SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines

May 2025

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Background and Purpose of this Guidance

Section 18.07.B.3 of the Los Angeles county Flood Control District Code requires Project Developers who are requesting funding from the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) Infrastructure Program to satisfy the minimum requirements of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*;[1] however, feedback from interested parties, including the SCWP Scoring Committee[2] and the Los Angeles county Board of Supervisors,[3] suggested that certain adaptations were necessary to streamline the overall Infrastructure Program application process, including:

> **"Revised Regional Program application processes, feasibility study guidelines, and Scoring Criteria to account for additional performance indicators and distinct Project phases."**
>
> - *LA County Board of Supervisors*

As a precursor to formal adaptation of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* and Scoring Criteria (which will involve public review and comment), **this supplemental guidance was developed in parallel with updates to the online application process to clarify *Feasibility Study Guidelines* requirements for specific Project phases**. This guide is intended to improve Project evaluation and accelerate implementation by better aligning Feasibility Study content with the certainty of Project attributes and benefits known during each respective phase.

This supplemental guidance also provides Regional Program applicants with resources to estimate the benefits of proposed Projects, including the Performance Measures included in the new **Metrics and Measures** component of the application process and **pilot adapted Scoring Criteria** for Water Quality Benefits and Water Supply Benefits.

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[1] https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2019/09/Feasibility-Study-Guidelines-20190917-FINAL-1.pdf
[2] 2023: https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2023/08/SC_RevisedMemo_Round4_Final.pdf
2024: https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2024/07/FY24-25-SC-Memo-FINAL.pdf
[3] https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/189664.pdf

Defining Project Funding Phases

Prior to release of this guidance, Project Developers could apply for Infrastructure Program funding for the following Project phases: Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and Bid/Award. To streamline the application process and associated requirements, the funding phases have been consolidated to the following two funding request categories:

- **Design**: Includes funding for planning and design of Project concepts for which 60-percent plans have not yet been developed.
- **Construction/O&M**: Includes Project designs that have advanced to 60-percent or beyond. Construction/O&M funding requests may also include additional design funding to advance from 60-percent to 100-percent design.

Construction and O&M funding phases are currently grouped because a higher certainty of Project attributes and benefits can be demonstrated during these later phases, whereas the attributes of Projects requesting Design funding may be more conceptual. The SCWP intends to create a separate application track for O&M-only funding requests before future Regional Program Calls for Projects.

Guidance to Address Requirements

The minimum requirements of Section 2.0 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* are summarized below in **bold blue font** and clarified with supplemental guidance. Note that the requirements are abridged in this document, so please refer to the full text in the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

1. A detailed description of the proposed Project, including:

- **A summary of the Project's primary objective(s), secondary objective(s), and any additional objective(s).**
- **A description of the primary mechanisms by which the Project will achieve its objectives (e.g., runoff and/or pollutant reduction through infiltration, treat and release, capture and use, etc.).**
- **A description and schematic of the Project layout including its anticipated footprint and key components such as, but not limited to: inlet, outlet, diversion point, recreational components, nature-based components, pumps, treatment facilities, underdrains, conveyance, above ground improvements, and other Project components.**
- **An outline of the capture area for the Project on a map and a breakdown of acreage, land uses and percent imperviousness within the capture area.**
- **Land ownership and related rights of way.**

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide a **conceptual** Project layout including the elements described above.	Provide at least **60% design plans**; for O&M funding, final design or as-built plans are preferred, if available.
Provide a **plan** for securing land ownership and related rights, if applicable.	Provide **documented evidence** that land ownership and related rights of way have been secured, if applicable.

Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Guidelines

In addition to the requirements of the Feasibility Study Guidelines, all applications, regardless of funding phase, must document that the Project is included in a stormwater resource plan in accordance with Part 2.3 of Division 6 of the Water Code, a Watershed Management Program developed pursuant to an MS4 Permit, an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, or other regional water management plan, if determined to be equivalent by the District. Refer to Section 18.07.B.1.c.3 of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code.

Inclusion in a Watershed Management Program

Project applicants should contact the lead agency of the Watershed Management Program (WMP) that presides over the area where the project is located. See page 1 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts** to see the WMP Lead Agency contacts.

Each WMP is organized in a slightly different way and may consist of MS4 permittees representing different cities, Los Angeles County, and others interested in achieving water quality compliance in a particular area. SCWP Project applicants are encouraged to engage the appropriate WMP group with enough time to work through the process for including a project in their plans.

Project applicants will need to provide information about their project or concept, such as location, type of project, drainage area, BMP capacity, description, and status. New projects can be included in the adaptive management section of the WMP Annual Report or the resubmittal of the WMP. The adaptive management section of the Annual Report is typically due December 15 of every year. The resubmittal of the WMP is allowed at any time. Projects that are not currently included in WMPs can be added at any time, though some WMPs have special instructions. See page 6 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts** to see the Special Instructions for Applicable WMPs.

For more information, please visit **Watershed Management Programs | Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**.

Inclusion in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan: Projects applicants that wish to have their projects included in the Greater Los Angeles County (GLAC) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan must sign-up through the **GLAC IRWM OPTI Webpage** to become a new OPTI user. Users can submit or modify projects.

Project applicants must complete all the required project information fields in the OPTI Database. The GLAC IRWM Subregion and District Administrators will be notified of a new project entry. GLAC IRWM Subregion Administrators may then request Project Proponents attend a subregional steering committee meeting to present the project to its members and stakeholders and answer questions.

If a project is determined to support the IRWM Plan objectives and there are no issues or concerns, GLAC IRWM subregion voting members can cast a vote to accept the project as part of the IRWM Plan. The GLAC IRWM Subregion Administrator completes OPTI information that verifies acceptance of a project as part of the IRWM Plan and the project becomes eligible for consideration for inclusion in future IRWM funding proposals.

For more information about the GLAC IRWM subregional process, please contact the Subregional Steering Committee Administrator (page 5 of the Regional Water Management Plan Project Contacts). For questions about the OPTI system, please contact the District OPTI Administrators (page 5 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts**).

Inclusion in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, continued…

Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan:
Projects applicants that wish to have their projects included in the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan should review the **Project Submissions Form Guidance** and submit a completed **Project Submission Form**. Projects will either be included in the USCR IRWM Project List or Concept Project List, depending on the depth of information provided in the Project Submission Form.

Completed Project Submission Forms will be reviewed by the USCR IRWM Group at a scheduled stakeholder meeting. If the group agrees to include the project in the USCR IRWM Projects List, then the project is eligible for consideration in future IRWM funding proposals. All projects on the list are evaluated to their viability as it relates to the new funding criteria.

For more information about the USCR IRWM process, please contact the USCR IRWM Administrator (page 5 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts**).

2. A description and estimate of the benefits provided (determined through best engineering estimates and modeling as appropriate). More information on how to estimate Project benefits are provided in Section 3.0.

