

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee

Summaries of SCWP Submitted Scientific Studies
2025-2026



**SAFE CLEAN
WATER PROGRAM**

Submitted Scientific Studies for 2025-26

1. Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for LA County
2. Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study
3. Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient LA County
4. Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting



1. Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for LA County

Lead: Foothill Municipal Water District

Watershed Areas: All 9 Watershed Areas

Requested Funding: \$49,112.00 from USGR; \$442,000 total

Summary:

- Develop a low-cost planning tool to identify and estimate the benefits of distributed stormwater capture and filtration projects.
- To provide a comprehensive, user friendly web-based platform to prioritize and plan stormwater projects.

1. Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for LA County

Goals:

- Enable water agencies to make informed decisions, enhance water management strategies, and promote multi-benefit stormwater capture initiatives in a cost-effective manner.
- Lower planning and coordination costs associated with stormwater capture projects.

Benefits: DROPS will help develop projects to increase local water supply potential, support stormwater capture projects for groundwater recharge, reduce flooding risks, enhance regional climate resiliency, and provide insights for tailored water management solutions.

2. Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study

Lead: San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Watershed Areas: RH and USGR

Requested Funding: \$253,400.00 from USGR; \$410,000.00 total

Summary: Explore the potential benefits of transforming hardscapes and brownfields into permeable, multi-benefit surfaces.

2. Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study

Objectives:

- Quantify the maximum extent of impermeable area and brownfields
- Estimate costs and benefits of transforming hardscapes and brownfields
- Estimate the potential impacts to SCWP parcel tax revenue resulting from different levels of transformation
- Viability of a SCWP-funded hardscape and brownfield transformation program, including a 'bank' of opportunities

Outcomes:

- Web-based mapping tools to evaluate opportunities
- Documentation of potential benefits and costs of transformation
- Documentation of potential programmatic approaches to transformation
- Public-facing StoryMap to communicate study

3. Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient LA County

Lead: TreePeople

Watershed Areas: USGR

Requested Funding: \$466,248.00

Summary:

- Investigate the health and performance of existing bioretention systems in the USGR to understand the process of soil and ecological development within bioretention systems
- Create design parameters for the contemporary and future conditions that bioretention projects will experience in the USGR

3. Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient LA County

Objectives:

- Field testing, surveying, and lab analyses of bioretention systems
- Develop site-level hydrological models
- Establish framework for feasible, scalable, and resilient next generation bioretention system concepts
- Bioretention systems as a community asset

Outcomes:

- Database of Existing Bioretention Facilities
- Optimized Bioretention Design Framework
- Next Gen Bioretention Concept Designs
- Identification of Facility Maintenance Needs
- Community Context of Nature-Based Solutions
- Improved Bioretention Models.

4. Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting

Lead: Council for Watershed Health

Watershed Areas: CSMB, LSGR, RH, SSMB, USGR

Requested Funding: \$250,002.00 from USGR; 1,088,720.00 total.

Summary:

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

4. Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting

Objectives:

- Build a web-based GIS Tool to identify, screen, and prioritize parking lots suitable for retrofits
- Pilot the Tool in select areas and sub-watersheds
- Engage WASC, watershed coordinators, agencies, and community groups to define needs, barriers, and opportunities.

Outcomes:

- Identify parking lots where green infrastructure retrofits are likely feasible and beneficial to water quality, water supply, public health, urban greening, and other community needs and priorities.

Discussion



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