



FUNDING MEMO

To:	North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee	From:	Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team
Project:	Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project	Date:	October 23, 2023
Project Lead:	City of Agoura Hills	Call for Projects Year:	Round 5 FY24-25
Watershed Area:	North Santa Monica Bay	Project Location:	3001 Ladyface Ct Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Reference: Leverage Funding Memo for Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project

Leveraged funding is a key program goal in the Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance (Chapter 18.04). This and other Funding Memos are generated for all eligible newly submitted Safe, Clean Water Program Infrastructure Program projects in Round 5 FY24-25. The intent of this funding memo is to strengthen the identification of leverage funding sources and support WASCs in funding priorities and partial funding decisions. Below is a summary of the project benefits, overview of the funding request, potential sources of leverage funding for this project, and an assessment of funding competitiveness in those programs.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Project Application describes the proposed project in this way:

The Agoura Hills Storm Water Diversion Project aims to divert approximately 1 [million gallons per day (MGD)] of dry weather and 2 MGD of the first flush storm event for treatment and reuse at [the] Tapia Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).

The goal of the Project is to address drainage quality throughout the City of Agoura Hills, which will benefit receiving waters including Malibu Creek and the North Santa Monica Bay while providing a local source of water to Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) for treatment and reuse.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The Project claims to provide the following benefits, as copied verbatim from the Project Application:

- Water Quality: The Project will improve water quality in local receiving waters and downstream systems, including Malibu Creek and the North Santa Monica Bay. The Project's large coverage area will improve the numerous waterbodies that directly contribute to Malibu Creek. These subarea waterbodies include Lindero Creek, Lake Lindero, Medea Creek, and Las Virgenes Creek. The number of directly connected developed areas tributary to these waterbodies translates to a significant volume of available runoff bearing pollutants of concern. The initial runoff generated in a design rainfall event contains the highest concentration of typical pollutants of concern, due to the accumulation of such pollutants on roads and other impervious surfaces



during the often-extended dry-weather periods typical of this portion of Southern California. A reduction in stormwater and urban runoff pollution, including improvements in the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of the stormwater and urban runoff in the Malibu Creek and contributing water bodies will be accomplished with the Project.

Three of the diversion projects will improve water quality at Lindero Creek which discharges into Lake Lindero, five within Medea Creek, and two within Liberty Canyon which contribute to Las Virgenes Creek. Based on sampling results, high selenium concentrations were reflected which are listed as pollutants of concern for all of the affected waterbodies. Additionally, all sites sampled reflected concentrations of Nitrogen and Phosphorus. The diversion project will ultimately divert this polluted drainage that is known to contain the identified pollutants of concern for treatment and reuse.

- Water Supply: This Project achieves the #1 objective of the Governor's Water Supply Strategy: "Develop new water supplies." The Project represents the first significant supply of locally sourced water in the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's (LVMWD) service area, which is currently 100% reliant on imported water for its potable water system. The additional influent provided by the diversion Project to LVMWD's Tapia WRF will support the increased production of recycled water, particularly during summer and fall months when the District's service area demands are at their greatest. This additional influent will offset the need to blend valuable potable water with recycled water to supply District customers and will ultimately reduce the District's reliance on imported water by up to 30%. The additional influent provided by the diversion Project to the Tapia WRF will also support LVMWD's planned Advanced Water Purification Facility, "Pure Water Project" which in the near future will convert this recycled water to drinking water by the year 2030. Thus, the diversion Project will serve as both a direct and indirect local supply of potable water to LVMWD and its service area, improving water supply and system resilience.
- Park Space, Habitat, or Wetland Space: The Project will divert pollutant-dense low-flow drainage from storm drain systems and associated outfalls tributary to local water bodies. The diversion of pollutants from contributing storm drain outfalls improves the quality of local riparian wetland resources and associated water features.
- Recreational Opportunities: Three of the diversion locations will divert polluted flows that outfall through the Lake Lindero Golf Course for treatment. The Lindero Creek (Reach 2) which flows south through the golf course is listed as a Category 5 waterbody per California Waterboards. The goal is to divert this polluted drainage away from the golf course and enhance the use of the popular local golf course by reducing the pollutants conveyed from the outfalls through the course and to Lindero Creek.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEED FOR PROJECT

The Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project is currently requesting \$1,368,782.49 of Safe, Clean Water Program Round 5 funding for FY24-25. The Project is tentatively requesting a total of \$2,972,448.80 of Safe, Clean Water funding through FY28-29 for Construction, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Monitoring. The Project's total cost, excluding O&M, is \$2,581,764.27 (Design, Planning, and Construction).

