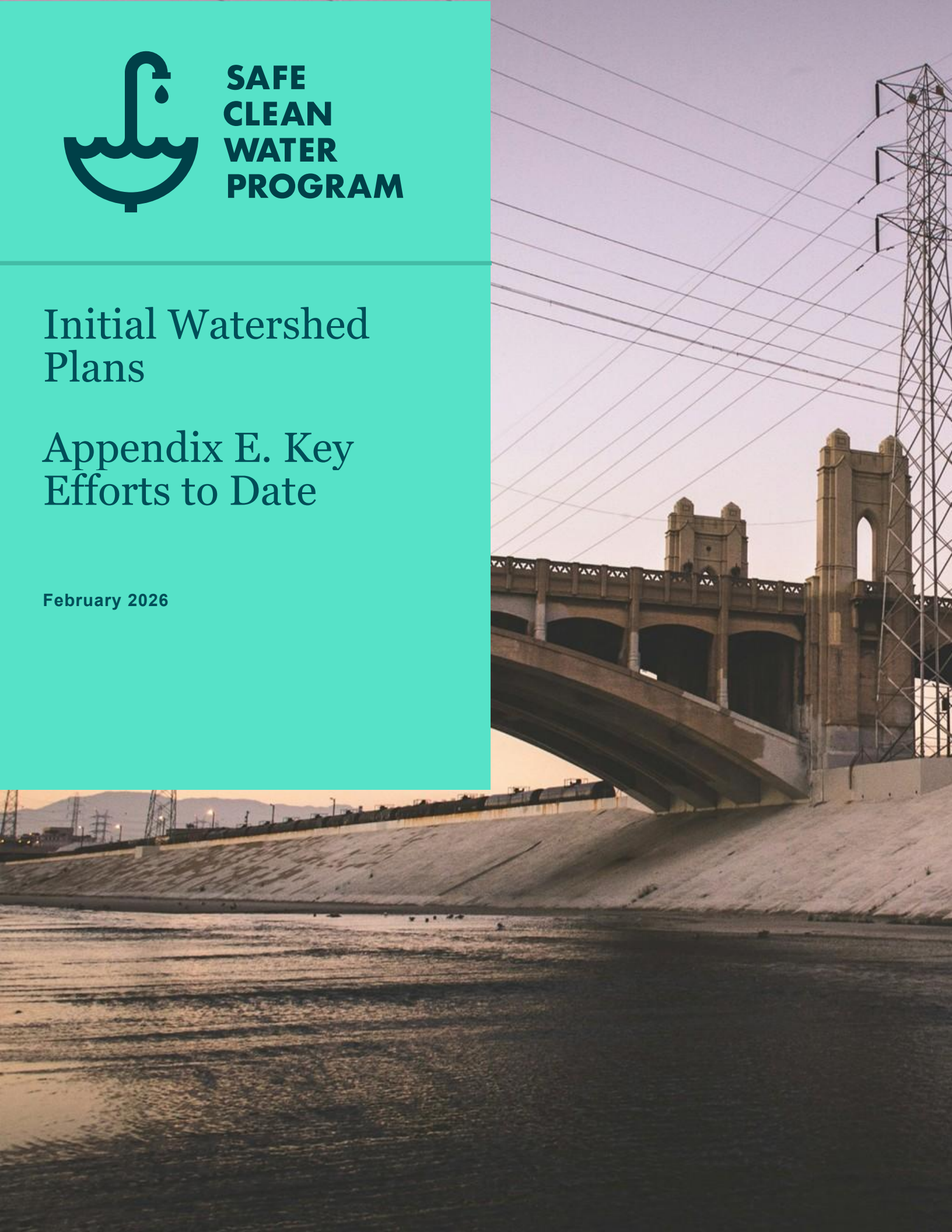
SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Initial Watershed Plans

Appendix E. Key Efforts to Date

February 2026



Initial Watershed Plans: Appendix E. Key Efforts to Date

Table of Contents

Appendix E. Key Efforts to Date E-1
E.1 Key Efforts to Date Leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans E-1
E.2 Identified Regional and Local Targets E-8
E.3 SCW Program Scientific Studies E-18

List of Tables

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans E-2
Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning E-8
Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25) E-18

Appendix E. Key Efforts to Date

E.1 Key Efforts to Date Leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

A wealth of regional and local studies, as well as planning and engagement efforts, were considered and incorporated where appropriate to support development of the Initial Watershed Plans. Table E-1 outlines the key efforts to date that were considered.

