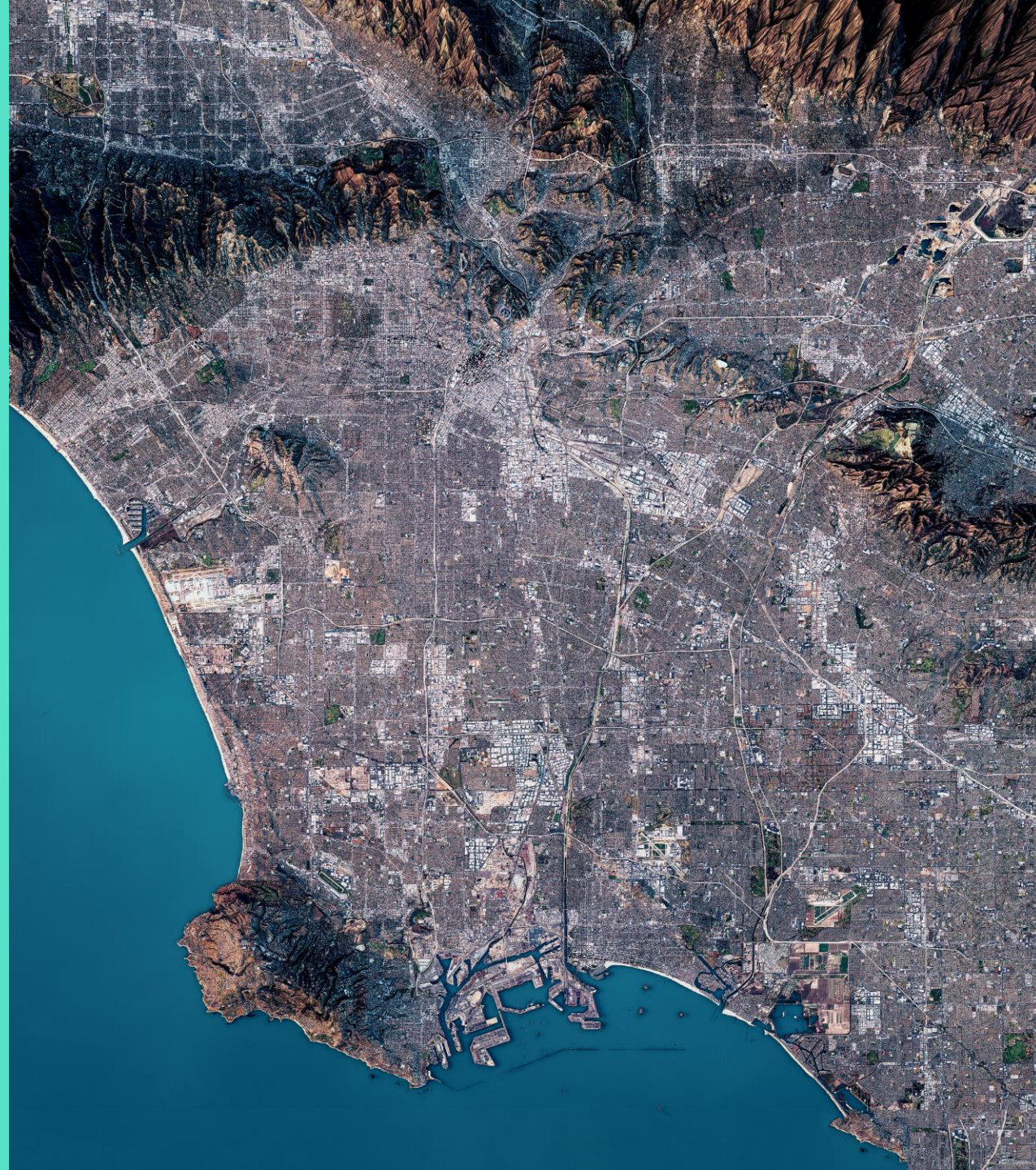
SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Watershed Planning Update
Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area

PRESENTED BY:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
SCW PROGRAM WATERSHED PLANNING TEAM

April - May, 2025



What We're Covering Today

1. WASC Engagement Recap
2. Key Components of the Initial Watershed Plans
3. Initial Watershed Plans Use Cases
4. Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA)
5. Updated Adaptive Timeline and Next Steps

HOW WE ARRIVED AT THIS 3RD PHASE OF WATERSHED PLANNING

Phase 1 – Workshop

Reviewed SCW Program Goals and considered any uniqueness about the Watershed Area

Brainstormed strategies that this Watershed Area could prioritize in the coming years to help achieve SCW Program Goals.

Phase 2 – Check In

Reviewed and received feedback about how the Watershed Planning effort had incorporated Session 1 information.

Explained Target Setting, Baseline Analysis, and Needs Identification methods

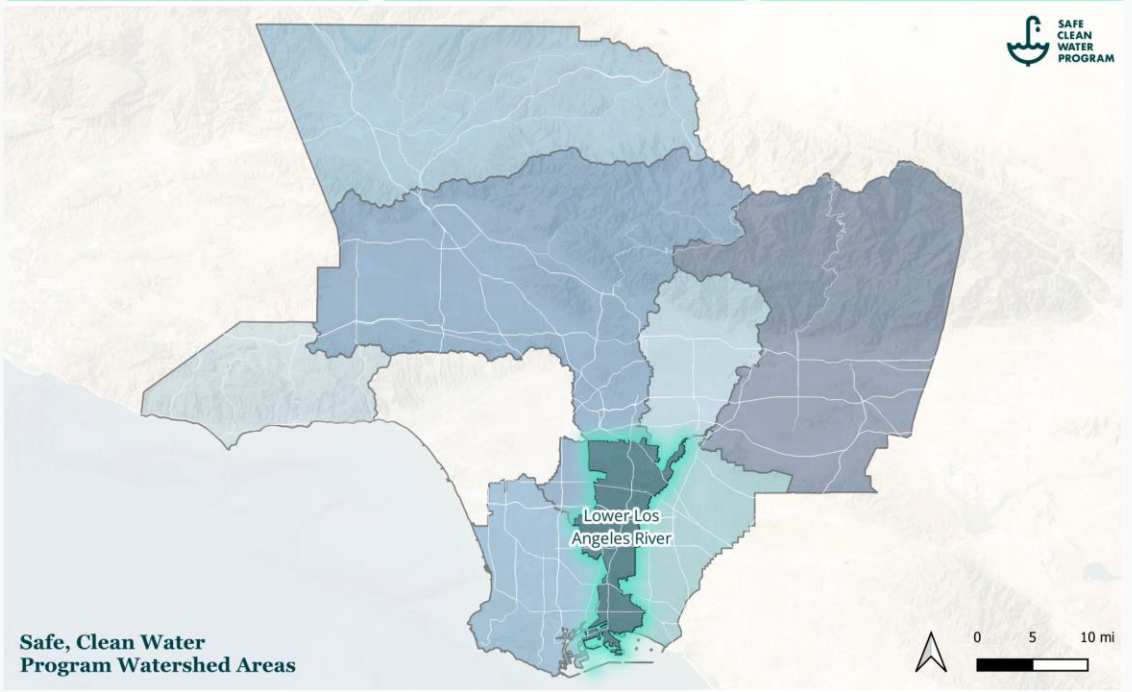
Previewed the Watershed Plans, Planning Tools, and the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Characteristics

Each WA has unique characteristics which will be highlighted in each specific Initial Watershed Plan

