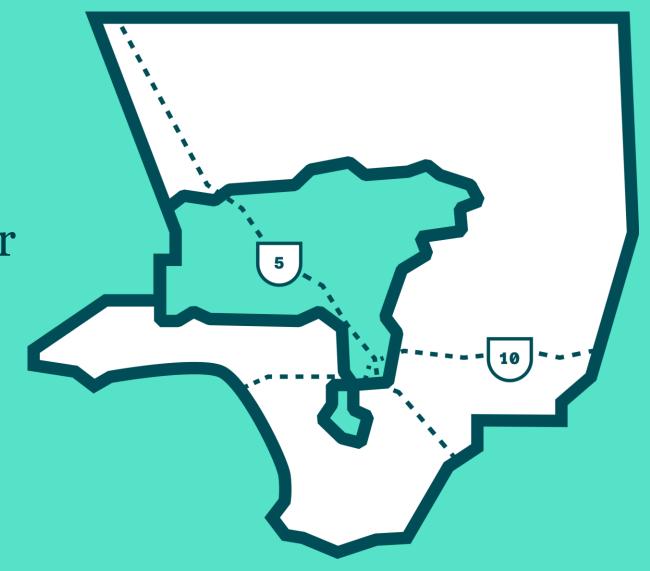


Watershed Planning
Update
Upper Los Angeles River
Watershed Area

PRESENTED BY:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SCW WATERSHED PLANNING TEAM



June 18, 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





Upper 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 392,200

acres

Local & Regional Park and Open

Space

157,200 acres (40% of total area) Impervious Area

113,100

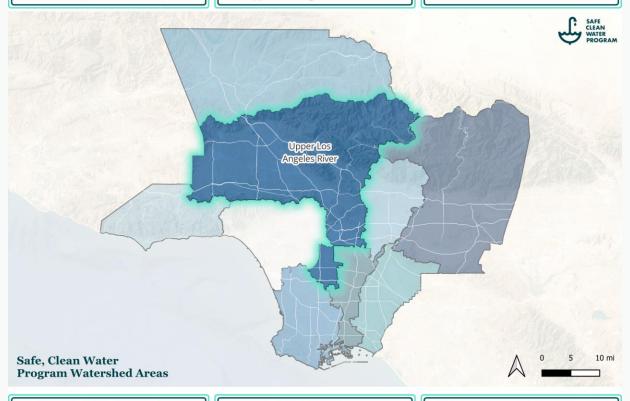
acres (29% of total area)

Average Annual Stormwater Runoff 92,100 ac-ft/yr

"The Upper Los Angeles River is bursting with biodiversity and native habitat"

- Upper Los Angeles River WASC

Required DAC Ratio 45%



Percent Tree Canopy Cover

22%

Total Population 2,991,100

residents

Managed Unconfined Aquifer* **Central Basin** Main San Gabriel Basin **Eagle Rock Basin**

Watershed Management Program Implementation Cost

Limiting Pollutants Zinc **Total Phosphorus** Bacteria

Regional and Municipal Program Tax Collected to Date (FY20-25)

