SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project

RIO HONDO WATERSHED AREA

APPLICATION TYPE:
CONSTRUCTION

PRESENTATION DATE:
DECEMBER 16, 2025

PROJECT LEAD:

RHSGR JPA

Alex Tachiki, TAC Chair, Monrovia

Project Overview

*The **Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project** is proposed within the 180-acre Peck Road Water Conservation Park within the Rio Hondo Watershed. The project proposes to intercept and treat a sizeable portion of the stormwater flowing from a 10,750-acre drainage area from several jurisdictions, like the Cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, El Monte, Irwindale, and the unincorporated South Monrovia Islands. The project is situated adjacent to the LACFCD-owned Sawpit Wash channel and includes work across parcels in both the Cities of Monrovia and Arcadia. The project supports regional stormwater goals by providing opportunities to enhance water quality, water supply, and community recreation in alignment with the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Quality Group objectives under their revised Watershed Management Program (rWMP). The RH/SGR Watershed Management Group Joint Powers Authority (RHSGR JPA) (comprised of Cities of Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, and Sierra Madre) is leading this project development in partnership with the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.*

Project Objectives

- *Improve the water quality within Peck Road Spreading Basin*
- *Recharge the local groundwater basin to increase water supply*
- *Create new park facilities for community benefit*
- *Provide habitat, educational opportunities, and diverse vegetation to the space*

PROJECT LEAD

RHSGR JPA

SCORING COMMITTEE SCORE

69

PROJECT STATUS

60% Design

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED

$19,397,616

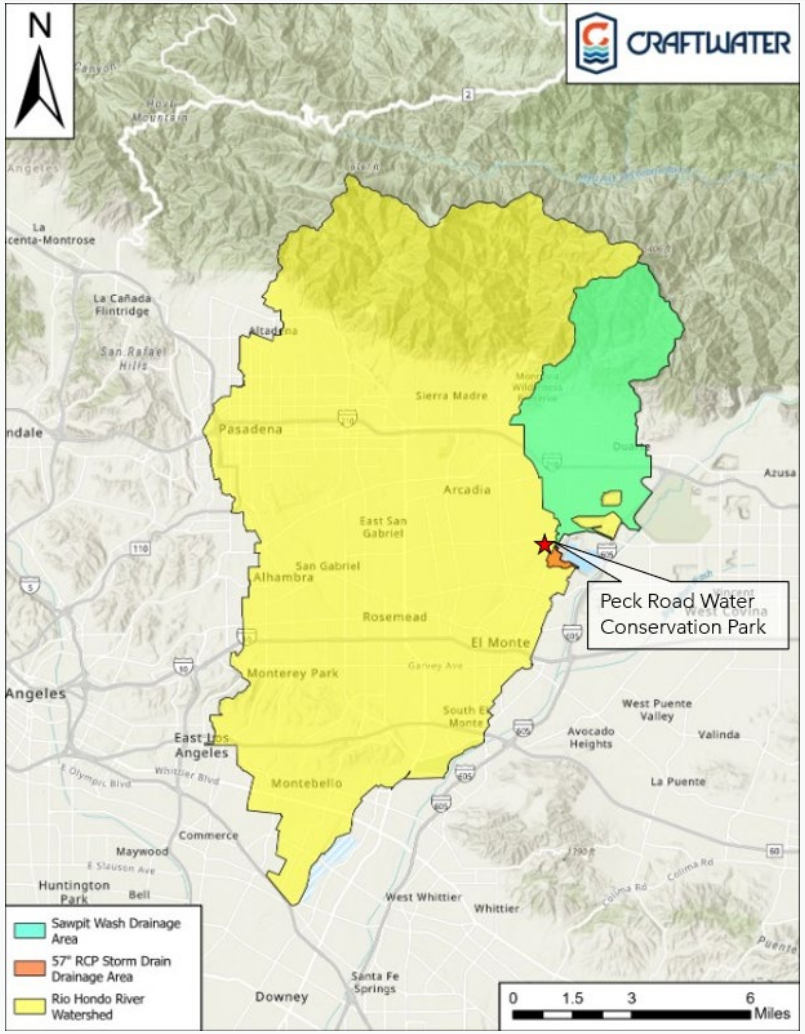
Funding Request Phase(s): Construction

Previously Awarded Technical Resources Project Concept: No

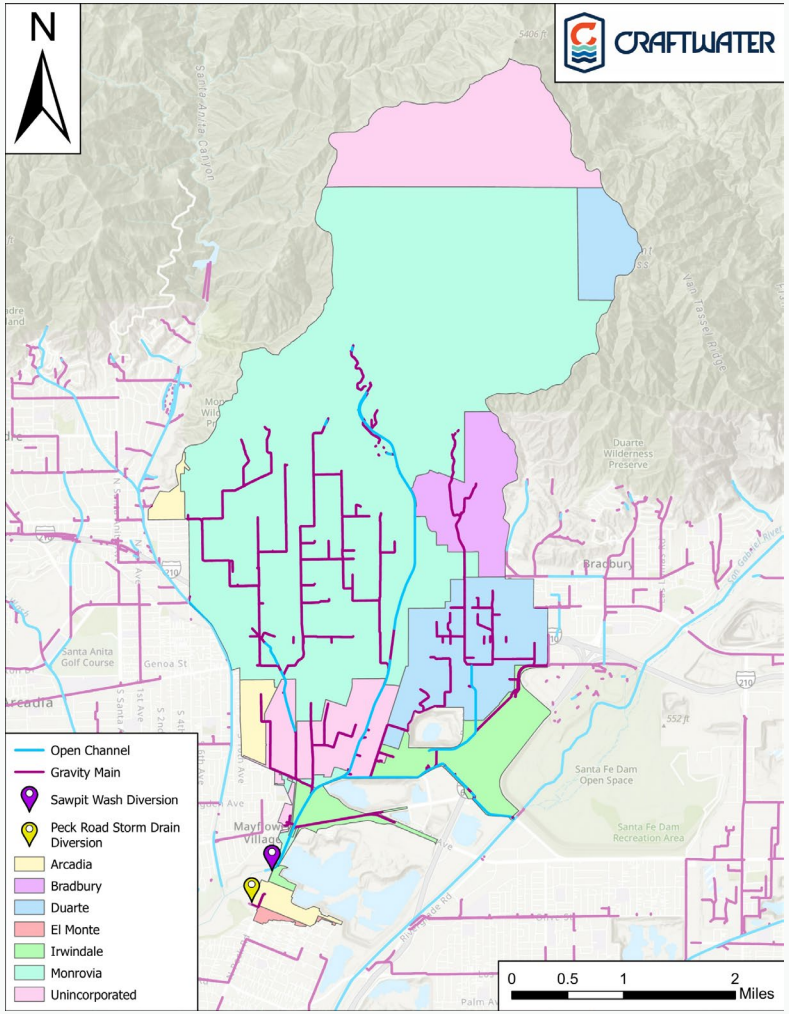
Previously Awarded Infrastructure Program Project: Yes

