Depave LA:
Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting

Scientific Studies Program

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Central Santa Monica Bay, South Santa Monica Bay, Rio Hondo, Upper San Gabriel River, Lower San Gabriel River

Council for Watershed Health

Jason Casanova (CWH) | Craig Doberstein (Herrera)

Study Overview

Create a Tool to identify, rank, and prioritize parking lots for greening, water quality, and/or water supply focused retrofits.

The Study will develop a **Tool** to identify, rank, and prioritize parking lots where retrofit projects offer the greatest **water quality, water supply, and other multi-benefit outcomes.**

The Study **Toolkit** will include **implementation materials** to further **accelerate the transition of parking lot areas** from pollution-generating impervious to multi-benefit sites.

Study Location

Study Team – Leads

COUNCIL FOR
WATERSHED
HEALTH

Over 25 years of advancing the health and sustainability of our region's watersheds - both in natural areas and urban neighborhoods. We do this through science-based research, education, and inclusive engagement.

Eileen Alduenda
Executive Director

Jason Casanova
Director of Planning

Study Team – Partners

HERRERA
Science + Planning + Design

- Nation-leading expertise in nature-based and GI planning, facility design, construction, monitoring, O&M, and training.
- Data science and geospatial analyses focused on environmental, public health, and social equity.

OLaunu

Daniel Apt, President - 30 years of local and international experience in stormwater management and GI, including planning, design, implementation, inspection, monitoring, and training.

Study Details – Problem Statement

1. Parking lots are ubiquitous and limiting for SCWP goals (single-purpose, PG, impervious, heat island, void of biodiversity).
2. <u>Individual</u> parking lot projects fall under the radar of typical EWMP/watershed planning efforts and TRP visions.
3. Higher-level SCWP Needs Assessments are underway, but project implementation barriers still need to be addressed.

Study Details – Objectives & Outcomes

1. Engage WASC, watershed coordinators, agencies, and community groups **to define key needs, barriers, and opportunities.**
2. Build a Tool that allows users **to identify, screen, and <u>prioritize</u> parking lot retrofit projects.**
3. Provide a Toolkit **to facilitate and promote conversion of parking lots to multi-benefit sites.**

- Training Materials
- Funding/TRP Guidance Manual
- Three Conceptual Designs
- Design Tips
- Engagement Tips
- O&M Guidance

