SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Scoring Committee Memo

Round 5 Projects

FY24-25 Call for Projects

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

March 12, 2024

Summary – Recommendation Themes

Separate Applications for IP Projects in Different Stages of Development

Consistent Inputs for Water Quality Benefit

Clarify Eligible Claims to Water Supply Benefits

Water Supply Scoring & Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot

Eligible Claims of Community Investment Benefits

Scoring Criteria for Nature-Based Solutions

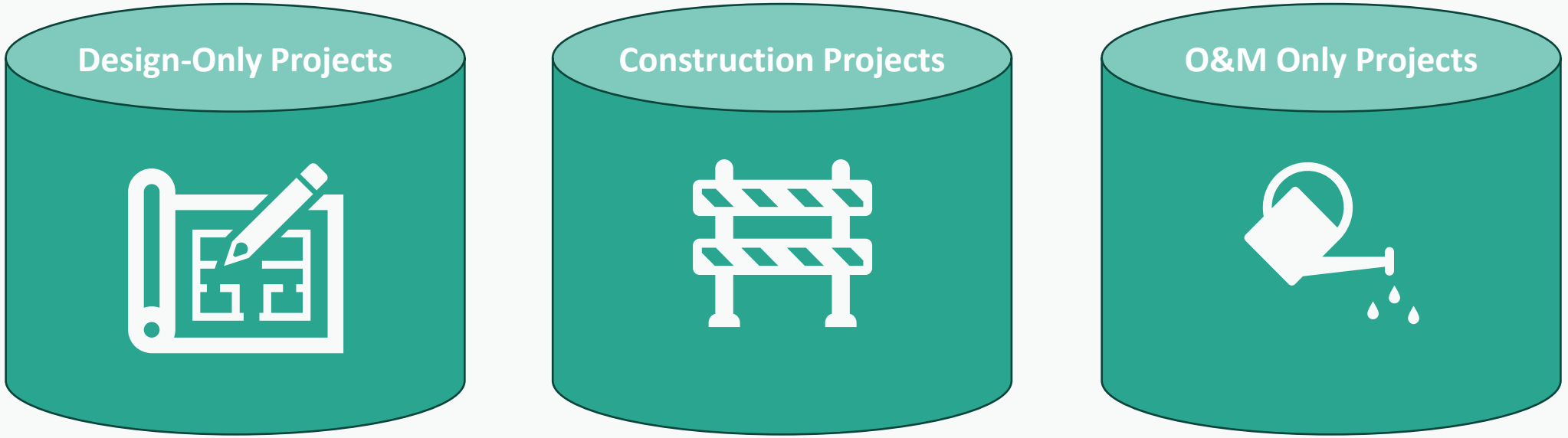
Demonstrate Local Support

Adjust Threshold Scores for Scoring Criteria

Recommendation #1:
Separate IP Application Types for Different Project Stages

The SC recommends that the SCWP encourage projects that apply for design, construction, and/or O&M funding to submit separate applications, acknowledging there are multiple phases of the project.

Modify Feasibility Study Guidelines and the Project Module to outline specific requirements for each project submittal type:



Scoring Committee Recommendation #1: Separate IP Application Types for Different Project Stages

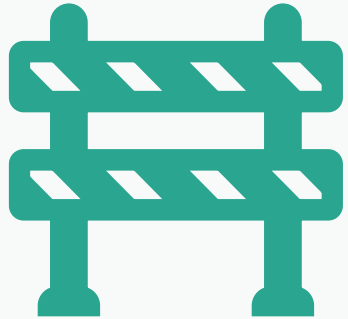
Modify Feasibility Study guidelines for <u>Design-only projects</u>

1. A more flexible application process
2. Require only *conceptual* plan/feasibility study
3. No required letter from Watermaster or Sanitation agency verifying Water Supply Benefit potential
4. Preference for on-site geotechnical analysis, but would be satisfactory to use existing or nearby geotechnical information at this application stage

Scoring Committee Recommendation #1: Separate IP Application Types for Different Project Stages

Modify Feasibility Study guidelines for <u>Construction projects</u>

1. Require a minimum of 60% design plans
    - Elevation and profile plans, strong cost estimates
2. Require site-specific geotechnical analysis
    - "Site-specific" information should refer to data obtained at the project location or another maximum distance decided upon by the Committee
3. Watermaster or Sanitation Agency letter concurring with Water Supply Benefit potential



Scoring Committee Recommendation #1: Separate IP Application Types for Different Project Stages

