

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Report

Fiscal Year 22-23



Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Report FY22-23

The Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report is an annual summary of funded projects, concepts, and studies in each Watershed Area. The WARPP Report highlights how the implementation of approved Stormwater Investment Plans contributes to achieving SCW Program Goals.

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Safe, Clean Water Program Overview

The Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP, Program) is a pioneering regional initiative that provides dedicated local funding to increase water supply, safeguard and improve water quality, and deliver community benefits with particular focus on historically underserved communities. The Program was created in 2018 following the approval of Measure W by Los Angeles (LA) County voters, which established a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable surface area on private properties within the jurisdiction of the LA County Flood Control District (District). The Program receives approximately \$280M annually, with a total of \$1.12B collected as of July 2023 and consists of three major programs which each receive a proportional share of the funds: the Regional Program (50%), Municipal Program (40%) and the District Program (10%).

The Program promotes a multi-benefit approach to stormwater management by encouraging innovation and adaptive management. It supports projects and programs that contribute to the fulfillment of Clean Water Act requirements and addresses many other priorities across LA County related to equity, climate resilience, sustainability, and workforce development.

What distinguishes the SCWP from other similar programs is its regional and collaborative approach to addressing the stormwater management needs of LA County. It engages communities in the design and implementation of local infrastructure improvements and prioritizes nature-based solutions that can enhance communities with amenities such as green spaces and recreation areas. These efforts help mitigate the urban heat island effect and make neighborhoods and communities more climate resilient. The Program also places significant emphasis on education, outreach, and engagement, including the development of sub-programs to provide environmental education to K-12 students and support for growing a workforce with expertise in green infrastructure and stormwater management.

The multi-benefit and innovative nature of the Program complements other Countywide initiatives including the OurCounty sustainability plan and Infrastructure LA to help build the resilience and sustainability of the region. The SCWP is established by District Code Chapters 16 and 18. Many additional governing documents, resources, and guidance can be found on the <u>SCWP website</u>.

SCWP Goals

The SCWP is being implemented consistent with the Program Goals outlined in District Code Section 18.04:

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCWP Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.

A number of these goals are programmatic in nature and are inherent to the manner that the SCWP has been framed and is being implemented. Other goals are being tracked more explicitly through the current Regional and Municipal Program frameworks including Feasibility Studies, Annual Reporting, and Annual Plans. Where applicable, progress for specific goals will be highlighted throughout this Regional Program Progress Report.

Regional Program Summary

The Regional Program receives fifty percent (50%) of the funding from the SCWP annually. The Regional Program is comprised of the Infrastructure Program (IP) (receiving not less than 85% of the Regional Program funds), Technical Resources Program (TRP) (not more than 10% of the funds), and Scientific Studies (SS) Program (not more than 5% of the funds). The Regional Program receives approximately \$139M annually. To date the Regional Program has received \$557.8M (FY20-21 through FY23-24). The Regional Program is subdivided into nine watershed areas overseen by Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs), which allocate funding through annual Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for five-year projection periods (see watershed areas in Figure 1).

Detailed information on the timing for the yearly Call for Projects, Regional Program processes, and reporting requirements are on the <u>SCWP website</u>.

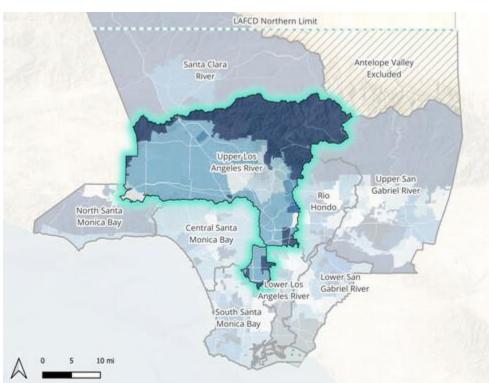


Figure 1: Watershed Area Map – Upper Los Angeles River Highlighted

Infrastructure Program

The objective of the IP is to plan, build, and maintain watershed-based multi-benefit projects to further progress towards the 14 Program Goals. Each project is required to provide a Water Quality Benefit and either a Water Supply Benefit, Community

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Investment Benefit, or both. The allocation of IP funds follows a well-defined process outlined in District Code Ch16.05.D.1.