The Initial Watershed Plans are also informed by several guiding documents developed by the SCW Program that provide support and context for a range of SCW Program-related applications. These documents offer foundational knowledge for understanding the SCW Program, its elements, definitions, requirements, and processes. Examples of key SCW Program guidance and guideline documents include:

- SCW Program Feasibility Study Guidelines (2019)
- Equity in Stormwater Investments White Paper (2022)
- Regional Program Funding Process Handbook (2022)
- SCW Program Handbook for Municipalities (2023)
- 2024 Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) (2024; see also subsection E.2 below for more information)
- SCW Program Watershed Planning Framework (2024)
- Reporting Module Guidance – New Regional Program Performance Measures (2025)
- Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines (2025)
- SCW Program 2025 Interim Guidance (2025)
- Project Modification Guidelines (2025)

Supplementary SCW Program resources and documents are available on the SCW Program website.

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

Effort Category	Effort Name	Source/Agency	Watershed Area	Related Planning Element(s)
Watershed Management	Watershed Management Programs	State of California Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board	All	Targets
Watershed Management	Engineering with Nature Project Mapper	US Army Corps of Engineers	All	Opportunities
Watershed Management	LA River Bacteria Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) Schedule (p.72 in link)	State of California Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board	Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR), Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR)	Opportunities
Watershed Management	Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters	United States Environmental Protection Agency	All	Watershed Planning Process, Adaptive Management
Watershed Management	Quick Guide for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters	United States Environmental Protection Agency	All	Watershed Planning Process, Adaptive Management
Water Supply	Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Region	All	Targets
Water Supply	Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Santa Clara River (SCR)	Targets
Water Supply	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Stormwater Capture Master Plan	City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	ULAR	Targets
Water Supply	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Board	Upper San Gabriel River (USGR), Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR), Rio Hondo (RH)	Targets
Water Supply	Stormwater Recharge Efficiency in the Greater Los Angeles Region	United States Geological Survey	All	Gaps
Wastewater	Draft One Water LA 2040 Plan	Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)	Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB), South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB), ULAR	Targets

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

Effort Category	Effort Name	Source/Agency	Watershed Area	Related Planning Element(s)
Wastewater	Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo	Las Virgenes - Triunfo Joint Powers Authority	North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB)	Targets
SCW Program Study	Safe, Clean Water Program Metrics and Monitoring Study	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	All
SCW Program Study	SCW Program Regional Oversight Committee Incorporation or Performance Measures and Featured Population Indicators Workbook – Final	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	Indicators & PMs
SCW Program Water Area Steering Committee (WASC)	LSGR WASC Prioritization Criteria	LSGR WASC	LSGR	Strategies, Opportunities
Interested Party Recommendations for SCW Program	Vision 2045	Heal the Bay, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, and Natural Resources Defense Council	All	Targets
Interested Party Recommendations for SCW Program	Los Angeles Water Keeper SCWP Assessment - Changing the Course?: What's Worked, What Hasn't, and What's Next for the Safe Clean Water Program	Los Angeles Water Keeper	All	Targets
Interested Party Recommendations for SCW Program	Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles Safe, Clean Water Program Working Group Recommendations	Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles	All	Targets
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	OurCounty Sustainability Plan	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	All	Targets, Strategies, Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	2021 LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	All	Targets, Strategies, Opportunities

