An aerial photograph of the Los Angeles coastline and city grid, showing the city's layout and the surrounding terrain. The image is rotated 90 degrees clockwise, with the coastline on the left and the city grid on the right. The background is a solid teal color.

Pollutant Source Characterization Study

Scientific Studies Program

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Watershed Areas: Central Santa Monica Bay, South Santa Monica Bay,

Upper Los Angeles River

Project Lead: City of Los Angeles (LASAN)

Presenter: Jon Ball



Study Overview

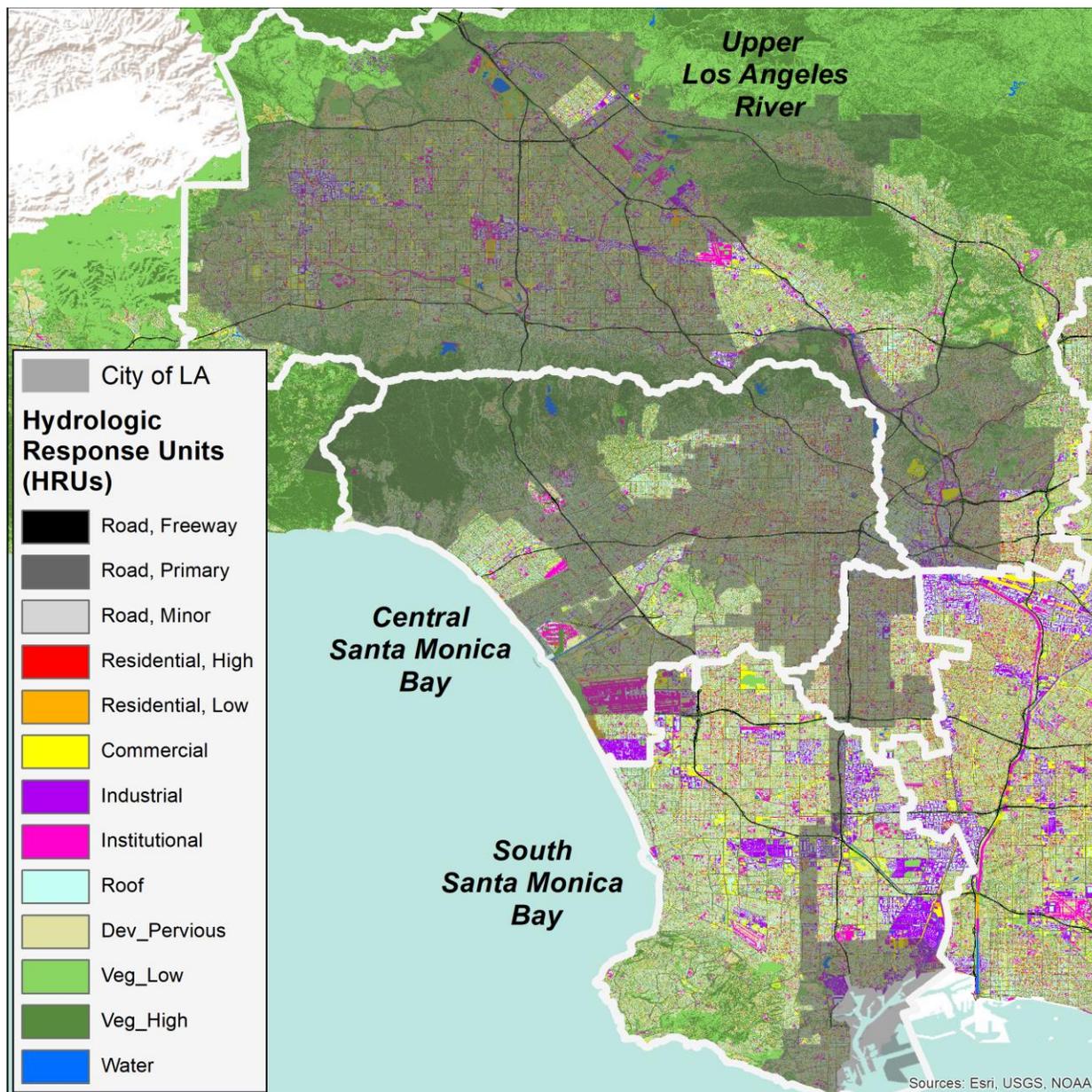
The Pollutant Source Characterization Study will collect data to better understand pollutant sources, improve water quality model configuration and calibration based on current conditions, and support Best Management Practice (BMP) planning.

