

FY 26-27 Upper LA River Watershed Area Safe, Clean Water Projects & Disadvantaged Community Programming

March 04, 2026

Presented by:

Kristina Kreter

ULAR_WC_CWH1@pw.lacounty.gov

Alonso Garcia

ULAR_WC_CWH2@pw.lacounty.gov

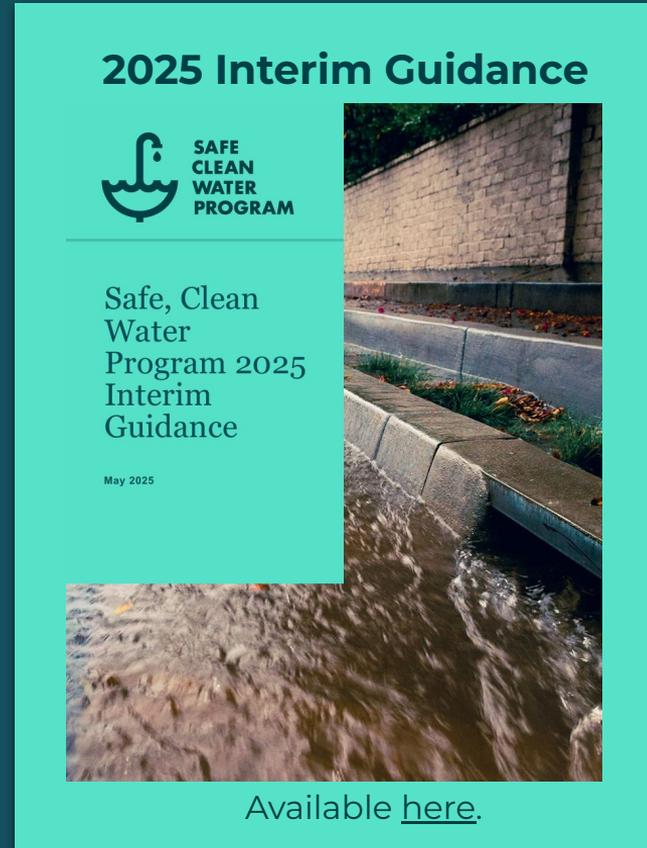
Adi Liberman

ULAR_WC_EOS@pw.lacounty.gov



Purpose

- Inform WASC decision-making regarding direct benefits to disadvantaged communities
- Describe the community outreach and engagement conducted by applicants
- Review community strengths and needs assessment and documented community support relevant to project proposals



2025 Interim Guidance

 **SAFE
CLEAN
WATER
PROGRAM**

Safe, Clean
Water
Program 2025
Interim
Guidance

May 2025

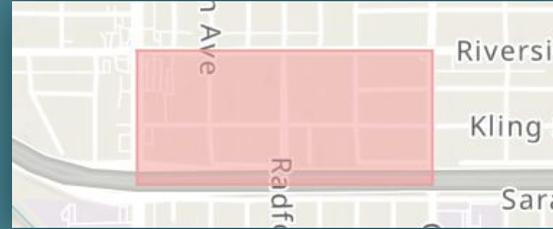
Available [here](#).

SCW Program Definitions

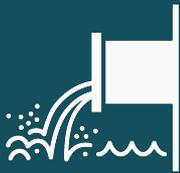
“**Disadvantaged community**’ means a census block that has an annual median household income of < 80% of the Statewide annual median household income.” (Section 16.03(H))

“**Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit**’ means a Water Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or Community Investment Benefit located in a DAC or providing benefits directly to a DAC population.” (Section 16.03(I))

SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Policy: Provide Disadvantaged Community Benefits that are ≥110% of the ratio of the disadvantaged community population to the total population in the Watershed Area. (Section 18.04 (J))



Example of a Census Block Group in the ULAR



"Water Quality Benefit"



"Water Supply Benefit"



"Community Investment Benefit"

SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Policy

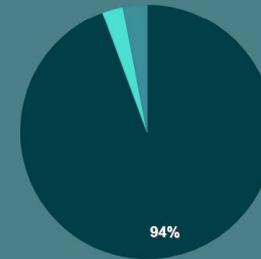
Provide Disadvantaged Community Benefits that are $\geq 110\%$ of the ratio of the disadvantaged community population to the total population in the Watershed Area. (Section 18.04 (J))

All Projects 5-Year Distribution

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY (DAC) ALLOCATION

Required DAC Ratio	45%
Required Funding for DACs FY25-30 (110%)	\$64,974,253
Funding Allocated for DACs FY25-30	\$116,906,296

REGIONAL PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION ⓘ



■ Infrastructure Projects ($\geq 85\%$) ■ Scientific Studies (<5%) ■ Technical Resources (<10%)

To date, the ULAR SIPs have met and exceeded required investment in disadvantaged communities.

What Counts as a “Direct Benefit?”

Whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” will be **a decision made by WASCs on a project-by-project basis**, considering:

- The priorities and concerns of the community
- The goals of the SCW Program
- The benefits provided to the community by each project
- The area within which those benefits will be felt

Projects provide a Disadvantaged Community Benefit if:

1. **Any part of the project** is located **within** a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community.

OR

2. **The project is not** located within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community **BUT** it provides a **“direct benefit”** to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community.

How Can you as a WASC Validate Direct Benefits?

Hearing from community members is the best way to validate a direct benefit.

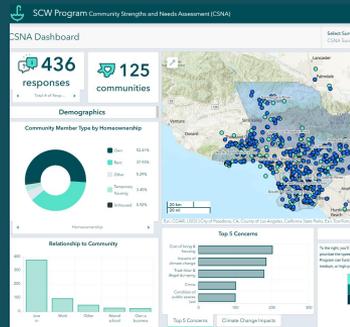
Other Possible Considerations:

Adjacency:

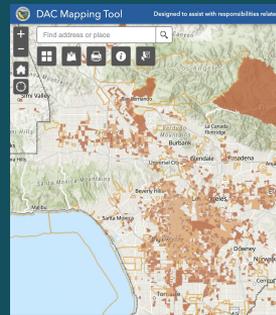


Some projects are near disadvantaged block groups.

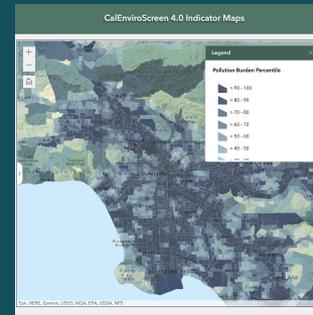
External Datasets:



Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) (Dashboard)



