

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



Wednesday, February 15, 2023
1:00pm - 4:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Ramy Gindi, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
E.J. Caldwell, West Basin (Agency)
*Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Caryn Mandelbaum, Resident (Community)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation (Community), Chair
Marissa Caringella, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Community)
Hany Fangary, Fangary Law Group (Community)
Wendy Butts, Los Angeles Conservation Corps (Community)
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Steve Finton, Torrance (Municipal)
Geraldine Trivedi, EWMP (Beach Cities): Redondo Beach (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Lauren Amimoto, EWMP (Dominguez): Inglewood (Municipal)
Ron Dragoo, EWMP (Peninsula): Rancho Palos Verdes (Municipal)
*Mikaela Randolph, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

All Committee Members were present.
See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Craig Cadwallader, Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, and called the meeting to order. LA County Flood Control District (District) staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established. Committee Member Steve Finton introduced themselves as the replacement for John Dettle, representing the City of Torrance.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2023

District staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Chair Cadwallader motioned to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Member Geraldine Trivedi. The Committee voted to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes with 14 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 in abstentions (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- District staff shared an update on how WASC meetings will be conducted after the State of Emergency for California ends on February 28, 2023. The presentation is available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website and includes information regarding future teleconferencing

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requirements. This WASC's in-person meeting location will be the West Basin Edward C. Little facility. WebEx teleconferencing will be used for any future hybrid meetings.

- The District released the Regional Program Process Funding Handbook (Handbook) which provides consolidated information on existing regional program requirements and guidance. The Handbook is available under the Regional Program Call for Projects tab on the SCWP website.
- Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Quarter 2 (Q2) reports are due on February 15. Quarterly reports for projects funded during Round 1 and 2 are still required even if there is no project activity.
- The Annual Report functionality is now available on the SCWP reporting module. Project developers from Round 1 and 2 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were required to submit Annual Progress Reports due on December 31, 2022. Project developers should submit these reports if they have not already done so.
- Municipal Annual Plans for Municipal Programs are due April 1, 2023.
- It is important for the WASC and the work of the Regional Program to remain transparent and fair. These principles are built into the SCWP and are represented by the ex parte communication disclosures on each agenda. WASC members whose job connects to a specific SCWP project should ask colleagues or consultants to attend WASC meetings to share about or advocate for those projects during SIP deliberation and should avoid using the position of WASC member to advocate for projects from home entities.

a) Community Stakeholder Reselection, 2023
[Commission Service Division \(CSD\) - Interest to Serve Form](#)

Article 4 Section 5 of the WASC operating guidelines includes instruction for filling the Community Stakeholder seats. Current Members who represent Community Stakeholders may serve an additional year if they are reappointed. Interested individuals should submit the online Interest to Serve Form (linked above).

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Mikaela Randolph provided an update on the outreach and engagement efforts conducted recently. These efforts included the following:

- Distributed quarterly newsletter to 105 people
- Conducted 10 presentations around Los Angeles County
- Tabled at the Cabrillo Aquarium Whale Fiesta event
- Partners at Social Justice Learning Institute hosted SCWP Themed Garden Day in Queen Park in Inglewood
- Partners at Urbano Strategies canvassed in Inglewood
- Heal the Bay executed third Blue Table Talk for Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (LA) in Manhattan Beach in coordination with the "Nothin' But Sand" event, hosting guests from Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People
- Participated in a King Tides event in Manhattan Beach in collaboration with the Roundhouse Aquarium
- Continuing to do outreach with school districts in the Watershed Area on the SCWP and forthcoming MS4 compliance guidance
- Continuing to plan Earth Month activities and will update the WASC as details are confirmed

5. Public Comment Period

District staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, uploaded them to the SCWP website, and displayed them on-screen. Four comment cards were received and are available on the SCWP website, along with relevant letters of support.

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Maggie Gardner (OurWaterLA) provided a public comment along with a submitted comment card, voicing support for the Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project. Gardner's organization recommends this project for funding approval due to its water quality, water supply, community investment, and disadvantaged community benefits.

Deseray Sarcona (Councilmember Tim McOsker's Office) provided a public comment along with a submitted comment card, supporting the Machado Lake Rehabilitation (MLER) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) project and the Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project. Both projects will provide multiple benefits to disadvantaged communities. The letters of support can be found on the SCWP website.

Member Susie Santilena requested that District staff display the remaining comment cards on the screen and summarize the contents.

A public comment card was shown from Martin Byhower, who voiced support for the MLER O&M project. A public comment card submitted by Lorrie Lathrop (Harbor City Neighborhood Council) was displayed, demonstrating support for the MLER O&M project.

6. Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Members Trivedi and Finton disclosed a Beach Cities Watershed Management Group meeting where SCWP projects for SIP deliberation were discussed.

b) Project Updates for Previously Funded Projects

i) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY21-22 Q3 and Q4

A summary matrix of project quarterly reports was shown on screen. District staff noted that projects that have not submitted a report are not shown on the summary sheet, such as the Carson Stormwater Runoff Capture Project at Carriage Crest Park.

Member Finton clarified with District staff that the displayed quarterly reports are from FY21-22 Q3 and Q4 because reports must be reviewed and that more recent updates will be provided during the next agenda item.

Member Thuan Nguyen asked for explanation regarding the exhibit modification for the Wilmington Q Street Local Urban Area Flow management Project. Seth Carr (Project developer) explained that after Round 1 SIP funding distribution was received in September 2021, Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN) and Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering began jointly drafting contractual documents containing design services. By Q4 of FY21-22, LASAN submitted project schedule modification requests, with expected completion updated to mid-2026 instead of late 2026. The task order solicitation for technical design services was issued September 2022 and a notice to proceed with full design is set for this fiscal quarter.

Carr also explained that while the Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project shows zero expenditure to date in this summary matrix, the project has been in the pre-design phase as of November 2022 and expenditures will be reflected in the next quarterly report.

Member Finton noted that construction is currently underway for the City of Torrance's Stormwater Basin Expansion Project. The quarterly report reflects progress from FY21-22 Q3 and Q4, so any updates that occurred during FY22-23 are not included and is why the expenditures to date column for this project

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shows zero.

There was a conversation regarding the projects that have zero expenditures to date. District staff explained that project developers have five years once Transfer Agreements are executed to spend awarded funds and quarterly reports are required even if no progress has been made. In the case where funding has been awarded and not spent within the five-year timeframe, funds would be returned to the District. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the Regional Program Funding Handbook details a section on “lapsed funds” that may provide more information and cite the specific Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code Section documenting this agreement.

Member Nguyen requested an explanation for the City of Manhattan Beach’s SSMB Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project’s exhibit modification. Jeff Fijalka and Katie Harrel (Project developers) explained that the project schedule was delayed by a few months due to the State Water Resources Control Board approaching the City about receiving additional funds. The schedule moved final plans and delivery from May 2023 to August 2023. The project is in the design phase and will not require changes to funding allocation.

ii) Project Updates and Budget Confirmation for Projects with Continued Funding Requests

The WASC discussed projects which were previously funded that have included funding requests for this year’s SIP:

- Carson Stormwater and Runoff Capture Project at Carriage Creek: Roland Jen (project developer) noted that the estimated date of construction completion has been delayed due to grading issues and parts shortages for damages caused by recent flooding. The project is expected to be brought online in mid to late 2023. The project has not used any O&M funds.
- SSMB Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project: Katie Harrel (project developer) confirmed the amount budgeted, which will be for construction. There are no changes to the project.
- Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project: Seth Carr (project developer) confirmed the funding allocation and noted that California Environmental Quality Act documentation must first be completed before using the funds.
- Regional Pathogen Reduction Study: The project developer was not available to provide an update or confirm the funding allocation.
- Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project: Carla Dillon (project developer) confirmed the funding allocation. Dillon also noted that project construction will take place in FY24-25 and FY 25-26 and will likely be using federal funding and additional grants outside of the SCWP.
- Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project: Member Trivedi confirmed the funding amount and updated that the project is on schedule.
- Hermosa Beach Multi-Benefit Parking Lot Greening Project: Doug Krauss (project developer) confirmed the funding allocation and commented that there are no updates to the project.
- Microplastics in LA County Stormwater project: Haley Johnson (project developer) confirmed funding allocation and provided updates, including that the transfer agreement is still being

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executed. The project developers have discussed monitoring with Los Angeles County Public Works and have secured permitting for sampling. Member Santilena mentioned the California Sea Grant as an opportunity for the project developer to leverage additional funds.

c) Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Classification Presentation

Watershed Coordinator Randolph presented an updated presentation on disadvantaged communities' classification, considerations, and recommendations. The presentation gave an overview of the Glen Anderson Park Regional Stormwater Capture Green Streets project, which is half a mile away from the closest disadvantaged community. The presentation can be found on the SCWP website.

d) South Santa Monica Bay Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & Summary of Resources)

District staff presented a summary of the ranking survey completed by the Committee Members. The SIP tool was shared on screen to demonstrate various funding scenarios.

Chair Cadwallader invited Committee Members to discuss the Glen Anderson Park Regional Stormwater Capture Green Streets Project. Member Santilena noted that this project was ranked highly but that it does not lie within a disadvantaged community and invited the project developer to discuss how the project might still benefit disadvantaged communities. Sailaja Potukuchi (project applicant) noted that this project is located in one of the largest parks in North Redondo and is highly used by community members that come from surrounding communities. Curtis Fang (project applicant) noted that the park is walking distance from a disadvantaged community. Fang also noted that there is no change to the project score in not being able to claim disadvantaged community benefits.

