Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Update

Presented to the Rio Hondo WASC
17 December 2024
By Richard Watson & Julie Millett (RWA)

Summary of Activities since Last WASC Meeting (Nov 19)

Community Engagement/Outreach and Education

- Support for Washington Park Community Outreach meeting
- Upcoming: Scheduled to present to SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee on school greening (January)
- Ongoing: Planning future Outreach & Engagement and/or Educational events – looking for opportunities with cities and neighboring coordinators

Summary of Activities since Last WASC Meeting (Continued)

Project Development/Related

- Consultation with Claire Robinson (Amigos de los Rios) re: application for long-term O&M funding application for Plymouth Elementary School

- Consultation with Amigos de los Rios re: possible training program for school maintenance staff to prepare them to properly maintain campus greening and water capture projects on school campuses

- Ongoing: Working with Amigos de los Rios on potential future school projects

(Continued)

Summary of Activities since Last WASC Meeting

Project Development/Related (Continued)

- Research regarding possible workforce development program for green infrastructure, water capture, and water quality treatment projects.
- Working to set up next meeting with Garvey School District reps for potential future school project
- Additional work on project status updates
- Coordinated with Spherical Studios to set up presentation of Living Infrastructure Field Kit to the WASC in January

(Continued)

Summary of Activities since Last WASC Meeting (Continued)

SCWP and Watershed Coordinator Cohort

- Scheduling and conducting interviews for new round of individual meetings with WASC members
- Watershed Coordinator Working Groups (Schools & Stormwater, Tribal Allyship)

Watershed Coordinator Tasks

Task 1 – Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP **(Workplan 37%)**

Task 2 – Identify and Develop Project Concepts **(Workplan 10%)**

Task 3 – Work with Technical Assistance Teams **(Workplan 5%)**

Task 4 – Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities **(Workplan 10%)**

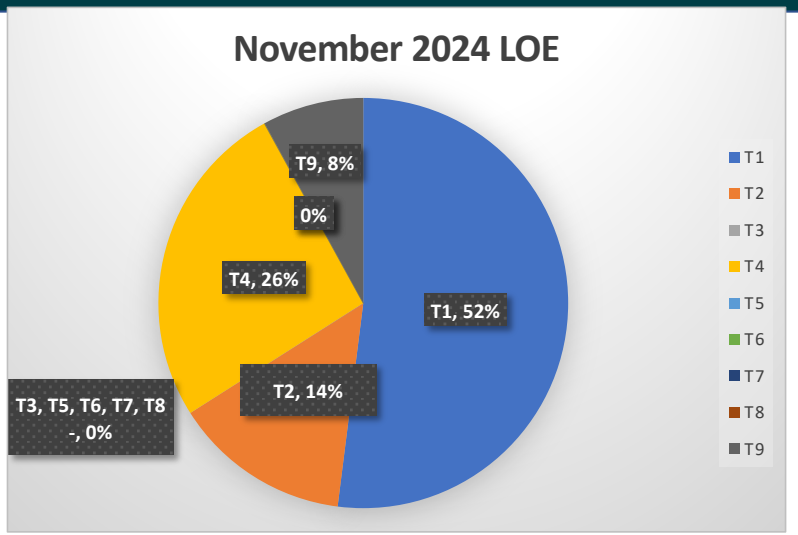
Task 5 – Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks **(Workplan 5%)**

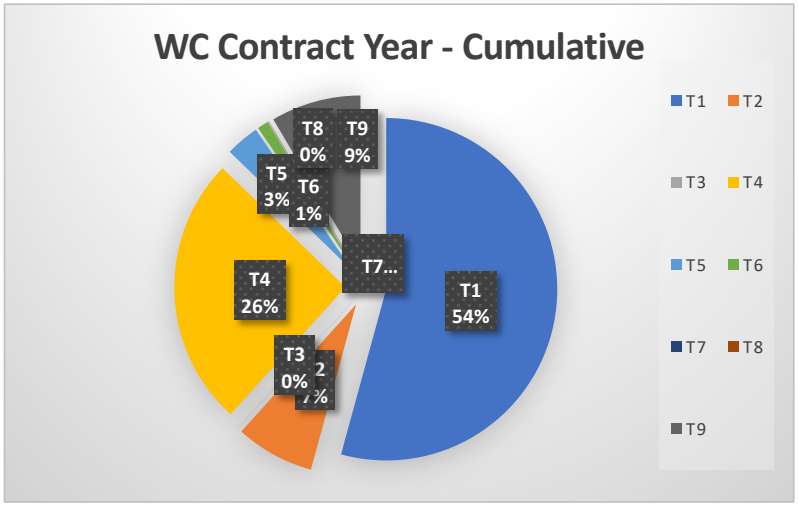
Task 6 – Cost-Share Partners **(Workplan 5%)**

