



**SAFE CLEAN
WATER PROGRAM**

Safe Clean Water Program

METRICS & MONITORING STUDY DEBRIEF
JULY 25, 2024



WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM

In November 2018, voters of Los Angeles County approved Measure W, known as the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). The SCWP is a regional solution to regional issues, and funds stormwater initiatives that improve water quality, increase local water supply, and provide community benefits, like green spaces and parks.



Make it clean

One of our main goals is to keep toxins and trash out of our region's waterways.



Make it green

Most of the Program's projects uplift and add greenery to communities that have historically faced over-paving and disinvestment.



Make it for everyone

Capturing more of our local stormwater with nature-based solutions will make LA more sustainable for generations to come.

PROGRAM GOALS, PARAPHRASED

Improve water quality

Increase drought preparedness through stormwater capture

Improve public health by providing community investment benefits

Invest in multi-benefit infrastructure

Prioritize nature-based solutions

Provide disadvantaged community benefits

Leverage other funding

Provide a spectrum of project sizes

Encourage innovation

Invest in independent scientific research

Provide proportional funding to municipalities



Ensure adaptive management

Promote green jobs

Provide ongoing operations and maintenance of projects

GOAL OF METRICS & MONITORING STUDY (MMS)

Develop program methods, metrics, and monitoring criteria to inform tracking, planning, reporting and decision making within specific areas of the SCWP



ADAPTATION OF TERMS

METRICS



PERFORMANCE
MEASURES

EX: POUNDS OF
POLLUTANTS REMOVED

TARGETS*

*MMS DID NOT SET
TARGETS, BUT
DEVELOPED PROGRAM-
LEVEL METRICS



POPULATION
INDICATORS

EX: PROGRESS TOWARDS
ACHIEVING WATER QUALITY
OBJECTIVES

MMS ASSUMPTIONS & LIMITATIONS

Timeframe & Data

- Specific issues analyzed in further detail due to priorities voiced prior to biennial reporting (equity, water supply, Community Investment Benefits, etc.)
- Used first 4 rounds of SCWP Regional Program-submitted projects (FY2021-FY2024)
- Used *proposed* project data (not *reported*) to test Performance Measures
- Evaluated high-level variability across watershed areas

Guidance & Definitions

- Did not redefine Ordinance terms (e.g., Water Supply Benefits)
- Did not directly change scoring criteria

Scope

- Did not conduct watershed planning
- Did not recommend projects
- Did not set Population Indicators