The Watershed Planning effort builds upon past work including the Metrics & Monitoring Study

Total Area 60,500 acres	Impervious Area 35,800 acres (59% of total area)	Average Annual Stormwater Runoff 27,100 ac-ft/yr
Local & Regional Park and Open Space 1,500 acres (2.5% of total area)	"Densely developed" - LLAR WASC	Required DAC Ratio 67%



Percent Tree Canopy Cover 13%	Total Population 908,600 residents	Managed Unconfined Aquifer West Coast Basin
Watershed Management Program Implementation Cost $1.03B	Limiting Pollutants Zinc Bacteria	Regional and Municipal Program Tax Collected to Date (FY20-25) $112M

LLAR Watershed Area Baselines

Summarize investments to date by SCW Program funded projects from both the Regional and Municipal Programs

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Regional and Municipal Program Summary

Infrastructure Projects Funded and Planned (FY20-25)

- 10 Regional Program
- 14 Municipal Program

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Project Types	
6	Wet & Dry Weather Capture
18	Dry Weather Capture

BMP Types			
7	Infiltration Facility	2	Diversion to Sanitary Sewer
5	Treatment Facility	7	Bioretention
2	Infiltration Well	-	Bioinfiltration
1	Cistern		

Total Capture Area Managed	Capture Area Sizes	Total Project 24-hour Storage Capacity
16,000 acres	14 < 0-200 acres 5 200 - 1,000 acres 5 >1,000 acres	200 ac-ft

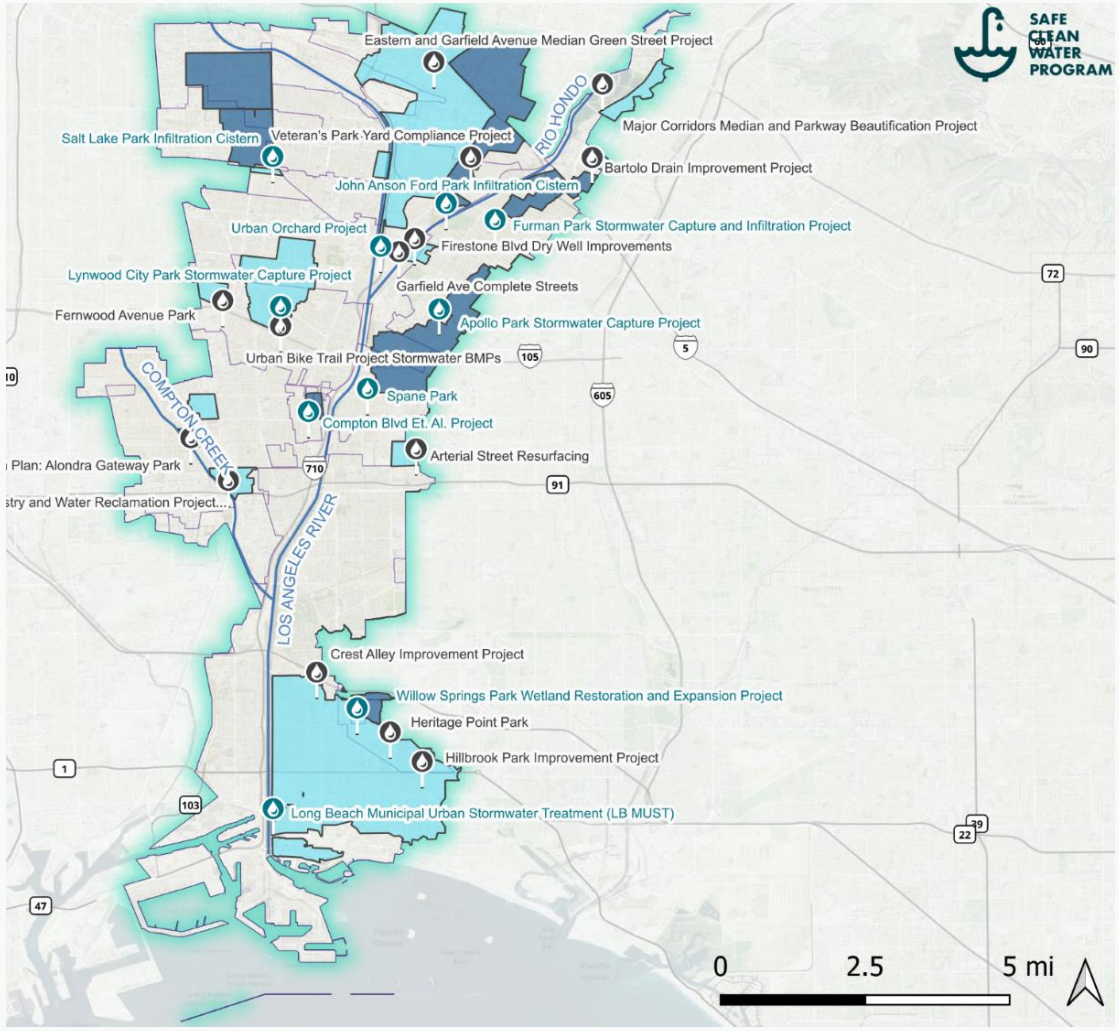
Total Cost Share Funding*	Budgeted and Projected to Date (FY20-29)*	Projects Benefiting DACs	Projects Implemented Across
$68 Million	$101.8 Million	17 Projects	15 Municipalities

Primary Pollutants Addressed		Projects Providing Water Supply Benefits	
6	Total Zinc	7	Connected to Aquifer
-	Bacteria	6	Connected to Wastewater Treatment for Reuse
-	Nitrogen	5	Uses Water Onsite
-	Total Phosphorus		
18	Other**		

