

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM  
PRESENTATION DATE

# Watershed Planning

WASC Round 4 Engagement

Lower San Gabriel River WASC  
October 14, 2025



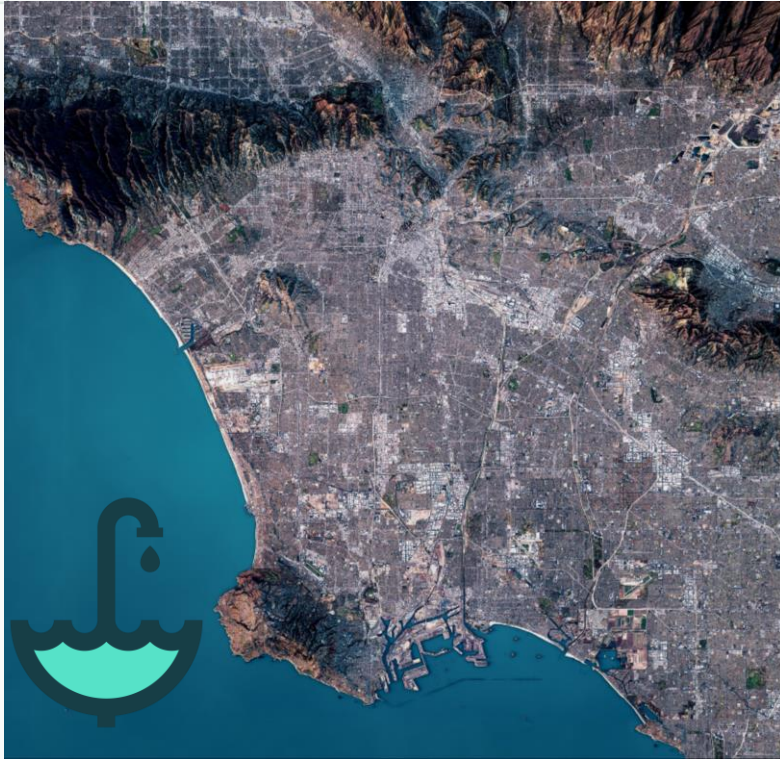
# What We're Covering Today

1. How We Got Here
2. Intro to your Initial Watershed Plan
3. Discussion
4. Public Comments
5. Next Steps and Timeline





## SCW Program Watershed Planning – An Accelerated Timeline



### SCW Program BOS Motion

LA County Board of Supervisors Motions to Accelerate the SCW Program implementation and develop Watershed Area Plans



### Forming a Team, Developing a Framework

Public Works Watershed Planning Section formed, Community Strengths & Needs Assessment developed and launched, Watershed Planning Framework developed, SCWP governance committees and interested parties engaged

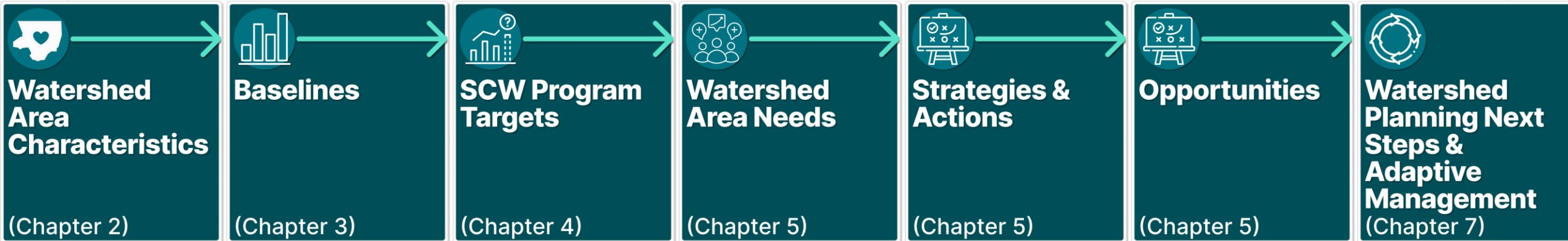


### Making Plans for Everyone

Conducted technical analysis of cross-county programs and plans, emphasizing watershed coordination, and developing models for planning

## Initial Watershed Plans Throughline

The core of the Initial Watershed Plans is based on the “throughline” that translates the 14 SCW Program Goals to realistic strategies, actions, and opportunities that accelerate the Program’s benefits



**Opportunities:** Physical or conceptual areas with the most potential for Projects and Programs to address Watershed Area Needs and advance SCW Program Goals

