SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Initial Watershed Plans Developer Info Session

PRESENTED BY:

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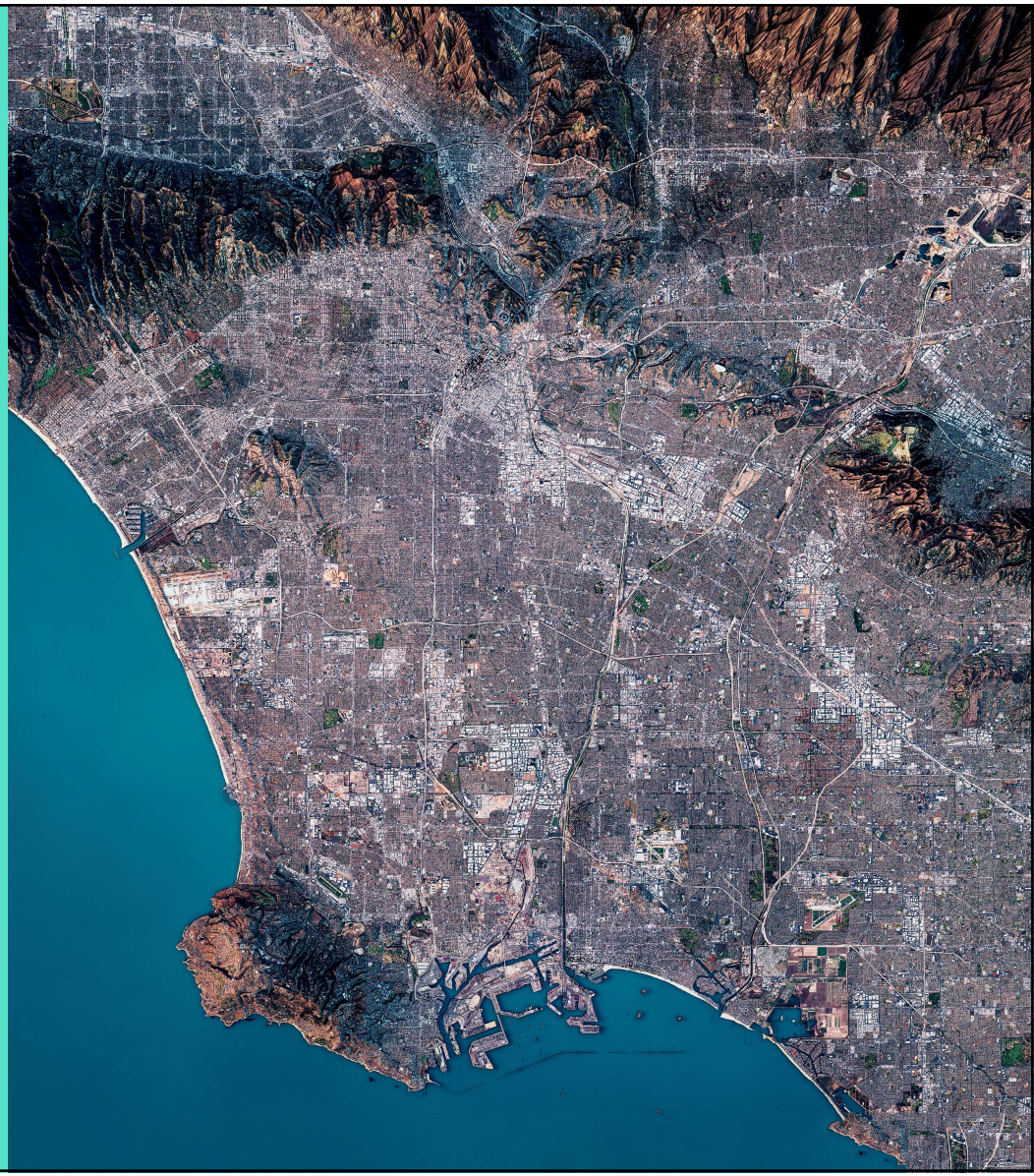
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT SECTION

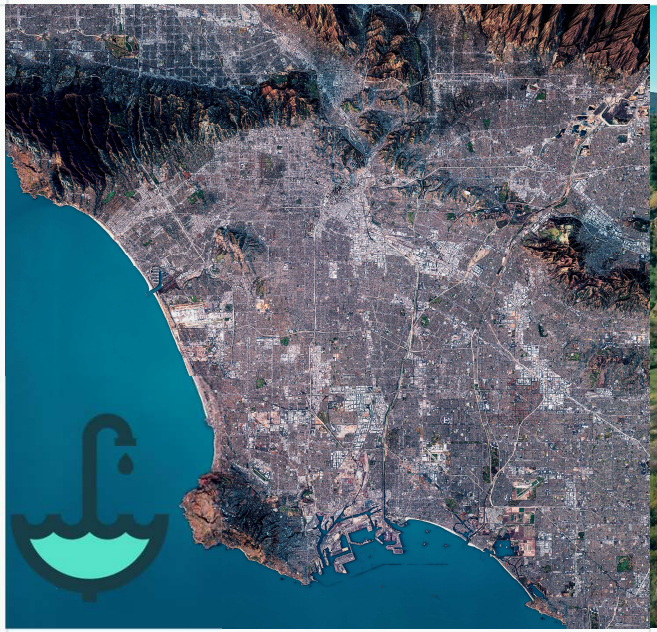
March 18, 2026



What We're Covering Today

1. How We Got Here
2. Intro to Initial Watershed Plans (IWPs) and Planning Tool
3. Feasibility Study Guidelines (FSG) 20th Requirement
4. Aligning with the IWPs
5. Q&A

SCW Program Watershed Planning – An Accelerated Timeline



SCW Program BOS Motion

LA County Board of Supervisors Motions to Accelerate the SCW Program implementation and develop Watershed Area Plans

Forming a Team, Developing a Framework

Public Works Watershed Planning Section formed, Community Strengths & Needs Assessment developed and launched, Watershed Planning Framework developed, SCWP governance committees and interested parties engaged

Making Plans for Everyone

Conducted technical analysis of cross-county programs and plans, emphasizing watershed coordination, and developing models for planning

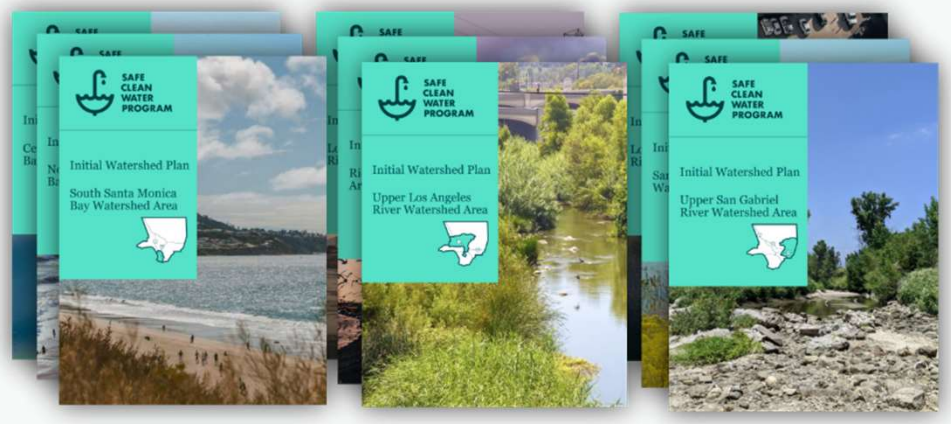
Overview of Efforts to Date

- Extensive Stakeholder and Community Engagement, including **over 50 meetings** and a **45-day public review period**
- **Over 1.4k responses** collected for the Community Strength & Needs Assessment
- Compiled data from **nearly 800 SCWP funded Projects and Programs**

Watershed Planning Initiative: Initial Watershed Plans and Online Planning Tool

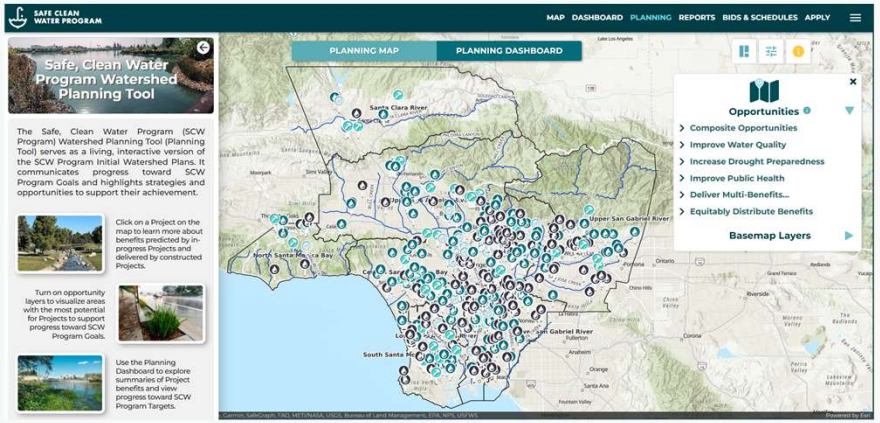
Initial Watershed Plans

- Communicate the Initial Watershed Outputs
- Provide detailed information on Program-wide and WA-specific targets, needs, strategies, and opportunities within the scope of the SCW Program.