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

Effort Category	Effort Name	Source/Agency	Watershed Area	Related Planning Element(s)
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Web Tool	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	All	Targets, Strategies, Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	County of Los Angeles Equity Indicators Tool	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning	All	WA Characteristics, Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Equity in Infrastructure Initiative	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	WA Characteristics, Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Los Angeles County GIS for Equity	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	WA Characteristics, Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	InfrastructureLA - Infrastructure Initiative	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Equity in Stormwater Investments: Measuring Community Engagement and Disadvantaged Community Benefits for Equitable Impact in the Safe Clean Water Program	University of California – Los Angeles Luskin Center for Innovation and Stantec	All	WA Characteristics, Opportunities
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Justice40	United States Digital Service (USDS)	All	WA Characteristics, Opportunities
Regional Plan	Los Angeles River Master Plan	Los Angeles County Public Works	LLAR, ULAR	Targets, Opportunities
Regional Plan	Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan	City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering	ULAR	Targets, Opportunities
Regional Plan	Long Beach Climate Action Plan (LB CAP)	City of Long Beach	All	Strategies, Opportunities
Regional Plan	The Resilient and Sustainable Rebuilding of Los Angeles region	Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Action and Fire-Safe Recovery	All	Strategies, Opportunities
Regional Plan	2045 Climate Action Plan	County of Los Angeles	USGR, SCR, NSMB, RH	Strategies, Opportunities

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

Effort Category	Effort Name	Source/Agency	Watershed Area	Related Planning Element(s)
Regional Plan	Los Angeles's Green New Deal Sustainable City pLAn	City of Los Angeles	ULAR, CSMB, SSMB	Strategies, Opportunities
Regional Plan	Ballona Creek Revitalization Plan	Culver City	CSMB	Strategies, Opportunities
Regional Plan	Ballona Creek Greenway Plan	The Bay Foundation	CSMB	Strategies, Opportunities
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP)	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	Targets
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	County Water Plan - Blue Ribbon panel to develop standards for Nature-Based water management solutions	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	Indicators & PMs, Targets
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment and Assessment Plus	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	All	WA Characteristics, Targets, Opportunities
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program - "Watertalks"	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	All	Targets, Opportunities
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	2024-2030 Los Angeles County Strategic Plan	Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office	All	Targets
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	Board Motion of December 5, 2023, Agenda Item 8 Implementation of The Los Angeles County Water Plan: A Shared, Regional Path Toward Water Resilience	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors	All	Watershed Planning Vision
Los Angeles County	Board Motion of July 25, 2023, Agenda Item 23 Accelerating	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors	All	Watershed Planning Vision

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

Effort Category	Effort Name	Source/Agency	Watershed Area	Related Planning Element(s)
Planning and Motions	Implementation of The Safe Clean Water Program 120 Day Report Back			
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	Board Motion of March 19, 2024, Agenda Item 19 Progress and Adaptive Management of The Safe, Clean Water Program 90-Day Report Back	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors	All	Targets, Watershed Planning Vision
Community Investment Benefits	School Greening Index	Los Angeles Unified School District	ULAR/All	Targets, Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	Los Angeles Unified School District Green School Yards for All	Los Angeles Unified School District	ULAR/All	Targets, Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	Los Angeles Unified School District 100-Day Plan	Los Angeles Unified School District	ULAR/All	Targets, Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	Los Angeles Unified School District Climate Literacy Resolution	Los Angeles Unified School District	All	Targets
Community Investment Benefits	Green Schoolyards America (GSA)	Earth Island Institute	All	Targets
Community Investment Benefits	Drainage Area Needs Assessment Program (DNAP)	Los Angeles County Public Works	All	Targets, Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	Room to Grow: Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) for Los Angeles County'	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	All	Targets, Strategies, Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	California Pathway to 30x30 Strategy	California Natural Resources Agency	All	Targets
Community Investment Benefits	Los Angeles County's 30x30 Plan	Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation	All	Targets

Table E-1. Key efforts to date leveraged for the Initial Watershed Plans

Effort Category	Effort Name	Source/Agency	Watershed Area	Related Planning Element(s)
Community Investment Benefits	San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network	Los Angeles County Public Works	LSGR, USGR	Strategies, Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	Strategy 2a in OurCounty Plan re: Urban Heat Island	LA County	All	Targets
Community Investment Benefits	California/Los Angeles County Urban Heat Island	Cal EPA	All	Process and Framework
Community Investment Benefits	Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Vision Plan	Watershed Conservation Authority	LSGR, LLAR	Opportunities
Community Investment Benefits	Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles Safe, Clean Water Program Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool Manual	Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles	All	Baselines, Targets, Strategies

E.2 Identified Regional and Local Targets

Table E-2 lists applicable studies and analysis conducted by various interested parties that have helped inform the targets for SCW Program Indicators for each of the nine WAs.

