



Public Comment Form

Name*: Sarah Steinman Organization*: LAist Descanso Gardens
Email*: ssteinman@scpr.org Phone*: _____
Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025 Date: _____



LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

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Comments

Descanso's water project is so important for the future of water conservation. I strongly support all funding for this project, as a model for a more sustainable future.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Kristen Payne Organization*: Descanso Gardens
Email*: kapain247@hotmail.com Phone*: 818-850-1377
Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025 Date: 03/25/25

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Comments

I am in support of Descanso Gardens receiving a water grant. The Gardens are an asset to the greater Los Angeles community and an excellent example of forward thinking water wise sustainability. I've been visiting for over 35 years.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Ashley Nguyen Organization*: Descanso Gardens
Email*: aoii.ashleynguyen@gmail.com Phone*: 408-221-9287
Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025 Date: 3/26/2025

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Comments

Water conservation is more important than ever, and Descanso Gardens' stormwater project is a smart, forward-thinking solution. It will help keep the gardens green and beautiful while reducing reliance on city water. I fully support this initiative.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Anne Pierce

Organization*: Descanso Gardens

Email*: annepierceemail@gmail.com

Phone*: _____

Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025

Date: _____

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Comments

As a childhood educator and community member, I support the Descanso Stormwater Capture Project for its potential to connect children with nature and teach sustainability. This initiative not only preserves our environment but also provides valuable lessons in water conservation. It's an investment in our community's future and the education of the next generation.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Isaac Winkler Organization*: Descanso Gardens
Email*: ikewink@gmail.com Phone*: 319.321.6845
Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025 Date: 3/25/25

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Comments

I strongly support the stormwater capture project of Descanso gardens. The gardens are a great asset to the community, and improving water management systems is worth funding.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Kay Green

Organization*: Descanso Gardens

Email*: kaylyn.grn@gmail.com

Phone*: 760-333-5370

Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025

Date: 3/26/2025

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Comments

I fully support the stormwater capture project at Descanso Gardens. This project will help collect and reuse rainwater, keeping the gardens beautiful while reducing the need for outside water. Investing in smart water solutions like this benefits both the environment and our community.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Laura Pope

Organization*: Descanso Gardens

Email*: Impope@gmail.com

Phone*: 617-515-0463

Meeting: WASC 4/2/2025

Date: 3/26/2025

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Comments

As someone who values green spaces like Descanso Gardens, I support this project because it's a win-win: it conserves water, improves the lake, and strengthens our community's environmental resilience.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Ashley Vega

Organization*: Descanso Gardens

Email*: amclanvega@gmail.com

Phone*: (787) 565-1896

Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025

Date: 3/25/25

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Comments

I fully support the Descanso Gardens Stormwater Capture Project. With the weather changes that are going to impact our local community, it is important that we invest in projects that improve their management of water systems. This project is essential to preserve the land and its ecological importance.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Heather Grimaldi Organization*: Descanso Gardens
Email*: hgrimaldi42@gmail.com Phone*: _____
Meeting: WASC April 2, 2025 Date: 3/25/25

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Comments

I strongly support the funding of the stormwater capture projects at Descanso Gardens. Once completed, these projects will significantly enhance the ecological performance of the gardens primary water features by optimizing the capture of stormwater for non-potable purposes. This improvement, achieved through comprehensive rehabilitation of Descanso's existing lake, is projected to greatly reduce the Gardens dependency on its local water service provider.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Bob Fan Organization*: Valley Water Company

Email*: bfan@valleywatercompany.com Phone*: 818-790-5516

Meeting: ULAR WASC Meeting Date: 4/2/2025

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Comments

Descanso Gardens' Master Plan for Water Infrastructure Projects (Master Plan) strives to protect and enhance the Garden's natural assets through ecological restoration and enhanced water conservation. In addition, the Master Plan works toward long-term resilience by including onsite stormwater capture and reuse for irrigation.

The Master Plan, with its water infrastructure project concepts, is congruent with Measure W, development of projects and programs to capture and recycle stormwater.