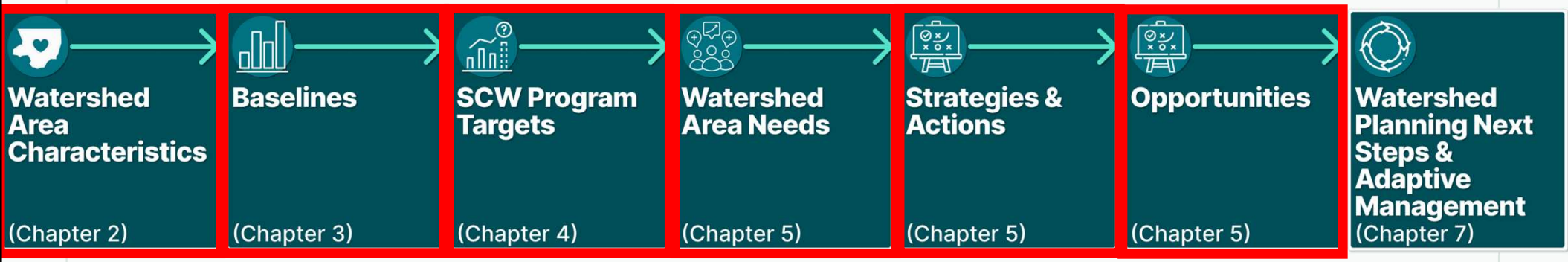
Online Planning Tool

- Serves as a live, interactive version of the Plans
- Communicates and tracks progress toward SCW Program Goals and highlights strategies and opportunities to support their achievement



Watershed Planning Outputs: Throughline

The core of the Initial Watershed Plans is based on the "throughline" which translates the 14 SCW Program Goals to realistic strategies, actions, and opportunities that accelerate the Program's benefits.



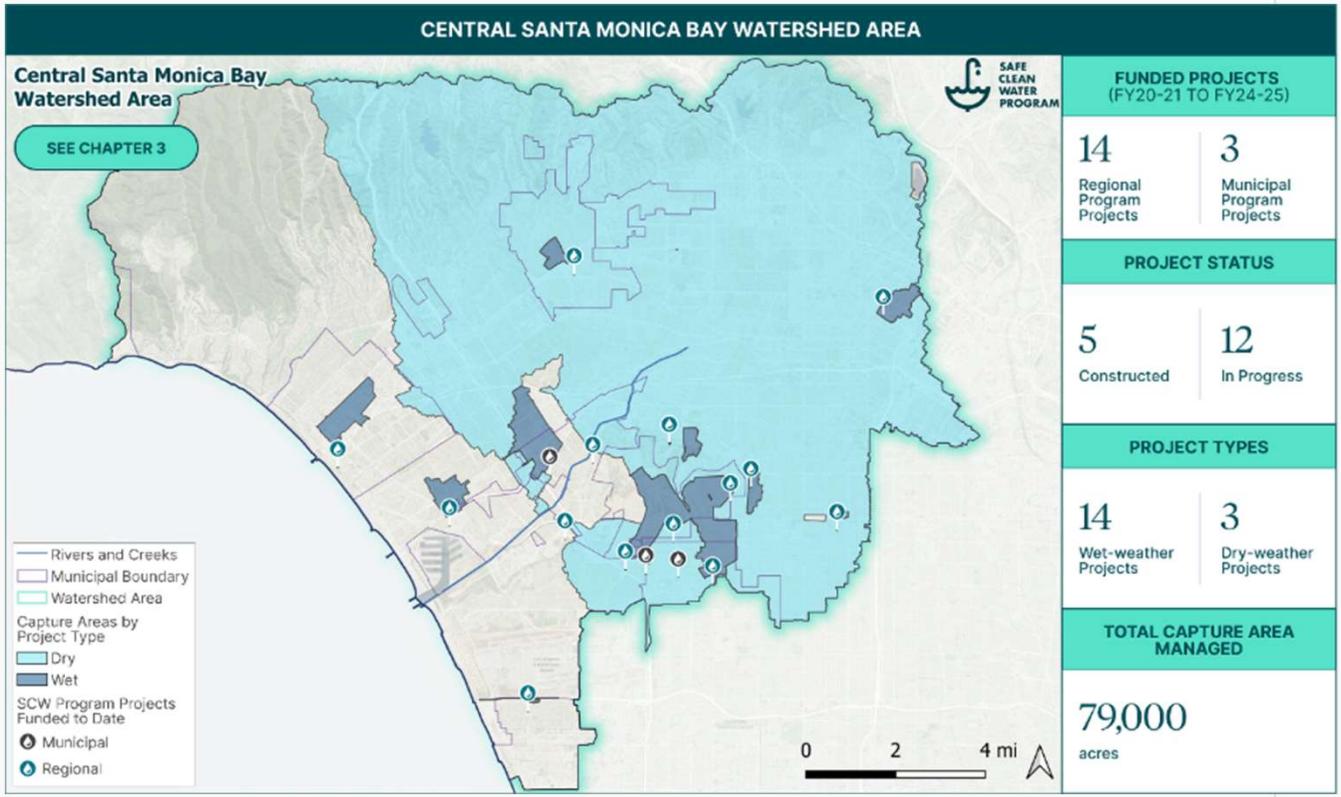
Opportunities: Physical or conceptual areas with the most potential for Projects and Programs to address Watershed Area Needs and advance SCW Program Goals

WA Needs: The difference between targets and baselines

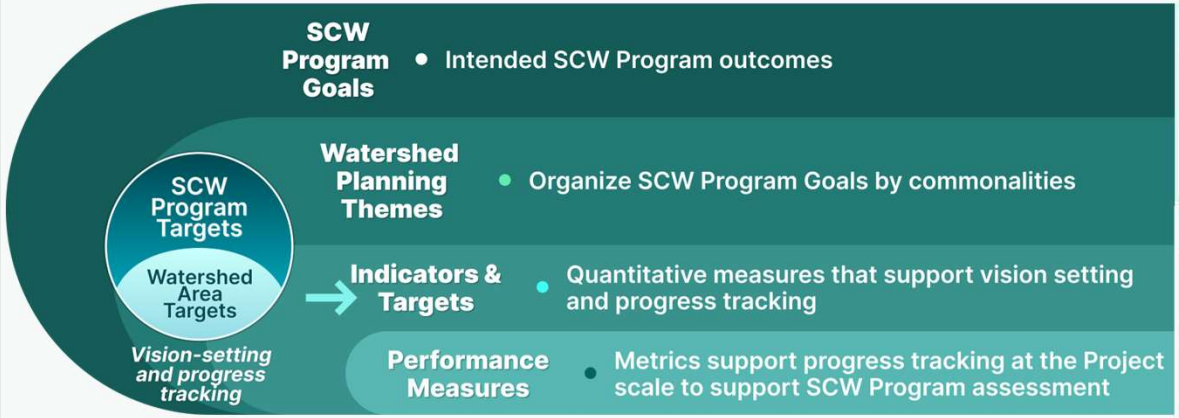
**As defined by the Watershed Planning Process*

Baselines and Benefits Provided by Funded Projects

- Regional and Municipal Program Projects
- FY20-21 through FY24-25
- Summarizes Total Benefits



Quantifying Progress Toward SCW Goals



** While not aligned with a specific theme, Goal L is supported by Watershed Planning as a whole.*

Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code Chapter 16

16.02.B. Provide funding for Programs and Projects to increase Stormwater and Urban Runoff capture and reduce Stormwater and Urban Runoff pollution in the District, including **Projects and Programs providing a Water Supply Benefit, Water Quality Benefit, and Community Investment Benefit.**

Strategies for Addressing Needs and Achieving Goals

SCW PROGRAM-WIDE STRATEGIES	
IMPROVE WATER QUALITY Goal A	
1.1	Prioritize high performance Projects and Programs in areas with the highest pollutant loads
INCREASE DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS Goal B	
2.1	Link MS4 compliance and water supply planning to maximize stormwater capture for water quality and water supply*
IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH Goal C	
3.1	Evaluate open space and large lot potential, particularly on school campuses*
3.2	Create, enhance, and restore park and green space, especially in high-need communities
3.3	Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change
DELIVER MULTI-BENEFITS WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS & DIVERSE PROJECTS Goal E, F,G	
4.1	Acknowledge, where feasible, other capital improvement programs that can contribute to regional outcomes*
4.2	Deliver nature-based, multi-benefit Projects and Programs that improve water quality while addressing community priorities and concerns
LEVERAGE FUNDING & INVEST IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT Goal D, H, I	
5.1	Bolster SCW Program and regional coordination to support identification and communication of alternative funding sources and opportunities
5.2	Bolster the Scientific Study Program through enhanced review, coordination, and dissemination of results
EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE BENEFITS Goal J, K	
6.1	Consider historic land use disparities and environmental justice metrics across the SCW Program area*
6.2	Advance equity and prioritize new investments particularly in communities not currently served by a SCW Program Project or Program
PROMOTE GREEN JOBS AND CAREER PATHWAYS Goal M	
7.1	Prioritize smaller Projects for which construction and maintenance jobs are more likely to come from a local labor force
7.2	Invest in research and Programs that promote permanent career pathways
7.3	Coordinate job placement and partner with workforce training and pre-apprenticeship programs
ENSURE ONGOING OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FOR PROJECTS Goal N	
8.1	Maintain a skilled, local workforce to ensure quality construction and comprehensive operations & maintenance (O&M)
8.2	Ensure sufficient resources are set aside for Project O&M and monitoring
8.3	Promote wildfire resilience through fire-resilient O&M protocols for Projects
8.4	Integrate post-construction monitoring data into O&M plans
PRIORITIZE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT	
9.1	Promote meaningful and sustained outreach and engagement through regional coordination and expertise
9.2	Ensure sufficient resources are set aside for Project O&M and monitoring
9.3	Promote fire-adapted communities through enhanced education and outreach

