

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



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Thursday, September 9, 2021

1:00pm – 3:30pm

WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

**Cung Nguyen**, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
**Russ Bryden**, LA County Waterworks Districts (Agency)  
**Chad Christensen**, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)  
**David Pedersen**, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)  
**Dave Roberts**, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)  
**Madelyn Glickfeld**, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability UCLA (Community)  
**Harry Semerdjian**, LA Area Chamber of Commerce (Community)  
**Tevin Schmitt**, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)  
**Kirsten James**, Resident (Community)  
**Kelly Fisher\***, Agoura Hills (Municipal)  
**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**, CPMCA (Community)

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

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## 1) Welcome and Introductions

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

Kevin Kim (District) facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

## 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes, by Cung Nguyen. Bruce Hamamoto seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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### 3) Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim noted that the FY22-23 Call for Projects received forty-one Infrastructure Program projects, eight Scientific Studies, and seven Technical Resources Program submittals. Of those projects, one Infrastructure Program project and two Scientific Studies are within NSMB.

There are nine Stormwater Investment Plans up for approval by the Board of Supervisors on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Each municipality must submit their FY 21-22 Annual Plans to receive their annual payment. Municipal Annual Plans can still be submitted to receive funds (due April 1st). Municipality disbursement of those funds will be in September or October of this year.

### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Melina Sempill Watts gave an update beginning with Land Acknowledgements, Black Lives Matter, and biodiversity survival. She mentioned meetings and events taking place in the community including:

- Watershed community meeting, Sept 23rd 5:30-7:30 Hosted by Bill Buerge
- Golden Shovel Film Competition
- Las Virgenes California Native Plant Society plant sale and plant kits in an effort by Tree People, Tree Trust, Santa Monica Mountains Fund, office of supervisor Sheila Kuehl, LVMWD and Waterworks (District 29) to increase native biodiversity in urban areas of the NSMB WASC
- Liberty Canyon Design options city/agency meeting set for Sept 14th

Melina also shared that she is joining the Watershed Coordinator Finance Committee and will be attending several upcoming community events.

### 5) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

### 6) Discussion

- a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

No ex parte communications were disclosed.

- b. Disadvantaged Community, Nature Based Solutions, and Partial Funding Interim Guidelines

Presentation by Tori Klug (Regional Coordinator from Stantec) discussing the Interim Disadvantaged Community Benefit Guidelines, Interim Nature-Based Solutions Programming Guidelines, and Partial Funding Guidelines

In response to a question asked by committee member Madelyn Glickfeld regarding challenges surrounding funding based on NSMB's specific hydrogeography, Tori Klug mentioned that all the

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opportunities for nature-based solutions have unique advantages and challenges but that there is a large diversity of solutions that can work for unique geographies.

Madelyn Glickfeld also asked about funding specific to low-income communities and how this watershed area is home to people experiencing homelessness, but that there is not enough money in the SCWP to engage on alleviating homelessness. Mike Antos indicated that in NSMB Watershed Area there are no disadvantaged community benefit requirements given the absence of disadvantaged community census block groups but that there are opportunities to include projects that address homelessness if the committee seeks to prioritize that kind of effort. There are other sources of funding (Measure H) that may be supportive of projects that seek to alleviate homelessness in the watershed area.

In reference to the partial funding guidelines David Pederson reminded that, unlike some other funding programs, the SCWP does not allow partial funding that involves downsizing a project such that its scope or benefits are diminished.

- c. Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for North Santa Monica Bay WASC for consideration

Kevin Kim presented a brief overview of the SCW portal, which provides information for all infrastructure projects, technical resources and scientific studies within specific watershed areas. Project applications and executive summaries can also be viewed using the portal.

Madelyn Glickfeld asked about allocation of funding for Scientific Studies versus Infrastructure Program projects. Kevin Kim responded that the Scientific Studies can only receive less than 5% of the budget in the Stormwater Investment Plan. Kevin Kim mentioned the percentages of funding requested from specific watershed areas by scientific studies spanning multiple watershed areas can vary by each applicant. David Pedersen stated that scientific study funding merit will be discussed in the next meeting.

## **7) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **8) Voting Items**

- a. Send all completed Feasibility Studies to Scoring Committee for consideration.

