SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

Eaton Wash Storm Capture Project

RIO HONDO WATERSHED AREA

APPLICATION TYPE:
CONSTRUCTION, O&M

PRESENTATION DATE:

January 20, 2026

PROJECT LEAD:

City of Pasadena

Project Overview

The Project is proposed at an undeveloped parcel owned by the City of Pasadena across from Eaton Blanche Park within the Rio Hondo watershed. The project is adjacent to the Eaton Wash channel, a tributary to the Rio Hondo. The project, which has completed the 90% design phase, proposes to intercept and treat a sizeable portion of the stormwater flowing from a 10,534-acre drainage area located within Unincorporated Los Angeles County and the City of Pasadena (City). This project has the potential to address the stormwater management needs identified to achieve compliance in the ULAR EWMP, as well as provide water quality, water supply, and community investment benefits.

Project Objectives

- Improve water quality within Eaton Wash and the Rio Hondo Watershed
- Recharge the Raymond Basin to increase water supply
- Create new park facilities for community benefit
- Provide habitat, education opportunities, and diverse vegetation to the space
- Provide wildfire resiliency

PROJECT LEAD

City of Pasadena

SCORING COMMITTEE SCORE

68

PROJECT STATUS

Design

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED

$19,435,556

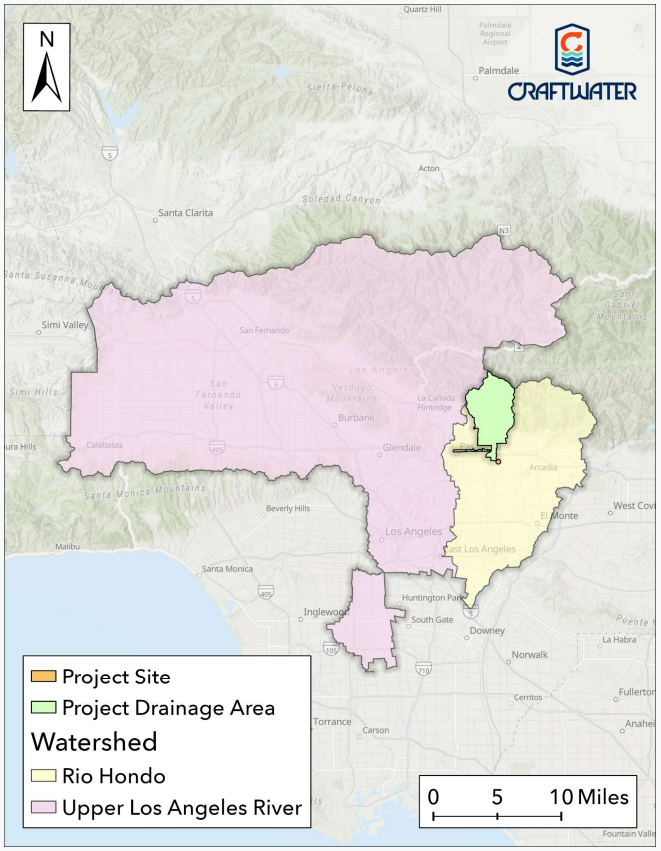
Funding Request Phase(s): Construction, O & M

Previously Awarded Technical Resources Project Concept: No

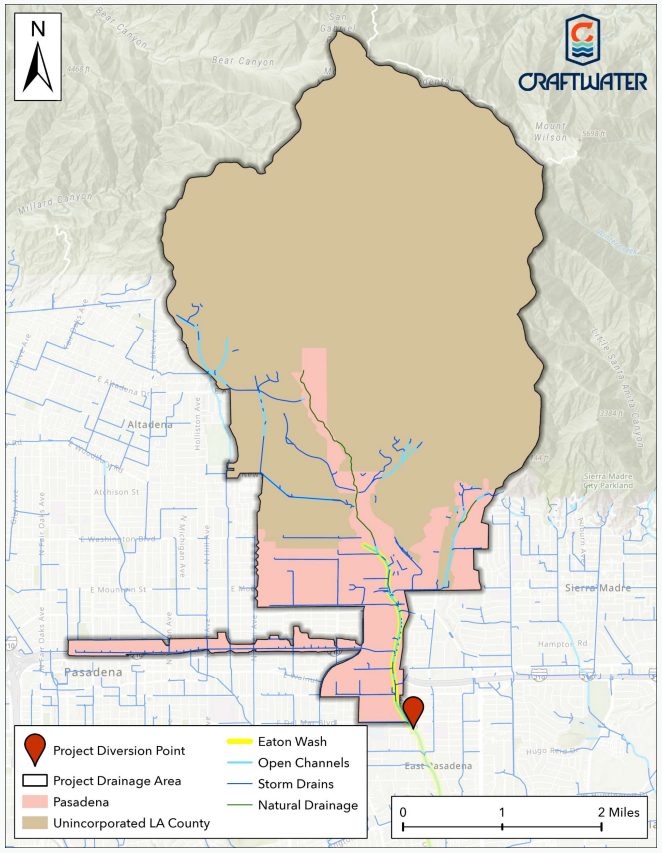
Previously Awarded Instructure Program Project: Yes