Strategies for Addressing Needs and Achieving Goals

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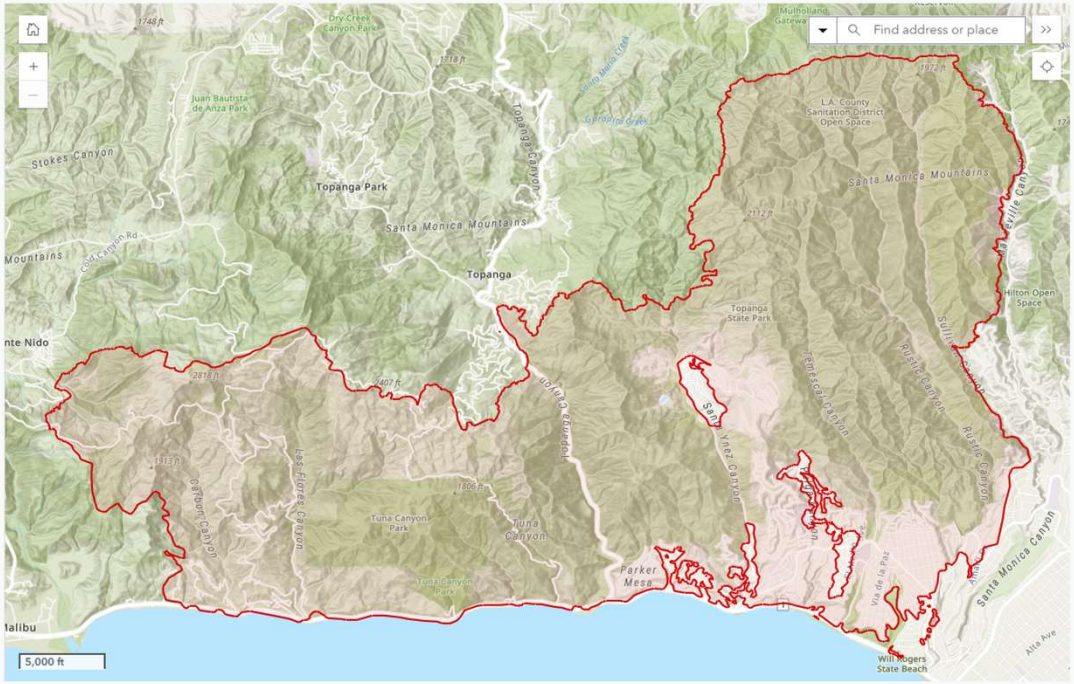


Recommended Strategies, Actions, and Involved Parties

- Each strategy is composed of a series of actions
- WASC Priority Strategies are included
- Involved Parties are listed

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Strategies and Actions

Improve Water Quality

SCW Program Goal A

Watershed Area Needs (by 2038)

- **17,200** Zinc Load Reduction (lbs/yr)
- **62,500** Total Phosphorus Load Reduction (lbs/yr)
- **1,060 ac-ft** Approx. 24-hr Project Capacity to meet WQ WA Needs

Strategies	Action(s)		Who Should be Involved
1.1 Prioritize high performance Projects and Programs in areas with the highest pollutant loads	**1.1.1** Implement Projects where stormwater runoff is not currently managed by an existing stormwater capture Project or major capture facility by referencing the *Opportunity to Improve Water Quality and Increase Water Supply* composite layer.	NEAR TERM	WASCs, Municipalities, Project & Program proponents
	1.1.2 Prioritize wet-weather Projects for a **total estimated 24-hour Project capacity of approx. 1,060 ac-ft**, and which are located in areas with the highest average annual load reduction opportunity for zinc, total phosphorous, and bacteria. Reference the *Opportunity to Improve Water Quality* layer.	NEAR TERM	WASCs, Municipalities, Project proponents
	1.1.3 Invest in research to evaluate and standardize the quantification of bacteria, total DDT, total PCBs, and trash in managed and unmanaged stormwater runoff.	NEAR TERM	Public Works
	1.1.4 Support Municipalities in implementing small-scale and distributed Projects and encourage Municipalities to bundle multiple small Projects into larger funding applications where appropriate to maximize cost-efficiency.	NEAR TERM	Public Works, Municipalities
	1.1.5 Select a combination of regional Projects with distributed surface capture Projects, such as green streets.	LONG TERM	WASCs, Municipalities, Project proponents
	1.1.6 Address knowledge gaps pertaining to BMP treatment effectiveness and new treatment technologies through Scientific Studies to bolster Project effectiveness.	LONG TERM	Public Works, Scientific Study proponents
	1.1.7 Select and integrate post-construction monitoring metrics into Project reporting to support consistent evaluation and tracking of Project post-construction performance.	NEAR TERM	Public Works
1.2 Identify and prioritize priority MS4 outfalls for Project and Program implementation**	**1.2.1** Establish an approach for using regional water quality monitoring data collected through MS4 Programs to assess trends with regards to hydrology and water quality.	NEAR TERM	Public Works
	1.2.2 Build from the SCW Program Scientific Study *Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group* and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs to identify priority MS4 outfalls for Project and Program implementation. Although this Scientific Study was not originally funded in the USGR WA, its findings may serve as a valuable reference to inform a Scientific Study specific to the USGR WA.	NEAR TERM	Public Works, Scientific Study proponents

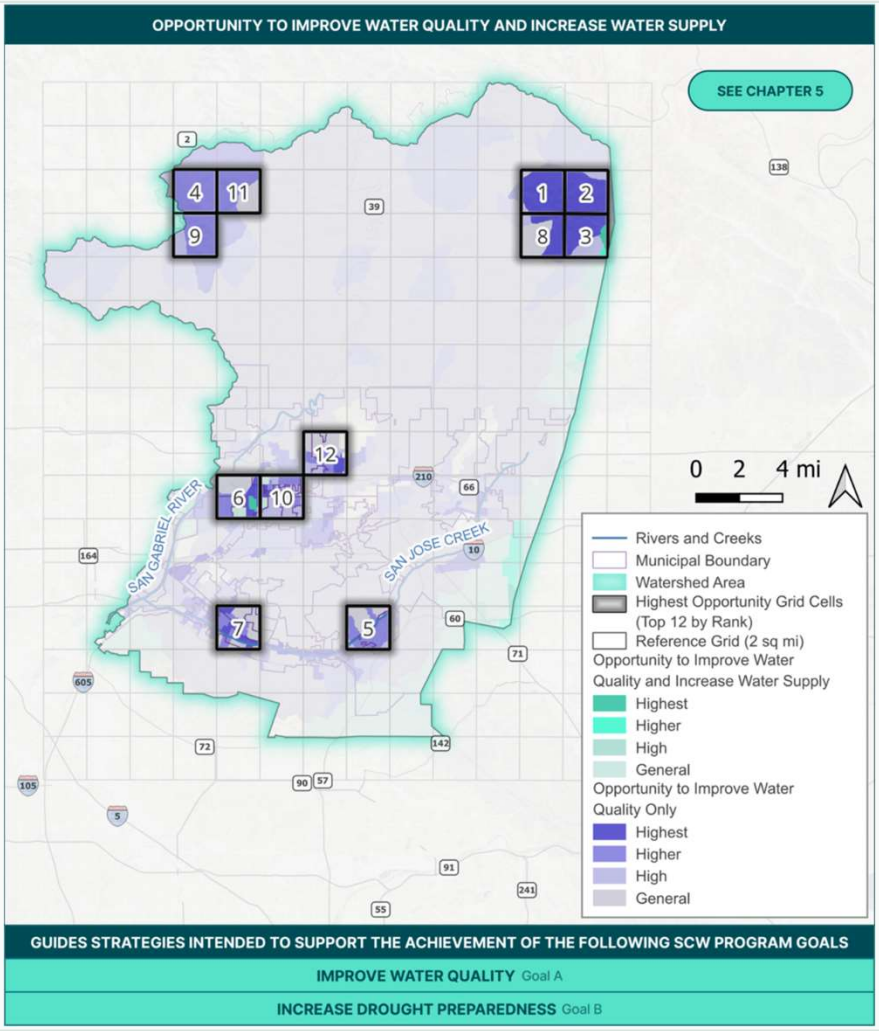
** USGR WASC Priority Strategy based on engagement