Valley Water Company is in support of the Master Plan.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Beverly Lindop Organization*: _____
Email*: blindop@aol.com Phone*: 702-301-4249
Meeting: ULAR WASC Meeting Date: April 2, 2025

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Comments

I have been coming to Descanso Gardens since the 1960s, first with my children, then my grandchildren, and now my great-grandchildren. This special place has been a source of beauty, peace, and joy for my family for generations. Watching the gardens grow and change over the years has been wonderful, and I am thrilled to see them taking steps toward a more sustainable future.

Water conservation is critical in Southern California, and Descanso Gardens is leading by example with this project. By capturing and reusing stormwater, they are ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the lush landscapes, vibrant flowers, and serene lake that so many of us cherish. This is a practical and necessary investment that will benefit both the environment and the community. I strongly support this funding and urge decision-makers to do the same.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Jodi Petta Organization*: _____
Email*: jomusic1965@gmail.com Phone*: 818-270-0400
Meeting: ULAR WASC Meeting Date: April 2, 2025

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Comments

Descanso Gardens is taking an important step toward sustainability with this stormwater capture project. Water is one of our most valuable resources, especially here in Southern California, where drought conditions are a constant challenge. By implementing this project, Descanso is not only ensuring the long-term health of its gardens but also setting an example for how institutions and individuals can be more mindful of water conservation.

For decades, Descanso Gardens has been a place of education, inspiration, and beauty. Generations of visitors, including myself, have found peace in its landscapes, and this project will help preserve that experience for the future. Instead of relying solely on municipal water sources, Descanso is taking an active role in managing its own water supply—using what nature provides in the most responsible way possible. This means a healthier lake, thriving plants, and a more resilient garden that can withstand the impacts of climate change.

Investing in projects like this is crucial for the environment and the community. It's a forward-thinking solution that demonstrates how green spaces can lead the way in conservation efforts. I fully support this funding and hope to see more projects like it in the future!



Public Comment Form

Name*: Jan and Jack Galbo Organization*: _____
Email*: bean1942@aol.com Phone*: 818-421-6627
Meeting: ULAR WASC Meeting Date: April 2, 2025

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Comments

Supporting the stormwater project at Descanso Gardens means supporting a greener, more sustainable future for our community. This project is a perfect example of that commitment, demonstrating how we can be smarter about capturing and reusing water in an era when conservation is more important than ever.

In Southern California, every drop of rain is precious. Instead of letting stormwater run off and be lost, Descanso is leading by example, showing homeowners, gardeners, and other public spaces how to harness and repurpose rainwater efficiently. The water collected through this project will help sustain the gardens, nurture plant life, and reduce reliance on outside water sources—all while improving local water quality and flood management. This initiative isn't just about Descanso; it's about setting a precedent for responsible water use that benefits the entire region. I strongly urge you to approve this funding and help make this vision a reality



Public Comment Form

Name*: Rosalie Fromberg Organization*: _____
Email*: krfromberg@gmail.com Phone*: _____
Meeting: ULAC WASC Date: 3/28/2025

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Comments

I am writing to express my strong support for Descanso Garden's stormwater capture project. It is imperative that we take immediate action to promote responsible water use, especially in California where water scarcity is a pressing issue.

This project not only has the potential to lead by example but also serves as a vital opportunity for Descanso to share its innovative approach with other gardens and farms throughout the region. Promoting stormwater capture across Southern California is not just a program; it's a necessity in facing the realities of our environment.

Recent experiences, particularly the devastating fires in our area, underline how precious and limited our water resources are. We cannot afford to waste water—it is essential to our survival and the health of our communities.

I urge you to support this initiative wholeheartedly. Let's work together to secure a sustainable future for our beloved gardens, farms, and the state of California.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Irene Georgia Tsatsos

Organization*: Descanso Gardens

Email*: studiotsatsoulia@gmail.com

Phone*: _____

Meeting: Measure W for the Stormwater Capture Project

Date: 3/27/2025

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Comments

I respectfully request your support of Descanso Gardens' Stormwater Capture and Re-Use Project. This is an important water conservation initiative that includes capturing, treating, and storing stormwater in an underground cistern. The water will eventually be directed to refill an existing lake and irrigate the Gardens. When operational, the cistern will capture up to 12.5 acre-feet of water a year.