Project Location

Watershed Area



Jurisdiction in Drainage Area



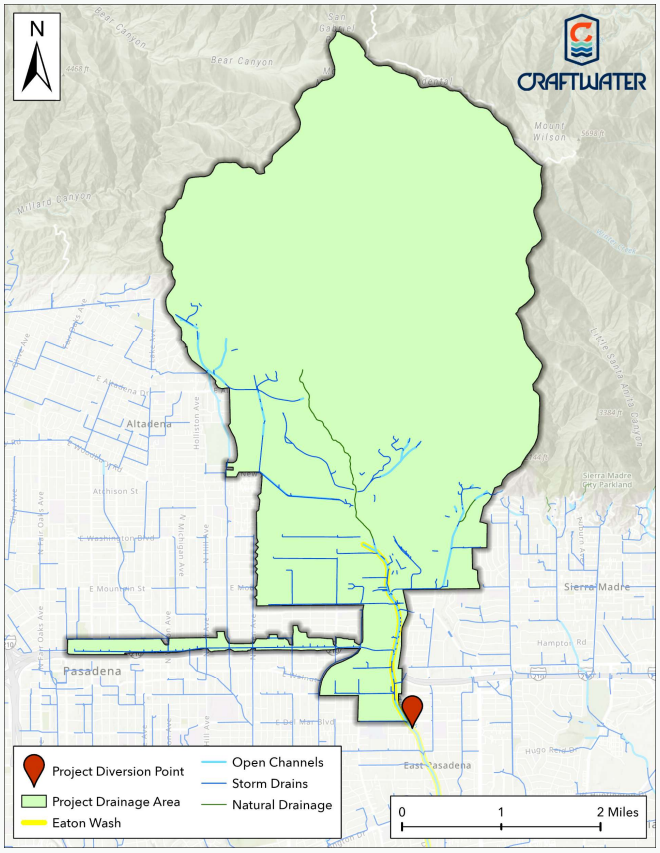
Municipalities

- Pasadena
- Unincorporated LA County

Drainage Area

- 10,534 acres

Drainage Area



Project Background

Why was the Project location selected?

- It sits adjacent to Eaton Wash, which carries flows from historically important Eaton Canyon to the Rio Hondo and LA River, making it ideal for watershed benefits.
- The vacant City-owned parcel next to Eaton Blanche Park that allows an opportunity to create new park space for the City, adjacent unincorporated LA County, and local stakeholders.
- The project was relocated from the upstream Kinneloa site to accommodate a Hydrogen Fueling Station, while capturing additional storm drain flows and increasing overall benefits.
- The site also allows the project to honor local heritage, including the former Earthside Nature Center.

How was the Project developed?

- The project was developed to build on the watershed's long history of water as a vital resource dating back to the Tongva and later settlement patterns shaped by Eaton Canyon's consistent water supply.
- It was advanced through the ULAR EWMP to support MS4 compliance and maximize cost-effective pollutant removal and multi-benefits.
- Community outreach driven site programming integrates stormwater infrastructure with park, education, and habitat elements, continuing the area's legacy of environmental learning established by the Earthside Nature Center.

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

- Treats ~307 ac-ft/yr of runoff from a 10,534-acre drainage area in the Rio Hondo watershed.
- Infiltrates 1.23 ac-ft of the runoff generated by the bacteria storm and removes ~87 lbs/yr zinc and ~8 lbs/yr lead, improving water quality downstream to the LA River and ocean.
- Adds 3.44 ac-ft of capture capacity and supports groundwater recharge to the Raymond Basin.

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

- The project improves water quality and supports local water supply through pollutant removal and stormwater infiltration.
- The project provides new passive park space and amenities that enhance public health and quality of life for disadvantaged community members.
- The project supports environmental education through partnerships with nearby schools and community organizations serving disadvantaged populations.
- The project benefits disadvantaged youth and individuals with disabilities from adjacent organizations despite not being within a DAC census tract.

Partners

Who are the Project collaborators?

This project does not involve additional project collaborators.

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

There have been several community organizations that have committed their support of the project. These organizations include:

Amigos de Los Rios	City of Pasadena Councilmember, District 4 – Gene Masuda	City of Pasadena's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Arlington Garden	GroWORKS	Los Angeles County Supervisor, Fifth District
Boys and Girls Club	Pasadena Water and Power	Willard Elementary School

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

The Eaton Wash Storm Capture Project is led by the City of Pasadena.

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

The responsible party for the O&M of this project will be the City of Pasadena. A letter of commitment from the City has been obtained.

Partners

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

- An LACFCD easement is located within the western portion of the project along the Eaton Wash.
- City of Pasadena is currently in the process of obtaining a permit for the improvements and a Use and Maintenance Agreement with LACFCD
  - Submitted a Flood Construction Permit to the County of Los Angeles in January 2026 and is currently in review
- An LACFCD Letter of Conceptual Approval was obtained on January 21, 2025.