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
Watershed Management	Watershed Management Programs (WMPs)	All	Various
Water Supply	Greater Los Angeles County (GLAC) Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP)	ULAR	• Conserve 117,000 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr) of water through water use efficiency and conservation measures • Create additional ability to pump 106,000 ac-ft/yr using a combination of treatment, recharge, and storage access • Increase capture and use of stormwater runoff by 26,000 ac-ft/yr that is currently lost to the ocean • Increase both centralized and distributed stormwater infiltration by 75,000 ac-ft/yr • Develop 26,000 ac-ft/yr of ocean water desalination • Develop 54,000 ac-ft of new stormwater capture capacity • Reduce flood risk in 11,400 acres of flood-prone areas by either increasing protection or decreasing needs using integrated flood management approaches • Remove 68 million cubic yards of sediment from debris basins and reservoirs • Preserve or protect 2,000 acres of aquatic habitat • Enhance 6,000 acres of aquatic habitat + restore or create 4,000 acres of aquatic habitat • Create 38,000 acres of open space • Create 25,000 acres of urban parks
Water Supply	Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) IRWMP	SCR	• Capture 35,000 ac-ft/yr of stormwater by 2035 • Increase recycled water usage by 9,600 ac-ft/yr by 2030 • Achieve an overall 20% reduction of urban water demand by 2020 • Reduce invasive plant species cover to 40% or less within the first 5 years • Acquire 12 miles along SCR for development as recreational trail/park corridor

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
Water Supply	Los Angeles (LA) Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Stormwater Capture Master Plan	ULAR	• Increase storm water capture by 68,000-114,000 ac-ft/yr through infiltration type projects and programs that recharge aquifers/groundwater basin • Increase centralize capture by 51,000 ac-ft/yr by 2035 • Increase distributed infiltration capture by 56,000 ac-ft/yr by 2035 • Increase distributed direct use capture by 7,000 ac-ft/yr by 2035
Water Supply	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	USGR	• Test microplastics in public drinking water after four years and notify the public of the results. Phase 1 will occur in Fall 2023-2025 • Maintain groundwater level at key wells between 200 ft and 250 ft above mean sea level
Wastewater	Draft One Water Los Angeles (LA) 2040 Plan	CSMB, SSMB, ULAR	• Integrate management of water resources and policies by increasing coordination and cooperation between City departments, partners, and interested parties • Balance environmental, economic, and societal goals by implementing affordable and equitable projects and programs that provide multiple benefits to all communities • Improve the health of local watersheds by reducing impervious cover, restoring ecosystems, decreasing pollutants in our waterways, and mitigating local flood impacts • Improve local water supply reliability by increasing capture of stormwater, conserving potable water, and expanding water resource • Implement, monitor, and maintain a reliable wastewater system that safely conveys, treats, and reuses wastewater, while also reducing sewer overflows and odors • Increase climate resilience by planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in all City actions • Increase community awareness and advocacy for sustainable water by active engagement, public outreach, and education
Wastewater	Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo	NSMB	• Incorporate Joint Powers Authority (JPA) vision and target goal of having Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) operational by 2030
SCW Program Study	SCW Program Metrics & Monitoring Study (MMS)	All	SCW Program Effort – SCW Program and Watershed Area (WA) targets are established in the Initial Watershed Plans.

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
SCW Program Study	Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) Incorporation or Performance Measures (PMs) and Featured Population Indicators Workbook – Final	All	SCW Program Effort – SCW Program and WA targets are established in the Initial Watershed Plans.
SCW Program Study	Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis Phase 1 Study	LLAR, LSGR	SCW Program Effort – SCW Program and WA targets are established in the Initial Watershed Plans.
SCW Program Study	Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis Phase 2 Study	LLAR, LSGR	SCW Program Effort – SCW Program and WA targets are established in the Initial Watershed Plans.
SCW Program Study	Pre-Stormwater Investment Plan (preSIP): A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration Scientific Study	RH, ULAR	SCW Program Effort – SCW Program and WA targets are established in the Initial Watershed Plans.
SCW Program Study	Load Reduction Strategy (LRS) Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group	RH, ULAR	SCW Program Effort – SCW Program and WA targets are established in the Initial Watershed Plans.