Example: Upper San Gabriel River

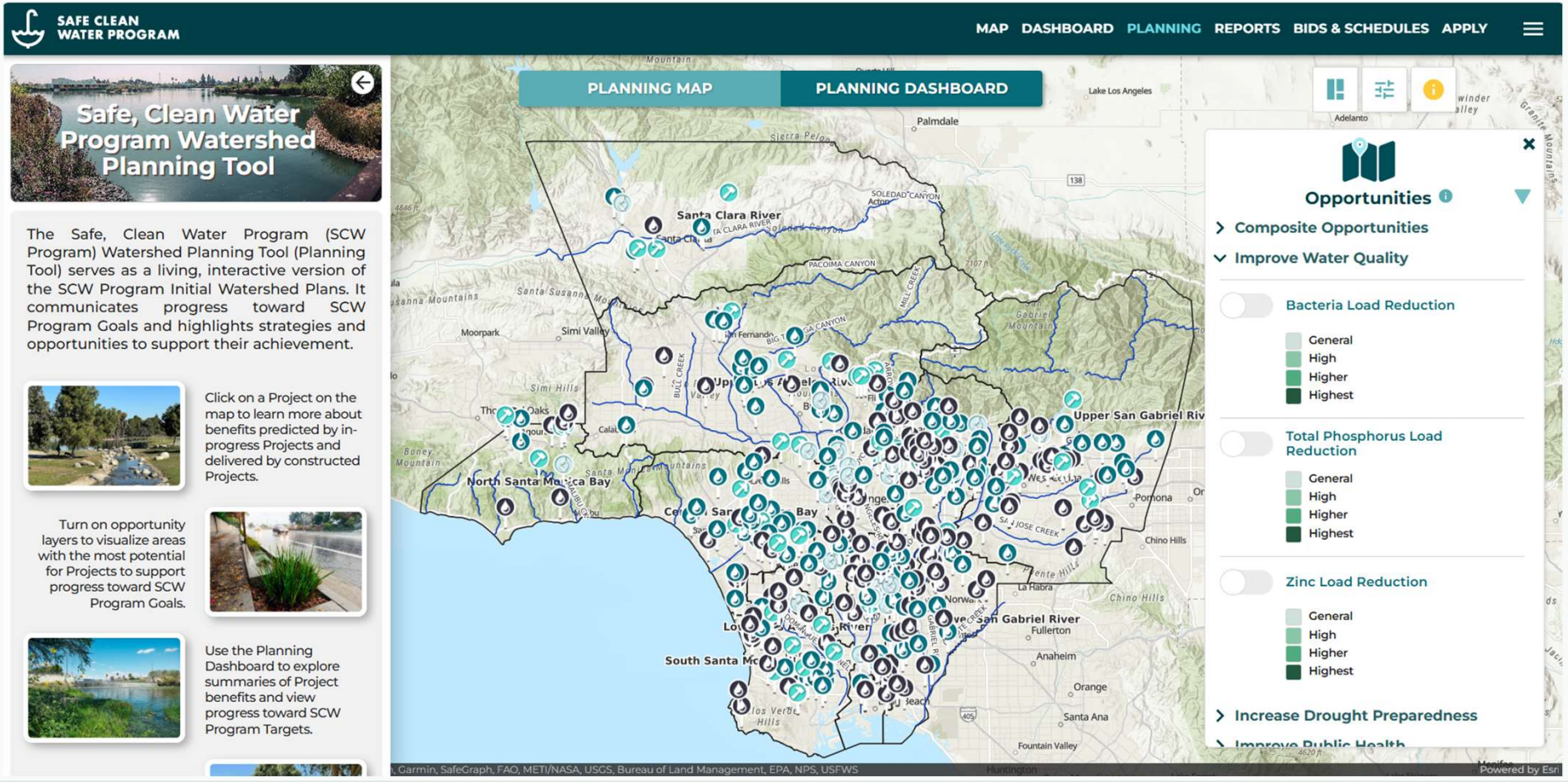
Chapter 5. Strategies

Opportunities Help Maximize Return on Investments by SCW Program

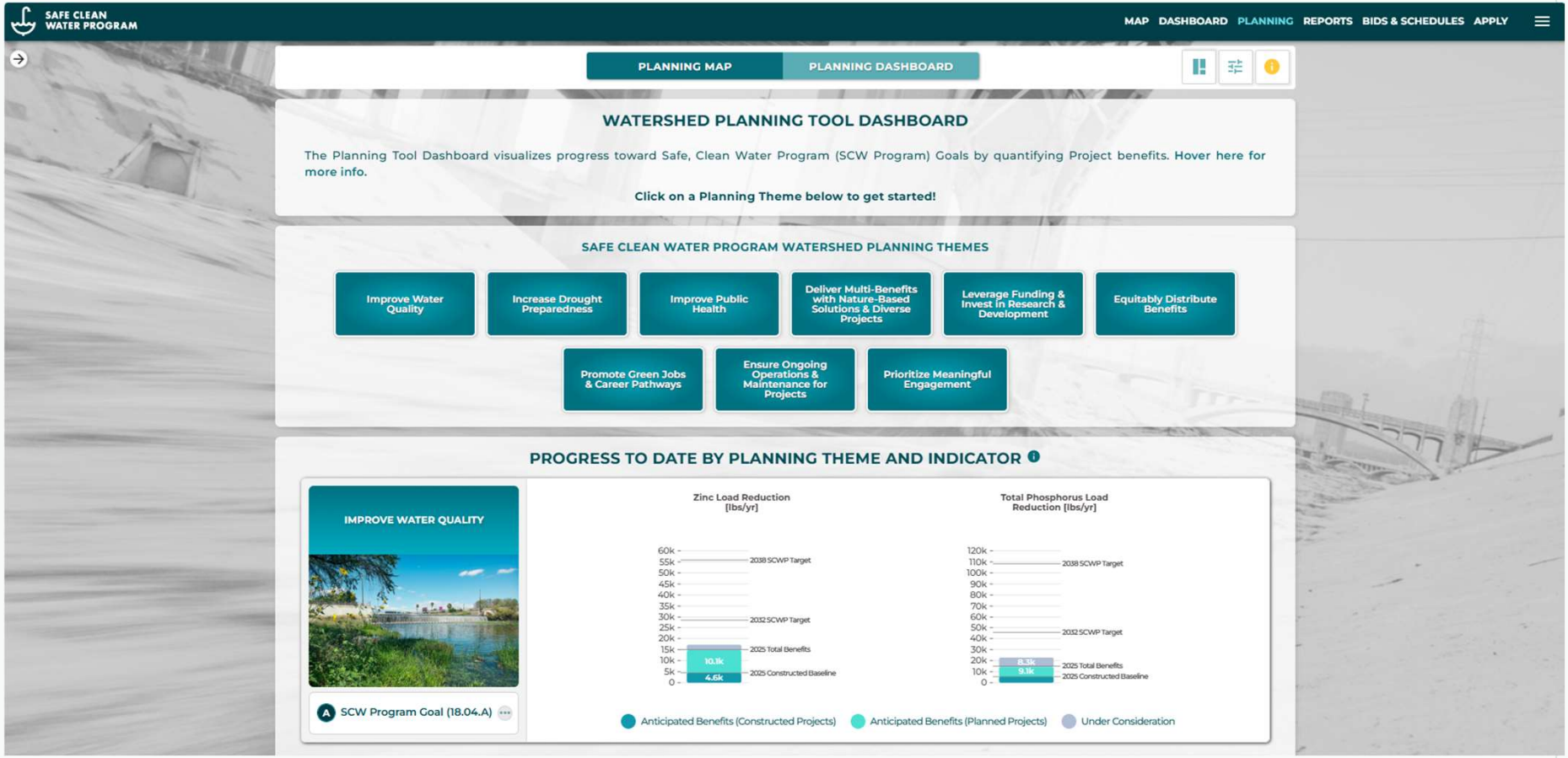
- Opportunities are mapping layers generated for each WA and Municipality to support Project selection