Study Details – Methodology

Task 1 - Kickoff and Advisory Committee Development

Task 2 - Outreach and Engagement

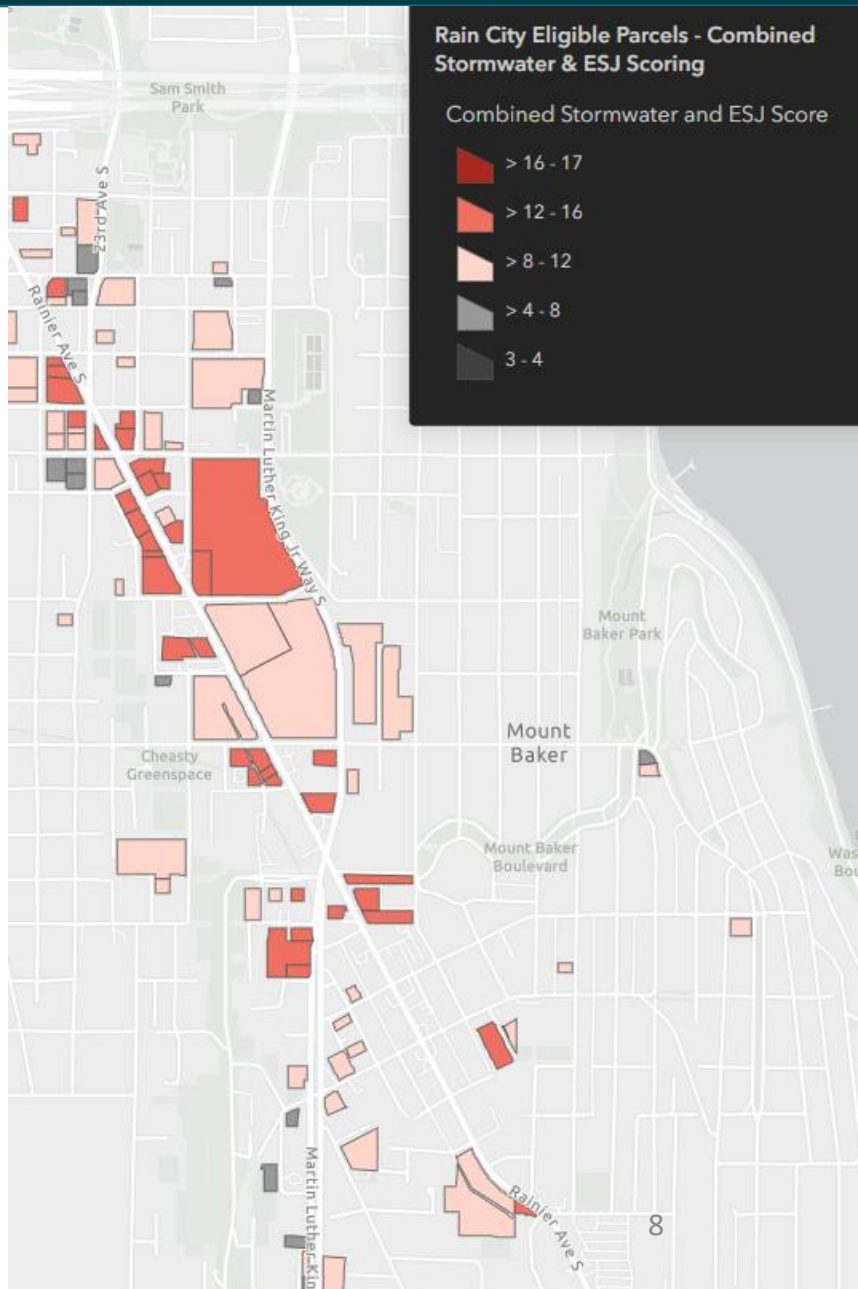
Task 3 - Tool Visioning and Framework

Task 4 - Parking Lot Screening

Task 5 - Parking Lot Prioritization

Task 6 - Tool Development

Task 7 - Implementation and Guidance Materials



Study Details – Collaboration

Regional Effort

- CSMB, LSGR, Rio Hondo, SSMB, USGR
- Diverse densities, environments, climates, and populations
- Efficiency in sharing knowledge, priorities, and costs among watersheds

Foundational and Complementary Efforts

- Similar team initiatives outside of LA (ex: RainCity Seattle, Depave.org)
- ARLA DepaveLA Mapping and Report (planning)
- WCA/Gateway Cities Underutilized Parking Lots Study (planning/example)
- ARLA/Spherical Living Infrastructure Field Kit (outreach/planning)
- SCWP Watershed Planning and MMS (planning)

Cost & Schedule

Task	Description	Cost	Completion Date*
1	Kickoff and Advisory Committee Development	$88,233	3/31/2026
2	Outreach and Engagement	$282,022	11/30/2027**
3	Tool Visioning and Framework	$90,732	6/30/2026
4	Parking Lot Screening	$96,979	11/30/2026
5	Parking Lot Prioritization	$67,512	3/31/2027
6	Tool Development	$148,616	6/30/2027
7	Implementation and Guidance Materials	$196,584	11/30/2027
8	Project Management	$118,042	11/30/2027
TOTAL		**$1,088,720**	

** Assumes a start date of January 2026*

*** Ongoing throughout Study*

Funding Request

WASC	Year 1	Year 2	Totals
CSMB	$116,265	$116,265	**$232,529**
LSGR	$110,216	$110,216	**$220,432**
RH	$77,286	$77,286	**$154,571**
SSMB	$115,592	$115,592	**$231,185**
USGR	$125,001	$125,001	**$250,002**
TOTAL	$544,360	$544,360	**$1,088,720**

To simplify cost estimating and make the WASC investments equitable, the proposed budget assumes each WASC can select one of the proposed implementation products listed in Task 7. If four or more WASCs support the Study, all proposed Task 7 deliverables can be developed.

Summary of Benefits

- Improved WQ through treatment of pollution-generating surfaces
- Decreased impervious, increased infiltration, increased capture
- Prioritized and targeted community investments – via initial engagement, and ultimately empowerment
- Broad additional benefits (heat/shade, climate, greening, habitat connectivity – plus eventual partnering and/or bundling for additional benefits)

Questions?

Jason Casanova (CWH)

Craig Doberstein (Herrera)