

Rio Hondo Watershed Area Strategic Outreach and Engagement Program Update

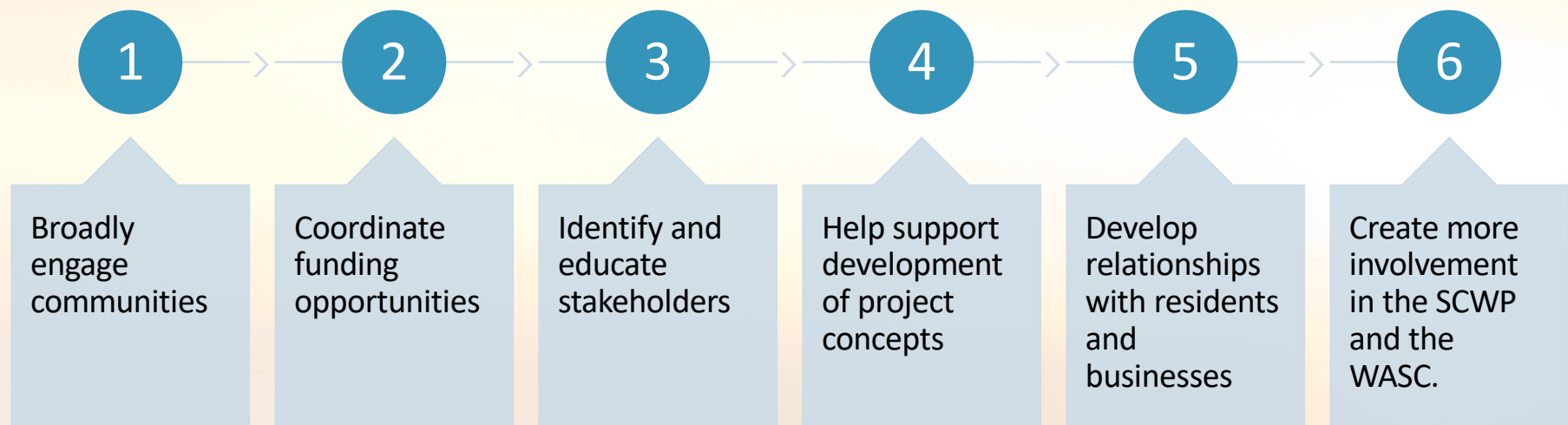
Presented to the Rio Hondo WASC

20 August 2024

By Richard Watson & Julie Millett (RWA)



Purpose of the SOEP





Watershed Coordinator Tasks

Task 1 – Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP

Task 2 – Identify and Develop Project Concepts

Task 3 – Work with Technical Assistance Teams

Task 4 – Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

Task 5 – Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

Task 6 – Cost-Share Partners

Task 7 – Leverage Funding

Task 8 – Local Stakeholder Education

Task 9 - Watershed Coordinator Collaboration



2024 Update of the Rio Hondo Watershed Area SOEP

Overview of Rio Hondo SOEP 2024 Revision

Forward

- A new Foreword describes the March 19, 2024, Board motion by Supervisors Horvath and Solis entitled, “Progress and Adaptive Management of the Safe, Clean Water Program.” The motion required a progress report back in 90 days along with a timeline for completing 15 items, at least 10 of which will impact the operations of the WASC
- The Foreword also provides an overview of how the Watershed Coordinator Team proposes to build on the current program and specific topics which the team has been researching to strengthen the Program within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area.

AGN. NO. MARCH 19, 2024
REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND HILDA L. SOLIS
PROGRESS AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

The Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP or Program) funds stormwater infrastructure projects and scientific studies that improve water quality, increase our local water supply, and provide community benefits including green spaces and parks, local jobs, and recreational opportunities. The Program cultivates regional and community partnerships and prioritizes investments in historically underserved communities. In November 2018, voters approved Measure W, a parcel tax to fund the Program, which – beginning in Fall 2020 – has provided nearly \$280 million per year for multi-benefit projects and programs. The Program was designed based on extensive and diverse stakeholder engagement and continues to leverage robust regional collaboration.