Modify Feasibility Study guidelines for <u>O&M projects</u>

1. Require monitoring data rather than modeled data

Scoring Committee Recommendation #1: Separate IP Application Types for Different Project Stages

Alignment with Previous SC Recommendations:

- Recommended different IP application types per different project stages
- Requested guidance on how to evaluate design-only projects with variety of alternatives
- Requested guidance on affirming cost/benefit calculations based on entire cost and merits of a project

Alignment with Existing SCW Recommendations:

- Adjusting application process for various project stages is supported by the ROC
- Biennial Report recommends SCWP "develop guidelines/criteria to streamline applications for various sized projects and various stages of development"
- Nov. 27 Report Back to Board motion to "Accelerate Implementation of the SCWP" from Director of Public Works includes Item 2, entitled "Plans to improve, streamline, and simplify the regional application process." Shared there is a planned effort to create "alternative application pathways based on project phase[s]."

Scoring Committee Recommendation #2: Consistent Inputs for Water Quality Benefits

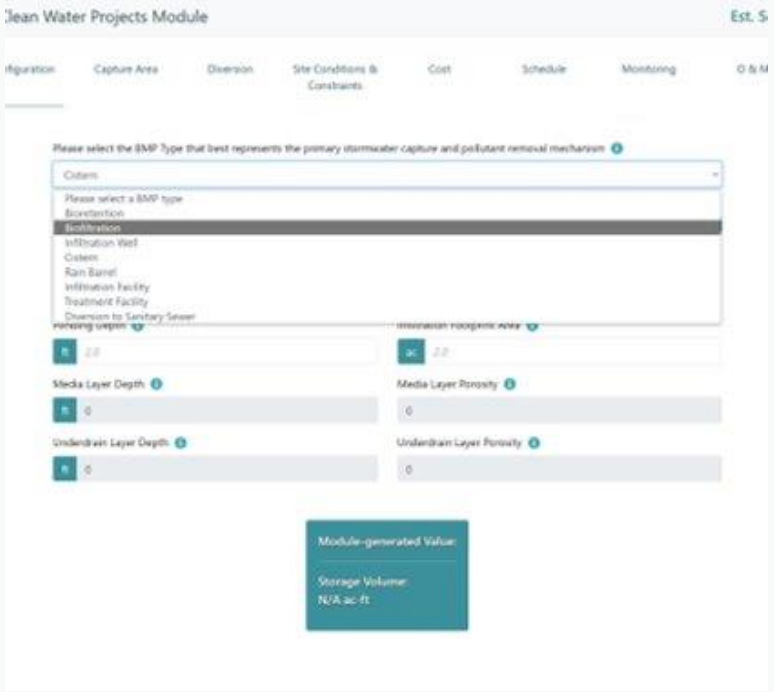
The SC Recommended the Following Changes to Projects Module:

a) Allow applicants to select multiple BMP types in series or parallel to be evaluated

b) Revise the Projects Module to accurately predict Water Quality Benefits based on 24-hour BMP capacity determined using reservoir routing for the design storm, typically 85th percentile storm.

c) Allow dry weather pollutant loading calculations to be superseded by monitoring data, if available.

d) Investigate standardizing the process for the flow calculation inputted by the applicant.