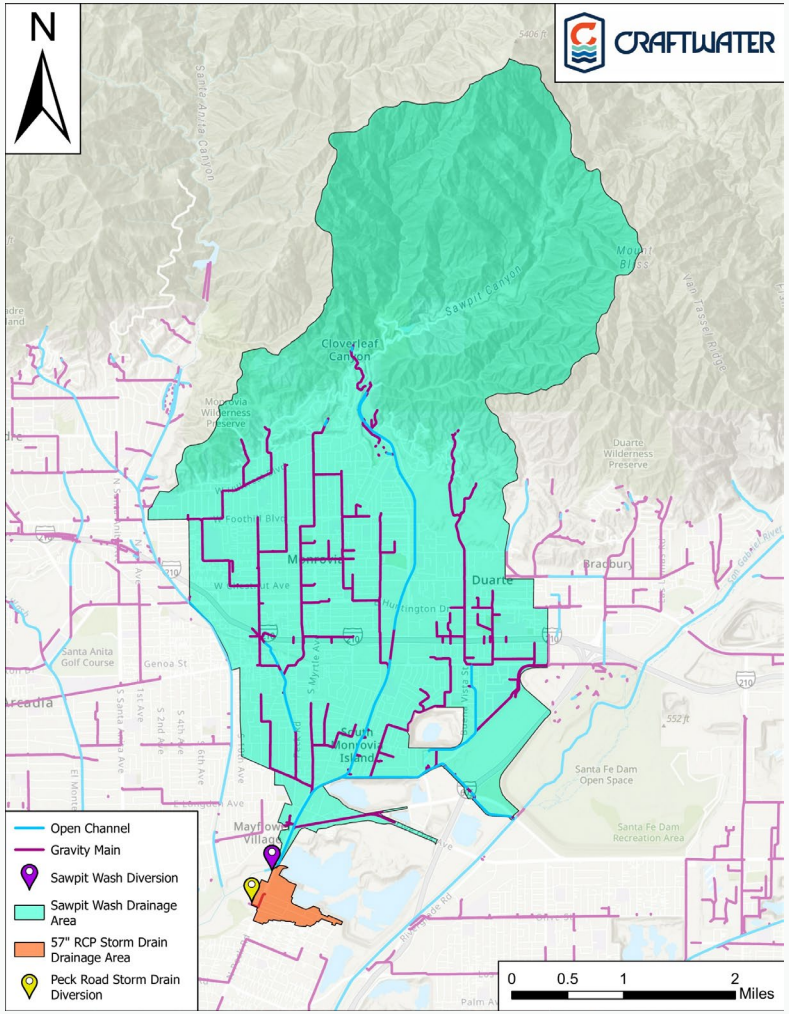
Project Location

Watershed Area

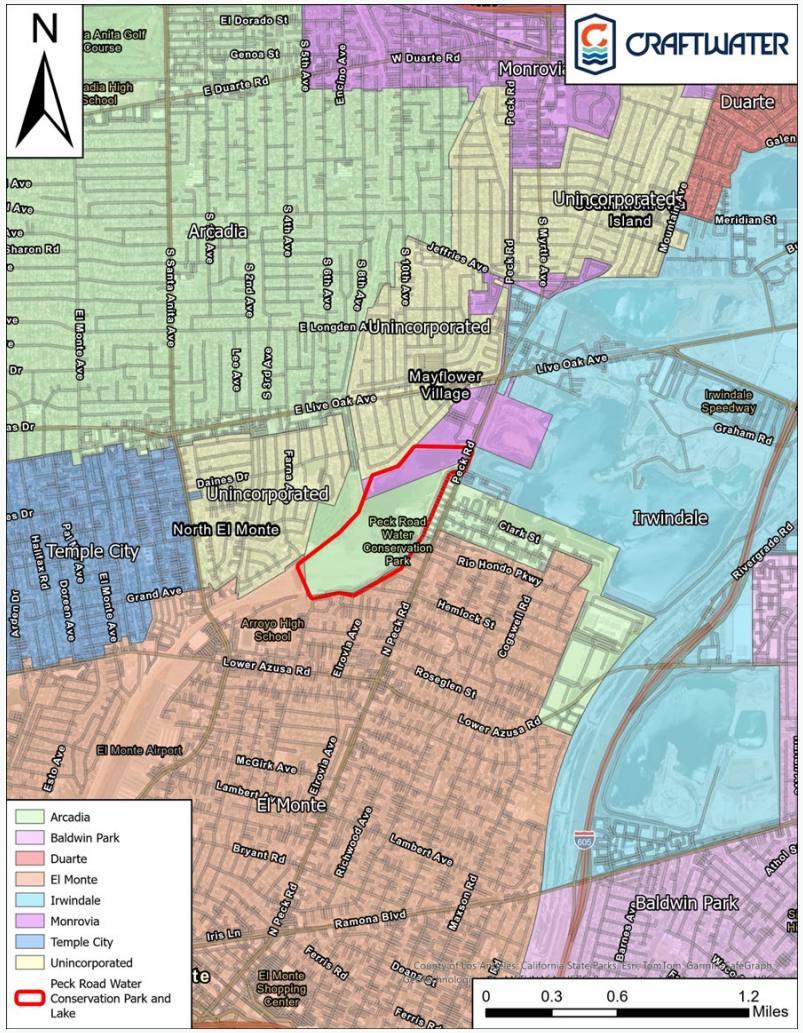


Capture Area

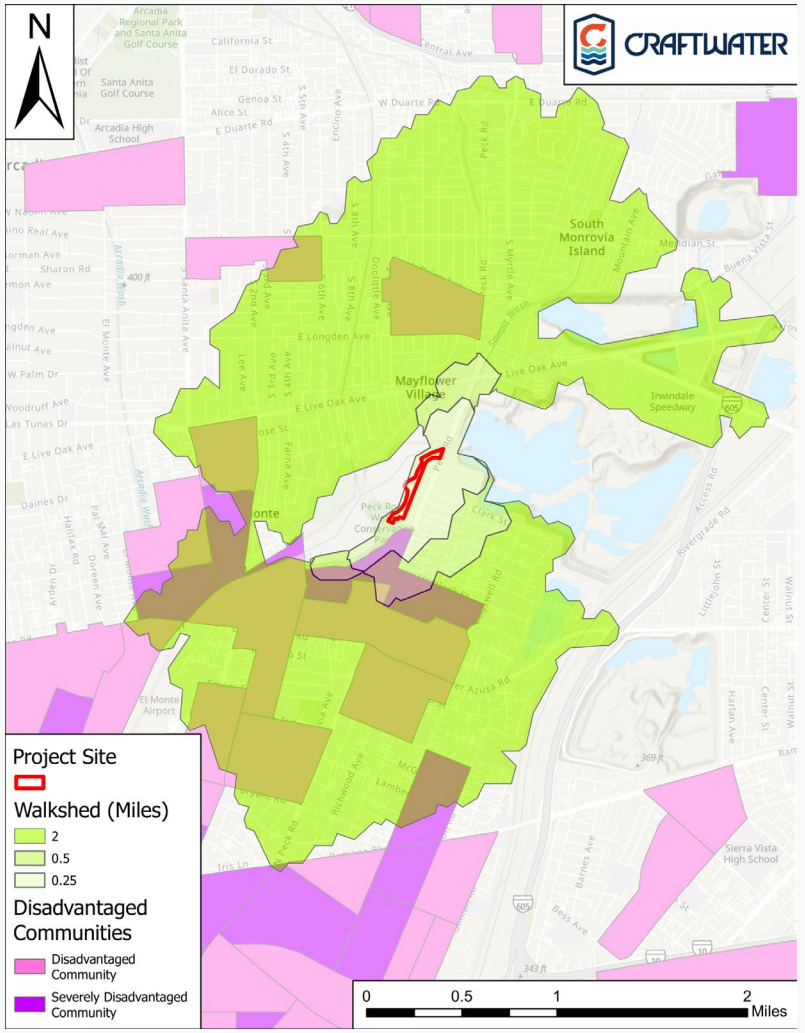




Municipalities Near Project



DAC Walkshed



Project Background

Why was the Project location selected?

- It is strategically located within the Rio Hondo Watershed, enabling efficient stormwater capture, treatment, and infiltration.
- Identified in the 2019 rWMP as a priority multi-benefit regional project supporting MS4 compliance.
- Publicly controlled land at Peck Road Water Conservation Park allows construction of wetlands, infiltration basins, and habitat restoration without costly acquisition.
- Proximity to key stormwater conveyances (Sawpit Wash and Peck Road Storm Drain) maximizes pollutant reduction potential.

How was the Project developed?

- Originated from the 2016 WMP, refined in the 2019 rWMP using updated modeling, pollutant reduction targets, and stakeholder feedback.
- 2020 feasibility study established the Phase 1/Phase 2 concepts; 2021 SCW TRP analysis removed infeasible diversion elements.
- Phase 2 discontinued due to cost; Phase 1 advanced after the 2022 formation of the RH/SGR JPA.
- Craftwater retained for design; project is currently at 60% design completion.

How will the Project provide regional benefits to the Watershed Area?

- Provides watershed-scale pollutant reduction, supporting MS4 Permit compliance.
- Captures, treats, and infiltrates stormwater to improve downstream water quality.
- Recharges groundwater, contributing to long-term regional water supply resilience.
- Enhances habitat, wetlands, and ecosystem function within a major regional park.
- Supports continued rWMP adaptive management and load-reduction commitments.

How will the Project provide Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits, if any?

- Provides access to recreation and open space for nearby DAC residents.
- Reduces local heat-island effects and improves shade, air quality.
- Adds new trails, seating, landscaping, and educational features.
- Improves mobility by extending bike path connectivity to 20,000+ DAC residents within 2 miles.
- Enhances water quality by removing metals, bacteria, trash, and sediments from local waterways and provides 183 acre-feet/year of groundwater recharge.
- Delivers community investment through habitat restoration, shaded nodes, and naturalized park enhancements.