Motion to send Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project to Scoring Committee for scoring, by Russ Bryden. Seconded by Chad Christensen. All Committee members voted yes (See vote tracking sheet).

## **9) Items for next agenda**

- a. Presentations for Scientific Studies Program
  - i. Regional Pathogen Reduction Study

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- ii. Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-Based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility
- b. Presentations for Infrastructure Program
  - i. Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement

## 10) Adjournment

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

**Next Meeting:**  
Thursday, October 14, 2021  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
See SCW website for meeting details

**NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - September 9, 2021**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	8/12 Meeting Minutes	Sending All Completed FS to Scoring Committee
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	<b>Russ Bryden</b>	x	Dave Rydman		Y	Y
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen	x	Sarah Rascon		Y	Y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>	x	Dave Roberts		Y	Y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Dave Roberts	x	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	UCLA	<b>Madelyn Glickfeld</b>	x	Richard Ambrose		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Doug Marian					
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Harry Semerdjian	x			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Kirsten James	x			Y	Y
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte		Kelly Fisher	x	A	Y
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Alex Farassati	x	Alba Lemus		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kerry Kallman		Joe Bellomo	x	Y	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Katy Yaroslavsky		Sophie Freeman	x	Y	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Christine Shen		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Phillipe Eskandar		A	Y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x			N/A	N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	14	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	16	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees
Allen Ma
Alysha Chan
Annelisa Moe
Ashleigh Townsend
Dennis Washburn
Jason Fussel
Kan Cheema
Kelsey Reed
Marissa Caringella
Mayra Martinez
Amanda Zeidner
Fran Pavkey
Ramy Gindi
Stacy Luell
Tessa Charnofsky