- The Study will support stormwater capture and pollutant reduction by providing the information needed to:
 - Improve the precision and accuracy of water quality modeling
 - Select and site more effective structural BMPs
 - Identify and implement potential source control BMPs
 - Maximize the water quality benefit from SCWP and other investments





Study Location



- SCW watershed areas:
 - Central Santa Monica Bay
 - South Santa Monica Bay
 - Upper Los Angeles River
- Study locations will include:
 - Sites representing runoff from homogenous land uses
 - Sites representing hydrologic response units (HRUs) modeled in WMMS 2.0



Study Team

- Study Lead: LASAN Watershed Protection Division (WPD)
 - Jon Ball, Environmental Affairs Officer
 - Miller Zou, Environmental Supervisor II
 - Bryan Truong, Environmental Supervisor II
- Study Support: LWA & Paradigm Environmental
 - Accomplished in the implementation of large studies involving multiple stakeholders
 - Experienced in utilizing pollutant source data to calibrate and configure water quality models (e.g., WMMS 2.0)



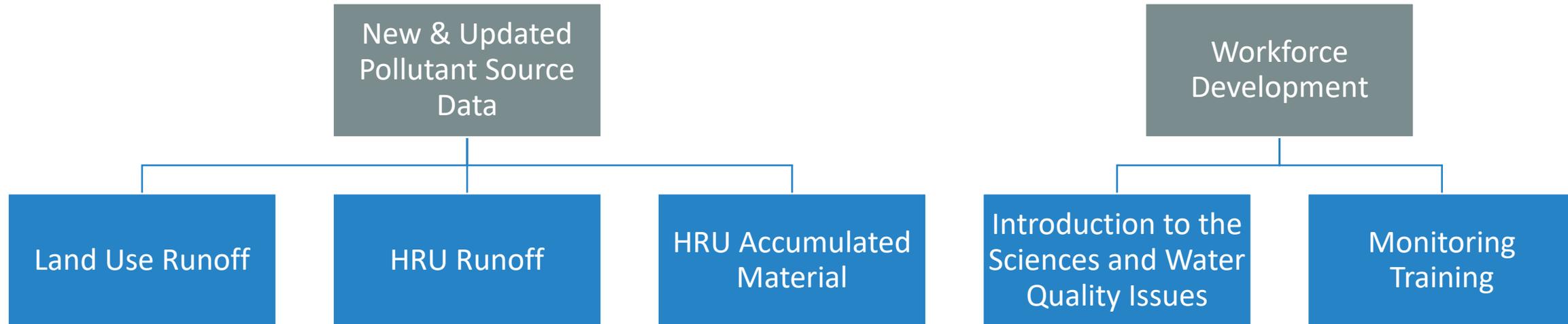
Study Details: Problem Statement

- Existing pollutant source data were collected 20+ years ago by SCCWRP and LA County
 - Do not reflect current conditions
 - Lack sufficient data for important pollutants
 - Lack the spatial resolution of current water quality models
- Modeling and decision making based on existing data can lead to:
 - Implementation of BMPs that provide suboptimal water quality benefit
 - Inefficient use of Safe Clean Water Program and other resources
- Updated data are needed to inform effective management decisions



Study Details: Objectives and Outcomes

- Objective: Improve understanding of pollutant sources to inform more effective implementation of structural and source control BMPs.





Study Details - Methodology

Task 1: Work Plan Development

- Selection of representative sites and constituents
- Design of workforce development approach
- Input from Technical Advisory Group & stakeholders

Task 2: Data Collection and Workforce Development

- Collection of runoff and accumulated material samples
- Coordination with local organizations and institutions to implement workforce development approach

Task 3: Reporting and Data Summary

- Annual and final reports on methodology and results
- Final dataset to support future model calibration and inform other program elements

Task 4: Stakeholder Engagement

- Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- Interested stakeholders



Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
1	Task 1: Work Plan Development	\$110,000	10/1/2025
2	Task 2: Data Collection and Workforce Development	\$2,940,000	5/1/2029
2	Task 3: Reporting and Data Summary	\$275,000	9/30/2029
1 & 2	Task 4: Stakeholder Engagement	\$175,000	9/30/2029
TOTAL		\$3,500,000	



Funding Request

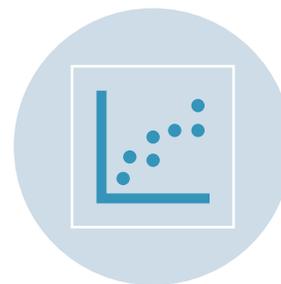
WASC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
CSMB	\$24,920	\$193,130	\$155,750	\$155,750	\$93,450	\$623,000
SSMB	\$16,240	\$125,860	\$101,500	\$101,500	\$60,900	\$406,000
ULAR	\$98,840	\$766,010	\$617,750	\$617,750	\$370,650	\$2,471,000
TOTAL	\$140,000	\$1,085,000	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$525,000	\$3,500,000



