

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM
PRESENTATION DATE

Watershed Planning

WASC Round 4 Engagement

Santa Clara River WASC
October 16, 2025

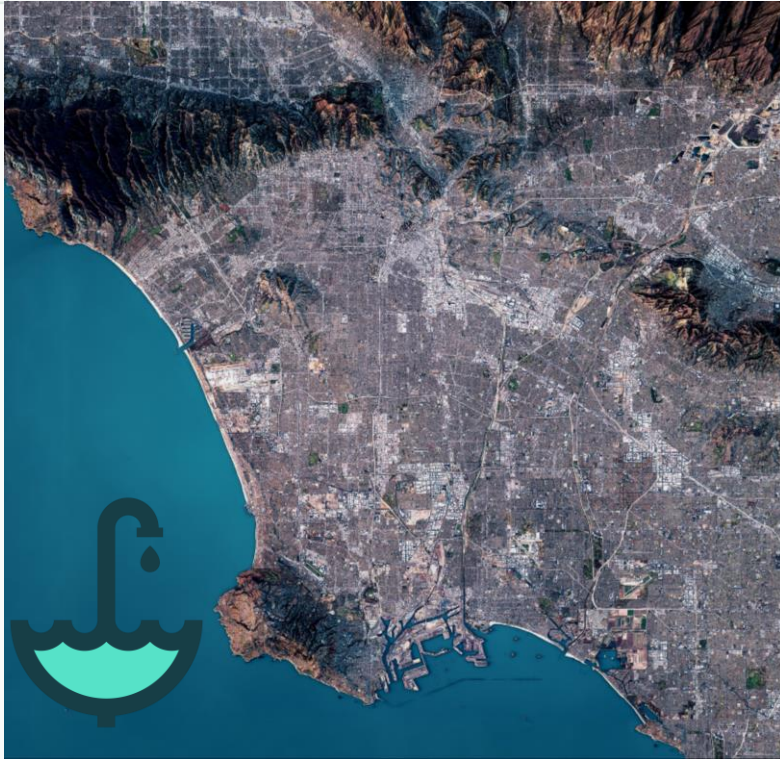


What We're Covering Today

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

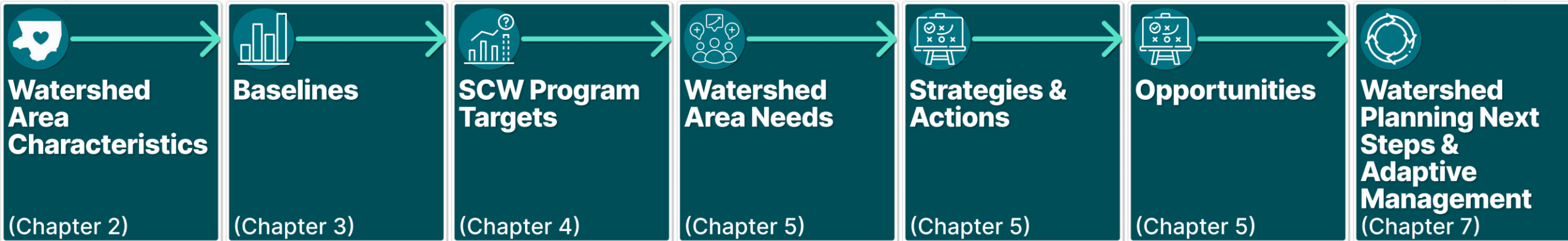


Making Plans for Everyone

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

Watershed Planning 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