# North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Co-Coordination Updates

By Melina Sempill Watts  
September 9, 2021

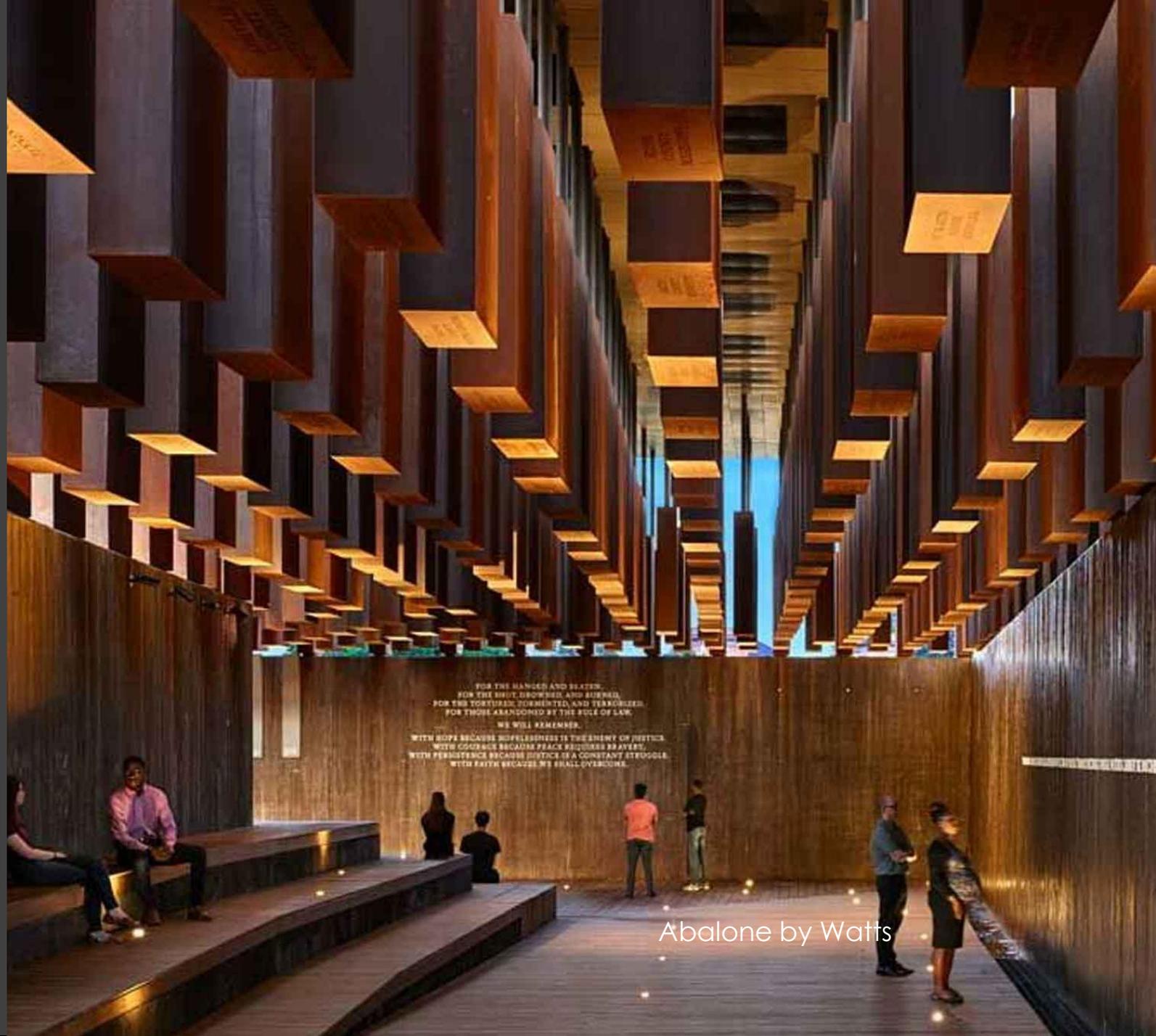


**SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

# Land Acknowledgments, Black Lives Matter and Biodiversity Survival

- ▶ The Santa Monica Mountains are the historic lands of the Chumash and their close neighbors, the Tongva.
- ▶ Wealth in the United States was built in large part by the forced labor of people of color who were enslaved for centuries.
- ▶ We share the Santa Monica Mountains and our living world with an incredible assortment of other living creatures.
  - ▶ Our future requires us to think about and care for all of us as we make decisions.



Abalone by Watts

# The First North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting

- ▶ A Program of the Safe, Clean Water Program  
Funded by Measure W and the Voters of Los Angeles County
- ▶ Co-Hosts: Melina Sempill Watts, Bill Buerge, Jeremy Wolf and Susan Nissman
- ▶ Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021
- ▶ Event Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Location: Via Zoom, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86718557195>, host will admit guests
- ▶ Topanga Trash Warriors, possibly Abel Cruz, *Peruanas Sin Agua*, possibly architects from Bermuda...or films about same, city / agency county presentations
- ▶ Outreach to local papers + social media



Photo, Mountain Mermaid

## The Golden Shovel Film Competition or The Trash Film Competition and CALTRANS

- ▶ Jerry West, California Department of State Parks introduced me to Hammer Sui, CALTRANS who is running the L.A. arm of CALTRANS' Clean California program
- ▶ Hammer and I chatted about the NSMB WASC concept of the Golden Shovel Film Competition and he said he wants to ask Sacramento if it can be state-wide.
- ▶ So... stay tuned.



# Wild Partnerships: LVMWD, Waterworks District 29, TreePeople, TreeTrust, California Native Plants Society, Santa Monica Mountains Fund and the Office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl...

- ▶ LVMWD + California Native Plants Society **online sale**
- ▶ LVMWD + TreePeople **Native Plants Kit** project
- ▶ **Funding request** (potentially) to Office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl to go to TreePeople to fund Native Plants Kit Project
- ▶ **Funding request** (potentially) to Patagonia invitation only)
- ▶ **Funding Request** (potentially) to LVMWD/Water District 29
- ▶ **Diversity, Equity Inclusion:** Starting conversations with Carlos Moran and others to **explore workforce funding request(s) for underpaid interns** working for Antonio Sanchez at Santa Monica Mountains Fund

Photo by Watts, Volunteers at NPS Nursery



# Liberty Canyon Design Options City/Agency Meeting Set

Next week: reaching out to Wildlife Conservation Board to discuss an application for planning money.



# Joining the Watershed Coordinator Finance Committee

Photo, Watts' Collection



# Community Participation

- ▶ Will be attending the Agoura Hills Creek Clean-up in September
- ▶ Will be attending the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival in October
- ▶ Will be speaking to the Calabasas Environmental Commission in November
  
- ▶ Ask and I will come to your event too...