Existing Conditions

Existing Hydrology

- Infeasible to capture the 85th percentile design storm (**peak flow rate = 65.6 cfs; design storm volume = 37.5 ac-ft**) from the Eaton Wash, which encompasses a 10,534-acre drainage area

Proposed Design Approach

- Treats both **Dry and Wet flows** to the maximum extent practicable
  - **Dry Weather**: 100% capture and treatment of dry weather flows. Meets critical bacteria requirements pursuant to permit requirements.
  - **Wet Weather**: Diverts and treats up to 10 cfs of storm flows from the Wash.
- Addresses recent water quality impairments as it relates to the Eaton Fire (and supports future fire-related risk)
- Treatment including a trash capture device, CDS pretreatment unit, 3.44 ac-ft subsurface storage & infiltration gallery, post filtration unit and above-ground bioswales, returning cleaner water to the channel and recharging groundwater.

Project Details

Current Site Conditions

- The project is on a City-owned parcel behind an urgent care facility, adjacent to Eaton Wash and across from Eaton Blanche Park.
- The site is ~25 ft above the channel invert with a steep ~17-ft embankment, creating design and construction challenges.
- The project team identified 94 trees for removal, with 543 trees proposed for a net gain of 449 trees.

Land Ownership/Right-of-Way

- Most improvements are within City of Pasadena property, with access needed to Eaton Wash and portions of Eaton Blanche Park.
- Coordination with LACFCD is required due to a 100-ft easement LACFCD has for the Eaton Wash. Coordination with LACFCD for the diversion structure, pipeline, and bridge is ongoing (conceptual approval received).
- A permanent access easement is in negotiations with SCE to connect via their right-of-way to Thorndale Rd.

Potential/Future Constraints

- The project requires multi-agency/easement coordination (City, LACFCD, SCE) for access and construction.
- BMP installation may require cutting into the slope due to the steep embankment conditions.
- Long-term maintenance of the pretreatment, filtration, infiltration basins and the other components on site.

Project Details

Environmental Documents and Permits

- Environmental Documentation
  - CEQA: Anticipated compliance through applicable environmental review; jurisdictional delineation will define Waters of the U.S./State limits.
  - Federal Compliance: Section 106 (NHPA) review required to assess historic significance of the Eaton Wash channel.
- LACFCD Permits
  - Major Modification Permit: Required for construction of a diversion/drop inlet within the Eaton Wash channel (LACFCD facility).
  - Discharge Permit: Required for discharge of treated (non-storm) water into an existing LACFCD facility.
- USACE Permits
  - Section 408 Permit: Required for access to alter a USACE Civil Works Project.
  - Section 404 Permit: Required for discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States.
- State Regulatory Permits
  - RWQCB – Section 401 Water Quality Certification: Required for impacts to Waters of the State.
  - California Department of Fish & Wildlife – Section 1602 (LSA): Required for diversion and alteration of the streambed.
  - State Water Resources Control Board – Construction General Permit: Required for disturbance of ≥1 acre; SWPPP preparation required.
- Additional Regulatory Permits
  - Greater LA County Vector Control District: Mosquito abatement review.
  - South Coast AQMD – Rule 403: Fugitive dust control during construction.
  - County of Los Angeles Parks & Recreation: Property manager coordination/approval.
  - City of Pasadena Department of Public Works: Permits for work within the public right-of-way.