CONTINUOUSLY ADAPTING & IMPROVING

**PROGRAM
RAMP-UP & ADAPTIVE
MANAGEMENT**

WATERSHED
PLANNING

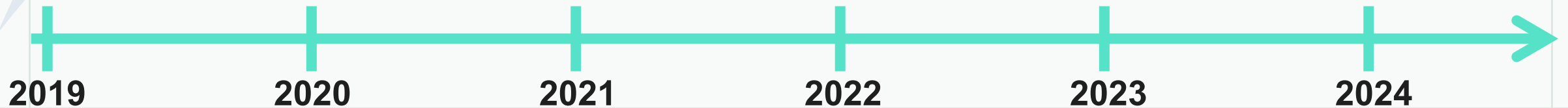
BOARD MOTION

BIENNIAL
REVIEW

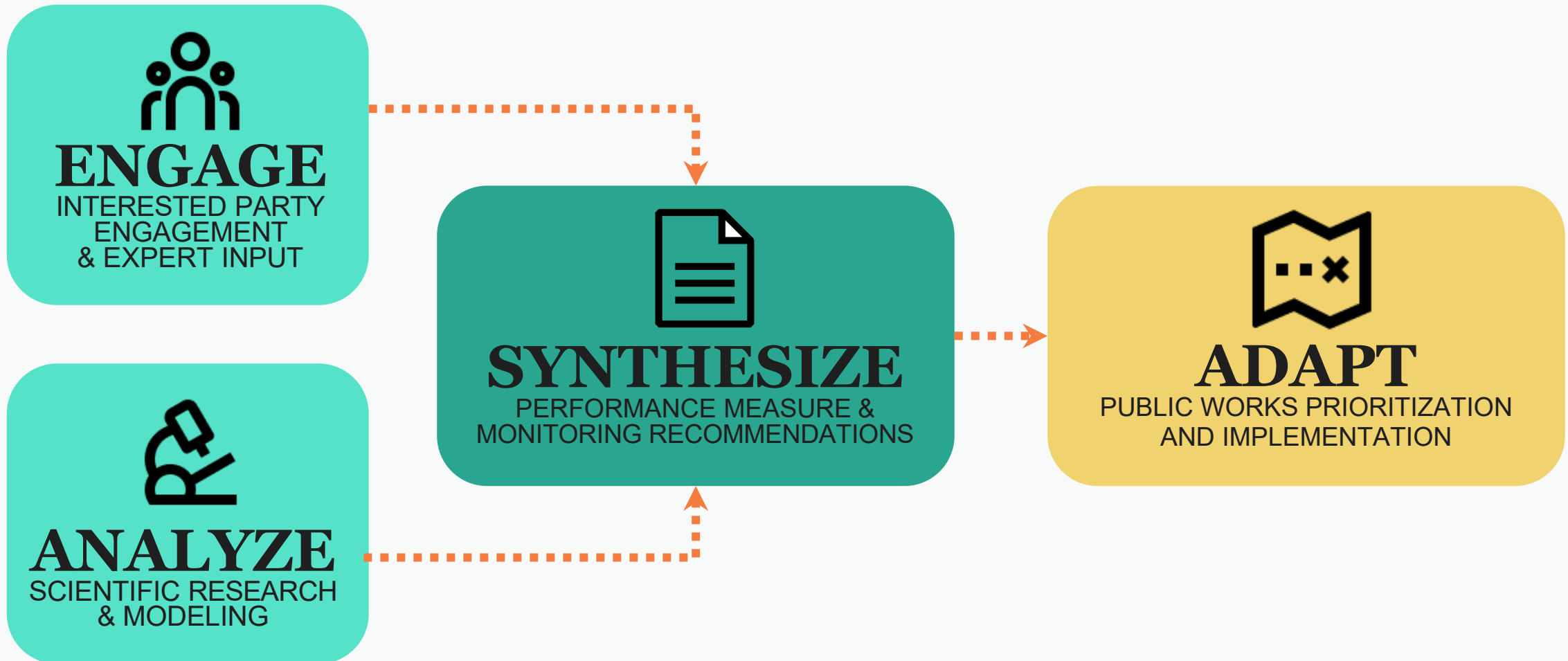
2022 INTERIM GUIDANCE

METRICS & MONITORING STUDY

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION



MMS PROCESS





ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Other Consulted Experts

- Regional Oversight Committee Members
- Watershed Area Steering Committee Members
- SCWP Scoring Committee Members



**Luskin Center
for Innovation**



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Equity Workshops

2



Public Workshops

5



Stakeholder Advisory
Committee Meetings

8



Written Comments

250+



Listening Sessions

4



District Coordination Meetings



ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- **NGOs**

- Accelerate Resilience L.A.
- Council for Watershed Health
- Heal the Bay
- Nature for All
- TreePeople