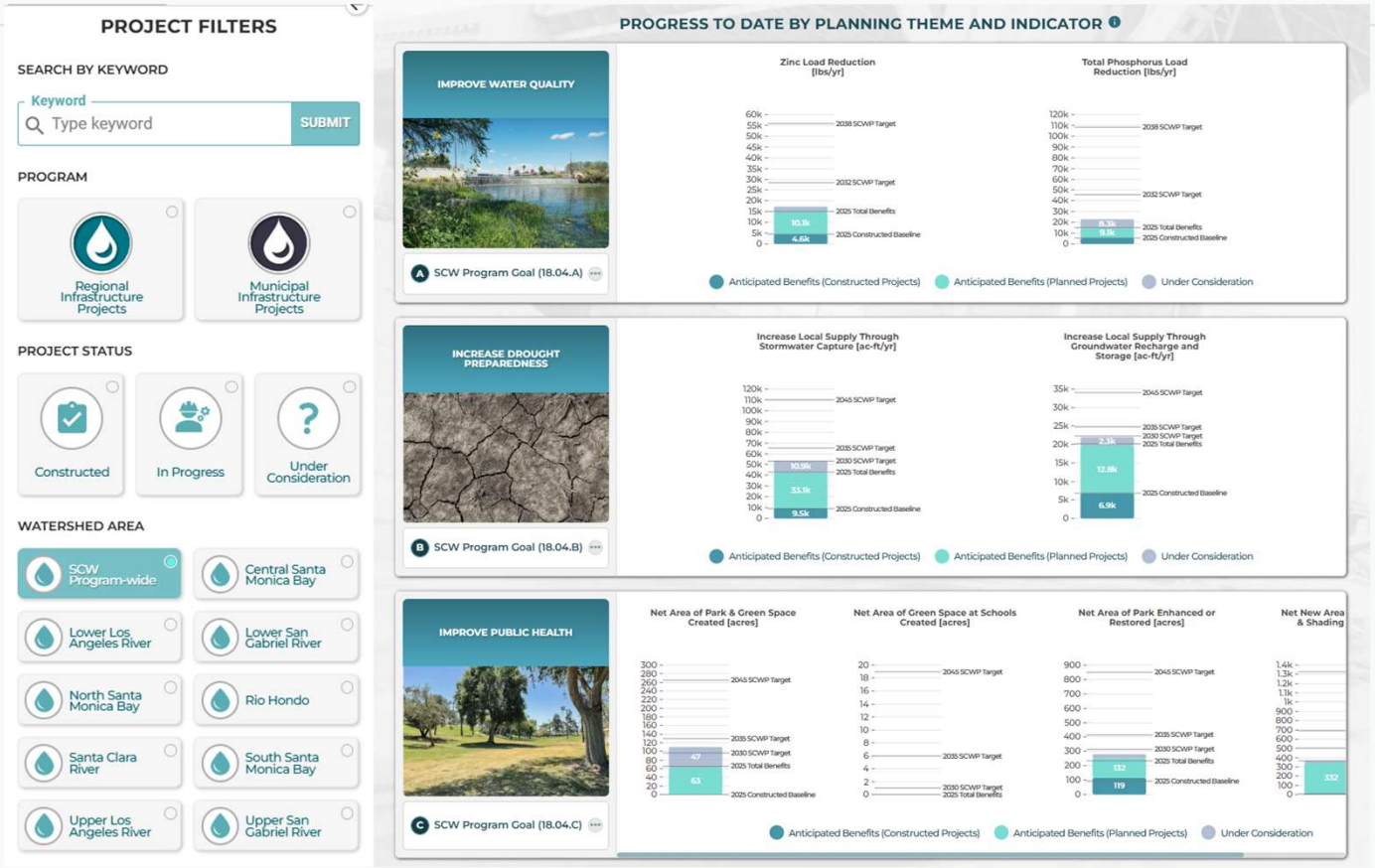
Watershed Planning Tool: Planning Map



Watershed Planning Tool: Planning Dashboard



Viewing Baselines, SCW Program Targets, and Progress in the Planning Tool



New FSG 20th Requirement

What is it:

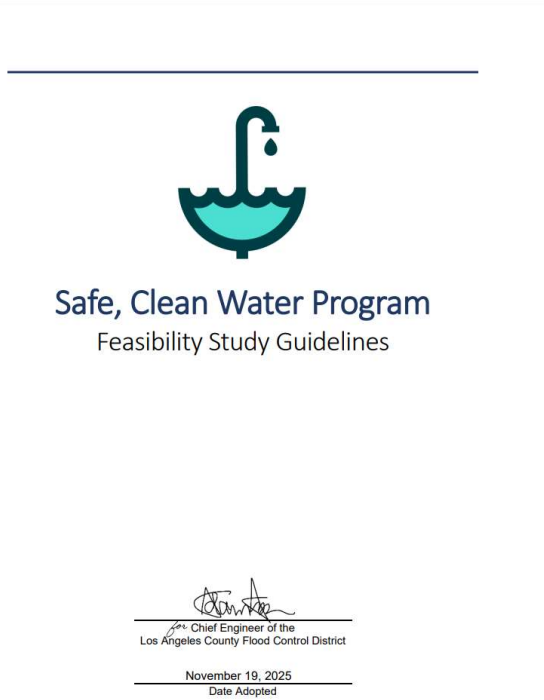
- An addendum to the SCW Program Feasibility Study Guidelines (FSG)

Who it affects:

- Regional Infrastructure Program and TRP Applicants

What it requires applicants to do:

- Describe how proposed projects align with the Initial Watershed Plans



Safe, Clean Water Program

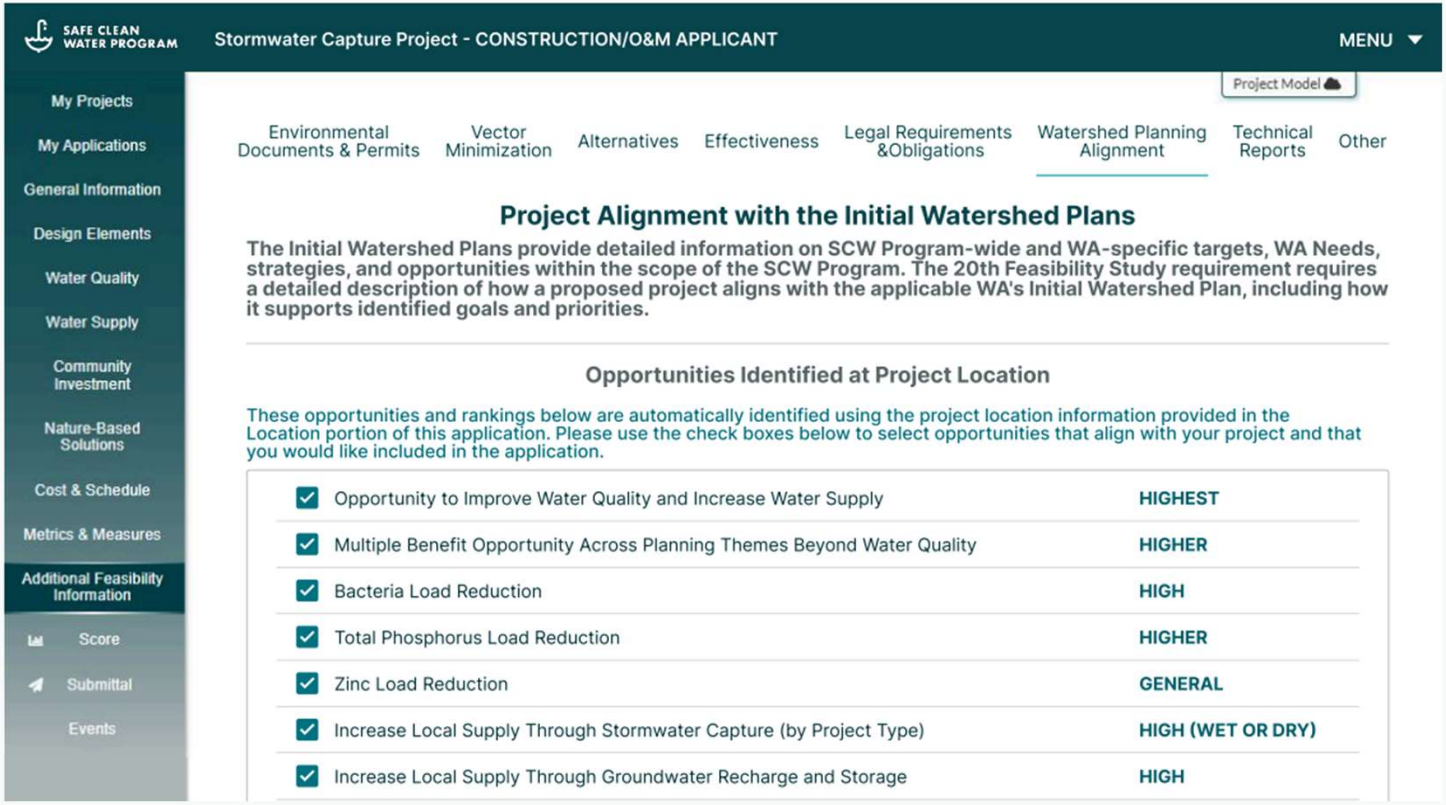
Feasibility Study Guidelines

Chief Engineer of the
Los Angeles County Flood Control District

November 19, 2025
Date Adopted

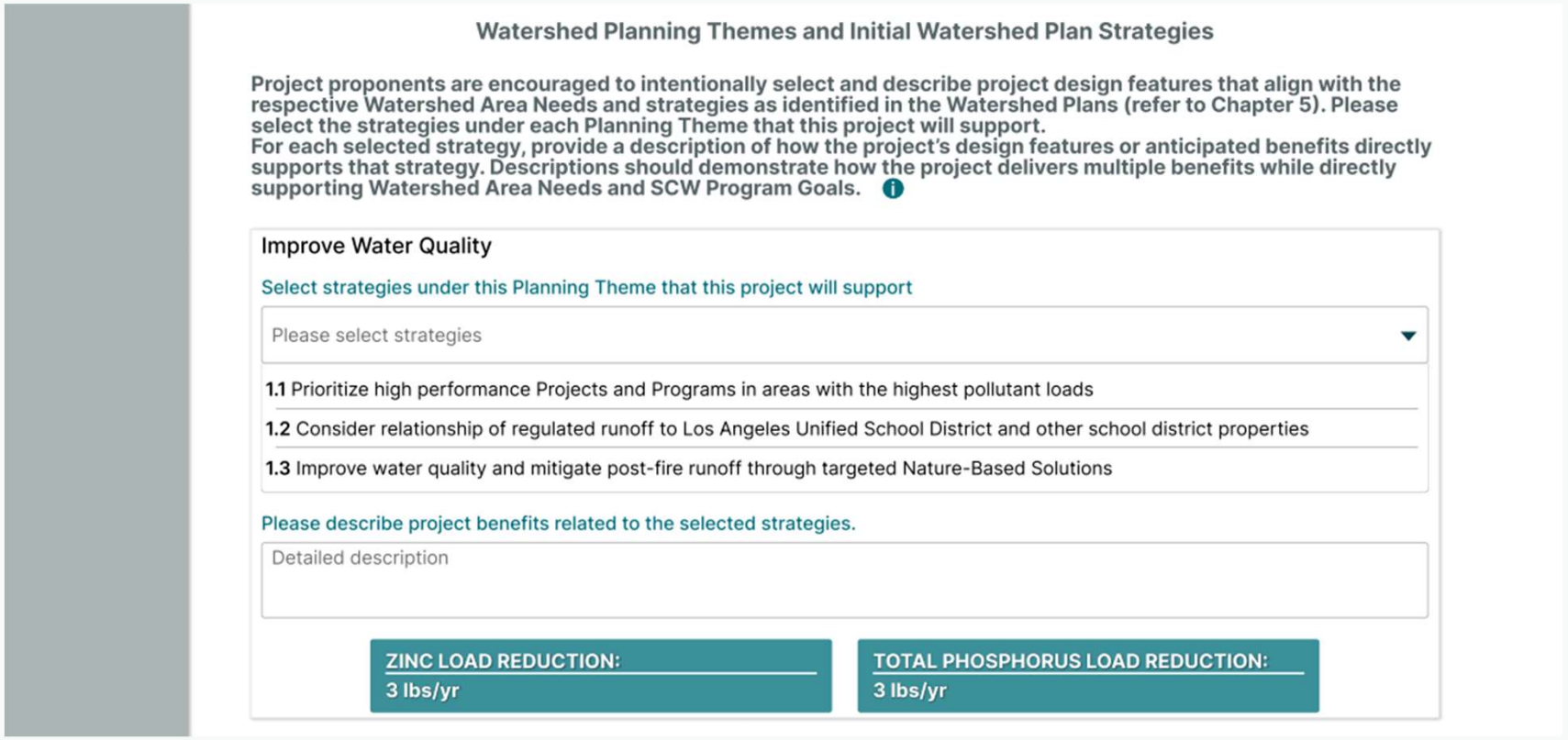
20. A detailed description of how the Project aligns with the applicable Watershed Area's watershed plan, including how it supports identified goals and priorities.[1]