The Feasibility Study should provide enough information about a proposed Project to allow the Watershed Area Steering Committee members to make an informed decision as to which Projects should move forward for consideration for funding. The Feasibility Study should also provide enough information or estimates to allow each Project to be scored through the 110-point Infrastructure Program Project Scoring Criteria (Exhibit A of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*). **For O&M funding requests, monitoring data should be provided to justify benefits, if available.**

Supplemental Guidance for Water Quality Benefits

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.1 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the Feasibility Study should clearly justify any claimed pollutant reduction considering the location and context of the proposed Project in the watershed. This means that Project Developers should make a good-faith effort to estimate the *net* pollutant reduction considering how long-term capture may be impacted by concurrent upstream or downstream Projects; for example, if a Project is proposed downstream from an existing runoff capture Project (i.e., “nested” in the same watershed), the Project Developer should consider modeling both Projects in series to estimate the net pollutant reduction of the system of Projects. The Projects Module now allows for modeling treatment trains of Projects to estimate net runoff capture, and Project Developers are encouraged to contact their respective Watershed Coordinators for support identifying and characterizing upstream Projects. While Project Developers are not required to compute the net benefits considering upstream/downstream Projects (because the status and certainty of those interacting Projects may be unknown), Project Developers should, at a minimum, describe what existing, planned, and/or funded Projects may be located in the same drainage; the Watershed Planning Tool developed during the SCWP Watershed Planning process is expected to be released in mid- to late-2025 to support this evaluation.

Note that the Projects Module now generates an estimate of runoff captured during an 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event. This is useful for defining projects as Wet Weather or Dry Weather BMPs, and is also used to inform scoring under Feasibility Study Guidelines Scoring Criteria Category A.1.1 if Applicants choose to use the optional **Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot** described later in this document.

If Project Applicants elect to provide their own user inputs, 85th percentile design storm modeling should follow recommended best practices to ensure defensible hydrology design, consistent modeling approaches and results, and standardized scoring for the SCWP application process. To provide standard guidance for model use, Los Angeles County Public Works conducted a hydrology analysis that compared design storm results from different Los Angeles County models (WMS, WMMS 2.0, and HydroCalc). **While Public Works' Hydrology Section typically recommends use of WMS as the standard for hydrology modeling, the analysis suggested that HydroCalc can also produce acceptable results** (in alignment with WMS outputs) for a broad range of Infrastructure Program project scales. Note that, when modeling the design storm in HyrdoCalc, it is important to consider its limitations, including project drainage area; proper checks should be made for projects greater than ~750 acres by, for example, comparing HydroCalc and WMS results over the same drainage area. Other key considerations when modeling include:

- understanding typical use cases and corresponding limitations of each hydrologic model (e.g., HydroCalc being limited to a single drainage area)
- delineating subareas to sizes of less than 40 acres to be consistent with the modified rational (MODRAT) method
- understanding differences in results due to model setup (for example, delineated smaller subareas tend to result in higher peak flows but similar 24-hour runoff volumes compared to single/lumped drainage areas)

The list below includes model input data sources for modeling the 85*th* percentile design storm in WMS and HydroCalc:

- Drainage area delineation: Delineate using GIS based on topography and/or digital elevation models and stormwater infrastructure; subdivide into areas of less than 40 acres for MODRAT modeling
- Rainfall depth: Use LAC Hydrology Map's 85th percentile, 24-hour rainfall isohyetal maps (https://pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/hydrologygis/), or local weather data where available
- Design storm temporal distribution: Apply the standard 4-day unit hyetograph, available in WMS (https://aquaveo.com/downloads-wms)
- Imperviousness: Use the NLCD imperviousness raster (https://www.mrlc.gov/data), or the imperviousness shapefile available in WMS download package
- Flow path length: Use GIS to measure the longest hydraulic path for each delineated subarea ("unaltered flow path"); default to 2,087 feet for HydroCalc if detailed flow path analysis is less feasible ("recommended flow path" per Public Works and hydrology model analysis results)
- Flow path slope: Use digital elevation model to map upstream and downstream elevations in GIS, then use flow path length and "rise over run" to calculate slope
- Soil type: Assign in WMS or HydroCalc using soil map provided by LAC Hydrology Map (https://pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/hydrologygis/) and WMS download package
- Time of concentration: Calculate for each subarea using HydroCalc (downloadable here: https://pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/dsp_LowImpactDevelopment.cfm)

Supplemental Guidance for Water Supply Benefits

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.2 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the Feasibility Study should clearly justify any claimed increases in locally available water supply—as defined in the *2025 Interim Guidance*[4] and summarized below—considering the location and context of the proposed Project in the watershed. This means that Project Developers should make a good-faith effort to estimate the *net* Water Supply Benefits considering how long-term capture may be impacted by concurrent upstream or downstream Projects (see the example of "nested" Projects above for Water Quality Benefits). Similarly, Project Developers should consider accounting for the net runoff captured by proposed Projects given existing *downstream* capture infrastructure. For example, if a Project is proposed upstream from an operational spreading basin, only the net new volume captured (in addition to what would have been captured by the downstream basin before the proposed Project) would be considered new locally available water supply.

What counts as New Locally Available Water Supply?

Per the *2025 Interim Guidance*, the following fates of captured water **count as new locally available water supply** and a Water Supply Benefit (claims to be confirmed through modeling, geotechnical analysis, and/or engagement):

- **Net water used onsite for potable offset** (not including offset of Project-created water supply demand)
- **Diverted to existing treatment/reuse plant**
- **Diverted to future planned treatment/reuse plant operational within 10 years** with concurrence from treatment/reuse plant on timeline and capacity
- **Infiltration to managed useable groundwater aquifers**
- **Infiltration to unmanaged aquifer*** with geotechnical analysis and/or community acknowledgement to confirm infiltration and use
- **Treated and discharged to storm drain or receiving water** when tributary to a downstream water recharge facility if the Project facilitates the recharge of water that would otherwise not be used to augment water supply.

*see next page for discussion of unmanaged aquifers

[4] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

The following **do NOT count towards new locally available water supply** but do provide Water Quality Benefits:

- **Water that would have already been captured downstream** by an existing water recharge facility (see adjustment factors in Watershed Planning Framework that can be used to prorate the *net* new local water supply when captured upstream from existing facilities) and
- **Maintenance of existing capture/conservation infrastructure (i.e., sediment removal behind dams).**

Environmental water does not count as locally available water supply nor a Water Quality Benefit unless analysis proves that discharging clean water to channels to support ecological functions will offset potable supplies. Environmental water may provide a Water Quality Benefit if site-specific studies demonstrate improvement in flow ecology.

An unmanaged aquifer is an area of a groundwater basin that is not managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, an adjudication, or an alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan and is not subject to deliberate human interventions such as artificial recharge efforts and relies solely on natural replenishment mechanisms. Applicants claiming a new locally available water supply from infiltration in these areas must provide proof of a specific potable or non-potable use that will be enabled by the project (for example, if a project infiltrates to a perched, unmanaged aquifer and also installs a private well to extract water to offset existing irrigation).

The Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) developed adjustment factors that can be used to prorate the increase in locally available water supply by a Project if it is located upstream from an existing runoff capture facility, as summarized in Table 1 and in Table H-2 of the SCWP *Watershed Planning Framework*[5]; the estimated runoff captured by a proposed Project can be multiplied by the net countable supply ratios to better estimate the net new locally available water supply. These factors will be built into the Projects Module to provide supplemental information to Program Applicants.