- **Industry**

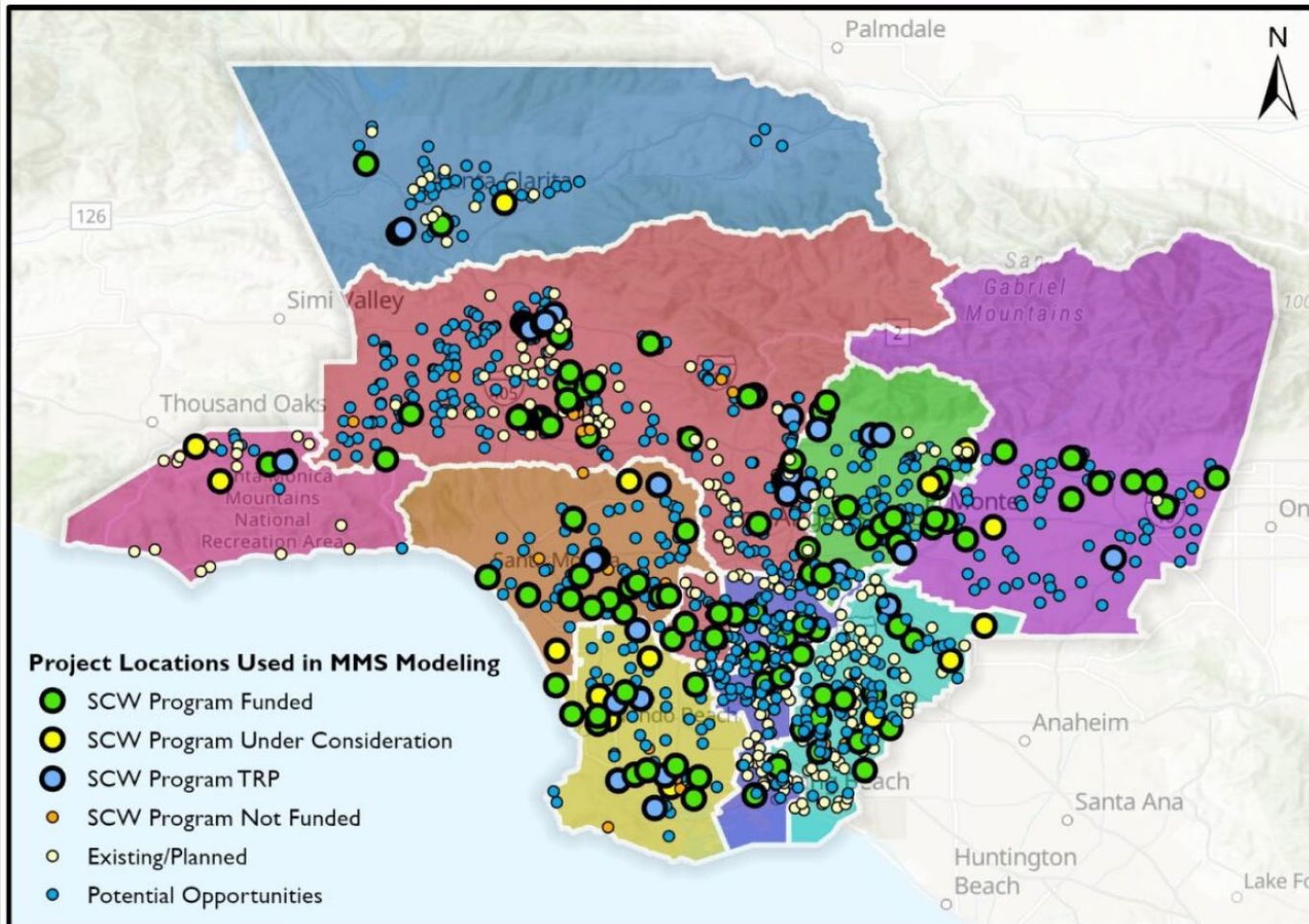
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality
- CWE
- Geosyntec

- **Agencies**

- City of Claremont
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Los Angeles (LASAN)
- City of San Fernando
- LA County Flood Control District
- Santa Clara Valley Water Agency
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
- Water Replenishment District



ANALYTICAL APPROACH



1. Literature Research
2. Watershed Opportunity & Constraint Analysis
3. Performance Measure Testing and Modeling
4. Monitoring Alternatives Analysis
5. Performance Measure/Monitoring Calculation Guidance

SYNTHESIS OF FORWARD-LOOKING RECOMMENDATIONS



A. Apply new Performance Measures to improve reporting, inform decision-making, and maximize benefits



B. Adaptively manage scoring and Program guidance to strengthen achievement of SCWP Goals



C. Strengthen planning and collaboration with new data and tools



Recommendation A.1

Drivers

- Past Performance Measures collected were broad and varied across different Programs
- Interested parties expressed need to increase specificity and fill in gaps related to specific Goals
- Consistency needed within SCWP and alignment needed with broader initiatives (e.g., compliance, County Water Plan)