\$342.2M

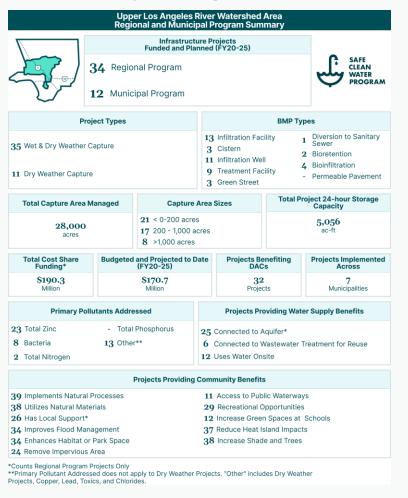
\$4.7B

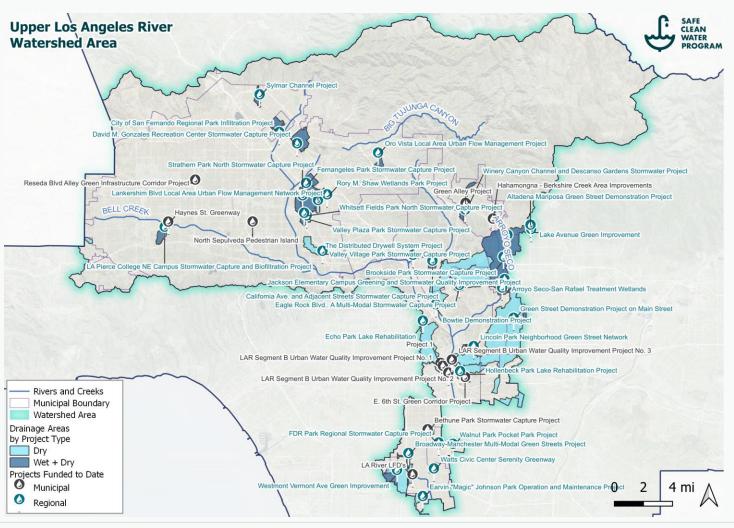


ULAR Watershed Area Baselines

Summarize investments to date by SCW Program and include data from funded projects (Regional

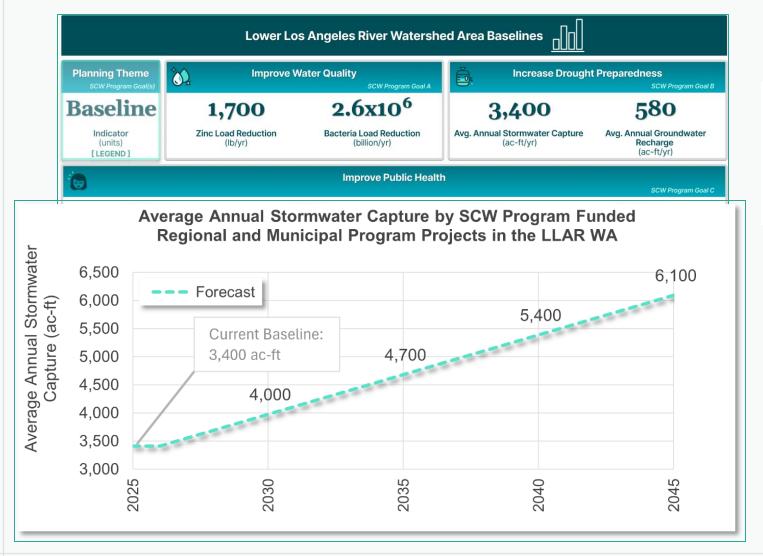
and Municipal Programs)







