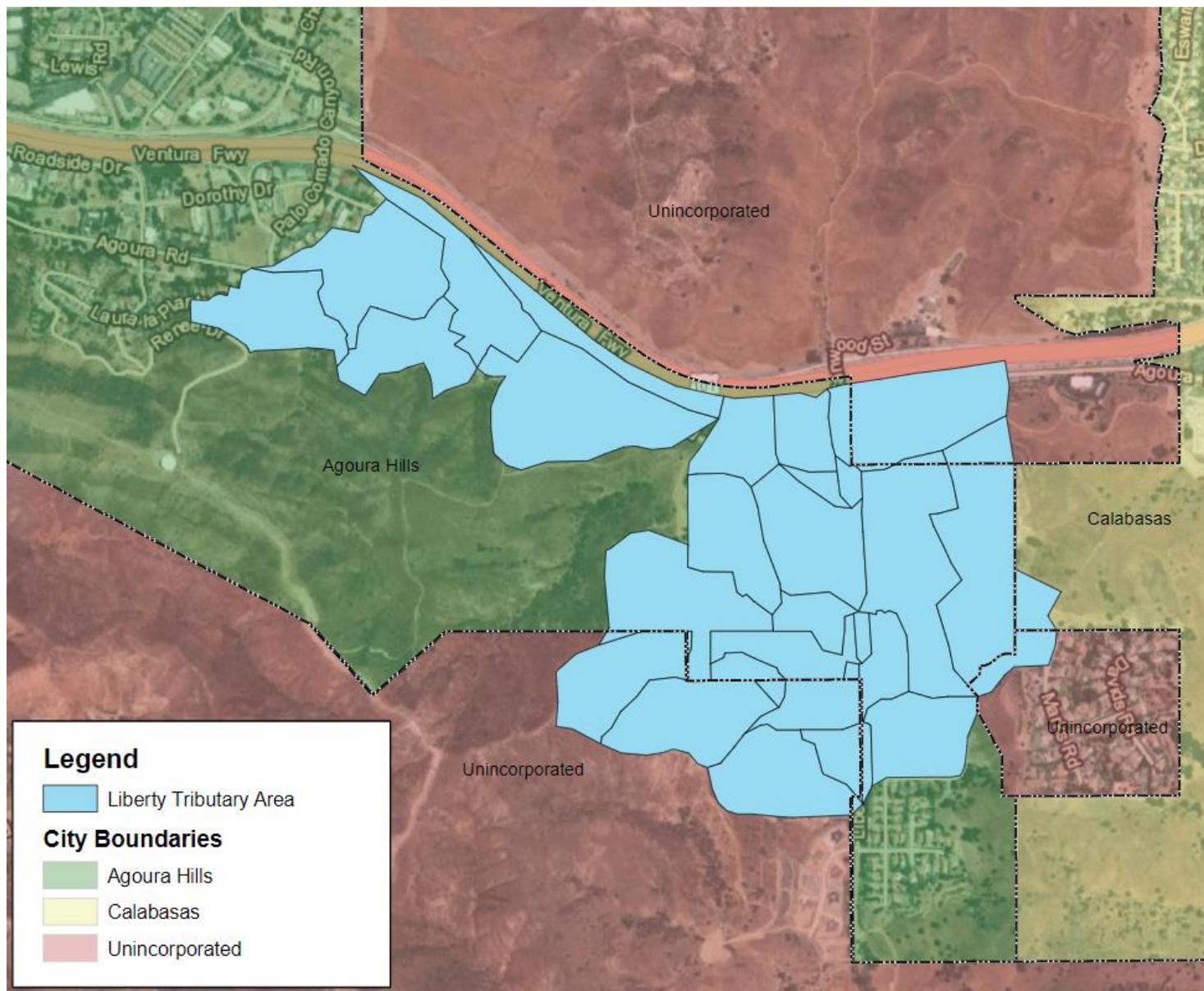
# Project Location



- Project location:
  - Unincorporated Agoura Hills
  - Malibu Creek Watershed EWMP
  - North Santa Monica Bay WASC



# Project Background



- Project background:
  - Las Virgenes Sub-watershed
  - Liberty Canyon Channel improvements
  - Proposed capture area: approx. 315 acres
  - Potential to capture and treat up to 8 AF of stormwater runoff
  - Potential Partners
    - Agoura Hills
    - Los Angeles County Flood Control District