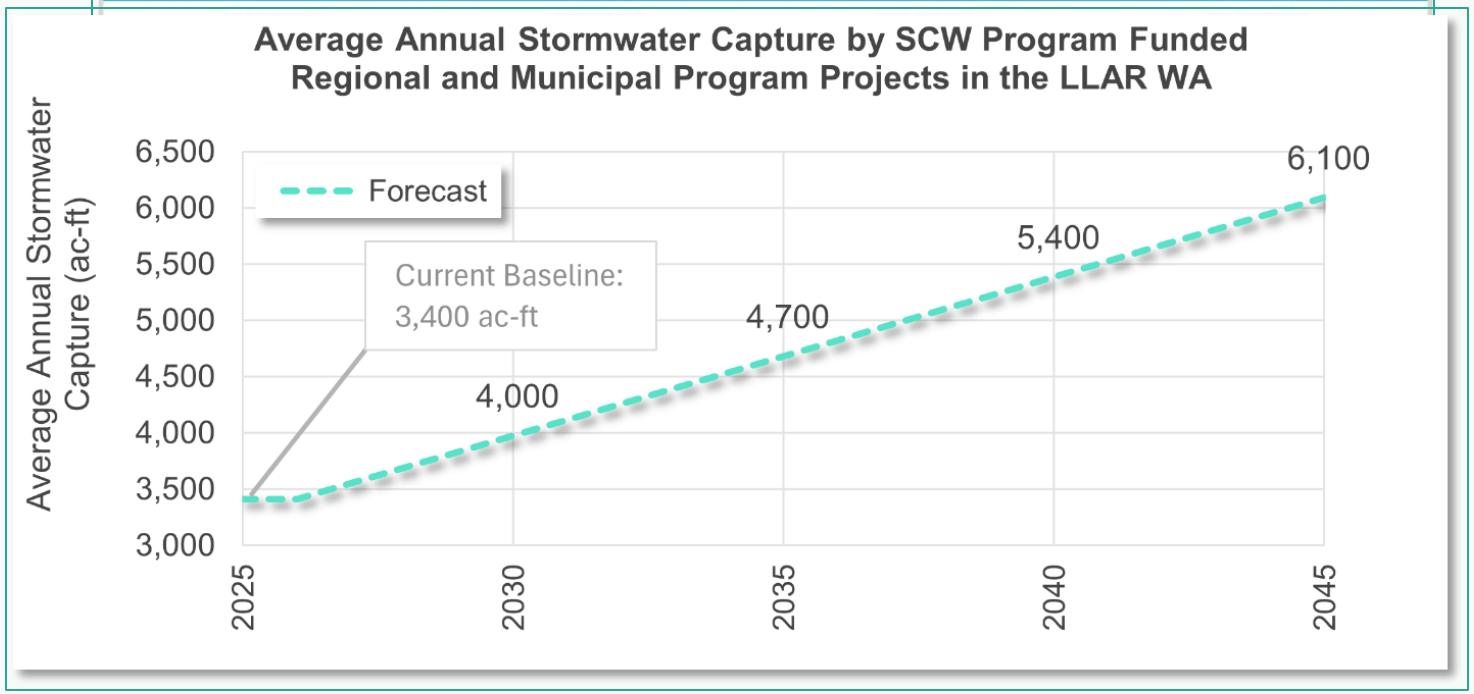
Projects Providing Community Benefits

14	Implements Natural Processes	8	Access to Public Waterways
14	Utilizes Natural Materials	14	Recreational Opportunities
10	Has Local Support	5	Increase Green Spaces
13	Improves Flood Management	14	Reduce Heat Island Impacts
2	Wetland Space	14	Increase Shade Trees
17	Are within 1/2 mile of DAC		

*Counts Regional Program Projects Only
**Primary Pollutant Addressed does not apply to Dry Weather Projects. "Other" includes Dry Weather Projects, Copper, Lead, Toxics, and Chlorides.



Forecasts



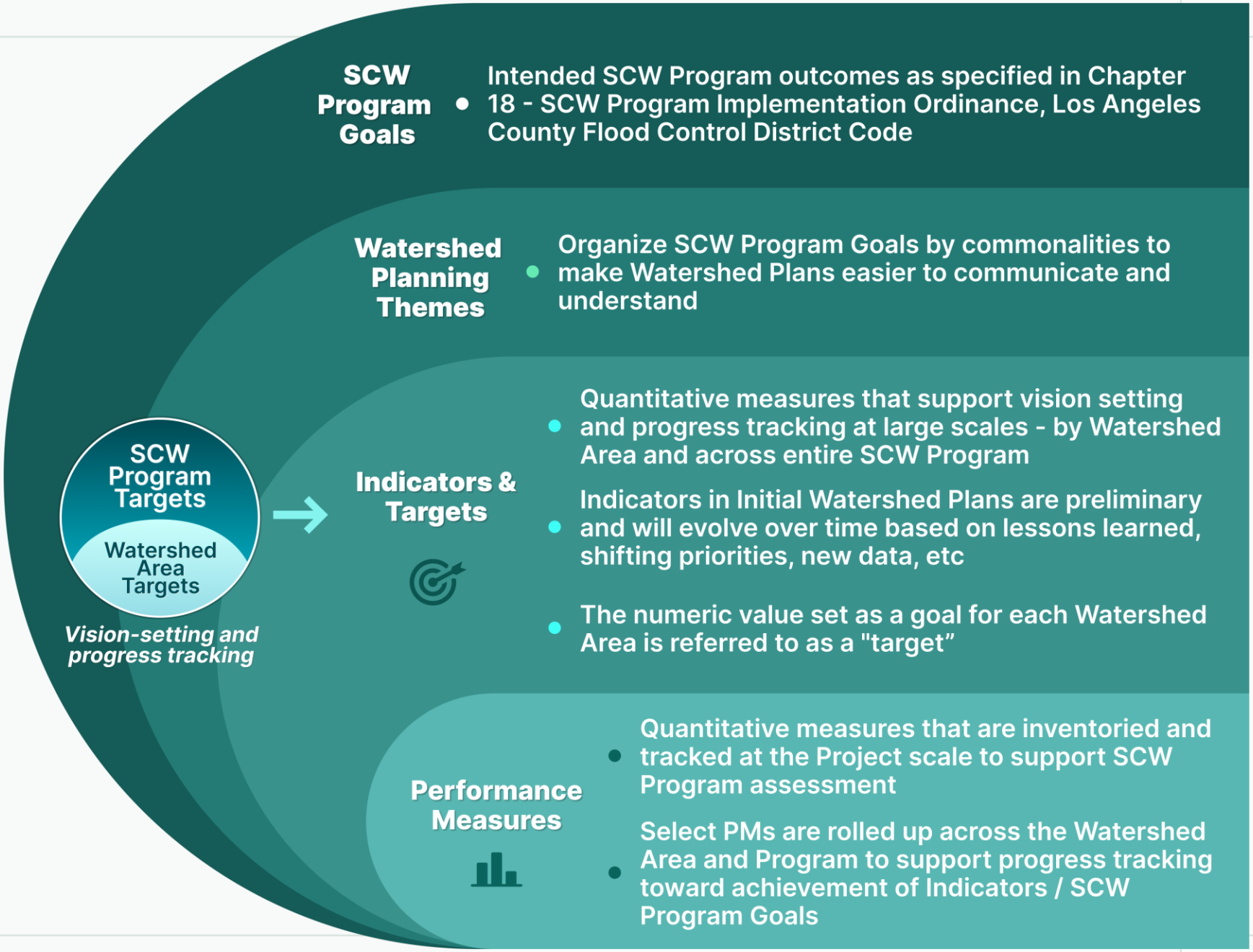
Benefit baselines and forecasts support development of Targets, identify Watershed Area Needs, and communicate progress