The Project has not previously received Safe, Clean Water Program funding.



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As disclosed in the Project application, the Project Proponent has leveraged \$1,251,450 from the Department of Water Resources Proposition 1 Round 1 Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation grant.

- **Total SCW funding requested for FY24-25:** \$1,368,782.49
- **Total SCW funding awarded to date:** None
- **Total SCW funding requested:** \$2,972,448.80 (Infrastructure Program – Construction, O&M, Monitoring)
- **Total Infrastructure Project cost:** \$2,581,764.27 (Infrastructure Program – Design, Planning, and Construction)
- **Cost share and/or existing funding already leveraged:** \$1,251,450

	Year 1 – Current Ask	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Future Funds	Total Request
Request	\$ 1,368,782.49	\$ 398,965.41	\$400,248.98	\$ 401,558.24	\$ 402,893.68	\$ --	\$ 2,972,448.80
Phase	Construction, O&M, Monitoring	O&M, Monitoring	O&M, Monitoring	O&M, Monitoring	O&M, Monitoring	N/A	

Status and schedule of project:

- **Date of completion of Project planning and design:** 08/2023
- **Anticipated date of completion of Project construction:** 07/2024

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding/grant program opportunities align with the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project. Funding/grant program opportunities are categorized into topic areas based on the claimed project benefits in the Safe, Clean Water Program project application. Each funding/grant program listed includes an assessment of the project’s funding competitiveness in its description.

Funding competitiveness assessments will fall under three levels:

- **Strong:** The Project has a strong potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project provides numerous benefits and aligns strongly with the funding program’s goals and priorities.
- **Moderate:** The Project has a moderate potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project features some benefits that align with the funding program’s focus.
- **Low:** The Project has a low potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project features a benefit that aligns with the funding program’s focus but does not directly align with funding priorities.



WATER SUPPLY

[California State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#)

offers low-cost financing for a wide variety of wastewater and water quality projects, including funding for non-potable water reuse projects. Financing is offered through low-interest loans (at half the general obligation bond rate, currently 3% as of October 2023). Stormwater mitigation projects may also be eligible for PF. California's CWSRF receives annual funds from principal and interest on past loans, federal allocations, periodic allocations to the State Water Board from the California annual budget, and other funds approved by California voters such as Proposition 1 and Proposition 68. The California CWSRF offers an average of \$736 million in financing annually. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed at the end of the calendar year. Projects in small (defined as less than 20,000 people) and/or disadvantaged communities are prioritized for grant funding and principal loan forgiveness. Specific funding percentages and caps change by the year but are developed annually through a stakeholder-driven process and released in that year's [Intended Use Plan \(IUP\)](#). Some public entities are unable to apply for the CWSRF financing due to conflicting requirements with existing debt, which may impact the ability for the proponent to finance the project through the CWSRF.

The Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project has a ***moderate potential*** to be competitive for the CWSRF given the project's benefits to a small community of less than 20,000 people. Additionally, some public entities are unable to apply for the CWSRF financing due to conflicting requirements with existing debt, which may impact the ability for the proponent to finance the project through the CWSRF.

RECREATION

[Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District's Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Competitive Grant](#) funds projects that improve and connect regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects. The grant program prioritizes trails and accessibility projects that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County. A minimum of 30% of funding will be awarded to projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas, as defined by the Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.

The Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project has a ***low potential*** to be competitive for this RPOSD program given the Project's limited benefits claimed by the Project Applicant. The Project provides recreational benefits, including enhancing the use of Lake Lindero Golf Course by diverting polluted drainage away from the course, as stated in the Project Application. The Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District's (RPOSD) County Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Competitive Grant funds recreational projects; however, golf courses are not typically defined as an outdoor recreational space. According to RPOSD's Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016), the Project location address is in the City of Agoura Hills, Study Area #81, and has a very low park need. The Project does not align strongly with funding priorities and may not be as competitive compared to other potential project applications throughout the county.

Funding programs change frequently. The above identified funding opportunities are initial recommendations, and further research should verify project-specific eligibility requirements, latest funding levels, and appropriate timelines. Use the links above to research these programs further. If you



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are unsure about your project eligibility or competitiveness, reaching out to program coordinators via contact emails or webinars is a good way to get your questions answered. The [California Grants Portal](#) and [California Financing Coordinating Committee Funding Fairs](#) can serve as resources to identify additional funding opportunities.

Questions can be asked of the [Watershed Coordinator](#) or the [Regional Coordination Team](#).