# Project Details



## Benefits

### Improved Water Quality

- Protect beneficial uses of receiving waters
- Reduction of target pollutants
- Potential BMP's:
  - Nature-based Solutions
    - Bio-filtration
    - Bio-infiltration
    - Bioswales
  - Infiltration Drywells

### Community Enhancements

- Improves flood risk mitigation
- Creates habitat
- Reduce heat island effect
- Increase number of trees/vegetation
- Removes impervious area
- Creates recreational opportunities

Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Dep



# Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Planning	Project Concept Report Development, Community Engagement	\$300,000	TBD
Design	100% PS&E, Monitoring Plan, Community Engagement	TBD	TBD
Construction	Construction Implementation	TBD	TBD
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>TBD</b>	

- Annual and lifecycle cost TBD
- Project lifespan: 50 years
- Total cost based on similar project scope anticipated to be \$10-\$12M



# Funding Request

Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$300,000	Planning	Engage potential partners, engage communities, and complete Feasibility Study
2			
3			
4			
5			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>		

- Additional SCW funding will be requested upon completion of the Feasibility Study



**Questions?**

An aerial photograph of the Los Angeles coastline and city grid, showing the ocean on the left and the city extending inland to the right. The image is partially obscured by a dark teal overlay on the left side where the text is located.

# Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project

Infrastructure Program  
Los Angeles County Public Works  
Alberto Grajeda, P.E.



# Project Overview

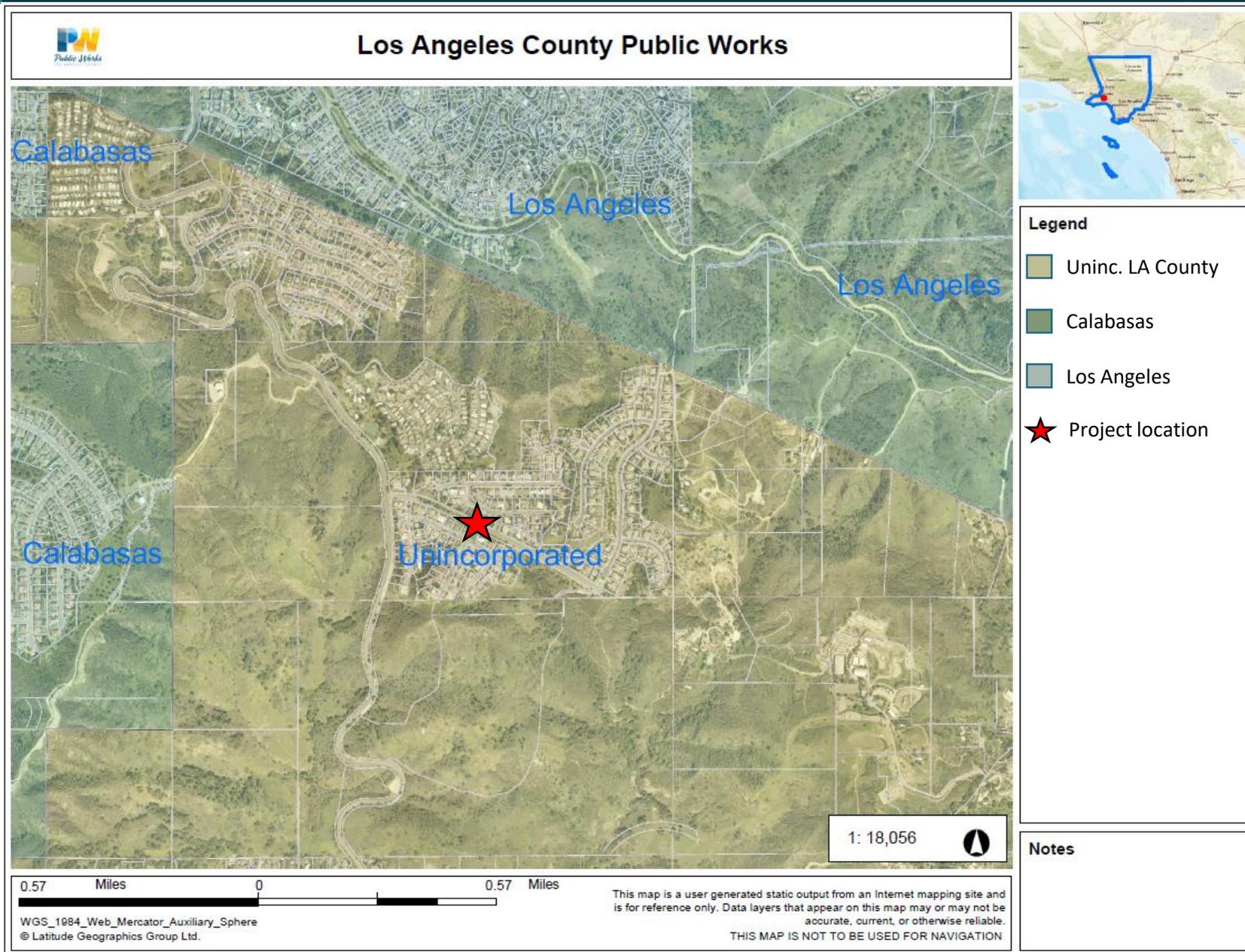
The Project will capture and treat urban and stormwater runoff as part of a multi-benefit project to improve water quality and enhance the community.