Technical Resources Program

The TRP provides resources to community groups, municipalities, and individuals who need technical assistance to develop their project concepts into Feasibility Studies that can be considered under the IP. The District provides Technical Assistance Teams, comprised of subject matter experts, that support the development of Feasibility Studies in partnership with the project proponent. The TRP also provides Watershed Coordinators to educate and build capacity in communities and facilitate community and stakeholder engagement.

Scientific Studies Program

The Scientific Studies Program provides funding for eligible scientific studies and other activities such as, but not limited to, technical studies, monitoring, modeling, and other similar activities. This Program also includes efforts by the District to use independent research and academic institutions as peer reviewers for activities carried out by other entities.

Summary of Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Regional Program Funded Projects, Studies, and Concepts

Over the first four years of the SCWP (FY20-21 through FY23-24), 33 IP Projects, 12 TRP Project Concept, 10 Scientific Studies, and 3 Watershed Coordinators were approved in the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Area. The 33 approved IP Projects to date represent over \$262M in funds programmed through FY27-28. These projects are being implemented across 6 municipalities and are projected to:

- Capture stormwater from over 18,511 acres that drain to the respective projects.
- Invest over \$236M in projects benefiting Disadvantaged Communities.
- Provide an increase in storage capacity for projects that clean stormwater during rain events of 2,628 acre-feet (for a typical rainy day).
- Provide an increase in local water supply through an additional annual average stormwater capture of 36,328 acre-feet.
- Remove 21 acres of impervious area, which reduces concentrated stormwater flows and pollution running off paved surfaces. Increased greenspace can also reduce the urban heat island effect and increase opportunities for community activities.
- Reduce numerous pollutants and contribute to meeting water quality requirements related to stormwater discharges and water quality; and
- Leverage over \$186M in other funding sources to complete the projects.

Of the 12 funded TRP projects, 2 feasibility studies have been developed and subsequently approved for funding through the Infrastructure Program. The remaining funded TRP project concepts have technical assistance teams with work in progress or anticipated to start soon. Additional information about the Technical Resources Program can be found on the <u>SCWP website</u>.

Table 1: Summary of Regional Program Upper Los Angeles River Funded Projects, Concepts and Studies

Funding Program	No. of Projects, Concepts, Studies	Total SCW Funding Budgeted & Projected through FY27- 28	Total Projected Leveraged Funds	Projected SCW Funding benefitting Disadvantaged Communities
SIP FY20-21	26	\$107,631,349.03	\$57,929,000.00	\$87,732,798.03
Infrastructure Program	12	\$98,023,398.03	\$57,929,000.00	\$87,032,798.03
Scientific Studies	3	\$3,207,951.00	N/A	N/A
Project Concept	8	\$1,600,000.00	N/A	\$700,000.00
Watershed Coordinators	3	\$4,800,000.00	N/A	N/A
SIP FY21-22	14	\$96,783,593.00	\$70,492,220.00	\$89,100,743.00
Infrastructure Program	9	\$93,744,418.00	\$70,492,220.00	\$88,500,743.00
Scientific Studies	3	\$2,439,175.00	N/A	N/A
Project Concept	2	\$600,000.00	N/A	\$600,000.00
SIP FY22-23	10	\$25,495,074.38	\$13,896,852.00	\$17,080,148.00

Funding Program	No. of Projects, Concepts, Studies	Total SCW Funding Budgeted & Projected through FY27- 28	Total Projected Leveraged Funds	Projected SCW Funding benefitting Disadvantaged Communities
Infrastructure Program	5 \$23,328,748,00 \$13,8		\$13,896,852.00	\$16,480,148.00
Scientific Studies	3	\$1,566,326.38	N/A	N/A
Project Concept	2	\$600,000.00	N/A	\$600,000.00
SIP FY23-24	8	\$48,813,842.14	\$44,155,556.01	\$44,286,953.00
Infrastructure Program	7	\$46,485,565.00	\$44,155,556.01	\$44,286,953.00
Scientific Studies	1	\$2,328,277.14	N/A	N/A
Project Concept	0	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Grand Total	58	\$278,723,858.55	\$186,473,628.01	\$238,200,642.03

Projected Project Benefits

The Scoring Committee evaluated the benefits anticipated to be provided by each proposed project including assessment of claimed Water Quality Benefits, Water Supply Benefits, Community Investment Benefits, Nature-Based Solutions, and Leveraged Funds, as defined in the Project Scoring Criteria in the Feasibility Study Guidelines. As shown in the web plot below, all five scored benefit categories are represented in the funded Regional Program projects, with water quality being the core benefit. The web plot charts the benefits and features provided by ULAR's regional program projects; the further the point is from the center, the greater the proportion of projects that achieve that feature or benefit.

