

# Disadvantaged Community Benefits

South Santa Monica Bay WASC

3/20/24

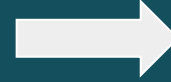


Presentation adapted from Council for Watershed  
Health's [Overview for ULAR](#) (2021)



# Purpose

1. Recall the “Interim Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines.”
2. Explore the location of awarded projects and current projects under consideration in relation to disadvantaged communities.
3. Inform WASC decision-making regarding direct benefits to disadvantaged communities.



## Interim Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines

### Safe, Clean Water Program

Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program



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#### Purpose

Experience to-date in the Regional Program reveals that aspects of Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) related to providing Disadvantaged Community Benefits require further guidance to better support achieving the outcomes sought. The SCWP emphasizes investments that produce benefits in or directly to disadvantaged communities. Complying with the Disadvantaged Community Benefit policy in the Program is complex, and asserting what benefits accrue to which communities is not easily quantified.

As of May 2021, the District Program is developing a study which, among many things, will review how other funding programs that direct investment in disadvantaged communities have worked to overcome the many challenges that remain when seeking to implement the SCWP policy. That study will inform future guidance, currently expected in the Spring of 2022, in support of Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) development in the Regional Program for Year 4 (2022-23).

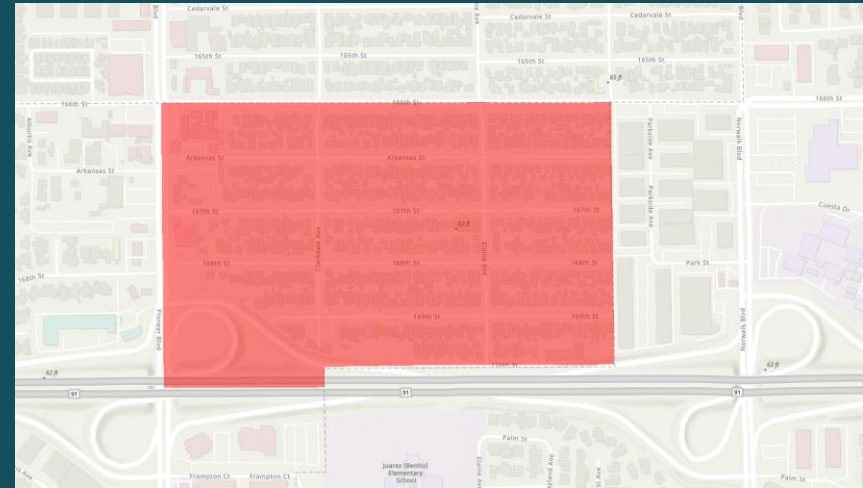
# Takeaway

- This slide deck is a resource for the WASC to reference when reviewing Round 5 projects.

Available on the [website](#)

# Program Definitions

**“‘Disadvantaged community’** means a census block group that has an annual median household income of less than eighty percent (80%) of the Statewide annual median household income (as defined in Water Code section 79505.5).” (*Section 16.03(H)*)



## Example of a Census Block Group in the LSGR

**"Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit'** means a Water Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or Community Investment Benefit located in a DAC or providing benefits directly to a DAC population." (*Section 16.03(l)*)

## "Water Quality Benefit"



## "Water Supply Benefit"



## "Community Investment Benefit"



# SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Policy

Provide Disadvantaged Community Benefits that are  $\geq 110\%$  of the ratio of the disadvantaged community population to the total population in the Watershed Area. *(Section 18.04 (J))*

## All Projects to Date

### DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY (DAC) ALLOCATION

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Required DAC Ratio                       | 30%          |
| Required Funding for DACs FY23-28 (110%) | \$16,062,285 |
| Funding Allocated for DACs FY23-28       | \$26,043,271 |

To date, the SSMB SIPs have met and exceeded required investment in disadvantaged communities.

## Projects provide a Disadvantaged Community Benefit if:

1. **Any of the construction effort** is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community

OR

1. **None** of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community **BUT it provides a “direct benefit”** to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community.

# What Counts as a “Direct Benefit?”

Whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” 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.