Other Census data (DWR
DAC
Mapping Tool)
tinyurl.com/DWRDACmap



CalEnviroScreen
4.0

tinyurl.com/CaEnviroScreen4



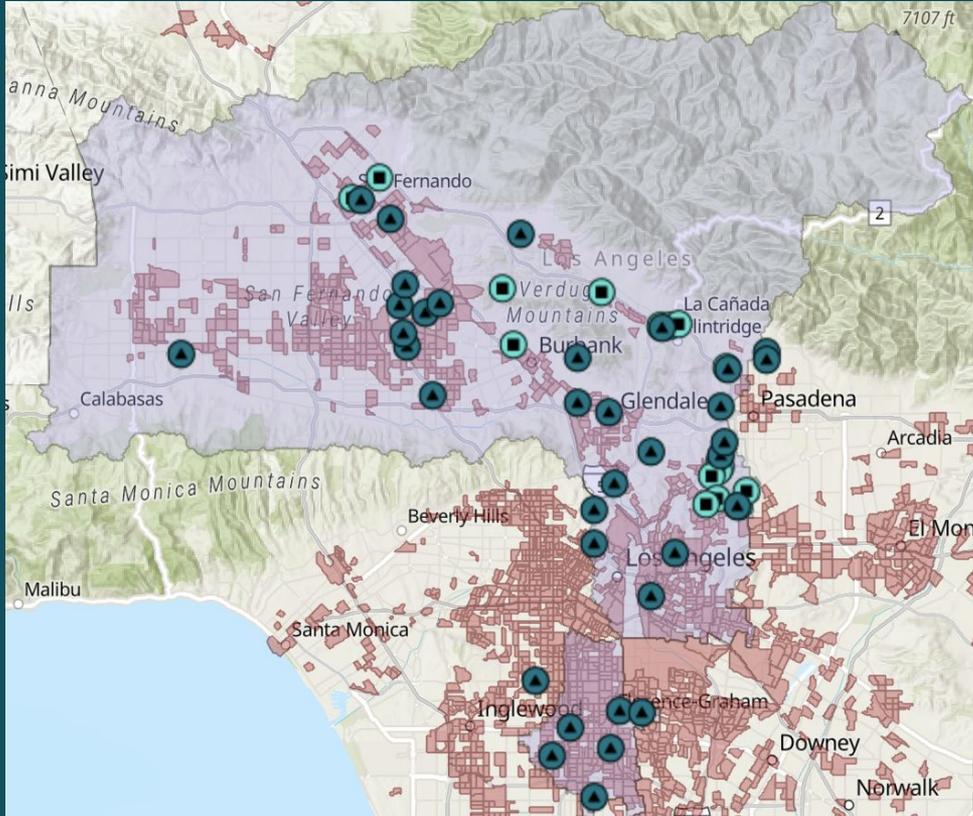
LA County RPOSD Park Needs
Assessment

tinyurl.com/LACparkneed

How can the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) be used by WASCs?

- Assess whether project **benefits** claimed by Project Applicants **align** with needs and priorities presented in CSNA responses
- Suggest **improvements** for future community outreach efforts based on existing efforts and CSNA responses