Descanso Garden's Stormwater Capture and Re-Use Project is one of the few initiatives in LA County's Safe Clean Water Program that combines lake habitat rehabilitation with increasing the local water supply, improving water quality, and protecting public health. Key outcomes of the project include: building a diversion structure to capture and filter stormwater in an underground 220,000 cubic feet cistern; removing sediment and reducing 80% of contaminants, such as zinc and bacteria; improving the lake's condition and habitat; improving flood management and groundwater recharge by redirecting stormwater runoff; increasing Descanso's drought preparedness by reusing excess water for garden irrigation; and offsetting Descanso's reliance on potable water by up to 4 million gallons per year.

Descanso Gardens is visited by over one million people annually. Support from Measure W will provide critical funding for environmental stewardship and the education and enrichment of Descanso's visitors about the critical issues facing water access in our region. I urge your favorable consideration of this request.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Kathryn Cahalan Organization*: _____

Email*: kittycahalan@gmail.com Phone*: 626-695-6673

Meeting: Measure W Commission Date: 4/2/2025

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Comments

I am writing in support of funding the the Winery Canyon Creek and Descanso Gardens Stormwater Capture and Re-Use Project. The project will provide a much-needed opportunity to increase the amount of stormwaters that are captured and allowed to recharge the ground water supply in the area, as well as provide water for the gardens, reducing Descanso Garden's need for potable water. The project is in keeping with smart policy, as we need more infrastructure like it in the foothill communities.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Lauren Goldberg Organization*: Lauren Goldberg Design

Email*: lauren@laurengoldbergdsgn.com Phone*: (310) 625-8490

Meeting: ULAR WASC Meeting Date: 3/28/2025

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Comments

I am writing to express my strong support for the \$3 million funding request for Descanso Gardens' Stormwater Capture Project as part of its Master Plan implementation. This initiative is a critical step toward sustainable water management and environmental stewardship, benefiting both the Gardens and the broader community.

By capturing and utilizing stormwater, this project will contribute to groundwater recharge, reduce runoff, and enhance the resilience of our local ecosystem. It aligns perfectly with the goals of Measure W, ensuring that vital natural resources are managed responsibly while improving the guest experience at one of our region's most cherished cultural and environmental spaces.

I urge the committee to approve this funding request, as it will help secure a more sustainable future for Descanso Gardens and the surrounding community. Thank you for your consideration.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Maggie Gardner Organization*: OurWaterLA Coalition

Email*: maggie@lawaterkeeper.org Phone*: (310) 651-3360

Meeting: ULAR WASC Date: 4/2/2025

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Comments

Please see the attached public comment letter in support of Amigos de los Rios and the continuation of their funding



Date: April 1, 2025

To: ULAR WASC Members

From: OWLA Core Team (Heal the Bay, LAANE, LA Waterkeeper, Nature for All, Pacoima Beautiful, The Nature Conservancy and TreePeople)

RE: Letter of Support for Amigos de los Rios

Dear ULAR WASC Members,

I hope this message finds you well. **This letter is on behalf of the OWLA Coalition to express our strong support for Amigos de los Rios and the continuation of their funding under the Safe Clean Water Program administered by ULAR WASC.**

As you know, Amigos De Los Rios has long been a committed partner in environmental justice and water access in the Los Angeles region. Their work has been instrumental in ensuring that underserved communities have access to safe, clean water. However, recent devastating wildfires, including the tragic Palisades fire in January 2025, have put immense strain on their operations. Amigos de los Rios lost their office and the founder and managing director, Claire Robinson, tragically lost everything, including her home in the fire. The organization as a whole has had to face significant challenges in recovery.

Given these unprecedented circumstances, we strongly urge ULAR WASC to show patience and understanding in allowing Amigos de los Rios time to recover and regain the capacity needed to fulfill their reporting obligations and project commitments. They are one of the few 501(c)(3) organizations to have successfully secured Safe Clean Water Program funding, and it is critical that we support them as they rebuild, both as an organization and as individuals.

The commitment of Amigos de los Rios to environmental justice and water access is a vital asset to our community, and removing funding during their recovery period would not only be detrimental to their operations but also to the communities that rely on their work.

We respectfully ask that you consider extending support during this challenging time and provide the necessary accommodations for Amigos de los Rios to meet their program requirements as they recover.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working together to ensure that the mission of the Safe Clean Water Program continues to reach all corners of our community, especially those who are currently in need of additional support.