The first years of the SCWP focused on successfully establishing this complex program, establishing numerous sub-programs, governance committees, guidance documents, tools, and processes. To date, the SCWP has committed approximately \$514 million to 126 regional multi-benefit infrastructure projects and programs and has

MOTION

Overview of Rio Hondo SOEP 2024 Revision (Continued)

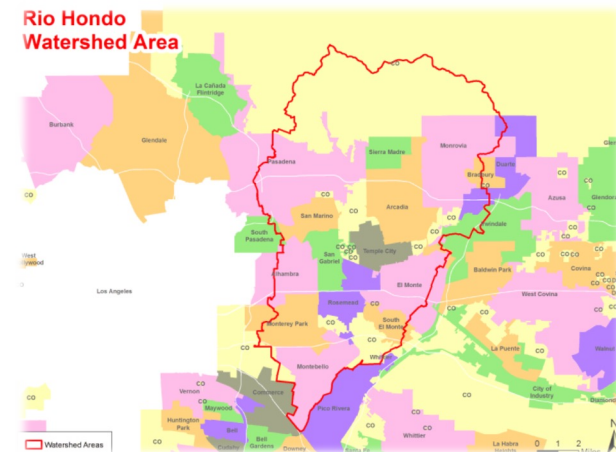


Section 1: Introduction

- The structure of the Introduction is largely consistent with the 2023 SOEP.
- This section describes how the 2024 SOEP revision outlines actions the Coordinator Team is planning to take in response to the Board motion to ensure the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders in implementation of the Program.
- The section concludes with a description of how the SOEP needed to be modified to help the WASC respond to the upcoming substantial changes to the Regional Program and describes five (5) areas of Coordinator Team focus during the 2024-25 program year in response to the changes.

Section 2: Watershed Area Description

- The Physical Characteristics section is largely consistent with the 2023 SOEP.
- The Social Characteristics discussion is also generally consistent with the 2023 SOEP, with some updating of statistical information.



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Overview of Rio Hondo SOEP 2024 Revision (Continued)



Section 3: Organizing for Impact

This section is especially important this year because of the many recommended changes that have been made by various reviewers of the Program – particularly the Board of Supervisors.

- The Watershed Coordinator Team is accordingly modifying its outreach and engagement strategy and is planning a series of individual meetings with WASC members related to recommendations made in the Board memo.
- Early this Program Year, the Coordinator Team will focus on strengthening the Interested Party list to help the Team's work with traditionally disadvantaged communities, schools, and tribal interests.

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Overview of Rio Hondo SOEP 2024 Revision (Continued)



Section 4: Lessons Learned

- This section discusses several of the same lessons included in the 2023 SOEP.
- It also mentions additional lessons learned that were identified through the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) that has been presented to the Regional Oversight Committee and summarized in a May 2024 report.
- The measures proposed in the MMS are designed to support project development, municipal and regional planning, and informed decision-making (WASCs and Adaptive Management Program).





Section 5: Strategies

- The Strategies section is the most important part of the SOEP for WASC members to review carefully. It discusses eight (8) outreach and engagement strategies on which the Watershed Coordinator Team proposes to focus during 2024-25 and the actions planned to implement the strategies.
- Two strategies are new this year. One involves promotion of the development of school stormwater harvesting and greening projects and the other involves the promotion of workforce development program components.

Overview of Rio Hondo SOEP 2024 Revision (Continued)



Section 6: Identify Collaborative Efforts

- During this program year additional efforts to identify potential collaborative partners in working with schools and school districts will be given more attention, as will contacts with potential collaborators to help with identification of tribal needs and workforce development.

Section 7: Vision for Success for the Rio Hondo SOEP

- This section presents the Watershed Coordinator Team's long-term and short-term visions for success.
- It also includes the Watershed Coordinator Team's suggestions for evaluating criteria for the 8 strategies defined in Section 5.



Overview of Rio Hondo SOEP 2024 Revision (Continued)

Appendices

- The March 19, 2024, Board of Supervisors Motion and the SCWP 90-day report back are included as Appendix A.
- Other Appendices were revised where updated information was available.





Questions and Discussion

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Monrovia Canyon Park, Photo Courtesy City of Monrovia