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
Stakeholder Recommendations for SCW Program	Vision 2045	All	• Capture and infiltrate 300K ac-ft/yr of new water by 2045, with an interim target of 100K ac-ft/yr by 2030 • Meet all water quality standards and TMDL requirements by 2038, with a 50% reduction in water quality standards exceedances by 2030 • Green 30% of schoolyards • Replace 12,000 acres of impermeable area with new green space by 2045, and green all schools in disadvantaged communities (DACs) by 2030 • All schools located in Disadvantaged Community (DAC) boundaries should become green 'cool schools' by 2030. All Los Angeles County Schools should be green schools by 2045. • The SCW Program should develop and implement a K-12 education program in 2024 with a target of 10% of students receiving watershed education annually by 2026
Stakeholder Recommendations for SCW Program	Los Angeles Water Keeper SCW Program Assessment - Changing the Course?	All	• This assessment is an overview of how the Regional program is performing in achieving the SCW Program overarching goals of water quality, water supply, and Community Investment Benefits (CIB) • This assessment aims to help the SCW Program's ROC and ultimately other decision-makers such as the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) better understand what is working well with the program and where improvements could be made as part of the biennial review
Stakeholder Recommendations for SCW Program	Accelerated Resistance Los Angeles (ARLA)'s SCW Program Working Group Recommendations	All	• Convene an influential group of interested parties called the Working Group to build consensus around definitions and metrics for balanced watershed projects • This effort was meant to utilize a robust and collaborative scientific approach to identify metrics that represent select SCW Program Goals and analyze the potential of different project types in a pilot watershed to accomplish the overarching SCW Program Goals collectively and equitably
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	OurCounty Sustainability Plan	All	There are 37 targets established in this plan (organized by 12 goals); the following are a subset relevant to Watershed Planning: • Divert 95% of waste from landfills by 2045 • Ensure per capita water demand does not exceed 85 gallons per day by 2045 • Source 80% of water locally by 2045 • Increase accessibility to park/open space by 85% by 2025 • Increase natural protected areas by 55% by 2025 • Increase natural protected areas by 70% by 2045

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	2021 Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)	All	• The CVA aims to examine Los Angeles County's social and physical vulnerability to climate hazards like extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding. The CVA also aims to highlight equity implications and assessment findings, including how climate vulnerabilities are distributed across communities and populations in LA County
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	2045 Climate Action Plan (CAP)	All	• Achieve carbon neutrality countywide by 2050 • Achieve carbon neutrality for County municipal operations by 2045
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Equity in Infrastructure Initiative	All	• N/A - Public Works' Equity in Infrastructure Initiative was created to identify and address disparities across the County in the planning, delivery, and distribution of its investments and services. This is completed through a four-part series: investment analysis, performance analysis, burden analysis, and policy review
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	InfrastructureLA - Infrastructure Initiative	All	• N/A - Maximize the County's share of federal infrastructure spending available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for both regional and unincorporated areas, with an emphasis on projects that advance equity, and climate resilience goals
Sustainability, Equity, and Resiliency	Equity in Stormwater Investments: Measuring Community Engagement and DAC Benefits for Equitable Impact in the SCW Program	All	• N/A - Equity in Stormwater Investments aim to offer a list of recommendations that include connecting the dots between DACs and advise actionable steps that can be taken and provide specific recommendations about metrics that can be used to inform decision-making processes to ensure equitable implementation of the SCW Program