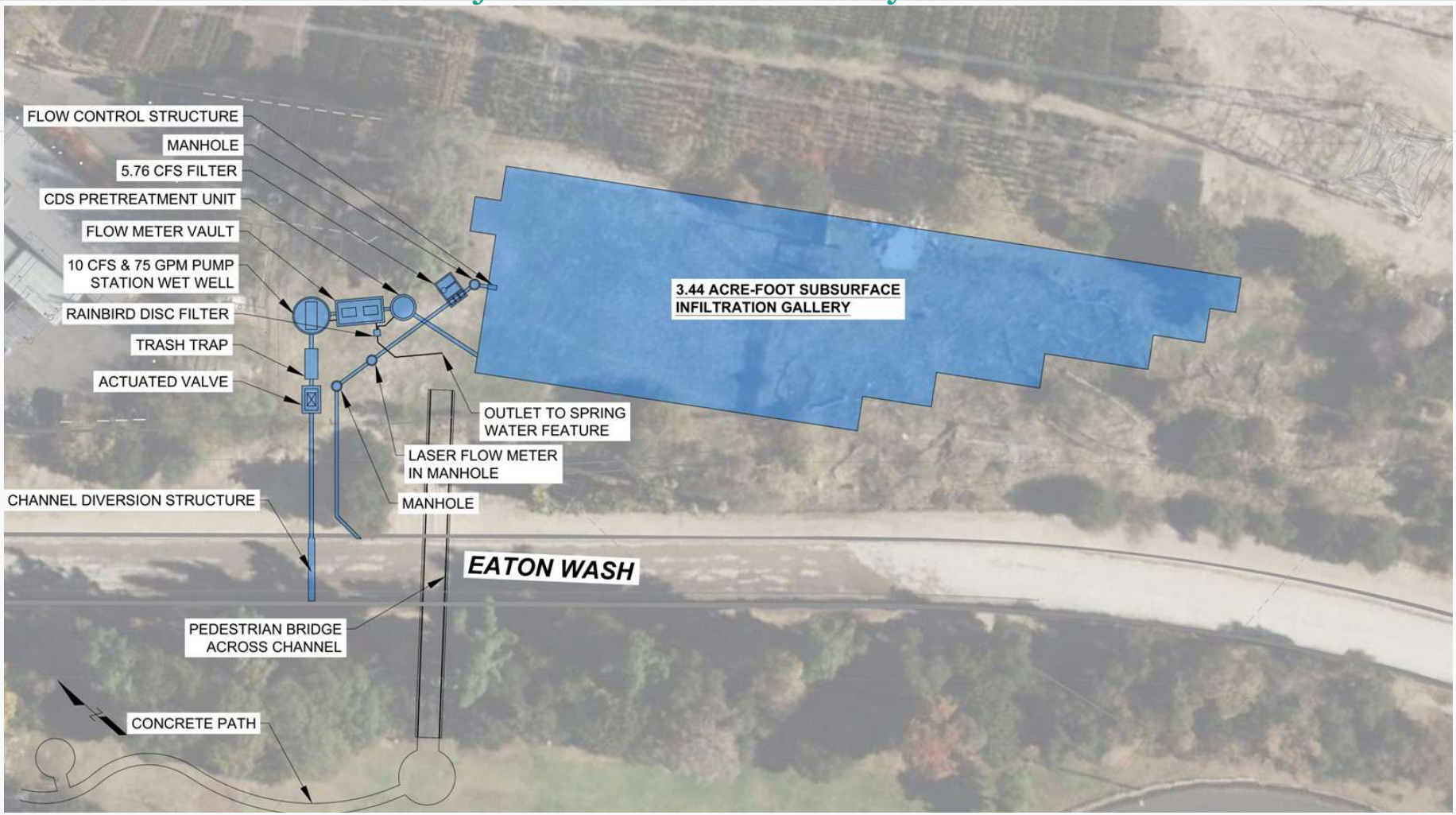
Vector Minimization

- A vector minimization plan has been submitted and is being reviewed by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District.

Technical Activities Completed

- Geotechnical Investigation
- Topographic + Arborist Surveys
- Utility Data Review
- Watershed modeling + BMP sizing investigation
- Desktop environmental impact & geotechnical analyses conducted
- Preliminary Design Report
- Post-Construction Monitoring Plan
- O&M Plan
- Outreach Workshops
- Technical Stakeholder Meetings
- 90% Design Plans, Specifications, and Estimate