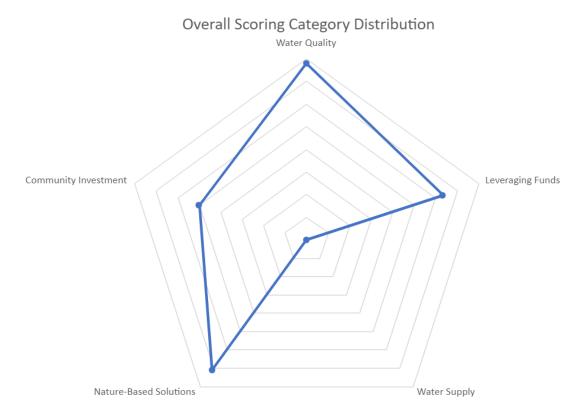


Figure 2: Overall scoring category distribution for IP Projects in first four years (33 total)

Below are tables and graphics that summarize the information collected through applications for the funded IP Projects. The numbers next to the claimed benefits within the "raindrop" represent the number of Infrastructure Program Projects providing the projected benefit.

Table 2: Estimated projected aggregate benefits for ULAR IP Projects in first four years (33 total) **ULAR WARPP Report FY22-23** 8

Project Characteristic	Value
Total # of IP Projects	33
Area Managed by Projects (acres)	18,511
Project 24-hour Storage Capacity (acre-feet)	2,628 ¹
Annual Average Stormwater Capture (acre-feet)	36,328
Dry Weather Inflow to Projects (cubic feet per sec)	60
Impervious Area Removed (acres)	21

¹For wet-weather Projects only.

Table 3: Projected Benefits of IP Projects in first four years (33 total)

Number of Benefits Provided by Infrastructure Program Projects					
Primary Pollutant Addres	Primary Pollutant Addressed				
21	Zinc				
5	Bacteria				
3	Nitrogen				
4	Other*				
Water Supply Benefits					
24	Connected to Aquifer				
1	Sends to WW Treatment Plant for Reuse				
9	Uses Water Onsite				
Community Investment B	Community Investment Benefits				
29	Reduces Heat Island Effect				
25	Provides Recreational Opportunities				
31	Increases Shade and Trees				

Number of Benefits Provided by Infrastructure Program Projects				
31	Improves Flood Protection			
9	Improves Waterways Access			
28	Enhances Habitat or Park Space			
11	Enhances Green Spaces at Schools			
Nature-Based Solutions				
33	Mimics Natural Processes			
32	Uses Natural Materials			
Leveraging Funds				
28	Leverages Shared Funds			

*Primary Pollutant Addressed does not apply to Copper, Lead, Toxics, Phosphorus, Chloride, and Dry Weather Projects. "Other" includes Dry Weather Projects.

Table 4: Numbe	of ULAR IP I	Projects by	BMP type	(33 total)
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Primary BMP Type	Number of IP Projects
Wet Weather Focus	29
Diversion to Sanitary Sewer	0
Treatment Facility	3
Infiltration Facility	10
Rain Barrel	0
Cistern	3
Infiltration Well	11
Biofiltration	1

Primary BMP Type	Number of IP Projects
Bioretention	1
Dry Weather Focus	4
Diversion to Sanitary Sewer	0
Treatment Facility	1
Infiltration Facility	2
Rain Barrel	0
Cistern	0
Infiltration Well	0
Biofiltration	1
Bioretention	0

Table 5: ULAR Regional Program Funding Allocated/Projected for Disadvantaged Communities through FY27-28, including projects from first four years

A: Total Number of IP Projects benefitting Disadvantaged Communities	B: Total SCW Regional Program IP Allocations and Projects through FY27- 28	C: Total SCW Regional Program IP Allocations and Projections Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities through FY27-28	D: Percent of SCW Regional Program IP Allocations and Projections Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities through FY27-28 (C/B)
28 (of 33)	\$262M	\$236M	90%

Project Status and Phases

The list below summarizes the status of the 27 funded IP Projects for FY20-21 to FY22-23².