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
Regional Master Plan	Los Angeles River Master Plan	LLAR, ULAR	The Los Angeles River Master Plan lists several goals that each have practical, targeted actions. The following are a subset of the eight targets for the goal: • Reducing flood risk and improving resiliency • Increase capacity of the river in high-risk areas to provide flood risk reduction for at least the 1% (100-year) annual chance flood event or a level recommended by a risk assessment • Maintain existing flood carrying capacity of all reaches of the LA River channel • Reduce peak flood flows into the river • Include climate change research in the planning process for new projects along the river The following are a subset of the eight targets for the goal: Providing equitable, inclusive, and safe parks, open space, and trails: • Create 51 miles of connected open space along the LA River • Complete the LA River Trail so that there is continuous route along the entire river, and encourage future routes on both sides where feasible • Provide support facilities at a regular cadence along the length of the river, on both sides where feasible • Ensure design excellence within and along the river corridor The following are a subset of the six targets for the goal: Supporting healthy and connected ecosystems: • Increase the habitat and ecosystem function along the river corridor • Increase plant species biodiversity, and focus on the use of local California native plants in and around the river corridor • Create a connective network of habitat patches and corridors to facilitate the movement of wildlife and support a diverse, resilient ecological community The following are the two goals for enhancing opportunities for equitable access to the river corridor: • Create welcoming access points and gateways to the LA river and LA River trail to optimize physical access along its length, on both sides • Increase safe transportation routes to the river
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	LA County Water Plan (CWP)	All	• Increase local supply sources by 580,000 ac-ft/yr • Maintain at least 700,000 ac-ft/yr baseline groundwater production • Increase production in areas overlying impaired groundwater by 18,000 ac-ft/yr • Enhance regional facility recharge by 250,000 ac-ft/yr • Increase decentralized infiltration by 80,000 ac-ft/yr

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	LA County Parks Needs Assessment and Assessment Plus (PNA/PNA+)	All	• The Park Need Framework analysis shows that more than 50% of the County's population lives in areas of high or very high park need: study areas with high park need would have to add a combined total of more than 3,250 acres of new park land to provide the County average of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents • Study areas with very high need would need to add a combined total of more than 8,600 acres of new park land to provide 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents • A cumulative amount of 11,850 acres of park land in High and Very High Need areas will need to be created to provide 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program - "Watertalks"	All	• Partner with consulting teams to collect 4,600 survey responses
Los Angeles County Planning and Motions	2024-2030 LA County Strategic Plan	All	• N/A - LA County Strategic Plan is driven by nine Board-Directed Priorities. Each represents the Board's responsive actions to a complex issue that negatively impacts the health, safety, and well-being of individuals who reside in LA County. The Board's intention with these Board-Directed Priorities is to bring hope and lasting change, to end structural racism in LA County and to effectuate the redirection of the financial, human, and other resources it will take to succeed

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
CIBs	Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) School Greening Index	All	• Remove 30% of asphalt paving to provide green schoolyards • Connect green spaces to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning • Increase permeable surfaces to encourage storm water infiltration • Reduce heat island effect • Work with industry leaders, innovators, utilities and municipal partners to identify and pilot emerging sustainability technologies • Raise awareness about sustainability • Develop partnerships to provide experiential place-based learning, and link sustainability with curriculum and workforce development • Encourage and celebrate sustainability leadership and school-based sustainability efforts • Ensure a safe, healthy, and comfortable learning environment in energy and water efficient schools working with Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) • Reduce energy use intensity 20% from 2013/2014 baseline by 2023/2024 • Transition to 100% clean, renewable energy in our electricity sector by 2030 and in all energy sectors by 2040 • Reduce water consumption by 20% from 2013/2014 baseline by the end of 2023/2024 • Reduce the amount of potable water for non-potable use • Reduce groundwater pollution and replenish underground aquifers
CIBs	Los Angeles County Drainage Area Needs Assessment Program (DNAP)	All	• N/A - Establish a new method to collect, evaluate, and prioritize local drainage issues by creating a user-friendly website, standardized criteria, new database for local drainage issues, evaluation for both Food Severity (FS), and Multi Benefit Opportunities (MBO) with prioritization based on collective score of FS and MBO • Assist delivery of infrastructure projects & increase City and LACFCD collaboration
CIBs	Room to Grow: Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) for LA County	All	• Community Canopy Cover: 15% of all unincorporated County residents live in areas with canopy cover of 15% or greater (based on a 50-year projection). Note that the baseline is 37% • County Canopy Cover: All unincorporated communities combined have at least 20% canopy cover (based on a 50-year projection) • Communities prioritized for community forest investments were determined using adjusted canopy cover and the “social sensitivity index” or SSI. Developed an overall “canopy need”