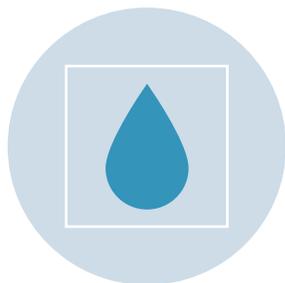
Summary of Benefits



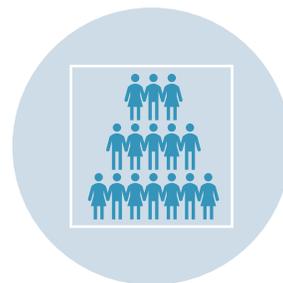
Improved understanding
of pollutant sources in
stormwater



More accurate and
precise water quality
modeling



Greater water quality
benefit from improved
BMP selection and siting



Development of water
work force and
community relationships

A man with a beard is shown in profile on the left, looking towards a wall covered in numerous sticky notes and diagrams. The room is dimly lit, with light coming from a window with blinds in the background. The sticky notes contain handwritten text and some diagrams. A white semi-transparent banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Questions?

Jon Ball
jon.ball@lacity.org

An aerial photograph of Los Angeles, California, showing the coastline, the city grid, and the surrounding mountains. The image is rotated 90 degrees clockwise. The left side of the image is a solid teal color, which serves as a background for the text.

Street Sweeping Study

Scientific Studies Program

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Watershed Areas: Central Santa Monica Bay, South Santa Monica Bay,

Upper Los Angeles River

Project Lead: City of Los Angeles (LASAN)

Presenter: Jon Ball



Study Overview

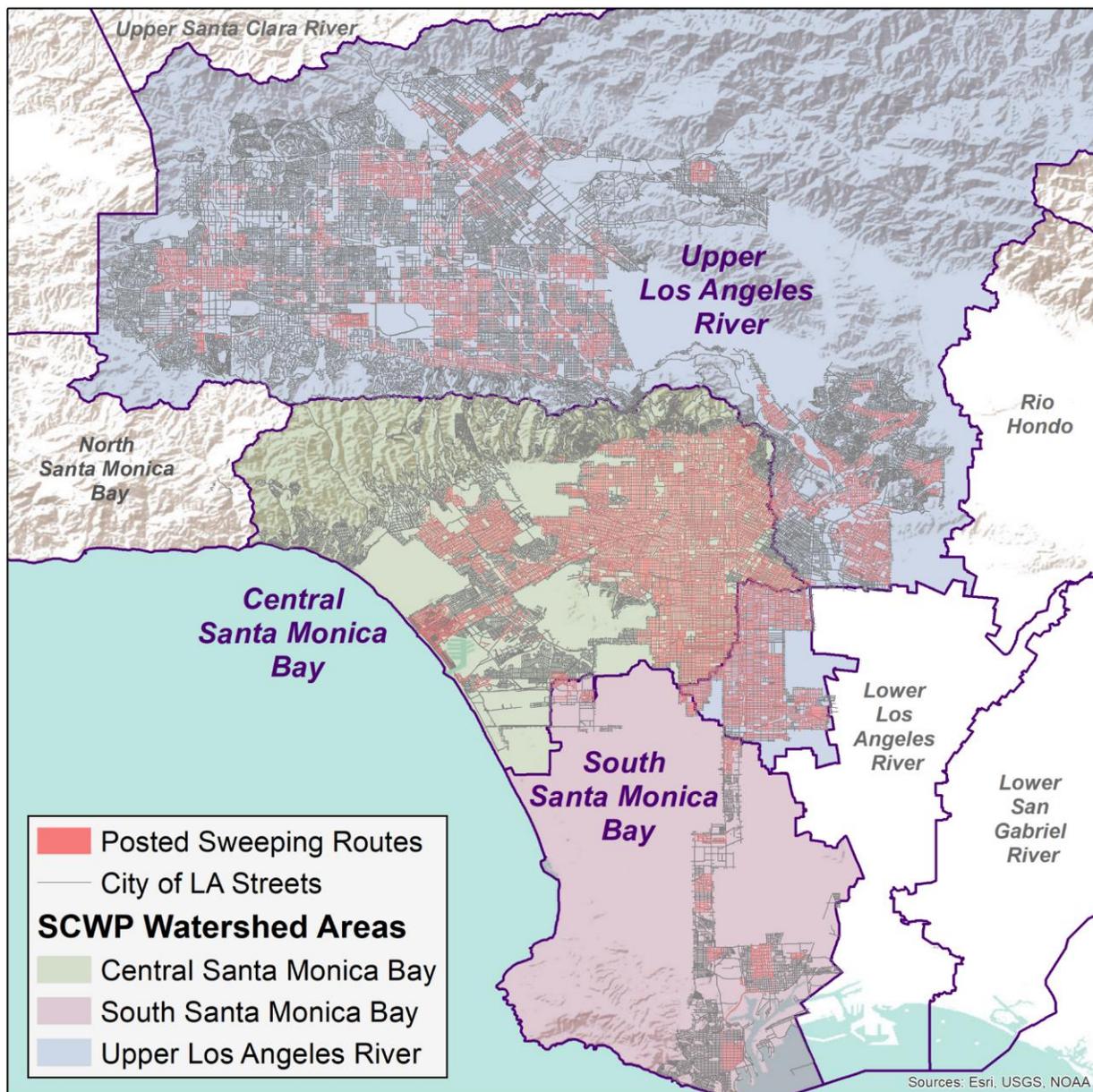
The Street Sweeping Study will collect information that will be used to identify potential enhancements to the City of Los Angeles' street sweeping program that would result in greater removal of pollutants from street surfaces and increased benefit to downstream water quality.