Awarded Projects To Date in ULAR

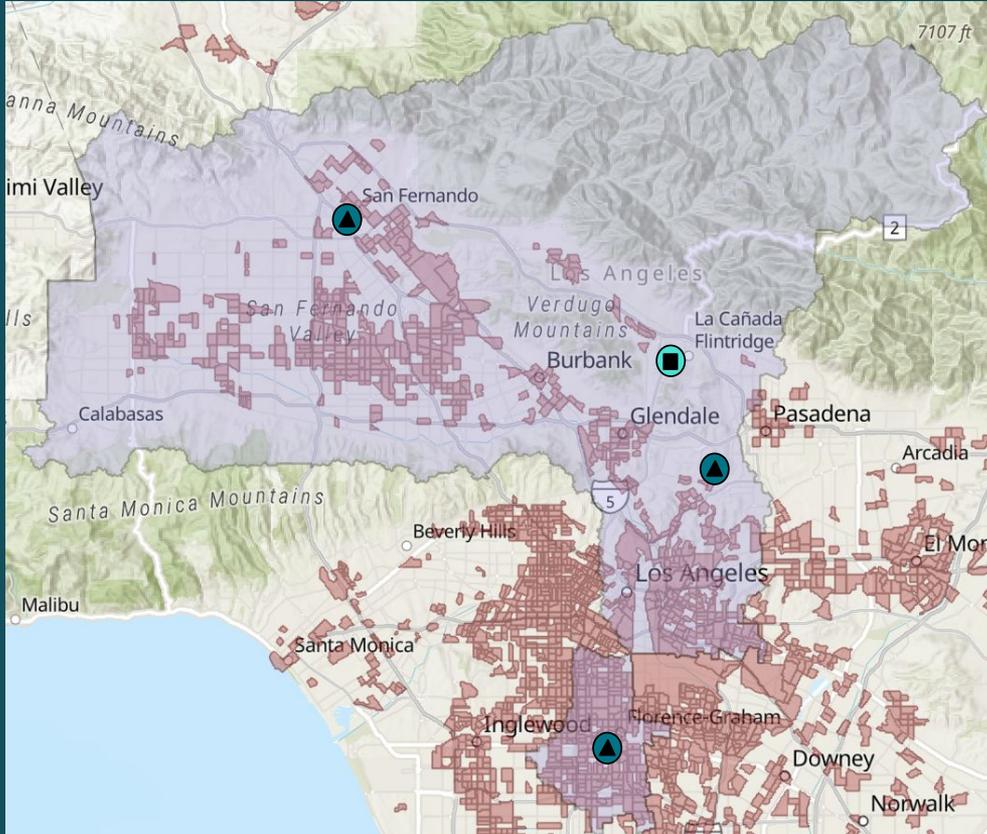


- ▲ Infrastructure Projects Awarded
- TRP Projects Awarded

	Within a 2020 DAC block group	Not within 2020 DAC block group and no benefit	Not within 2020 DAC block group but claiming benefit
35 IP	29	6	10
16 TRP	5	1	10

110% DAC investment requirement met and exceeded

2026/27 New Projects Under Consideration



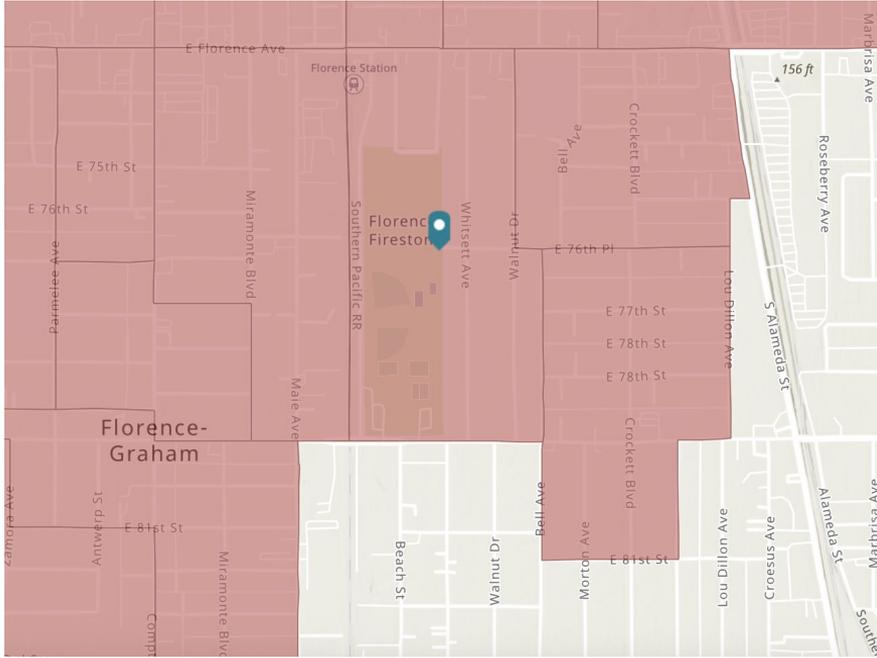
- ▲ Infrastructure Projects Awarded
- TRP Projects Awarded

	Within a 2020 DAC block group	Not within 2020 DAC block group and no benefit	Not within 2020 DAC block group but claiming benefit
3 IPs	2	1	
1 TRP		1	

Project Lead: Los Angeles County

Funding Request: \$1.2M

Timeline/Current Phase: O&M



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	Yes
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Distance to nearest DAC	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	94th Percentile 
Park Need	Very High 

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



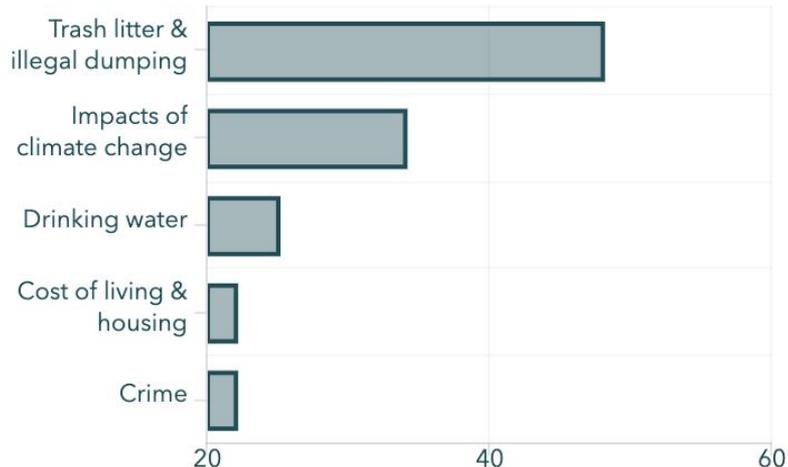
Community Engagement and Support

- Conducted multiple community outreach activities throughout different stages of the project
- Incorporated above-ground amenities based on community feedback