Watershed Coordinator Randolph made a general comment that there are ways for all projects that claim disadvantaged community benefits to make intentional efforts in benefitting a disadvantaged community, such as creating project elements that would ensure a safe route to a park.

Chair Cadwallader noted that there are not many other green spaces in the area aside from this park and that this project would benefit the area in that sense. Member Finton confirmed with applicant that the project is in the Dominguez Channel watershed and commented that the Dominguez Channel is predominantly located within disadvantaged communities. This project would improve the water quality in that water body, which would indirectly benefit the disadvantaged communities served by the Dominguez Channel.

Chair Cadwallader moved on to discussing the Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project. The Committee had a discussion regarding the lump sum funding request for planning, design, construction, and O&M in the application and discussed that projects often request lump sum funding to ensure that the project has enough funds throughout completion. The Committee can use the quarterly reporting process to ensure each phase of the project is on schedule and adjust yearly allocations accordingly. Seth Carr (project applicant) noted that this project is a continuation of the Wilmington Neighborhood Greening project. Watershed Coordinator Randolph mentioned that project applicants should come to the Watershed Coordinators for assistance in finding cost sharing options if construction funds increase after a lump sum is already awarded rather than request additional funding from the WASC. Chair Cadwallader noted that breaking the project into phases would provide opportunities for future projects to apply for SCWP funds.

The Committee moved to discussing the Beach Cities Green Streets Project. Larry Tortuya (project applicant) noted that the funding request is for the construction of seven different sites and estimated that

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the duration of construction will be around nine months to one year. Final design is anticipated to be approved before summer. Member Santilena mentioned that this funding request seems reasonable given the project timeline. The project applicant also provided additional details regarding volume capture specifications.

There were no comments regarding the Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation (MLER) Operation and Maintenance (MLER O&M) project or the Technical Resources project, Holly Park Multi-Benefit Drought Resiliency and Stormwater Infiltration.

District staff has reached out to project applicants that have been awarded design-only funds in the past and asked for an estimate of construction costs if those projects were to request SCWP funds. These scenarios are uploaded into the SIP tool as an additional perspective during deliberation. The "All Considered Projects" scenario in the SIP tool does not include these potential funds.

The Committee first considered the scenario to fund all projects. Member Santilena noted that in comparison to other WACs, the SSMB WASC is not stretched thin and that all the project applications this year are good projects that serve a wide variety of the watershed area. Member Santilena also commented that the assumed construction funding should not be heavily considered since those projects may find other cost sharing partners and cannot anticipate how those funds will change. The committee agreed and formed a consensus.

Member Nguyen noted that FY24-25 funding availability would be nearing capacity at 79% allocated and mentioned that it would be ideal if projects could allocate funding to later years, but otherwise agreed with the consensus.

The Committee noted that they have historically capped their allocated funds/available funds for future years to 80%, as a guideline. Member Ramy Gandi also wondered if there is a concern for FY23-24 being at 98% funded and if a buffer should be considered. District staff does recommend having around %20 buffer allowance within the annual budget as well as a threshold guideline for future years' allocation. The Committee agreed that a buffer may not be needed for this year.

7. Public Comment Period

A public member voiced support for the MLER O&M project and the Wilmington-Anaheim Project, calling attention to the numerous public comments supporting these projects and noted that this WASC is in a unique position to fund all projects. The public member also noted that the funding allocation percentages are similar to the allocation percentages from last year and is eager to see these projects help address the Dominguez Toxics Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and LA Harbor TMDL. The public member also mentioned how the MLER O&M project has also addressed Committee Members' comments about leveraging funds and repackaged with a 44% match.

Lorrie Lathrop noted that the park where the MLER O&M project is located hosts a lot of community events that garner many community members. Lathrop encourages the WASC to fund maintenance for this project.

8. Voting Items

- a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for SSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review**

Member Nguyen motioned to approve the SIP with all projects considered and include the Watershed

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Coordinator selection of Heal the Bay, seconded by Chair Cadwallader. The motion was approved, with 16 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

9. Items for Next Agenda

District staff noted the March meeting may be canceled and will send further updates once finalized.