Task 7 – Leverage Funding **(Workplan 11%)**

Task 8 – Local Stakeholder Education **(Workplan 11%)**

Task 9 - Watershed Coordinator Collaboration **(Workplan 6%)**





Questions and Discussion

Richard Watson
rwatson@rwaplanning.com
949-394-8495

Julie Millett
jmillett@rwaplanning.com
310-980-1534

Plymouth Elementary School, Monrovia
Photo courtesy Amigos de los Rios

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Overview of Round 6 Rio Hondo Scientific Study Proposals

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM
December 17, 2024

REGIONAL PROGRAM
FY25-26
Rio Hondo Watershed Area

WATERSHED COORDINATOR
Richard Watson

Rio Hondo Year 6 Scientific Study Proposals

- Four Scientific Study Proposals
- Three Multi-WASC Studies
  - Data-Driven Resources and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County
  - Depave LA Prioritizing Park Lots for Green Retrofitting
  - Hardscape and Brownfield Transportation Opportunity Study
- One Single WASC Study
  - Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient Los Angeles County

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Project Overview – Scientific Study

Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County

- Lead project proponent: **Foothill Municipal Water District**
- Total requested funds: **$442,000** (total for 9 WASCs for 1 year - **$49,111 for Rio Hondo**)
- Description: **Implement DROPS tool that integrates advanced data analytics with AI to site distributed stormwater capture and filtration projects**
- Water quality benefits: **Primary Pollutants of Concern can be treated at identified LID projects**
- Water supply benefits: **Contributes to increasing future local supplies by supporting water capture projects that increase groundwater recharge and raise water levels in the basin**
- Community investment benefits: **Find intersection between non-functional turf areas that need replacement and opportunities for LID; siting projects in disadvantaged communities can help alleviate inequalities in access to services as well as allow projects to tap into other sources of funding**

Project Overview – Scientific Study

Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting

- Lead project proponent: **Council for Watershed Health**
- Total requested funds: **$1,088,720** (total for 5 WASCs for 2 years - **$77,286/year for Rio Hondo**)
- Description: **Create a tool to identify, rank, and prioritize parking lots for greening, water quality, ad/or water supply-focused retrofits**
- Water quality benefits: **Improved water quality through reduced pollution-generating surfaces and installation of green infrastructure, traditional BMPs, and/or stormwater infiltration**
- Water supply benefits: **Increased site infiltration, off-site runoff capture and infiltration, reuse of captured water from infiltration when feasible and needed**
- Community investment benefits: **Prioritized and targeted community investments, increased tree shade, improved habitat connectivity, improved accessibility, public art, educational opportunities**

Project Overview – Scientific Study

Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study

- Lead project proponent: **San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments**
- Total requested funds: **$410,000** total for two WASCs **($156,600 for Rio Hondo WASC)**
- Description: **Exploring the potential Safe, Clean Water Program Benefits of transforming hardscape and brownfields into permeable, multi-benefit surfaces**
- Water quality & water supply benefits: **Restoring substantial areas of impermeable surfaces would provide water quality and water supply benefits and address the underlying drivers for SCWP**
- Community investment benefits: **Transforming hardscapes to multi-benefit and preferably nature-base surfaces could provide clear and significant community investment by creating new park and habitat opportunities**

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Project Overview – Scientific Study

Next Gen Bioretention: Towards living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient Los Angeles County

- Lead project proponent: **Tree People**
- Total requested funds: **$466,248** over two (2) years for Rio Hondo WASC **($227,807 and $238,441)**
- Description: **A study assessing existing systems and delivering modelled next generation designs for resilient, multi-benefit bioretention systems.**
- Water quality benefits: **Improved water quality through greater infiltration and storage of stormwater, preventing polluted runoff from reaching downstream aquatic systems; optimized soil media can be formulated to transform pollutants into ecological resources.**
- Water supply benefits: **Increased storage achieved by finding modifications and designs that protect & enhance system's infiltration capacity to store water in soil profile and infiltrate into groundwater.**
- Community investment benefits: **Healthy and functioning bioretention systems that support dense vegetation will improve air quality, reduce urban heat island effect, and provide biodiversity corridors.**

Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact Richard Watson:
RWatson@dpw.lacounty.gov

rwatson@rwaplanning.com

949. 394. 8495