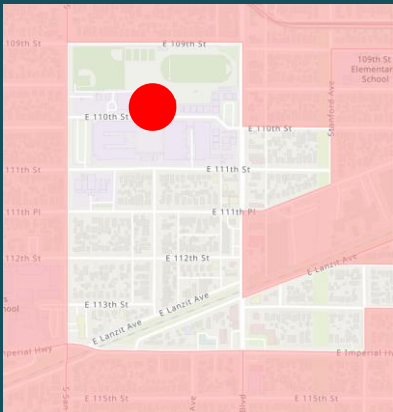


# How Can you as a WASC Validate Direct Benefits?

**Hearing from community members** is the best way to validate a direct benefit.

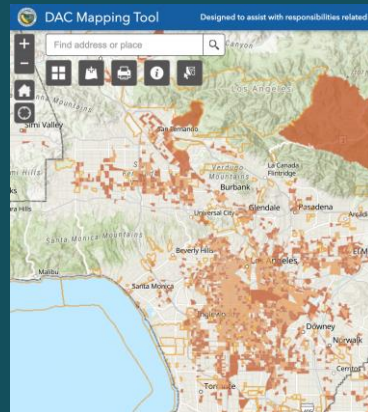
## Other Possible Considerations:

## Adjacency:

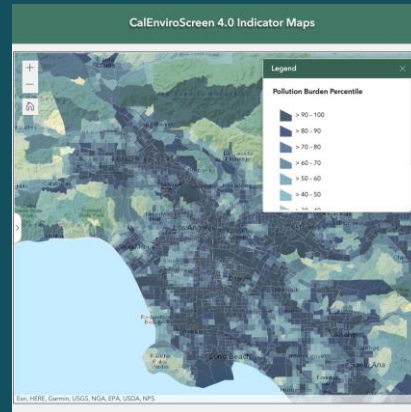


Some projects are near disadvantaged block groups.

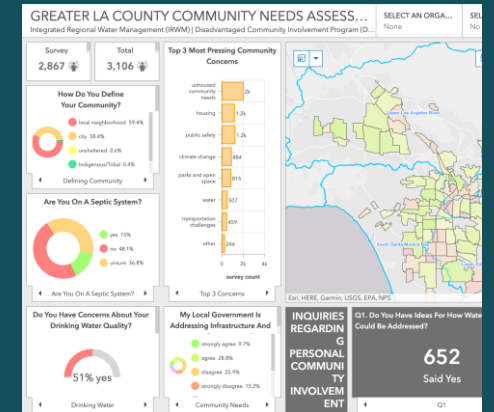
## External Datasets:



Other Census data ([DWR](#)  
[DAC](#)  
[Mapping Tool](#))



# LA County RPOSD Park Needs Assessment



## IRWM DAC Involvement Program Greater LA County Needs Assessment

# Location of Projects

## 3 “Buckets”

Projects NOT Located Within a  
2020 Disadvantaged Census  
Block Group but NOT Claiming  
a DAC Benefit



Projects Located Within a  
2020 Disadvantaged  
Census Block Group (thus  
expressly benefit a DAC)



Projects NOT Located Within  
a 2020 Disadvantaged  
Census Block Group but  
ARE Claiming a DAC Benefit

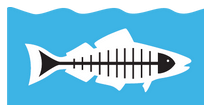




# SIP Projects and DAC Classifications



| Project Developer/Municipality | Project Name  | Funding Amount | Watershed(s)           |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|------------------------|
| City of Torrance               | Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project             | \$19.2M        | South Santa Monica Bay |
| City of Torrance               | Dominguez Channel Parkway BMPs Prioritization Project | \$5M           | South Santa Monica Bay |





Heal the Bay



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

# DAC Classifications and Recommendations



| Project Name  | Funding Amount |
|---|----------------|
| Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project             | \$19.2M        |
| Dominguez Channel Parkway BMPs Prioritization Project | \$5M           |

1

Classification: No DAC benefits claimed

Recommendation: No action needed

2

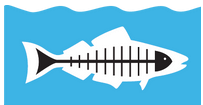
Classification: DAC benefits claimed, located directly in underserved community