- Address water quality and provide community enhancements
- Design Phase – requesting SCW funds for construction
- \$800,000 over two years





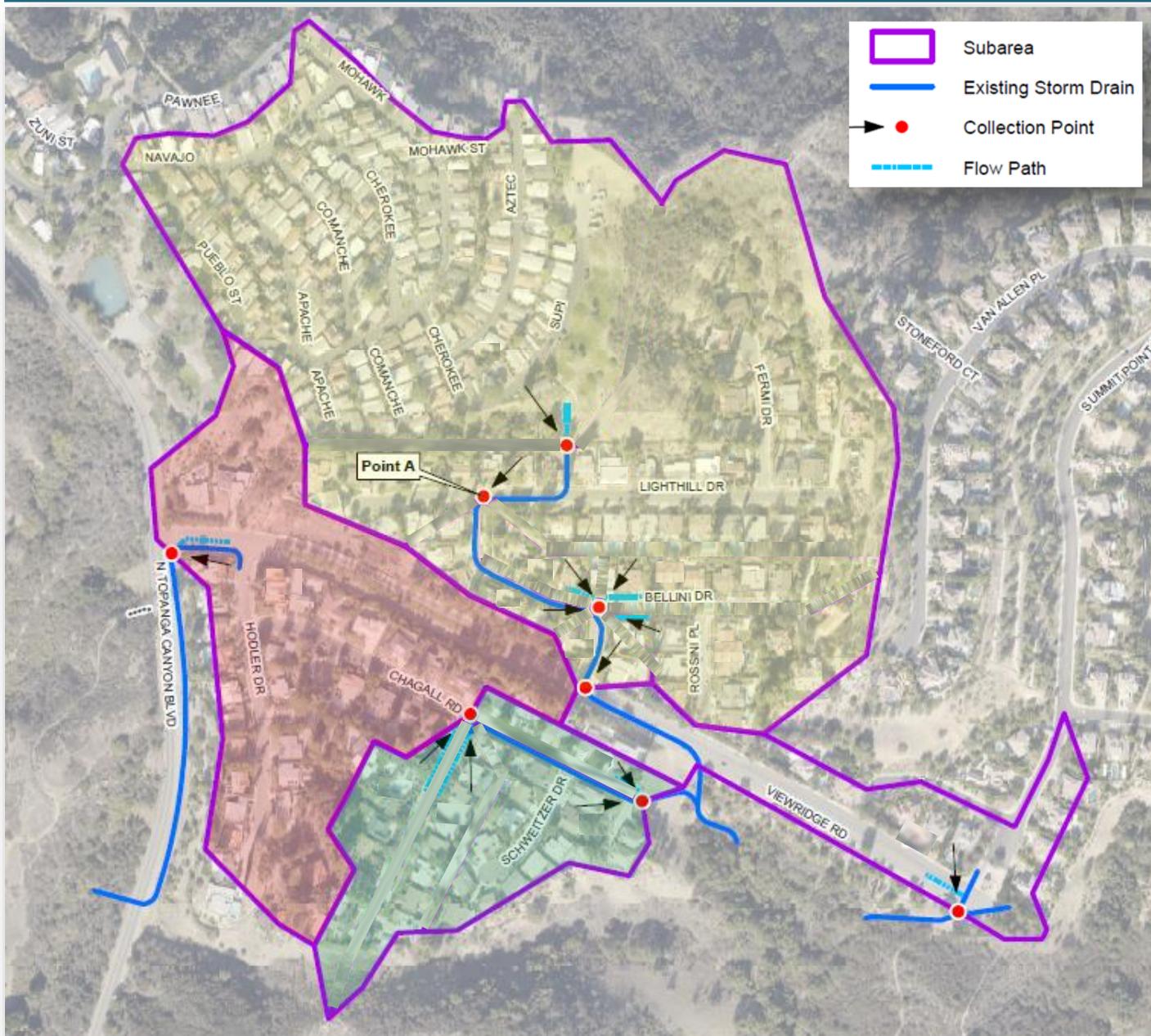
# Project Location



- Project Location:
  - Unincorporated Topanga
  - North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watershed EWMP
  - North Santa Monica Bay WASC



# Project Background



- Project background:
  - Distributed system
  - Approximately 80 acres
  - Capacity to treat up to 3.93 acre-feet
  - Potential to treat up to 33 AFY



# Project Details

## Benefits

### Improved Water Quality

- Protect beneficial uses of the Topanga Canyon Creek and Santa Monica Bay
- Reduction of target pollutants (Bacteria, Toxics, Sediment, Nutrients, Trash)

### Community Enhancements

- Improves flood risk mitigation
- Creates habitat
- Reduce heat island effect
- Increase number of trees/vegetation
- Removes impervious area





# Project Details



**PLAN VIEW**  
STORMWATER BIOFILTRATION SYSTEM WITH 100% PLANTING AREA