Project Schematic – Utility Plan

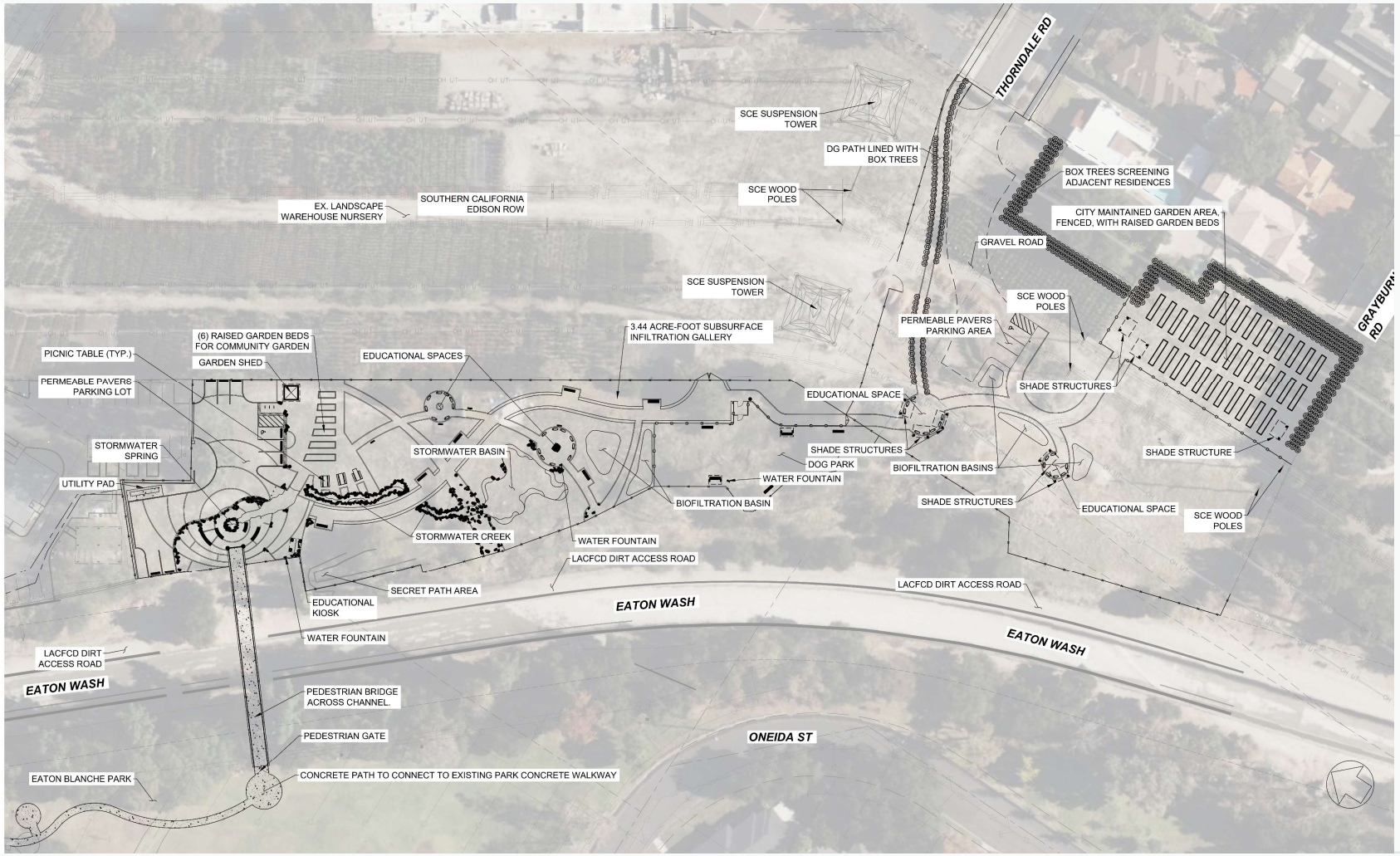


SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Project Schematic – Site Plan Concept

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Project Schematic – Site Plan (90% Design)



Cost and Schedule

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	COST	COMPLETION DATE
Planning	Feasibility Study Development	$62,016	07/31/2022
Design	Development of Construction Documents, CEQA, Permitting, Outreach and Engagement (Project Bidding, Award included in Design Cost)	$2,292,762	12/31/2026
Construction	Project Construction and Management	$24,654,674	12/31/2029
TOTAL COST		**$27,009,452**	

Cost and Schedule (Continued)

ANNUAL COSTS	
Annual Maintenance Cost	$376,300
Annual Operation Cost	$53,600
Monitoring Costs	$36,000

LIFE-CYCLE COSTS	
Project Life Span	50 Years
Total Life-Cycle Cost	$38,071,392.34
Annualized Life-Cycle Cost	$1,586,711.26

Cost Share

TYPE OF COST SHARE	FUNDING AMOUNT	PHASE	COST SHARE STATUS	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Agreement	$6,500,000	Construction	Commitment Received	Caltrans

- Total Cost Share: $6,500,000
- Leveraged Funding Percentage: 26.5%

Funding Request

YEAR (FISCAL YEAR)	SCW FUNDING REQUEST	PHASE	EFFORTS DURING PHASE AND YEAR
1 (FY26-27)	$9,018,928	Construction	Construction Contract, Year 1 Budget; Agency Project Management and Construction Administration, Year 1
2 (FY27-28)	$9,018,928	Construction	Construction Contract, Year 2 Budget; Agency Project Management and Construction Administration, Year 2
3 (FY28-29)	$465,900	O&M	Maintenance, Operation and Monitoring, Year 1
4 (FY29-30)	$465,900	O&M	Maintenance, Operation and Monitoring, Year 2
5 (FY30-31)	$465,900	O&M	Maintenance, Operation and Monitoring, Year 3
TOTAL	**$19,435,556**		

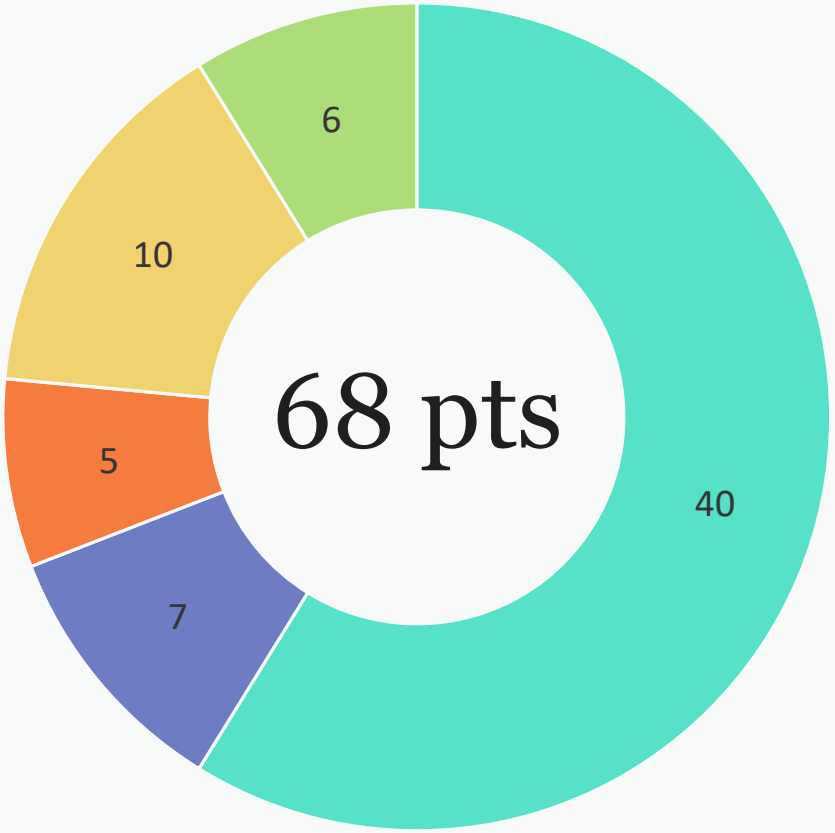
- Potential Future SCW Funding Request: Yes – Continued O&M