Recommendation: No action needed

3

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

Recommendation: Up to WASC discretion



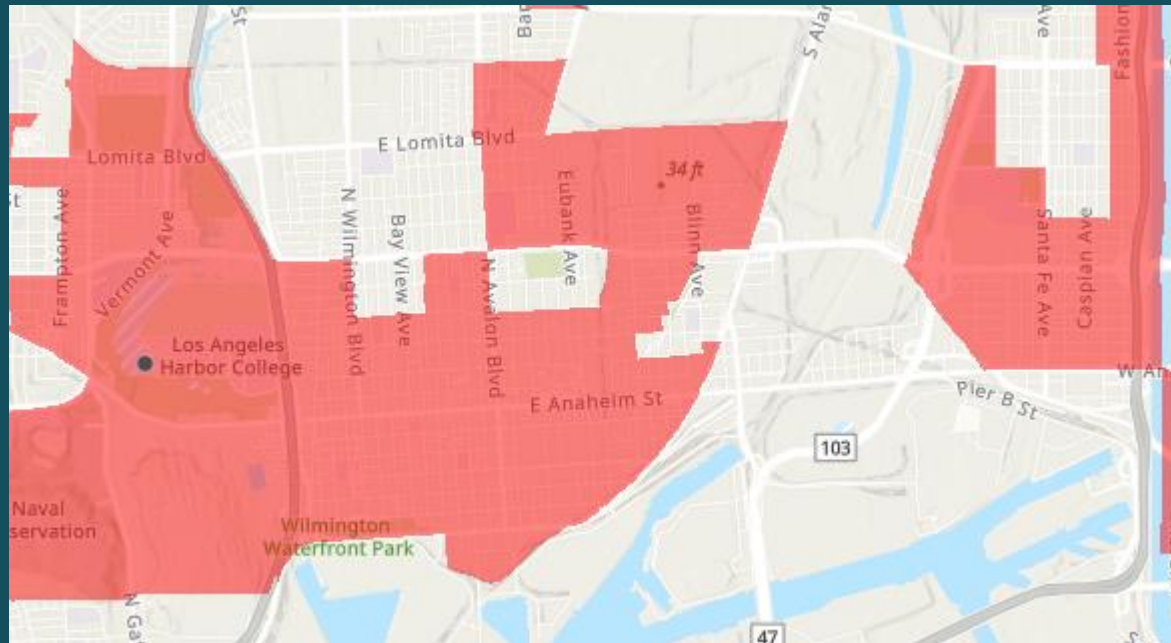
Heal the Bay



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

# Awarded Projects To Date in SSMB

|       | Bucket 1                 | Bucket 2                                  | Bucket 3                                    |
|-------|--------------------------|---|---|
|       | Within a DAC block group | Not within DAC block group and no benefit | Not within DAC block group but does benefit |
| 15 IP | 5                        | 5   | 5   |



110% DAC investment requirement met and exceeded

# Awarded Projects To Date in SSMB

|       | Bucket 1   | Bucket 2   | Bucket 3  |
|-------|--|--|---|
|       | Within a DAC block group   | Not within DAC block group and no benefit  | Not within DAC block group but does benefit   |
| 15 IP | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wilmington Q Street Urban Area Flow Management Project</li> <li>2. Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project</li> <li>3. West Rancho Dominguez – San Pedro Street Green Improvement</li> <li>4. Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation O&amp;M</li> <li>5. Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 28<sup>th</sup> Street Stormwater Drain Infiltration Project</li> <li>2. Stormwater Basin Expansion Project</li> <li>3. Hermosa Beach Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project</li> <li>4. Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project</li> <li>5. Beach Cities Green Streets Project</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alondra Pakr Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project</li> <li>2. Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project, Phase 2</li> <li>3. Carson Stormwater and Runoff Capture Project at Carriage Crest Park</li> <li>4. Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project</li> <li>5. Glen Anderson Park Regional Stormwater Capture Green Streets</li> </ol> |

# Round 5 Projects Under Consideration

| Bucket 1 |                          | Bucket 2  | Bucket 3                                    |
|----------|--------------------------|---|---|
|          | Within a DAC block group | Not within DAC block group and no benefit                 | Not within DAC block group but does benefit |
| 5 IP     | N/A                      | 1. Dominguez Channel Parkway BMP's Prioritization Project | 1. Torrance Aiport Stormwater Basin Project |