Best
Better
Good

Community Priorities and Concerns

Top 5 Concerns



- 76 total responses (8 CSNA responses, 49 WaterTalks, 19 WC Surveys)
- 1 respondents were Native American, Indigenous or Tribal
- 68% renters

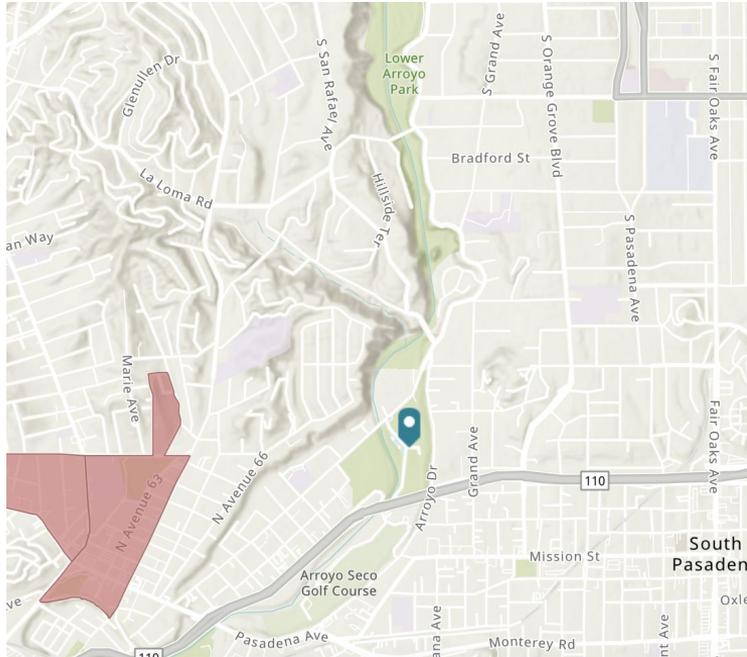


IP Arroyo Park Infiltration Gallery Project

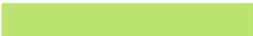
Project Lead: City of South Pasadena

Funding Request: \$1M

Timeline/Current Phase: IP – Design



 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	No
Does application claim DAC benefit?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	0.7 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	35th Percentile 
Park Need	Very Low 

No direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant

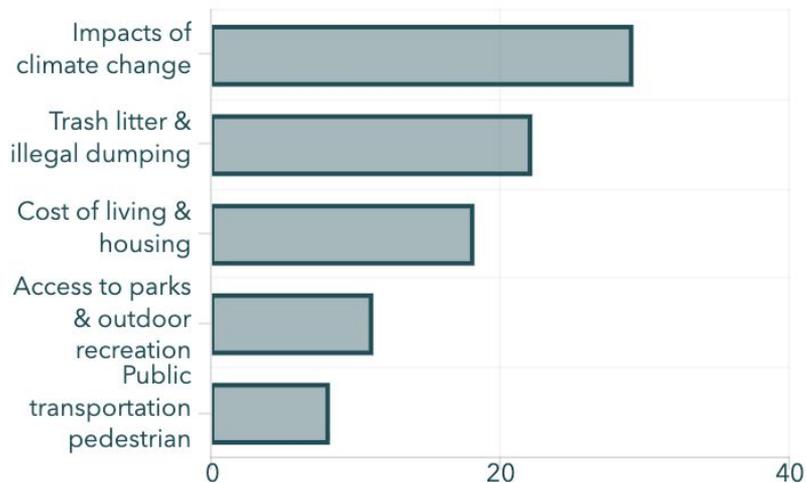
Community Engagement and Support: Engagement during feasibility study phase (2021)