- 21 Projects in planning or design phase
- 3 Projects in bid/award or construction
- 3 Projects that have completed construction or are undergoing operation and maintenance
- 2 Projects removed or withdrawn

²Note that one Project was withdrawn by the Project Developer

Funding and Expenditures

Table 6 summarizes expenditures for the 27 IP Projects and 9 Scientific Studies in FY20-21, FY21-22, and FY22-23 SIPs.

Funding Year	Total SCW Funds Awarded up to 6/30/2023	Total SCW Expenditures up to 6/30/2023	Total Cost Share Expenditures up to 6/30/2023	Total SCW Expenditures in FY22-23	Total Cost Share Expenditures in FY22-23
SIP FY20-21	\$73,305,259.23	\$20,358,721.54	\$53,962,171.71	\$10,056,796.21	\$43,045,005.47
Infrastructure Program Projects	\$70,266,928.23	\$18,173,723.15	\$53,953,897.96	\$9,445,654.77	\$43,036,731.72
Scientific Studies	\$3,038,331.00	\$2,184,998.39	\$8,273.75	\$611,141.44	\$8,273.75
SIP FY21-22	\$32,735,878.00	\$8,046,471.02	\$1,331,847.42	\$3,861,522.84	\$722,403.81
Infrastructure Program Projects	\$30,836,185.00	\$7,014,460.98	\$1,331,847.42	\$2,946,906.04	\$722,403.81

Table 6: Summary of expenditures for FY20-21 to FY22-23 SIPs

Scientific Studies	\$1,899,693.00	\$1,032,010.04	\$0.00	\$914,616.80	\$0.00
SIP FY22-23	\$3,110,801.27	\$1,683,347.06	\$395,238.00	\$1,683,347.06	\$395,238.00
Infrastructure Program Projects	\$2,524,000.00	\$1,669,267.58	\$395,238.00	\$1,669,267.58	\$395,238.00
Scientific Studies	\$586,801.27	\$14,079.48	\$0.00	\$14,079.48	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$109,151,938.50	\$30,088,539.63	\$55,689,257.13	\$15,601,666.12	\$44,162,647.28

Note: Information based on submitted and completed reports by Regional Program Project Developers as of end of December 2023.

Table 7 summarizes the 14 Regional Program Projects reporting SCWP expenditures in FY20-21 to FY22-23 towards Program benefits.

Table 7: Number of ULAR Regional Projects reporting SCWP Expenditures towards Program Benefits FY22-23

Program Benefits	Number of IP Projects
Community Benefits	14
Water Quality Benefits	14
Water Supply Benefits	14
Nature-Based Solutions	14
Disadvantaged Community Benefits	12
Total Number of IP Projects reporting SCWP Expenditures in FY22-23	14

Note: Information provided by Regional Program Project Developers. Information is current to December FY23-24.

Watershed Coordinator Program

The Technical Resources Program provides Watershed Coordinators to educate and build capacity in communities and to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement with the SCW Program. The WASC funds 3 Watershed Coordinators (2 positions from Council for Watershed Health and 1 position from Environmental Outreach Strategies). The Watershed Coordinators began work in June 2021. To date, they've engaged approximately 5,715 people and have held 38 education events and 79 outreach events across the watershed area.

Watershed Coordinator progress presentations and reports may be reviewed on the ULAR WASC webpage (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/upper-los-angeles-river-watershed-area/</u>). The most recent updated Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan for 2024-2025 may be viewed <u>here</u>. The Watershed Coordinator FY23-24 Annual Reports may be viewed <u>here</u>.

Highlights

"Council for Watershed Health (CWH) Watershed Coordination (WC) team has been strategically engaging key regional leaders, including school districts, agencies and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), to advance regional school greening efforts under the SCW Program. There are two standout examples where the CWH Watershed Coordinators have played a key role in facilitating collaboration on school greening initiatives:

Rosa Parks Learning Center, which leveraged Prop O funding to position the City of Los Angeles and LAUSD to potentially apply for Safe Clean Water Program funding.

