



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Dawn Petschauer

Organization\*: City of Pasadena

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Phone\*: 6267443929

Meeting: USGR WASC

Date: 12/4/2025

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

\*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov). All public comments will become part of the official record.

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## Comments

I'm here regarding LA County's determination that Pasadena's Green Infrastructure Workforce in the LA Region Study is ineligible. Pasadena strongly disagrees with this determination and believes it contradicts both the letter and intent of the SCWP Ordinance and the Program's clear directive to support long-term operations, maintenance, and workforce capacity identified in the program's goals (M and N). Our study directly meets the eligibility criteria as written. It produces regionally transferable tools, fills a well-documented capacity gap, and supports the very infrastructure investments that SCWP is funding in perpetuity. Workforce development is not ancillary to this Program—it is mission-critical. Without trained personnel, the region cannot maintain compliance, cannot ensure performance of its stormwater capture projects, and cannot achieve the multi-benefit outcomes the Ordinance promises to taxpayers.

It is deeply concerning that the County's action effectively blocks the development of a green-infrastructure workforce for anyone other than the County itself within a publicly funded tax-measure program. This is contrary to both the collaborative governance structure of SCWP and the commitment to equitable regional benefit. Pasadena remains committed to advancing this workforce initiative, but it is a loss for the region that the County has acted in a manner that restricts access to regional funding for a program designed to build the very capacity the Ordinance recognizes as essential. We urge the WASC to reaffirm the importance of workforce development, request the County to rescind its ineligibility determination, and allow this application to proceed through the established public process. Before this determination, Pasadena presented this concept to the CSMB and received rave reviews. The ULAR WASC also requested that the District allow Pasadena to present alongside the County on workforce development. I am here today to strongly encourage this WASC insist on that same opportunity.



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Jeff Khun Organization\*: City of Pasadena

Email\*: jkhun@cityofpasadena.net Phone\*: (626) 744-7389

Meeting: USGR WASC Date: 12/4/2025

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## Comments

Hello. My name is Jeff Khun, Landscape Architect with the City of Pasadena. For many years, I've designed and helped implement many of Pasadena's green-infrastructure and urban greening projects. Pasadena, like all Agencies, struggle with maintenance after the projects are completed as municipal staff lack the training to effectively maintain these systems. Even the best-designed projects fail without proper, standardized maintenance training.

Across Pasadena and cities throughout the region—we see recurring issues: basins draining poorly because staff wasn't trained in pretreatment maintenance, native vegetation pruned incorrectly which compromises pollutant removal, infiltration systems clogged because maintenance teams lack correct inspection techniques. These challenges are not the result of neglect—they're the result of a systemwide lack of training and education. There is a clear need for consistent, regional training and a specialized workforce.

Our study builds on Pasadena's long standing workforce development program's success, and CWP's Clean Water Certificate program, adapting to the specific needs of the region. This ensures the training reflects real local conditions and regional investment.

Pasadena is committed to advancing this work. We have dedicated \$500,000 of local funds to support the study to ensure the success of our projects—but this is a regional gap, not just a Pasadena need. We are continuing this effort, despite the District's decision to eliminate support and funding, though we may need to scale the study to fit our resources. We are committed to coordinating with local partners so that this becomes a resource accessible beyond Pasadena. Thank you.



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Jessica Rivas

Organization\*: City of Pasadena

Email\*: jesrivas@cityofpasadena.net

Phone\*: 626-744-6989

Meeting: USGR WASC

Date: 12/4/2025

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## Comments

Good afternoon, members of the WASC. My name is Jessica Rivas, Program Coordinator with Pasadena and the lead for the City's proposed Regional Workforce Development Study. Our team has conducted broad outreach—locally, regionally, and statewide—to understand the gaps in green-infrastructure maintenance training. What we heard was remarkably consistent: green infrastructure is being built at a rapid pace, but the trained workforce needed to maintain it is not keeping up. That gap puts the community, municipalities and the Program at risk. This is not only a professional concern—it's also a personal one. I volunteered with Outward Bound Adventures in Pasadena. Through that work, I've spent time with youth and young adults who are deeply interested in environmental careers. I've also seen how few clear, accessible career pathways exist in green maintenance. From my City perspective, we are investing in more nature-based and stormwater-focused infrastructure than ever before, yet our staff lacks the training required to maintain these systems effectively. There is a real, urgent regional need for a trained, local workforce that reflects these emerging careers. Despite the District's deeming our study ineligible, it directly advances two of Program's goals by ensuring long term maintenance and creating meaningful green-job pathways—especially for underserved communities. Moreso, proper maintenance is essential to water-quality performance, infiltration capacity, and resiliency. Workforce development is our region's biggest need, and our outreach makes that clear. The Program is losing a significant opportunity by eliminating our study, as Pasadena is committed to moving forward, committing \$500K of our local dollars, and regional and state partners have expressed strong support and interest in adopting the curriculum once developed. Pasadena is committed to pursuing regional collaboration absent of District program funding and support. Please reach out if interested in staying engaged with Pasadena's workforce. Thank you.