**WA Needs:** The difference between targets and baselines



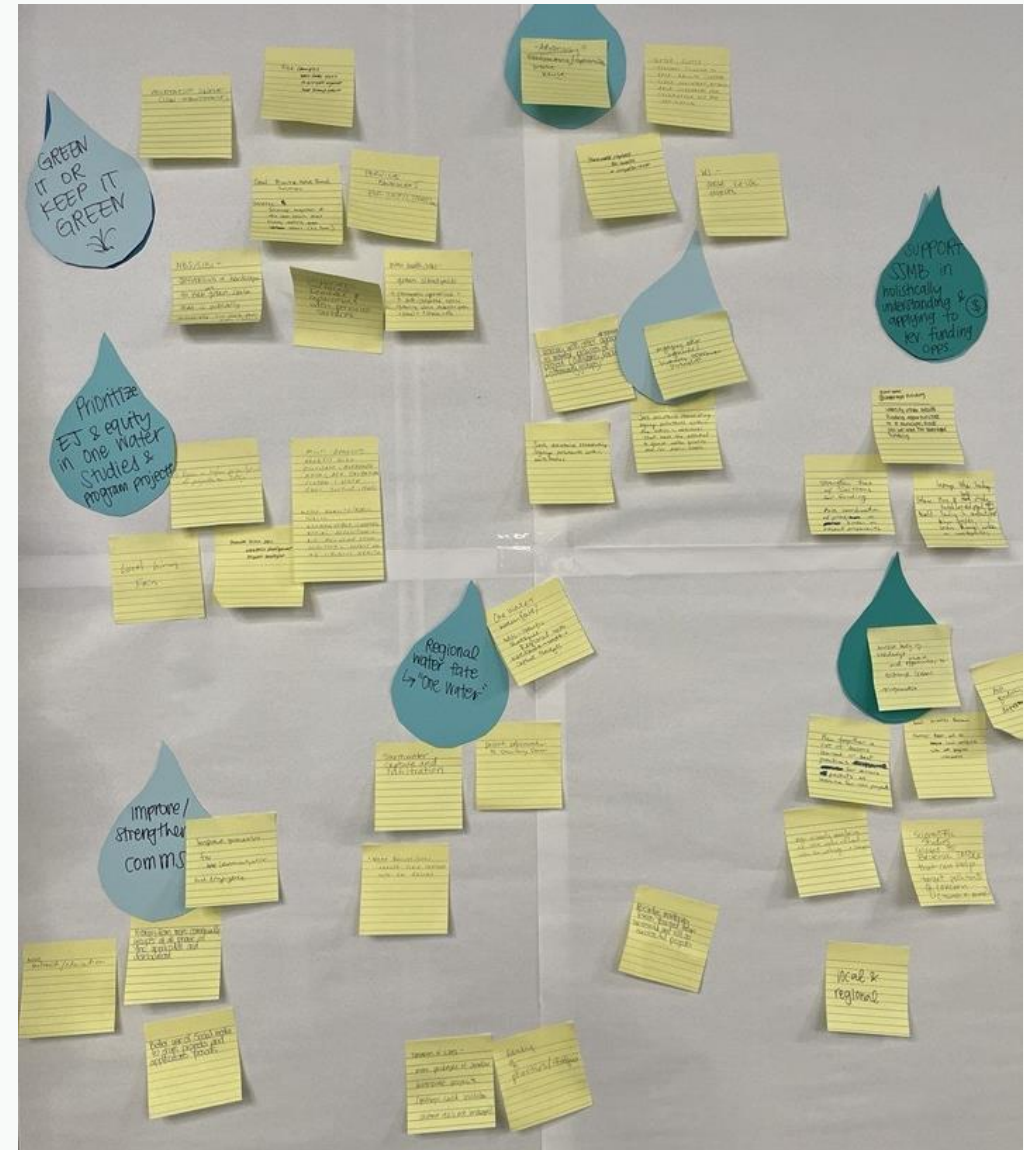
*\*As defined by the Watershed Planning Process*



# Aligning with your WASC

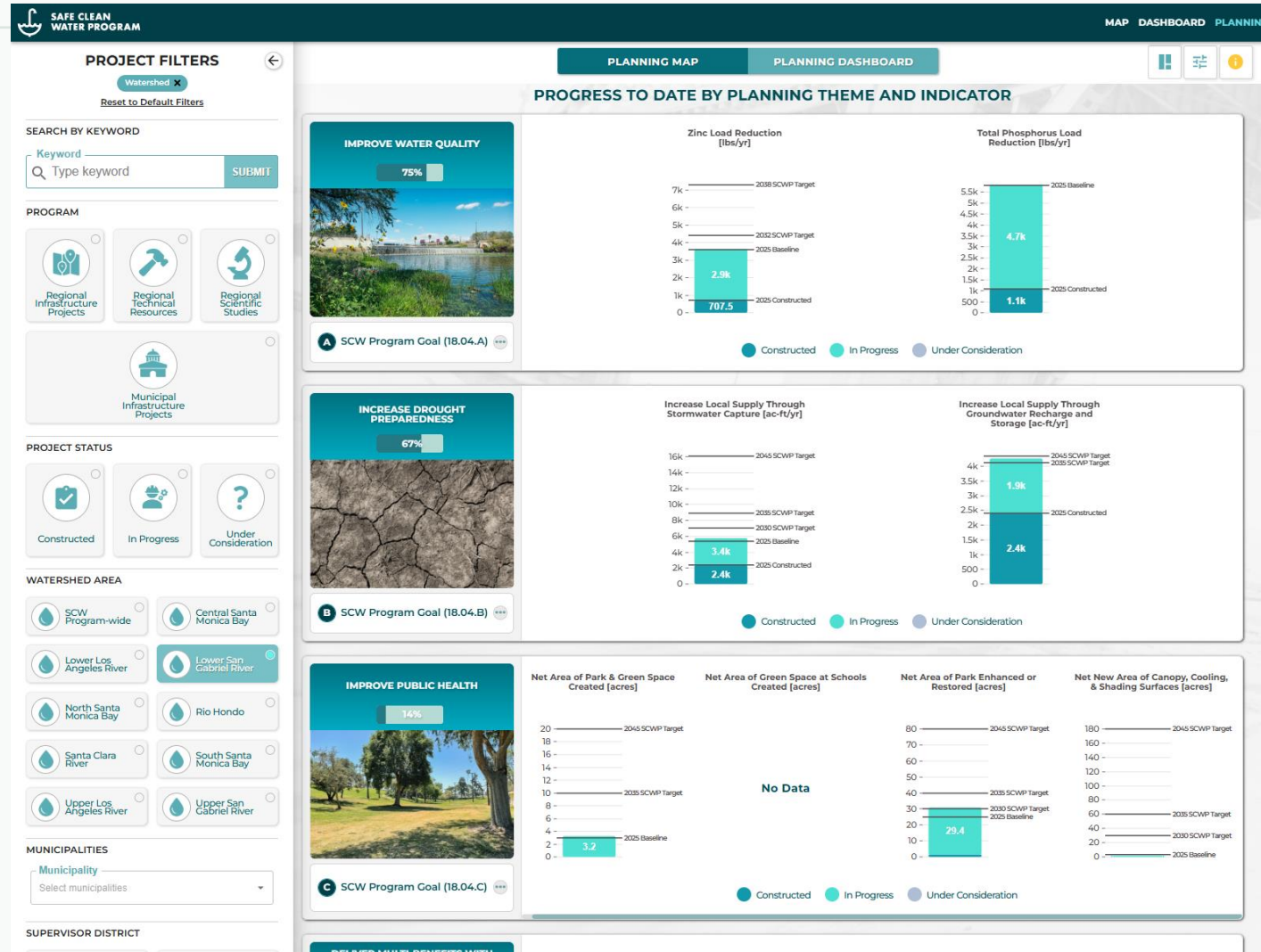
- **Listen and Gather**
  - Meeting 1 – Watershed Planning 101 and Priorities
  - Meeting 2 – (Re)aligned Priorities
- **Update and Check In**
  - Meeting 3 – Priorities Realized in the Initial Plans
  - 45-Day Public Review Period
  -  **Meeting 4 – IWP Presentation and Public Comments Overview**