Bethune Park and Diego Rivera Learning Complex provide an opportunity for LAUSD and LACDPW to collaborate on a joint project that achieves significant regional stormwater benefits between the two adjacent properties."

-Watershed Coordinator Alonso Garcia (Council for Watershed Health)

"The CWH Watershed Coordination (WC) team has been actively promoting the representation of diverse voices and community-driven initiatives within the SCW Program, providing technical assistance to enable community organizations to engage meaningfully in the program. A successful example is the Elephant Hill

Open Space and Stormwater Infrastructure Feasibility Study, a community-led effort that addresses local needs while delivering regional benefits. This project prioritizes conservation, nature-based solutions, and recreational spaces, all while aligning with SCW Program criteria for regional water quality goals. The CWH WC team supported the community organization in developing and submitting a FY 24-25 SCW Program Technical Resources Program (TRP) application for potential stormwater improvements in the underserved community of Northeast LA's El Sereno. The WC team facilitated collaboration between the City and relevant agencies and continues to provide ongoing support."

-Watershed Coordinator Kristina Kreter (Council for Watershed Health)

"Over the past two years, EOS has significantly contributed to the Safe Clean Water Program by assisting conservation and community groups to develop funding applications, including the Infrastructure Program and Technical Resource Programs. EOS has provided essential updates on the Program through an electronic newsletter delivered to hundreds of community stakeholders, and supported outreach and engagement activities for funded projects to ensure affected community sours to help visualize the Program's benefits and hosted workshops to disseminate scientific research findings to relevant audiences. The organization has collaborated with schools and districts to promote stormwater pollution and capture projects on or near school properties and engaged with the business community through regular updates and an annual symposium to sustain taxpayer support. Furthermore, EOS has partnered with other governmental agencies to secure matching support, including discussions with senior staff at the Metropolitan Water District and the California State Water Board."

-Watershed Coordinator Adi Liberman (Environmental Outreach Strategies)

Regional Program Findings

The findings highlighted here are representative of observations and feedback from governance committees, external stakeholder reports (see those identified in the Adaptive Management Section), and a survey completed by the District to collect feedback from applicants on their experience with the Regional Program from all nine watershed areas. The findings included here are not comprehensive but are summarized to reflect findings that led to the development of the ROC recommendations and near-term adaptive management actions.

- Large municipalities have been most active and successful with obtaining Regional Program funds.
- Applicants and stakeholders have provided feedback that the application requirements can be cumbersome and complex for some applicants (e.g., small municipalities and NGOs/CBOs, schools).
- The number of applications is decreasing year over year as the backlog of projects identified in other planning documents/efforts (e.g., EWMPs, WMPs, IRWM, etc.) have already been submitted.
- Project opportunities and potential for benefits vary by location (e.g., water supply potential) and many feel these variations should be accounted for in watershed planning and project scoring.
- Project applications and reporting for different project phases and project sizes could be tailored.
- Surveyed project applicants have had positive experiences with the application Portal, informational materials, and information sessions.
- The metrics and information currently collected for the Regional Program could benefit from clarity and refinement.
- Definitions of Program Goals could benefit from clarity and refinement.
- Watershed planning and/or establishment of targets could assist with decision making and project identification and prioritization.
- Scoring criteria could be re-evaluated to align with experience to date in the Program and new metrics/methods.
- Inflation and the impacts of COVID-19 on supply chain and schedules have had a larger than expected impact on costs and timing of projects.

Adaptive Management

The SCW Program will continue to evolve as it adapts to the needs of the communities it serves to effectively advance the Regional Program while refining guidance, processes, and tools that will further maximize SCW Program Goals, demonstrate/report on SCW Program Goals and metrics, and facilitate enhanced long-term planning. The Regional Program investments to date address the urgent and growing needs in our communities and in our region. More than ever, investments in creative and innovative solutions are being made for a resilient future. Overall, the SCW Program Goals are being achieved and the program is implementing a variety of multi-benefit infrastructure projects that improve water quality, increase local water supply, enhance communities, and improve public health.