NOTE: LLAR Example

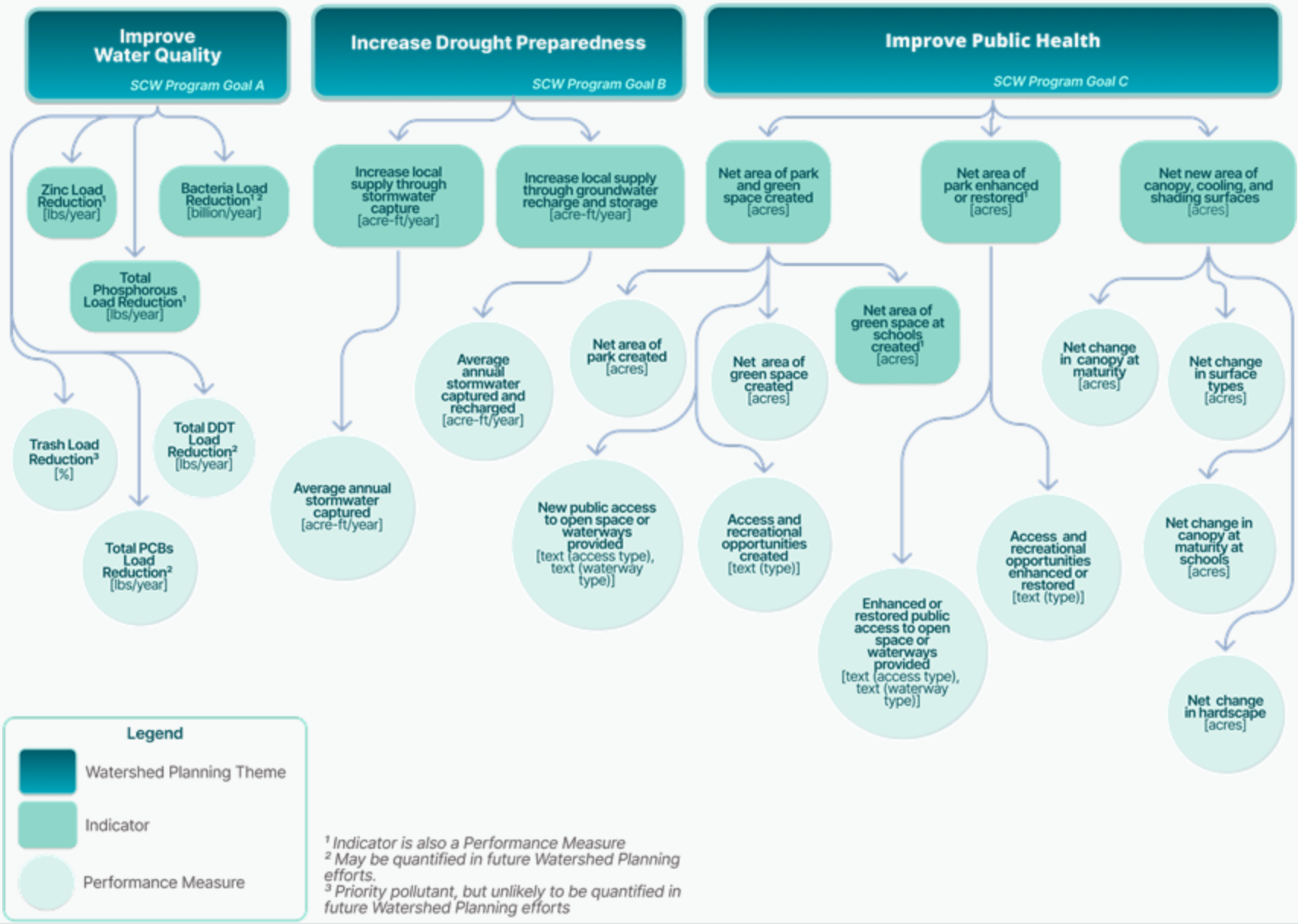
Targets & Performance Measures

Targets used for WA-scale vision setting and progress tracking

Performance measures track the program at the project-level

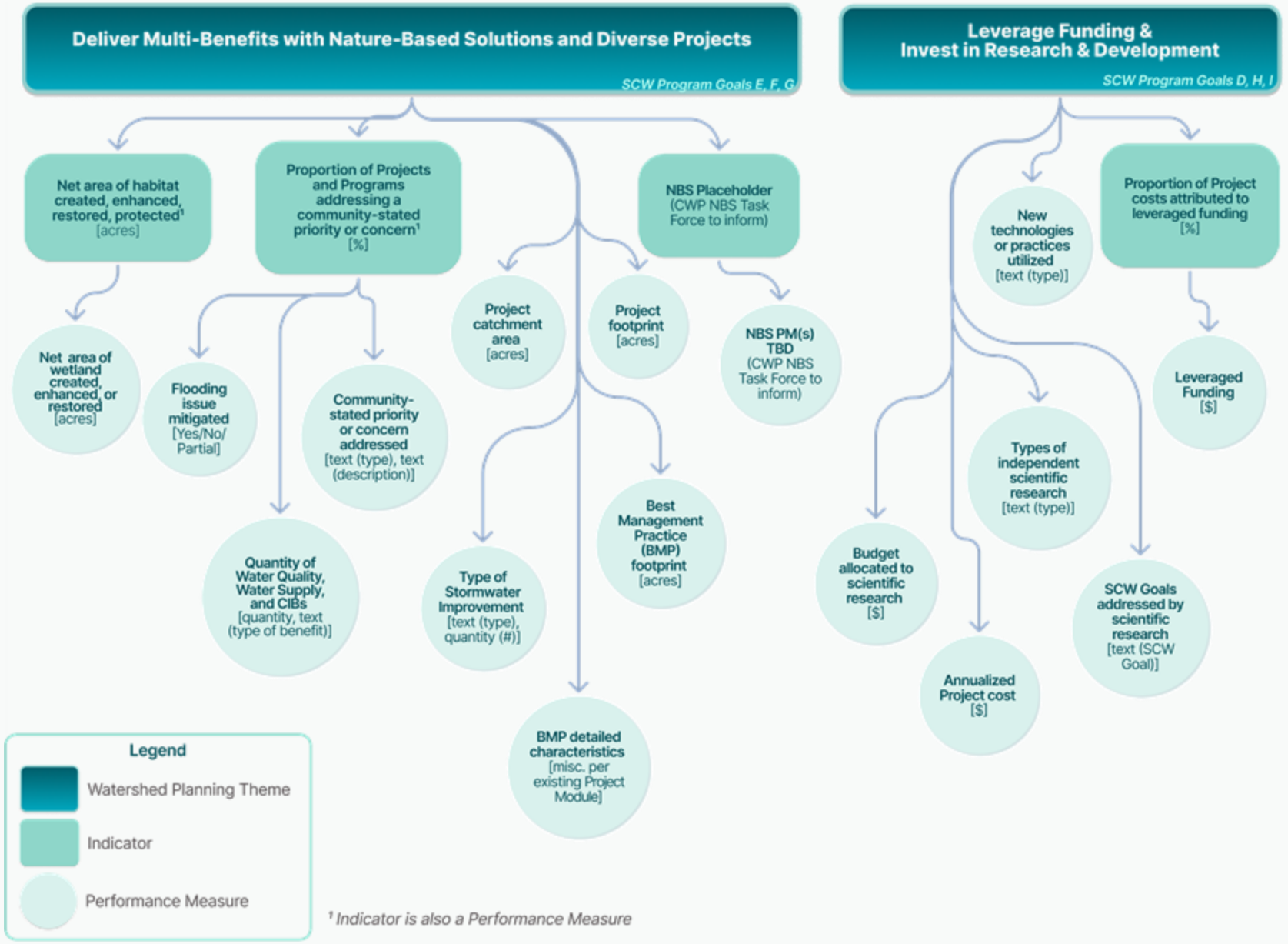


Planning Themes



[1] *Indicator is also a Performance Measure*
[2] *May be quantified in future Watershed Planning efforts.*
[3] *Priority pollutant, but unlikely to be quantified in future Watershed Planning efforts*

Planning Themes



Planning Themes

Equitably Distribute Benefits
SCW Program Goals J, K

- Provide DAC benefits that are not less than 110% of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each WA [%]
- Proportion of Municipal Program funds spent on new Projects or Programs[1] [%]
- Project Water Quality Benefit ratio [% by Watershed Management Group & Municipality]
- Project DAC benefit ratio for CIBs [%]
- Is the Project within a DAC boundary [Yes/No]
- Does the Project provide benefit to DACs [Yes/No]

