

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM  
PRESENTATION DATE

# Watershed Planning

WASC Round 4 Engagement

Rio Hondo WASC  
October 21, 2025

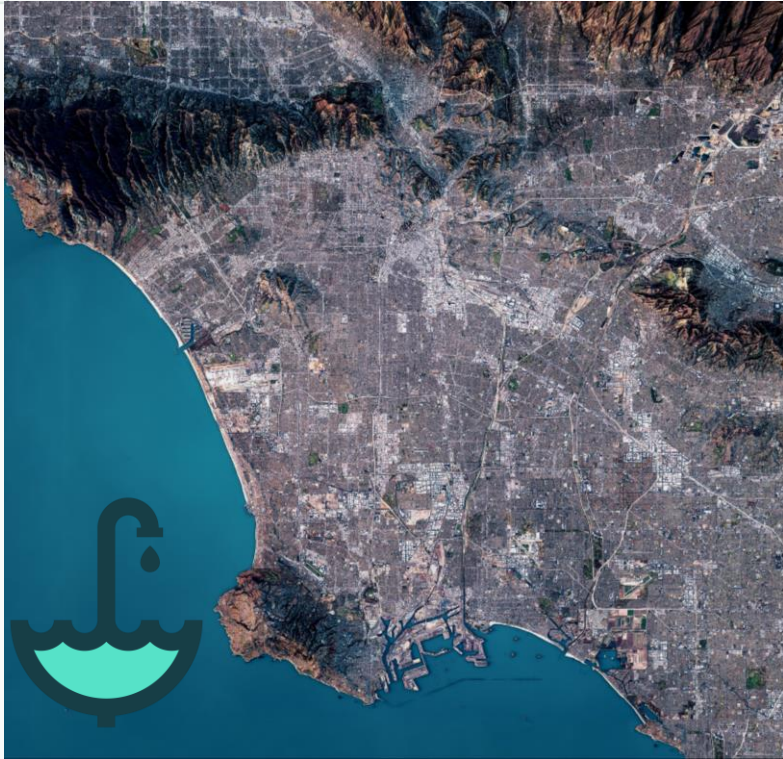


# What We're Covering Today

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



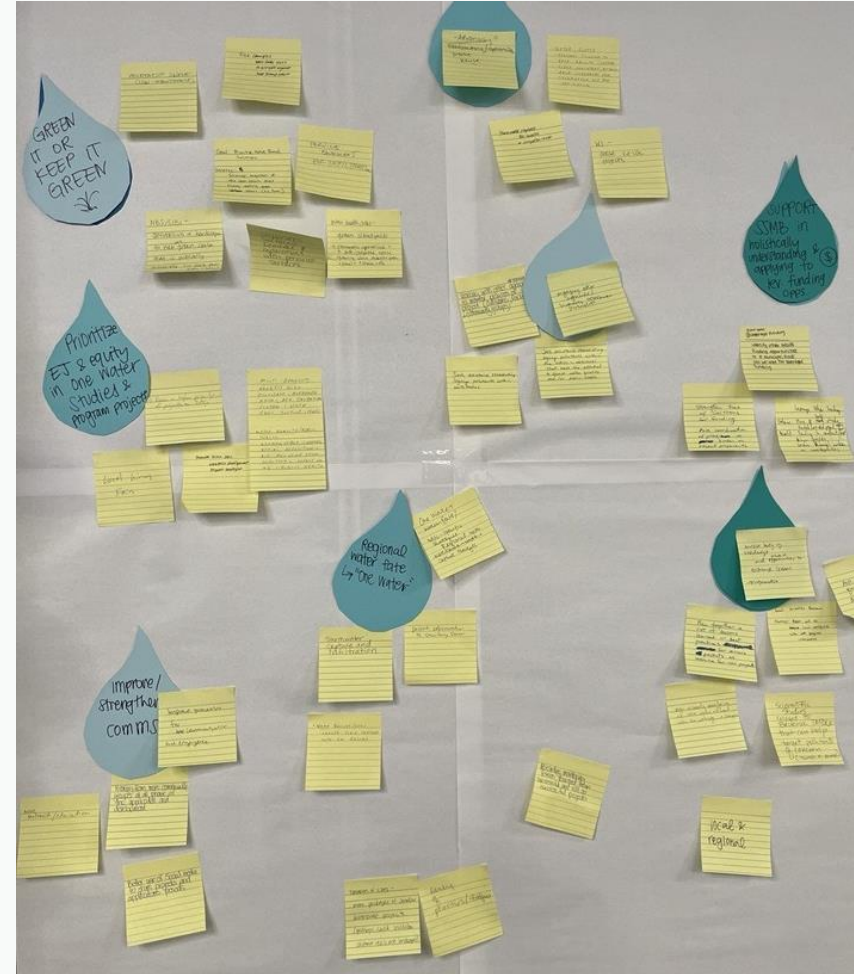
### Making Plans for Everyone

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

# Aligning with your WASC

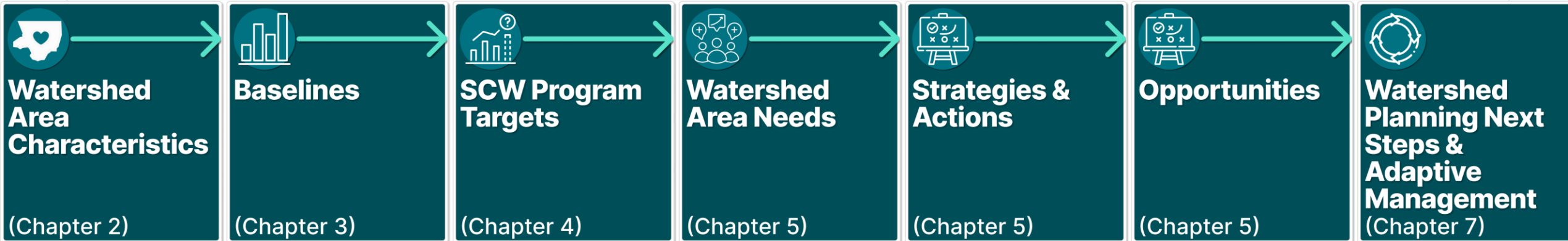
- **Listen and Gather**