*Solidago californica*  
California Goldenrod



*Carex pansa*  
California Meadow Sedge



*Juncus patens*  
California Grey Rush

**BIOFILTRATION PLANT EXAMPLES**



**PERSPECTIVE VIEW**  
STORMWATER BIOFILTRATION SYSTEM WITH 100% PLANTING AREA



# Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Construction	Construction of stormwater project components	\$7,500,000	October 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7,500,000</b>	

- Project Lifespan: 50 years
- Lifecycle Cost: \$9M



# Funding Request

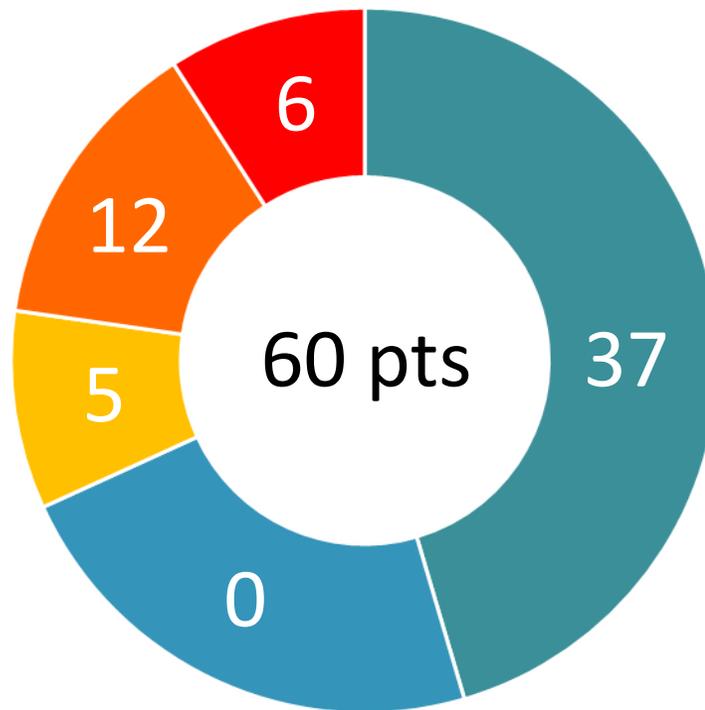
Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$400,000	Construction	Construction & implementation
2	\$400,000	Construction	Construction & implementation
3			
4			
5			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>		

- Leveraged Funding amount: \$6,700,000 (89%)
- Other funds covered by County
  - Concept development/investigations and design: \$1,900,000
- Los Angeles County is not anticipating future SCW funding requests for this project



