



Public Comment Form

Name*: Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis Organization*: Board of Supervisor of LA County
Email*: bfeldman@bos.lacounty.gov Phone*: 323.447.2258
Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Date: 3/19/2024

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

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

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

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

Dear Committee Members,

As the Supervisor of Los Angeles County's First District, I support California Polytechnic University Pomona's funding request under the Safe Clean Water Program. This project would evaluate the long-term effectiveness of stormwater infiltration via drywells, crucial for sustainable water management across Los Angeles County. This study will optimize drywell performance, enhance water quality, and significantly contribute to the County's water sustainability goals.

I am proud to support Cal Poly Pomona for advancing efforts to provide LA County residents with sustainably-sourced, clean drinking water. For these reasons, I strongly support this funding request.



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Comments



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Date: April 15th, 2024

To: Rio Hondo (RH) Watershed Area Steering Committee

Dear Members of the RH 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.

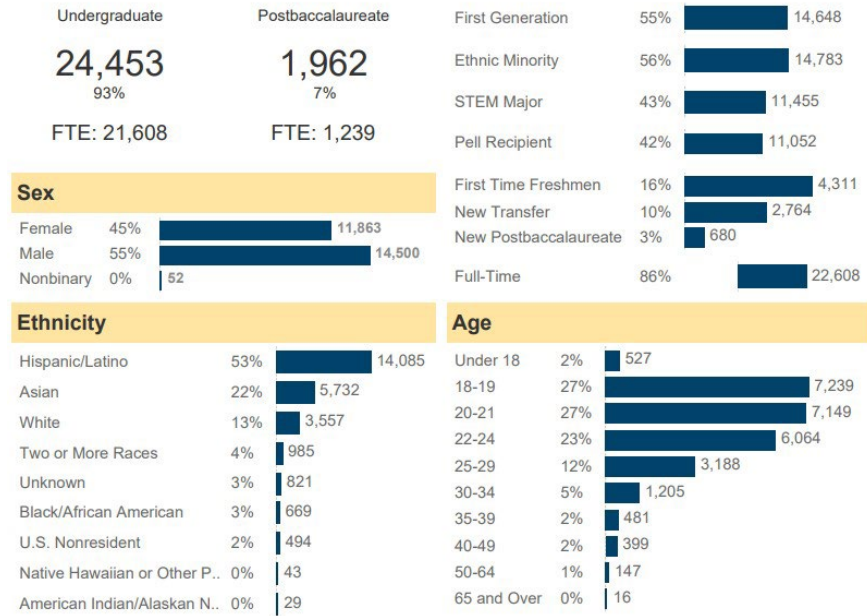


Figure 1. Cal Poly Pomona's student population demographics

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 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 RH WASC throughout its duration. This amount represents less than one percent of the watershed's annual budget, highlighting the **substantial return on investment** of this particular project.



CalPolyPomona

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona • 3801 West Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768
909.869.2488 • Fax 909.869.4342 • www.cpp.edu

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

Best regards,

Mehrad Kamalzare, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE,
Associate Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768
Cal Poly Pomona | Phone: (909) 869-4908

Ali Sharbat, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE,
Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768
Cal Poly Pomona | Phone: (909) 869-2175