Letters of Support: Active SGV, South Pasadena Little League, American Youth Soccer Organization

Best
Better
Good

Community Priorities and Concerns

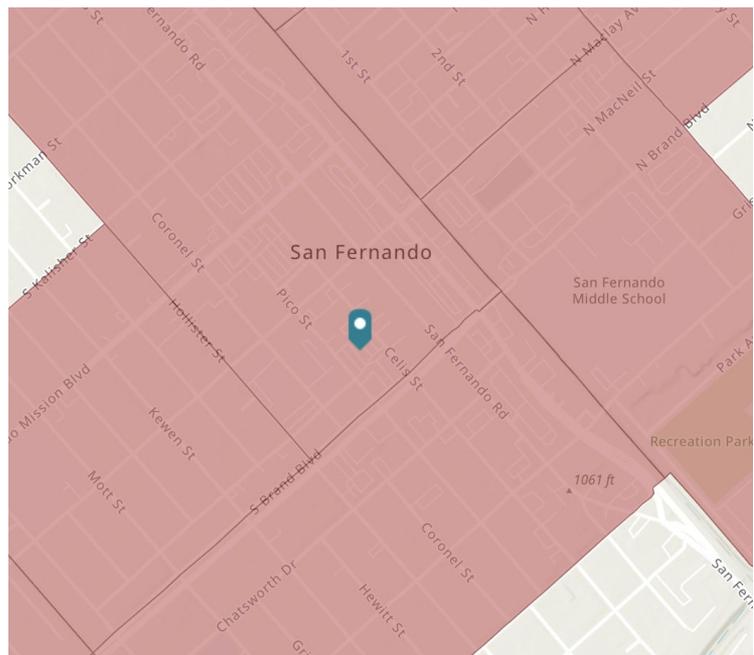
Top 5 Concerns



- 39 total responses (16 CSNA responses, 17 WaterTalk, 11 WC surveys)
- 71.8% of respondents are homeowners
- 3 respondents were Native American, Indigenous or Tribal

Catch Rainwater	Green Spaces & Schools	Clean Rivers & Ocean
Access to Parks	Wildlife Habitat	Shade Trees
Reduce Flooding	Education & Stewardship	Jobs & Training

Project Lead: City of San Fernando
Funding Request: \$907k
Timeline/Current Phase: IP-Design



 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	Yes
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Distance to nearest DAC	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	85th Percentile 
Park Need	High 

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



Community Engagement and Support

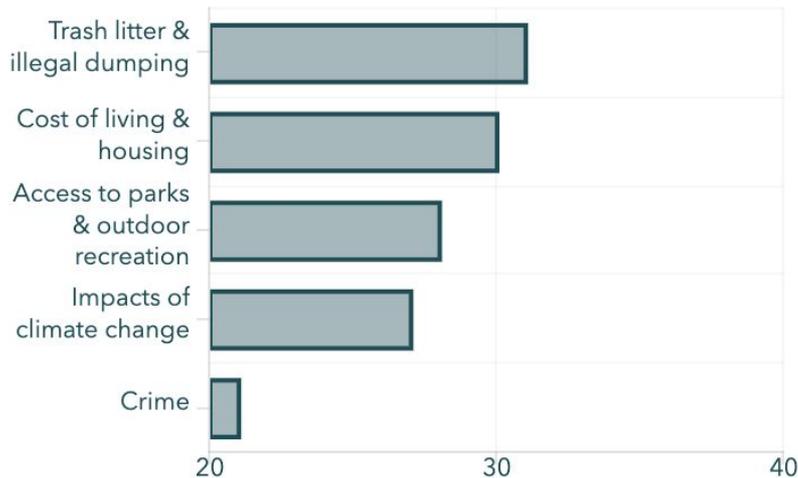
- Two community workshops held, survey distributed
- If funded, the city will collaborate with TreePeople to conduct community engagement