Table 1. Net countable supply ratios used to prorate runoff capture

Watershed Area	If Project is Upstream from…	Net countable Supply Ratio
North Santa Monica Bay	No existing facilities	Not Applicable
Central Santa Monica Bay	No existing facilities	Not Applicable
South Santa Monica Bay	No existing facilities	Not Applicable
Santa Clara River	Castaic Lake	11%
	Bouquet Reservoir	45%
	Pyramid Lake	0%
Rio Hondo	Eaton Wash Spreading Grounds	16%
	Peck Road Park Lake	21%
	Whittier Narrows Dam	34%
	Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds	47%
Upper Los Angeles River	Devils Gate Dam	68%
	Tujunga Spreading Grounds	42%
	Pacoima Spreading Grounds	16%
	Lopez Spreading Grounds	9%
	Hansen Spreading Grounds	36%
	Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds	98%
Lower San Gabriel River	San Gabriel Coastal	39%
Upper San Gabriel River	Citrus Spreading Grounds	7%
	Forbes Spreading Grounds	3%
	Ben Lomond Spreading Grounds	7%
	Puddingstone Reservoir	2%
	Walnut Spreading Grounds	6%
	Santa Fe Dam	23%
	San Gabriel River Dams	58%
	Whittier Narrows Basin Transfer	37%

[5] https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2024/11/Deliverable-3.2.4-FINAL-Framework-Appendices.pdf

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
For Projects offsetting potable water demand, provide a **preliminary analysis** of supply and demand impacts of the Project.	For Projects offsetting potable water demand, provide a **monthly or seasonable analysis** of supply and demand impacts of the Project.
Apply **best professional judgment, based on available data,** to justify claims of Water Supply Benefits and new locally available water supply; present a plan to obtain concurrence prior to construction.	**Document concurrence** of claimed Water Supply Benefits and new locally available water supply estimates from local groundwater management agency, treatment/reuse plant manager, or community acknowledgement.
Estimate dry weather flow rates using **desktop analysis** or modeling.	**Monitor** baseline dry weather flow rates, if possible.

Guidance for Community Investment Benefits

Refer to Section 3.3 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* for requirements related to Community Investment Benefits (CIBs). In addition to the seven example CIBs included in the Scoring Criteria, Project Developers are encouraged to document how the proposed Project addresses other community needs and priorities identified through engagement. To support this, the SCWP has implemented a Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Dashboard[6] to report local priorities defined by community members. While direct outreach and engagement with members of the community is always the preferred approach to solicit input and support for proposed Projects, the survey results in the CSNA dashboard can provide supplemental information to guide early Project concepts. Refer to the *2025 Interim Guidance*[7] for additional recommendations

Guidance for Nature-Based Solutions

Refer to Section 3.4 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* and the *2025 Interim Guidance* for requirements and guidance related to Nature-Based Solutions, as well as guidance related to Item 14 discussed in this document.

[6] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8efe6e5f57804998be1a8c4067c41cab/page/Dashboard
[7] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

Leveraging Funds and Community Support

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.5 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, note that letters of support included with a Feasibility Study should be addressed to the Safe, Clean Water Program.

3. An estimated schedule to design, obtain permits for, construct, operate and maintain the Project.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide a **coarse timeline** for design completion and construction activities, considering the transition time while awaiting construction funding.	Provide a **detailed construction schedule** including permitting, environmental documentation, bid and award, construction milestone targets, and commissioning/testing upon completion. For O&M, provide a schedule for **routine and long-term maintenance activities**.

4. A review of the effectiveness of similar types of Projects already constructed, when available.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
General review of similar Projects to inform design approach.	Demonstrate application of **lessons learned from previous Projects in the Los Angeles Region**; contact Watershed Coordinators to gather information about Project performance in the relevant Watershed Area.

5. A monitoring plan to measure the effectiveness of the proposed Project once completed, including metrics specific to the identified benefits.

When documenting monitoring plans, Project Applicants should refer to the Performance Measures requested by the SCWP in the Metrics and Measures section of the application in the Projects Module. These Performance Measures have been prioritized by the SCWP as important for reporting progress towards SCWP Goals; refer to Metrics and Measures in this document for additional guidance.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide an **acknowledgement** that a monitoring plan will be submitted after Design is complete, and list **key performance measures** anticipated.	Provide a **detailed monitoring plan** for tracking Project effectiveness post-construction, both to inform reporting of benefits and to inform O&M.

6. A lifecycle cost estimate and schedule required to design, obtain permits for, construct, operate and maintain the Project.

> **Life-cycle cost estimates must contain Project costs including but not be limited to: costs related to early concept design, pre-Project monitoring, Feasibility Study development, site investigations, formal Project design, intermediate and Project completion audits, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and other environmental impact studies, land acquisition, permitting, construction, full lifetime operations and maintenance, monitoring, etc. The only costs not to be included in the life-cycle cost estimate are the dismantling and replacement costs at the end of life.**

In addition to the requirements in the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, lifecycle costs should include estimates for outreach and engagement, reporting, and audits. As noted above, no Project components should be omitted from the lifecycle cost estimate unless completely independent of the claimed benefits. For example, if funding is being requested for green street elements included in a larger road rehabilitation Project, the road resurfacing costs may be omitted from the lifecycle costs as long as those omitted elements are unrelated to the function of the green street elements and so long as the Project Developer is not claiming Community Investment Benefits or Community Support for the road rehabilitation elements.

Costs expected in future years should be escalated using industry standards, although note that the Projects Module currently annualizes lifecycle costs at a rate of 3.375% per year. Project Developers can also refer to the California Construction Cost Index for summaries of historical cost escalation.[8]

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
The lifecycle cost estimate and schedule can be based on **preliminary estimates**.	The lifecycle cost estimate should include **detailed, line-item breakdowns based on the 60-percent plans**. For O&M applications, the lifecycle cost and schedule should be based on actual expenditures, where applicable.

[8] https://www.dgs.ca.gov/RESD/Resources/Page-Content/Real-Estate-Services-Division-Resources-List-Folder/DGS-California-Construction-Cost-Index-CCCI

7. A plan for how operations and maintenance of the Project will be carried out. The plan should include but not be limited to: estimated annual costs associated with maintenance (including: estimates for number of crew required, hours of maintenance per month/year, the staff expertise level, Projections of maintenance cost increases over the life of the Project); how Project maintenance will accommodate Project Labor Agreement (PLA) considerations (if applicable); and identification of the responsible party that has agreed to perform the operations and maintenance.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide **preliminary maintenance considerations and an acknowledgment** that an O&M plan will be submitted after Design is complete.	Identify the responsible party that has agreed to perform O&M. Provide a **detailed O&M plan** including the required elements listed in the *Feasibility Study Guidelines.* For O&M funding applications of operational Projects, document ongoing maintenance activities and describe how those informed the O&M plan.

8. An engineering analysis of the proposed Project (e.g., estimates of site conditions, soil sampling, appropriate geotechnical investigations, preliminary hydrology report, site layout, utility search, environmental impacts, pertinent historical background for site location, etc.).

- **The minimum requirements for engineering analysis will depend primarily on the type of Project.**
- **The engineering analysis should, at a minimum, support all benefits claimed.**
- **It is understood that not all Projects will have completed CEQA and other environmental studies, so estimates and engineering analyses do not have to be as comprehensive as a full CEQA or other environmental study (unless those studies have already been completed and are available to support the Project).**

Refer to the supplemental guidance related to Item 2 above, and the following clarifications to certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Use **existing geotechnical data** available within 500 feet of the Project footprint and conduct at least one **cone penetration test**.	Use **site-specific geotechnical** data, including **infiltration testing at the proposed subgrade**.