10. Adjournment

Chair Cadwallader thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - February 15, 2023

		Quorum Present			Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to approve January 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes	Approve "Final Scenario 2/15/23" as the final Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for SSMB Watershed Area, including Heal The Bay as Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.
Agency	LACFCO			Ramy Gindi	x	a	y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x			y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Robert Beste		Asha Kreiling	x	y	y
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	y	y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Caryn Mandelbaum	x			y	a
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	x	Mary Simun		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission	Marissa Caringella	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Fangary Law Group	Hany Fangary	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Wendy Butts	x	Bo Savage		y	y
Municipal Members	Carson	Eliza Jane Whitman		Roland Jen	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ryan Jackson		y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Thuan Nguyen	x	Jalaine Verdiner		y	y
Municipal Members	Torrance	Steve Finton	x	Wilson Mendoza		a	y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Geraldine Trivedi	x	Doug Krauss		y	y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Lauren Amimoto	x	Heecheol Kwon		a	y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Ron Dragoo	x	David Wahba		y	y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Mikaela Randolph	x			N/A	N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14	16
Total Voting Members Present		17			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3	1
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	17	17
Municipal Members		7			Approved		Approved

Other Attendees

- Alexander Iglesias - LACFCO
- Andrew Gray
- Anthony Vidal
- Austine Racelis
- Ava Farriday
- brett perry
- Call-in User_2
- Call-in User_3
- Carla Dillon
- Christine McLeod
- Curtis Fang
- DJ Torado
- Doug Krauss
- Gordon Haines
- Haley Johnson
- Haris Harouny - LACFCO
- Ida Meisami-Fard
- Jalaine Quintrell Verdiner
- Jeff Fijalka
- Jenny Chau
- Jesse De La Cruz
- Jim Montgomery
- Kara Plourde
- Katie Harrel
- Kimberly Goins
- Kirk Allen
- Larry Tortuya - CWE
- Maggie Gardner
- Mark Nguyen
- Michael Scaduto
- Mikaela Randolph
- Mike
- Miller Zou
- Paige Bistromowitz
- Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
- Sailaja Potukuchi
- sean phan (LASAN)
- Serena Zhu
- seth carr
- Steve Finton
- Susan Robinson
- Thomas Lee
- Wilson Mendoza
- Yen Pham



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

February 3, 2023

Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program
South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee
Regional Oversight Committee
Scoring Committee

Subject: Support for Machado Lake Operation and Maintenance Project for Safe Clean Water Program
Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment's proposed Machado Lake Operation and Maintenance Project ("Project") funding application for the Safe Clean Water Program's Regional Infrastructure Program for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan.

As you may be aware, Proposition O funded the \$100 million Machado Lake Rehabilitation Project, which was completed in 2017. Unfortunately, Proposition O did not provide for the funding of the operations and maintenance of projects. Due to budget constraints, the City of Los Angeles has been forced to defer many critical operations and maintenance tasks, which continues to endanger the lake's complex and complicated structural, mechanical and natural systems. The funding of operation and maintenance tasks is imperative to the long-term success of the original Proposition O-funded lake rehabilitation project.

The funding for the Project will also assist the City of Los Angeles in achieving three important goals. First, it will ensure that Machado Lake will provide beneficial and recreational uses for Angelenos as well as enhanced habitat for Southern California wildlife. Second, the proper maintenance of Machado Lake will help protect our downstream communities and beaches from contaminants that can make people sick and threaten marine life. Lastly, it will allow Los Angeles to comply with Machado Lake's federal, state and local regulatory mandates.

The Machado Lake Operations and Maintenance Project is an ideal example of a multi-benefit project that meets the criteria, vision and mission of LA County's Safe Clean Water Program. I fully support this Project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District



Date: 2/15/2023

To: South Santa Monica Bay WASC Committee Members
cc: SCWP Staff, Watershed Coordinator - Nancy Shrodes

From: OWLA Core Team (Heal the Bay, LAANE, LA Waterkeeper, Nature for All, NRDC, Pacoima Beautiful, SCOPE, The Nature Conservancy and TreePeople)

RE: Input on Project Prioritization for SCWP SIP

The task before you is to consider the prioritization of projects for funding in this round for the 2023-2024 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). OurWaterLA (OWLA) urges the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) to approve projects that include strong remarks for water quality and water supply and that:

- utilize vegetated nature-based solutions,
- clearly demonstrate a strong community engagement plan and process took place,
- include a significant community investment element,
- provide benefits to and, as applicable, are located in a disadvantaged community, and
- promote green jobs.

There were a number of good projects proposed for the 2023-2024 SIP in the South Santa Monica Bay. OWLA would like to highlight the **Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project** as an exemplary project and recommend it for funding approval.

This project addresses all of the main objectives for the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) by providing good water quality benefits, some water supply benefit (which is a challenge in the South Santa Monica Bay), multiple community investments to support public health, and good incorporation of nature-based solutions that include the use of healthy soils and vegetation. In addition, this project is located directly within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), and will therefore directly benefit that community. Community engagement for this project has been strong, involving DAC members and expanding as needed to improve cultural relevance, both of which help to ensure that local needs are met. There is also indication that a Project Labor Agreement will be in place for this project, ensuring good, green, local jobs. OWLA hopes to see more projects like this being proposed and funded through the SCWP in the future.