Promote Green Jobs & Career Pathways
SCW Program Goal M

- Quantity of Project or other activity employees hired through a SCW Program funded training program[1] [quantity(#)]
- Proportion of Projects entered into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) (where applicable) [%]
- Quantity of Project or other activity employees who participated in SCW Program training programs during project execution[1] [quantity (#)]
- Project PLA Status [Yes/No]
- Total Project labor cost [$]
- Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs created [quantity (#)]
- Annual FTE jobs created [quantity (#)]

Ensure Ongoing Operation & Maintenance
SCW Program Goal N

- Quantity of O&M plans (of all completed SCW Program Projects to date) sustaining intended project benefits [%]
- Is the O&M Plan being implemented to sustain intended project benefits [Yes/No]
- O&M Cost Ratio [%]
- O&M and Monitoring Funding Ratio [%]

Prioritize Meaningful Engagement

- Receipt of tribal feedback [Yes/No]
- All Projects to meet a minimum "Level of Achievement" [Good/Better/Best]
- Letters of support from community and tribes [text (type), text (source), quantity (#)]
- Level of Achievement for Community Engagement [Good, Better, Best]
- Level of Achievement for Tribal Engagement [Good, Better, Best]

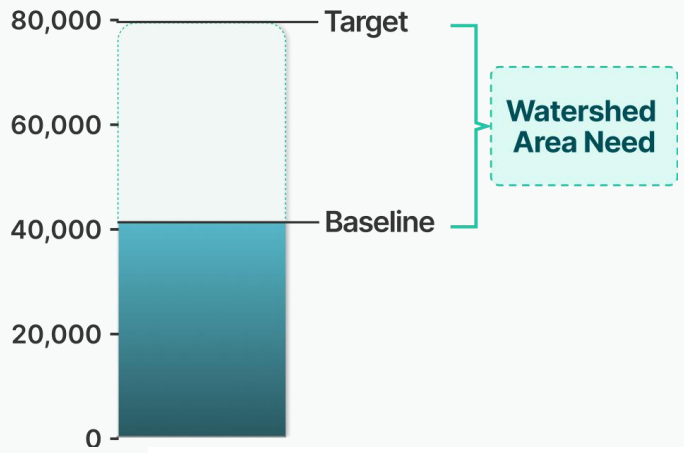
Legend

- Watershed Planning Theme
- Indicator
- Performance Measure

[1] *Indicator is also a Performance Measure*

Targets and Watershed Area Needs

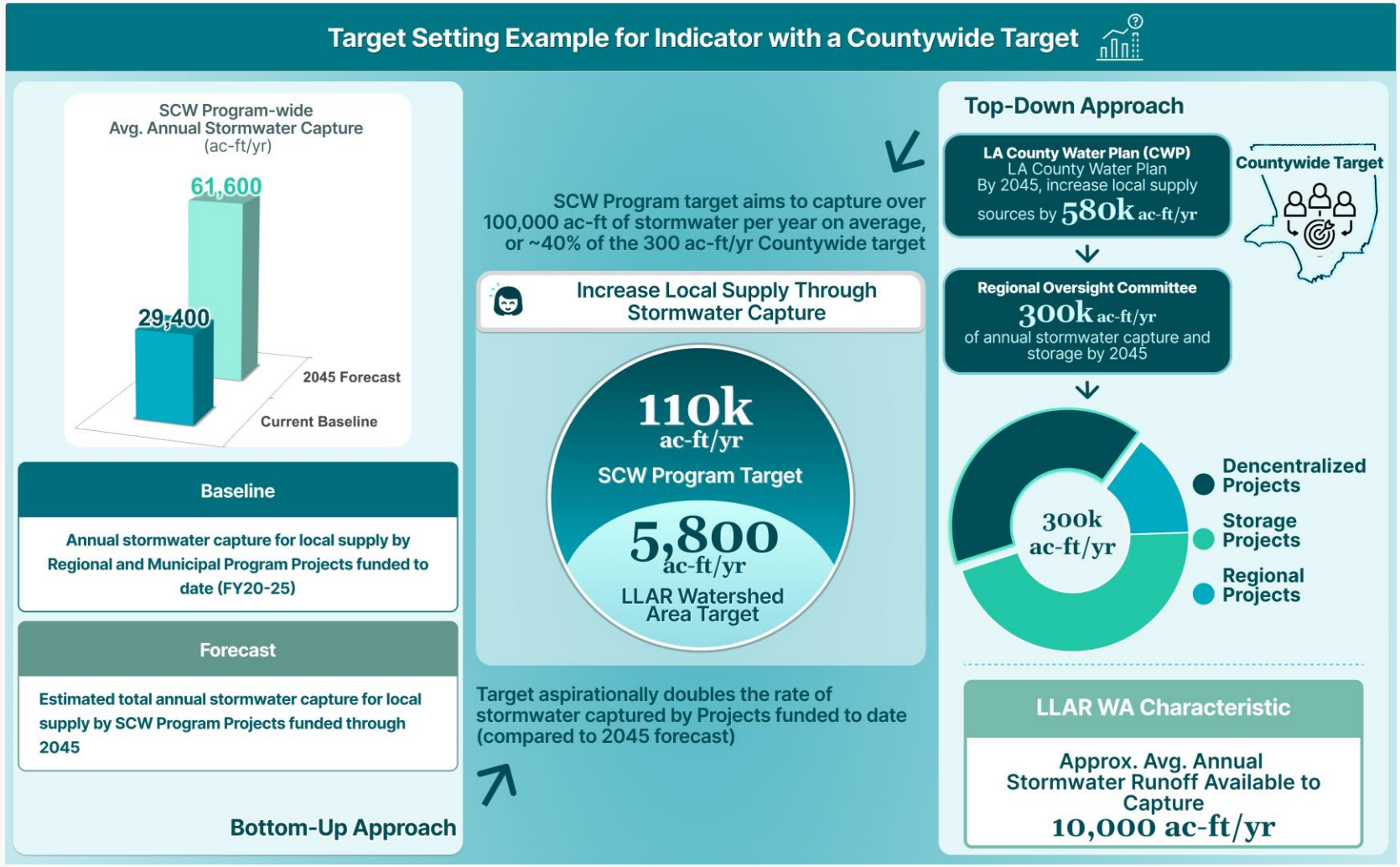
Targets are anchored in Countywide goals, when available.
The needs of each WA are calculated as the difference between baselines and targets.



Watershed Area Targets Example – w/ Countywide Target

Target aims to substantially contribute to the Countywide stormwater capture for local supply target of 300k ac-ft/yr

WA targets aim to accelerate progress by Projects funded to date and consider WA characteristics to determine each WA's contribution



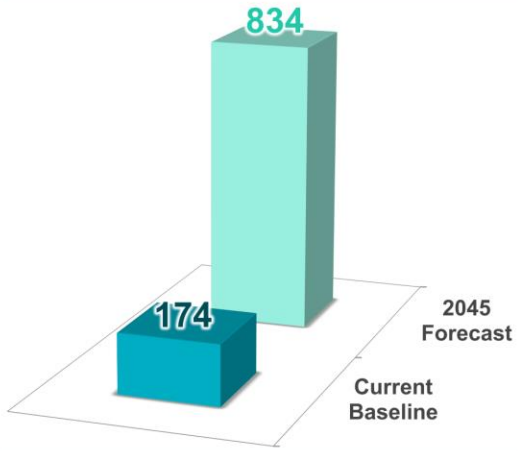
NOTE: LLAR Example

Watershed Area Targets Example – w/o Countywide Target

WA targets aim to accelerate progress by Projects funded to date and consider WA characteristics to determine each WA's contribution