Photo, City of Calabasas



Quarterly  
Report  
Upcoming

# Guidance Documents Overview

Disadvantaged Community Benefit  
Nature-Based Solutions  
Partial Funding



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# Disadvantaged Community Benefit Interim Guidance



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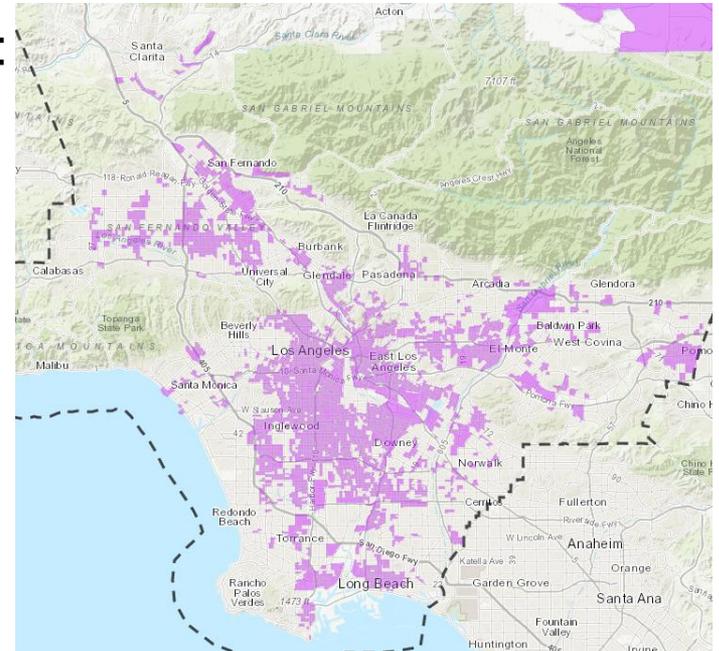


# SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Goal

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**



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# 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

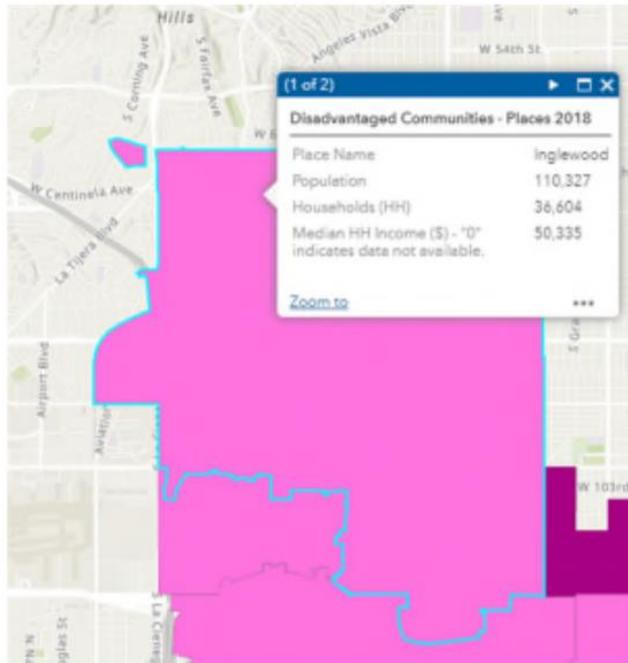


Figure 1 - Inglewood Census Place (DWR Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool): Pink is disadvantaged, and purple is severely disadvantaged.

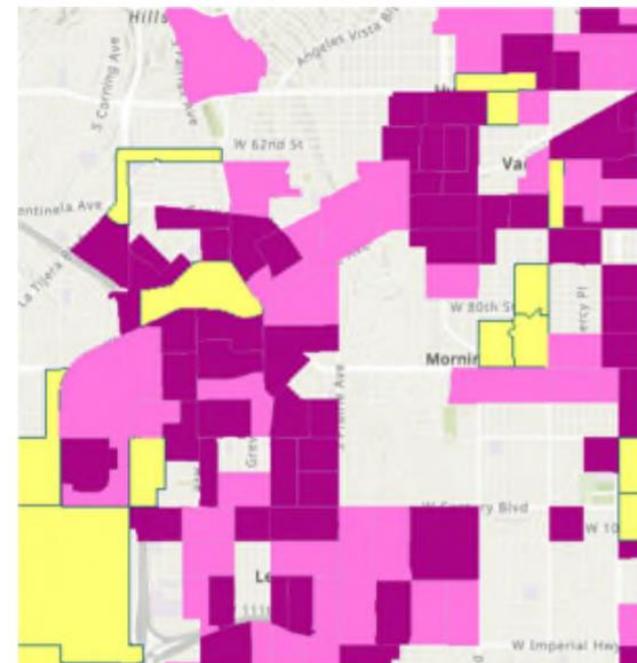


Figure 2 - Inglewood Census Block Groups (DWR Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool): Pink is disadvantaged, purple is severely disadvantaged, and yellow is missing data.