  - Meeting 1 – Watershed Planning 101 and Priorities
  - Meeting 2 – (Re)aligned Priorities
- **Update and Check In**
  - Meeting 3 – Priorities Realized in the Initial Plans
  - 45-Day Public Review Period
  -  **Meeting 4 – IWP Presentation and Public Comments Overview**

[Appendix C. Interested Party Engagement](#)



## 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

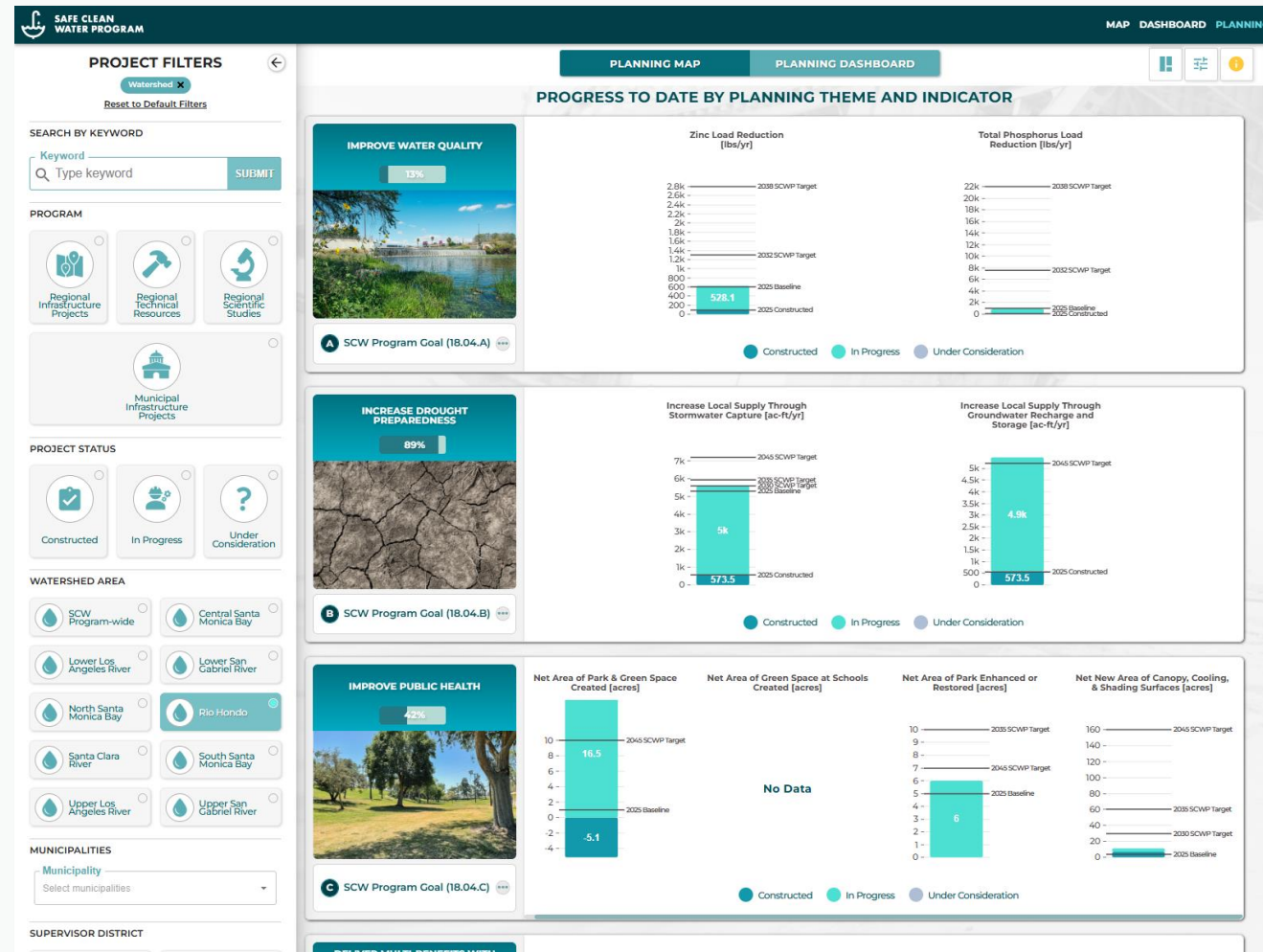
**WA Needs:** The difference between targets and baselines