9. An assessment of potential CEQA-related and permitting challenges and associated time requirements and costs.

In addition to the requirements of the Feasibility study Guidelines, provide the expected or completed CEQA approval date.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Identify potential permitting challenges and **general** timeline based on the type of Project.	Provide **specific** permitting challenges based on the 60-percent plans, permitting status, compliance documentation (if applicable), and permits required for O&M.

10. For non-municipal Project applicant/developers (meaning entities that are not cities/municipalities, the LA county Flood Control District, or other government agencies) an initial letter of support from the Municipality in which the Project is proposed that includes concurrence with the plan for operations and maintenance and the responsible party that has agreed to perform the operation and maintenance.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide a letter confirming agreement, support, or non-objection to the **overall Project**.	Provide a letter including **concurrence with the plan for operations and maintenance and the responsible party** that has agreed to perform the operation and maintenance throughout the Project's useful life (minimum 30 years), and agreement to be the **Lead Agency** during the CEQA process.

Non-Municipal Project applicants, such as community-based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others, are those that do not represent Municipalities (also known as Cities), the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), or other government agencies. Councils of Governments and Watershed Management Groups are not municipalities. Refer to section 16.05.D.1.h of the SCWP Ordinance.

A **Municipality** is a city or other governmental agency within the boundaries of the LACFCD. Los Angeles County is also a Municipality that represents the County Unincorporated Communities. Municipalities can participate in the SCWP Regional Program as Project applicants and developers, supporters or coordinating partners with other Project applicants, or as the entities responsible for the operations and maintenance of the implemented projects.

During the development of a Feasibility Study, it is important for applicants to communicate with representatives from the Municipality where the proposed project will be located. This step is critical to inform the Municipality of the proposed project and to garner support for its development. To demonstrate support, **Non-Municipal Project applicants applying for SCWP Infrastructure Program funding must provide a letter of support from the municipality where the project is proposed**, in alignment with the guidance in the table above and in Section 2.10 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

Obtaining a Letter of Support from a Municipality may take several months, so it is recommended that the Project applicant contact the appropriate Municipality in advance to begin the process. The resource linked below contains contact information for Municipalities. If there are no contacts listed for a specific Municipality, it is advised to contact the Municipality's Public Works Department.

- **Municipality Contact List**

Additionally, while a Non-Municipal Project applicant can prepare their own California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents, they cannot sign off as a *Lead Agency for* the project. Accordingly, **a Letter of Support should also confirm that the Municipality agrees to take on the role of Lead Agency and to assist the Project applicant with the steps necessary to facilitate the CEQA process**.

It is important for Project applicants to be aware that Municipalities may have their own distinct procedures and timelines for reviewing projects and issuing Letters of Support. Therefore, effective communication at an early stage in project or concept development is key to avoid delays in the schedule. Future Project applicants are advised to reach out to the appropriate Municipal representative several months before the application deadline (typically July 31st of each year).

After submission of a complete application, the SCWP Team, on behalf of the SCWP Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), may contact the Municipality that provided a Letter of Support to establish concurrence with the letter and their purported obligation and commitment to the proposed project. If the Municipality decides to recall their support, they may be asked to provide the reasoning at a WASC meeting.

11. A plan for outreach/engagement to solicit, address, and incorporate stakeholder input on the Project, which should also address issues related to displacement and gentrification.

For all funding phases, also provide a description of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date and a plan for ongoing outreach/engagement. Refer to the *2025 Interim Guidance* for engagement requirements for each project funding phase.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide a summary and documentation of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date (including the types of engagement pursued and outcomes of engagement, if any).	Provide a summary and documentation of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date (including the types of engagement pursued and outcomes of engagement, if any).
Describe the **general plan** for future outreach/engagement.	Describe the **detailed plan** for future outreach/engagement (including costs, the types of engagement pursued, and regular submission of evidence of engagement).

12. As applicable, the Feasibility Study must include an acknowledgment that the Project will be fully subject to and comply with any county-wide displacement policies as well as with any specific anti-displacement requirements associated with other funding sources.

At the time this guide was issued, county-wide anti-displacement policies are still under development. Project Applicants should describe measures being taking to prevent displacement.

13. A plan to incorporate vector minimization into the Project design, operations, and maintenance. The California Department of Public Health's Checklist for Minimizing Vector Production in Stormwater Management Structures can serve as a basic guideline in developing the vector minimization plan. Projects creating vector-related public nuisances may be subject to abatement proceedings as specified in California Health and Safety Code sections 2060 et seq. It is recommended that Infrastructure Program Project Applicants have their vector minimization plans reviewed by the local vector control district or agency.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Describe **general vector minimization considerations** and provide acknowledgment that a plan will be submitted after Design is complete.	Provide a **detailed vector minimization plan**, preferably with confirmation of review by local vector control district or agency.

14. A description of how Nature-Based Solutions are utilized to the maximum extent feasible. If Nature-Based Solutions are not used, include a description of what options for Nature-Based Solutions were considered and why they were not feasible.

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.4 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, demonstrate the quality of Nature-Based Solutions using the Good-Better-Best framework in the *2025 Interim Guidance.*[9] The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Estimate Good-Better-Best criteria based on **conceptual plans and best professional judgement**.	Estimate Good-Better-Best criteria based on **60-percent design plans**.

15. A summary of any legal requirements or obligations that may arise as a result of constructing the Project, and how those requirements will be satisfied.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Initial identification of legal considerations.	**Full compliance plan** and/or documentation of ongoing legal obligations.

[9] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

16. For Projects involving LA county Flood Control District (LACFCD) infrastructure, facilities, or right-of-way, provide confirmation of conceptual approval from LACFCD.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide letter of conceptual approval.	Not required if conceptual support was obtained during previous phases, unless significant changes to Project location, configuration, scope, or operation.

The LACFCD is tasked with providing flood protection, conserving stormwater, and recreational and aesthetic enhancements within its boundaries. LACFCD does this through the management of stormwater infrastructure such as storm drains, open channels, and other infrastructure, as well as the management of other facilities and associated rights-of-way. LACFCD managed drainage infrastructure is located within the 86 incorporated cities and the Los Angeles County Unincorporated Areas.

Projects involving a connection to LACFCD infrastructure (e.g., conveyance of stormwater from a storm drain to an underground reservoir or above ground surface enhancement) or those that will be located within LACFCD right-of-way or another managed facility (e.g., open channel access road) require **confirmation of Conceptual Approval from LACFCD** when applying for Infrastructure Program funding (See Section 2.16 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*).

The resource linked below contains contact information for LACFCD watershed managers:

- **Watershed Area Boundaries Map and LACFCD Watershed Manager Contacts**

Early communication is recommended and, at a minimum, LACFCD Watershed Managers should be notified of the project 2-3 months before the application deadline (typically July 31st of each year). LACFCD will require submission of relevant Feasibility Study documents that clearly identify the LACFCD infrastructure, facility, or right-of-way that will be affected by the proposed project.

LACFCD will review submitted documents to ensure the proposed project will not interfere with their operations and maintenance. Not all projects will require Conceptual Approval, just those that affect infrastructure, facilities, and/or right-of-way that is owned, managed, or operated by LACFCD.