Partners

Who are the Project collaborators?

Active SGV, Amigos de los Rios, City of Arcadia, City of Monrovia, Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation, Pasadena Audubon Society.

What communities or groups have expressed support for the Project via letters of support?

We have received letters of support from Active SGV, Amigos de los Rios, City of Arcadia, City of Monrovia, Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation and Pasadena Audubon Society.

For non-municipality, has the Project received a letter of support or non-objection from the Municipality?

The project site is located within LA County property, and a letter of conceptual approval has been received from the LACFCD.

If requesting construction and/or O&M funds, who is the responsible party in charge of operations and maintenance?

The Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Joint Powers Authority (RH/SGR JPA) is leading the project development and will oversee O&M for the stormwater capture components of the project. The surface improvements will be maintained by either LACDPW, LACPR, or the JPA. A Use and Maintenance Agreement is under development between all parties.

If applicable, has the Project received a letter of conceptual approval from the Flood Control District?

Yes, the Project has been developed in close coordination with LACFCD and is located entirely within LACFCD property. The Project team has received confirmation of support and coordination from LACFCD throughout design development.

Project Details

Current site conditions

- Located within Peck Road Water Conservation Park on the northeast edge of the Peck Road Spreading Basin.
- Site features a gentle upper bank that transitions into a steep drop into the basin.
- Vegetation is sparse, consisting mainly of grasses and occasional trees.
- Soils are predominantly sand, gravel, and cobbles.
- Localized erosion is present along the northeast shoreline, especially near the Sawpit Wash inlet.
- Area is currently undeveloped and used by LACFCD for routine maintenance access.

Potential/future constraints

- Underground storage vaults are located close to the basin edge, requiring careful engineering to protect shoreline stability.
- Existing erosion along the northeast bank will likely need stabilization prior to construction.
- Located within LACFCD Easement.