- Street sweeping is recognized as an effective water quality BMP
 - Removes a variety of priority pollutants from street surfaces (e.g., metals, organics)
- The Study will support improved pollutant removal via street sweeping by:
 - Evaluating new and more effective sweeping technologies and approaches
 - Identifying areas and conditions with the greatest pollutant accumulation where sweeping can be prioritized.





Study Location

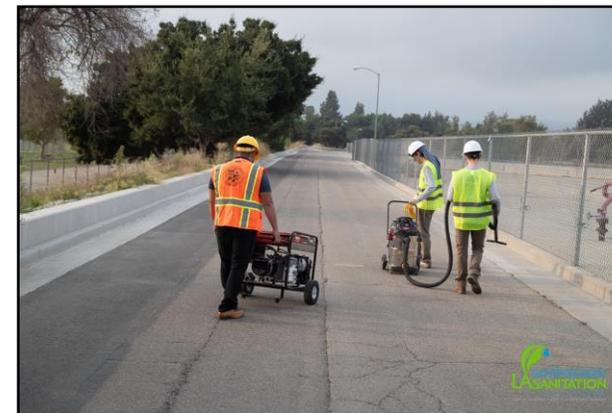


- SCW watershed areas:
 - Central Santa Monica Bay
 - South Santa Monica Bay
 - Upper Los Angeles River
- Study locations will include:
 - Posted street sweeping routes
 - Other City streets
 - Controlled environment testing locations



Study Team

- Study Lead: LASAN Watershed Protection Division (WPD)
 - Jon Ball, Environmental Affairs Officer
 - Miller Zou, Environmental Supervisor II
 - Bryan Truong, Environmental Supervisor II
- Study Partner: StreetsLA
 - Coordinating with staff on work plan development, study implementation, and interpretation of results.
- Study Support: LWA
 - Prior experience in street sweeper testing
 - Currently supporting LASAN with implementation of first phase of Study





Study Details: Problem Statement

- Urban streets accumulate “street dirt” containing a variety of pollutants
 - Metals, PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, and more
- Street sweeping can be highly effective and cost-efficient at removing pollutants, if conducted with pollutant removal in mind
- Pollutant removal by street sweeping can be improved by:
 - Sweeping with the best technologies and approaches
 - Sweeping streets with the highest pollutant loads
 - Sweeping at the right times and frequencies
- **Local data is needed to identify and support improved street sweeping pollutant removal**





Study Details: Objectives and Outcomes

- Objective: Increase pollutant removal via street sweeping by addressing the following questions:

Study Questions		Expected Outcomes
How to Sweep?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which equipment is most effective?• What is the most efficient operating speed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform sweeper selection• Inform target operating speeds
Where to Sweep?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where is pollutant loading on street surfaces highest?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform prioritization of areas with high pollutant load
When to Sweep?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How frequently should streets be swept?• When should streets be swept for greatest water quality benefit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform sweeping frequency for greater efficiency• Inform targeted sweeping at particular times of year



Study Details - Methodology

Task 1: Compilation of Existing Data

- Inform design of subsequent tasks (e.g., site selection)
- Data Types: Sweeping routes, street conditions, land use, traffic volume

Task 2: Sweeper Effectiveness Testing

- Evaluate pollutant removal efficiencies of existing mechanical sweepers and potential new sweepers (e.g., regenerative air, vacuum, electric)
- Controlled environment and real street testing

Task 3: Street Dirt Characterization

- Sample sites representing varied land uses, traffic volumes, times of year
- Measure pollutant concentrations, loadings, and accumulation rates