Approach

PRE-CONSTRUCTION PERFORMANCE MEASURE SYNTHESIS

174

INITIALLY REVIEWED

86

PRIORITIZED

49

PRIORITIES FOR PROGRAM ADAPTATION



Recommendation A.1

Recommendation to Public Works

A.1: Incorporate MMS-generated Performance Measures to standardize evaluation of goals across the SCW Program

Adaptation Plan

- Prioritized into Performance Measures and Population Indicators highlighted at May and June ROC meetings
- Incorporating into Initial Watershed Plans and Program-wide applications/reporting

Initial Timeline

- May 2025 (prior to next call for projects)



Recommendation A.2

Drivers

- Every community is different and has different needs
- Current list of example CIBs may not be relevant to every community
- Interested parties expressed need to better define locally relevant Community Investment Benefits, as well as better measuring community engagement and Disadvantaged Community Benefits

Approach

Equity in Stormwater Investments:

Measuring Community Engagement and Disadvantaged Community Benefits
for Equitable Impact in the Safe Clean Water Program





Recommendation A.2

Recommendation to Public Works

A.2: Develop a Strengths & Needs Assessment process to help characterize community-preferred CIB needs and Performance Measures

Adaptation Plan

- Initiated development of Community Strengths and Needs Assessment survey and tool as part of Initial Watershed Plans
- Will implement survey through Regional Watershed Coordinator process

Initial Timeline

- Survey and Tool by May 2025
- Implementation after May 2025

Recommendation A.3


Drivers

- Need consistent, clearly defined data collection criteria (pre- and post-construction)
- Municipalities asked for guidance on annual reporting, which is currently narrative-heavy and labor-intensive

Approach

PERFORMANCE MEASURE PROFILES



PROJECT BY STAGE	DATA GATHERING REASON	NO. OF METRICS
STAGE 1: @ SCW Application	Predict Project Performance	86
STAGE 2: @ Construction	Confirm Predicted Performance	
STAGE 3: Post-Construction (Yr. 1-3)	Evaluate Actual Performance	26
 PROGRAM	Project Summations, Averages, Distributions + Program Performance (Independent of Projects)	96 (mostly automated)



Recommendation A.3

Recommendation to Public Works

A.3: Incorporate MMS - tested/generated monitoring and methods to streamline data collection across SCW Program

Adaptation Plan

- Develop Performance Measure guidance for Municipalities and Project Proponents
- Update reporting modules, Regional Program application module, and dashboard

Initial Timeline

- Post-construction reporting updates by December 2024
- Pre-construction Performance Measures incorporated by May 2025



Recommendation B.1

Drivers

- In first few rounds of SCW Program, most Regional Project applications earned no Water Supply Cost-Effectiveness points
- Cost-based scoring criteria were developed in 2018, and do not currently consider inflation and economic changes
- Interested parties suggested that Water Supply Benefits and scoring are challenging in some Watershed Areas