When OWLA reviews projects, we consider several different categories:

- Location (within/outside a DAC)
- Does the project address an actual need of an underserved community?
- Anti-displacement measures
- Community support and engagement
- Water quality and water supply
- Public health, community investments, and multiple benefits
- Nature-based solutions
- Green jobs
- Cost and leveraged funding

We have summarized our observations across these categories to highlight the considerations we make and the concerns we have to help WASC members as they review projects. We hope these observations can also inform project developers, the ongoing Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS), and the upcoming biennial review.

OWLA maintains that community engagement should seek to involve—if not collaborate with and empower—community members that are and will be impacted by the proposed project starting from project design through implementation. This looks like working closely with community members to actively solicit and incorporate input through an iterative process. Therefore, projects would adequately represent and address community needs and priorities. Using this lens, we found that:

- Most applicants did not provide enough details to allow a clear assessment. For example, some applicants listed presentations, community meetings, or tabling events but lacked information on who participated, how many people attended, and how they were engaged (ex. receiving information, filling out passive feedback forms, engaging in active discussion, voting on project elements).
- For applicants that did solicit input, there lacked details on how community visioning and feedback specifically contributed to project changes and if not why.
- A few applicants cited outdated activities or letters of support without clearly outlining whether there have been changes to the project since then and how they have contributed to the iterative community engagement process.
- At least five projects were led by community organizations and/or stemmed from a community visioning process.
- Some Round 4 community engagement highlights included engaging residents on interactive mapping exercises, supporting a youth council, recruiting a project advisory group with broad stakeholder representation, conducting extensive community and youth-oriented surveys, providing compensated site visits to tribal partners, prioritizing targeted outreach to neighboring mobile home communities, and regularly meeting with organizations serving unhoused community members.

We recognize that there is ongoing evaluation of how to determine disadvantaged community benefits through the Metrics and Monitoring Study. However, until this is further refined, OWLA maintains that projects must be located in a disadvantaged community and provide needed benefits directly to members of that disadvantaged community. Based on this stance, we found that:

- Out of twenty-two projects claiming disadvantaged community benefits, eight or over a third of the projects were not located in a disadvantaged community but were within a mile of one.
- Most cited interactions with community groups and nonprofit organizations rather than direct engagement with community members. They further did not clarify whether these organizations represent or aim to represent the benefiting disadvantaged communities.
- At least two applicants had yet to engage residents in neighboring disadvantaged communities despite claiming these benefits.
- Lack of adequate community engagement obscured assessments of whose needs are being addressed, who is benefitting, and whether there is local support.

Vegetated nature-based solutions (NBS) are integral to OWLA's vision for LA County. We were excited to see projects proposing to create new riparian habitat and wetlands, remove impervious surface, and plant new native trees and vegetation as part of their overall NBS strategy. Because of how NBS is scored, we have found that projects with the highest scores in NBS don't necessarily correspond to the projects that emerge as exemplar within that category.

As designed, scoring criteria does not capture nuances well. Every project that passed the Scoring Committee received at least 10 points- full points for using a natural material and a natural process. The remaining points, based on percentage of impervious surface removed, can make a project stand out artificially. For example, a project that removed 12 acres of impervious surface scored the same in the NBS category in Round 4 as a project that removed 0.14 acres of impervious surface (11/15 points) while a project that removed 0.30 acres of impervious surface scored higher than both (14/15 points). Great NBS projects score at least 10 points but can fall anywhere in the range of 10-15 points in the current criteria. This highlights how important it is to review the scope of work of projects at the WASC level during deliberations. OWLA has previously submitted recommendations on how NBS scoring could be adjusted and we encourage the SCWP to consider changes during the MMS and biennial review.

OWLA would like to see more project applicants who note they are planting native plants complement this claim with a plant palette that illustrates which plants will be included in the project. To that end, the SCWP should consider the creation of regional plant lists and regional appropriate plant characteristics that correspond to best management practices to help applicants ensure the long-term success of plantings used in SCWP projects. While we understand that turf is often a component of park rehabilitation projects, we do not like to see it and want to emphasize our opposition specifically to artificial turf. We encourage applicants that are considering turf to consider native grasses as an alternative to turf or to avoid turf altogether within the scope of their SCWP projects. We also recommend that the SCWP require applicants to disclose how many existing mature trees are being removed by the project to ensure that there is adequate replacement and mitigation by the project.