Sincerely,

The OurWaterLA Coalition

OurWaterLA is a diverse coalition of community leaders and organizations from across Los Angeles County united to create a strong water future for Los Angeles. Our goal is to secure clean, safe, affordable and reliable water for drinking, recreation and commerce now and for the future. We have a deep commitment to uphold the trust that voters had in us when passing this measure and that projects which achieve Safe Clean Water Program objectives of water quality, water supply, nature-based solutions and community investments are prioritized.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Matt Cook Organization*: Sierra Madre Playhouse

Email*: mcook@sierramadreplayhouse.org Phone*: 678 467 9189

Meeting: Measure W Date: 4/2/2025

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Comments

As a community member and leader, I'm writing in strong support of the Winery Canyon Creek and Descanso Gardens Stormwater Capture and Re-Use Project.

This project exemplifies the goals of Measure W by advancing sustainable water management through the capture, treatment, and reuse of stormwater. It will divert runoff from the Winery Canyon Channel into a 220,000 cubic-foot underground cistern, improve water quality by reducing up to 80% of contaminants, and replenish both the lake and irrigation systems at Descanso Gardens with up to 4 million gallons of non-potable water annually.

This project enhances flood management, boosts drought resilience, and restores critical habitat at one of LA County's most beloved public gardens—all while decreasing reliance on imported water.

This is exactly the kind of innovative, multi-benefit infrastructure investment that deserves Measure W support.

Thank you for your consideration.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Michael Alexander Organization*: none

Email*: Michael.Alexander@Caltech.edu Phone*: 626-395-3831

Meeting: Measure W Board Date: 3/27/2025

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Comments

The Descanso Garden's upcoming "Stormwater Capture & RE-Use Project" deserves significant support from Measure W funds due the institution's conscientious leadership role in serving the environmental interests of the people of Los Angeles. As a non-profit that has decades of history of helping people from throughout our urban region have experiences that contribute to our understanding of the original environment of Southern California and our responsibilities to protect the environment for future generations. This project will enable the Descanso Gardens to capture rain water for essential purposes on the property including feeding a lake that will be a beautiful relaxation spot within the park while reducing reliance on potable water that is needed by our large, "thirsty" population.

I am sure that the Committee is aware of the stated benefits of this project. I have come to trust most of the nonprofit organizations with long, community-serving histories when they propose projects that can serve the public good in a variety of ways. To my knowledge, the Gardens have the community's trust. They attract people from the many communities found in Los Angeles County.

At a time when more and more people ask about capturing more of the storm waters that seem to flow into the ocean each year, projects like this one can be used a way of demonstrating that there are people and organizations looking for new and interesting ways of realizing these dreams.

I support the Descanso Gardens' request for support for Measure W funding.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Roben Gerson Organization*: _____
Email*: _____ Phone*: _____
Meeting: ULAR WASC Meeting Date: 3/31/2025

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Comments

I strongly support Descanso Gardens Stormwater capture project. It is essential for all CA water districts to capture and use storm water runoff in a productive manner. Descanso Gardens has submitted an excellent proposal. This is an investment that will reap benefits today and into the future.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Benjamin Harris Organization*: Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Email*: ben@lawaterkeeper.org Phone*: 310-394-6162 ext. 102

Meeting: ULAR WASC Date: 4/2/2025

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Comments

Los Angeles Waterkeeper supports the Scientific Study Proposal "Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture," proposed by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. The study will advance our regional understanding of the relationship between SCWP projects and flood mitigation benefits in the watersheds in which they are located, including the development of metrics that can be used to quantify flood management benefits and CIBs for future projects. As the SCWP is undergoing a watershed planning process, understanding watershed-wide flood management needs is an essential component to ensuring the most beneficial projects are located at the most beneficial locations. The public deserves to know the best opportunity sites for stormwater capture projects that may protect flood-prone communities from further risks, particularly as storms get larger and more intense in the coming decades. Such knowledge will also guide flood agencies' decisions on where to prioritize nature-based flood management solutions that can alleviate flood risk while restoring hardened streambeds or other developed sites into a more natural form, suitable for new parks, ecosystem habitat, wetlands, and/or recreation opportunities. The study will be an instrumental first step toward filling a critical knowledge gap, which will facilitate greater effectiveness in our regional hazard mitigation planning efforts for decades to come.