Adaptive Management to Date

To ensure adaptive management, the WASC shall review progress and expenditure reports and the annual summary reports to evaluate whether the schedules, budgets, scopes and expected benefits have significantly changed and remain consistent with the SCW Program Goals. Programs and Projects that are over budget or behind schedule, or that demonstrate reduced or revised scope of benefits, may be adjusted or removed from future SIPs.

As part of the ongoing adaptive management of the SCW Program, the District has refined processes, tools and has developed iterative guidance materials including, but not limited to, the items listed below. Please refer to the Project Portal (<u>https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/scw-reporting/map</u>), Regional Program webpage (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/regional-program/</u>), and the WASC webpage on the Safe, Clean Water website (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/</u>) for details.

- Watershed Area Steering Committee Operating Guidelines (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Regional-Program-</u> WASC-Operating-Guidelines-20190924-FINAL.pdf)
- Guidelines for public participation and public comments during Governance Committee in-person or virtual meetings (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/meeting-guidelines/</u>)
- Guidance for project applicants, including but not limited to, project applications, factsheets, and information sessions
 - Call for Projects Information Sessions (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/call-for-projects/</u>)

- Regional Program Funding Process Handbook (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Handbook-20191007-1630.pdf</u>)
- Reporting Module for Project Developers to submit progress reports (<u>https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/reporting/</u>)
- Safe Clean Water Spatial Data Library (<u>https://stantec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=35df45808f</u> e6470a8eff1075967c2156)
 - WASCs utilize the SCW GIS Maps to help assess multi-benefit projects across the watershed area to aid in development of SIPs
- SIP Programming Tool (<u>https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/sip-tool/</u>)
- Preliminary Committee Member rankings of projects for discussion purposes, as applicable
- Anticipated future SCW applications/funding request for construction costs from projects being awarded design SCW funds
- Program Guidance (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/2022-interim-guidance/</u>)
 - Programming of Nature-Based Solutions
 - Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program
 - Strengthening Community Engagement and Support
 - Water Supply
 - Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot for FY24-25 Call for Projects
- Partial Funding Guidelines
 - <u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Partial-</u> <u>Funding-Guidelines-20220216.pdf</u>
- Reduced reporting requirements of Project and Study Developers from quarterly to semi-annually
- Starting FY24-25, a dedicated consultant team has been onboarded to leverage resources to streamline coordination in order to expedite the review process.

Ongoing and Future Adaptive Management

Compliant with LACFCD Code Ch18.04.L. The progress reports and audits submitted by project developers provides meaningful insight on the extent projects and studies are achieving SCW Program Goals (<u>https://safecleanwaterla.org/reporting-and-audits/</u>). The Benefits Dashboard and the Reporting modules that track project benefits, expenditures, and progress reports are available via the SCW Portal <u>https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/scw-reporting/map</u>). As the early suite of SCW Program funded projects complete their funded activity or complete construction, project developers will report on post-performance of completed Infrastructure Projects. The

post-performance report information will help inform future improvements to the Regional Program process and requirements to better achieve SCW Program Goals.

Public Works' Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) is intended to help inform future SIP development through the support of both early/coordinated planning as well as more meaningful tracking/monitoring of projects and benefits. The MMS will use a robust stakeholder and consensus-based approach to assess and develop metrics that can be used across the SCW Program to support Program Goals. Additionally, Public Works commissioned a white paper as part of the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) by UCLA and Stantec (Equity in Stormwater Investments: Measuring Community Engagement and Disadvantaged Community Benefits for Equitable Impact in the Safe Clean Water Program) which is published on the UCLA Luskin Center website: https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Equity-in-Stormwater-Investments.pdf.

In alignment with the LA County Board of Supervisor Horvath's motion calling for the acceleration of the SCW Program, Public Works has begun facilitating regional and watershed-based planning efforts with the goal of identifying project opportunity areas and refine targets to support strategic investment. This effort will build on past and ongoing work and will incorporate meaningful feedback from the communities while leveraging available data and best practices to create watershed plans.

These results, along with other efforts and regional plans related to identifying needs, priorities, and lessons learned, will continue to be grafted into the Regional Program process as able such as improvements to project application process, scoring criteria, and reporting.