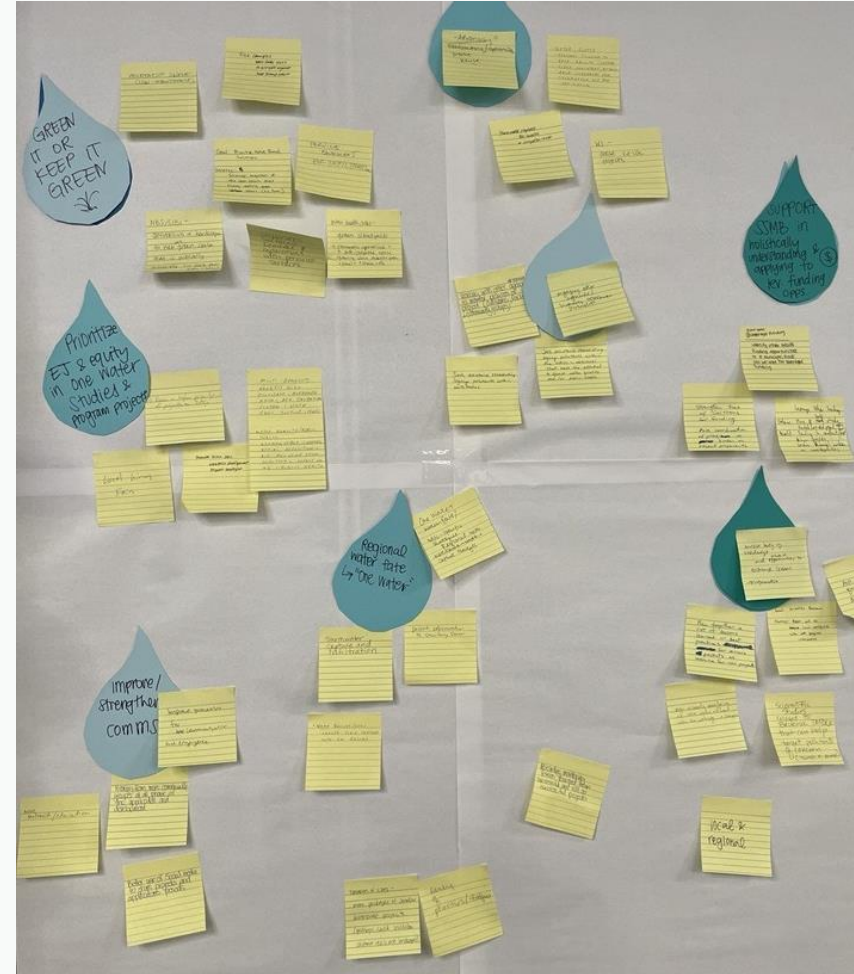


**As defined by the Watershed Planning Process*

Aligning with your WASC

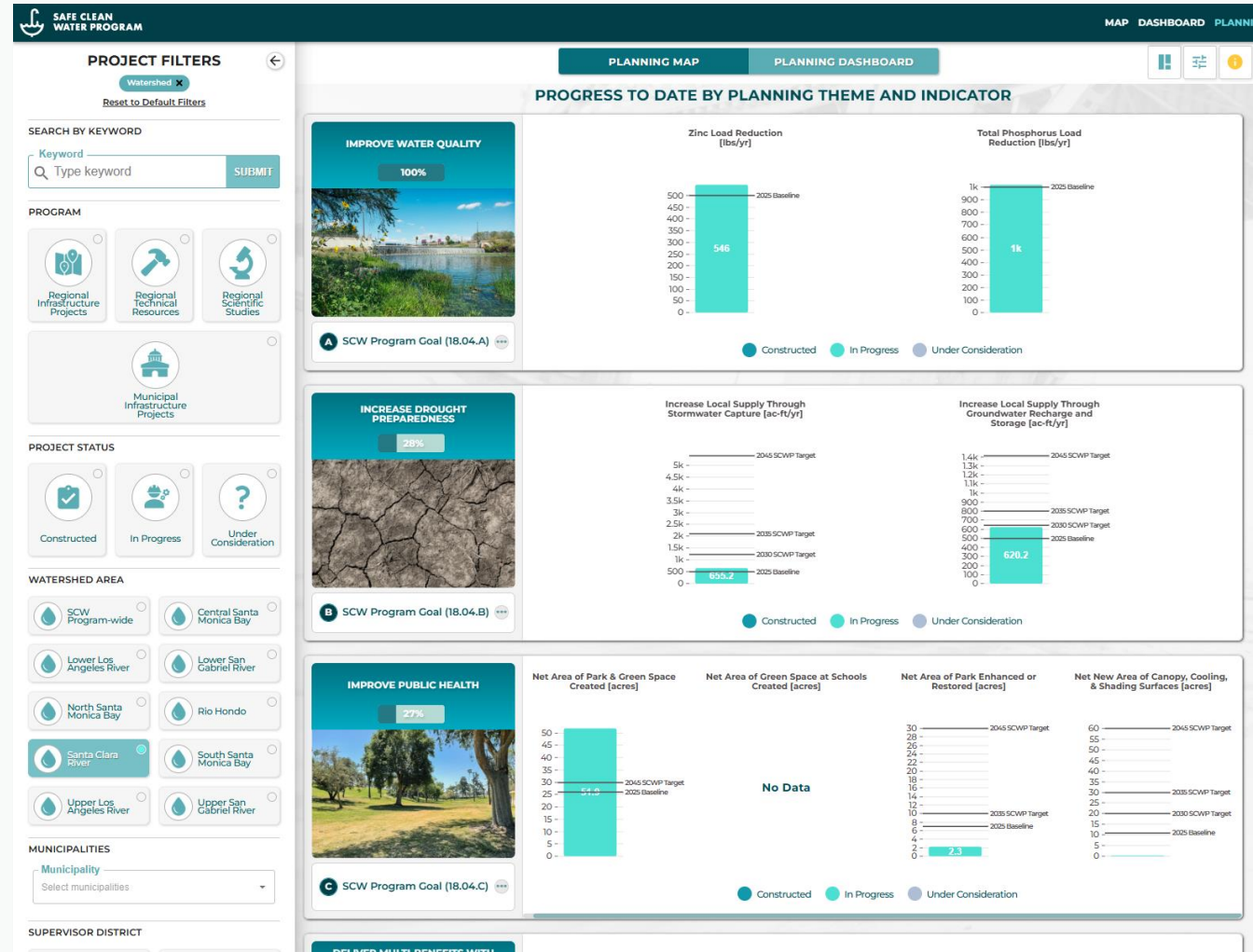
- **Listen and Gather**
 - Meeting 1 – Watershed Planning 101 and Priorities
 - Meeting 2 – (Re)aligned Priorities
- **Update and Check In**
 - Meeting 3 – Priorities Realized in the Initial Plans
 - 45-Day Public Review Period
 -  **Meeting 4 – IWP Presentation and Public Comments Overview**