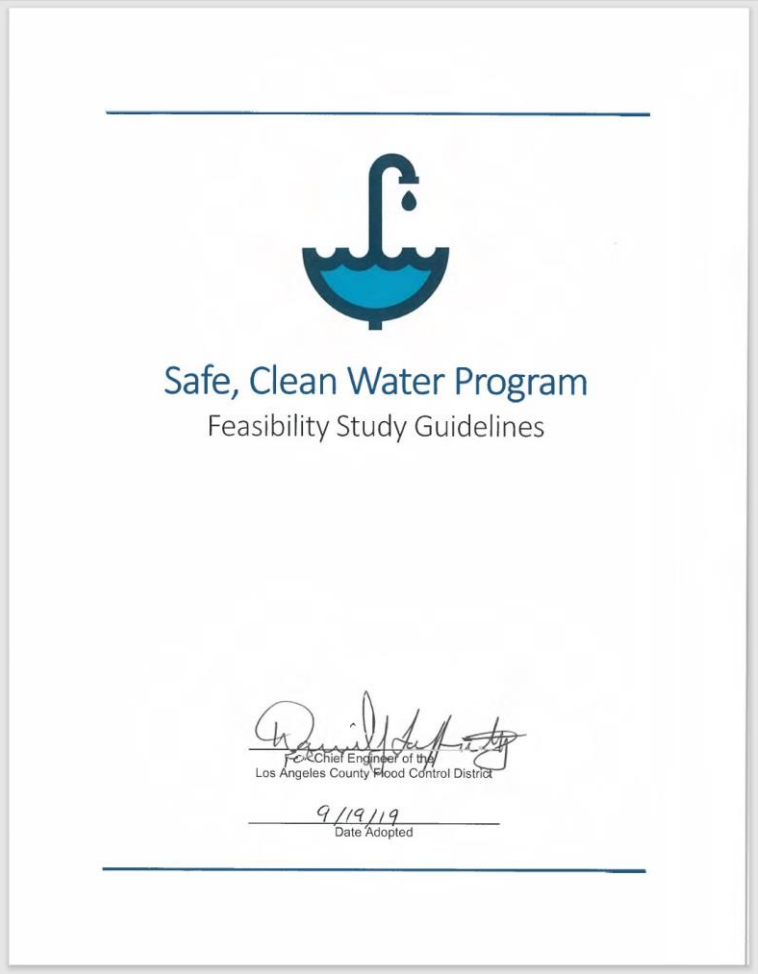


Scoring Committee Recommendation #2: Consistent Inputs for Water Quality Benefits

The SC Recommended the Following Changes to the Feasibility Study Guidelines:

a) Require site-specific geotechnical reports for projects applying for construction funding

b) "Site-specific" information should refer to data obtained at the project location or another maximum distance decided upon by the Committee.


Safe, Clean Water Program
Feasibility Study Guidelines
for Chief Engineer of the
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
9/19/19
Date Adopted

Recommendation #2: Consistent Inputs for Water Quality Benefits

The SC Recommended the Following Changes to Scoring Criteria:

a) Allow applicants to categorize the project using a load-based criteria (i.e., pounds of pollutants removed), in addition to dry weather or wet weather scoring criteria.

b) Create sliding scale for projects that capture quantities between dry weather and wet weather capacities.

c) Revise the cost-effectiveness (per acre-foot) criteria under A.1.1 Wet + Dry Weather Water Quality Benefit section to provide additional point scale flexibility so that project scores can be tallied at one-point increments (as compared to the current stepwise criteria).

d) Consider creating a cost-effectiveness category for the A.2 Dry Weather Water Supply Benefit section (possibly employing a flow rate per dollar metric such as GPM/$1M)

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
A.1 Wet + Dry Weather Water Quality Benefits	50 points max	The Project provides water quality benefits
	20 points max	A.1.1: For Wet Weather BMPs Only: Water Quality Cost Effectiveness (Cost Effectiveness) = (24-hour BMP Capacity)[1] / (Capital Cost in $Millions) • <0.4 (acre feet capacity / $-Million) = 0 points • 0.4-0.6 (acre feet capacity / $-Million) = 7 points • 0.6-0.8 (acre feet capacity / $-Million) = 11 points • 0.8-1.0 (acre feet capacity / $-Million) = 14 points • >1.0 (acre feet capacity / $-Million) = 20 points *[1]. Management of the 24-hour event is considered the maximum capacity of a Project for a 24-hour period. For water quality focused Projects, this would typically be the 85th percentile design storm capacity. Units are in acre-feet (AF).*
- OR -	30 points max	A.1.2: For Wet Weather BMPs Only: Water Quality Benefit - Quantify the pollutant reduction (i.e. concentration, load, exceedance day, etc.) for a class of pollutants using a similar analysis as the E/WMP which uses the Districts Watershed Management Modeling System (WMMS). The analysis should be an average percent reduction comparing influent and effluent for the class of pollutant over a ten-year period showing the impact of the Project. Modeling should include the latest performance data to reflect the efficiency of the BMP type. Primary Class of Pollutants • >50% = 15 points • >80%= 20 points *(20 Points Max)* Second or More Classes of Pollutant • >50% = 5 points • >80%= 10 points (10 Points Max)
A.2 Dry Weather Only Water Quality Benefits	20 points	A.2.1: For dry weather BMPs only, Projects must be designed to capture, infiltrate, treat and release, or divert 100% (unless infeasible or prohibited for habitat, etc) of all tributary dry weather flows.
	20 points max	A.2.2: For Dry Weather BMPs Only. Tributary Size of the Dry Weather BMP • <200 Acres = 10 points • >200 Acres = 20 points

Scoring Committee Recommendation #2: Consistent Inputs for Water Quality Benefits

Alignment with Previous SC Recommendations:

- SC has previously requested more consistent comparisons of Water Quality Benefits across projects

Alignment with Existing SCWP Recommendations:

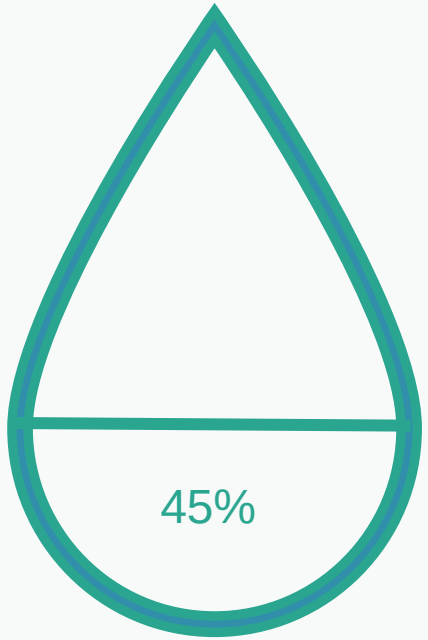
- Supported by MMS recommendation to benchmark performance to adapt Water Quality guidance and scoring
- Supported by ROC in Biennial Report recommendations:
    - "Establish Water Quality quantitative goals and develop a plan with timelines to accomplish these goals. Ensuring that these goals and planning efforts are developed to build upon established regional water quality programs and projects (e.g., Municipal Separation Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit) and include characterization of upstream and downstream program interactions."

Note: Currently, SCWP projects must be included in a plan for MS4 compliance, or an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, suggesting that SCWP is prioritizing support for projects that have been deemed important to other regional efforts to meet water quality targets. This step is evaluated by staff during completeness checks and doesn't come before the Committee.

Scoring Committee Recommendation #3: Clarify Eligible Claims to Water Supply Benefits

In Round 5, the SC only awarded Water Supply Benefit points to projects that could demonstrate proof of generating new water supplies through infiltration to currently pumped groundwater aquifers, diversion to reclamation facilities, or onsite reuse.

1. SC requested that all claims be verified with a letter from appropriate Watermaster or agency overseeing reclamation of diverted stormwater
2. Consider appropriateness of claiming water supply gained through sanitary sewer diversions when the timing of stormwater capture projects and reclamation facility improvements may be misaligned



Of 20 scored IPs, 9 received Water Supply Benefit points

Scoring Committee Recommendation #3: Clarify Eligible Claims to Water Supply Benefits

Alignment with Previous SC Recommendations:

- SC has previously requested modifying Feasibility Study Guidelines to require projects which claim benefits via offsetting potable water demand provide an analysis of supply and demand impacts of project
- To address difficulty in claiming Water Supply points, the SC previously recommended either changing the SCWP ordinance definition of Water Supply Benefit to include activities that infiltrate water with the intent to replenish groundwater or adjust scoring criteria for each watershed.

Alignment with Existing SCWP Recommendations:

- Supported by ROC in Biennial Report recommendations:
  - The ROC recommends setting “a region wide water supply target of 300,000 acre-ft of additional stormwater capture by 2045” and to “clarify that claiming Water Supply Benefits requires an applicant to demonstrate that the storm water capture is ‘new’ water and will be available for regional water supply”
- Supported by MMS recommendations:
  - Improve accounting of captured stormwater volume and potential endpoints of water use to measure progress towards goals.

Scoring Committee Recommendation #4: Evaluate Water Supply Scoring and Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot

Round 5 applicants had the opportunity to select the Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot, developed through the MMS.

- 8 out of the 20 projects scored in Round 5 opted for the Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot
- Projects which used current Water Supply Scoring Rubric scored an average of 3 points
- Projects which used the Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot scored an average of 11 Water Supply Benefit points

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
B.	25 points max	The Project provides water re-use and/or water supply enhancement benefits
Significant Water Supply Benefits	13 points max	B1. Water Supply Cost Effectiveness. The Total Life-Cycle Cost[2] per unit of acre foot of Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff volume captured for water supply is: • ≥$104,000/ac-ft = 1 point • ≥$39,700 and <104,000/ac-ft = 2 points • ≥$29,400 and <39,700/ac-ft = 3 points • ≥$19,400 and <29,400/ac-ft = 4 points • ≥$13,600 and <19,400/ac-ft = 5 points • ≥$8,880 and <13,600/ac-ft = 6 points • ≥$7,020 and < 8,880/ac-ft = 7 points • ≥$5,360 and <7,020/ac-ft = 8 points • ≥$2,930 and <5,360/ac-ft = 9 points • ≥$2,290 and <2,930/ac-ft = 10 points • ≥$1,786 and <2,290/ac-ft = 11 points • ≥$976 and <1,786/ac-ft = 12 points • <$976/ac-ft = 13 points *[2]. Total Life-Cycle Cost: The annualized value of all Capital, planning, design, land acquisition, construction, and total life O&M costs for the Project for the entire life span of the Project (e.g. 50-year design life span should account for 50-years of O&M). The annualized cost is used over the present value to provide a preference to Projects with longer life spans.*

