



Culver Median “Del Rey Way”

Funding Program (Technical Resources Program)

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) / Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR)

Ravi Sankaran / Deb Gregory

Oct. 27, 2025



Project Overview

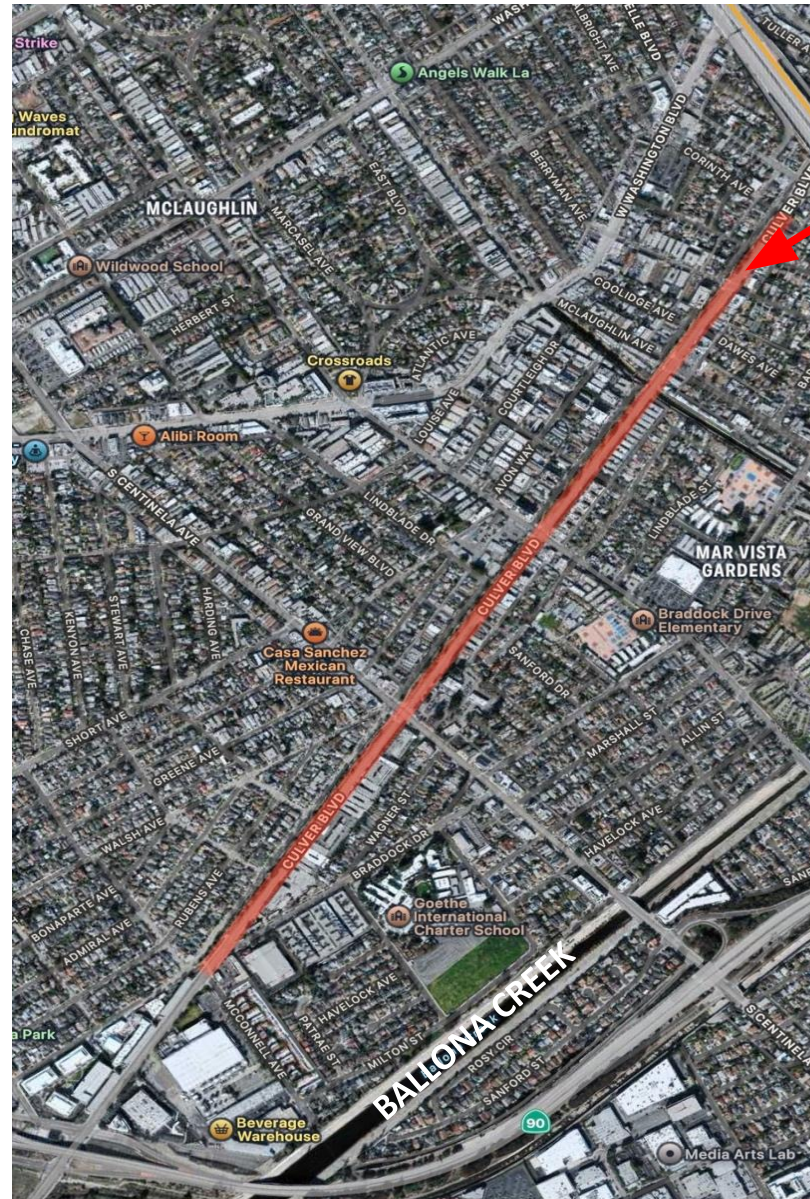
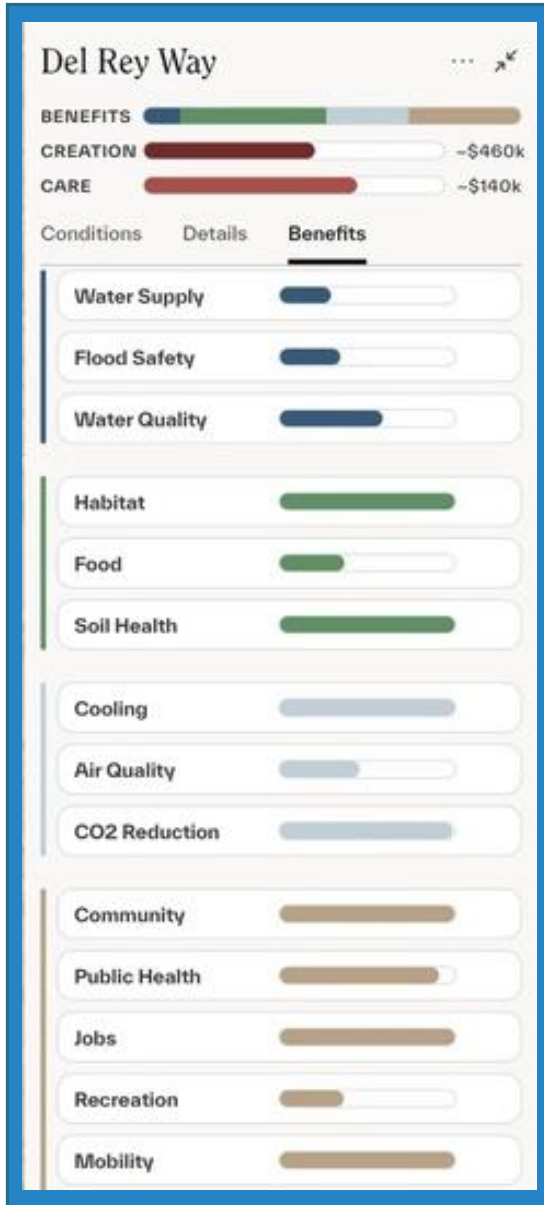
Transforming the Culver Median into a greenway that captures runoff, restores nature, and brings climate resilience to Del Rey and beyond