[Appendix C. Interested Party Engagement](#)

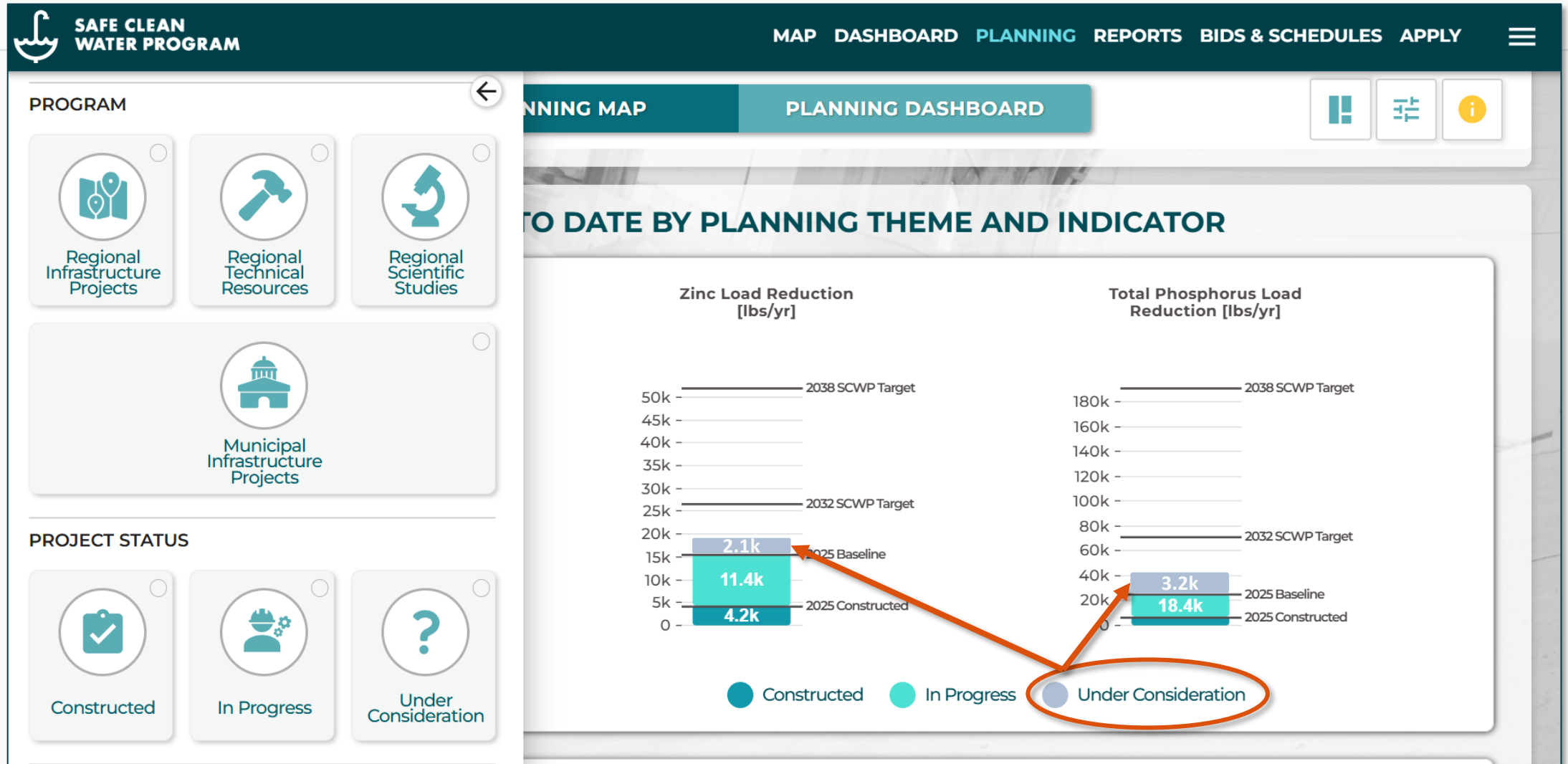


Santa Clara River Watershed Area

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

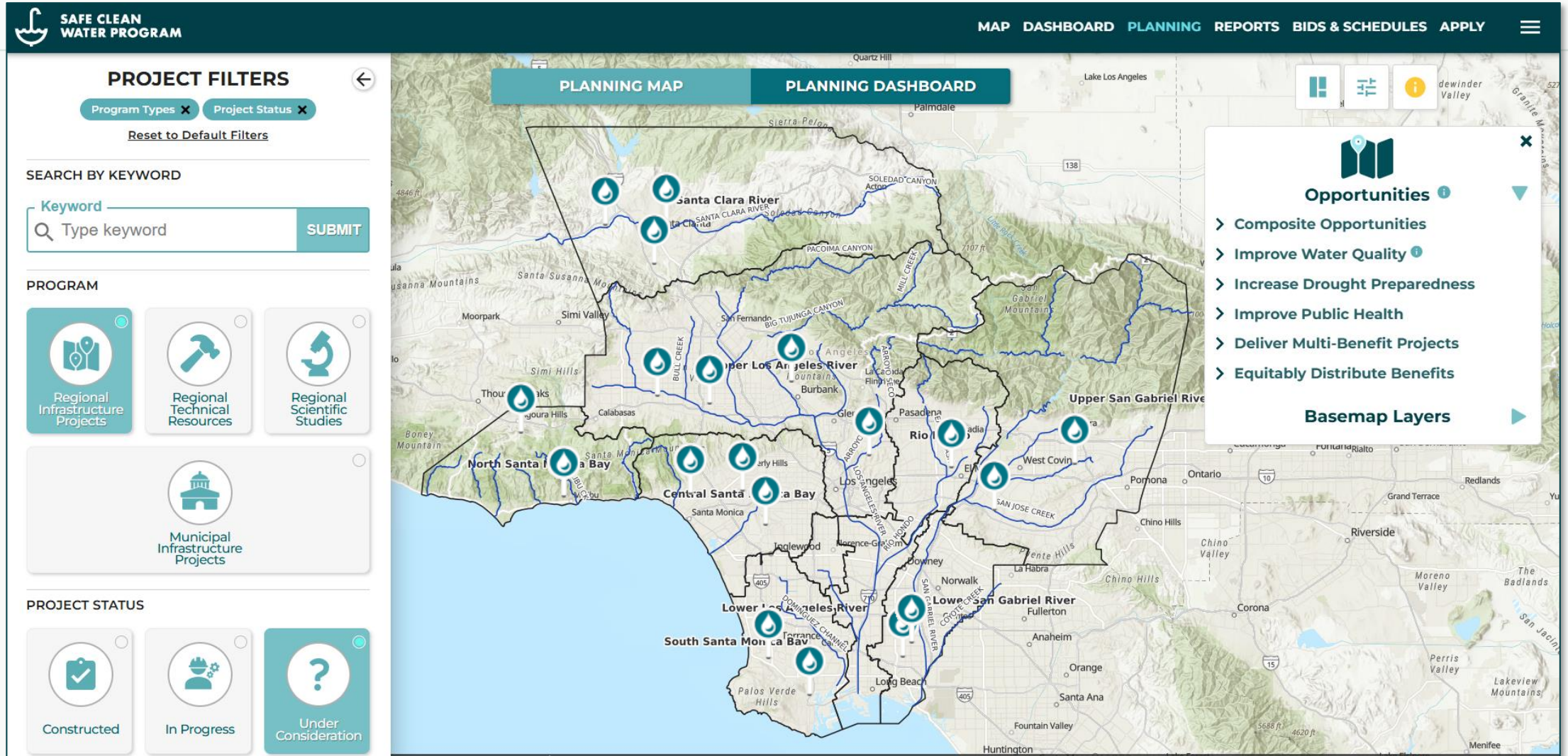


Using the Planning Dashboard to Evaluate Projects Under Consideration



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

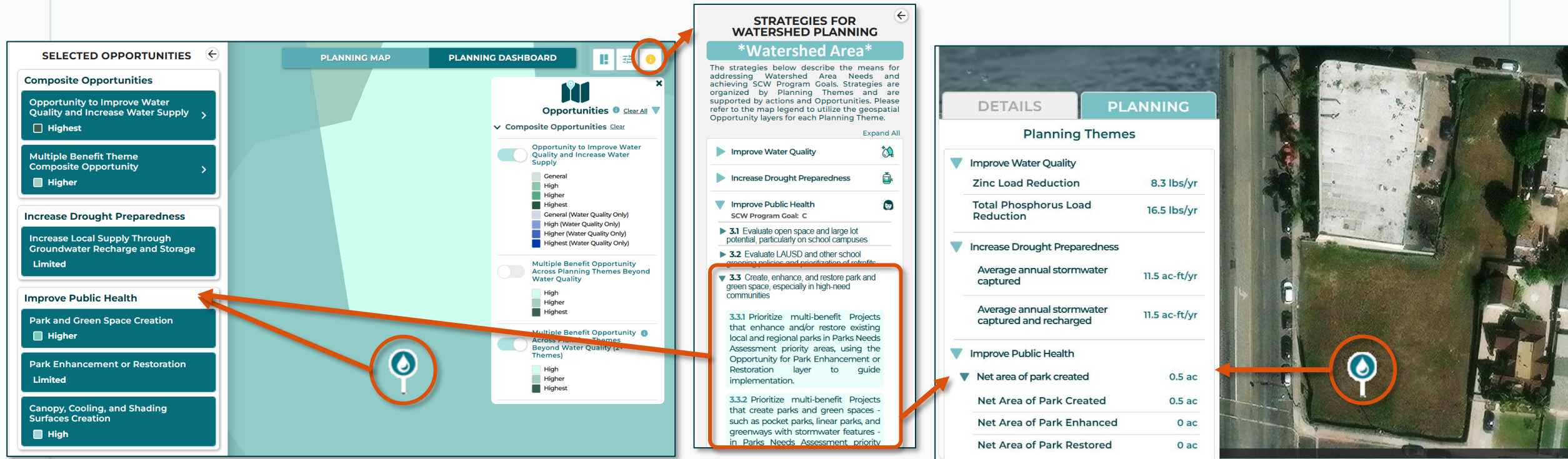
Basemap Layers

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

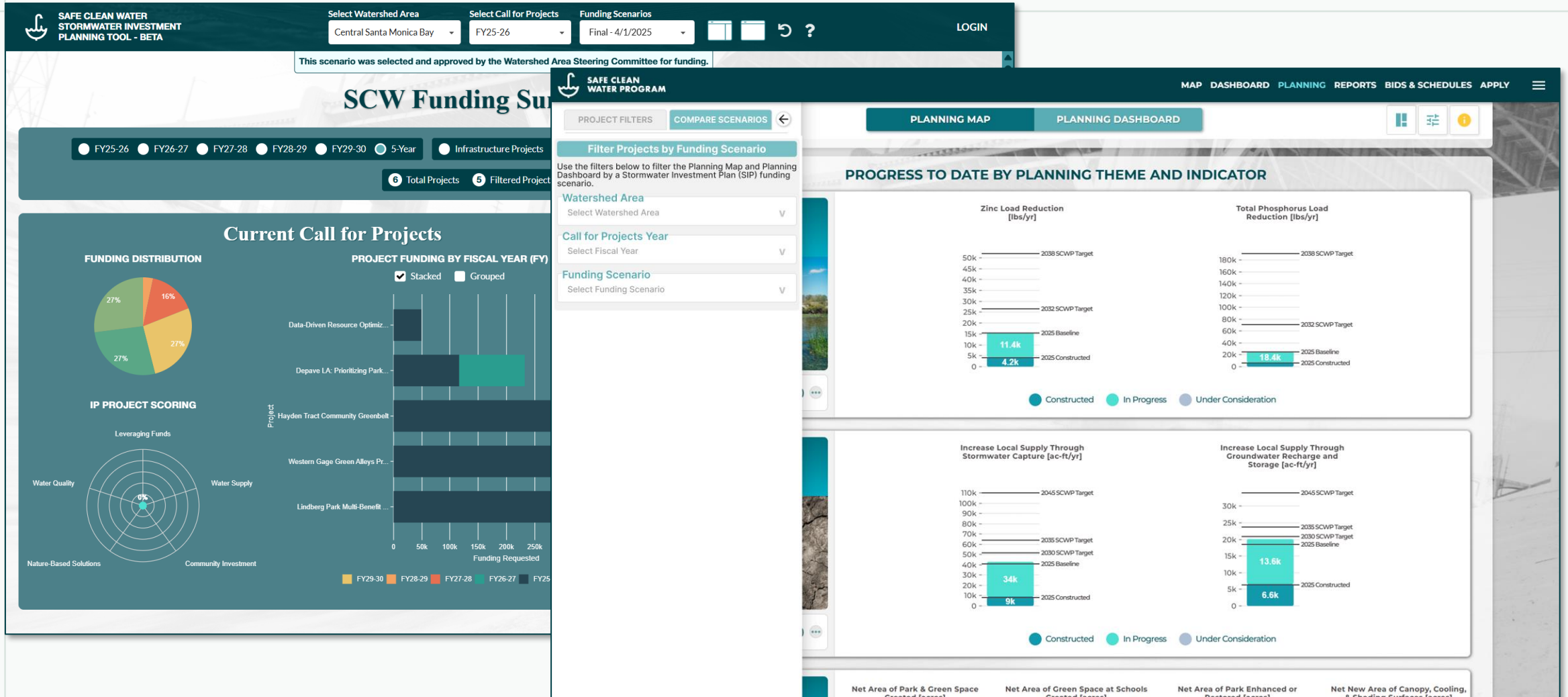


The screenshot displays the Watershed Planning Tool interface, which includes several key components:

- 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).
- 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 that provides a summary of the selected project's benefits and impacts. It includes a table of metrics and a detailed description of the project's goals and actions.
- DETAILS:** A panel on the far right that provides a detailed view of the project's benefits and impacts, including a table of metrics and a detailed description of the project's goals and actions.
