



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment?

The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) consists of a brief Survey, to gather input from the public about community needs, strengths, and priorities, and a Dashboard (an online GIS-based planning tool) that visually showcases survey results and tracks trends in responses. Information gathered through the CSNA may serve as a resource for anyone interested in engaging with Los Angeles County’s Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program). The CSNA Survey and Dashboard will remain open to new responses on an ongoing basis, acting as a “living database” of community voices in Los Angeles County.

The CSNA Survey launched on November 27, 2024, and can be taken by anyone. The CSNA Dashboard will be unveiled in the coming months and responses to Surveys taken today will be included in the Dashboard once launched.

2. Why was the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment created?

In 2019, Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) commissioned the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) to conduct a program-wide assessment of the SCW Program. MMS included recommendations for the development of program methods, metrics, and monitoring criteria to inform tracking, planning, reporting, and decision-making to improve the SCW Program. An early product of MMS, the [Equity in Stormwater Investments White Paper](#)

recommended the creation of a process “to assess and report community needs, strengths, and preferences on an ongoing basis.” Similarly, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the SCW Program’s Regional Oversight Committee recognized and supported the need to develop a process to obtain community feedback as it relates to the SCW Program.

To address this need, Public Works developed the CSNA to inform anyone engaging with the SCW Program about the issues and priorities that are most important to local communities.

3. How will the information collected from the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment be shared with the public?

Information gathered through the CSNA Survey will be published on an online GIS-based planning tool called the CSNA Dashboard. The CSNA Dashboard will summarize survey results geographically and track trends in responses over time. The CSNA Dashboard will be available to the public in 2025.

In addition to the CSNA Dashboard, CSNA Survey results will also be summarized and made available as a downloadable data layer in the SCW Program [Spatial Data Library](#). The Spatial Data Library (SDL) is a collection of public resources relevant to the SCW Program. The SDL can be used to explore the interconnected, dynamic relationships within the Watershed Areas. SDL may guide communication, project proposals, decision support, and more.

4. How will the information collected from the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment be used by the Safe, Clean Water Program?

Input gathered through the CSNA will serve as an important resource for consideration during SCW Program Regional, Municipal, and Project Planning, which may lead to the development of more community-informed multi-benefit stormwater capture projects and studies. CSNA results may be used by:

- Project developers who want to better align the benefits expected from proposed projects with local community priorities. This can include cities, community groups, nonprofits, and others interested in the SCW Program.
- The SCW Program’s Governance Committees when evaluating how projects seeking SCW Program funding align with community-stated needs and priorities.
- Public Works to identify opportunities for enhancement of the SCW Program, incorporate public feedback into the program evaluation processes, and align watershed planning efforts with community-stated priorities.

5. Who can take the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment Survey?

The CSNA Survey is open to anyone who lives, works, or plays within the SCW Program boundary, which corresponds with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) boundary. The LACFCD boundary encompasses most of Los Angeles County, except the northern region (Antelope Valley) and the Catalina and San Clemente Islands.



Map of the 9 SCW Program Watershed Area Boundaries.

6. Who can access the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment data?

All CSNA Survey responses are completely anonymous. The CSNA does not collect any information that allows individual participants to be identified. CSNA Survey response trends are summarized and visually displayed in the online CSNA Dashboard that is available to the public. Only Public Works and its contractors that help to maintain the CSNA will have access to the raw data.

7. How long will the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment be going on for?

The CSNA will be ongoing and has no planned end date. The CSNA will be a

permanent feature of the SCW Program so long as its continued use advances the goals of the SCW Program.

8. I would like to share the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment with my community. What resources are available to help me do that?

The SCW Program appreciates and encourages the sharing of the CSNA. A promotional toolkit with more information and resources to help you develop a meeting or effort to share the CSNA with others will be available soon.

9. Is there funding available to support my organization using the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment to engage with a community?

Competitive grant funding is now available for organizations who conduct education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture in LA County. Public Works is partnering with the [Water Foundation](#) to administer the SCW Program Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. Applicants may submit proposals anytime between September 24, 2024 and May 31, 2025, during the rolling application period. Water Foundation will evaluate proposals and award grants in periodic batches. For more information, including an application tutorial, dates for informational meetings, and application submission details, visit the [Water Foundation's website](#).

We encourage all interested parties to apply for funding, if eligible.

- [Interest Form](#)
- [Water Foundation Safe, Clean Water Program Page](#)
- [FAQs](#)

10. Who can I contact to learn more about the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment and the Safe, Clean Water Program?

Each Watershed Area in the SCW Program has at least one dedicated Watershed Coordinator that is available to assist anyone interested in learning about the SCW Program and can provide additional support related to community engagement, education, and project development. To learn more about the CSNA and other opportunities to engage with the SCW Program, contact the Watershed Coordinator for your area. Use the [Find Your Watershed](#) tool to find your watershed and contact your coordinator.