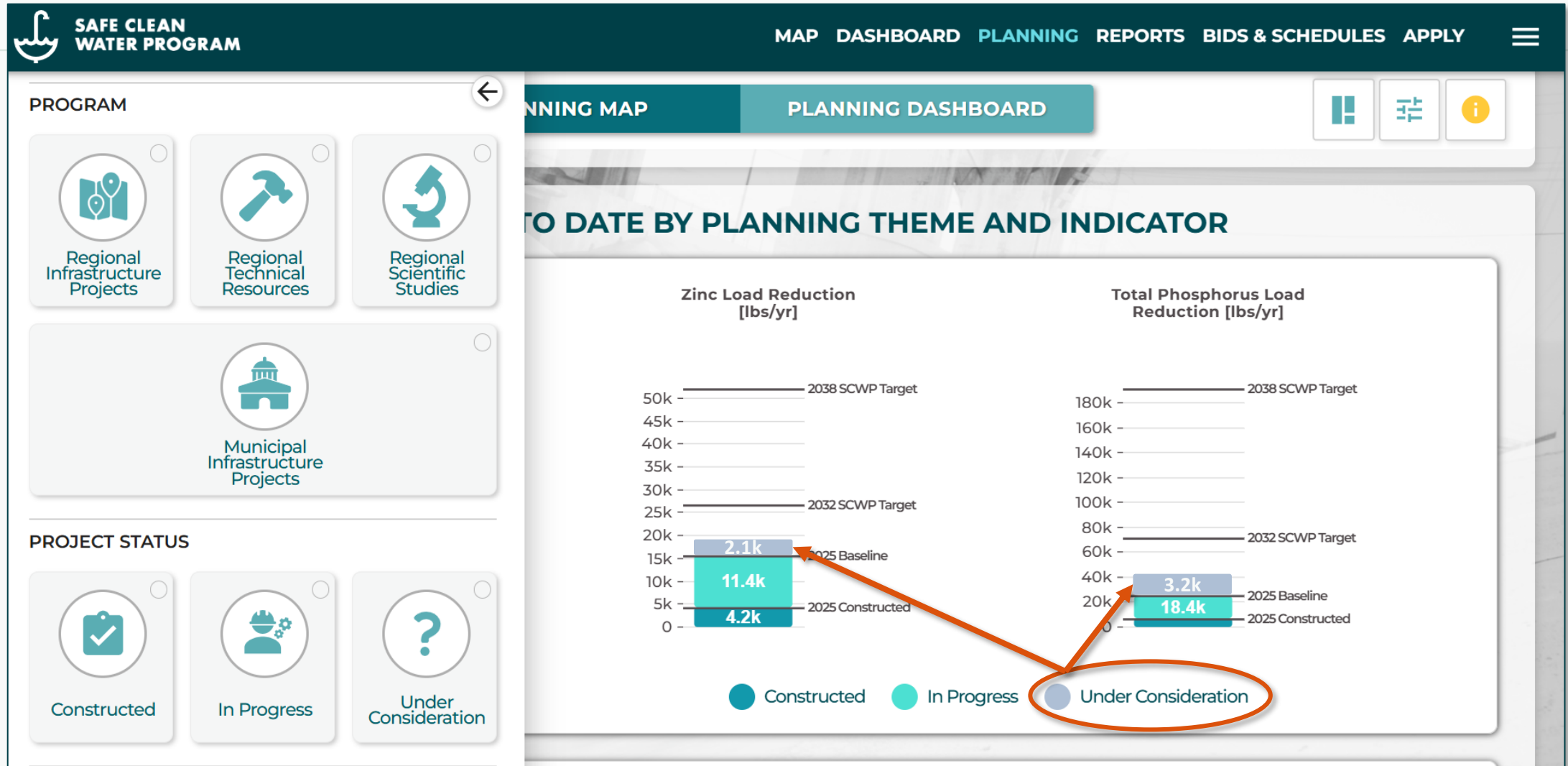
*\*As defined by the Watershed Planning Process*