Best
Better
Good

Letters of Support: TreePeople and Pueblo Y Salud

Community Priorities and Concerns

Top 5 Concerns



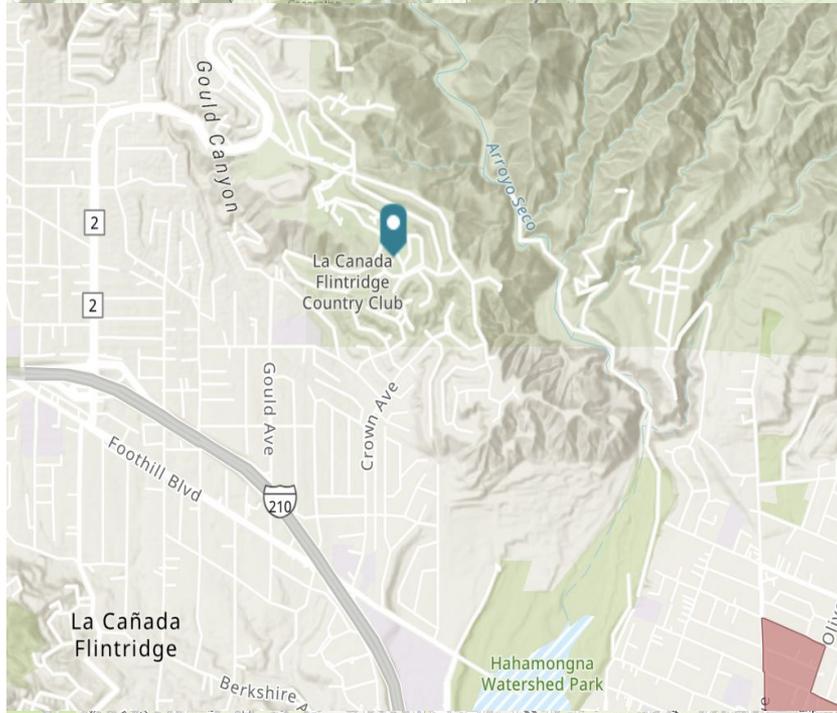
- 71 total responses (17 CSNA, 49 WaterTalk, 5 WC)
- 1 respondent was Native American, Indigenous or Tribal
- 63.3% of respondents are homeowners

Catch Rainwater	Green Spaces & Schools	Clean Rivers & Ocean
Access to Parks	Wildlife Habitat	Shade Trees
Reduce Flooding	Education & Stewardship	Jobs & Training

Project Lead: La Cañada Flintridge Country Club Dry Weather Diversion

Funding Request: \$400,000

Timeline/Current Phase: TRP - Planning



 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	No
Does application claim DAC benefit?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	6 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	8th Percentile 
Park Need	Very Low 

Community Engagement

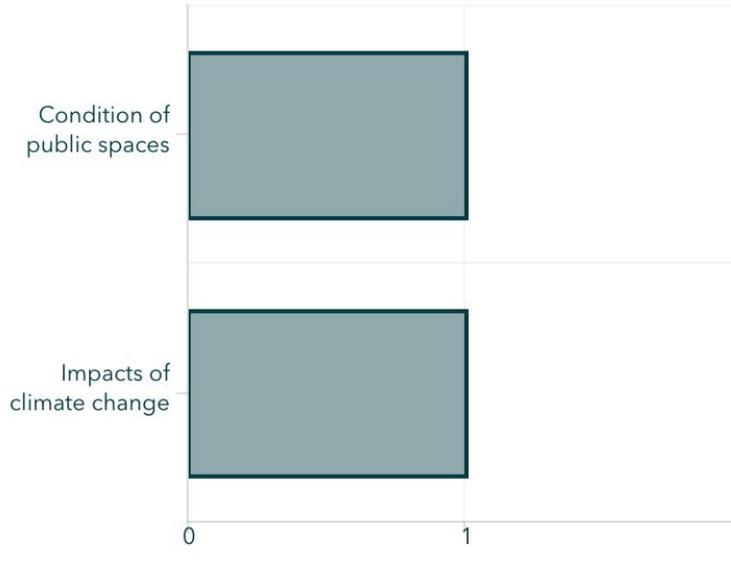
- Supported by the City of La Cañada Flintridge, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and the Raymond Basin Watermaster
- Worked with Arroyos & Foothill Conservancy to prioritize habitat protection.
- Plan to outreach to the nearby residential neighborhoods and community groups during the feasibility study.