Forecasts





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

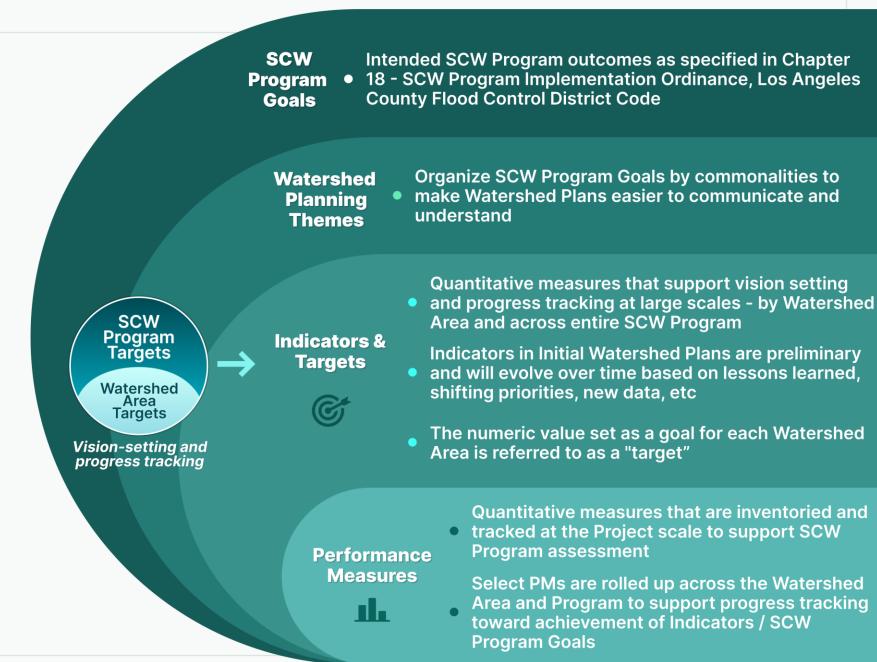
NOTE: LLAR Example



Targets & Performance Measures

Targets used for WA-scale vision setting and progress tracking

Performance measures track the program at the project-level

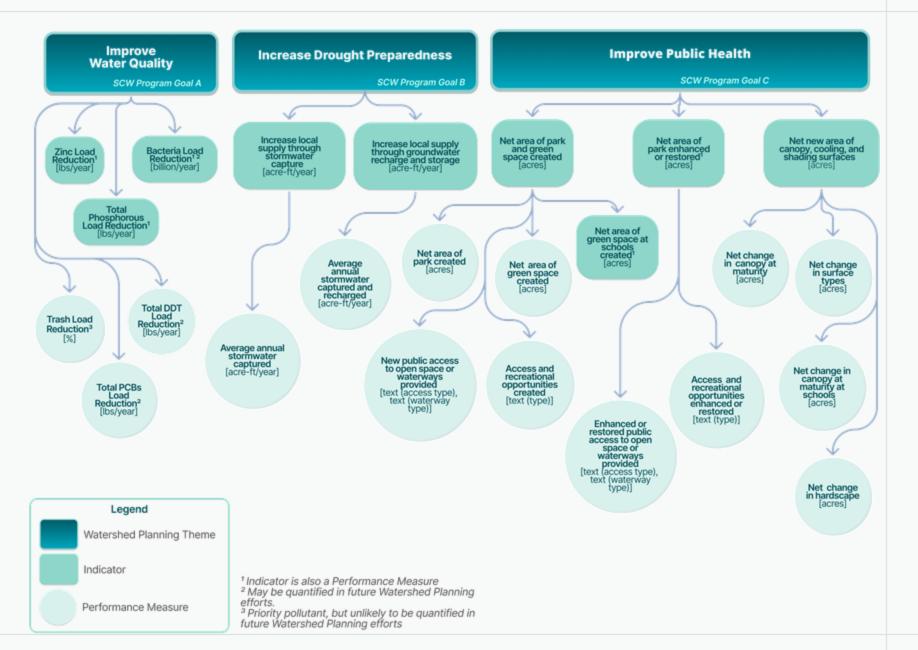




Planning Themes