Metrics & Measures

	PROJECT BENEFIT METRICS	METRIC
Improve Water Quality	Zinc load reduction (lbs/year)	88
	Total Phosphorous load reduction (lbs/year)	205
Increase Drought Prepared-ness	Increase Local Water Supply through Stormwater Capture (ac-ft/year)	39.5
	Increase local supply through groundwater recharge and storage (ac-ft/yr)	116.18
Improve Public Health	Net area of park and green space created (acres)	3.1
	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)	0.55
	Net new trees planted	449
Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects	Net area of habitat created, enhanced, restored, protected (acres)	3.28
Promote Green Jobs & Career	Annual Full Time Equivalent Jobs Created	111.55

Final Score by Scoring Committee

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

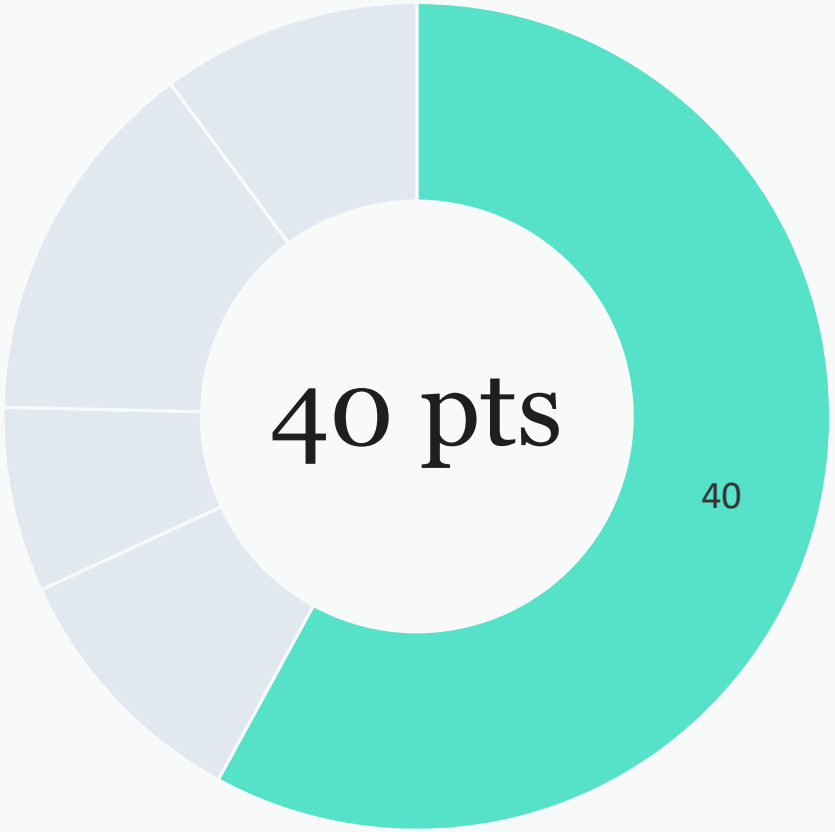


* The Scoring Committee confirmed this score on September 15, 2025

Score Breakdown

Water Quality

- This project's water quality section was scored based on the original scoring criteria. The Water Quality Benefit scoring criteria has two parts:
  - For dry weather projects, designs must capture, infiltrate, treat and release or divert 100% of dry weather flows: This project achieves this criterion, earning a score of **20 points**.
  - For dry weather BMPs only, score is contingent on whether the BMP is larger or smaller than 200 acres: This projects tributary size is larger than 200 acres (10,534 acres) earning a score of **20 points**.
- Grand Total of **40 points** for the Water Quality Section