- While stormwater capture and cleaning has high potential in this location, the initial inspiration for this project was its scale, the location, its degraded aesthetic, and the excellent opportunity for community improvements. This site is a defining entry into the Del Rey neighborhood that can be a major marker for us.
- We are currently applying for TRP funding of \$400,000





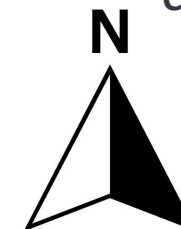
Project Location- 1 of 2



“Del Rey Way”
Project location



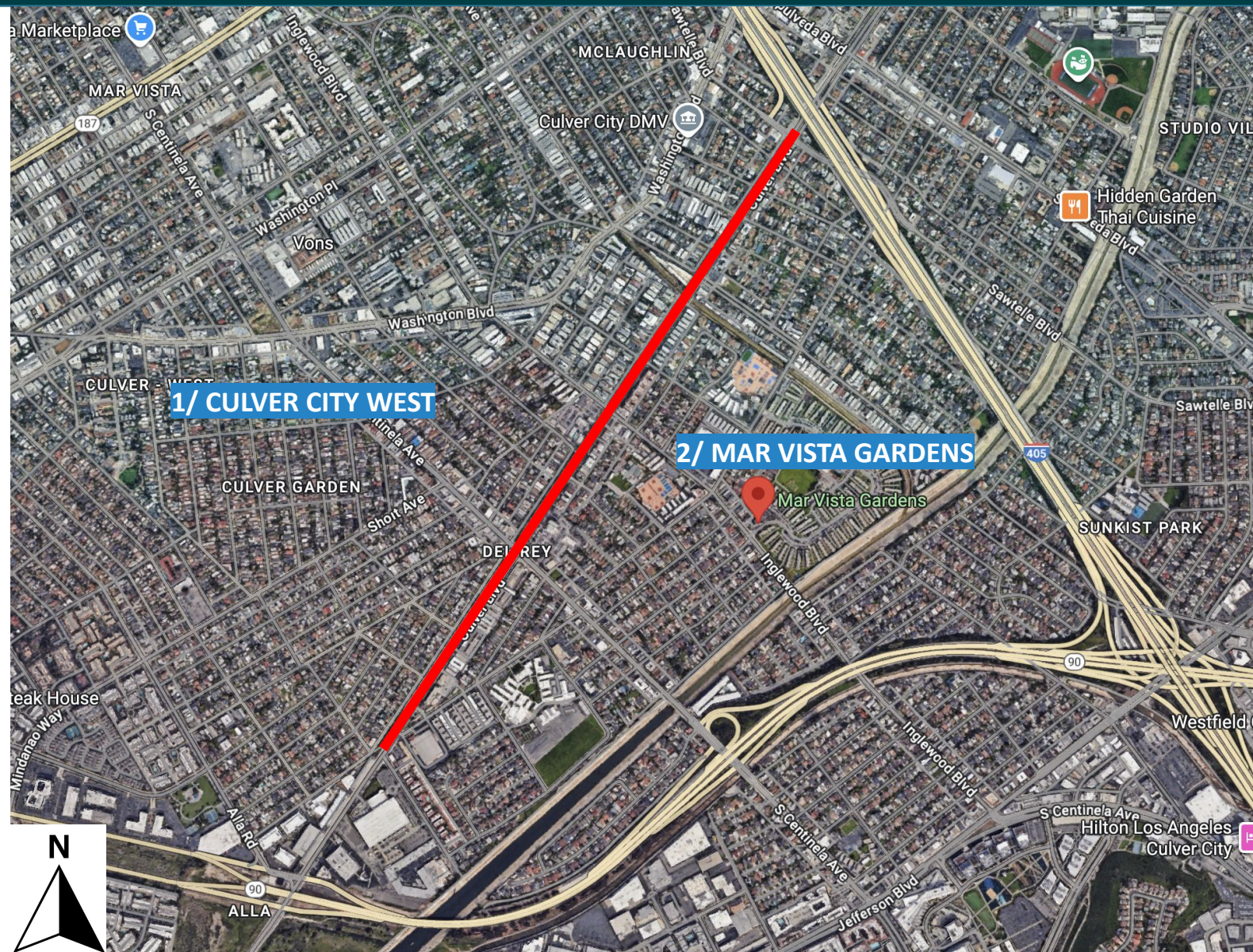
Central Santa Monica Bay





Project Location- 2 of 2

DEL REY WAY is centered between 2 disadvantaged communities: at Culver City West along Washington blvd., and Mar Vista Gardens, an 1,800 person Housing Project in Del Rey



location of this site relative to adjacent disadvantaged communities



Project Background – 1 of 2

- This 1-1/2 mile long slice of former trolley land cuts through the center of Del Rey; a community that many locals don't know exists! This project will create greater engagement through new beautification and safety elements and may even put it on the map. The high stormwater capture potential of this site is of paramount value to our groups but the initial driving force was community-centered and arose out of a desire for more communal spaces in Del Rey. There are great opportunities to connect to adjacent transit paths from West Adams in the east to the Pacific Coast bike path through Ballona Creek or Marina del Rey.
- Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) initiated this project and through community events they reached out to Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR) to form a partnership. Del Rey residents seek more natural spaces with shade trees and safer biking/walking access. We have gathered great community interest through many key community events.
- The project is not yet included in a regional water management plan, but it aligns with the Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) and Greater LA Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) goals.



An annual Del Rey NC event: Del Rey Day!