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Katherine Evers

Organization\*: Center for Watershed Protection

Email\*: kme@cwpp.org

Phone\*: 410-422-6433

Meeting: Upper San Gabriel River WASC

Date: 12/3/2025

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## Comments

My name is Kaitie Evers, I manage the Clean Water Certificate Program at the Center for Watershed Protection. I want to speak directly to something that everyone understands: maintenance is the backbone of effective stormwater management. It is easy to celebrate the installation of a brand-new green infrastructure project the ribbon cuttings, the renderings, the excitement. But the real work, the real impact comes years later, when that practice is still functioning, still capturing runoff, and still protecting downstream communities. That only happens with consistent, skilled maintenance. National research shows every 1 million invested in stormwater, creates an average of 13 jobs. Pasadena has already invested over 900 million on green infrastructure in the past 6 years and with project expansion comes maintenance expansion. That is where the Clean Water Certificate Program comes in. This training pathway is designed to make maintenance knowledge accessible to every learner. Participants are evaluated on their ability to perform, communicate, and problem-solve not just take a test. Our program maintains a 93% completion rate with learners consistently reporting not only a deep understanding of how stormwater plays a role in their own communities, they leave with the confidence to step into the workforce prepared and capable. No GED and No prior experience. Participants receive a nationally accredited certificate, no continuing education requirements. Built to open doors, remove employment barriers, and provide a pathway to living wage jobs. By partnering with Pasadena, we are excited not only to bring this pathway to residents but also to develop the next level of training tailored specifically to this region's maintenance needs. This is an opportunity to strengthen local workforce development, support long-term compliance, and ensure every project built in the region continues to deliver clean water benefits for decades to come. We are committed to being a partner in expanding stormwater workforce capacity in LA, and we welcome the opportunity to bring this program to the communities who benefit from it.



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Sherreeta White Organization\*: City of Pasadena, MASH Program

Email\*: sWhite@cityofpasadena.net Phone\*: 626-744-7628

Meeting: USGR WASC Date: 12/4/2025

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## Comments

For more than forty years, MASH has served as one of the region's most effective municipal workforce development programs, providing full-time, paid, hands-on training to residents who are under- or unemployed seeking municipal career pathways. Our program is open across LA County and our mission is to open doors, build skills, and create long-term employment pipelines that strengthen our community and regional workforce. We have a 90% success rate in trainees transition into stable, long-term careers—in Pasadena and county-wide. We have a proven record of ensuring participants gain both income stability and real-world experience while developing the technical skills needed for long-term employment in areas such as landscaping and essential municipal services. Green infrastructure maintenance is a natural extension of this work. It is hands-on, field-based, and deeply rooted in public service—the kind of training environment where MASH excels. Yet today, there is no standardized curriculum, no recognized credential, and no formal regional training pathway to prepare workers for this rapidly growing field. Pasadena's proposed Study would change that. It would allow MASH to integrate the Clean Water Certificate program into our existing training model and expand our curriculum to include training for infrastructure the Program is investing in, promoting real green careers. This training directly supports clean water regional initiatives. By equipping trainees with the skills to maintain green infrastructure we are strengthening the workforce responsible for safeguarding our waters, which aligns with Program Goals M and N, because a trained workforce is essential to keeping projects operational long term. This is a rare opportunity to connect environmental goals with economic mobility—something MASH has delivered 40+ years. While the District has deemed the study ineligible, Pasadena will continue moving forward and remains committed to working to build a green-infrastructure workforce program that supports the needs of our region. Thank you.