Approach

WATER SUPPLY BENEFIT SCORE BENCH- MARKING

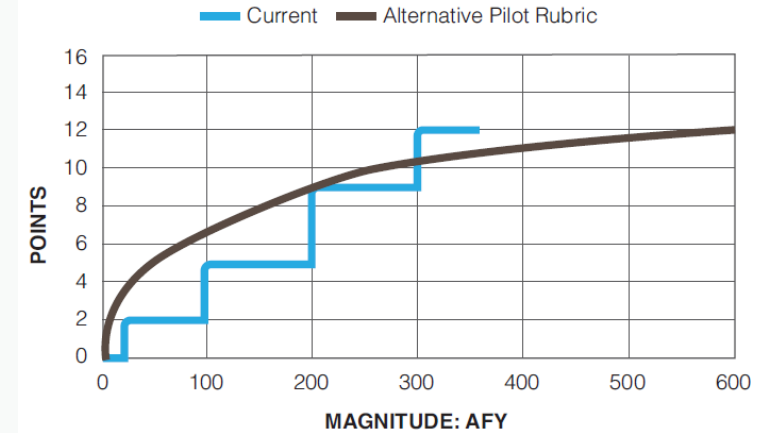
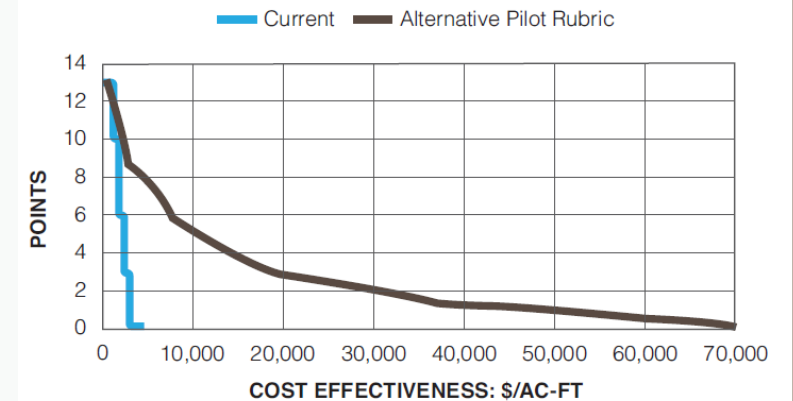


Figure 6. Current and Alternative Pilot Rubric for Water Supply Magnitude





Recommendation B.2

Recommendation to Public Works

B.2: Evaluate results of Water Supply scoring pilot to evaluate opportunities to refine Water Supply guidance and scoring

Adaptation Plan

- Public Works offered optional alternative rubric in Regional Program Round 6 – every applicant used it
- Reviewed by Scoring Committee
- Evaluate potential formalization of scoring adaptations (via Feasibility Study Guidance updates)

Initial Timeline

- By May 2025



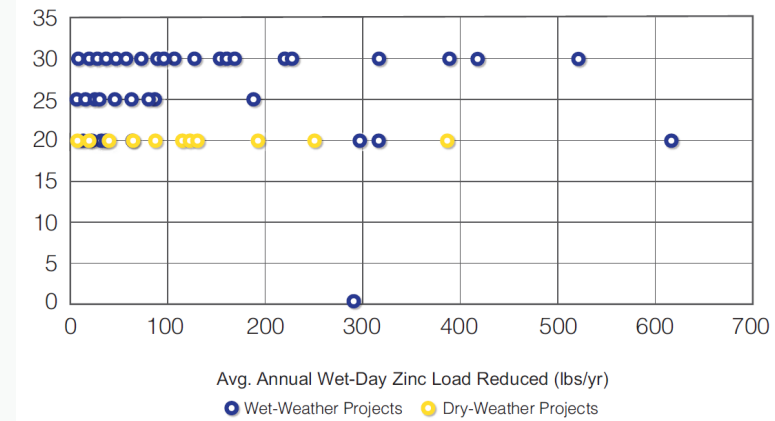
Recommendation B.2

Drivers

- Need to evaluate if Water Quality Benefit scoring criteria align with MMS-recommended water quality Performance Measures
- Need to consider how inflation and economic changes impact cost-based Water Quality Benefit scoring
- Need to evaluate if CIB scoring criteria can accommodate community-stated benefits not included in current criteria

Approach

MMS PERFORMANCE MEASURES VS. WATER QUALITY BENEFIT SCORES



EXAMPLE CIB SCORING RUBRIC UPDATE

NEW POTENTIAL CRITERION

- Other Community Investment Benefits Voiced by community members, and documented through engagement



Recommendation B.1 and B.3

Recommendation to Public Works

B.1: Benchmark performance to adapt Water Quality guidance and scoring

B.3: Adapt Community Investment Benefit scoring to accept community-preferred benefits alongside existing CIB categories

Adaptation Plan

- Benchmark historical Water Quality Benefit scores; consider aligning with representative urban runoff pollutant to standardize across Watershed Areas
- Coordinate with Community Strengths and Needs Assessment process
- Evaluate key definitions during Initial Watershed Planning
- Potentially pilot-test alternative rubrics

Initial Timeline

- B.1: By May 2025
- B.2: To be determined after completion of Community Strengths and Needs Assessment