Project Background – 2 of 2

The project will help the City of Los Angeles achieve its stormwater capture, cleaning and retention goals. It also helps with mobility plans. Additionally, the site boundary is already defined and therefore likely to be a less costly renovation since there is no road work or surface level alignment project projected.

some of our local
community members
help beautify our
neighborhood



This is one of few green infrastructure opportunities near Ballona Creek in a DAC-adjacent, high-heat index corridor. It is designed to directly benefit these communities through improved water quality, reduction of heat island effect via greater shade & hardscaping reduction/use of native grasses, added community gathering & recreation spaces, and improved car-free transit access through connection from *new Overland Ave. mobility improvements, West Adams, & Culver City bike paths to Ballona Creek at McConnell Ave. or on to Marina del Rey/Venice/ocean bike path.*



Partners

- The Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) exists to be the voice of the Del Rey neighborhood to our City, County and other elected bodies to improve our community.
- Ballona Creek Renaissance is an over 25 year-old 501c3 that ‘CLEANS, GREENS, EDUCATES, ADVOCATES, & BEAUTIFIES the watershed area of Ballona Creek’. We do this through community cleanups, native plantings, plastic pollution policy change. Through 450 volunteers we divert up to 3 tons of trash from exiting the Ballona Creek annually.
- In the last year, we have gathered public comment on this project via tabling at Culver City Envirofest, 4 public cleanups, Fiesta La Ballona, and Del Rey Day community event. Also we have given tours of the bike path to show the potential opportunities at this site.
- We have letters of non-objection from the City of Los Angeles / LASAN and LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), the property owner.
- NOTE: We do not have a letter of concurrence from the Flood Control District nor have we engaged with vector control district about this project.