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area

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

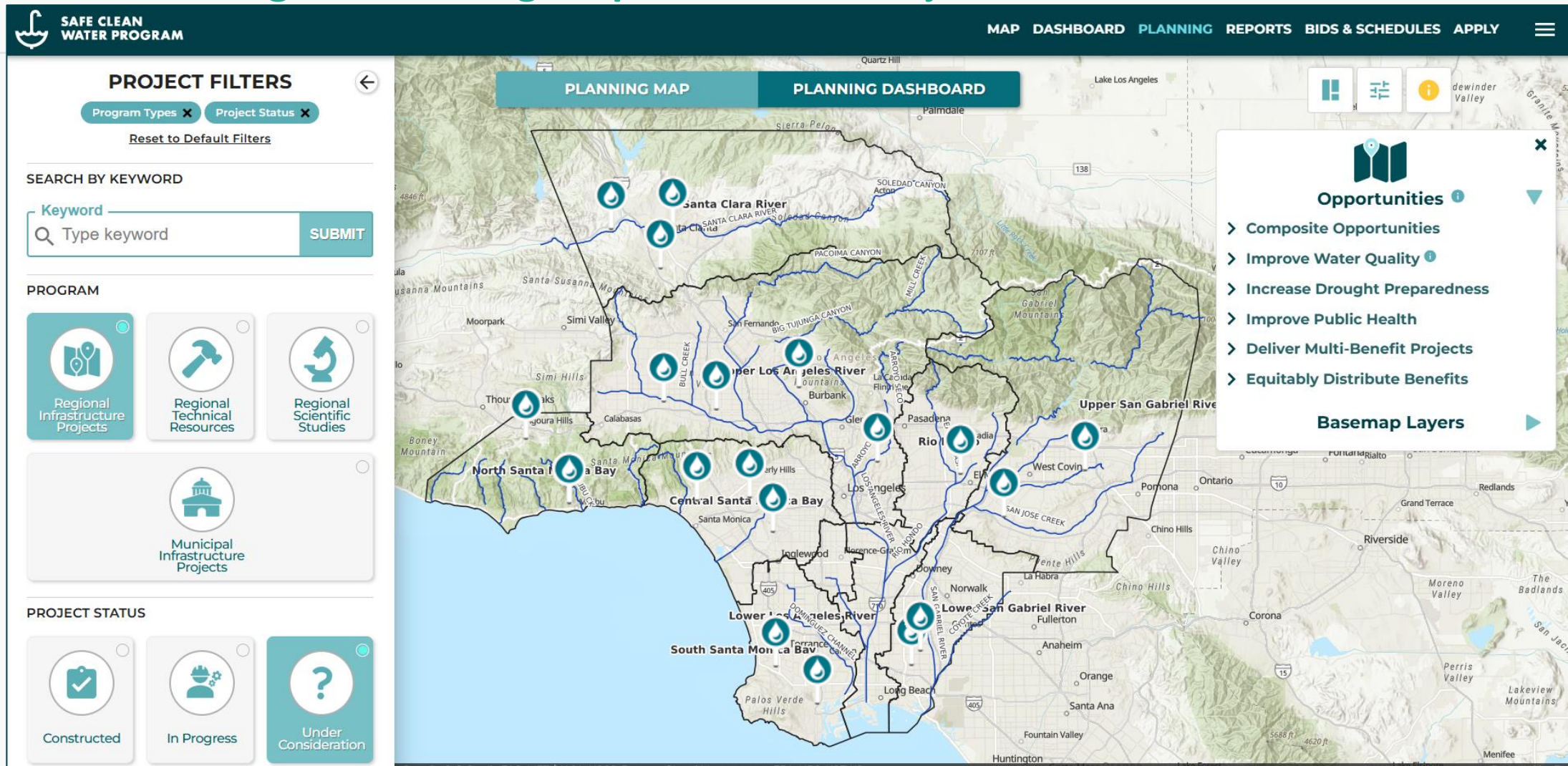


# Using the Planning Dashboard to Evaluate Projects Under Consideration



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

Q Type 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

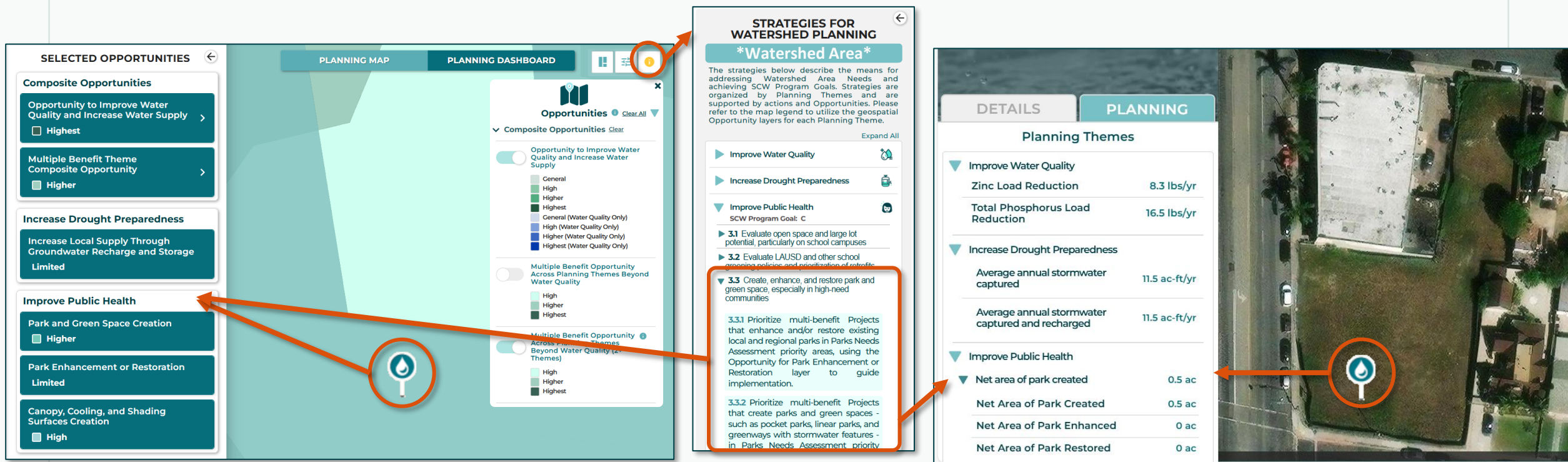
**Basemap Layers**

*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

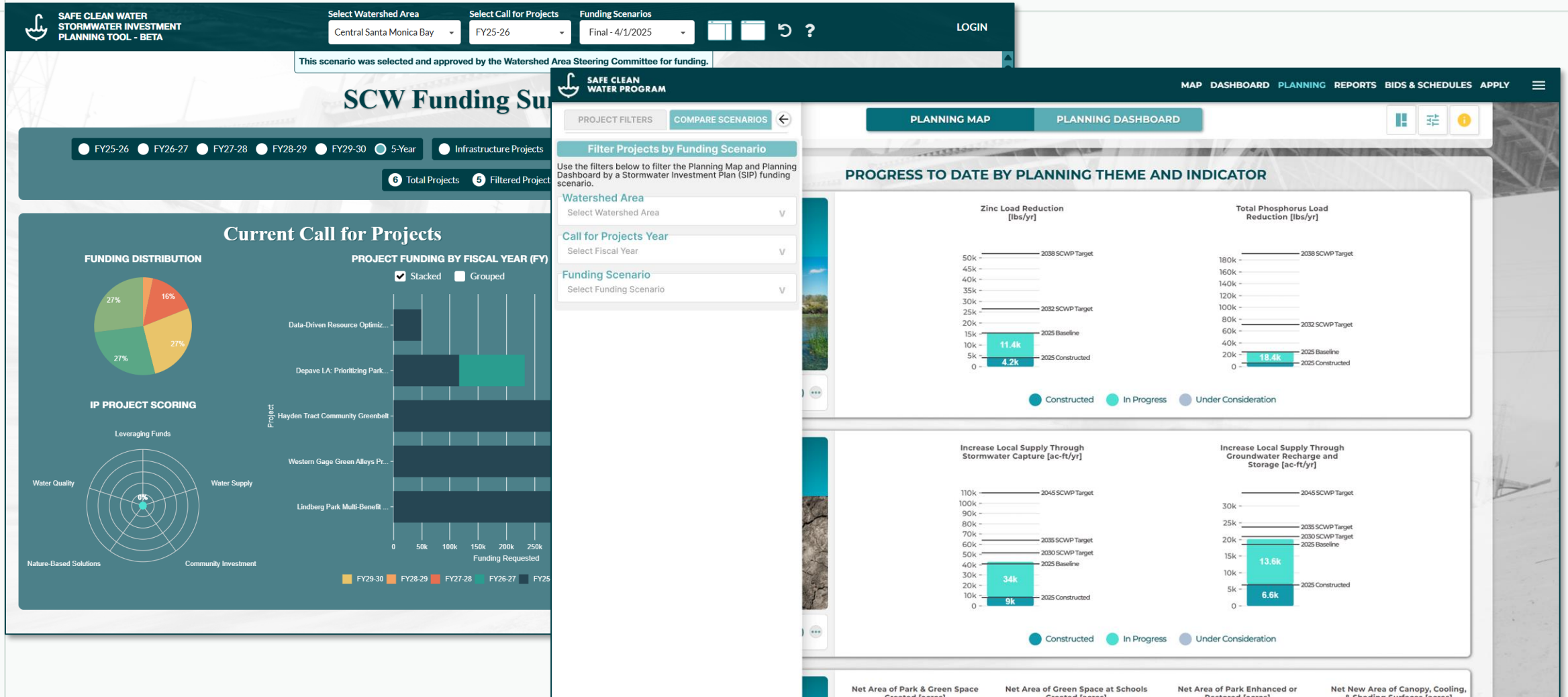


The screenshot displays the Watershed Planning Tool interface, which includes several key components:

- 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 various metrics and filters. A red circle highlights the 'Opportunities' section.
- STRATEGIES FOR WATERSHED PLANNING:** A panel on the right showing strategies for the Watershed Area. A red box highlights the '3.3 Create, enhance, and restore park and green space' strategy, which includes sub-points 3.3.1 and 3.3.2.