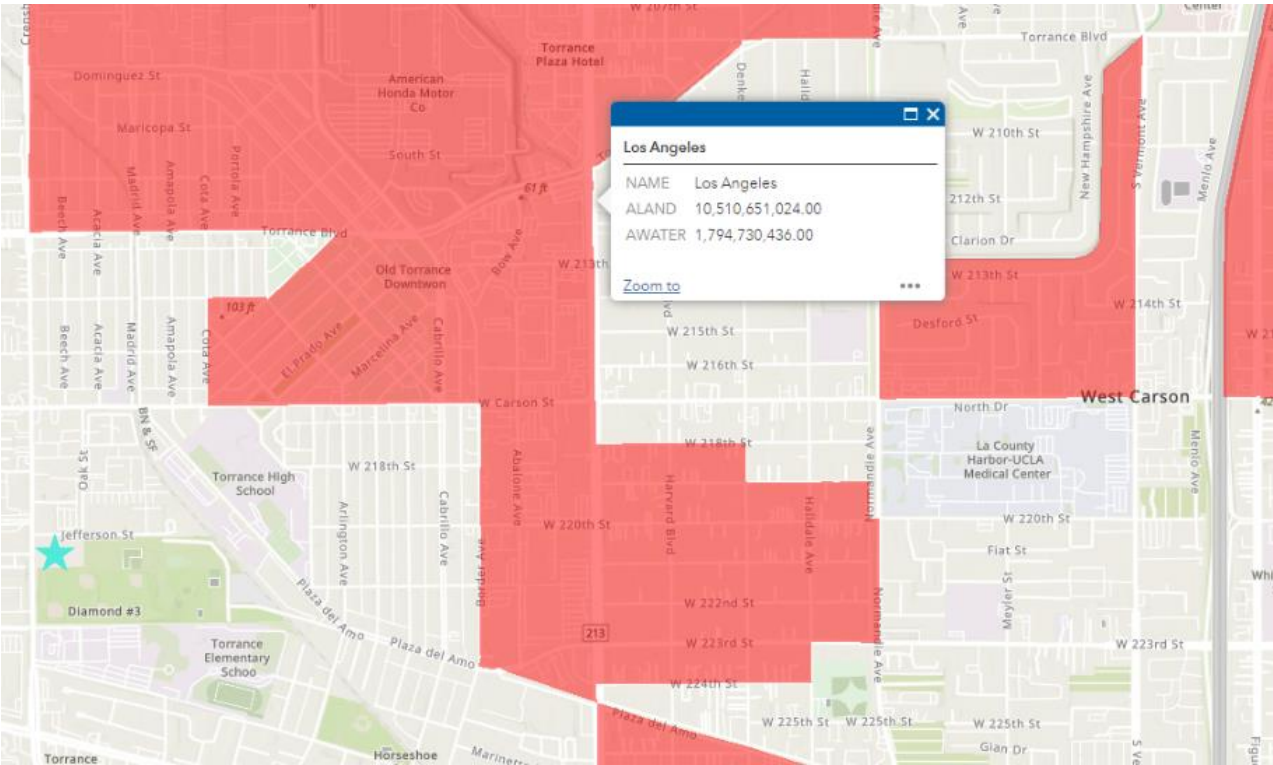


Submitted Round 5 Projects  
NOT Located Within and NOT Claiming Benefits to a  
Disadvantaged  
Census Block Group

**Suggested Action:** None. If implemented, expressly provide disadvantaged community benefits according to Safe, Clean Water Program Guidelines



Lead: City of Torrance  
Funding Requested: \$5M



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Does application claim DAC benefit?         | No  |
| Located within 2020 DAC Census Block Group? | No - but also a distributed project with multiple locations |
| Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group? | No  |
| Distance to nearest DAC                     | .42 miles   |
| CalEnviroScreen Score                       | 57 <sup>th</sup> percentile                                 |
| Park Need                                   | Low   |

No direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant



Submitted Round 5 Projects  
Located Within a 2020 Disadvantaged  
Census Block Group

**Suggested Action:** None. No further assessment required by WASC regarding disadvantaged community benefit.



Submitted Round 5 Projects  
NOT Located Within and ARE Claiming Benefits to a 2020  
Disadvantaged  
Census Block Group

**Suggested Action:** Up to the WASC's discretion to validate whether these projects would provide direct benefit to disadvantaged communities if implemented.