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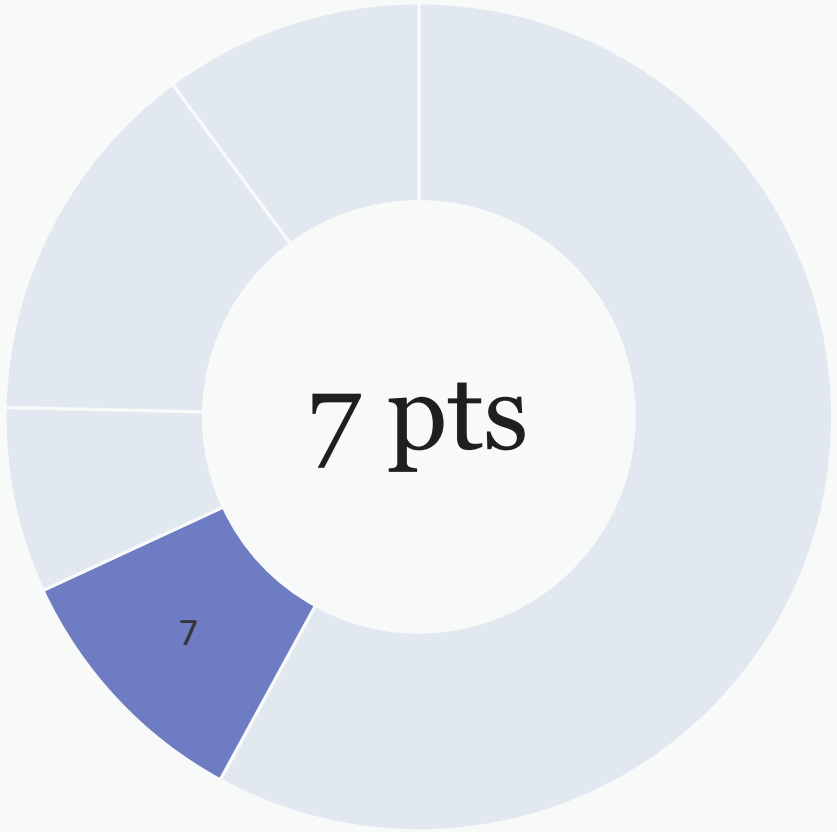
Score Breakdown

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:
  - 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 $40,170 per acre-ft and received **2 points** for it.
  - The total water-supply benefit, including annual infiltration and net countable water supply: The project produces 39.5 acre-feet per year of water supply and received **5 points** for it.
- Grand Total: **7 points**



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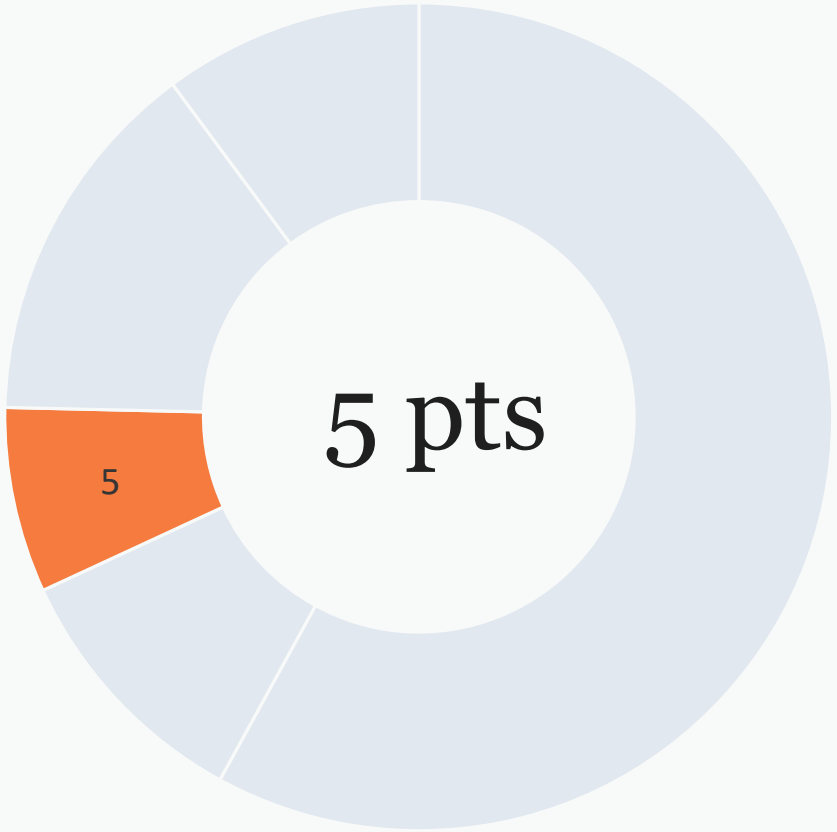
Score Breakdown

Community Investment Benefits

The project will provide community investment benefits for the following criteria:

- Transforms an undeveloped parcel into a native, climate-appropriate passive recreation park.
- Adds a pedestrian bridge connecting the site to Eaton Blanche Park and the Eaton Wash corridor.
- Increases shade and cooling through native vegetation, shade structures, and a net gain of 449 trees.
- Replaces invasive trees with 543 native trees and 6,200 plants, expanding canopy and sequestering ~7,000 lbs CO_2/year.

Because the project provides at least 3 community benefit opportunities, the project **received 5 points** for the community investment benefits section.