# Census Places

US Census places within SCWP boundaries that have an MHI below 80% of the statewide MHI (2018 data), and therefore could be considered disadvantaged at the scale of the municipality:

- Bell
- Bellflower
- Bell Gardens
- Commerce
- Compton
- Cudahy
- El Monte
- Gardena
- Hawaiian Gardens
- Hawthorne
- Huntington Park
- Inglewood
- Lynwood
- Maywood
- Montebello
- Paramount
- Pomona
- Rosemead
- San Fernando
- South El Monte
- South Gate
- Walnut Park



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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



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# Interim Nature-Based Solutions Programming Guidelines



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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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# 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 Examples



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# Nature-Based Solutions Examples



# Nature-Based Solutions Examples



# Links between Needs, SCWP Goals, and NBS

Identified Need or Desired Outcome	Potential Natural Processes & Nature-Mimicking Strategies	SCWP Benefits
<b>Improved environmental water quality</b>	Bioretention; biofiltration; removed impermeable area; increase of permeability; soil enhancement; green streets	Water Quality Benefit
<b>Increased local water supply</b>	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
<b>Improved flood management</b>	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
<b>Improved flood conveyance</b>	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?*

# WASC Tools and Strategies

To evaluate Disadvantaged Community Benefits or Nature-Based Solutions in their Watershed Area, WASCs can:

- Ask their Watershed Coordinator(s) to evaluate and report how people, city and county agencies, and other stakeholders would describe the preferred Disadvantaged Community Benefits and prioritize Nature-Based Solutions
- Invite presentations to better understand potential Disadvantaged Community Benefits sought and how Nature-Based Solutions would bring benefits in the Watershed Area



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# Partial Funding Guidelines



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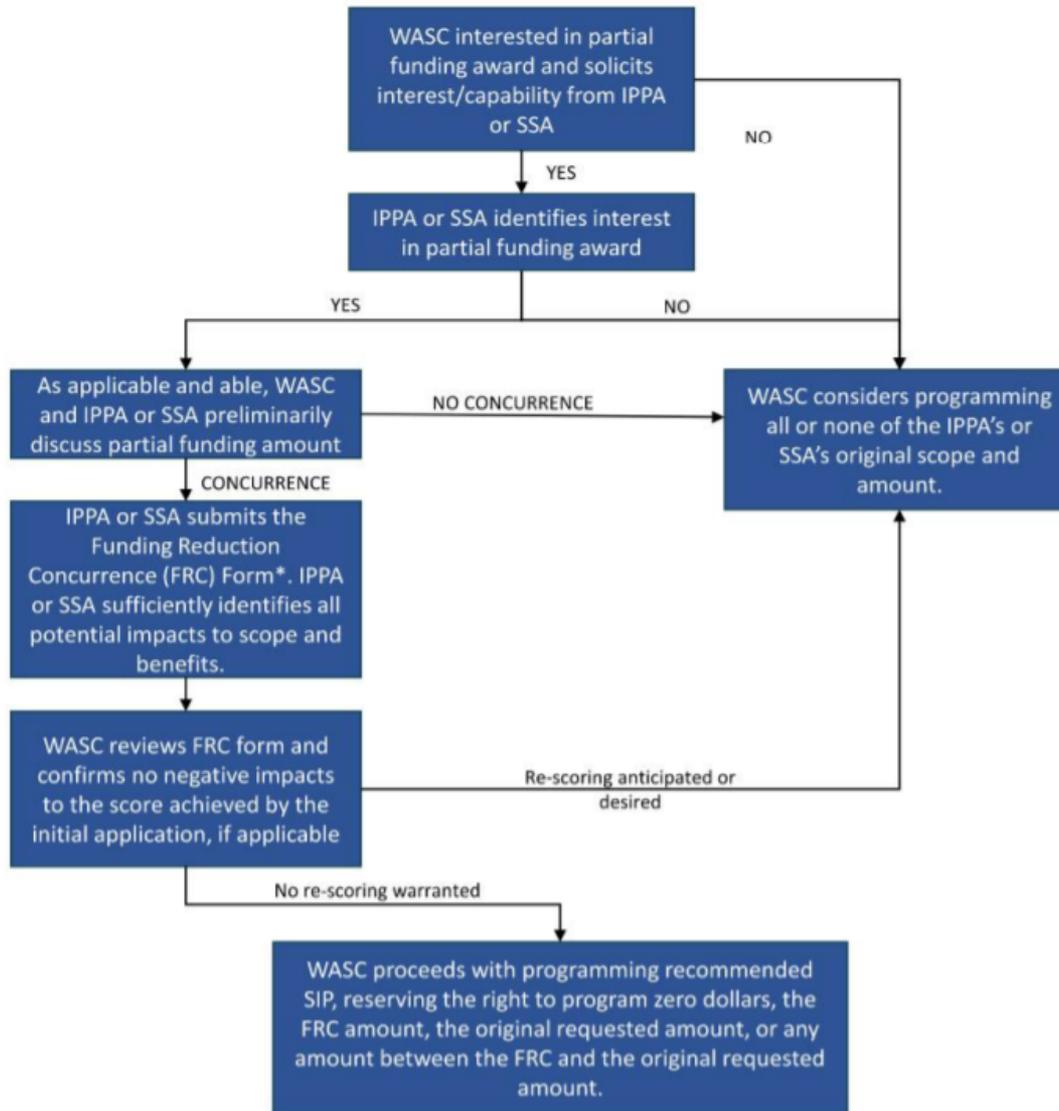
# Partial Funding