- PLANNING THEMES:** A panel on the far right that provides a detailed view of the project's benefits and impacts, including a table of metrics and a detailed description of the project's goals and actions.

Orange arrows indicate the flow of information and interaction between these components, showing how a project is selected on the map and its details are then viewed in the various panels.

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.



Santa Clara River Watershed Area

Example for Aligning Projects with the Initial Watershed Plan

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Strategies and Actions

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

Via Princessa Park and Regional BMP Project

Current Phase: Planning

Project Description:
The Via Princessa Park and Regional BMP Project will deliver a range of benefits to the local community and environment. This Project includes both **underground and above-ground improvements to improve water quality, augment groundwater storage, and provide community benefits**. The multi-benefit Project will create a new regional park, regional groundwater infiltration BMP, and restore riverine habitat. The main Project component is the installation of stormwater diversion infrastructure, subsurface infiltration system, and pre-treatment components for a tributary area of 998 acres to recharge the underlying Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin. The Project will also **create park facilities**—such as natural play area, sports fields, and shaded gathering areas—and **utilize nature-based features** like bioswales, permeable pavement, and restoration of the riverine habitat of Honby Channel will also **boost local biodiversity** and provide environmental education opportunities.

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:

- 84% and 89% bacteria and copper reduction, respectively
- 32.15 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, 2.1.2)

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 by up to 715 acre-feet/year through infiltration to the underlying groundwater basin
- High priority stormwater infiltration project identified in 2015 City of Santa Clara Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Improve Public Health (Goal C)

3.3 Enhance and restore park and green space, especially in high-need communities (e.g., action 3.3.1, 3.3.2)

3.4 Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., actions 3.4.1, 3.4.2)

Example Project Benefits:

- Natural play area
- New Areas of Canopy, Cooling, and Shading Surfaces (vegetation and permeable pavement) to reduce urban heat island effect
- 15-acres of park space created, over 300 shade trees, and 4.6 acres of new vegetation

Deliver Multi-Benefits with Nature-Based Solutions & Diverse Projects (Goal E, F, G)

4.4 Deliver nature-based, multi-benefit Projects and Program that improve water quality while addressing community priorities and concerns (e.g., action 4.4.1)

Example Project Benefits:

- Nature-based playground
- Riverine habitat restoration in Honby Channel with 22 distinct native species & respective educational opportunity
- Habitat created through green infrastructure features (bioswales)

See Section 5.2.1.11,
Figure 5-33

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?