Scoring Committee Recommendation #4: Evaluate Water Supply Scoring and Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot

During Round 5 scoring, the SC noted:

- Cost-effectiveness metric may be misleading when calculating the Water Supply volume benefit against the entire cost of multi-benefit projects
- Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot may unintentionally deemphasized importance of other aspects (e.g., Community Investment Benefits, community engagement, Nature-Based Solutions, leverage funding) because eligibility can be achieved more easily with only Water Quality and Water Supply Benefits.

Scoring Committee Recommendation #5: Clarify Eligible Claims of Community Investment Benefit

In Round 5, SC discussed process of awarding Community Investment Benefit points to projects that provide flood protection benefits.

The Committee determined that dry weather projects would not be restricted from receiving these points if clear solutions to localized flooding are addressed.

Scoring Committee Recommendation #5: Clarify Eligible Claims of Community Investment Benefits

Alignment with Previous SC Recommendations:

- SC has previously discussed the process of awarding points to Community Investment Benefits and when a project would receive flood protection benefits. In previous rounds, only projects that captured the 85th percentile storm were eligible to receive flood protection benefit points.

Additional SCWP Recommendations:

- ROC Biennial Report recommendations:
  - Establishing "Community Investment Benefit quantitative goals, including the development of a plan with timelines to meet these goals."
- Supported by MMS recommendations:
  - Develop approaches to quantifying Community Investment Benefits
  - Recommends adapting Community Investment Benefit scoring to accept community-preferred benefits alongside existing Community Investment Benefits

Scoring Committee Recommendation #6: Reinforce Scoring Criteria for Nature-Based Solutions

In Round 5, the SC recommended the following to address Nature-Based Solutions scoring criteria:

1. Modify Projects Module to require that applicants submit additional information documenting the impermeable surface removed in relation to the total project area.
2. Consider adjusting the scoring criteria for impermeable area removed from a percentage to the total impermeable area removed.
3. Consider adjusting the scoring criteria to assign points for projects that connect habitats or community hubs, or otherwise provide net benefits via Nature-Based Solutions.

Scoring Committee Recommendation #7: Strengthen Requirements to Demonstrate Local Support

The SC recommended the following requirements to strengthen demonstrated local support:

1. A clearer definition of “strong community support” and the minimum requirements associated
2. Projects provide more information from the applicants, such as number of community members contacted, community demographics, demonstration of represented population engaged from the neighborhood, and demonstration by applicants of strong local support

Scoring Committee Recommendation #7: Strengthen Requirements to Demonstrate Local Support

Alignment with Previous SC Recommendations:

- SC has previously clarified that letters of support for a project should be recent (less than 1-2 years) and addressed to the SCWP rather than reusing letters of support addressed to other organizations

Alignment with Existing SCWP Recommendations:

- Supported by MMS findings and recommendations
  - Community engagement is a core consideration with stakeholder groups
  - Recommends collecting metrics around a projects “Level of Achievement” for community engagement using the Good, Better, Best framework identified in the 2022 Interim Guidance

Scoring Committee Recommendation #8: Adjust Weighting or Threshold Score for Sections of Scoring Criteria

The SC previously recommended adjusting the scoring system to establish certain mandatory categories.

Scoring Committee Recommendation #8: Adjust Threshold for Scoring Rubric Categories

Alignment with Existing SCWP Recommendations:

- ROC Biennial Report recommendation:
  - Notes “refinements are needed to... establish scoring criteria that better align with all the SCWP goals – especially related to Community Investment Benefits, Disadvantaged Community Benefits, Equity, Community Engagement, and Nature-Based Solutions.”

Additional Items

Cost Estimates Vary

- SC encourages applicants to use industry standards for cost escalation rates and O&M budgeting.

Adding Points

- In Round 5, there were two instances when the SC awarded points that were not originally claimed by an applicant (E.2 Leveraged Funds and Community Support section).

Additional Scoring Sections

- SC has previously recommended that the program:
  a) Consider awarding points for job creation in the scoring criteria, perhaps within Community Investment Benefits.
  b) Consider including positive impact on climate response in the Scoring Criteria.