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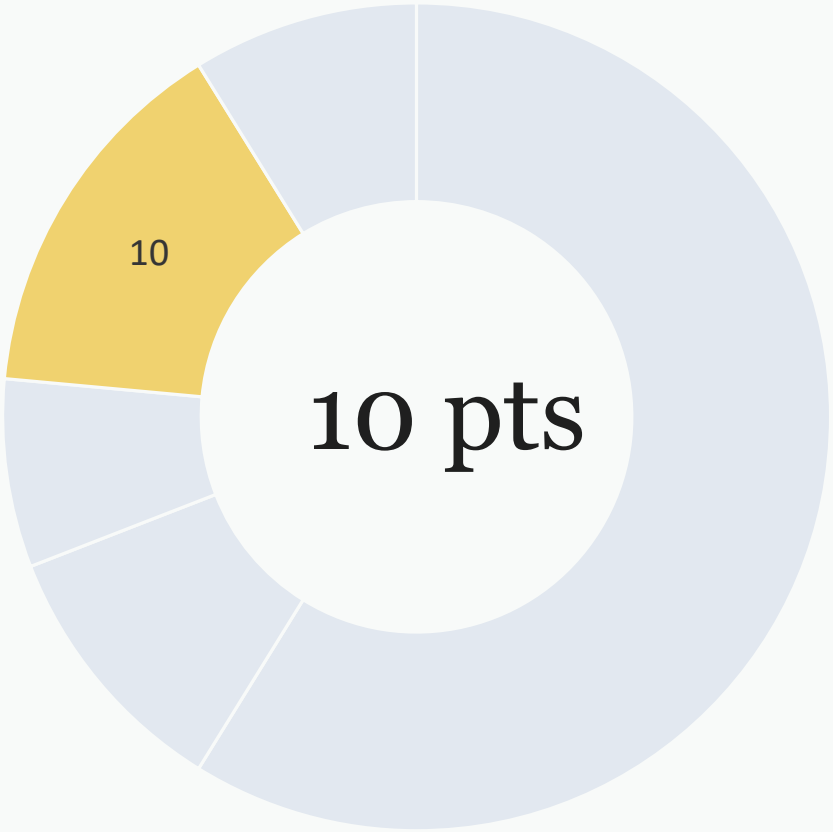
Score Breakdown

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.
- Utilize natural materials: Native soils for treatment and climate-appropriate native plants across the site.
- Extensive native vegetation: Adds 26,870 sq ft of diverse native planting.
- The re-graded site directs runoff to bioswales, and a stormwater basin designed to treat the surface flow.
- The project improves soil health with locally generated mulch, compost, and soil amendments to boost infiltration, moisture retention, and erosion control.

The project is characterized as "Better" under the Good-Better-Best framework. The project received **10 points** for the nature-based solutions section.



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Score Breakdown

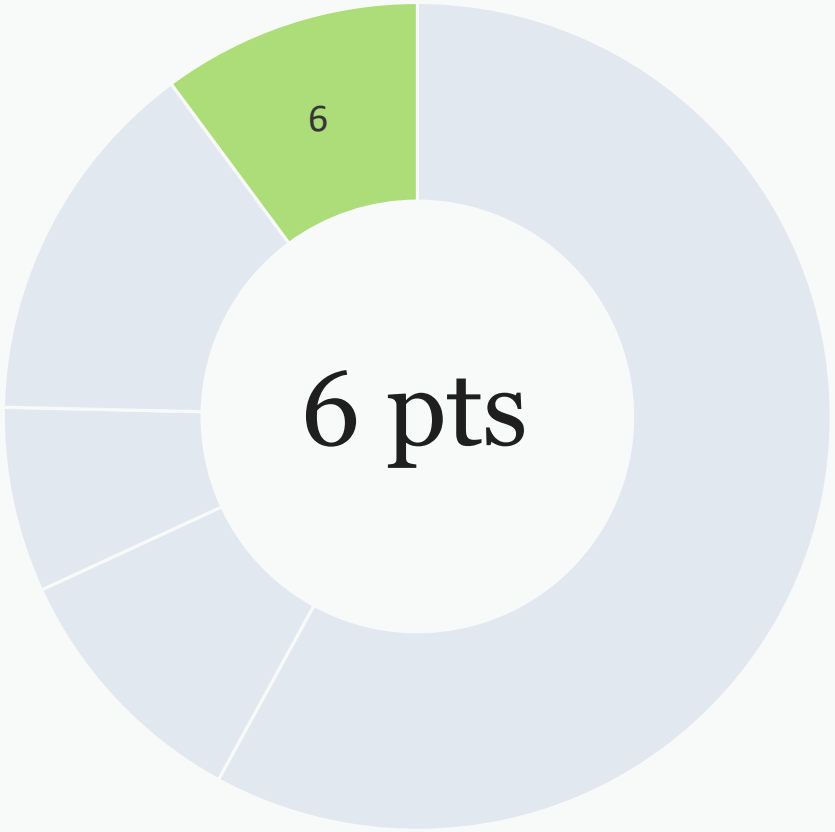
Leveraged Funds and Community Support

The project received a letter of commitment from Caltrans for $6.5 million, which will cover 26.5% of the construction funding request. From these Caltrans leveraged funds, the project will receive greater than 25% but less than 50% and was awarded **3 points**.

The project demonstrates strong community backing, supported by two-way engagement workshops and letters from nine organizations, earning **3 points.**

- The project engaged residents and community-based organizations through events, meetings, and digital outreach to inform and shape the project.
- Input from community events and surveys directly influenced design decisions, with strong support for proposed amenities.

This results in a total of **6 points** for the Leveraged Funds and Community Support Section.



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Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Dawn Petschauer, City of Pasadena
Courtney Semlow, Craftwater