- Goal to give WASCs additional flexibility when developing their SIPs
- The partial funding award should not result in ANY reduction to the scope or benefits of (or the score assigned to) the project or study as identified in the application (and as submitted in the Feasibility Study, if applicable)



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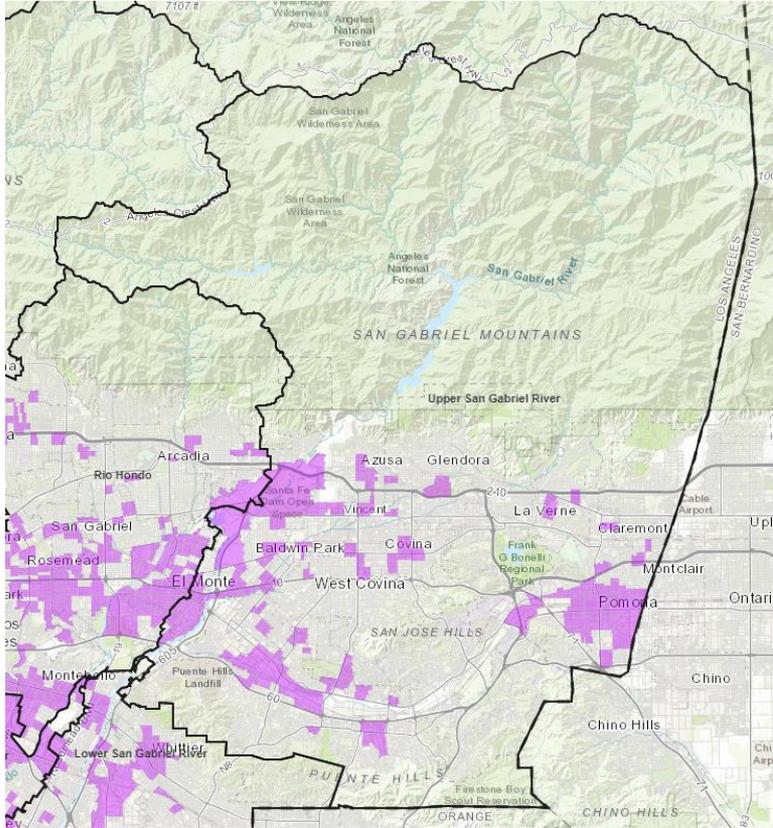




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# Questions and Discussion



Full guidance documents available:

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

SCWP Digital Spatial Data Library

<https://arcg.is/rbKfm>



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