Recommendation C.1

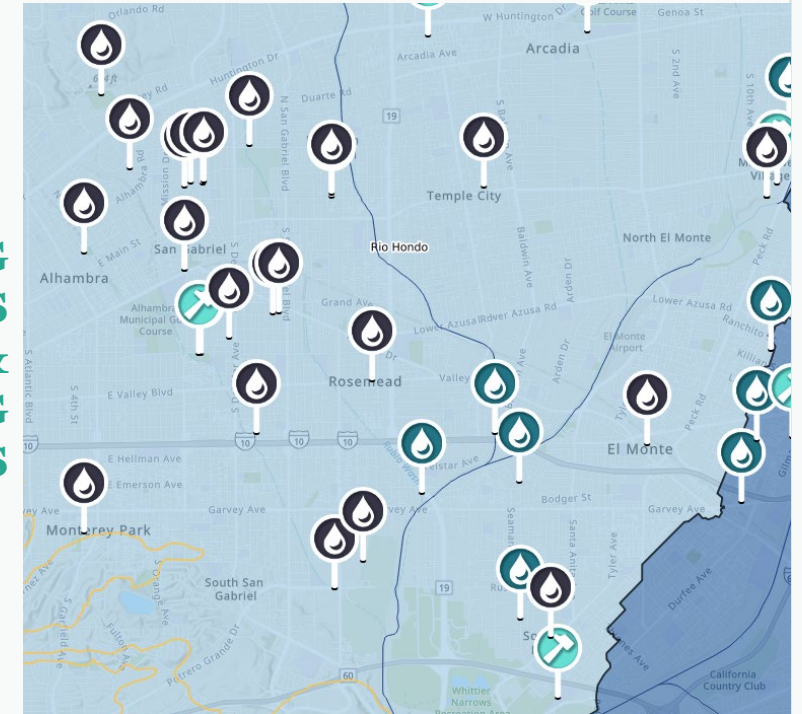
Drivers

- Regional Projects are currently evaluated individually, but may interact with upstream/downstream facilities (including spreading grounds, dams)
- Board of Supervisors charged the Program will streamlining and accelerating progress
- Need to automate how Performance Measures are computed and reported to ensure accessibility, efficiency, and consistency

Approach

**ACCOUNTING
FOR PROJECTS
IN SERIES &
EXISTING
FACILITIES**

**DATA
COLLECTION
FRAMEWORK**





Recommendation C.1

Recommendation to Public Works

C.1: Update SCWP tools to automate computation of new metrics and to account for watershed interactions

Adaptation Plan

- Initial Watershed Planning process is developing an interactive planning tool that will consider project interactions
- Update reporting modules, Regional Program application module, and dashboard