Project Module Mockup



Note that slide shows a mockup of what the Projects Module will look like after updating.

Project Module Mockup



Note that slide shows a mockup of what the Projects Module will look like after updating.

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area
Example for Aligning Projects with the Initial Watershed Plan

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Aligning Projects with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

Apollo Park Stormwater Capture Project

Current Phase: Planning

Project Description:

The Apollo Park Stormwater Capture Project will deliver a range of benefits to the local community and environment. This Project includes both **underground and above-ground improvements** to **improve water quality**, **augment groundwater storage**, and provide **community benefits**. The Project is located at the bottom of a 268-acre drainage area where 60% of stormwater runoff is conveyed through a storm drain network to the Project site and the remaining 40% will be captured by a proposed drain line and drop-inlet structure. The main Project component is the installation of a regional and onsite stormwater capture and infiltration diversion facility that will be located beneath open space at Apollo Park. The Project will also **revitalize park facilities**—such as updated irrigation, new walkways, and expanded green space—and **utilize nature-based features** like biofiltration cells, permeable pavement and a bird and butterfly garden will also **boost local biodiversity** and provide environmental education opportunities.

Example Project Benefits Organized by Alignment with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies

Improve Water Quality *(Goal A)*

1.1 Prioritize high performance Projects and Programs in areas with the highest pollutant loads *(e.g., action 1.1.1)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Total Zinc as the primary pollutant addressed
- 13.6 ac-ft of 24-hour Project storage capacity

Increase Drought Preparedness *(Goal B)*

2.1 Link MS4 compliance and water supply planning to maximize stormwater capture for water quality and water supply *(e.g., actions 2.1.1, 2.1.2)*

2.2 Maximize stormwater runoff capture and management for water supply *(e.g., action 2.2.1)*

2.3 Enhance local water supply through groundwater recharge, diversion to sanitary sewer, and onsite reuse

Example Project Benefits:
- Increase local supply by 116 acre-feet/yr through infiltration to the underlying groundwater basin
- Project opportunity identified by the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Program

Improve Public Health *(Goal C)*

3.5 Create, enhance, and restore park and green space, especially in high-need communities *(e.g., action 3.3.1, 3.3.2)*

3.6 Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change *(e.g., actions 3.4.1, 3.4.2)*

Example Project Benefits:
- 3 enhanced recreational features (grass turf replacement, new fencing and walkways, and new baseball field and lighting)
- New Areas of Canopy, Cooling, and Shading Surfaces (vegetation and permeable pavement) to reduce urban heat island effect
- 0.45-acres of green space created

Deliver Multi-Benefits with Nature-Based Solutions & Diverse Projects *(Goal E, F, G)*

4.3 Deliver nature-based, multi-benefit Projects and Program that improve water quality while addressing community priorities and concerns *(e.g., action 4.4.1)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Permeable pavement parking lot
- Habitat created through green infrastructure features (biofiltration cells with native landscaping)

See Section 5.2.1.11, Figure 5-34

South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area
Example for Aligning Projects with the Initial Watershed Plan

South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Strategies and Actions

Aligning Projects with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project

Current Phase: Design

Project Description:

The Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project will deliver a range of benefits to the local community and environment. This Project includes both **underground and above-ground improvements** to **improve water quality**, **augment groundwater storage**, and provide **community benefits**. The Project will divert 5.6 acre-feet of stormwater from three LACFCD storm drains in downtown Lomita with a 110-acre drainage area to an infiltration gallery and series of drywells. The Project will also **revitalize park facilities**—such as a bike lanes, new walkways, benches, and expanded green space—and **utilize nature-based features** like bioretention zones, permeable pavement, shade trees, and native vegetation. This integrated approach addresses flood risk, water quality, public recreation, and livability in one cohesive design.

Example Project Benefits Organized by Alignment with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies

Improve Water Quality *(Goal A)*

1.1 Prioritize high performance Projects and Programs in areas with the highest pollutant loads *(e.g., action 1.1.2)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Total Zinc as the primary pollutant addressed
- 5.65 ac-ft of 24-hour Project storage capacity

Increase Drought Preparedness *(Goal B)*

2.1 Link MS4 compliance and water supply planning to maximize stormwater capture for water quality and water supply *(e.g., actions 2.1.1, 2.1.2)*

2.2 Maximize stormwater runoff capture and management for water supply *(e.g., action 2.2.1)*

2.3 Enhance local water supply diversion to sanitary sewer and onsite reuse

Example Project Benefits:
- Increase local supply by 5.6 acre-feet/year through diversion to infiltration gallery and series of drywells. Feasibility of irrigation system that utilizes captured stormwater for on-site reuse will be determined in design phase, further augmenting local supply.

Improve Public Health *(Goal C)*

3.2 Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change *(e.g., actions 3.2.1, 3.2.2)*

3.3 Create, enhance, and restore park and green space, especially in high-need communities *(e.g., action 3.3.1, 3.3.2)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Enhanced recreational features (new protected bike lane)
- New Areas of Canopy, Cooling, and Shading Surfaces (vegetation and pervious pavement) to reduce urban heat island effect
- 45 new shade trees

Deliver Multi-Benefits with Nature-Based Solutions & Diverse Projects *(Goal E, F, G)*

4.2 Deliver nature-based, multi-benefit Projects and Program that improve water quality while addressing community priorities and concerns *(e.g., action 4.2.1)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Pervious pavement
- Habitat created through green infrastructure features (bioretention zones with native landscaping)

See Section 5.2.1.11, Figure 5-33

Upper San Gabriel Watershed Area
Example for Aligning Projects with the Initial Watershed Plan

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Strategies and Actions

Aligning Projects with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies, Actions, and Opportunities

Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project

Current Phase: Planning

Project Description:

The Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project will deliver a range of benefits to the local community and environment. This Project includes both **underground and above-ground improvements** to **improve water quality**, **augment groundwater storage**, and provide **community benefits**. The main Project component is the construction of new drainage infrastructure to capture and treat stormwater that will be will be diverted into an infiltration gallery beneath an open field, where it will percolate and recharge the groundwater aquifer. The Project will also **revitalize green and open space at a school** —such as enhanced athletic fields, shade trees, and a pocket park. Furthermore, the Project will **utilize nature-based features** by planting of new drought-resistant plants and trees in educational gardens creating micro-habitats, enhancing biodiversity, and providing shade, which fosters outdoor learning.