NOTE: Conceptual approval does not indicate LACFCD's consent to support or permit a proposed Project but rather an acknowledgment that LACFCD has been engaged and the proposed Project is not currently inconsistent with any LACFCD plans, policies, or goals. If Infrastructure Program funding is allocated to the Project, it is required that the Project Developer remain closely engaged with LACFCD throughout each project phase and comply with any applicable agreement and/or permit provisions.

17. Acknowledgment of eligible expenditures being only those incurred on or after November 6, 2018.

No additional guidance.

18. A summary of the other sources of funding that are being leveraged for Project costs (if applicable). If no other sources of funding are being utilized, provide a summary of what other sources of funding were explored and/or why funding could not be secured through these other sources.

Only funding sources leveraged on or after November 6, 2018 should be included. The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Provide documentation **demonstrating the certainty of leveraged funding**.	Provide **confirmation of leveraged funding and timeline**, in the form of support letter, grant award notice, etc. For O&M funding requests, summarize actual leveraged funding to date.

19. If the Project is located within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), a summary of how the Project will benefit that DAC and a discussion of measures on displacement avoidance.

The SCWP has implemented a Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Dashboard[10] to help Project Developers identify local priorities. While direct outreach and engagement with members of the community is always the preferred approach to solicit input and support for proposed Projects, the survey results in the CSNA dashboard can provide supplemental information to guide early Project concepts. Refer to the *2025 Interim Guidance*[11] for additional recommendations for estimating Disadvantaged Community benefits based on potential population served.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Design-Only	Construction/O&M
Describe conceptual benefits to Disadvantaged Communities and a plan for confirming those benefits align with local priorities.	Demonstrate benefits to Disadvantaged Communities **based on priorities identified by community members** through outreach and engagement; if possible, include letters of support from members of Disadvantaged Communities and estimate the population served by specific Community Investment Benefits.

[10] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8efe6e5f57804998be1a8c4067c41cab/page/Dashboard
[11] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

Additional Guidance to Characterize Project Performance

In addition to the explicit requirements of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* clarified above, the following sections provide resources to support Project Applicants.

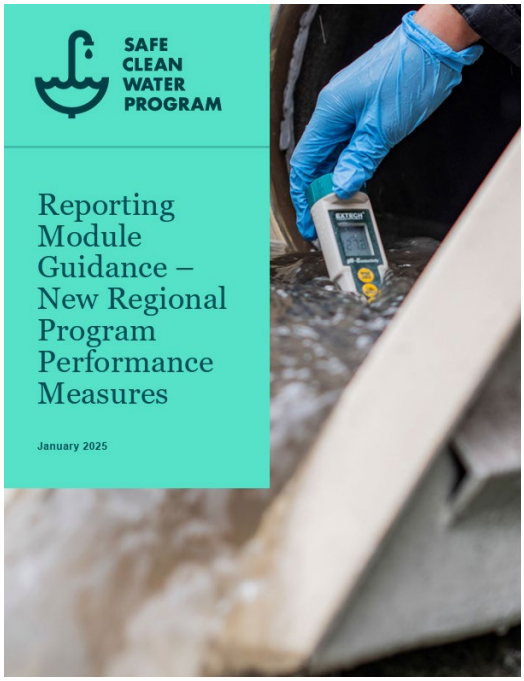
Metrics and Measures

Starting with the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects, Project Applicants will be required to complete the Metrics and Measures pages in the online Projects Module. The newly requested Performance Measures have been prioritized by Public Works and interested parties as important to track SCWP Goals, inform watershed planning, and evaluate individual Projects. Project Developers with Projects in the planning phase should provide data that predicts Project performance, while those in design, construction, or post-construction should provide data that reflects their Project's design or implementation.

The Performance Measures for each Project application will be saved in the Projects Module and can be updated during subsequent Project phases through the reporting process. **A guide for estimating the new Performance Measures is available at:**

https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2025/01/Regional-Program-Performance-Measures-Guidelines-20250128.pdf

For reference by Project Developers when scoping Feasibility Studies, the following pages summarize all Performance Measures included in the Metrics and Measures pages of the Projects Module.



The following Performance Measures must be provided; those in blue are calculated based on other entries.