- DETAILS / PLANNING:** A panel on the right showing planning themes and their associated metrics. A red circle highlights the 'Net area of park created' metric.
- Aerial Map:** A large aerial photograph on the far right showing a specific project location. A red circle highlights a specific project location on the map.

Arrows indicate the flow of information and interaction between these components, showing how a project location on the map is linked to specific strategies and metrics.

# 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 multiple 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.



# Rio Hondo Watershed Area

## Example for Aligning Projects with the Initial Watershed Plan


**Rio Hondo Watershed Area Strategies and Actions**


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



### Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project

**Current Phase: Design**

**Project Description:**

The Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project is a large-scale stormwater capture and habitat revitalization effort located at Peck Road Water Conservation Park. The Project will intercept and treat runoff from a 10,600-acre tributary drainage area before it reaches the Rio Hondo, using an underground infiltration and treatment system designed to store, filter, and infiltrate stormwater. The main Project components is a series of treatment wetlands and infiltration recharge basins that will pretreat, settle, and infiltrate the pollutant laden loads from the Sawpit Wash channel prior to entry into Peck Road Park Lake. Above-ground improvements include the installation of drought-tolerant native landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, and nature-based features to enhance habitat for birds and wildlife. The Project also adds multi-benefit recreational infrastructure, including new trails connecting to the Rio Hondo Bike Path and interpretive signage to support public education and environmental awareness.