Task 4: Reporting

- Annual status memos and final report summarizing results
- Communication tools and data products to inform street sweeping implementation

Task 5: Project Management

- Includes coordination w/ StreetsLA



Study Details – Relationship to Other Studies

- Previous Studies
 - City of San Diego (2008-2014), Cities of Burbank and Glendale (2011)
 - Demonstrate potential for improved pollutant removal via street sweeping
 - Lacking current, site-specific data needed to inform City's program
- Ongoing Studies
 - SMC: Focused on quantifying impact of street sweeping on runoff quality
 - City of Santa Barbara: Focused on microplastics
 - Objectives of existing studies are complementary
 - City has reached out to discuss potential collaboration





Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
1	Work Plan Development	\$15,000	10/1/2024
1	Task 1: Compilation of Existing Data	\$15,000	10/1/2024
1	Task 2.1: Sweeper Effectiveness Testing – Controlled Environment	\$70,000	10/1/2024
2	Task 2.2: Sweeper Effectiveness Testing – Real Streets	\$400,000	11/1/2025
2	Task 3: Street Dirt Characterization	\$467,000	11/1/2026
2	Task 4: Reporting	\$93,000	9/30/2027
2	Task 5: Project Management	\$20,000	9/30/2027
Total Study Cost		\$1,080,000	
Total SCWP Funding Requested		\$975,000	

Phase 1
Funded by: City of LA
Subtotal: \$105,000

Phase 2
Funded by: SCWP
Subtotal: \$975,000



Funding Request

WASC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
CSMB	\$71,200	\$80,990	\$21,360	\$173,550
SSMB	\$46,400	\$52,780	\$13,920	\$113,100
ULAR	\$282,400	\$321,320	\$84,720	\$688,350
TOTAL	\$400,000	\$455,000	\$120,000	\$975,000



Summary of Benefits

- Identification and support for potential enhancements to the City's street sweeping program
 - Potential to inform street sweeping by other agencies
- Greater recognition, support, and use of street sweeping as a tool for improving water quality, resulting in:
 - Greater pollutant removal, leading to improved water quality (and potentially air quality)
 - More cost-effective attainment of water quality priorities
- Data on pollutant loading from streets that can support other stormwater program elements:
 - Selection, design, and placement of BMPs
 - Water quality modeling



A man with a beard, wearing a dark shirt, is seen in profile on the left side of the frame, looking towards a whiteboard. The whiteboard is covered with numerous sticky notes of various colors (yellow, white, blue) and some diagrams. The room has large windows with horizontal blinds in the background, and the lighting is somewhat dim, creating a professional and focused atmosphere. The text 'Questions?' is overlaid in a white box across the middle of the image.

Questions?

Jon Ball
e-mail

Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity

Upper LA River Watershed

Scientific Studies Program by:
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Presentation by:

Dr. Ali Sharbat (PhD, PE), Dr. Mehrad Kamalzare (PhD, PE)





Study Overview

Summary of Study:

- Track the infiltration capacity of recently installed drywells over a period of **five years**
- **Five drywell sites** will be carefully selected to represent a range of factors, including:
 - Drywell design & construction
 - Pre-treatment methods
 - Operations / maintenance practices
 - Drywell's basin size & annual runoff volume
 - Land use & traffic volumes
 - Soil types

Why?

- Tremendous uncertainties in drywell performance & appropriate maintenance procedures
- Drywell systems may be improperly managed and maintained resulting in degraded capacity over time

Outcome

- Identify **best practices** for different drywells with various site conditions & disseminate the findings
- Benefits to local disadvantaged communities (DACs) (workforce development and local stormwater infrastructure improvements)
- Development of trained work-force by the University
- Support regional sustainability goals by promoting stormwater capture and local water supply recharge



Study Location



- **Watershed to be Studied:**
 - Upper Los Angeles River Watershed
- **Study Location:**
 - Locations will be further chosen from both existing and proposed drywell locations
- **Benefits for the entire LA County:**
 - The implementation of updated best practice will benefit tax-payers via increased drywell cost-effectiveness
 - Improved & more resilient stormwater treatment, reduced pollutant runoff, and enhanced water quality



Study Team

➤ Cal Poly Pomona

- Ali Sharbat, PhD, PE - *Water Resources Engineering*
- Mehrad Kamalzare, PhD, PE - *Geotechnical Engineering*
- Alan Fuchs, PhD - *Filtration Engineering*
- Seema Shah-Fairbank, PhD, PE - *Water Resources Engineering*
- Yasser Salem, PhD, PE - *Professional Civil Engineer*