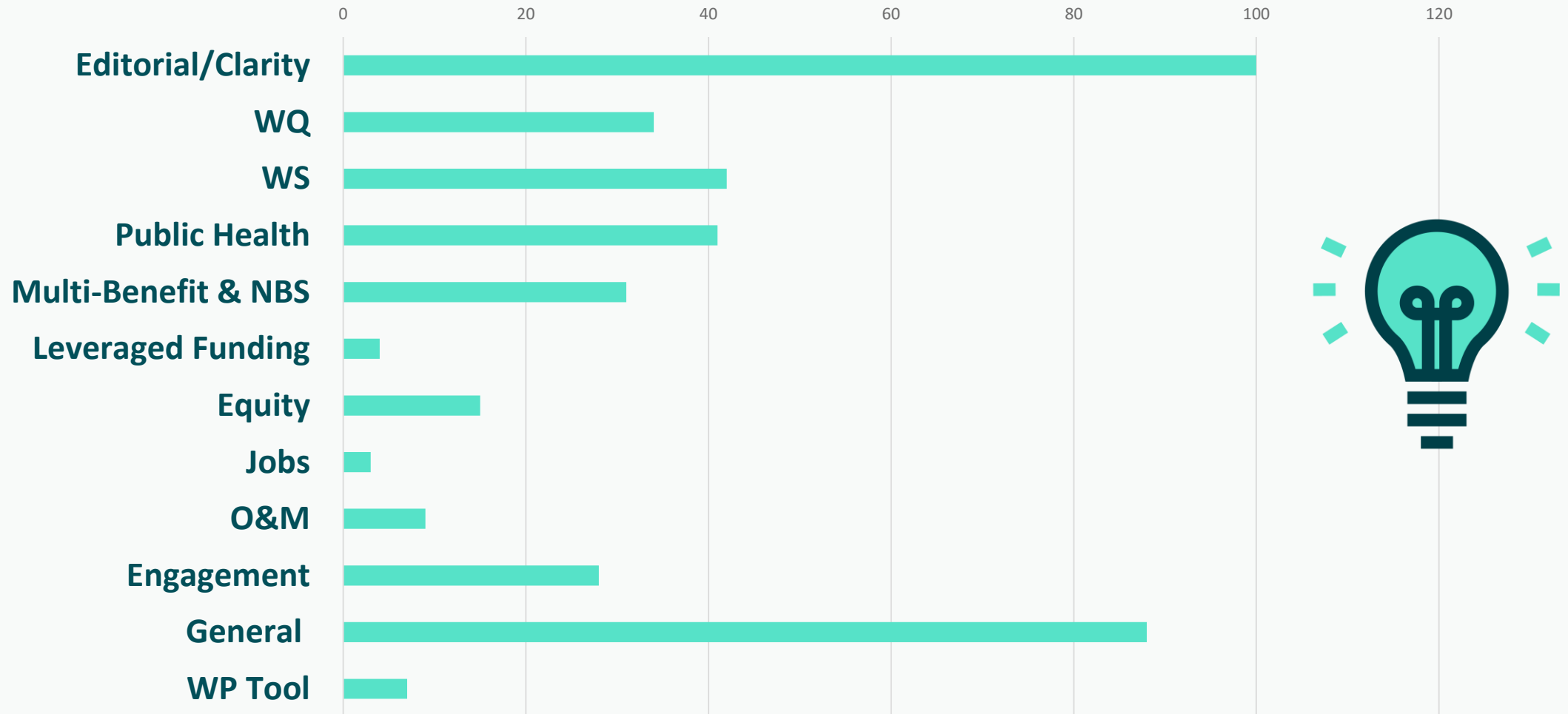
Public Comment Summary

- **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.”



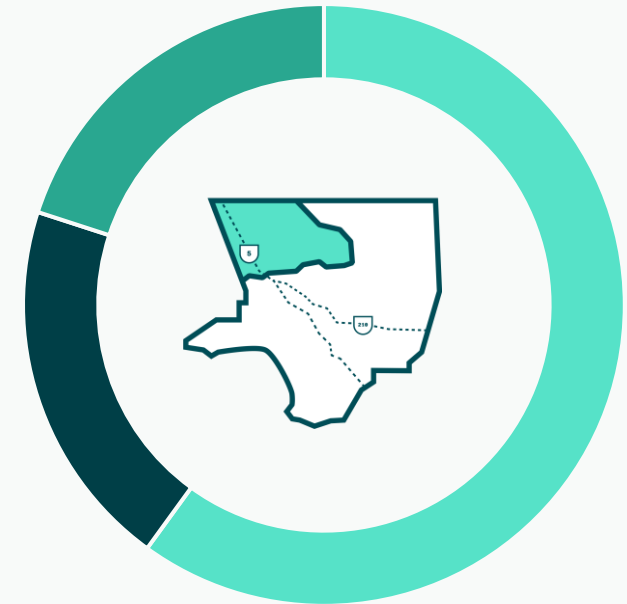
SCR Initial Watershed Plan - Comments Summary