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	METRIC	METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT	UNITS	DESIGN ONLY	CONSTRUC-TION/O&M
Improve Water Quality	Zinc Load Reduction		lbs/year	Y	Y
	Total Phosphorus Load Reduction		lbs/year	Y	Y
	Bacteria Load Reduction		billion/year	Y	Y
	Trash Load Reduction		%	Y	Y
	Total DDT Load Reduction		lbs/year	Y	Y
	Total PCBs Load Reduction		lbs/year	Y	Y
Increase Drought Preparedness	Average Annual Stormwater Captured		acre-feet/year	Y	Y
	Average Annual Stormwater Capture for Recharge		acre-feet/year	Y	Y
	Stormwater Capture Infiltrated	Stormwater Capture Infiltrated Over Unconfined or Perched Aquifer	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
		Stormwater Capture Infiltrated Over Confined Aquifer	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
	Stormwater Capture Treated and Discharged	Stormwater Capture Treated and Discharged to Storm Drain	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
		Stormwater Capture Treated Discharged to a Receiving Water Body or Aquatic Ecosystem	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
	Stormwater Capture Diverted	Stormwater Capture Diverted to Existing Treatment and Reuse Plants	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
		Stormwater Capture Diverted to Future Planned Treatment and Reuse Plants	acre-feet/year	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Increase Drought Preparedness	Stormwater Used On-Site for Potable Offset	Stormwater Capture Used On Site for Potable Offset	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
	Other Stormwater Capture	Stormwater Capture Other	acre-feet/year	Y	Y
Improve Public Health	Net Area of Park Created, Enhanced, or Restored	Created Park Space	acres	Y	Y
		Enhanced Park Space	acres	Y	Y
		Restored Park Space	acres	Y	Y
	Net New Green Space Created		acres		Y
	Net Change in Canopy at Maturity	Quantity of Trees Planted	acres		Y
		Quantity of Trees Removed	acres		Y
		Net Change in Canopy at Maturity	acres	Y	Y
	Net New Green Space and Tree Canopy on School Grounds	Project on School Grounds?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Net Area of New Tree Canopy at Maturity on School Grounds	acres	Y	Y
		Net New Green Space on School Grounds	acres	Y	Y
	Area of Accessible Park or Green Space	Is the Project Publicly Accessible	Y/N	Y	Y
		Is the Entire Project Site Publicly Accessible	Y/N	Y	Y
		Area of Publicly Accessible Park or Green Space	acres		Y
	Type and Number of Enhanced or New Recreational Opportunities	Select Opportunity Type (Drop-down)	count	Y	Y
	Public Access to Waterway Provided	Select Access Type (Drop-down)	count	Y	Y
	Net New Area of Cooling/Shading Surfaces	Net New Area of Manmade Shade Structures	acres		Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Improve Public Health	Net Area of Impermeable Hardscape	Pre Project Impermeable Hardscape	acres	Y	Y
		Post Project Impermeable Hardscape	acres	Y	Y
	Net Area of Permeable Hardscape	Pre Project Permeable Hardscape	acres	Y	Y
		Post Project Permeable Hardscape	acres	Y	Y
	Net Area of Lawn and Turf	Pre Project Lawn and Turf	acres		Y
		Post Project Lawn and Turf	acres		Y
	Net Area of Native Vegetation	Pre Project Native Vegetation	acres		Y
		Post Project Native Vegetation	acres		Y
	Net Area of Climate Appropriate Vegetation	Pre Project Climate Appropriate Vegetation	acres		Y
		Post Project Climate Appropriate Vegetation	acres		Y
	Net Area of Irrigated Non Native Vegetation	Pre Project Irrigated Non Native Vegetation	acres		Y
		Post Project Irrigated Non Native Vegetation	acres		Y
	Net Area of Non-Vegetated Habitat		acres		Y
	Net Change in Hardscape		acres	Y	Y
Leverage Funding and Invest in Research & Development	Leverage Funding	Total	$MM	Y	Y
		Leveraged Planning Funding Through SCW Submittal	$	Y	Y
		Leveraged Design Funding	$	Y	Y
		Leveraged Construction Funding	$		Y
		Leveraged Annual O&M Funding	$		Y
		Leveraged Annual Monitoring Funding	$		Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Leverage Funding and Invest in Research & Development	Phase Cost	Planning Phase Total Cost	$	Y	Y
		Design Phase Total Cost	$	Y	Y
		Construction Phase Total Cost	$	Y	Y
		Bid/Award Phase Total Cost	$	Y	Y
	Annualized Project Cost	Total	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Annualized Planning Costs	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Annualized Design Costs	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Annualized Construction Costs	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Annual O&M Costs	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Annual Monitoring Costs	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Expected Useful Life	$, annualized	Y	Y
		Annual Cost Inflation	$, annualized	Y	Y
	New Technologies or Practices Utilized	Does Project or Study Utilize or Investigate New Technology	Y/N	Y	Y
		Types of New Technology or Practice	Text	Y	Y
	Types of Independent Scientific Research	Is Project or Study Undertaking Independent Scientific Research	Y/N	Y	Y
		Types of Independent Scientific Research	Text	Y	Y
	Budget Allocated to Scientific Research	Total SCW Program Project or Study Budget Allocated to Independent Scientific Research	$	Y	Y
	SCW Program Goals Addressed by Independent Scientific Research	Does this Project improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins?	Y/N	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Leverage Funding and Invest in Research & Development	SCW Program Goals Addressed by Independent Scientific Research	Does this Project 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?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project prioritize Nature-Based Solutions?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project provide a spectrum of Project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project invest in independent scientific research?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project provide 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?	Y/N	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Leverage Funding and Invest in Research & Development	SCW Program Goals Addressed by Independent Scientific Research	Does this Project 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?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project promote green jobs and career pathways?	Y/N	Y	Y
		Does this Project ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects?	Y/N	Y	Y
Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects	Does the Project Address a Community Concern or Priority	Does the Project Address a Community Concern or Priority	Yes/No	Y	Y
		Describe the Priority or Concern and How It Is Being Addressed	[text]	Y	Y
		How was the Community Priority or Concern Identified	[text]	Y	Y
	Does Project Mitigate Flooding Issue	Does this Project Mitigate a Flooding Issue?	Yes/No/Partial	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects	Does Project Mitigate Flooding Issue	Select the Type of Flooding Issue Mitigated	Fluvial River or Channel Flooding Pluvial Surface Floods or Ponding Storm Drain Surcharge Coastal Other	Y	Y
	Net Area of New Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, or Protected		acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Created		acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Enhanced		acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Restored		acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Protected		acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Enhanced	Native Vegetation	acres		Y
		Climate Appropriate Vegetation	acres		Y
		Irrigated Non-Native Vegetation	acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Restored	Native Vegetation	acres		Y
		Climate Appropriate Vegetation	acres		Y
		Irrigated Non-Native Vegetation	acres		Y
	Net Area of Habitat Protected	Native Vegetation	acres		Y
		Climate Appropriate Vegetation	acres		Y
		Irrigated Non-Native Vegetation	acres		Y
	Number of Water Quality, Water Supply, and Community Benefits #/16		count	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects	Number of Water Quality Benefits: 0/3	Total	count	Y	Y
		Project Reduces the Load of the Limiting Pollutant	Yes/No	Y	Y
		Project Reduces the Load of the Other TMDL Pollutant	Yes/No	Y	Y
		Project Reduces the Load of Pollutant of Interest	Yes/No	Y	Y
	Number of Water Supply Benefits: 0/6		count	Y	Y
	Number of Community Investment Benefits: #/7		count	Y	Y
	Project Catchment Area	Area of Drainage Area to Project	acre/acre by entry box	Y	Y
	Project Construction Cost	Project Construction Cost	$	Y	Y
	Project Footprint	Area of Project Extents Including All Improvements	acres	Y	Y
	BMP Footprint	Area of Project Extents Including All Improvements	acres	Y	Y
	Type of Stormwater Improvement		Bioretention, Biofiltration, Infiltration Well, Cistern, Rain Barrel, Infiltration Facility, Treatment Facility, Diversion to Sanitary Sewer, Other Activity	Y	Y
	BMP Detailed Characteristics	Ponding Depth	feet	Y	Y
		Infiltration Footprint Area	feet	Y	Y
		Media Layer Depth	feet	Y	Y
		Media Layer Porosity		Y	Y
		Underdrain Layer Depth	feet	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects	BMP Detailed Characteristics	Underdrain Layer Porosity		Y	Y
		Single Family Residential	%	Y	Y
		Multi Family Residential	%	Y	Y
		Commercial	%	Y	Y
		Institutional	%	Y	Y
		Industrial	%	Y	Y
		Highways and Interstates	%	Y	Y
		Secondary Roads and Alleys	%	Y	Y
		Diversion Structure		Y	Y
		Typical Max Diversion Rate	cubic feet per second	Y	Y
		Storage Volume	feet	Y	Y
		Effective Drawdown Rate	cubic feet per second	Y	Y
		Stormwater Use During 24-hr Design Event	gallons	Y	Y
		Est. Total Runoff from 85th % Storm Event	acre-feet	Y	Y
		Est. Total Inflow During Design Event	gallons	Y	Y
		Inches of Stormwater Treated in 24 Hours	inches	Y	Y
		Average Dry Weather Inflow	cubic feet per second	Y	Y
Equitably Distribute Benefits	Project DAC Benefit Ratio		Yes/No/TBD		Y
	Does the Project Provide Benefit to DACs		Yes/No/TBD	Y	Y
	Is the Project Within DAC Boundary		Yes/No/TBD	Y	Y
	Project Municipal Benefit Ratio (CIBs)		Yes/No/TBD		Y
	Project Water Quality Benefit Ratio		Yes/No/TBD		Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Promote Green Jobs **Promote Green Jobs**	Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Created	Project Budget	$M	Y	Y
		FTE Jobs	FTE JOBS	Y	Y
		Organizational Leadership	#.##		Y
		Project Management	#.##		Y
		Regional/Urban Planning	#.##		Y
		Civil Engineering	#.##		Y
		Landscape Architecture	#.##		Y
		Environmental Sciences	#.##		Y
		Surveying	#.##		Y
		CEQA/NEPA Development	#.##		Y
		Community Engagement	#.##		Y
		Data Management and GIS	#.##		Y
		Geotechnical Engineering	#.##		Y
		Electrical Engineering	#.##		Y
		Permitting/Inspection	#.##		Y
		Construction Management	#.##		Y
		Construction Labor	#.##		Y
		Construction Trades	#.##		Y
		Drivers and Operators	#.##		Y
		Operation and Maintenance	#.##		Y
		Monitoring and Lab Work	#.##		Y
		Academics/Trainers	#.##		Y
	Total Project Labor Cost	Total	$M		Y
		Total Planning Labor Costs	$		Y
		Total Design Labor Costs	$		Y
		Total Construction Labor Costs	$		Y
		Total O&M Labor Costs	$		Y
		Total Monitoring Labor Costs	$		Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Promote Green Jobs	Quantity of Project or other activity employees hired through a SCW Program funded training program	Quantity of Project or other activity employees who participated in SCW Program training programs during Project execution	count		Y
	Quantity of Project or other activity employees who participated in SCW Program training programs during Project execution	Quantity of Project or other activity employees hired through a SCW Program funded training program	count		Y
Ensure O&M	O&M and Monitoring Funding Ratio		%	Y	Y
	Estimated Net Present Value of O&M and Monitoring Over Project Life		$	Y	Y
	Total O&M and Monitoring Funding Set Aside	Total SCW Program O&M and Monitoring Funding Set Aside	$		Y
		Total Cost Share O&M and Monitoring Funding Set Aside	$		Y
	O&M Cost Ratio		%	Y	Y
	Estimated Net Present Value of First Year O&M Cost		$	Y	Y
	Project Construction Cost		$	Y	Y
Prioritize Meaningful Engagement	Project Level of Achievement for Community Engagement	Level of Achievement	Good/Better/Best	Y	Y