➤ Cal Poly Pomona Students (Future workforce for local stormwater projects)

➤ University of California Santa Barbara

- Hugo Loaiciga, PhD, PE - *Hydrologist*

➤ Private Consultants

- Scott Kindred, P.E. (Kindred Hydro, Inc., State of Washington) - *Hydrogeologist and Drywell expert*

➤ Local Drywell Experts

- Geologists, engineers, and drywell Contractors
- Local drywell and stormwater infrastructure experts



Similar Studies

- This study would be **the first of its kind** by identifying best practices for maintaining drywell capacity. It appears that there is no study to quantify the effectiveness of LID/GSI maintenance protocols in extending the longevity of drywells
- **Sedimentation compartments** and **vegetative pretreatment** systems were demonstrated to reduce the clogging rate of infiltration systems. (Edwards et. al., 2016)
- **Infiltration infrastructure are prone to clogging** even if there are no suspended sediments introduced to the infrastructure, as evidenced by multiple studies examining physical, chemical, and biological clogging mechanisms in soil columns (Baveye et. al., 1998). These mechanisms are commonly observed in practice, and various physical and chemical causes of clogging have been documented.
- **The geometry of the pore space** is closely related to the **chemical properties of solid particles** in soils. Factors such as electrolyte concentration, organic compound, acidity, redox potential, mineralogical composition of the soil, surface characteristics, and chemical reactions all influence the shape and stability of the pores, and the value of hydraulic conductivity.
- Various carbon/energy sources, such as **plant residues**, and hydrocarbons have been found to both accelerate and enhance soil clogging (Frankenberger et al., 1979). Moreover, addition of **nitrogen** affects clogging (Frankenberger et al., 1979).





Study Details

Study Goals

- Determine which commonly used **drywell design / construction methods** provide the best balance between *cost* and *long-term performance*;
- Determine which common **pre-treatment** and **maintenance** practices provide the best balance between *cost* and *long-term performance*;
- Determine how **soil characteristics** can impact long-term drywell performance and provide recommendations for design and maintenance to address fine-grained soils.
- Develop guidelines for **maintenance practices** and frequency, for different levels of **land-use and traffic loading**;
- Train next generation of **workforce** for the local industry.



❖ **Stormwater Infiltration is a cost-effective, resilient approach for managing wet weather impacts, that provides many community benefits.**



Study Details

Watershed Benefits

- More accurate and customized post-construction planning for O&M
- More accurate budgeting for drywell maintenance
- More groundwater recharge for less money
- More sustainable and resilient drywells in the watershed
- ❖ Better efficiency and long-term performance of drywell systems
- ❖ Better water quality and improved local water supply (aligned with SCW Goals)
- ❖ **This study's recommendations will optimize the return on investment from stormwater infrastructure, and contribute to the longevity of drywell systems.**