HIGH-LEVEL COMMENT TOPICS

- Clarify school greening targets and strategy applicability
- Improve rural community engagement
- Expand equity and Program benefits

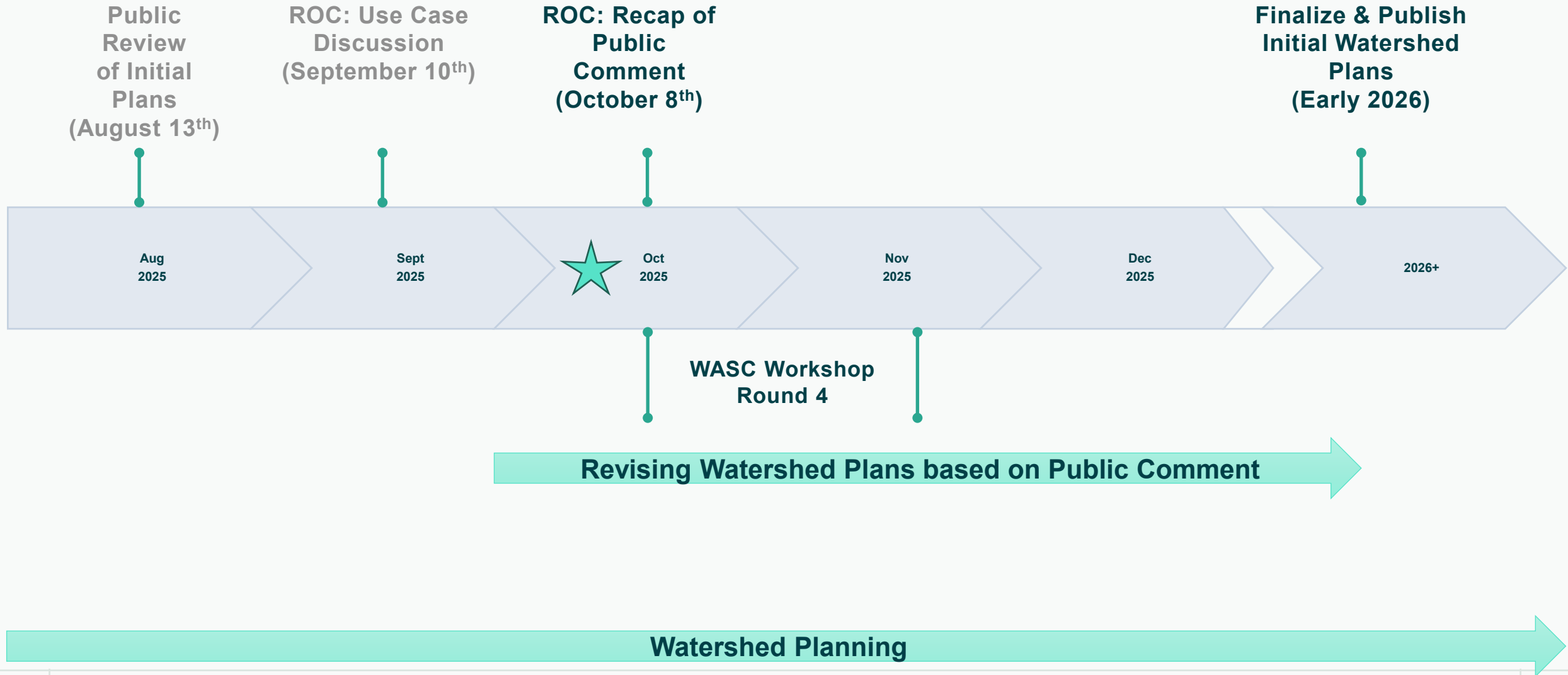
COMMENTS BY PLANNING THEMES

- Public Health
- Equity
- Engagement



Questions?

SCW Program Watershed Planning Timeline



Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact

WatershedPlanning@PW.LACounty.gov