[Appendix C. Interested Party Engagement](#)

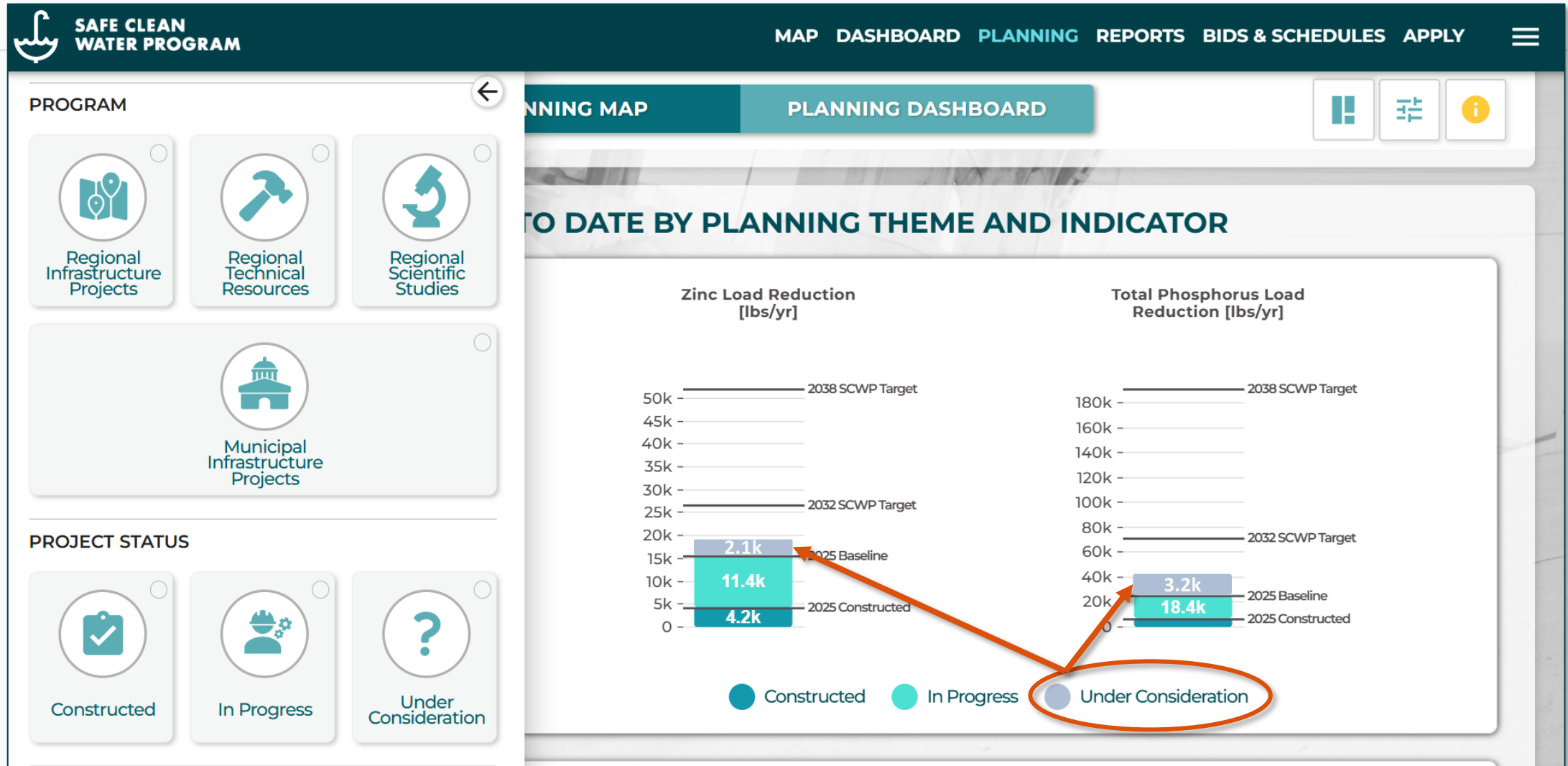


# Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area

## Viewing Baselines, SCW Program Targets, and Progress in the Planning Tool



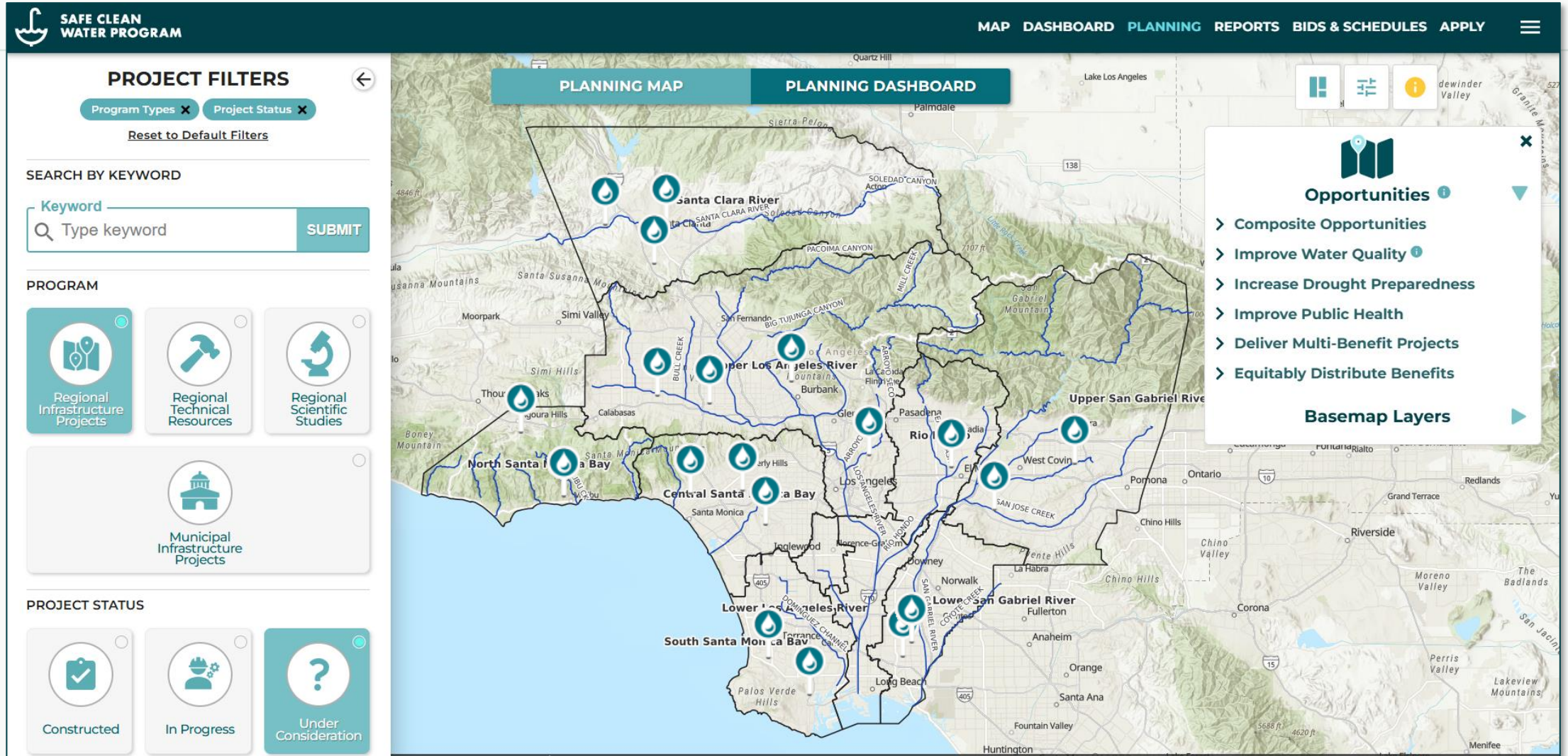
# Using the Planning Dashboard to Evaluate Projects Under Consideration



Note that this example is for demonstration purposes only and does not reflect actual values.



# Using the Planning Map to Evaluate Projects Under Consideration



**SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

MAP DASHBOARD **PLANNING** REPORTS BIDS & SCHEDULES APPLY

**PROJECT FILTERS**

Program Types X Project Status X

[Reset to Default Filters](#)

SEARCH BY KEYWORD

Keyword  SUBMIT

PROGRAM

- Regional Infrastructure Projects
- Regional Technical Resources
- Regional Scientific Studies
- Municipal Infrastructure Projects

PROJECT STATUS

- Constructed
- In Progress
- Under Consideration

**PLANNING MAP** **PLANNING DASHBOARD**

**Opportunities**

- > Composite Opportunities
- > Improve Water Quality
- > Increase Drought Preparedness
- > Improve Public Health
- > Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects
- > Equitably Distribute Benefits