Prioritize Meaningful Engagement	Project Level of Achievement for Community Engagement	Add Engagement Activity Undertaken by Project Developer	Canvasing Citizen Advocacy Committees Community-Driven Planning Community Forums Community Organizing Consensus Building Document expanded understanding and commitment to ongoing relationships Fact Sheets with translation as needed Focus Groups House Meetings Interactive Workshops & Tours Listening Sessions Local Media MOUs or support letters with Community Based Organizations MOUs or support letters from Elected Bodies Online Media Open Houses Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling Other educational event Other engagement event	Y	Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Prioritize Meaningful Engagement	Project Level of Achievement for Community Engagement Project Level of Achievement for Community Engagement	Add Engagement Activity Undertaken by Project Developer (continued)	Other engagement meeting Other outreach event Participatory Action Research Participatory Budgeting Cooperatives Polling Presentations Public Comment Social Media Surveys Transparent responses to community comments Videos		
		Add Engagement Activity Undertaken by Project Developer	count		Y
			[text]		Y
	Project Level of Achievement for Tribal Engagement	Level of Achievement	Good/Better/Best	Y	Y

Prioritize Meaningful Engagement	Project Level of Achievement for Tribal Engagement	Add Engagement Activity Undertaken by Project Developer	Canvasing Citizen Advocacy Committees Community-Driven Planning Community Forums Community Organizing Consensus Building Document expanded understanding and commitment to ongoing relationships Fact Sheets with translation as needed Focus Groups House Meetings Interactive Workshops & Tours Listening Sessions Local Media MOUs or support letters with Community Based Organizations MOUs or support letters from Elected Bodies Online Media Open Houses Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling Other educational event Other engagement event		Y

				REQUIRED FOR	
CATEGORY	**METRIC**	**METRIC or SUBMETRIC TEXT**	**UNITS**	**DESIGN ONLY**	**CONSTRUC-TION/O&M**
Prioritize Meaningful Engagement	Project Level of Achievement for Tribal Engagement	Add Engagement Activity Undertaken by Project Developer (continued)	Other engagement meeting Other outreach event Participatory Action Research Participatory Budgeting Cooperatives Polling Presentations Public Comment Social Media Surveys Transparent responses to community comments Videos		
			count		Y
			[text]		Y
	Letters of Support from Community and Tribes	Add Engagement Activity Undertaken by Project Developer	Community Based Organization Non-Governmental Organization Elected Body Involved Community Leader Individual Other		Y
			count		Y
	Receipt of Tribal Feedback	Was feedback received from tribes based on engagement activities undertaken?		Y	Y

Scoring Criteria Pilot Adaptations

During the first five years of Regional Program implementation, interested parties, the Scoring Committee, and the MMS documented numerous considerations to adapt the Infrastructure Program Scoring Criteria. This section discusses two optional Scoring Criteria adaptations that are being pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects. **Project Applicants have the option (but are not required) to use the *Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric* and/or *Water Supply Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric* in Attachment A and Attachment B**.

Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot

The motivation to adapt the Water Quality Scoring Criteria stems from several challenges identified through the MMS. Primarily, the current rubric—based on 24-hour BMP capacity per dollar and percentage pollutant reduction—may not accurately reflect the true Water Quality Benefits of each Project. For example, a Project's 24-hour BMP capacity is independent of its drainage area and does not reflect how much runoff or pollution the Project is expected to capture on a long-term basis. Additionally, Projects that capture substantial pollutant loads but do not achieve high percentage reductions can be undervalued. These issues highlight a potential disconnect between the Scoring Criteria and the Water Quality Benefit Performance Measures defined by the MMS.

Several alternative approaches to scoring were evaluated to address these challenges. The first considered adding gradation to the existing scoring rubric, enabling Projects to earn points at one-point increments rather than in broad steps, allowing for more precise differentiation in performance. Another option proposed an optional metric based on 85th percentile storm runoff capture volume to replace the 24-hour capacity currently used in cost-effectiveness calculations, aligning more closely with real pollutant removal performance. Additional options included calibrating scores based on the distribution of past Project performance, and a more ambitious alternative that based scoring on the actual mass of pollutants captured annually.

After analysis, the recommended pilot rubric for Water Quality Benefit scoring combines two of the more promising approaches. First, it introduces one-point gradation into the existing scoring structure, allowing more nuanced evaluation of Project benefits. Second, it offers Project developers the option to use 85th percentile storm runoff capture volume instead of 24-hour capacity for cost-effectiveness

calculations. These adjustments provide better alignment with pollutant reduction goals and more fairly reward a wider range of Project types. By balancing rigor and flexibility, the Water Quality Benefit scoring pilot rubric helps modernize scoring in a way that remains performance-based and consistent with the SCWP's multiple-benefit Goals. This pilot Water Quality scoring rubric (see Attachment A) will be pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects.

Water Supply Scoring Adaptation Pilot

Adaptation of the Water Supply Benefit Scoring Criteria was largely driven by performance data showing that the current rubric may be overly restrictive compared to the actual suite of multi-benefit Projects advocated by proponents across the SCWP. For example, during the first several rounds of the Infrastructure Program, only about 24% of submitted Projects earned Water Supply cost-effectiveness points, while 71% earned magnitude points. Additionally, the original rubric was based on stormwater capture Projects developed before 2018 and does not reflect the complexities and higher costs of today's integrated, multi-benefit designs. Economic inflation, regional hydrologic differences, and changes in the understanding of what constitutes a valid Water Supply Benefit also warranted review of the current criteria.

To address these issues, the MMS explored several alternative scoring strategies, one of which was pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Regional Program Call for Projects and revisited during 2025 adaptations. The alternative involves calibrating score thresholds to better match the historical performance and cost of submitted Projects, as well as introducing single-point increments across the full range of both cost-effectiveness and water supply magnitude scores. This approach effectively realigns expectations with what has been shown to be achievable under the SCWP's existing constraints.