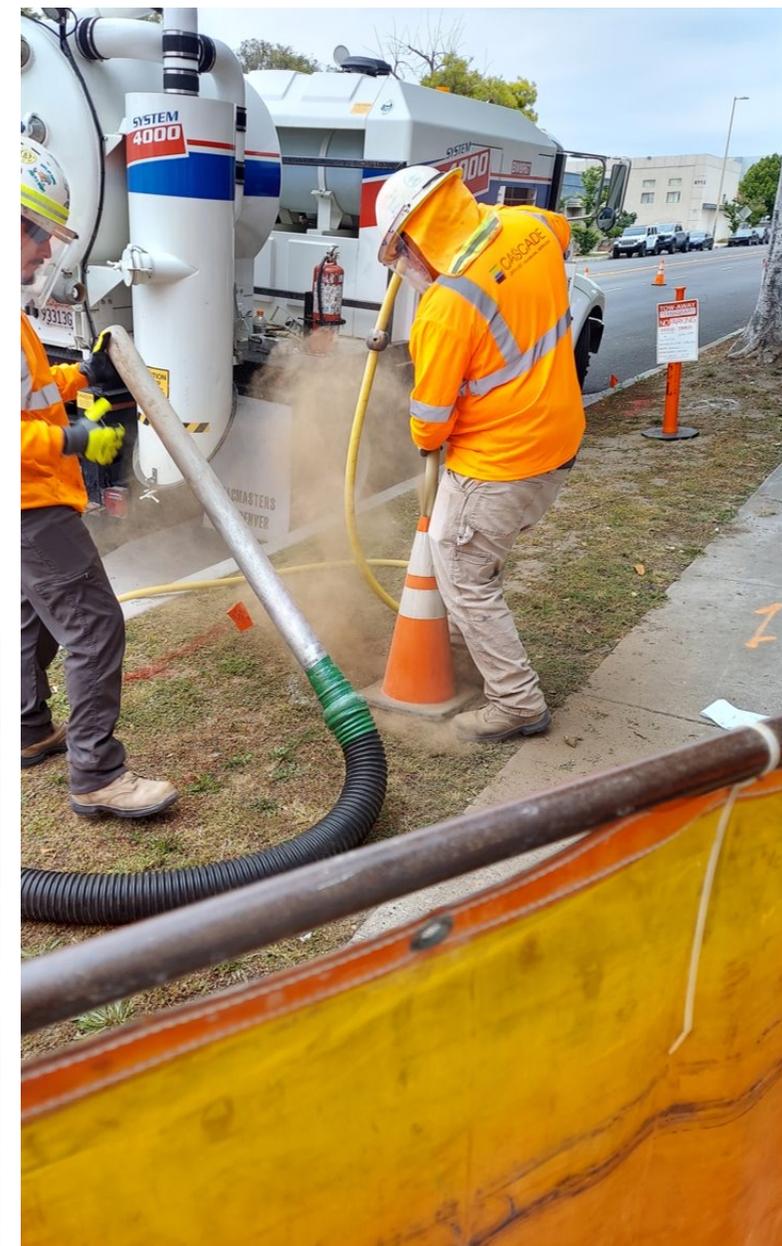


Full-scale drywell test by CPP Team
(City of Glendale)



Scope of Work

- Task 1: Study-site selection
- Task 2: Operations documentation
- Task 3: Planning the field program
- Task 4: Infiltration testing
- Task 5: Field visits for O&M activities
- Task 6: Outreach and engagement
- Task 7: Reporting and publication





Scope of Work and Schedule

Phase	Description	Completion Date
Task 1	Study-Site Selection	06/30/2025
Task 2	Operations Documentation	12/31/2025
Task 3	Planning Field Program	09/30/2025 + (Q1 every following year)
Task 4	Infiltration Testing	06/31/2029
Task 5	Field Visits for O&M Activities	06/31/2029
Task 6	Outreach & Engagement	06/31/2029
Task 7	Reporting & Publications	06/31/2029

Tasks	2024-25				2025-26				2026-27				2027-28				2028-29			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
1: Study-Site Selection	█	█	█	█																
2: Operations Documentation					█	█														
3: Planning Field Program					█				█				█				█			
4: Infiltration Testing			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
5: Field Visits: O&M Activities					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
6: Outreach & Engagement							█	█			█	█			█	█			█	█
7: Reporting & Publications																	█	█	█	█



Funding Request

WASC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
CSMB	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
LLAR	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
LSGR	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
NSMB	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
RH	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
SCR	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
SSMB	\$79,989	\$81,181	\$82,176	\$80,937	\$84,588	\$408,871
ULAR	\$208,972	\$211,953	\$214,440	\$211,343	\$220,470	\$1,067,178
USGR	\$199,972	\$202,953	\$205,440	\$202,343	\$211,470	\$1,022,178
TOTAL	\$968,867	\$983,173	\$995,112	\$980,245	\$1,024,056	\$4,951,453



Summary of Benefits

Benefits to Technical Community:

- Better Stormwater Infiltration Project Planning
- Identifying Best Practices - Accepted by Stakeholders - for Drywell Maintenance with Various Site Conditions
- Accurate and Cost-Effective Drywell Systems

Benefits to LA County Taxpayers:

- Municipalities will get the best value for their investment in stormwater infiltration.
- Helping the community meet stormwater management and water-supply objectives faster and cheaper.
- Developing technical skills of underserved minority students at Cal Poly Pomona.
- Serving local Disadvantaged Communities by improving the existing stormwater infrastructure.



Summary of Benefits

Broader Impacts of the Scientific Study for Regional Workforce Development:

- Developing technical skills of underserved minority students at Cal Poly Pomona
- Offering Senior Project (EGR 4810/4820/4830) focused on stormwater engineering
- Developing a new technical elective course focused on Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure
- Developing of a certificate program focused on stormwater engineering through CPP Extended University
- Hosting minority students sponsored by NSF and Department of Education in our scientific study project
- More than 90 students directly involved



Questions





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Scope of Work

- **Task 1: Study-Site Selection:**

In this task, the core team will work closely with local agencies, cities, and other stakeholders in each watershed basin to finalize the list of drywells for the study. Two to five drywells will be identified for the study in each watershed. A scoring matrix will be developed to assess each site based on the following 9 criteria: 1. Age of Drywell, 2. Drywell Design and Construction, 3. Pre-Treatment Methods, 4. Land-use and Traffic Loading Scenarios, 5. Soil Types, 6. Proximity to a Nearby Fire Hydrant, 7. Minimal Disturbance to Residents and Businesses, 8. Minimal Traffic Control Requirements, and 9. Minimal Access and Permitting Challenges.