The priorities for OWLA have always been clear: community-led project designs using nature-based solutions. These types of designs will not only address MS4 permit issues, but will also result in projects that can meet the multiple priorities for our region including addressing climate change, providing healthy recreational opportunities and developing engagement tools so that water issues are more broadly understood and supported by our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to continuing our engagement with this committee and the watershed coordinators to ensure a better water future for the region.

Sincerely,

OurWaterLA

OurWaterLA is a diverse coalition of community leaders and organizations from across Los Angeles County united to create a strong water future for Los Angeles. Our goal is to secure clean, safe, affordable and reliable water for drinking, recreation and commerce now and for the future. We have a deep commitment to uphold the trust that voters had in us when passing this measure and that projects which achieve Safe Clean Water Program objectives of water quality, water supply, nature-based solutions and community investments are prioritized.

South Santa Monica Bay
Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary

Watershed Area	(Multiple Items)
Report Year	FY21-22

Full reports are available at:

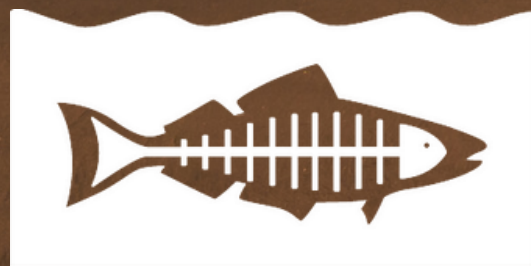
<https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/scw-reporting/map>

Row Labels	Project Developer	Report Period	Report Status	Active Phase List	Scope Modification	Exhibit Modification	Activity Concern	Activity Delay	Funding Projected	Funds Awarded to Date	Expenditures to Date
FY20-21											
Infrastructure Project											
Alondra Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project	Los Angeles County	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	Design	No	No	N/A	No	\$30,000,000.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$0.00
		Q4 (April - June)	Complete	Design, Bid/Award	No	No	N/A	No	\$30,000,000.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$0.00
Torrance Airport Storm Water Basin Project, Phase 2	City of Torrance	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	Bid/Award, Design	No	No	N/A	No	\$906,000.00	\$906,000.00	\$15,894.56
		Q4 (April - June)	Complete	Design	No	No	N/A	No	\$906,000.00	\$906,000.00	\$198,589.56
Wilmington Q Street Local Urban Area Flow Management Project	City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	N/A	No	No	N/A	No	\$4,923,700.00	\$4,923,700.00	\$0.00
		Q4 (April - June)	Complete	N/A	No	A-10 Work Schedule and Completion Date Modifications	No	No	\$4,923,700.00	\$4,923,700.00	\$0.00
Scientific Study											
Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc Criterion	City of Los Angeles Sanitation	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	Study Implementation	No	No	N/A	No	\$337,609.37	\$266,965.00	\$0.00
		Q4 (April - June)	Complete	Study Implementation	No	No	N/A	No	\$337,609.37	\$266,965.00	\$40,797.00
FY21-22											
Infrastructure Project											
Stormwater Basin Expansion Project	City of Torrance	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	N/A	No	No	No	No	\$4,505,000.00	\$4,505,000.00	\$0.00
		Q4 (April - June)	Complete	Construction	No	No	N/A	No	\$4,505,000.00	\$4,505,000.00	\$0.00
Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project	City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation and Environment	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	Planning, Design	No	No	N/A	No	\$12,183,000.00	\$662,727.00	\$0.00
		Q4 (April - June)	Complete	Design, Planning	No	No	N/A	No	\$12,183,000.00	\$662,727.00	\$0.00
South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project	City of Manhattan Beach (Mamerto Estepa Jr., Prem Kumar, and Shawn Igoe)	Q3 (January - March)	Complete	Other, Planning, Design	No	No	N/A	No	\$17,620,030.00	\$1,497,100.00	\$0.00

South Santa Monica Bay
Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary

South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project	City of Manhattan Beach (Mamerto Estepa Jr., Prem Kumar, and Shawn Igoe)	Q4 (April - June)	Complete	Other, Planning, Design	No	A-10 Work Schedule and Completion Date Modifications, A-3 Total Activity Cost Modifications, A-7 Sustainability Rating Modifications	N/A	No	\$17,620,030.00	\$1,497,100.00	\$23,834.12
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SSMB Watershed Coordinator: DAC classification in SIP



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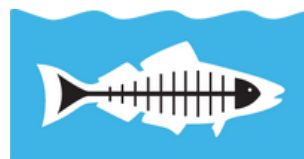
Considerations and Recommendations