**Basemap Layers**

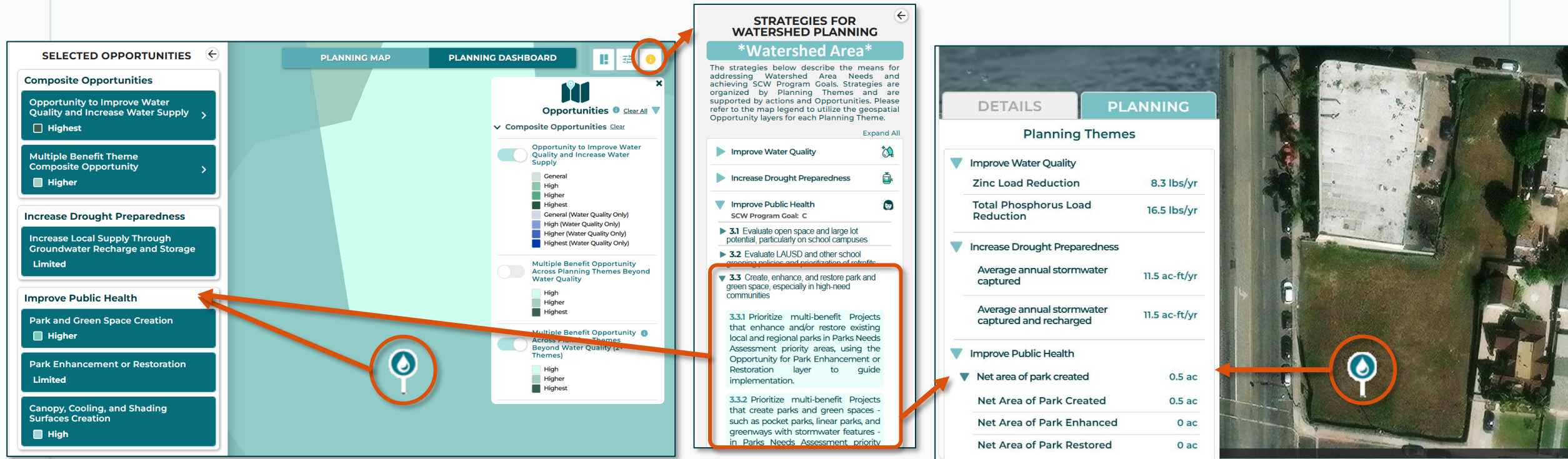
*Note that this example is for demonstration purposes only and does not reflect actual applications or Project locations.*



# Assessing Alignment with Watershed Planning Using an Example Project

## Use the Planning Tool to,

- Spatially view Projects and their potential impact using the opportunity layers
- Click on a Project to see the benefits it is anticipated to provide
- Filter for your Watershed Area and open the strategies side pane to review strategies and actions
- Compare Project benefits to Watershed Area targets and strategies to assess alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans



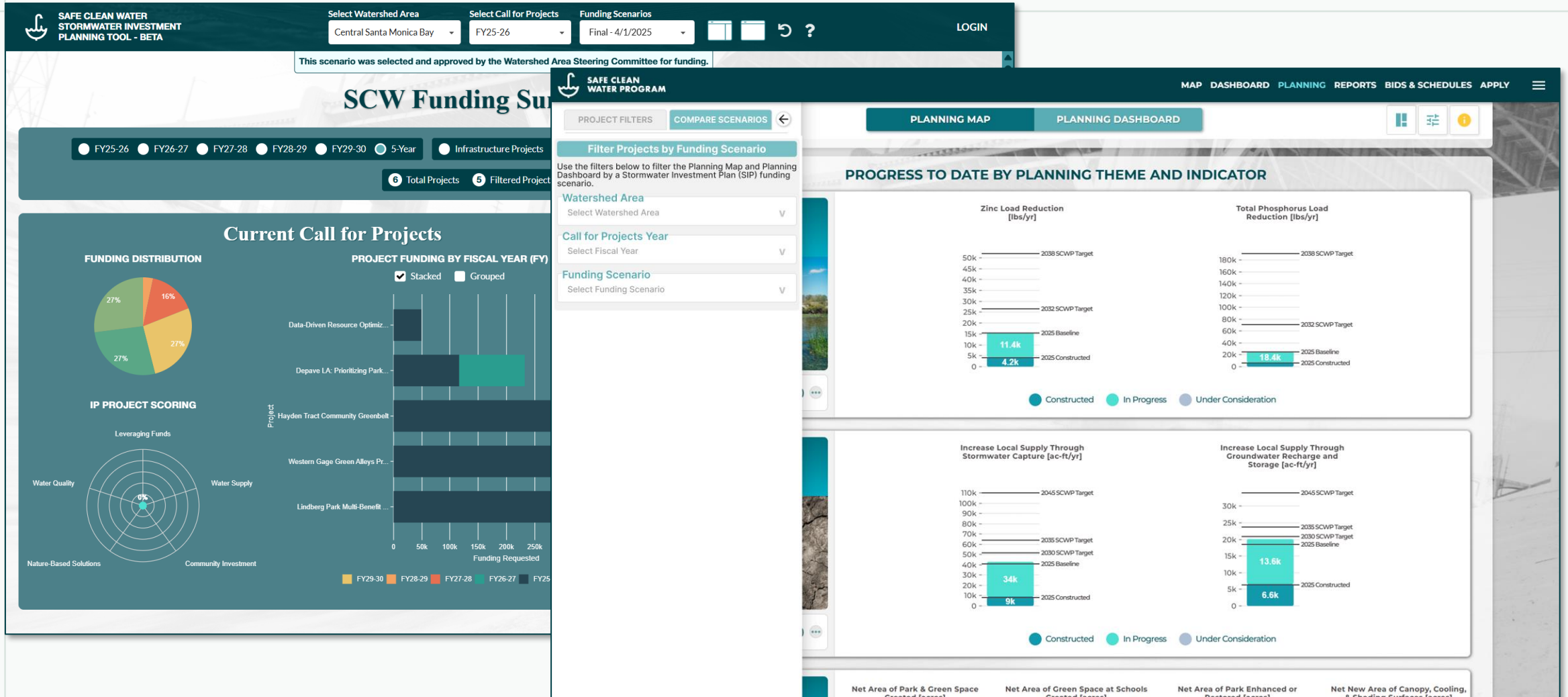
The screenshot displays the Watershed Planning Tool interface, which includes several key components:

- SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES:** A sidebar on the left with categories like Composite Opportunities, Increase Drought Preparedness, and Improve Public Health. Each category has a list of specific opportunities with filters (e.g., Highest, Higher, Limited, High).
- PLANNING MAP:** A central map area showing the spatial distribution of projects and opportunities. A red circle highlights a specific project location on the map.
- PLANNING DASHBOARD:** A panel on the right showing the selected project's details. It includes a title "STRATEGIES FOR WATERSHED PLANNING" and a section for "Watershed Area" targets. The dashboard also lists various strategies and actions, such as "Improve Water Quality", "Increase Drought Preparedness", and "Improve Public Health".
- DETAILS / PLANNING:** A panel on the far right showing the project's performance against various planning themes. It includes a table of metrics and targets.
- Aerial Map:** A large aerial photograph on the right side of the interface, showing the physical location of the project. A red circle highlights the project location on the map.

Arrows indicate the flow of information and interaction between these components, showing how a project is selected on the map, viewed in detail, and compared against watershed planning goals.

Theme	Target	Value
Improve Water Quality	Zinc Load Reduction	8.3 lbs/yr
	Total Phosphorus Load Reduction	16.5 lbs/yr
Increase Drought Preparedness	Average annual stormwater captured	11.5 ac-ft/yr
	Average annual stormwater captured and recharged	11.5 ac-ft/yr
Improve Public Health	Net area of park created	0.5 ac
	Net Area of Park Created	0.5 ac
	Net Area of Park Enhanced	0 ac
	Net Area of Park Restored	0 ac

# Using the SIP Tool and Planning Tool



## SCW Program Project Alignment with Initial Watershed Plans

### Why Alignment Matters:

- Ensures Projects contribute to the achievement of the one or more of the 14 SCW Program Goals.
- Provides a consistent way for Municipalities and Project proponents to intentionally select Project design features that align with Watershed Area Needs.
- Ensures compliance with new Feasibility Study Guideline Requirement #20: Explicit alignment with Initial Watershed Plans for all future SCW Program applications.

### How Alignment is Achieved:

- Reference the Initial Watershed Plans for:
  - **Strategies & Actions** : Outlines Project priorities, general actions, and resources to guide strategic decision-making, offering the most direct path to alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans.
  - **Opportunities**: For each strategy, there is one or more opportunity. Opportunities may be used as guides in identifying areas where Projects or Program implementation would have the greatest impacts.
  - **Composite Opportunities**: Highlight areas with the most potential to align with 2+ strategies to deliver multiple benefits and support multiple SCW Program Goals.

### Current Status and Future Direction:

- Many funded SCW Projects (scoped before Initial Watershed Plan development) already show alignment with strategies and actions.
- Future SCW Program Projects must demonstrate intentional alignment with Initial Watershed Plan strategies and actions.





# Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Example for Aligning Projects with the Initial Watershed Plan

## Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Strategies and Actions

### Aligning Projects with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

#### Hermosillo Park Project

**Current Phase: Design**  
**Project Description:**  
 The Hermosillo Park Project will deliver a range of benefits to the local community and environment by implementing a comprehensive park rehabilitation to replace existing park features with improved amenities and constructing a stormwater capture, treatment, and infiltration facility. This Project includes both **underground and above-ground improvements** to **improve water quality, augment groundwater storage,** and provide **community benefits**. The stormwater capture and infiltration facility will intercept stormwater from a ~2,500 acre capture area's existing storm drains and convey flows to underground reservoirs to be installed beneath proposed soccer field for infiltration into the ground. A portion of diverted stormwater will be treated for onsite irrigation use. Above-ground enhancements include a new community center, redesigned soccer fields, basketball and handball courts, a splash pad, updated irrigation systems, and drought-tolerant landscaping. Together, these features improve water quality, hydraulic control, and groundwater recharge, while enhancing park use, biodiversity, and educational opportunities for Norwalk residents

#### Example Project Benefits Organized by Alignment with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies

**Improve Water Quality (Goal A)**  
1.1 Prioritize high performance Projects and Programs in areas with the highest pollutant loads (e.g., action 1.1.1)  
**Example Project Benefits:**

- Total Zinc as the primary pollutant addressed
- ~85 ac-ft of 24-hour Project storage capacity

**Increase Drought Preparedness (Goal B)**  
2.1 Link MS4 compliance and water supply planning to maximize stormwater capture for water quality and water supply (e.g., actions 2.1.1)  
2.2 Maximize stormwater runoff capture and management for water supply (e.g., action 2.2.1)  
2.3 Enhance local water supply through groundwater recharge, diversion to sanitary sewer, and onsite reuse  
**Example Project Benefits:**

