



Date: _____

- *Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

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To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org

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Date: April 1st, 2024

To: Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee

Dear Members of the CSMB Watershed Area Steering Committee,

This intent of this letter to provide insights regarding the community investment benefits and broader impacts of the proposed Scientific Study entitled "Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywells," led by Cal Poly Pomona.

In essence, the proposed scientific study seeks to undertake scholarly efforts aimed at identifying best practices in deep infiltration infrastructure design, pre-treatment methods, and maintenance procedures to maximize the capacity of drywell infrastructure over time. Notably, in recent years, numerous municipalities and stakeholders in Los Angeles County have installed thousands of drywells, with plans to install many more in the near future. However, a substantial knowledge gap persists, particularly about best practices for operating and maintaining drywell systems. While anecdotal reports of drywell clogging and reduced infiltration capacity are available, rigorous studies examining drywell capacity over time are scarce. Consequently, there is limited information regarding best drywell design, pre-treatment systems, and maintenance practices to optimize infiltration capacity. Data science and machine learning approaches will aid in carefully finalizing study sites. Infiltration testing will be conducted periodically to document the effects of runoff volume and maintenance practices. Technical reports will be prepared and disseminated to inquire technical feedback from project owners and stakeholders. Interim findings may prompt recommendations for modifying maintenance practices. Quantitative data on factors affecting drywell capacity and performance over time have the potential to significantly enhance the return on investment in stormwater infrastructure. The benefits of this study include:

- Recommendations for deep infiltration infrastructure designs and pre-treatment practices that balance cost and long-term performance;
- Identifying the appropriate maintenance frequency and practices for different runoff volumes and levels of land-use and traffic loading within the catchment basin; and
- Determining how soil characteristics can impact long-term performance and potential changes in design and maintenance to address fine-grained soils.

This multi-institutional research effort, led by Cal Poly Pomona in collaboration with UC Santa Barbara, involves students, primarily from underrepresented minority groups. The project encompasses significant community investment components, particularly in workforce development and education. Cal Poly Pomona, as a Hispanic Serving Institution, serves a diverse student body, with a significant proportion being first-generation and ethnic minorities. Figure 1 is an infographic that illustrates Cal Poly Pomona's student population demographics.

With serving more than 26,000 students, our first-generation student population stands at 55%, and ethnic minorities make up 56% of the total student body. Overall, the proposed scientific study presents direct



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opportunities for educational growth and development for a significant population of young adults, primarily from underserved minority backgrounds.

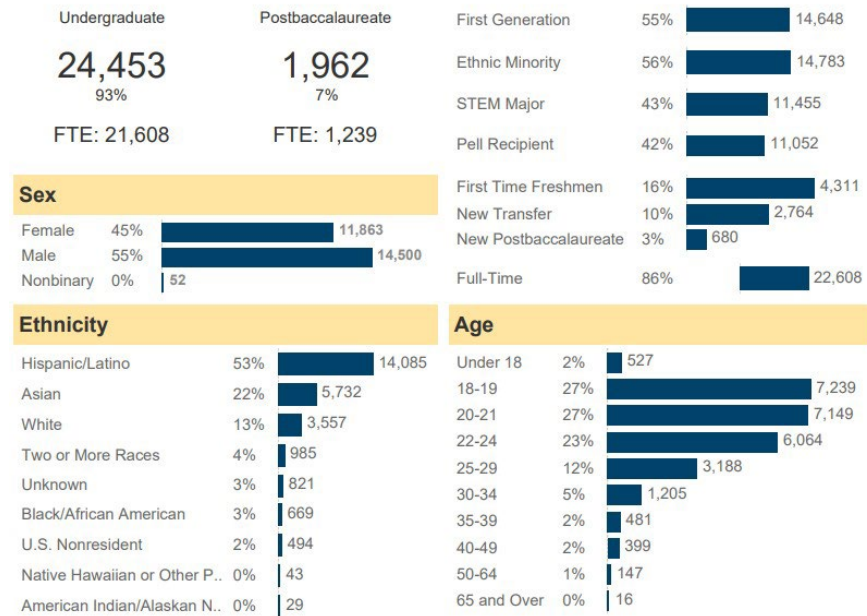


Figure 1. Cal Poly Pomona's student population demographics

Leveraging funds within the university can be utilized to support the objectives of this scientific study. Specifically, there are student research programs funded by the Department of Education that can serve as sources of support for students engaged in scholarly work on STEM projects. Guidance will be provided to students to help them access these leveraging funds. Additionally, similar opportunities for funding exist within the university for travel purposes. Our project students can apply for support from various programs within the university and the CSU system to attend technical events and conferences, facilitating the dissemination of the study's outcomes.

There are other broader impacts of the scientific study for regional workforce development including: offering Senior Project (EGR 4810/4820/4830) course series focused on stormwater engineering; developing innovative technical elective courses focused on Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure; developing a certificate program focused on stormwater engineering through Cal Poly Pomona College of Professional and Global Education; hosting minority students sponsored by NSF and other sponsored programs in our scientific study project; and directly impacting social mobility of students from underrepresented groups while they are student.

We are grateful for the committee's attention and support for this scientific study, which seeks an annual budget of approximately \$80K from the CSMB WASC throughout its duration. This amount represents less than half a percent (< 0.5%) of the watershed's annual budget, highlighting the substantial return on investment.



CalPolyPomona

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Thank you for considering the community benefits and broader impacts of this scientific study project.

Best regards,

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