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER
PROGRAM**

SIP Projects and DAC Classifications

Project Developer	Project Name	Funding Amount
City of Torrance	Beach Cities Green Streets Project	\$5.4M
City of Redondo Beach	Glen Anderson Park Regional Stormwater Capture Green Streets	\$782k
City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, LA Sanitation and Environment	Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation (MLER) Operations and Maintenance	\$3.2M
City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, LA Sanitation and Environment	Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project	\$10.3M



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SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

DAC Classifications and Recommendations

1

Classification: No DAC benefits claimed

Recommendation: No action needed

2


Classification: DAC benefits claimed, not located directly in underserved community

Recommendation: Up to WASC discretion

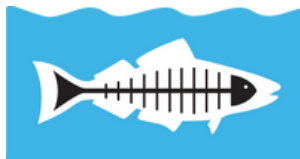
3

Classification: DAC benefits claimed, located directly in underserved community

Recommendation: No action needed



Project Name	Funding Amount
Beach Cities Green Streets Project	\$5.4M
Glen Anderson Park Regional Stormwater Capture Green Streets	\$782k
Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation (MLER) Operations and Maintenance	\$3.2M
Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project	\$10.3M



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SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

2

Glen Anderson Park

Executive Summary:

objectives in the Dominguez Channel watershed. In addition, the Project aims to add green space, reduce the heat island effect and enhance the experience of all parkgoers, including those belonging to the nearby Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) located approximately 0.25 miles from the Project site. Many of the additional benefits will address the needs of improvement identified in the City of Redondo Beach's Glen Anderson Park Master Plan.

Data Spatial Library:

According to the 2020 census data provided on the digital spatial library, 0.5 miles away from the closest DAC.