**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
- ~41 ac-ft of 24-hour Project storage capacity

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**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 nearly 550 acre-feet/year through infiltration to the underlying groundwater basin
- Identified in the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Enhanced Watershed Management Program

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**Improve Public Health (Goal C)**

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

3.3 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:**

- Enhanced recreational features (water features, walking paths, connection to Rio Hondo Bike Path)
- New Areas of Canopy, Cooling, and Shading Surfaces (vegetation and permeable pavement) to reduce urban heat island effect
- Conversion of impervious lots into public park space

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

4.3 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:**

- Wetland restoration
- Permeable pavements and bioretention within the new parking lots and pathways



**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?



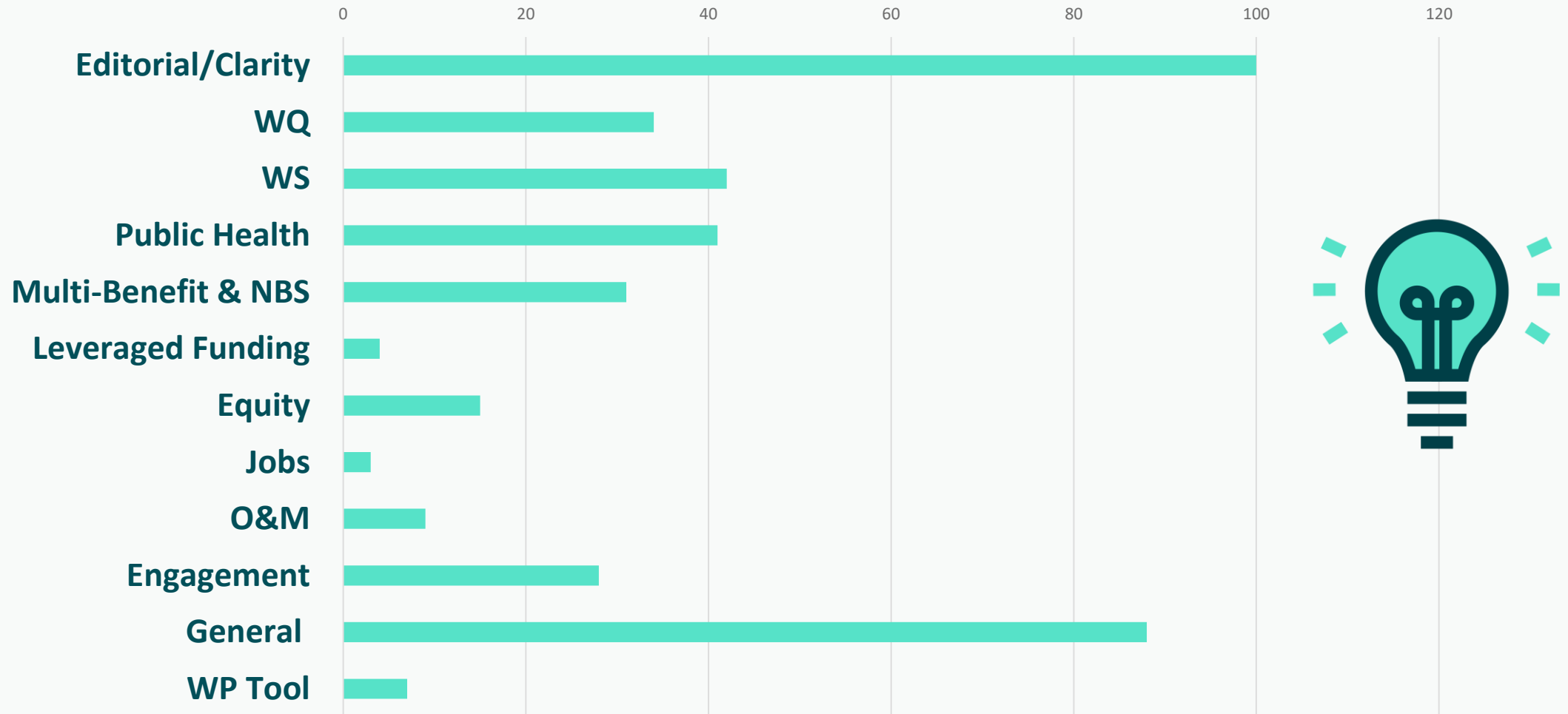
## Public Comment Summary

- **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.”