Example Project Benefits Organized by Alignment with Initial Watershed Plan Strategies

Improve Water Quality *(Goal A)*

1.1 Prioritize high performance Projects and Programs in areas with the highest pollutant loads *(e.g., action 1.1.1)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Total Zinc as the primary pollutant addressed
- ~82 ac-ft of 24-hour Project storage capacity

Increase Drought Preparedness *(Goal B)*

2.1 Link MS4 compliance and water supply planning to maximize stormwater capture for water quality and water supply *(e.g., actions 2.1.1, 2.1.2)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Increase local supply through infiltration to the underlying Main San Gabriel Basin
- Project opportunity identified by the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Program

Improve Public Health *(Goal C)*

3.3 Implement Projects located at school and in flood control channel right-of-ways *(e.g., action 3.3.1)*

3.4 Create, enhance, and restore park and green space, especially in high-need communities *(e.g., action 3.4.1, 3.4.2)*

3.5 Help communities most affected by extreme heat mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change *(e.g., actions 3.5.1, 3.452)*

Example Project Benefits:
- Enhanced recreational features at existing school (pocket park, educational gardens, athletic fields)
- New Areas of Canopy, Cooling, and Shading Surfaces (vegetation and permeable pavement) to reduce urban heat island effect
- Environmental education and stewardship

Deliver Multi-Benefits with Nature-Based Solutions & Diverse Projects *(Goal E, F, G)*

4.3 Deliver nature-based, multi-benefit Projects and Program that improve water quality while addressing community priorities and concerns *(e.g., action 4.3.1)*

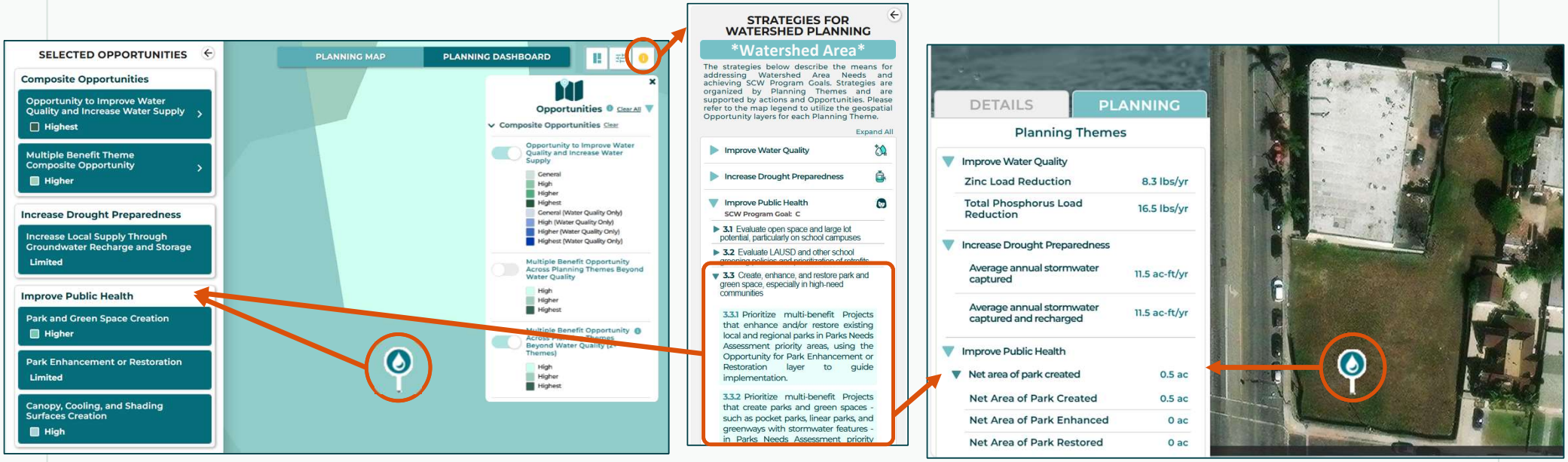
Example Project Benefits:
- Nature-based landscaping in and around bioretention areas

See Section 5.2.1.11, Figure 5-34

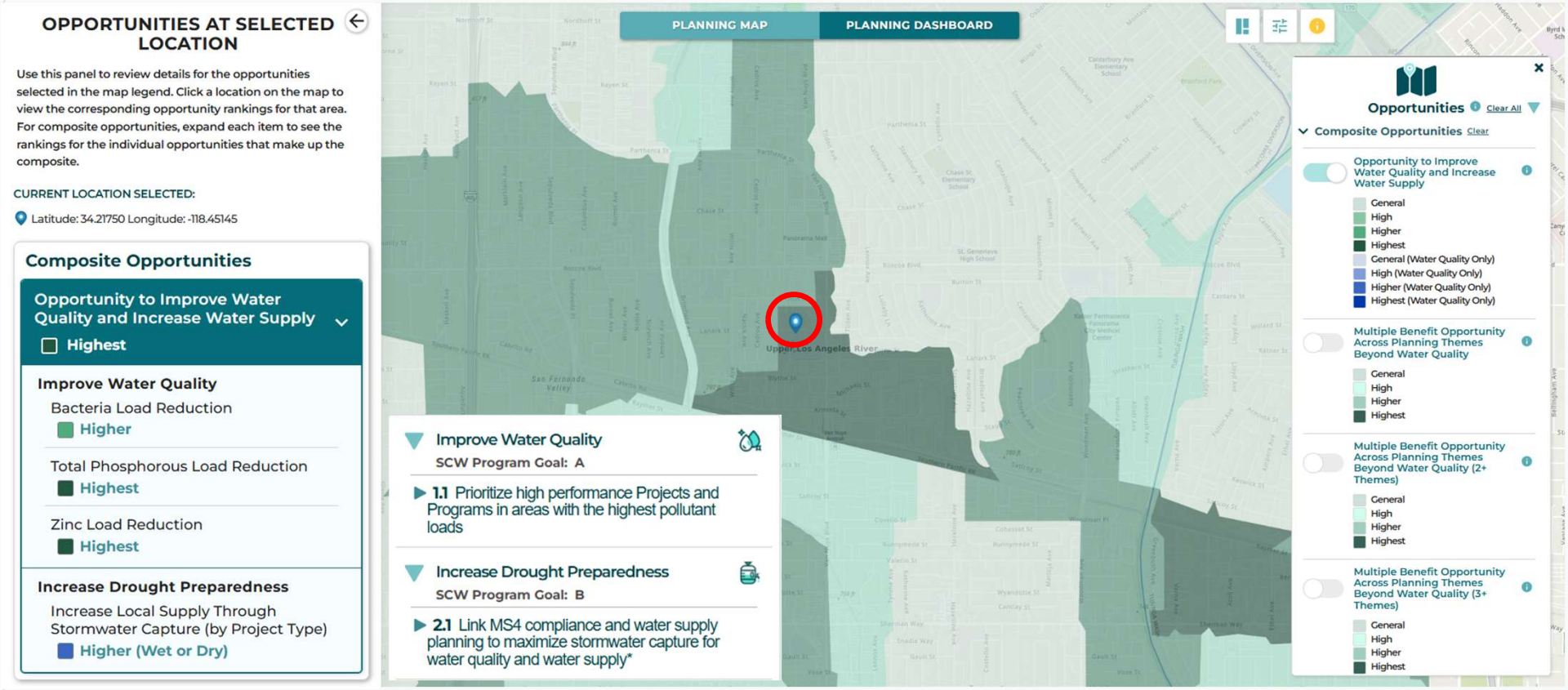
Assessing Alignment with Watershed Planning Using the Watershed Planning Tool

Use the Planning Tool to,

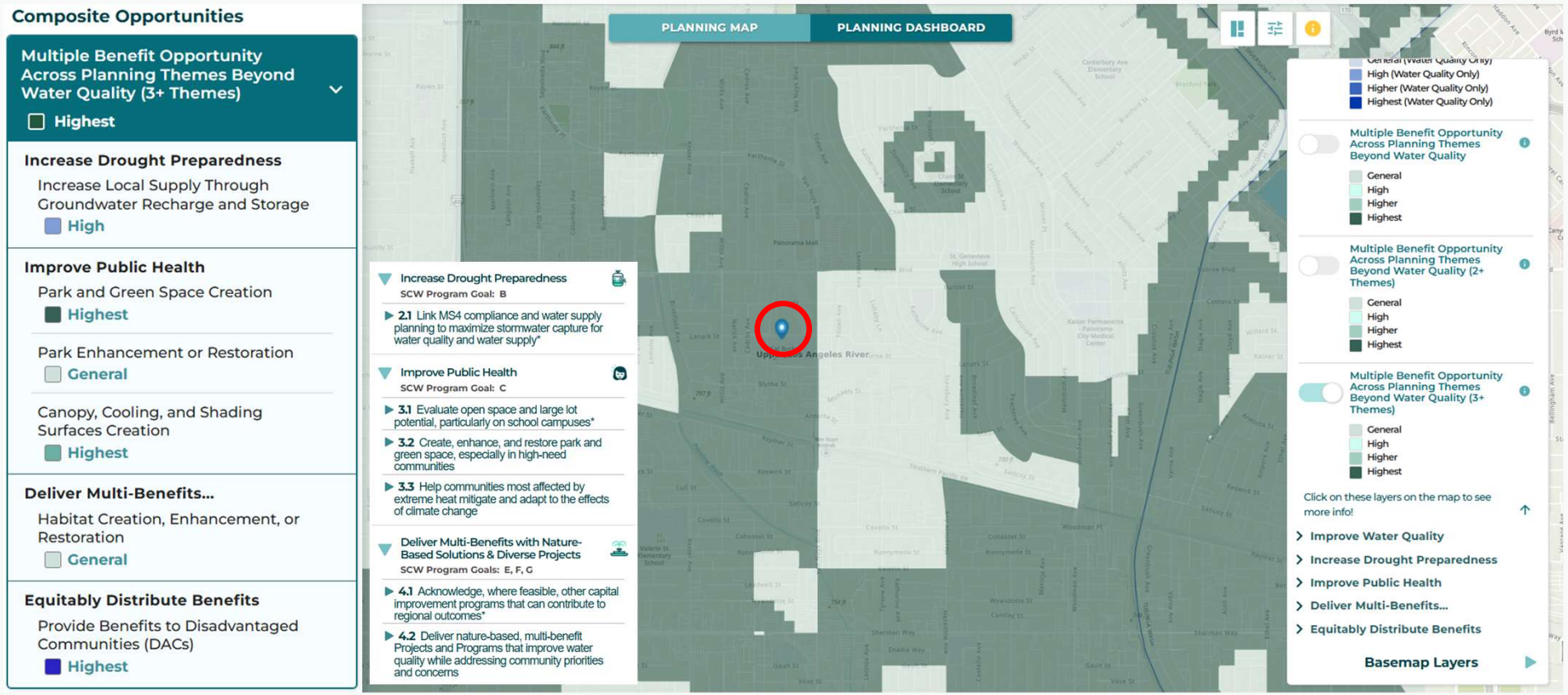
- Spatially view Projects and their potential impact using the opportunity layers
- Click on a Project to see the benefits it is anticipated to provide
- Filter for your Watershed Area and open the strategies side pane to review strategies and actions
- Compare Project benefits to Watershed Area targets and strategies to assess alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans



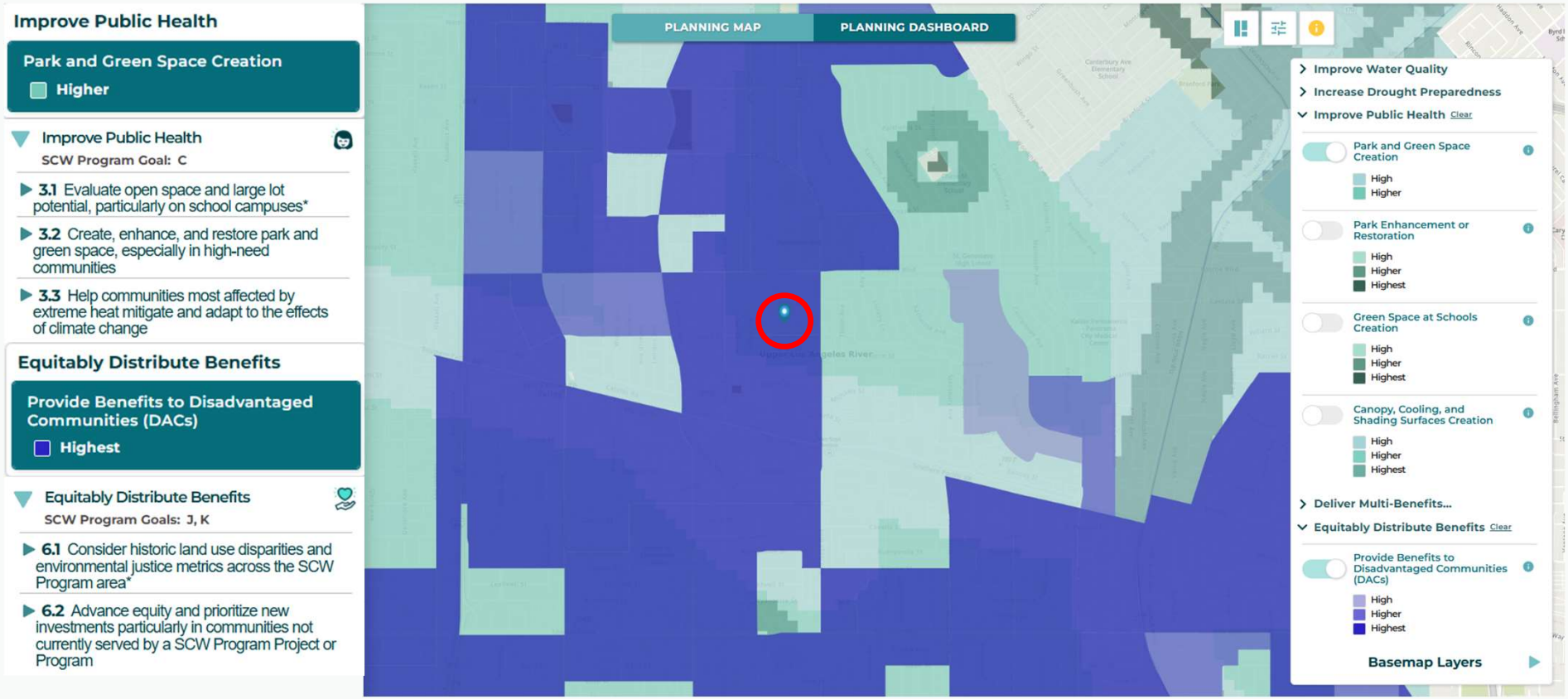
Planning Tool Example: Composite Opportunities



Planning Tool Example: Multi-Benefit Opportunities



Planning Tool Example: Opportunities



Planning Tool Example: Municipal Opportunities

MUNICIPAL PROGRAM PROJECTS BY MUNICIPALITY

Municipality: Alhambra

Composite Opportunities

Opportunity to Improve Water Quality and Increase Water Supply

- [ ] Highest

Improve Water Quality

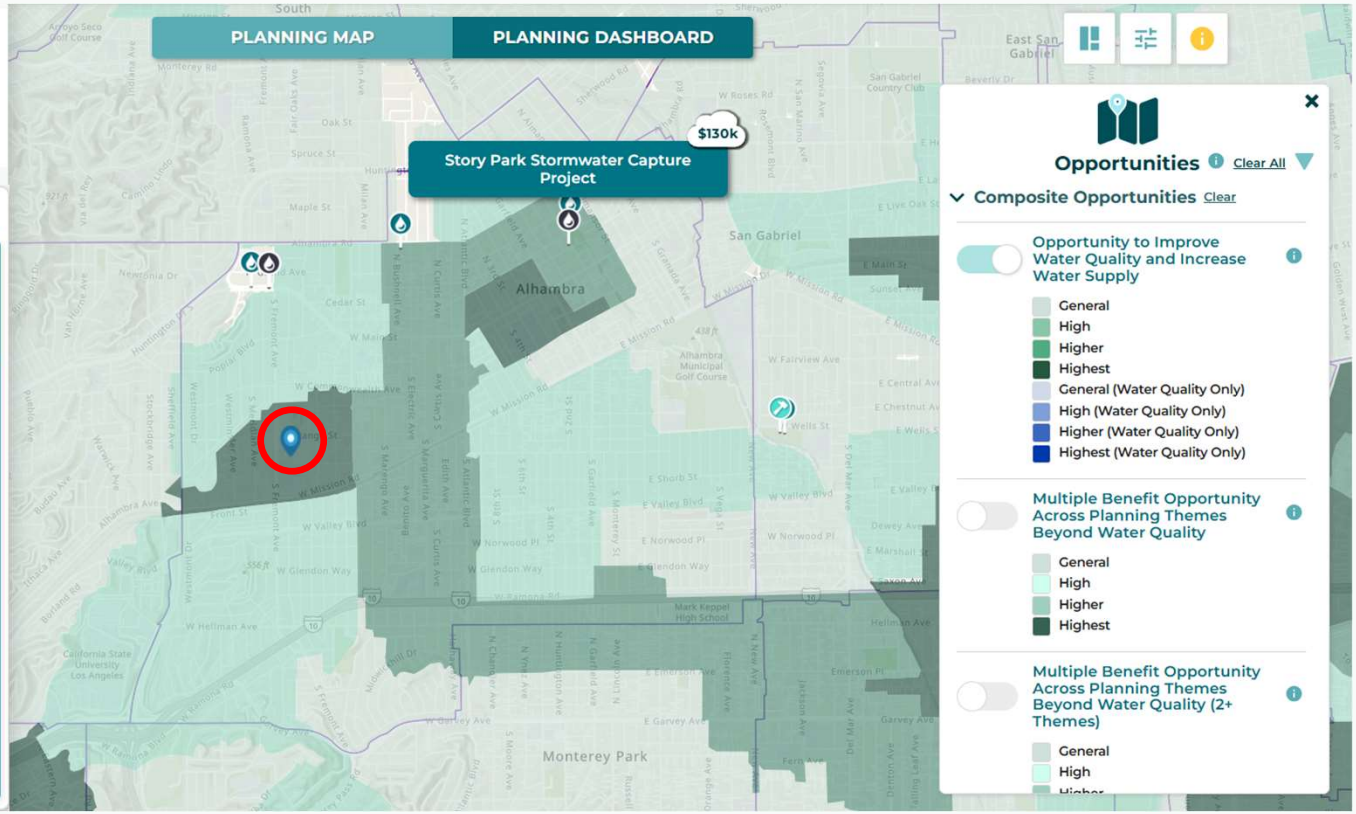
Bacteria Load Reduction
- [ ] Highest

Total Phosphorous Load Reduction
- [ ] Highest

Zinc Load Reduction
- [ ] Highest

Increase Drought Preparedness

Increase Local Supply Through Stormwater Capture (by Project Type)
- [ ] Highest (Wet)



SCW Program Project Alignment with Initial Watershed Plans

Why Alignment Matters:

- Ensures Projects contribute to the achievement of the one or more of the 14 SCW Program Goals.
- Provides a consistent way for Municipalities and Project proponents to intentionally select Project design features that align with Watershed Area Needs.
- Ensures compliance with new Feasibility Study Guideline Requirement #20: Explicit alignment with Initial Watershed Plans for all future SCW Program applications.

How Alignment is Achieved:

- Reference the Initial Watershed Plans and Planning Tool for:
  - **Strategies & Actions** : Outlines Project priorities, general actions, and resources to guide strategic decision-making, offering the most direct path to alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans.
  - **Opportunities**: For each strategy, there is one or more opportunity. Opportunities may be used as guides in identifying areas where Projects or Program implementation would have the greatest impacts.
  - **Composite Opportunities**: Highlight areas with the most potential to align with 2+ strategies to deliver multiple benefits and support multiple SCW Program Goals.

Questions?

Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Contact

WatershedPlanning@PW.LACounty.gov