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
CIBs	California Pathway to 30x30 Strategy	All	• N/A - State goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 (California's efforts is part of a global effort to increase biodiversity conservation including in the U.S). This was issued as part of Biden's (and Newson's) executive order on tackling the climate crisis and committed the U.S to 30x30 through its America the Beautiful Initiative
CIBs	Los Angeles County's 30x30 Plan	All	• N/A - (Adopted the PNA+ Final Report as Los Angeles County's 30x30 Plan) – please refer to 2015 Park Needs Assessment (PNA) & 2022 PNA+
CIBs	San Gabriel Valley (SGV) Greenway Network	RH and USGR	• N/A - The Plan builds upon the SGV Council of Governments' Active Transportation Planning Initiative's Greenway Network and feasibility study and will focus on ways to connect with other planned active transportation and green urban infrastructure projects throughout the SGV • Goals include improving and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, youth, and the aging population, bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians • Reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions • Integrate stormwater capture and water management opportunities • Enhance natural habitats and enrich community well-being
CIBs	LAUSD Climate Literacy Resolution	All	• N/A - To convene and organize all other related working groups called for by previous initiatives and resolutions focused on school greening, gardening, outdoor education, and clean energy to deliver recommendations that increase climate literacy and climate justice throughout the district
Equity and DAC	Los Angeles County Racial Equity Strategic Plan	All	• N/A - The Countywide Racial Equity Strategic Plan will include three separate but interrelated plans:(1) a roadmap detailing how to move the County and its thirty-seven departments to be more equitable, inclusive, and just; (2) a strategy for the County to lead the State in equitable policy development and a framework for its 88 cities and 80 school districts; and (3) an approach, incorporating national best practices, articulating how the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative unit (ARDI) can implement the strategic plan and policy agenda over time • Defines equity in three broad categories: procedural, distributional, and structural equity • Defined 10 Countywide Guiding Equity Principles that were Board approved to ensure program policy, and funding decisions align with the Board's anti-racism policy agenda

Table E-2. Key efforts to date: Targets identified as relevant for SCW Program Watershed Planning

Effort Category	Effort Name	WA	Countywide/Plan Target
CIB	Green Schoolyards America (GSA)	All	• Increase Tree Canopy Coverage: By 2030, plant sufficient trees so that, upon maturity, they provide at least 30% canopy coverage in areas of school properties used by children and youth during the school day • Prioritize Equity: Focus efforts on schools and districts in underserved communities, particularly those with the highest poverty levels, minimal existing tree cover, and those most affected by extreme heat • Integrate Outdoor Learning: Utilize school grounds as dynamic learning laboratories, embedding outdoor, nature-based experiences into the PreK–12 curriculum

E.3 SCW Program Scientific Studies

Table E-3 below outlines the parameters for each Scientific Study that has been funded through the SCW Program to date including their:

- **Purpose:** The knowledge gap or impetus behind conducting the study.
- **Expected/Key Findings:** The data, knowledge, and outcomes the Scientific Study proponent seeks to ascertain.
- **Broader Impact:** The effects the study results could have on the WA and Program as a whole.

While a Scientific Study may not be or may only be partially funded in a given WA, its broader impact explains how its findings may still be relevant for Watershed Planning across WAs.

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
LRS Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group	RH, ULAR	FY20-21	Completed	• **Purpose:** Adapt and enhance the existing LRS to focus on identifying and eliminating human waste sources contributing to bacteria pollution in key areas of the ULAR watershed, such as the Los Angeles River (LA River) Segment B and Arroyo Seco • **Key Findings:** Deliver refined prioritization tools, source identification strategies, and targeted abatement recommendations—supported by technical outputs like maps and planning documents—to guide effective bacteria reduction • **Broader Impact:** Improve public health and water quality through more cost-effective, source-focused solutions while aligning efforts with other agencies and informing future updates to regional stormwater compliance strategies like the Reasonable Assurance Analysis
preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration	RH, ULAR	FY20-21	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Provide the Regional and ULAR Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) with a science-based platform to collaboratively develop and evaluate Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) that align with SCW Program Goals • **Expected Findings:** Produce a vetted list of candidate Projects and a decision-support tool for testing, validating, and adapting SIPs over time at the WA scale • **Broader Impact:** Strengthen coordination, strategic planning, and long-term effectiveness of SCW Program investments through more data-driven, flexible, and community-aligned watershed programming