NOTE: LLAR Example

Target Setting Example for Indicator without a Countywide Target



Baseline

Park Enhanced or Restored by Regional and Municipal Program Projects Funded to Date (FY20-25)

Forecast

Estimate of Potential Benefits by SCW Program Funded Projects

Bottom-Up Approach

Target aims to enhance or restore over 200 acres of park space, which equates to ~24% of the existing park space in High and Very High need areas

Net Area of Park Enhanced or Restored

1,200 acres SCW Program Target

200 acres LLAR Watershed Area Target

Target aspirationally increases the rate of park space enhanced or restored by ~150% (compared to 2045 forecast)

Top-Down Approach

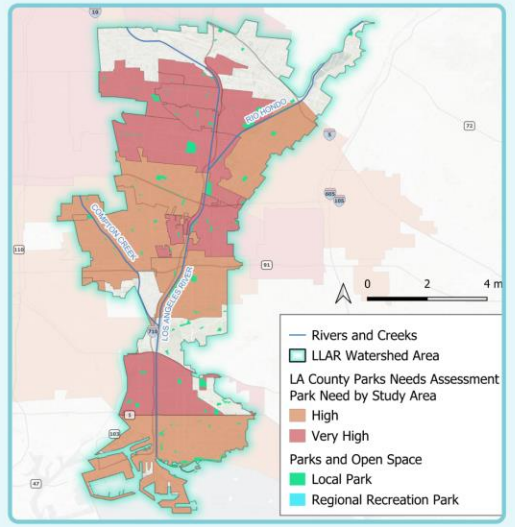
LLAR WA Characteristic

Total Area of Existing Local and Regional Parks by Need Category

High - 370 acres

Very High - 450 acres

Total - 820 acres

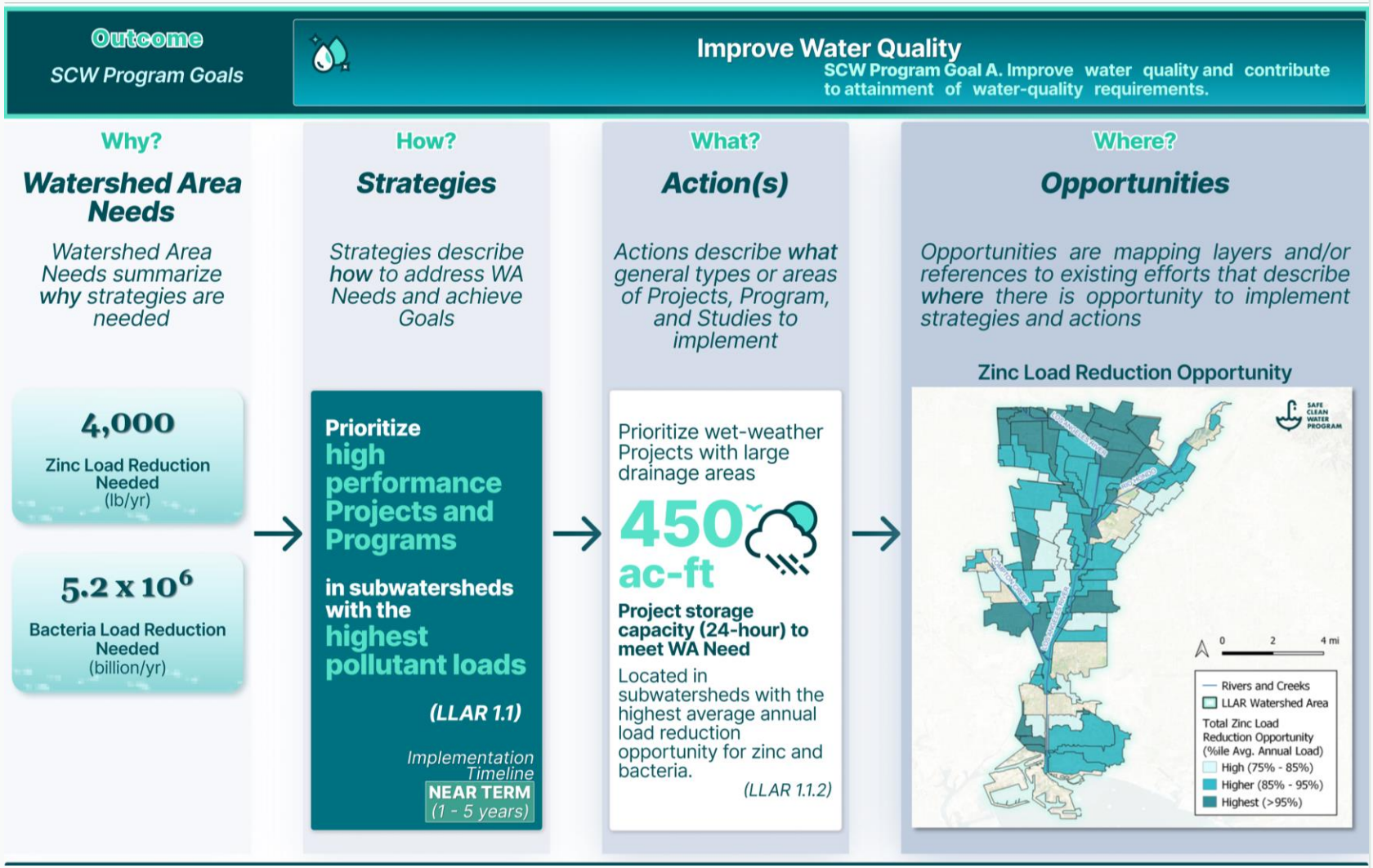


LLAR WA – Needs to Opportunities

Strategies are outlined for addressing WA Needs, with an emphasis on achieving multiple benefits.

Actions provide specifics on the types of projects or programs that would support strategy implementation.