# RH Draft Initial Watershed Plan - Specific Comments Summary

## HIGH-LEVEL COMMENT TOPICS

- Integration of Municipal plans and priorities
- Technical accuracy & map corrections
- Clarity, readability & visual improvements
- Data consistency & internal alignment
- Engagement, equity & strategy clarifications

## COMMENTS BY PLANNING THEMES

■ WQ

■ WS

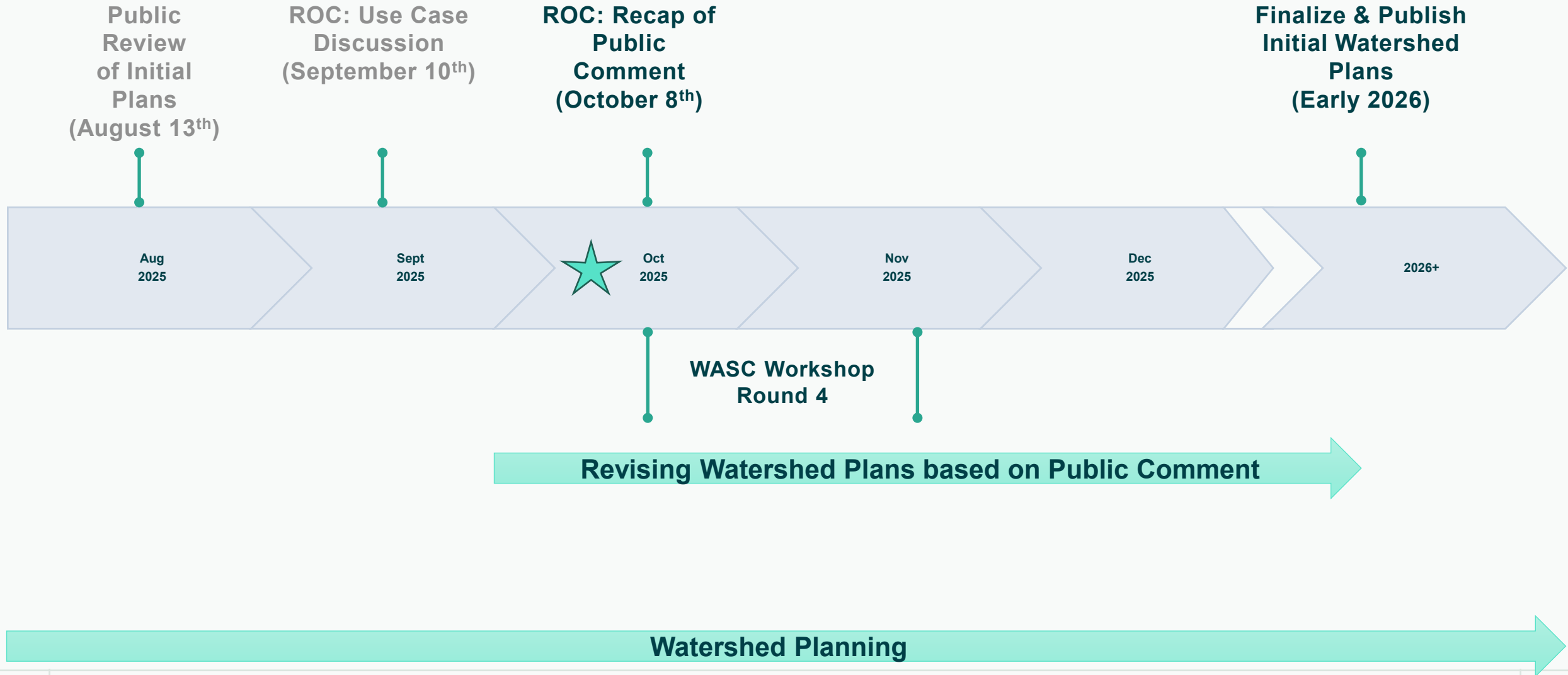
■ Multi-Benefit & NBS

■ O&M

■ Engagement



# SCW Program Watershed Planning Timeline



# Questions?

# Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact

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