Best
Better
Good

Letters of Support: La Canada Flintridge Golf Course, letter of non-objection from City of La Cañada Flintridge

Community Priorities and Concerns

Top 5 Concerns



- 1 response (CSNA)
- Respondent is a homeowner
- Respondent identifies as Native American, Indigenous or Tribal

Catch Rainwater	Green Spaces & Schools	Clean Rivers & Ocean
Access to Parks	Wildlife Habitat	Shade Trees
Reduce Flooding	Education & Stewardship	Jobs & Training

Moving Forward

Remember...

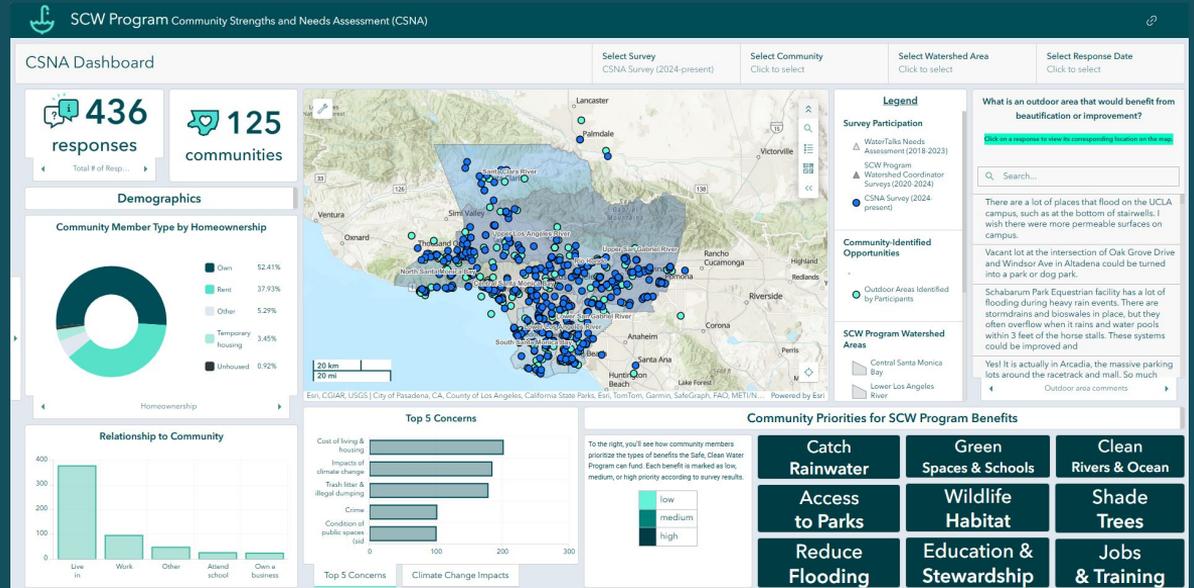
WASCs are tasked with validating whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” to a disadvantaged community. This is done on a project-by-project basis and is part of your recommended SIP.

Take into consideration:

- What you have heard from the community themselves?
- What benefits will the project provide and how are these quantified?
- What areas will experience those benefits?
- Do the project benefits meet community-identified priorities and concerns?
- What other project-specific considerations should be taken into account? (E.g. community access to a site, workforce agreements, etc.)

Resources

- [Safe, Clean Water Program Spatial Data Library](#)
- [Interim Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines](#)
- [CSNA Dashboard](#)
- [Initial Watershed Plans](#)



Thank You!

Questions on this presentation? Contact us!



Kristina Kreter

ULAR_WC_CWH1@pw.lacounty.gov
kkreter@watershedhealth.org



Alonso Garcia

ULAR_WC_CWH2@pw.lacounty.gov
agarcia@watershedhealth.org



Adi Liberman

ULAR_WC_EOS@pw.lacounty.gov
adi@eoscal.com