3

## Data Spatial Library:

According to the 2020 census data provided on the digital spatial library, 0.3 miles away from the closest DAC.

## From the Executive Summary:

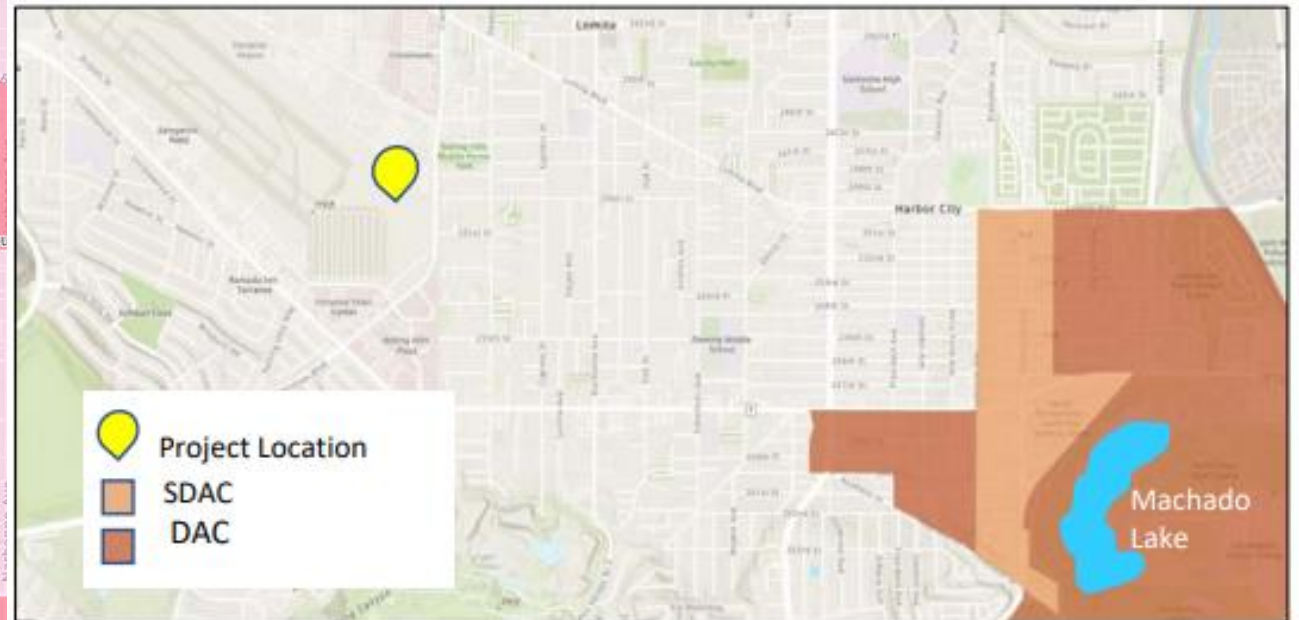
### Project Benefits

#### Water Quality Improvement

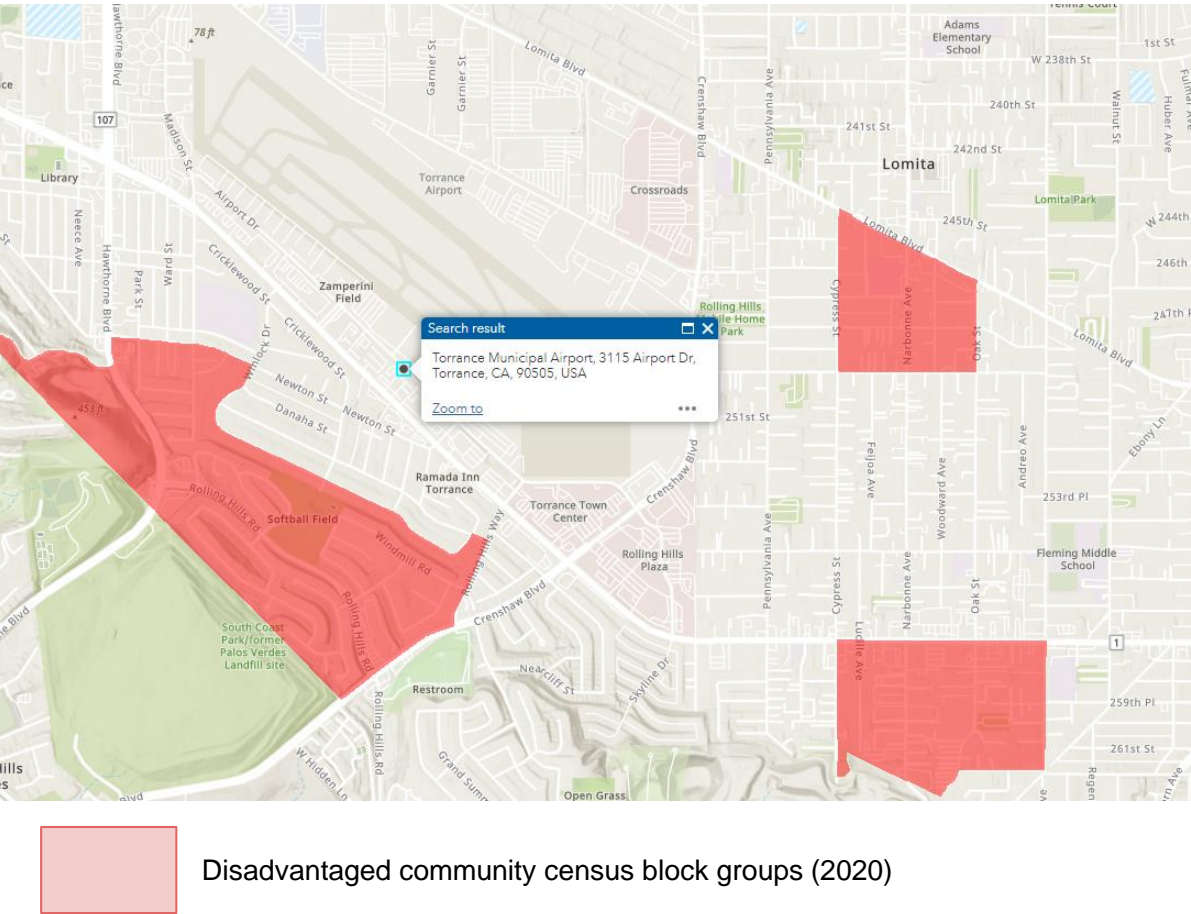
- Removes trash, PCBs and DDT, metals, bacteria
- Reduces Total Nitrogen by 96% (544lbs) and Total Phosphorus by 92.6% (150lbs) annually
- Diverts 85<sup>th</sup>, 24-hr runoff volume from PVP targeted drainage area (2,281 acres)

#### Community Investment Benefits

- Direct water quality benefits to DAC and SDAC
- Improves flood management
- Reduces local heat island effect
- Increases carbon sequestration
- Improves air quality



Lead: City of Torrance  
Funding Requested: \$19.2M



|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Does application claim DAC benefit?         | Yes                         |
| Located within 2020 DAC Census Block Group? | No                          |
| Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group? | No                          |
| Distance to nearest DAC                     | 0.3 miles                   |
| CalEnviroScreen Score                       | 48 <sup>th</sup> percentile |
| Park Need                                   | Low                         |

WASC to validate direct benefit to a disadvantaged community.



# Moving Forward

As a WASC, you are tasked with validating whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” to a disadvantaged community. Done on a project-by-project basis.

Take into consideration:

- What you have heard from the community themselves?
- What benefits is the project providing and how are these quantified?
- What areas will experience those benefits?
- Do the project benefits meet community-identified priorities and concerns?
- What other project-specific considerations should be taken into account?  
(E.g. community access to a site)