Land ownership/right-of-way

- Entire project area lies on land owned or controlled by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD).
- Sawpit Wash Inlet Chute is located on LACFCD property within the City of Monrovia.
- Remaining project components lie within two LACFCD easement parcels in the City of Arcadia.
- Site access available through existing driveways off Peck Road and LACFCD maintenance roads.

Project Details

Environmental Documents and Permits Item

- Environmental Documentation
  - CEQA – Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND): Initial Study and MND currently underway; RH/SGR JPA is lead agency; completion expected Fall 2026.
- LACFCD Permits
  - Major Modification Permit: Required for installing diversion structure within Sawpit Wash (District facility modification).
  - Discharge Permit: Required for discharging treated non-stormwater into an existing LACFCD facility.
- Additional Regulatory Permits
  - Greater LA County Vector Control District: Mosquito abatement review for potential standing water/ponding.
  - SCAQMD Rule 403: Fugitive dust control compliance required during construction activities.
  - USACE Section 404 Permit: Needed if any dredged or fill material is discharged into Waters of the U.S.CDFW 1601 Streambed Alteration Notification: Required due to flow diversion and work affecting Sawpit Wash channel bed.
  - SWRCB Construction General Permit: Required for soil disturbance over one acre; SWPPP must be prepared.
  - LA County Parks & Recreation Coordination: Required because the department manages the property and must review project impacts and access needs.

Vector Minimization

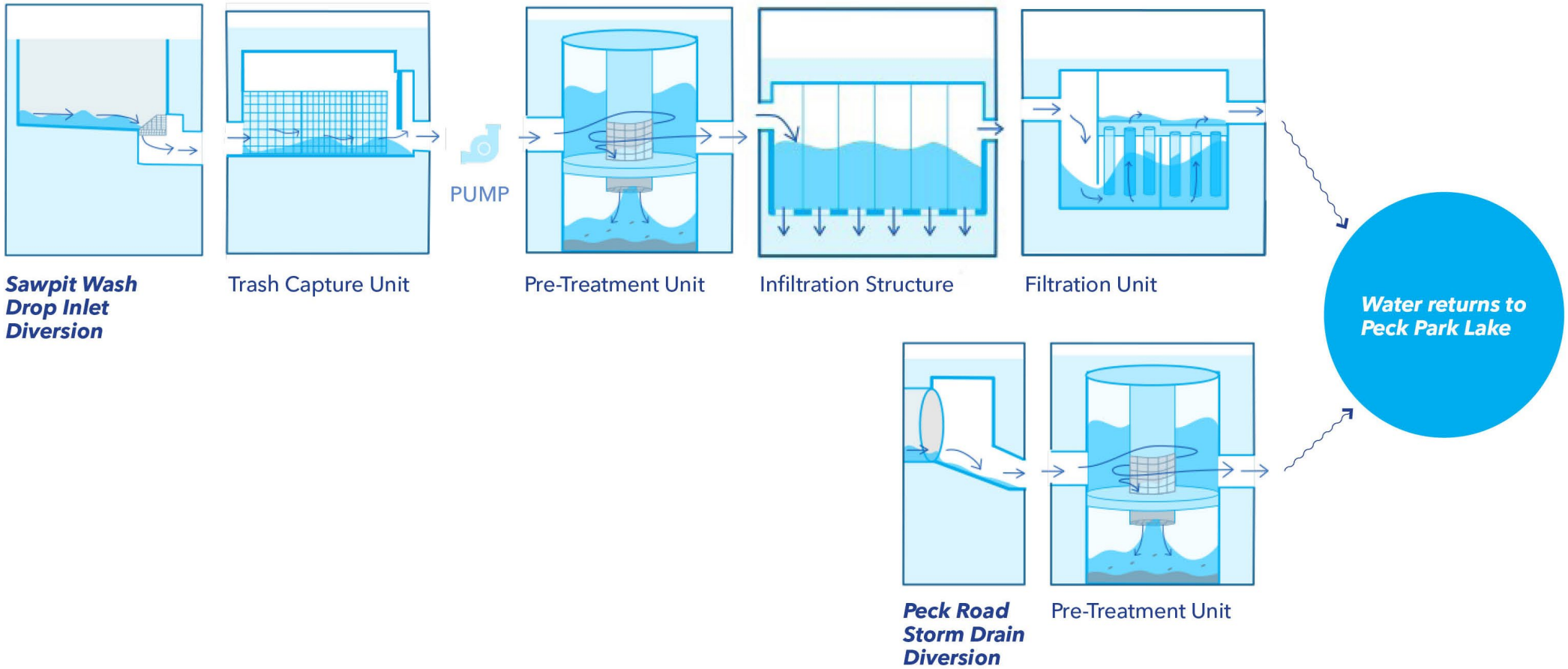
- The Project has not yet received feedback from local Vector Control District.
- The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was contacted during the design phase to discuss potential for mosquito growth in the system on 2nd July 2025. Awaiting for additional coordination in the design process.
- Guidelines outlined in the California Department of Public Health's Checklist for Minimizing Vector Production in Stormwater Management Structures will be followed.

Technical Activities Completed

- 2020 Feasibility Study
- 2022–2025 Hydrology modeling, geotechnical investigations, and Preliminary Design Report
- 2024 Boundary survey
- 2025 Completed 60% design

Project Site Plan

Project Schematic



Site Improvement Image Renderings

South Entrance from Parking Lot

Reat Area and Node with Educational Signs

Site Improvement Image Renderings

North Entrance from Peck Road with Water Feature

Cost and Schedule

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	COST	COMPLETION DATE
Planning	Feasibility Study Development	$218,113	10/31/20
Design	Development of Construction Documents, CEQA, Permitting, Outreach and Engagement	$2,329,375	12/31/26
Bid/Award	Project Bidding, Award	Included in design cost	4/30/28
Construction	Project Construction and Management	$34,147,616	12/31/30
TOTAL COST		**$ 36,695,104**	

Cost and Schedule (Continued)

ANNUAL COSTS	
Annual Maintenance Cost	$398,600
Annual Operation Cost	$50,000
Monitoring Costs	$25,000

LIFE-CYCLE COSTS	
Project Life Span	50 Years
Total Life-Cycle Cost	$48,058,615
Annualized Life-Cycle Cost	$2,002,951

