

Marisela Velasquez

From: Mackenzie Bolger <mbolger@sgvcog.org>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:53 PM
To: DPW-SafeCleanWaterLA
Subject: Public Comment: Rio Hondo 4/21/2026

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Committee.

I'm writing to invite you to join the Upper LA River and Upper San Gabriel River Watersheds in recommending the **Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management study** in this year's Stormwater Investment Plan.

As outlined in the study, our region faces increasing risks from natural disasters, growing more frequent and severe with climate change. We must rethink our approach to stormwater management and projects this program is funding with this as a new reality.

This study provides exactly what we need to plan effectively:

- A scientific characterization of watershed-specific risks,
- Identification of prevention and mitigation strategies, and
- A risk-benefit calculator to help decision-makers evaluate the cost-effectiveness of proactive actions versus disaster impacts.

It also includes a robust technical stakeholder process and meaningful community involvement, ensuring that the strategies developed are not only scientifically sound but also equitable, locally informed, and implementable across our agencies. The region will greatly benefit from the proactive framework of this study, filling a critical knowledge gap to strengthen our ability to respond to climate-driven hazards.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee include this study in the upcoming Stormwater Investment Plan.

Thank you!

--

Mackenzie Bolger

Acting Sustainability Manager

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Monrovia, CA 91016

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One Valley. One Voice.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Olivia Dowdle Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: olivia@learningworkscharter.com Phone*: 626-564-2871
Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 4/21/26

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

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Comments

At Learning Works, many of our students come from underserved communities where access to clean, safe, green spaces can be incredibly limited. Our gardening program GroWORKS has provided our students with critical access to these green spaces and the opportunity to meaningfully connect with nature in a way that supports their development and wellbeing. Obtaining the funding to revive our gardening program at the Eaton-Wash Project will greatly impact the lives of underserved students in the greater San Gabriel Valley by enhancing their educational experiences with hands-on learning as well as job training and mental wellness practices. As Community Schools Coordinator, it has been an essential aspect of my job to listen to the needs of our student body, and work to develop programs, services, and partnerships that will address their whole-child needs. Funding for GroWORKS and the Eaton-Wash project at large is one of those initiatives that can directly answer young people's need for safe green spaces, and by proxy will enrich the Pasadena Community overall.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Andrew Cobb Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: Andrew@learningworkscharter.com Phone*: 209-327-5052
Meeting: 04/21/2026 Date: 4/17/2026

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Comments

Hello Rio Hondo Watershed Steering Committee, I am Andrew Cobb the lead Middle School teacher for Learning Works Charter School, writing in support of the Eaton Wash project.

Our students often come to Learning Works for all sorts of reasons, often they are at risk of dropping out, have been expelled, or traditional school settings just don't work for them. We are singularly focused on making sure they graduate High School and come away with better knowledge of self and skills they can use. Our Groworks program is a key part of that, while gardening they get to see their hard work pay off slowly but surely, and get to develop skills and coping mechanisms as well. Funding this project would supercharge our gardening program, allowing even more students to participate and the benefits would extend to various science programs where students learn about California native plants, water systems, and evolutionary Biology.

Our students gain a lot of flexibility and care when they start attending Learning Works, but they do lose chances at High School sports, clubs, and the like. Our Expanded Groworks program at the Eaton Wash would help give a lot of pride to students that they can build together towards something bigger. These student's worlds are increasingly digital and we can help them interact with nature and agriculture that they wouldn't otherwise have the chance to, and introduce them to something they might truly love. The Groworks program helps us mentor our students and show them that the world is much bigger than just their neighborhood.

Speaking as a Pasadena resident the other community benefits are excellent too!



Public Comment Form

Name:* Abigail Castanos Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: 4/16/2026

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Comments

Dear committee, good day. My name is Abigail I am an eighth grade student at LWCS, I am writing to you to support the Eaton Wash project especially the Groworks garden, me and my classmates would love to work in your garden and make memories there and have a great time and make it beautiful for you and us, our community especially because its my last year being an 8th grader.

Have an awesome day!

Sincerely- Abigail



Public Comment Form

Name:* Andrew Rivas Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear committee, I'm Andrew an eighth grade student at Learning Works Charter School. I am writing to support the Eaton Wash project, especially the Groworks Garden. I think it can help the youth reconnect with nature and for others gardening helps them find peace. It can help students figure out skills they didn't know they have.

Thank you for your time reading, Sincerely Andrew.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Aniyah Soza Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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(ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

Dear Committee my name is Aniyah I am a seventh grade student at Learning Works Charter School. I am writing to you today for your help to support our school garden. This would really help our school because me and my classmates like the garden. We like it because it helps us learn stuff, helps me learn new stuff and it also helps me connect with nature and learn how to talk more and have a bond with different people. Thank you for your time and listening to my opinion.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Ashley Reyes Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear Rio Hondo Watershed I am a seventh grade student from LWCS. My name is Ashley Reyes I hope your having a great day. I'm writing this letter to support the Eaton Wash project especially the Groworks garden. The reason why is because the garden helps the people feel peace or even teaches skills. Maybe another reason is because we students like to plant flowers or more things and we could help each other especially because we students like to plant it gives us peace and we can enjoy the nature. Thank you for taking your time by reading this letter, thank you once again have a great day.