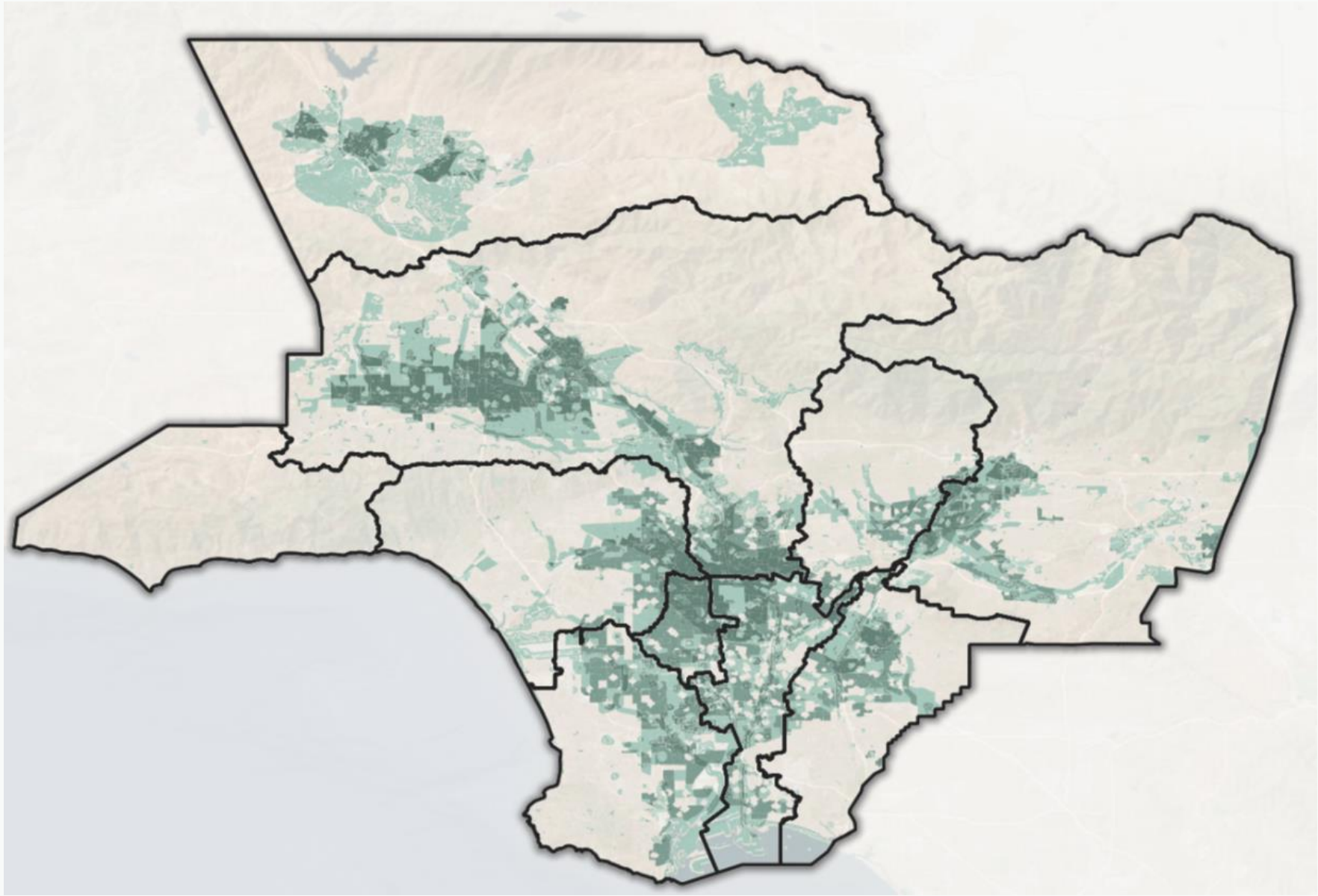
Opportunities are outlined to show where and how actions could be implemented to maximize return on investment.



NOTE: LLAR Example

Multi-benefit Opportunities

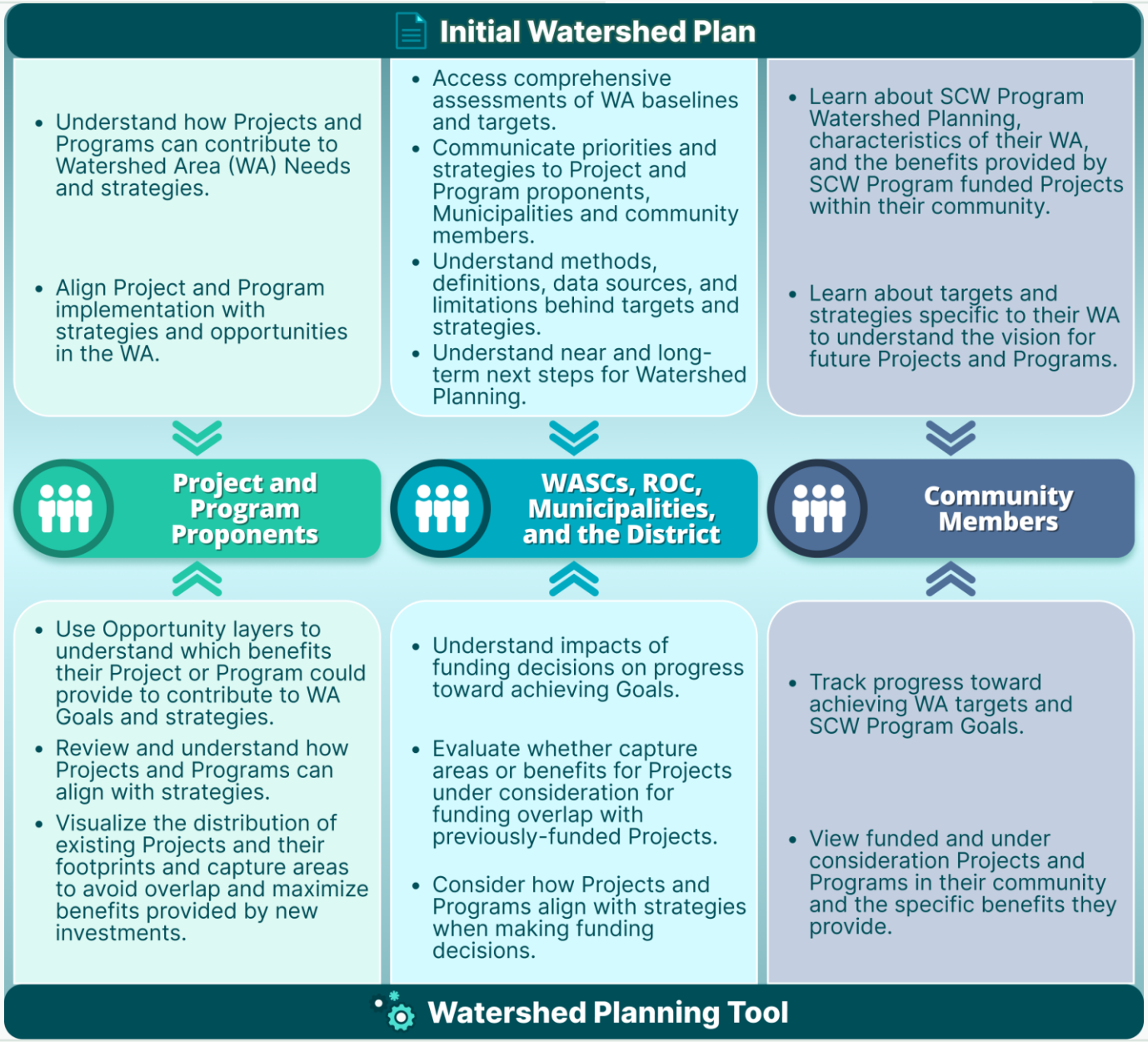
A composite opportunity layer will highlight areas with the most potential to address multiple benefits



Initial Watershed Plan and Planning Tool Use Cases

Planning Document and Living tool to facilitate decision making

Recurring updates will ensure best available data are continually used.



Watershed Area Planning Tool:

DEMO OF EARLY PROTOTYPE

How do you think these plans and tools will be useful to the watershed area, and the steering committee?

Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA)

CSNA: Survey

LA County Safe, Clean Water Program

Community Strengths & Needs Assessment Survey

The Safe, Clean Water Program wants YOUR INPUT about the things you like, and the things you would like to change, in your community.

Your response is completely anonymous.
This questionnaire will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and may be completed at your own pace.
All questions require a response except where noted as "optional."

To view the survey in another language, click **English-US** at the top of the page and select your preferred language.

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1. Think of one area of LA County that you know best. This could be the area where you live, work, study, or otherwise spend time.