Cost Share

TYPE OF COST SHARE	FUNDING AMOUNT	PHASE	COST SHARE STATUS	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Municipal Funds	6,250,000	Construction	Commitment Received	Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Joint Powers Authority
Agreements	8,500,000	Construction	Commitment Received	Caltrans

- Total Cost Share: $14,750,000
- Leveraged Funding Percentage: 43.2%

Funding Request

YEAR (FISCAL YEAR)	SCW FUNDING REQUEST	PHASE	EFFORTS DURING PHASE AND YEAR
1 (FY26-27)	$6,465,872	Construction	Construction Contract, Year 1 Budget; Agency Project Management and Construction Administration, Year 1
2 (FY27-28)	$6,465,872	Construction	Construction Contract, Year 2 Budget; Agency Project Management and Construction Administration, Year 2
3 (FY28-29)	$6,465,872	Construction	Construction Contract, Year 3 Budget; Agency Project Management and Construction Administration, Year 3
TOTAL	**$19,397,616**		

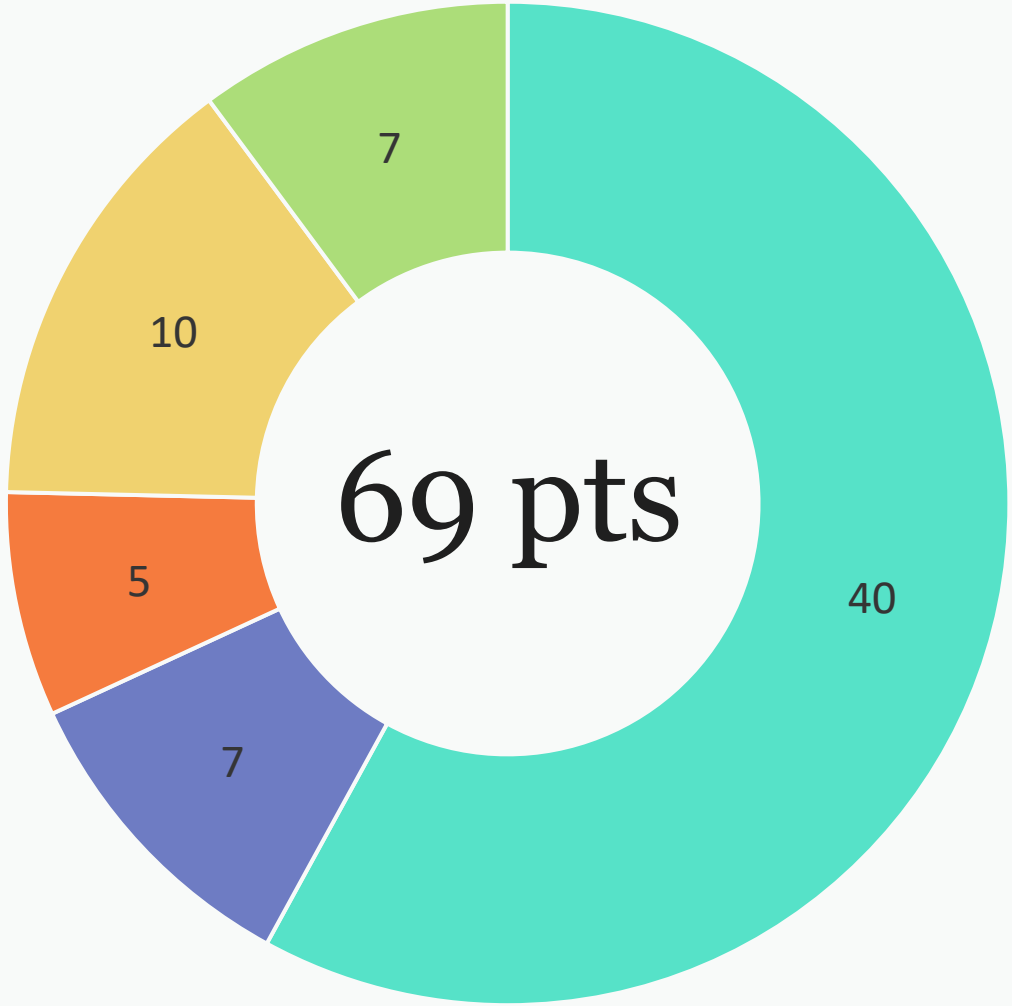
- Potential Future SCW Funding Request: No

Metrics & Measures

	PROJECT BENEFIT METRICS	METRIC
Improve Water Quality	Zinc load reduction (lbs/year)	280
	Total Phosphorous load reduction (lbs/year)	359
Increase Drought Prepared-ness	Increase Local Water Supply through Stormwater Capture (ac-ft/year)	183
	Increase local supply through groundwater recharge and storage (ac-ft/yr)	183
Improve Public Health	Net area of park and green space created (acres)	4.2
	Net area of green space at schools created (acres)	0
	Net area of park enhanced or restored (acres)	0
	Net area of canopy, cooling, and shading surfaces (acres)	3.2
	Net new trees planted	242
Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects	Net area of habitat created, enhanced, restored, protected (acres)	1.2
Promote Green Jobs & Career	Annual Full Time Equivalent Jobs Created	140.81

Final Score by Scoring Committee

- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Community Investment Benefits
- Nature Based Solutions
- Leveraged Funds and Community Support



* The Scoring Committee confirmed this score on October 20, 2025

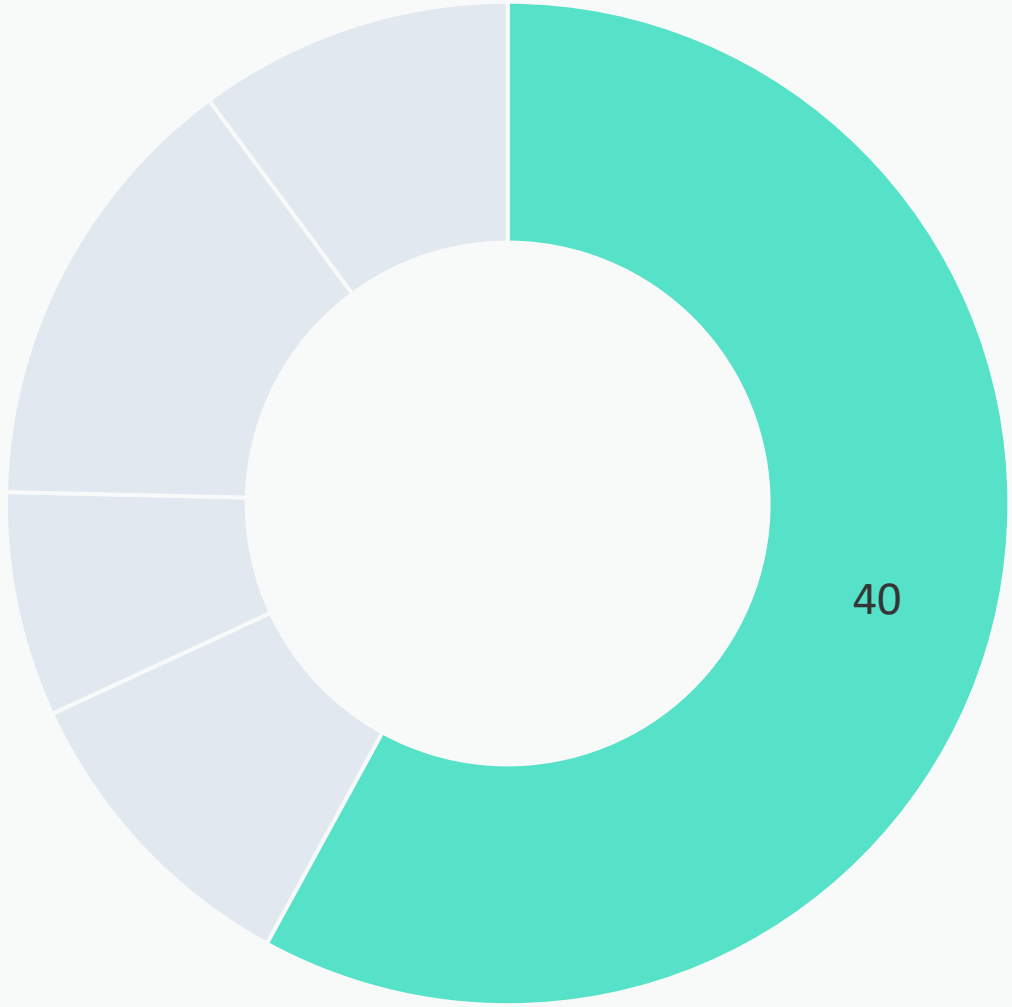
Score Breakdown

Water Quality

This project's Water Quality score was determined using the 2025 Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Pilot Water Quality Scoring Criteria for dry weather project, which evaluates projects using two components:

- Part 1 evaluates the project's cost-effectiveness by comparing the capital cost to the 24-hour water quality treatment capacity (measured as AF per million dollars, AF/$M),
  - The projects had cost-effectiveness ≥ 1 AF/$M and received **20 points**.
- Part 2 evaluates tributary size, which is the total acreage draining to the Dry Weather BMP.
  - The project has a tributary drainage area of 10,750 acres, far exceeding the highest SCW threshold category (≥ 200 acres) and received **20 points.**

Grand Total: **40 points**



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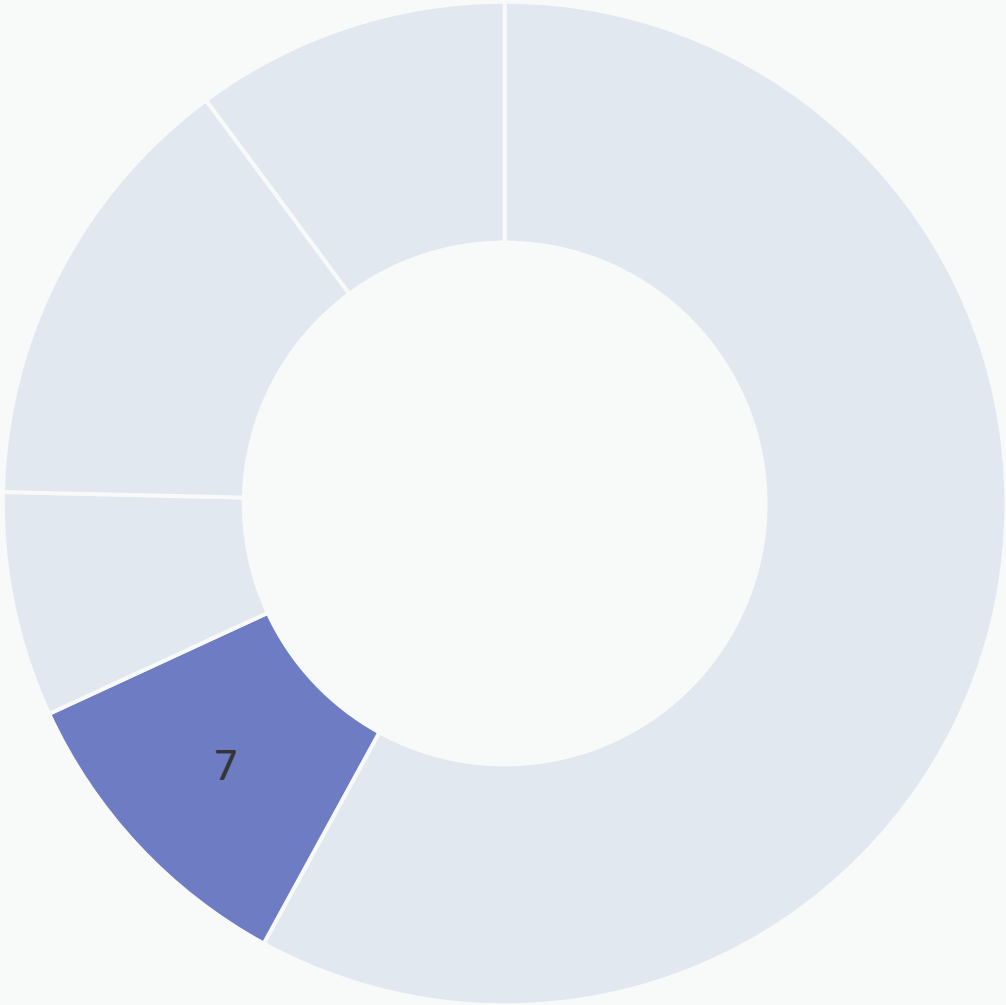
Score Breakdown

Water Supply

This project's Water Supply score was determined using the 2025 SCW Pilot Water Supply Scoring Criteria for dry weather projects, which evaluates projects using two components:

- Part 1 evaluates the project's cost-effectiveness based on the life-cycle cost per acre-foot of stormwater captured for supply.
  - The project has a life-cycle water supply cost of $52,160 per acre-ft and received **2 points** for it.
- Part 2 evaluates the total water-supply benefit, including annual infiltration and net countable water supply.
  - The project produces 38.4 acre-feet per year of water supply and received **5 points** for it.

Grand Total: **7 points**



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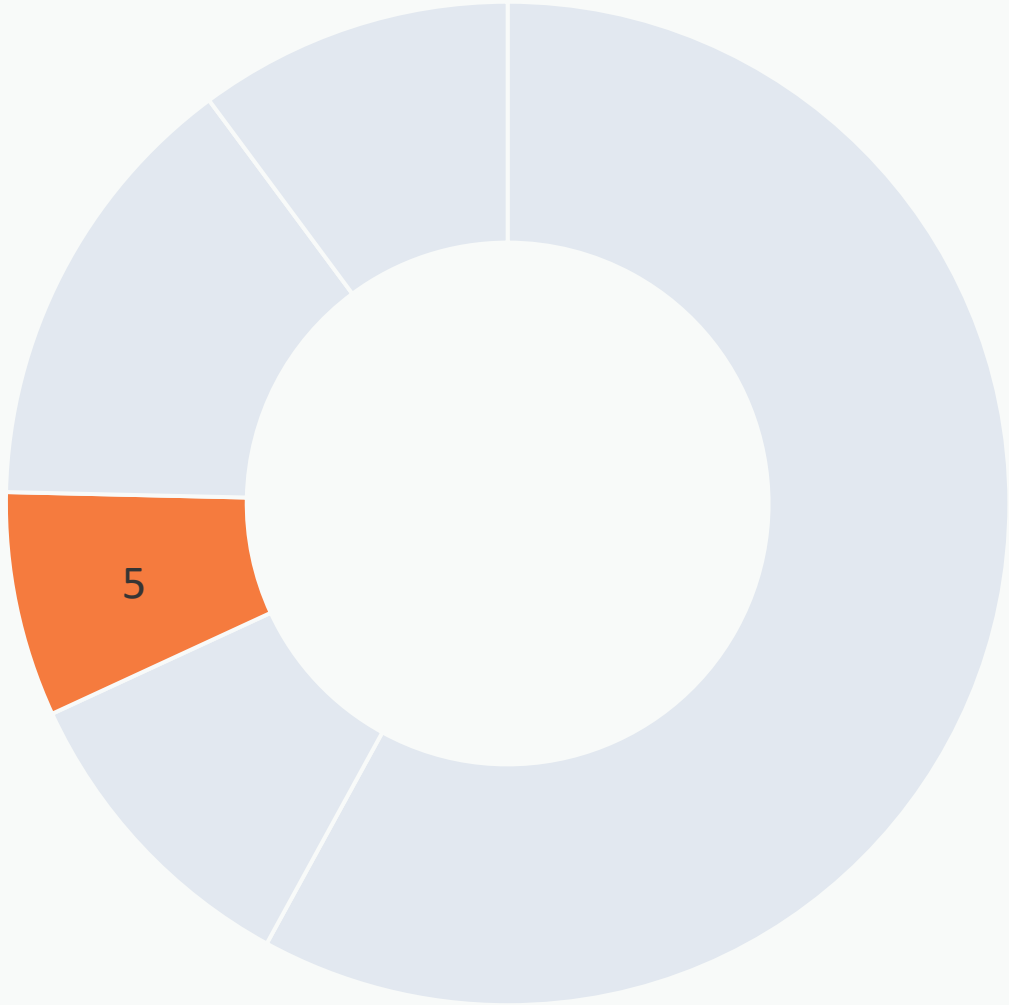
Score Breakdown

Community Investment Benefits

The project provides multiple community investments consistent with SCW criteria, including enhanced recreational access, green space, cooling, and ecological improvements.

- Creation and restoration of park and habitat areas, improving ecological function.
- New recreational opportunities through a 2,400-ft natural trail, multi-use bike path, and added shaded rest areas.
- Reduced heat-island effect and increased cooling with 1.56 acres of shading surfaces.
- Improved air quality and carbon capture from 242 new trees and 53,084 sq ft of native plantings.

The project satisfies four community benefit criteria, consistent with SCW's mid-range scoring tier thus scoring **5 points**



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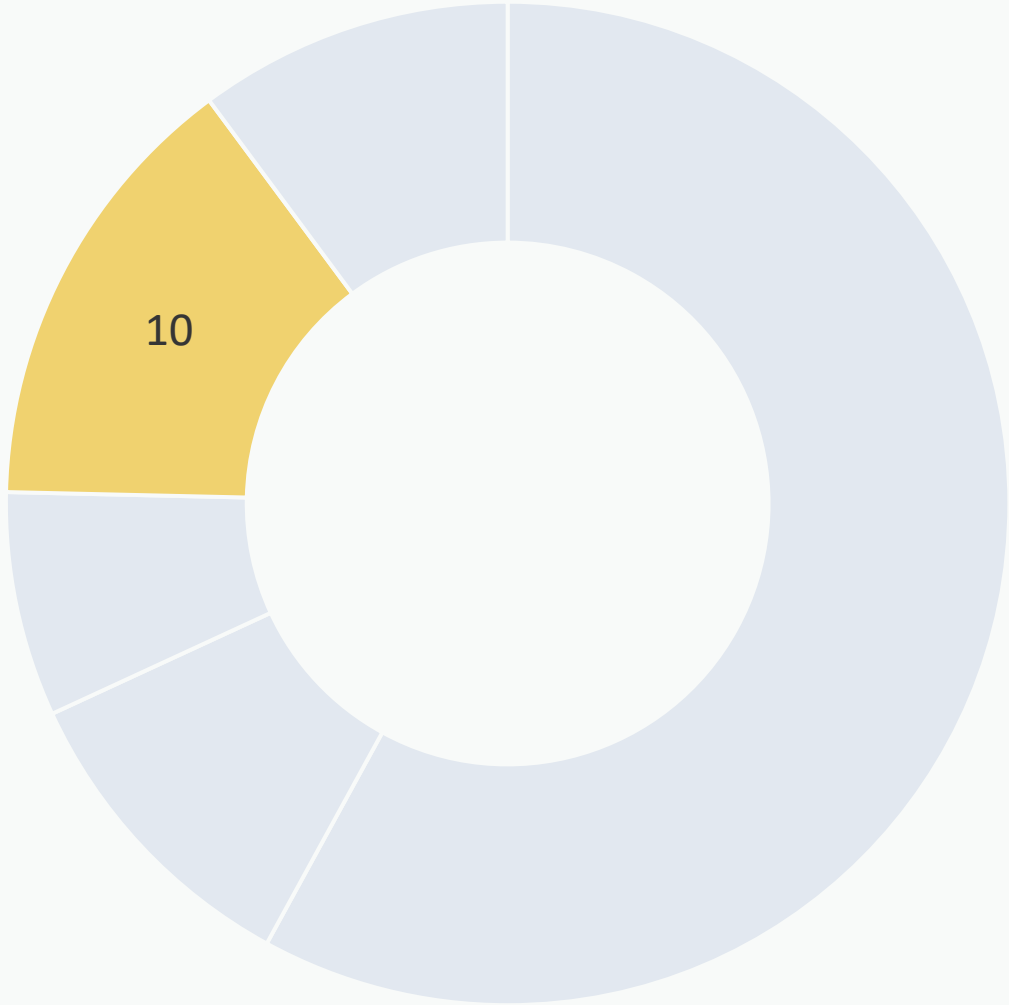
Score Breakdown

Nature-Based Solutions

The project meets SCW's Nature-Based Solutions criteria by implementing natural processes, increasing natural materials, and enhancing ecological function throughout the site.

- Imitates natural infiltration: stormwater percolates into native soils via subsurface storage systems.
- Extensive native vegetation: over 53,000 sq ft of native plants and 242 new climate-appropriate trees.
- Soil enhancement and slope restoration to improve drainage, erosion control, and habitat value.
- Natural material use: trails, planting areas, passive irrigation zones.

Meets two of the primary NBS requirements, earning a strong score of **10 points.**



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Score Breakdown

Leveraged Funds and Community Support

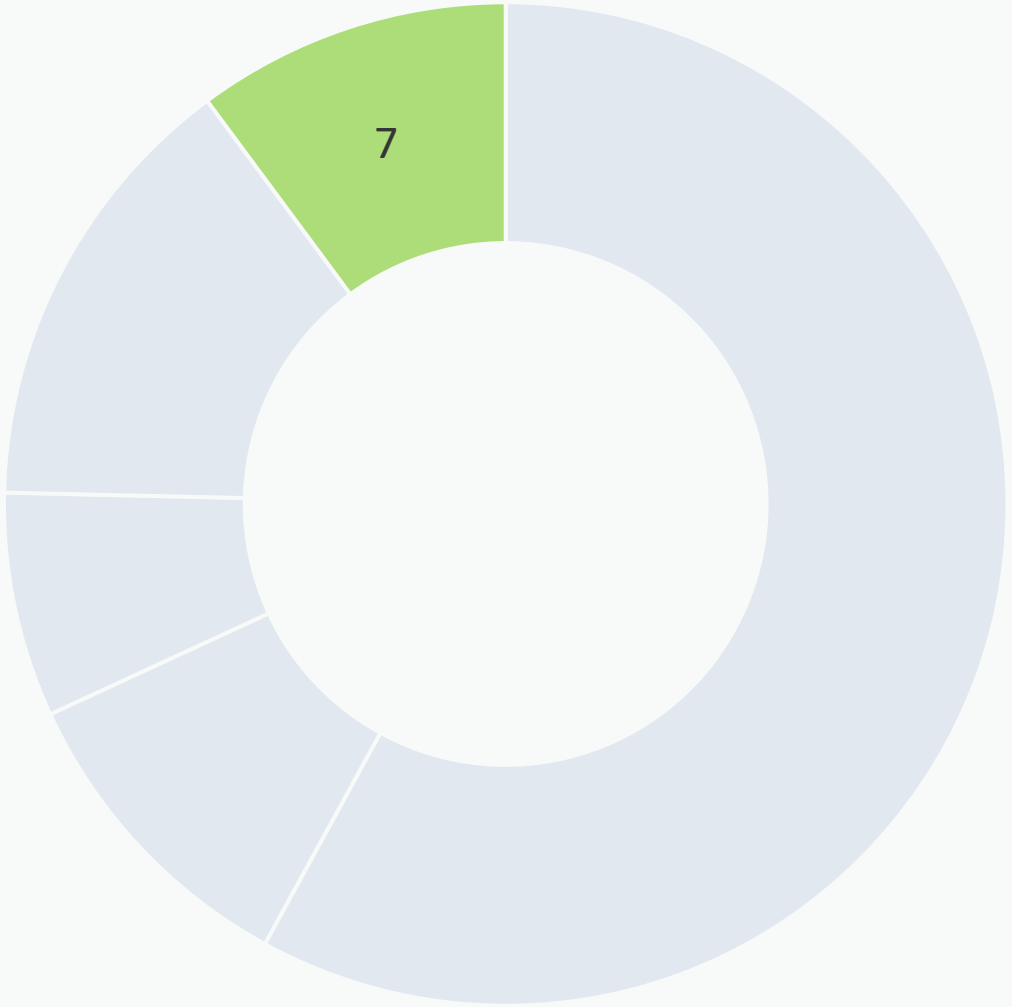
The project received credit under SCW's leveraged-funds and community support scoring for demonstrated cost-share commitments and extensive stakeholder engagement.

- Leveraged Funds
  - Caltrans: $8.5M committed (25% of construction cost).
  - RH/SGR JPA Municipal Funds: $6.25M committed (18% of construction).

Total leverage: ~43%, placing the project in SCW's mid-range scoring tier and scoring **3 points.**

- Community Support
  - Engagement included multiple public events (three outreach events, surveys, tabling, workshops).
  - Strong participation from CBOs: Active SGV, Amigos de los Rios, BikeLA, Pasadena Audubon Society, etc.
  - More outreach event are planned for future.

Community input directly shaped design thus scored **4 points.**



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Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Courtney Semlow, PE, Project Manager
Craftwater Engineering