- Increase local supply through infiltration to the underlying groundwater basin
- Augment local supplies through reuse of a portion of treated diversions for on-site irrigation

**Improve Public Health (Goal C)**  
3.4 Create, enhance, and restore park and green space, especially in high-need communities (e.g., action 3.4.1, 3.4.2)  
3.5 Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., actions 3.5.1, 3.5.2)  
**Example Project Benefits:**

- New recreational features (community recreation building, outdoor plaza, loop walking trail with fitness stations, one and a half basketball courts, three handball courts, two multi-use sports fields with shade structures, bleachers, and lighting, splash pad, picnic area, public art, walkways, parking lot, and lighting and landscaping)
- New Areas of Canopy, Cooling, and Shading Surfaces (vegetation and permeable pavement) to reduce urban heat island effect

**Deliver Multi-Benefits with Nature-Based Solutions & Diverse Projects (Goal E, F, G)**  
4.2 Deliver nature-based, multi-benefit Projects and Program that improve water quality while addressing community priorities and concerns (e.g., action 4.2.1)  
**Example Project Benefits:**

- Nature-based water treatment leveraging soil as a natural filter
- Above-ground green infrastructure includes bioretention planters and drought-tolerant, native plant species, which help filter pollutants, reduce irrigation needs, and improve habitat quality



See Section 5.2.1.11,  
Figure 5-34

# Questions?

## Discussion Questions

How do you *expect* the projects submitted next July to incorporate the strategies you helped create and support progress toward the targets set out in the plans?

What are you *most hopeful* to see from applicants for IP, SS, and TRP in your WASC? Program-wide?





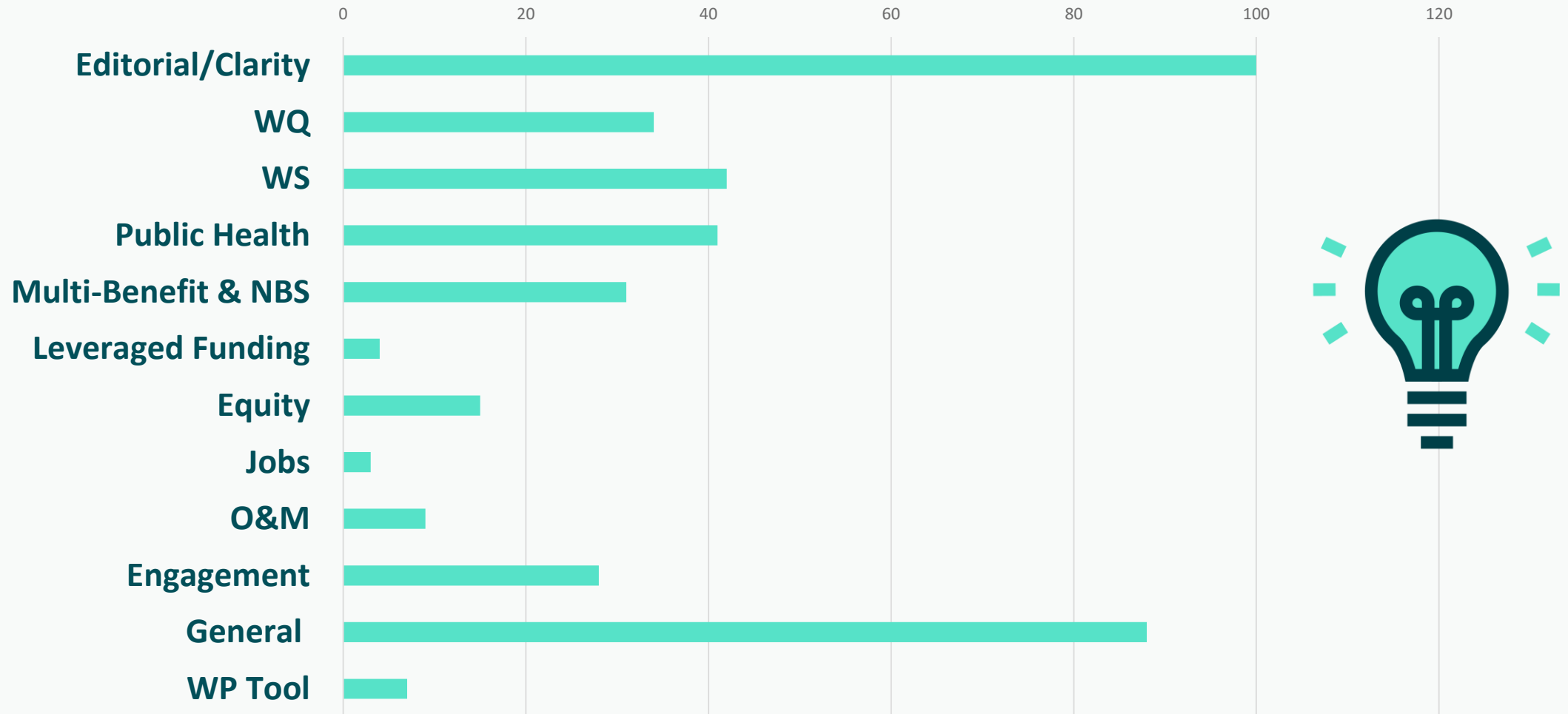
## Public Comment Summary

- **Received over 30 submissions**
  - ROC and WASC Members
  - Watershed Coordinators
  - Town Councils, Municipalities, CBOs, and Individuals
  - County Departments
- Received +400 individual comments
- General Comments on all plans
- Comments on specific Watershed Area's Draft Plans
- Planning themes most referenced:
  - Water Quality
  - Nature-Based Solutions
  - Water Supply