Partners



2025 cleanup event
with Mar Vista
Gardens

At the signing of The Interceptor,
we first spoke of the Culver
Median project with Mark
Pestrella here and gained a
favorable response.



Toured Women on
Bikes Culver City,
gathered feedback
on Del Rey Way
project



Project Details

Map shows various potential features: signage, bike share stations, rain gardens, bikeways, benches, bioswales, habitat gardens, permeable pavement, outdoor gathering spaces, art, shade trees, fruit tree groupings for mini-groves.

REMEDIES



INTERPRETIVE SIGN

1x



BIKE SHARE STATION

2x



RAIN GARDEN

4x



BIKEWAY

2x



BENCH

8x



BIOSWALE

3x



HABITAT GARDEN

4x



PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

1x



OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE

5x



ART

1x



Historical reference to red line train - art signage



SHADE TREE

7x30x

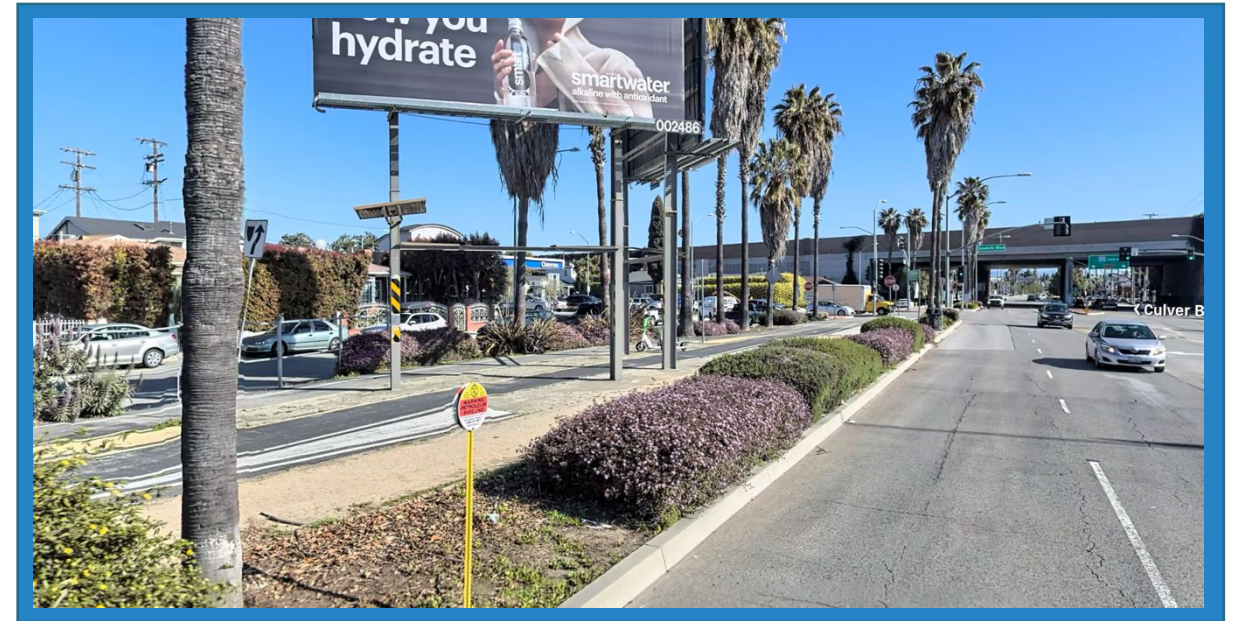


FRUIT TREE

3x



Project Details



Culver Median at the 405 overpass at the North East end: leading to Culver City with branches off at Overland and then on to West Adams with improved bike lanes

- No technical studies have been performed yet, but surface-level community ride-throughs have been conducted to gather initial surface-level goals, and we have shown the project to a local Landscape Architecture firm.

an initial ride with the core group to assess specific unique features or needs at each intersection.