- **Task 2: Drywell Operations Documentation**

This task will involve conducting interviews with municipalities that have significant experience in installing, operating, and maintaining drywell systems. These municipalities, located within the western United States, have relied on drywells for many decades, resulting in a wealth of anecdotal knowledge regarding the long-term capacity of these systems.

By engaging in interviews with representatives from these municipalities, we aim to gather valuable firsthand information and document their experiences.

- **Task 3: Planning the Field Program**

This task will involve conducting a detailed assessment of the selected drywell locations in collaboration with the relevant agencies responsible for overseeing these sites.

By working closely with these agencies, we will gather information about the specific characteristics and conditions of each drywell site.

The survey process will involve evaluating the accessibility of each drywell and assessing the availability of nearby fire hydrants.

We will thoroughly examine the requirements for permits, right of entry, and any other necessary documentation to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory protocols. In cases where access to the drywell sites is challenging, we will develop appropriate strategies to obtain the required permissions.



Scope of Work (cont.)

- **Task 4: Infiltration Testing and Flow Rate Monitoring**

Initial Infiltration testing will be conducted in each of the drywells as soon as the appropriate and suitable drywells were identified in each watershed ideally starting Q4 of year 1 of the project.

A constant head infiltration test will be conducted in each drywell by adjusting the flow rate to maintain a constant ponding depth in the drywell for a period of 4-6 hours. A pressure transducer will be installed in the bottom of the drywell to monitor the ponding depth during the test. Water will be supplied by the nearest fire hydrant and the flow rate will be measured using a flow meter.

A pressure transducer will be installed in the drywell following the infiltration test to monitor water levels and document runoff events during the duration of the study.

The water level data will be downloaded twice a year.

Based on results of the infiltration testing and methods provided by Kindred and Reynolds (2020), the water levels can be used to estimate flow rates into the drywells and determine how much runoff is infiltrated through the drywell. This is a much more cost-effective way to estimate runoff compared with retrofitting the drywells to include a flow meter.

Infiltration testing will be conducted every year in all the drywells to determine the change in capacity over time and evaluate the effects of different runoff volumes and any changes in operation and maintenance procedures.

- **Task 5: Field visits for Operation and Maintenance Activities**

The primary objective of this task is to compile a comprehensive record of the maintenance activities undertaken, which will contribute to understanding the relationship between maintenance practices and the long-term performance of drywells. This task involves comprehensive tracking and documentation of maintenance activities conducted at each drywell throughout the duration of the study.

It is anticipated that the municipality responsible for the drywell will carry out regular maintenance activities to ensure optimal functionality. To facilitate this process, the project team will maintain close communication with the maintenance staff, actively monitoring and recording both past and planned maintenance activities.

The project team will be physically present at the drywell sites to observe and document a selected number of maintenance events. By being on-site, they will have the opportunity to gather valuable firsthand information about the maintenance procedures employed. Whenever feasible, the team will document the quantity and nature of materials removed during each maintenance event, distinguishing between trash and sediment.



Scope of Work (cont.)

- **Task 6: Outreach and Engagement**

The purpose of this task is to ensure that potential users of these drywell infiltration testing and design methods are engaged during the study and the methods meets their needs when the work is complete. Outreach and engagement will include:

- Forming an Advisory Committee
- Integration into Engineering Courses
- Workshops with interested stakeholders to present results and solicit feedback.
- Presentations at conferences and technical meetings.
- Regular emails to present results and solicit feedback.

Outreach will be targeted at stakeholders such as regulators, municipal stormwater managers, and civil/geotechnical/hydrogeologic professionals that regularly conduct infiltration testing and design.

- **Task 7: Documentation and Reporting**

Interim quarterly reports will be submitted during the course of the project. All the interim reports and field procedures developed in the previous tasks will be compiled and summarized in a single technical report. This technical report will summarize the results of the study and provide an assessment of the best practices for stormwater drywell systems. In addition, the results of this study will be summarized and presented to the sponsoring Watershed Area Steering Committees. This will provide the region with methodology for optimal site selection, pre-treatment, drywell design and maintenance plan. The student research assistants participating in this scientific project will undergo comprehensive training, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the local stormwater engineering industry. To ensure a smooth transition and knowledge transfer, a peer-mentoring system will be established, connecting graduates from the project with the subsequent cohort of students involved in the ongoing study.

It is expected that one or more peer-reviewed papers will be produced and submitted to a technical journal for publication. This process will ensure that the study results are subject to technical review.