## Program-wide Comments Summary

### COMMENTS BY PLANNING THEMES



## Program-wide Comments Summary

### COMMENTS BY INITIAL PLAN CHAPTER





## Key Themes from Public Comments

**Positive Feedback**

**Editorial & Technical Revisions for Clarity / Consistency**

**Project Funding & Prioritization**

**Equity & Community Benefits**

**Metrics & Reporting**

**Nature-Based Solutions, Greening & Resilience**

**Process Improvements**

**Education & Outreach**



“**Excellent job** of pulling overarching goals from various county plans (PNA+, County WaterPlan, etc.) and then allocating the percentage that should be accomplished by the SCWP as targets.”

“...we commend the County for the **extensive effort** that went into preparing these plans and advancing water quality, equity, and community engagement.”

“The Initial L.A. County Watershed Planning document is beautiful and is **thoughtful** at integrating a variety of long-term concerns...”

“...the roll-out of the Draft Initial Watershed Plans and the new Planning Tool represent an historic milestone in the timeline of the Safe, Clean Water Program. We congratulate the Watershed Planning Section on completion of this **Herculean task** and appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.”

“I am **impressed** by the iterative planning process and this document. A lot of material was pulled together and synthesized, with the plan to continue to update it.”



## LSGR Initial Watershed Plan - Comments Summary

### HIGH-LEVEL COMMENT TOPICS

- Groundwater recharge constraints
- Targeted infiltration opportunities
- Potential risks of shallow infiltration
- Language clarifications and enhancements

### COMMENTS BY PLANNING THEMES

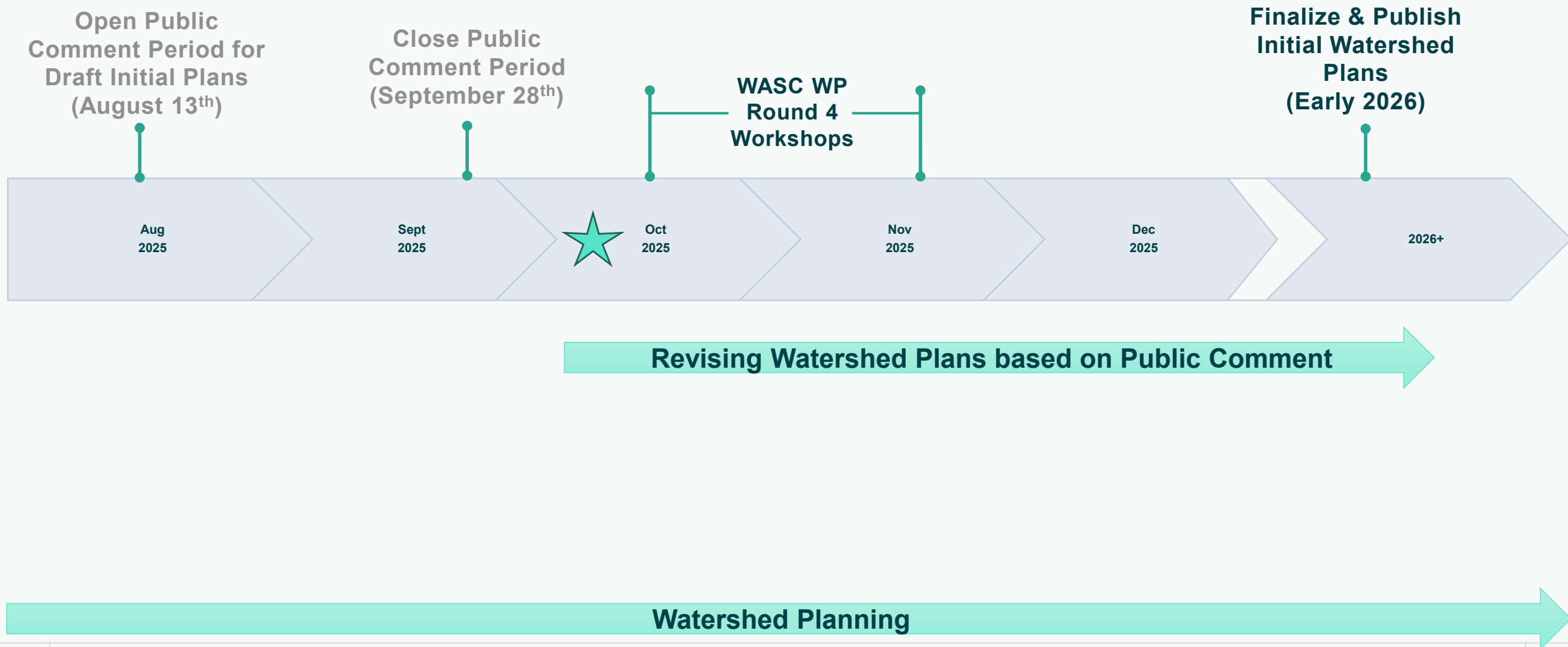
- WQ
- WS
- Multi-Benefit & NBS





# Questions?

# SCW Program Watershed Planning Timeline



# Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact

[WatershedPlanning@PW.LACounty.gov](mailto:WatershedPlanning@PW.LACounty.gov)