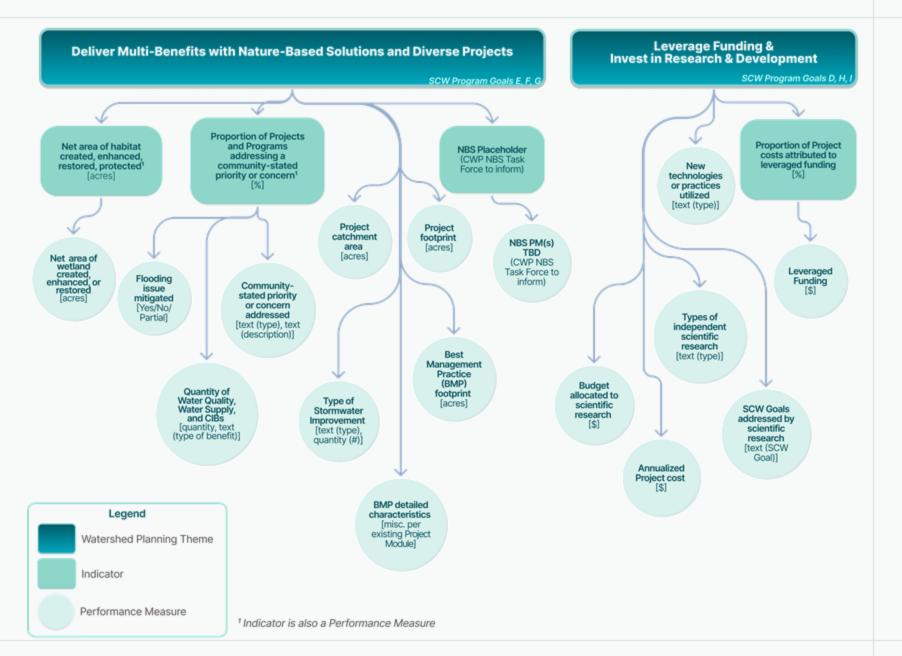






Planning Themes

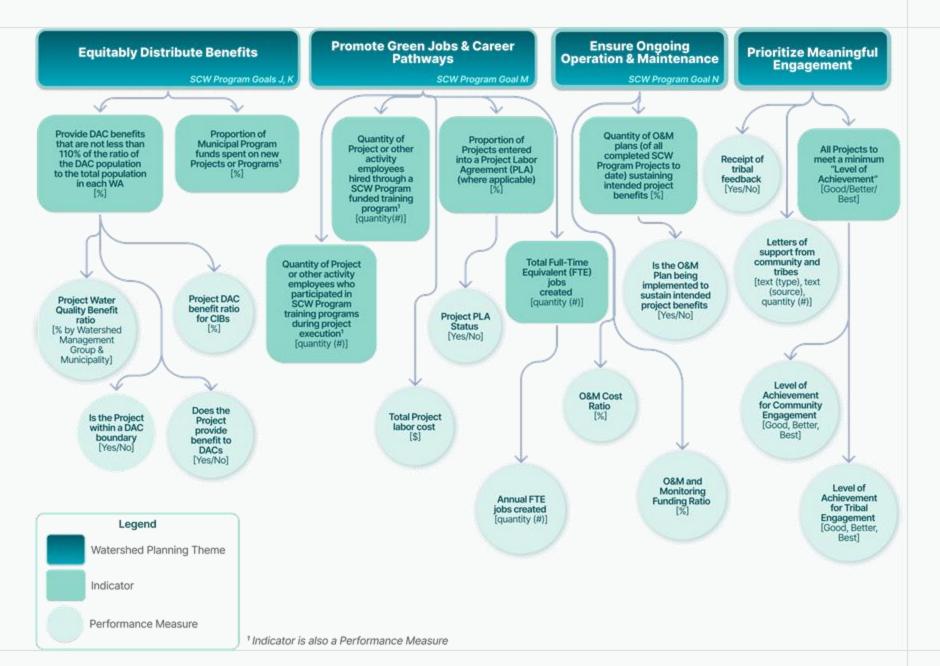






Planning Themes



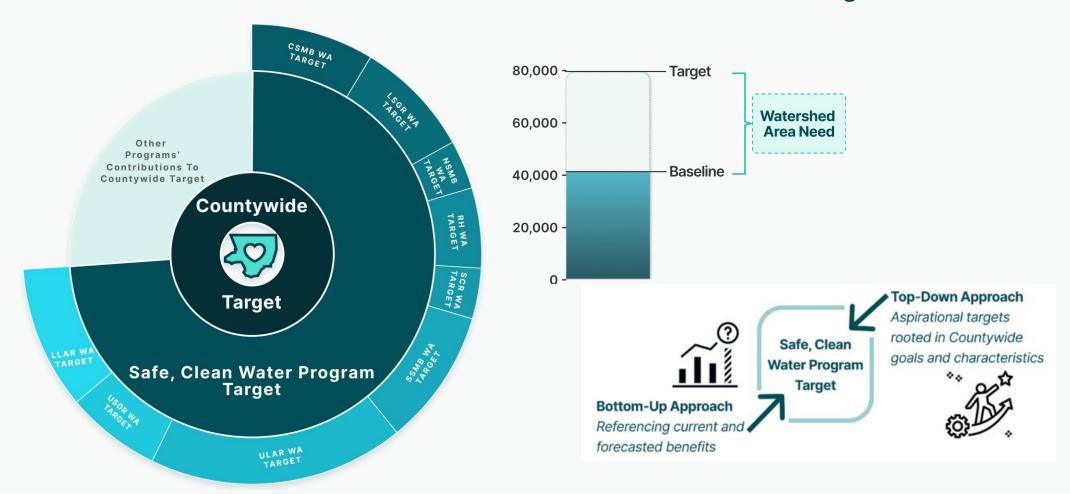




Targets and Watershed Area Needs

Targets are anchored in Countywide goals, when available.

The needs of each WA are calculated as the difference between baselines and targets.