What is the name of this community?*

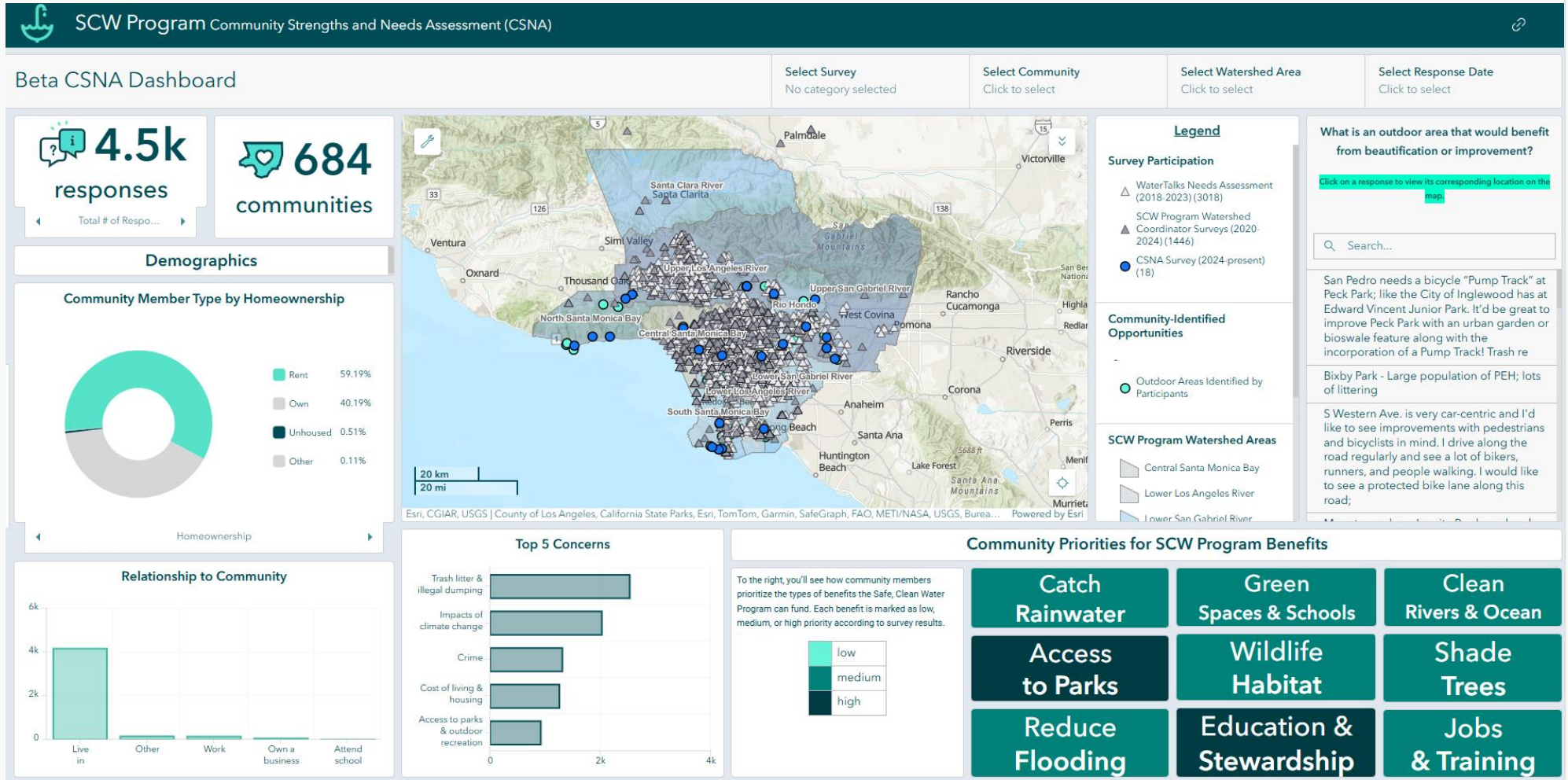
This can be a city (such as "Alhambra" or "Carson") or a neighborhood (such as "Boyle Heights" or "North Long Beach"). Please be as specific as possible.

1a. Please indicate this community on the map.

Click on the map to drop a pin or type in an address in the search bar to find that location.

CSNA Dashboard

Dashboard



CSNA: OUTREACH MESSAGING

LA County Public Works created a Community Strengths and Needs Assessment so that community members have a quick and easy way to share their knowledge with the people who are making decisions about what benefits projects should prioritize and what infrastructure projects to fund.

- You are an expert about your neighborhood.
- This Assessment is made possible by the Safe Clean Water Program, created by voters in LA County in 2018, to enhance our local water supply, clean our water and benefit our communities.

Participating is simple.

- The questionnaire has 11 questions, and some of them are optional, but we hope you can answer them all. It takes most people 3 to 5 minutes to complete.

For digital responses:

- Just hit the "submit" button once you've answered the questions you want to answer.

For paper responses:

- Try to write your answers as legibly as possible so that we can correctly record your responses.

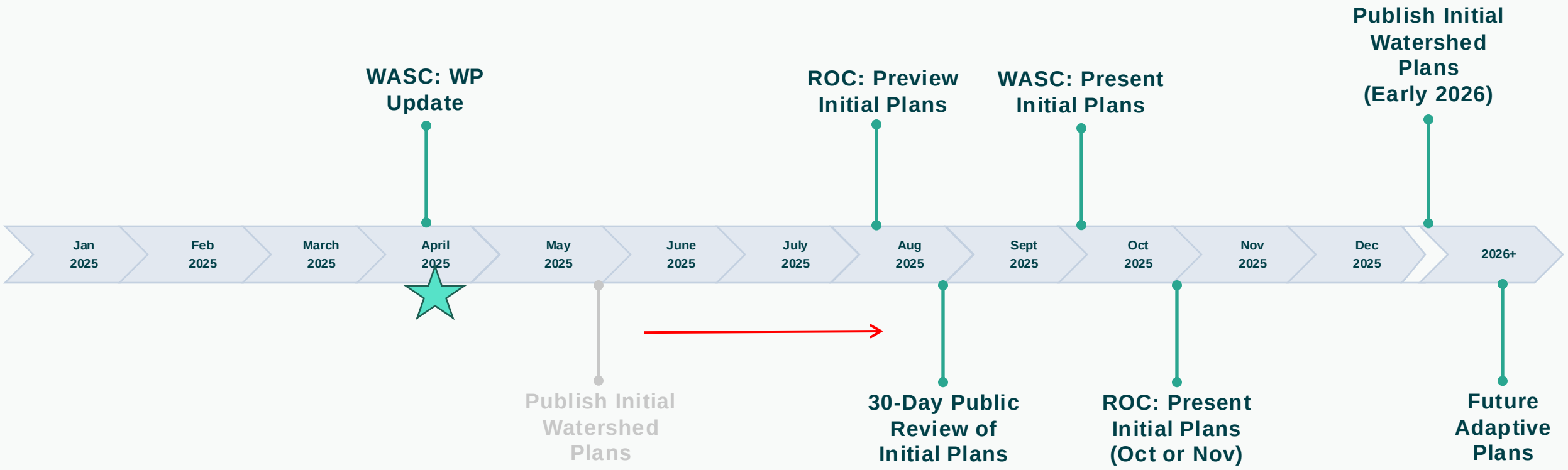
CSNA: REPORTING

Watershed Coordinators and Regional Coordination

- Will develop templates and guidance
- Annual summary presentations about the activity and results of the CSNA
- Summarizing insights from the Dashboard for WASCs during WC updates
- Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plans, and Annual Reports
  - Metrics from surveys
  - Summaries of community input

Q&A about CSNA

Tentative SCWP Watershed Planning Timeline



Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact:
watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov