



Public Comment Form

Name*: Claire Robinson Organization*: Amigos de los Rios

Email*: claire@amigosdelosrios.org Phone*: 626 676 5027

Meeting: _____ Date: 12/16/2025

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

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Comments

Amigos de los Rios is providing public comment on the relevance of the proposed Scientific Study 'Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot' with its clear nexus to Water Quality, Water Supply and Community Benefits. The application as constituted directly aligns with SCW Program's goals, and meets the scientific and technical threshold required for the Scientific Studies Program.

We know the Scientific Studies Program is designed to fund research and monitoring efforts to enhance understanding of stormwater management, water quality, and water supply in Los Angeles County. We understand the program aims to support scientific studies that practically inform the development of more effective, sustainable water infrastructure projects and policies. Our proposed study would generate key data and insights to help advance innovative solutions for technically precise, practical, cost effective and scientifically based monitoring, maintenance and care of multi benefit green school yards. With out this research project infrastructure investment is not protected because the role of M , O and M is critical to long tem sustainability. The material science and specifications of multi benefit school yard projects are innovative. We ascertain that break through implementation at scale of Green School Yards willl relies on a new approach to materials science of their care and monitoring their effectiveness over time. We need thist study to protect public investment in these projects effectiveness over time and to better understand the use of new materials and their effective care as a precise technical science with related protocols for training and care.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Mikaela Randolph Organization*: Green Schoolyards America

Email*: mikaela@greenschoolyards.org Phone*: 310 985 3380

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 12/15/2025

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Comments

Green Schoolyards America is a best-practices management program advancing innovation in public school infrastructure in Southern California and nationally. We are providing public comment on the relevance of the proposed Scientific Study, Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot, given its clear nexus to water quality, water supply, and community benefits. The application, as constituted, directly aligns with the SCW Program's goals and meets the scientific and technical threshold required for the Scientific Studies Program. We believe the new materials science embedded in Amigos de los Rios' implemented projects requires a scientific approach to monitoring, operations, and maintenance. This study is mission-critical for adaptation of these projects at scale throughout the public school system. We understand the Scientific Studies Program is designed to fund research and monitoring efforts that enhance understanding of stormwater management, water quality, and water supply in Los Angeles County. We also understand the program aims to support scientific studies that practically inform the development of more effective and sustainable water infrastructure projects and policies. The proposed study would generate key data and insights to help advance innovative solutions for technically precise, practical, cost-effective, and scientifically based monitoring, maintenance, and care of multi-benefit green schoolyards. This study will help provide breakthrough information needed to support adaptation at scale of the new materials science that Amigos de los Rios has incorporated into the multi-benefit projects implemented to date. Based on our studies, we know that stormwater management at schools has significant potential. As a research group dedicated to the dissemination of best practices, we ascertain that successful implementation at scale of Green Schoolyards will rely on a new approach to materials science, including the care and monitoring of these multi-benefit schoolyards over time. This study is needed to protect public



Public Comment Form

Name*: Mikaela Randolph Organization*: Green Schoolyards America

Email*: mikaela@greenschoolyards.org Phone*: 310 985 3380

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 12/15/2025

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Comments

This study is needed to protect public investment in the long-term effectiveness of these projects and to better understand the use of new materials and their effective care as a precise technical science, with related protocols for training and care.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Sonali Abraham Organization*: Pacific Institute

Email*: sabraham@pacinst.org Phone*: 5102511600 ext 106

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 12/15/2025

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Comments

Pacific Institute is providing public comment on the relevance of the proposed Scientific Study, Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot, given its clear nexus to water quality, water supply, and community benefits. The application, as constituted, directly aligns with the SCW Program's goals and meets the scientific and technical threshold required for the Scientific Studies Program.

We understand the Scientific Studies Program is intended to fund research and monitoring efforts that enhance understanding of stormwater management, water quality, and water supply in Los Angeles County. We also understand the program aims to support scientific studies that practically inform the development of more effective and sustainable water infrastructure projects and policies. This proposed study would generate key data and insights to advance innovative solutions for technically precise, practical, cost-effective, and scientifically based monitoring, maintenance, and care of multi-benefit green schoolyards.

This study will help provide breakthrough information needed to support adaptation at scale of the new materials science that Amigos de los Rios has incorporated into the multi-benefit projects implemented to date. Based on our studies, we know that stormwater management at schools has significant potential. As a scientific research institute focused on water resiliency, we ascertain that successful implementation at scale of Green Schoolyards will rely on a new approach to materials science, including the care of these systems and the monitoring of their effectiveness over time. This study is needed to protect public investment in the long-term effectiveness of these projects and to better understand the use of new materials and their effective care as a precise technical science, with related protocols for training and care.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Marci Raney Organization*: Children's Hospital

Email*: marciraney@gmail.com Phone*: _____

Meeting: _____ Date: 12/15/2025

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Comments

As a PhD and research specialist in the community benefits of Green Schoolyards, I am offering my support for inclusion of the proposed Scientific Study, Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot, given its clear nexus to water quality, water supply, and community benefits, as proposed by Amigos de los Rios. The application, as constituted, directly aligns with the SCW Program's goals and meets the scientific and technical threshold required for the Scientific Studies Program. We believe there are significant mental health, physical fitness, and academic performance benefits associated with the green schoolyards that Amigos de los Rios is developing in partnership with school districts. The new materials science embedded in these projects requires a scientific approach to monitoring, sustainable operation, and maintenance. We understand that the Scientific Studies Program is designed to fund research and monitoring efforts to enhance understanding of stormwater management, water quality, and water supply in Los Angeles County. The program also aims to support scientific studies that practically inform the development of more effective, meaningful, and sustainable water infrastructure projects and policies. This proposed study would generate key data and insights to advance innovative solutions for technically precise, practical, cost-effective, and scientifically based monitoring, maintenance, and care of multi-benefit green schoolyards. This study will provide breakthrough information needed to support adaptation at scale of the new materials science that Amigos de los Rios has incorporated into the multi-benefit projects implemented to date. Public investment in multi-benefit infrastructure is critical and provides meaningful community benefits. Collaborating with qualified experts to develop a scientific approach to the sustainable care of these projects is a natural responsibility of the Safe, Clean Water Program. This study is needed to protect public investment in the long-term effectiveness of these projects and to better