Initial Timeline

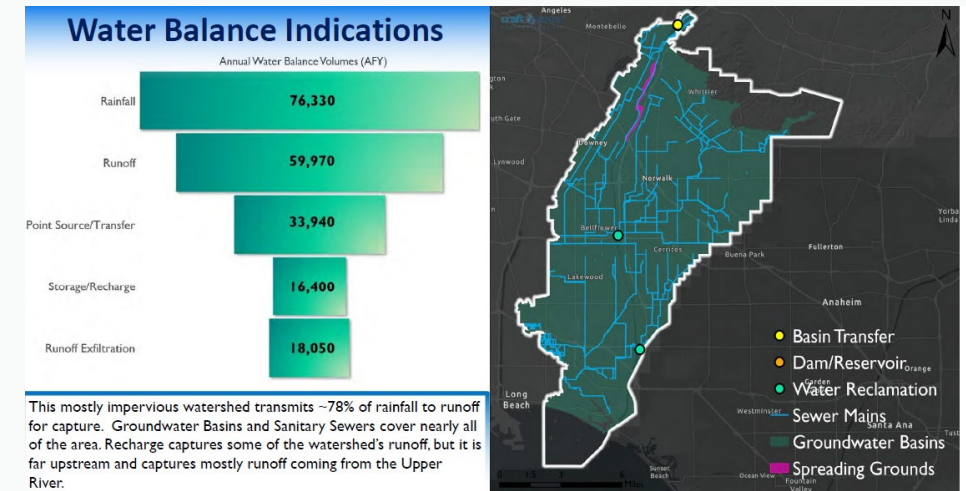
- By May 2025

Recommendation C.2

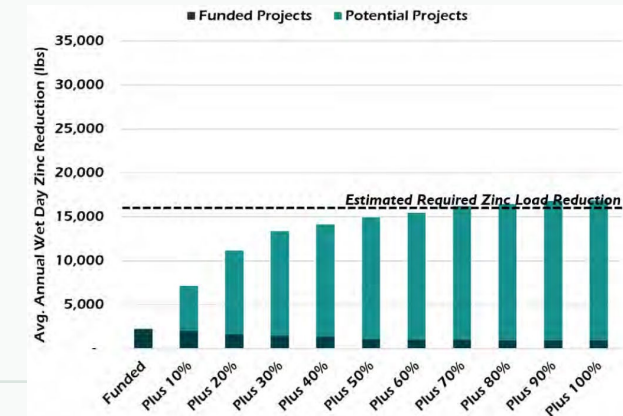
Drivers

- Interested parties expressed the need to establish Population Indicators for Watershed Area planning
- To set realistic Population Indicators, need to understand baseline conditions and future potential benefits
- Need to understand opportunities and gaps

Approach



OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT & INITIAL/ POTENTIAL BENEFITS





Recommendation C.2

Recommendation to Public Works

C.2: Share MMS datasets to identify opportunities and gaps

Adaptation Plan

- MMS watershed capabilities data being compiled for incorporation into Initial Watershed Planning

Initial Timeline

- By November 2024

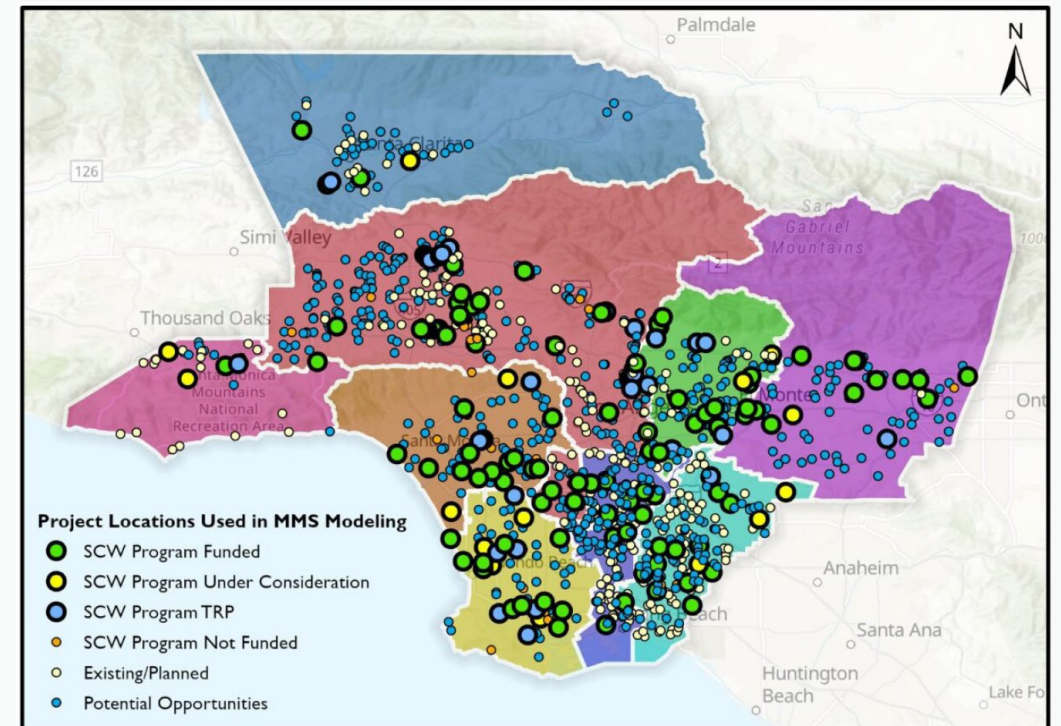
Recommendation C.3

Drivers

- Need to build and maintain a living library of existing and potential project opportunities (including non-SCWP projects)