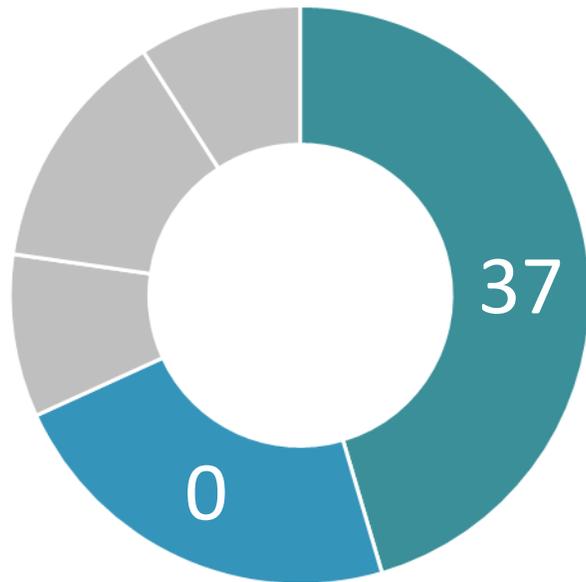
# Preliminary Score

- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Community Investment Benefits
- Nature Based Solutions
- Leveraged Funds and Community Support





# Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits



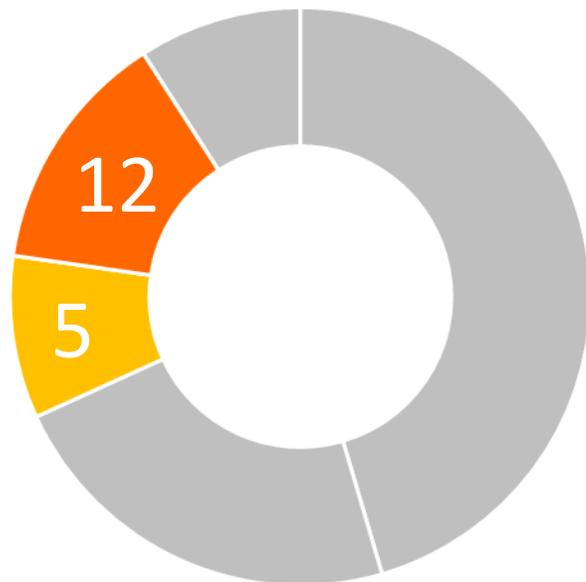
■ Water Quality

■ Water Supply

- Water Quality Benefits (37 pts)
  - Improved water quality
  - Wet weather project
  - Approximately 80 acres
  - 3.93 AF (85<sup>th</sup> percentile, 24-hour storm)
- Project has the capacity to reduce
  - Bacteria
  - Toxics
  - Sediment
  - Trash



# Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions



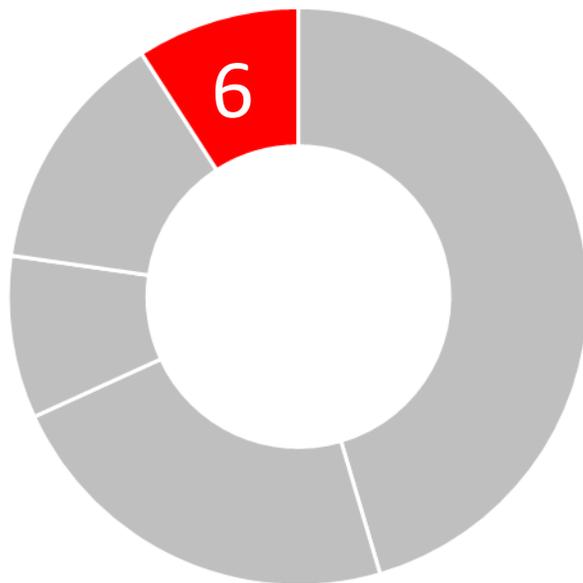
■ Community Investment Benefits

■ Nature Based Solutions

- Community Investment Benefits (15 pts)
  - Improves flood risk mitigation
  - Creates habitat
  - Reduce Heat Local Island Effect
  - Increase shade by planting up to 16 trees (Chitalpa Tashkentensis)
  - Remove over 40% of impervious area from center median project footprint
- Nature Based Solutions (10 pts)
  - Project proposes on addressing water quality natural processes through bio-filtration
  - Biofiltration soil media



# Leveraging Funds and Community Support



- Leveraging Funds
  - \$6,700,000
  - 89% funding matched
  - General fund, Grants, SCW municipal funds

■ Leveraged Funds and Community Support



# Leveraging Funds and Community Support



- Community Outreach
  - December 12, 2019 – Topanga Canyon Library
  - February 20, 2020 – Topanga Canyon Library
  - April 14, 2020 – Virtual community meeting
- Outreach Plan
  - Information sessions (in-person or virtual, as needed)
  - Hosted websites
  - Mailers and/or social media ads



# Questions?