Project Details



Culver Median at McConnell at the south west end: branches off to Venice/Marina del Rey street bike paths leading to Pacific Coast bike path, or alternatively to Ballona Creek Bike Path



tabling materials used to gain insight into neighborhood engagement



Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Feasibility	TRP Feasibility Study	\$400,000	July 2027
Design	30%, 60%, full design completed	TBD	February 2030
Permitting	Permitting and CEQA completed	TBD	April 2030
Construction start	Construction phase starts	TBD	June 2030
Construction end	Construction phase completion	TBD	June 2033
TOTAL FEASIBILITY		TBD	

- Table copied from application as per instructions



Funding Request

Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$400,000	FEASIBILITY	STUDY OF SCOPE, BUDGET AND DURATION
2			
3			
4			
5			
TOTAL	\$400,000		

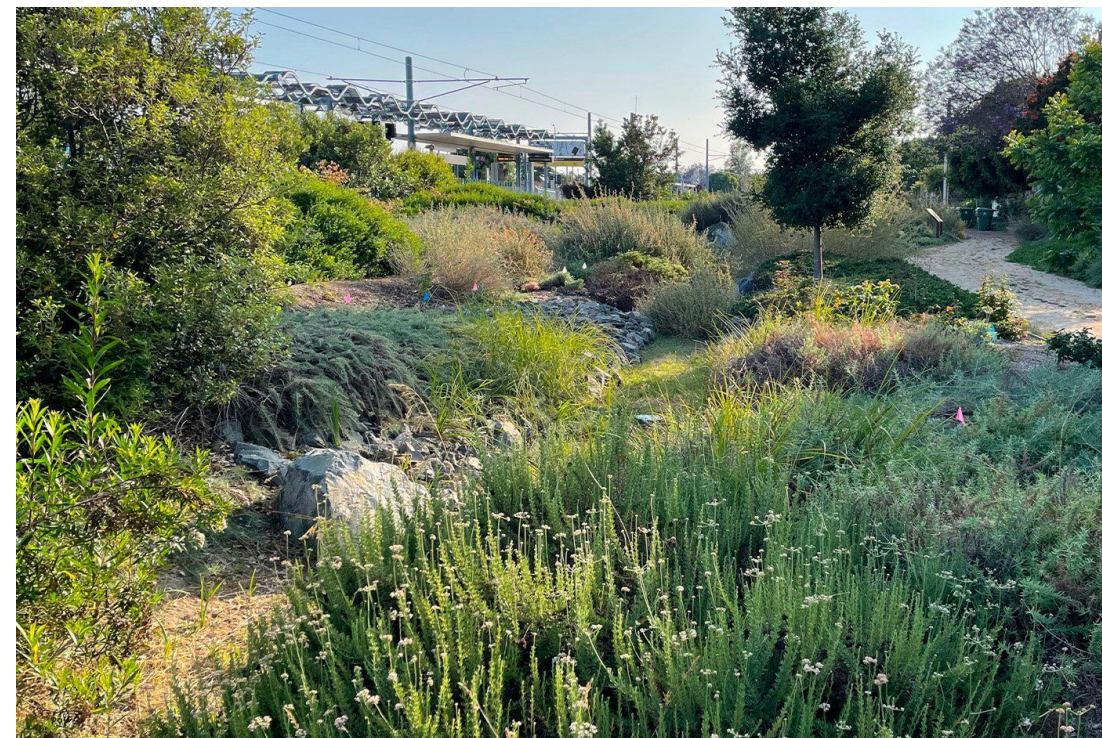
- Leveraged Funding amount and percent, if applicable
- Description of future potential SCW funding requests, if applicable



Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits- 1 of 2

- Surface-level nature-based solutions will be achieved through bioswales and native habitat gardens that slow, filter, and infiltrate groundwater. These features also support water supply goals through use of onsite closed-system irrigation of native landscaping. Below surface solutions will be filtration-based.
- This will be a wet solution project
- The site has an estimated 14.6-acre capture area and a 10.3-acre impervious area with the goal of increasing the impervious area.
- The project will aim to limit pollutants common in urban runoff, such as lead, copper, zinc, bacteria, and fertilizers, through stormwater capture, filtration, and infiltration before discharge to Ballona Creek.
- The project is anticipated to capture and treat approximately 2.5 million gallons of stormwater annually.