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Email*: marciraney@gmail.com Phone*: _____

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Comments

This study is needed to protect public investment in the long-term effectiveness of these projects and to better understand the use of new materials, which requires research and application of precise technical science, with related protocols for training and care.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Carson Risner Organization*: Earth Economics

Email*: crisner@earthconomics.org Phone*: 360 632 7446

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 12/15/2025

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We know the Scientific Studies Program is designed to fund research and monitoring efforts to enhance understanding of stormwater management, water quality, and water supply in Los Angeles County. We understand the program aims to support scientific studies that practically inform the development of more effective, sustainable water infrastructure projects and policies. Our proposed study would generate key data and insights to help advance innovative solutions for technically precise, practical, cost-effective, and scientifically based monitoring, maintenance, and care of multi-benefit green schoolyards. Without this research project, infrastructure investment is not protected, because the role of maintenance, operations, and monitoring is critical to long-term sustainability.

The material science and specifications of multi-benefit schoolyard projects are innovative. We ascertain that breakthrough implementation at scale of Green Schoolyards will rely on a new approach to materials science, including their care and the monitoring of their effectiveness over time. We need this study to protect public investment in these projects' effectiveness over time and to better understand the use of new materials and their effective care as a precise technical science, with related protocols for training and care.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Amanda H. Pollack, P.E.

Organization*: Center for Watershed Protection

Email*: ahp@cwpc.org

Phone*: (410) 696-3945

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC

Date: 12/16/2025

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Comments

Hello. My name is Amanda Pollack, PE, and I'm the Director of Training and a Senior Water Resources Engineer at the Center for Watershed Protection. The Center was founded in 1992, and for more than 30 years we have been a national leader in stormwater management and professional training. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing clean water and healthy ecosystems through responsible land and water management. Our programs focus on Training, Stormwater Consulting, and Research. Today, I'm here to highlight the workforce development component of our training program.

The Center developed the Clean Water Certificate, or CWC Program, which is a workforce development initiative that provides a nationally accredited credential for entry-level professionals in the stormwater industry. The program is accredited through the American National Standards Institute's National Accreditation Board, meaning it meets rigorous, internationally recognized standards.

The CWC program teaches practical, hands-on skills in green infrastructure and stormwater construction and maintenance. CWC provides fair, equitable assessment for all participants. No prior experience is required—the curriculum is designed specifically for individuals entering the field with no background in stormwater.

Participants who successfully complete the program receive a certificate that does not expire and does not require continuing education. Our goal is to build career pathways by connecting trained graduates with public, private, and nonprofit employers offering living-wage jobs. We operate across the country, training both CWC participants and new instructors so the program can be delivered locally and sustainably.

We are excited to partner with the City of Pasadena as the first West Coast community to adopt and adapt this program to meet local needs and support bilingual communities. This is an important step in expanding a national training network and ensuring the Los Angeles region has access to the same high-quality, accredited workforce development opportunities available elsewhere in the country. Thank you.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Christina Monde Organization*: City of Pasadena

Email*: cmonde@cityofpasadena.net Phone*: 626-744-3929

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Date: 12/16/2025

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Comments

Good afternoon, Committee members. My name is Christina Monde, Civil Engineer for the City of Pasadena assisting in the design, construction and O&M of stormwater projects.

I'm here regarding Pasadena's Scientific Study, Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce for the LA Region — a study originally deemed eligible and invited to present at the CSMB WASC, where we received strong support, before the District later deemed it ineligible. I am respectfully asking this WASC to exercise its authority to request that our Study be presented and to decide for yourselves whether it meets the Program's intent and merits funding.

Pasadena's MASH Program is one of the longest-running workforce development programs in California. It brings in participants from across the region and places trainees into multiple cities, including Monrovia, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, and others. MASH is a functioning regional workforce engine already embedded in municipal operations.

By contrast, the County's proposed workforce program — while valuable — is not operations-based, and will take years to develop and deploy, assuming it is ever built. After six rounds of implementation and \$1B invested, there is still no workforce pathway, curriculum, or system to meet the long-term O&M obligations this Program depends on.

Our study fills that gap now. And I want to emphasize, there is no such thing as too much workforce development. This Program should be championing every credible workforce opportunity, not suppressing them.

The WASC has the authority to determine the merit and eligibility of Scientific Studies — not the District. ULAR and USGR have already requested that we be allowed to present, and I urge this Committee to do the same so you can evaluate it openly, transparently, and against this Committee's needs. Thank you.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Jessica Rivas

Organization*: City of Pasadena

Email*: jesrivas@cityofpasadena.net

Phone*: 626-744-6989

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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*: Kaitie Evers Organization*: Center for Watershed Protection

Email*: kme@cwpp.org Phone*: 410-442-6433

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

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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. 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



Public Comment Form

Name*: Kaitie Evers

Organization*: Center for Watershed Protection

Email*: kme@cwpp.org

Phone*: 410-442-6433

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Date: 12/16/2025

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Comments

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 the most.



Public Comment Form

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

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

Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Date: 12/16/2025

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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.