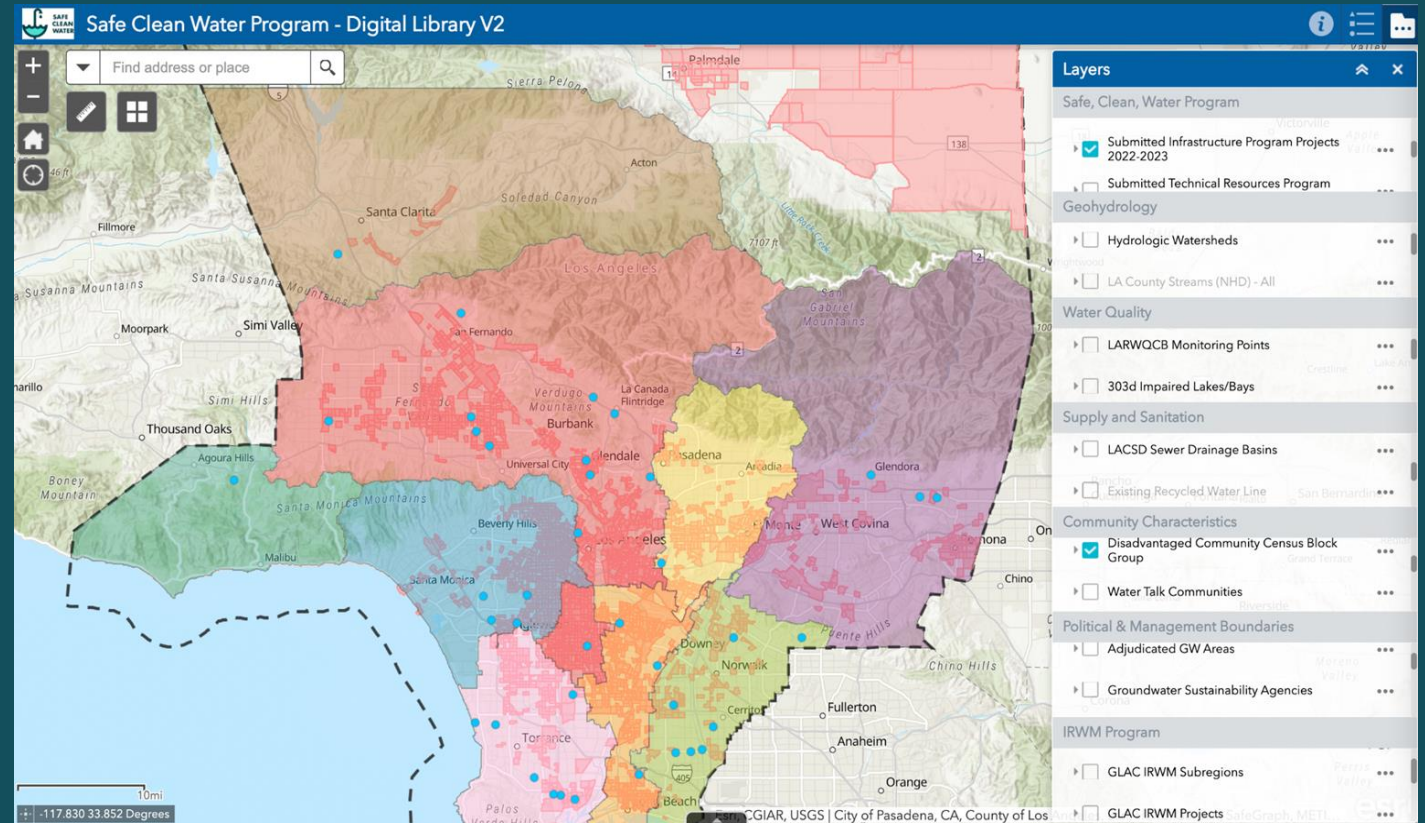


# Resources

[Safe, Clean Water Program Spatial Data Library](#)

[Interim Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines](#)

[Regional Program Resources on the SCWP Website](#)



A person in silhouette is pointing at a whiteboard covered in numerous sticky notes. The sticky notes contain handwritten text, some of which is visible, such as "Boemos", "abrir e abrir", "mudar a estrutura", "para os projetos", "nao tem?", "Consequencia", "REUNIR a equipe", "e produzir algo", "em 15 dias?", "Consequencia", "qual o impacto", "e", "Consequencia", "qual o impacto", "e", "Consequencia", "qual o impacto", "e".

# Discussion

Contact the program team at:

[www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)

[SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov)

1-833-ASK-SCWP (1-833-275-7297)