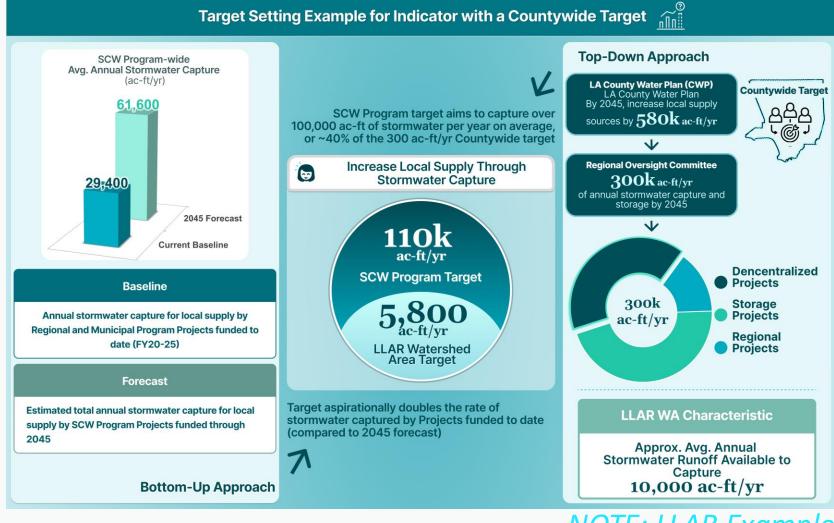




Watershed Area Targets Example – w/ Countywide Target

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

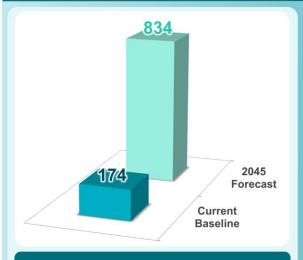


Watershed Area Targets Example – w/o Countywide Target

Target Setting Example for Indicator without a Countywide Target



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



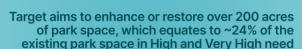
Baseline

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



Net Area of Park Enhanced or Restored



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

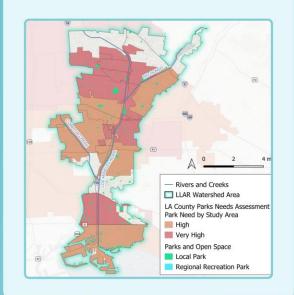
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Top-Down Approach

LLAR WA Characteristic

Total Area of Existing Local and Regional Parks by Need Category High - 370 acres Very High - 450 acres

Total - 820 acres



NOTE: LLAR Example





ULAR 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.

Outcome SCW Program Goals Why? Watershed Area Needs Watershed Area (WA) Needs summarize why strategies are needed 4,400 Zinc Load Reduction 11,500

Total Phosphorous Load Reduction (lb/yr)

(lb/yr)

TBD **Bacteria Load Reduction** (billion/yr)

How?

Strategies

Strategies describe how to address WA Needs and achieve Goals

Prioritize high performance **Projects** and **Programs**

in subwatersheds with the highest pollutant loads

(strategy 1.1)

Implementation Timeline **NEAR TERM**

What?

Improve Water Quality

Action(s)

Actions describe what general types of Projects, Programs, and Studies to implement

Prioritize wet-weather Projects with large drainage areas

Project storage capacity (24-hour) to meet WA Need

Located in subwatersheds with the highest average annual load reduction opportunity for zinc and bacteria.

(action 1.1.2)

Where?

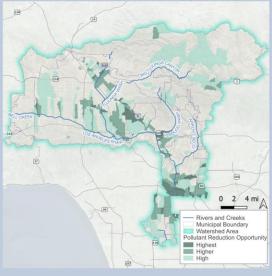
SCW Program Goal A. Improve water quality and contribute

to attainment of water-quality requirements.

Opportunities

Opportunities are mapping layers and/or references to existing efforts that describe where there is opportunity to implement strategies and actions