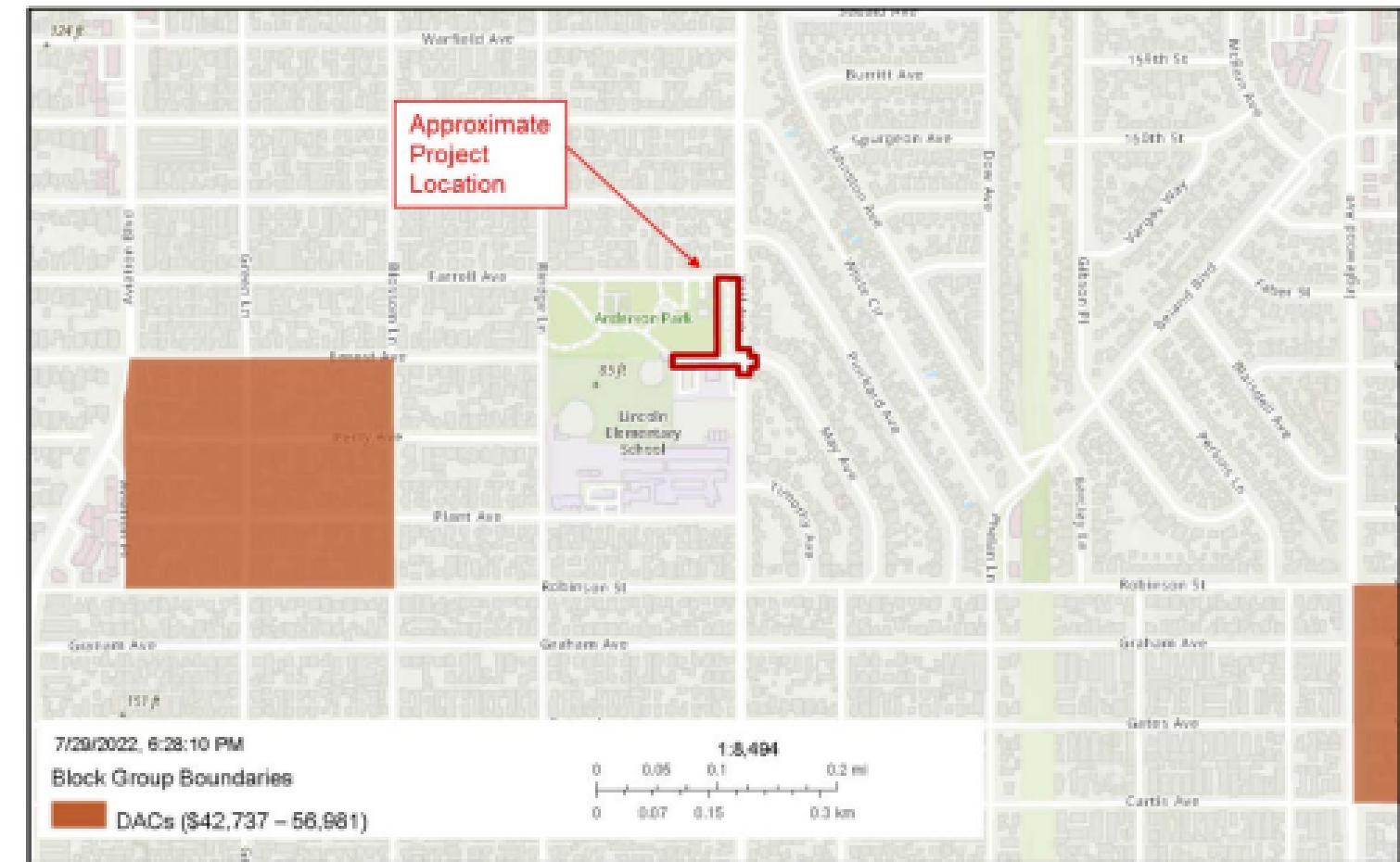
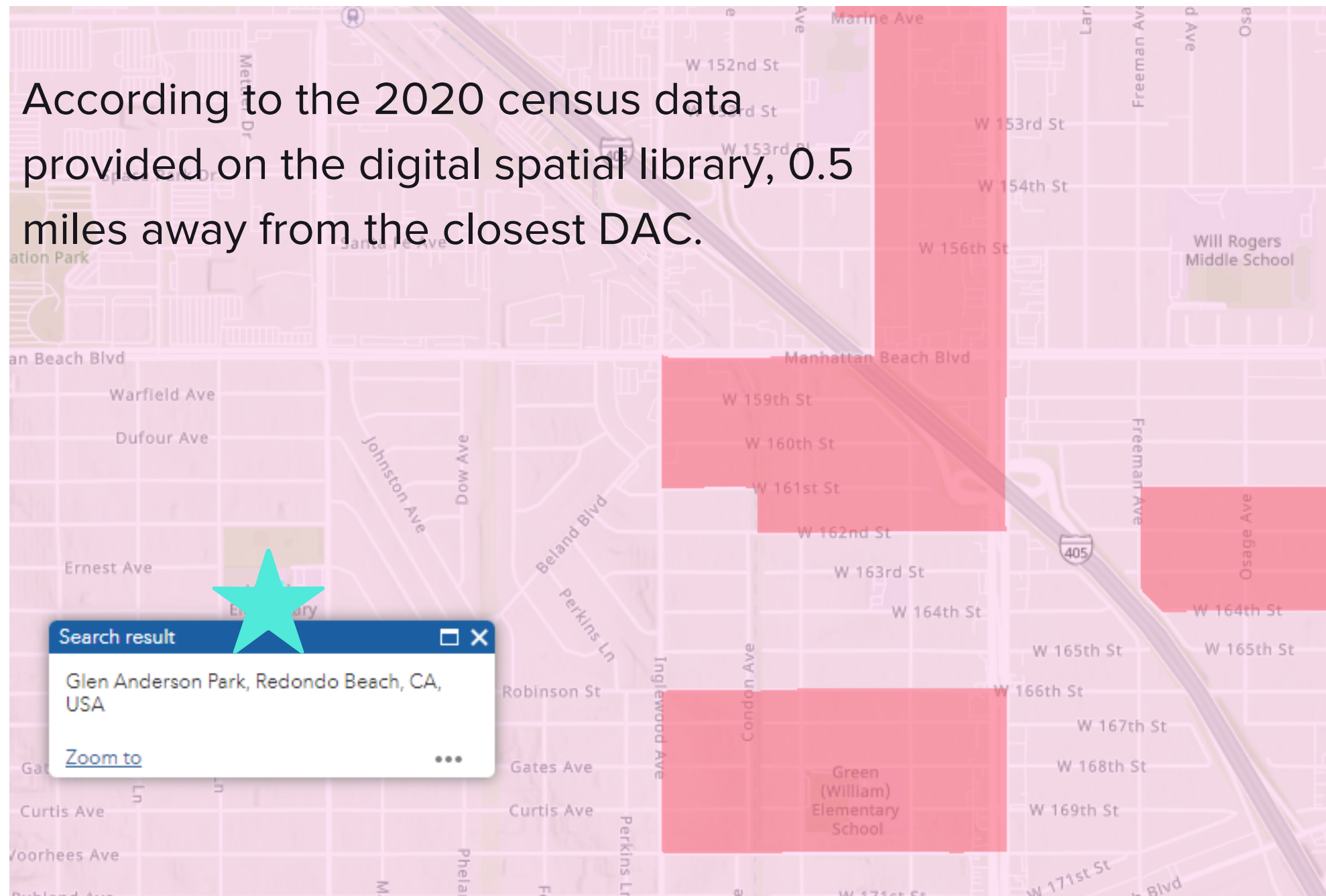


Figure 4. DAC Map

Nearest DAC is 0.25 mile from the Project location (Glen Anderson Park)