Outcomes

MMS INITIAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITY LIBRARY





Recommendation C.3

Recommendation to Public Works

C.3: Incorporate MMS compiled watershed area opportunity information to support comprehensive watershed planning

Adaptation Plan

- MMS initial project opportunity datasets being incorporated into Initial Watershed Planning

Initial Timeline

- By May 2025

ALIGNMENT WITH ROC BIENNIAL REPORT, BOARD MOTION, COUNTY WATER PLAN

	1. Apply new metrics to improve reporting, inform decision-making, and maximize benefits			2. Adaptively manage scoring and program guidance to strengthen achievement of SCW Program Goals			3. Strengthen Planning & Collaboration with New Data & Tools		
CONCURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	3C
Draft Regional Oversight Committee 2023 Biennial Report Recommendations:									
1. Expedite watershed planning efforts	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹
2. Establish Disadvantaged Community Investment quantitative goals and develop a plan	🔹	🔹				🔹		🔹	🔹
3. Make strategic investments in workforce development programs		🔹							
4. Revise Regional Program quarterly reporting to twice yearly			🔹						
5. Revise the process and timeline for the ROC			🔹						
6. Evaluate Recommendations that will results from the in-process Metrics and Monitoring Study and recommend changes, if and when appropriate, to the procedures, guidelines, and scoring criteria currently used to manage the various goals/programs of the SCW Program.	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹
Accelerating Implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program (Motion by Supervisor Horvath):									
1. Accelerate Comprehensive Watershed Planning	🔹	🔹		🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹
2. Improve, Streamline, and Simplify Regional Program Applications	🔹	🔹		🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹	🔹
3. Establish a SCW Program Planning Group	🔹	🔹	🔹				🔹	🔹	🔹

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

- Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) Meetings

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/committees/regional-oversight-committee/>

- Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meetings

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/committees/>

- Initial Watershed Planning

watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov

Briefings at ROC and WASC meetings

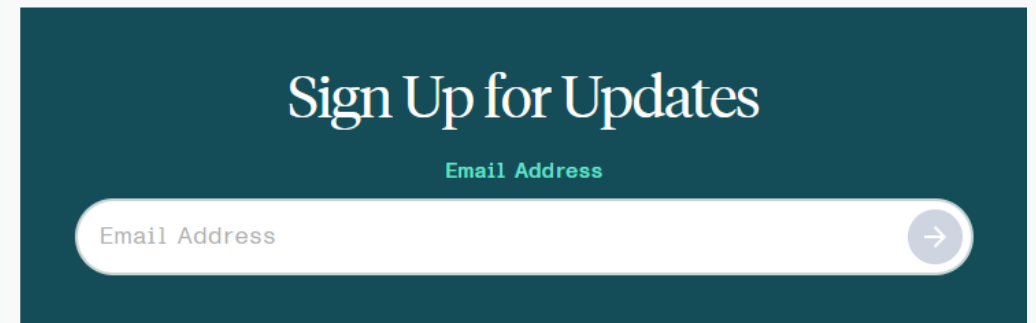
- Public Comment on Potential Scoring Criteria Updates

Announced early 2025

- News and Updates

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/news/>

Sign up for the SCW Program email list:

A dark teal rectangular box containing a sign-up form. At the top, the text "Sign Up for Updates" is written in a white serif font. Below it, the label "Email Address" appears in a small, light teal sans-serif font. Underneath the label is a white rounded rectangular input field with the placeholder text "Email Address" in a light gray sans-serif font. To the right of the input field is a circular button with a white right-pointing arrow on a dark teal background.

Sign Up for Updates

Email Address

Email Address →



Questions & Discussion

Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact

Kirk Allen, P.E.

Senior Civil Engineer

Los Angeles County Public Works

Office: (626) 458-4331

KALLEN@dpw.lacounty.gov