Pollutant Load Reduction Opportunity

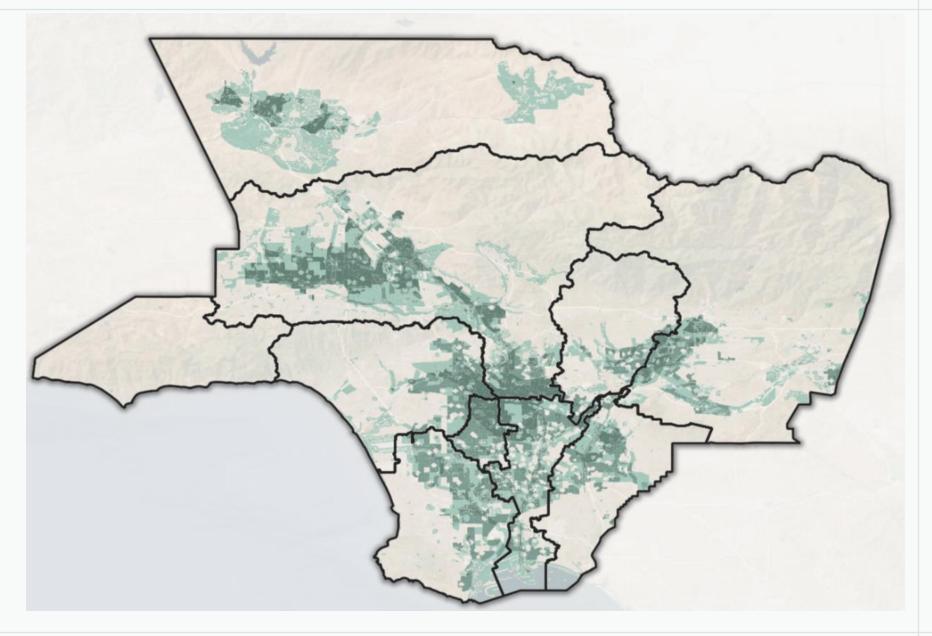


Please note that these values and map are continuing to evolve and are subject to change



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.

📄 Initial Watershed Plan

- Understand how Projects and Programs can contribute to Watershed Area (WA) Needs and strategies.
- Align Project and Program implementation with strategies and opportunities in the WA.

- Access comprehensive assessments of WA baselines and targets.
- Communicate priorities and strategies to Project and Program proponents, Municipalities and community members.
- Understand methods, definitions, data sources, and limitations behind targets and strategies.
- Understand near and longterm next steps for Watershed Planning.

- Learn about SCW Program Watershed Planning, characteristics of their WA, and the benefits provided by SCW Program funded Projects within their community.
- Learn about targets and strategies specific to their WA to understand the vision for future Projects and Programs.





Project and Program Proponents



WASCs, ROC, Municipalities, and the District



Community Members



- Use Opportunity layers to understand which benefits their Project or Program could provide to contribute to WA Goals and strategies.
- Review and understand how Projects and Programs can align with strategies.
- Visualize the distribution of existing Projects and their footprints and capture areas to avoid overlap and maximize benefits provided by new investments.
- Understand impacts of funding decisions on progress toward achieving Goals.
- Evaluate whether capture areas or benefits for Projects under consideration for funding overlap with previously-funded Projects.
- Consider how Projects and Programs align with strategies when making funding decisions.

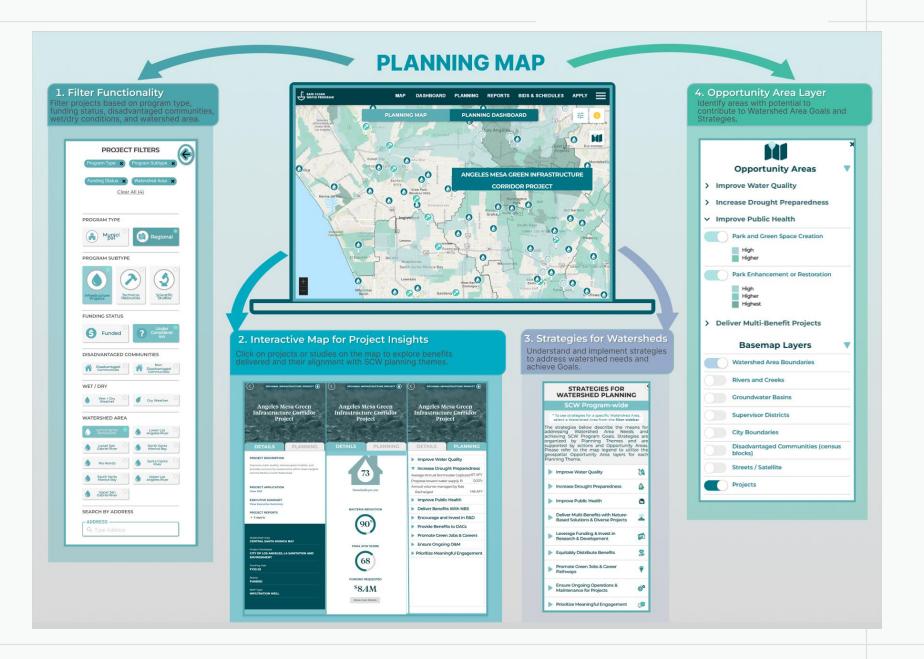
- Track progress toward achieving WA targets and SCW Program Goals.
- View funded and under consideration Projects and Programs in their community and the specific benefits they provide.





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)



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.



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.