Westwood Greenway with big, beautiful, inviting native planted bioswales





Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits- 2 of 2

- An objective would be to self-irrigate new plantings on-site; supply to aquifer to be evaluated via soil testing.
- While cost metrics will be finalized during feasibility, this project is anticipated to be cost-effective because it utilizes an existing public right-of-way which will minimize acquisition, grading costs, and any road realignment. The linear design with generous loading access along its length allows relatively low construction complexity. The design integrates multi-benefit improvements such as stormwater treatment, runoff, native habitat, shade and community enhancements that provide strong value for investment, especially for this scale.



Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions 1/2

- Community Investment Benefits

- The Culver Median is a visible and symbolic corridor. Turning a neglected strip into a climate-resilient greenway shows clear transformation that will have positive impacts for the local community.
- Creates an enhanced park-like communal space with native plants, bioswales, and a mini-citrus groves.
- Supports active transportation by strengthening a regional bike and pedestrian network
- Provides native flora habitat, enhancing biodiversity and educational opportunities
- Increases tree canopy and shade, reducing the urban heat island effect and improving neighborhood comfort
- Serves students from three schools within 800 feet, offering safer, greener walking routes and environmental learning opportunities.

- Nature Based Solutions

- The project will use bioswales and habitat gardens with native plants and natural materials to support infiltration and pollutant removal through natural filtration.



Westwood Greenway bioswale: education and signage



Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions 2/2



Citrus Ranch Park, Tustin: mini-citrus groves



Tongva park integral benches and abundant shade



Leveraging Funds

- Leveraging Funds:

The team will explore Metro and state grants during the TRP phase and coordinate with Watershed Coordinators to identify leverage opportunities.



2025 May, discussing Del Rey Way with the current Culver City Mayor



2025 OCT. Del Rey Day Ballona Creek tabling activity



Community Support

- DRNC and BCR conducted preliminary outreach through public tabling events and community bike rides along the median to raise awareness and gather feedback, which includes: better graphics & path lighting, dedicated dog zones, drinking fountains & more trash receptacles, edible fruit trees, communal exercise areas, safer access on/off of the bike path, more shade, & more pollinators.
- The project has been reviewed and discussed at multiple public meetings, including DRNC Board and Green Committee meetings since September 2022 as well as several BCR board meetings.
- Documentation from several public outreach events is included with the application.

Support letters have been obtained from the following organizations and elected officials:

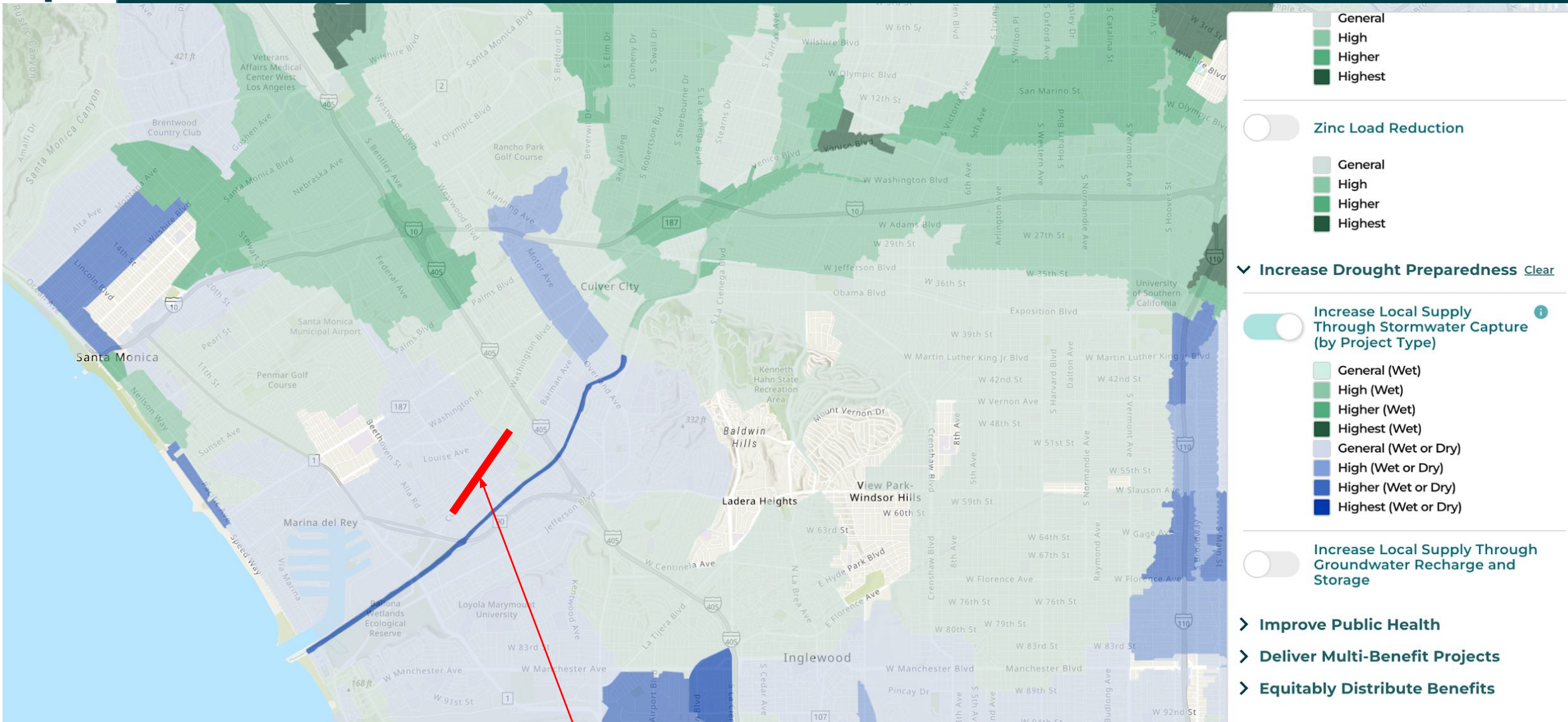
1. LA City Councilwoman Traci Park
2. Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC)
3. Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR)
4. Del Rey Residents Association (DRRA)
5. Women on Bikes Culver City



2025 APRIL Earth Day Cleanup with CD-11 & DRRA



Alignment with Draft Initial Watershed Plans, 1 of 2



"Del Rey Way"
Project location



Alignment with Draft Initial Watershed Plans, 2 of 2

Describe how the proposed project aligns with the CSMB Watershed Area Draft Initial Watershed Plan

What targets will the project contribute to, and which Watershed Area Needs will it address?

- **Primarily, it will improve local flood management and stormwater quality through green infrastructure.**

Which strategies will the project utilize or explore?

- **Surface-level nature-based solutions will be achieved through bioswales and native habitat gardens that slow, filter, and infiltrate groundwater. These features also support water supply goals through use of onsite closed-system irrigation of native landscaping. Below surface solutions will be filtration-based.**

What actions will the project implement or explore?

- **Implement bioswales and infiltration gardens along the median to capture, filter, and infiltrate stormwater before it reaches Ballona Creek**
- **Plant native trees and vegetation to expand the urban canopy to reduce heat-island effects, and enhance biodiversity.**
- **Install lighting, and path graphics to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.**
- **Coordinate with Metro to enhance bike and pedestrian connectivity between Culver City, Del Rey, and Ballona Creek paths.**
- **Engage community groups (DRNC, BCR, DRRRA, local schools , biking communities, Mar Vista Gardens) in planning, outreach, and long-term management.**

Is the project located in a multi-benefit opportunity area? **YES.**

Which opportunity layer would the project contribute the greatest impact to?

- **Water Quality opportunity through nature-based infiltration and filtration that reduces the pollutant load into Ballona Creek.**

Can the project be modified or updated to better align with Watershed Planning targets, strategies, actions, or opportunities?

- **During feasibility, we intend to explore opportunities to maximize infiltration volume and enhance habitat diversity.**

What related items can be explored during feasibility study development? **Enhanced mobility measures such as safe and easy access to and from the median at more intersections.**

Will the project address any community-stated priorities, concerns, or opportunities identified in the CSNA survey?

- **The project directly addresses the CSNA's priority of 'beautification' by transforming a neglected median into a shaded, green, and accessible corridor for the community.**



Questions?

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