Sincerley, Ashley



Public Comment Form

Name:* Brooklyn Williams Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: 4/16/2026

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Comments

Dear Committee, my name is Brooklyn I am an eighth grade student at Learning Works. I am contacting you today to express that we would really like support for our garden, we would really also like to support the Eaton Wash project. The garden really helps me and my class relieve anger, reconnect with nature, the garden helps me feel at peace, teaches me skills and about the earth.

Thank you for the time you took reading my letter.
Sincerely, Brooklyn.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Christian Garcia Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

My name is Christian an eighth grade student at Learning Works. I am writing to support the Eaton Wash project especially the Groworks garden. I like the garden because it helps relieve my stress and anger. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Christian <3



Public Comment Form

Name:* Dakota Hannah Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear Committee, My name is Dakota. I am a seventh grade student at LWCS. I really love Gardening. Me and My fellow classmates really want to start gardening more often. I really want to support the Eaton Wash project. Especially the Groworks garden. The garden really brings us together. I really want to know how to grow more things and learn more about gardening. Gardening helps teaching me skills, reconnect with nature and we just want our own garden to make it very pretty. Thank you for reading this, have a wonderful day.
Sincerely, Dakota Hannah.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Esther Zuniga Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear Committee, My name is Esther Zuniga, I am a seventh grade student at LWCS. The reason I am writing this letter is to support the Eaton Wash project especially the Groworks garden. We would like our garden back because it helps me relieve my anger and is very therapudic. The garden teaches me skills on how to plant flowers and trees. We get to make the garden look nice and it is fun to plant and grow plants and flowers. Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,
Esther



Public Comment Form

Name:* Faith Montgomery Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear Comittee, my name is Faith. I am an eighth grade student at Learning works. I am writing this letter because we need you guys to support the Eaton Wash Project, especially the Groworks garden. We would like you to support it because we love Gardening. I like Gardening because I can take out my anger when I take the weeds out. The garden helps all of us connect with nature and gardening gives us something to do rather than being in class all day. It teaches us how to plant flowers and other types of plants.

Sincerly, Faith



Public Comment Form

Name:* Hunter Ferguson Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear Committee good day my name is Hunter Knight Ferguson. I am an eighth grade student at LWCS. I'm writing to support the Eaton Wash project especially the Groworks garden, the Groworks garden is relaxing, fun and I love it and it helps me reconnect with my friends and with the nature. The Garden helps me feel peace and teaches me skills. Me and my classmates will really appreciate it if we get a private garden. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely, Hunter



Public Comment Form

Name:* Jason Cortez Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: 4/16/2026

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Comments

I'm Jason a student at Learning Works Charter School and I wish to have a bigger garden. We want a bigger garden because we can make it look nice. We will love to have a garden and its really fun to do it and it helps us, if we get a garden it will be appreciated cause we want to work in the garden. Please choose to support the eaton wash project!



Public Comment Form

Name:* Jeremiah Estrada Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: 4/16/2026

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Comments

Dear Committee my name is Jeremiah I am reaching out to you to support my school "LWCS" garden. The garden helps us connect to nature and build relationships with my classmates and it helps me learn how to use different tools so in the future if I want I can have my own garden. Appreciate it, Jeremiah.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Jzannae Lockett Organization*: Learning Works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: _____

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Comments

Dear Committee, good day, my name is Jzannae: I am an eighth grade student at Learning Works Charter School. I am writing to you today to get your support for our garden so we can continue learning new skills and just sometimes we want to reconnect with nature and feel at peace. We sometimes feel angry or stressed and the garden helps us with relief because nature is just so calming for us.

Thank you for reading my letter.
Sincerely, Jzannae



Public Comment Form

Name:* Sam Elizardo Organization*: Learning works Charter School
Email*: n/a Phone*: n/a
Meeting: _____ Date: 4/17/2026

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Comments

Hi Im Sam a twelfth grade student at LWCS. The garden we had at our school wasn't just a place with plants, it was where a lot of us went when everything else felt too loud or just overwhelming. Losing it felt like losing a safe space that held so many memories, from quiet lunches to moments where we could just breathe without having to worry about anything. It was something we all helped care for, so seeing it disappear made it feel like our effort and voices didn't matter. A lot of us students felt abandoned like something important was taken away without anyone really thinking about us. For a lot of us that garden was the only escape we had during the school day and now it is an empty space being used by cars. You supporting the Eaton Wash project will help repair this loss and help us with a new garden and new memories.