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









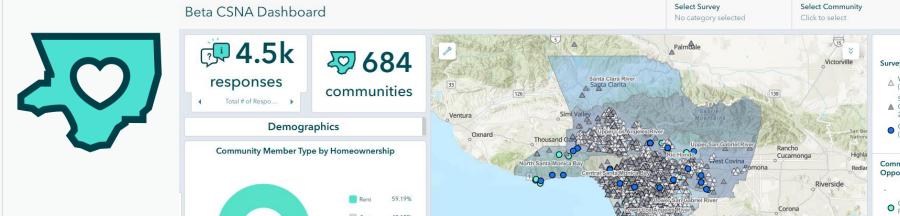








CSNA Dashboard



SCW Program Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA)

Other

Own a

Attend

school

Homeownership

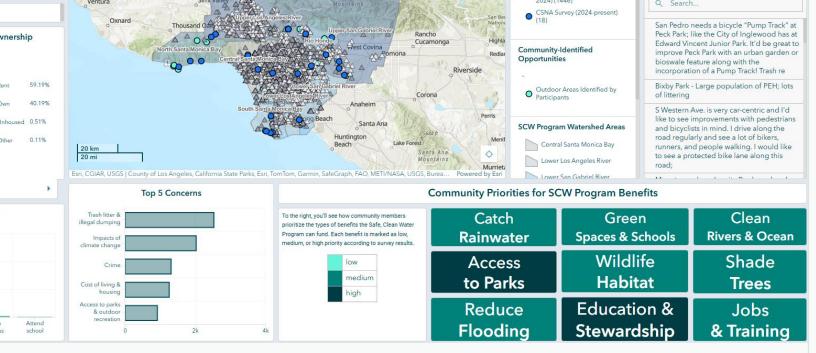
Relationship to Community

Other

2k

Select Watershed Area Select Response Date Click to select Click to select Legend What is an outdoor area that would benefit from beautification or improvement? **Survey Participation** WaterTalks Needs Assessment A (2018-2023) (3018) SCW Program Watershed ▲ Coordinator Surveys (2020-2024) (1446) Q Search.. CSNA Survey (2024-present) Community-Identified bioswale feature along with the incorporation of a Pump Track! Trash re Bixby Park - Large population of PEH; lots Outdoor Areas Identified by Participants of littering S Western Ave. is very car-centric and I'd **SCW Program Watershed Areas** and bicyclists in mind. I drive along the road regularly and see a lot of bikers, Central Santa Monica Bay runners, and people walking. I would like to see a protected bike lane along this Lower Los Angeles River







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

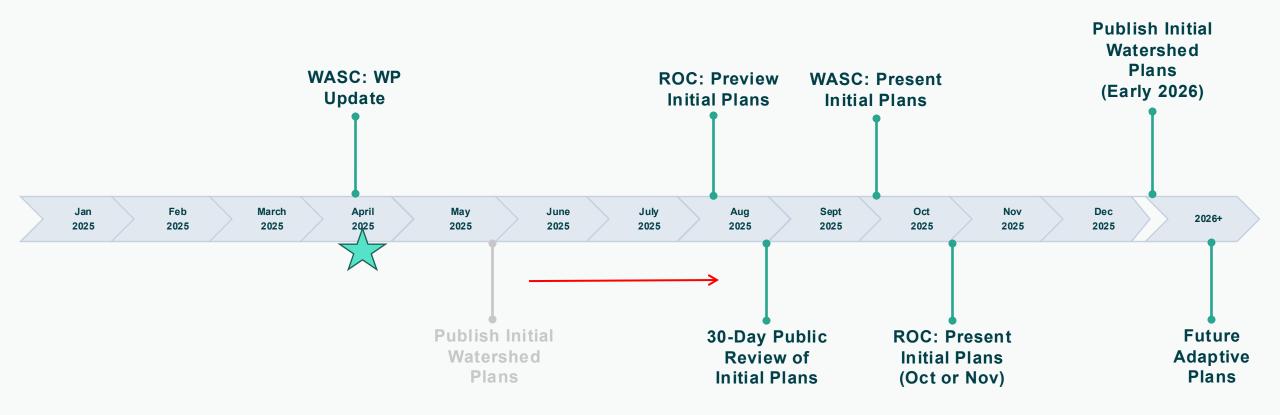


Q&A about CSNA



6/18/2025

Tentative SCWP Watershed Planning Timeline





Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact:

 $\underline{watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov}$