The previous pilot rubric was updated in 2025 to calibrate scoring to the first five rounds of Infrastructure Program applications. This updated rubric better captures the value of Projects that manage smaller volumes of water or operate in challenging environments, thus promoting equity in access to funding opportunities. Evaluating historical Projects using this pilot rubric suggested that no past Projects would fall below the 60-point threshold and several additional Projects would potentially qualify for funding. This pilot Water Supply scoring rubric (see Attachment B) will be pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects to improve scoring fairness, align evaluation metrics with real-world conditions, and support the SCWP's goal of incentivizing drought preparedness.

Future Considerations

While the adaptations above will begin to better align Scoring Criteria with SCWP Goals and help alleviate barriers to pursuing Regional Program funding, additional revisions have been recommended for consideration by the MMS and interested parties. Following evaluation of the pilot adaptations in Fiscal Year 2026-2027, additional scoring adaptations may be explored, including revisions to the Community Investment Benefit, Nature-Based Solutions, and Leveraging Funds and Community Support criteria.

Attachment A – Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
A.1 Wet + Dry Weather Water Quality Benefits	50 points max	The Project provides water quality benefits
	20 points max	A.1.1 : For Wet Weather BMPs Only: Water Quality Cost Effectiveness (Cost Effectiveness) = (24-hour BMP Capacity)[1] / (Capital Cost in $Millions) • < 0.12 = 0 points • 0.12–0.169 = 1 point • 0.17–0.219 = 2 points • 0.22–0.259 = 3 points • 0.26–0.309 = 4 points • 0.31–0.349 = 5 points • 0.35–0.399 = 6 points • 0.40–0.449 = 7 points • 0.45–0.489 = 8 points • 0.49–0.539 = 9 points • 0.54–0.579 = 10 points • 0.58–0.629 = 11 points • 0.63–0.679 = 12 points • 0.68–0.719 = 13 points • 0.72–0.769 = 14 points • 0.77–0.819 = 15 points • 0.82–0.859 = 16 points • 0.86–0.909 = 17 points • 0.91–0.949 = 18 points • 0.95–0.999 = 19 points • ≥ 1.000 = 20 points *(20 Points Max)* *[1]. Management of the 24-hour event is considered the maximum volume managed by a Project during a 24-hour, 85th percentile design storm event. Units are in acre-feet (AF).*

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
Wet + Dry Weather Water Quality Benefits **- OR -**	30 points max	A.1.2: For Wet Weather BMPs Only: Water Quality Benefit - Quantify the pollutant reduction (i.e. concentration, load, exceedance day, etc.) for a class of pollutants using a similar analysis as the E/WMP which uses the Districts Watershed Management Modeling System (WMMS). The analysis should be an average percent reduction comparing influent and effluent for the class of pollutant over a ten-year period showing the impact of the Project. Modeling should include the latest performance data to reflect the efficiency of the BMP type. Primary Class of Pollutants • < 3.0% = 0 points • 3.1–6.9% = 1 point • 7.0–9.9% = 2 points • 10.0–12.9% = 3 points • 13.0–16.9% = 4 point • 17.0–19.9% = 5 points • 20.0–22.9% = 6 points • 23.0–26.9% = 7 points • 27.0–29.9% = 8 points • 30.0–32.9% = 9 points • 33.0–36.9% = 10 points • 37.0–39.9% = 11 points • 40.0–42.9% = 12 points • 43.0–46.9% = 13 points • 47.0–49.9% = 14 points • 50.0–55.9% = 15 points • 56.0–61.9% = 16 points • 62.0–67.9% = 17 points • 68.0–73.9% = 18 points • 74.0–79.9% = 19 points • ≥ 80.0% = 20 points *(20 Points Max)* Second or More Classes of Pollutant • < 10.0% = 0 points • 10.0–19.9% = 1 point • 20.0–29.9% = 2 points • 30.0–39.9% = 3 points • 40.0–49.9% = 4 points • 50.0–55.9% = 5 points • 56.0–61.9% = 6 points • 62.0–67.9% = 7 points • 68.0–73.9% = 8 points • 74.0–79.9% = 9 points • ≥ 80.0% = 10 points (10 Points Max)
A.2 Dry Weather Only Water Quality Benefits	20 points	A.2.1: For dry weather BMPs only, Projects must be designed to capture, infiltrate, treat and release, or divert 100% (unless infeasible or prohibited for habitat, etc) of all tributary dry weather flows.
	20 points max	A.2.2: For Dry Weather BMPs Only. Tributary Size of the Dry Weather BMP • < 20.0 Acres = 10 points • 20.0–39.9 Acres = 11 points • 40.0–59.9 Acres = 12 points • 60.0–79.9 Acres = 13 points • 80.0–99.9 Acres = 14 points • 100.0–119.9 Acres = 15 points • 120.0–139.9 Acres = 16 points • 140.0–159.9 Acres = 17 points • 160.0–179.9 Acres = 18 points • 180.0–199.9 Acres = 19 points • ≥ 200.0 Acres = 20 points *(20 Points Max)*

Attachment B – Water Supply Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
B. Significant Water Supply Benefits	25 points max	The Project provides water re-use and/or water supply enhancement benefits
	13 points max	B1. Water Supply Cost Effectiveness. The Total Life-Cycle Cost[2] per unit of acre foot of Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff volume captured for water supply is: • ≥ $77,910.00/ac-ft = 1 point • $77,909.99 – $37,950.00/ac-ft = 2 points • $37,949.99 – $24,280.00/ac-ft = 3 points • $24,279.99 – $16,300.00/ac-ft = 4 points • $16,299.99 – $11,950.00/ac-ft = 5 points • $11,949.99 – $8,850.00/ac-ft = 6 points • $8,849.99 – $6,930.00/ac-ft = 7 points • $6,929.99 – $5,280.00/ac-ft = 8 points • $5,279.99 – $3,590.00/ac-ft = 9 points • $3,589.99 – $2,390.00/ac-ft = 10 points • $2,389.99 – $1,830.00/ac-ft = 11 points • $1,829.99 – $963.00/ac-ft = 12 points • < $963.00/ac-ft = 13 points *[2]. Total Life-Cycle Cost: The annualized value of all Capital, planning, design, land acquisition, construction, and total life O&M costs for the Project for the entire life span of the Project (e.g. 50-year design life span should account for 50-years of O&M). The annualized cost is used over the present value to provide a preference to Projects with longer life spans.*
	12 points max	B2. Water Supply Benefit Magnitude. The yearly additional water supply volume resulting from the Project is: • < 3.0 ac-ft/year = 1 point • 3.0 – 6.9 ac-ft/year = 2 points • 7.0 – 16.9 ac-ft/year = 3 points • 17.0 – 37.9 ac-ft/year = 4 points • 38.0 – 71.9 ac-ft/year = 5 points • 72.0 – 103.9 ac-ft/year = 6 points • 104.0 – 144.9 ac-ft/year = 7 points • 145.0 – 178.9 ac-ft/year = 8 points • 179.0 – 236.9 ac-ft/year = 9 points • 237.0 – 343.9 ac-ft/year = 10 points • 344.0 – 667.9 ac-ft/year = 11 points • ≥ 668.0 ac-ft/year = 12 points