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc Criterion	SSMB, ULAR	FY20-21	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Reevaluate and update the acute zinc water quality criterion to more accurately reflect zinc toxicity during storm events, improving stormwater management strategies across the LA River, Ballona Creek, and Dominguez Channel watersheds • **Expected Findings:** Provide a revised zinc criterion that could lead to a 5–25% reduction in the required BMP capacity, resulting in potential cost savings of $300 million to $1.1 billion for watershed management • **Broader Impact:** Enable more efficient resource allocation and cost-effective BMP implementation while maintaining effective water quality improvements, offering a more targeted approach to zinc reduction in urban stormwater runoff
San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates	USGR	FY20-21	Completed	• **Purpose:** Improve understanding of stormwater infiltration rates across the East San Gabriel Valley by field-verifying performance, enabling more accurate Project planning and BMP design for optimal stormwater capture • **Key Findings:** Identify sites best suited for stormwater infiltration, provide critical data for selecting and sizing BMPs, and inform future studies that connect infiltration efforts to groundwater production • **Broader Impact:** Reduce construction costs, prioritize water supply-enhancing Projects, and maximize the impact of SCW Program investments, supporting regional water sustainability goals
Evaluation of infiltration testing methods for design of stormwater drywell systems	ULAR	FY21-22	Completed	• **Purpose:** Improve the accuracy and cost-effectiveness of stormwater drywell system design by evaluating and comparing various infiltration testing methods used in the Los Angeles region • **Key Findings:** Develop a stakeholder-informed toolbox of best practice testing methods—such as steady-head and falling-head techniques—to guide the appropriate sizing and placement of drywells • **Broader Impact:** Reduce the frequency of oversized or rejected systems, helping Municipalities and developers streamline investments in infiltration infrastructure and accelerate progress toward local water quality and groundwater recharge goals

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
Fire Effects Study in the ULAR Watershed Management Area	RH, ULAR	FY21-22	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Assess how wildfires impact stormwater and urban runoff—specifically hydrology, pollutant loading, and the effectiveness of stormwater BMPs—using post-fire data, watershed modeling, and climate scenario analysis • **Expected Findings:** Generate models and pollutant load estimates to evaluate BMP performance under wildfire-affected and future climate conditions, with recommendations for resilient, cost-effective BMP design • **Broader Impact:** Inform regulatory frameworks, such as post-fire Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets, and enhance public understanding of wildfire-related water quality risks, supporting more adaptive and science-based watershed management

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis)	LLAR, LSGR	FY21-22	Completed	• **Purpose:** Establish a data-driven, science-based roadmap to guide SCW Program investments, ensuring they lead to measurable improvements in water quality and supply within the Gateway region. The GAP Analysis seeks to provide local decision-makers with comparisons of Project performance estimates in the context of existing Projects and other planned Project options and help them envision the next Projects to pursue, whether regional or distributed • **Key Findings:** Deliver a prioritized inventory of Project opportunities—both new and existing—validated through field assessments, and aligned with community needs, budgets, and multi-group Watershed Planning • **Project Context Matters:** Considering upstream actions in a Project's capture area is crucial, as these influence downstream capture opportunities • **Project Location is Key**: Projects should target areas with high pollutant generation, particularly those not yet addressed by other Projects or in combination with them • **Planning Horizons Guide Evaluations**: Evaluating potential near-term Projects using water quality compliance milestones ensures focus on relevant Projects, while remaining adaptable to changing conditions and priorities • **GAP Dashboard**: Maps implementation scale details to strategic investment locations that can be pursued collaboratively between Municipalities and identified for future potential infrastructure funding through the SCW Program • **Broader Impact:** Enhance planning transparency, efficiency, and coordination across Watershed Management Groups (WMGs), with potential to scale the approach countywide and reduce Project overlap or conflicts • ***These findings have been acknowledged in the Watershed Planning process and incorporated accordingly***

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
LAUSD Living Schoolyards Program Pilot Study	ULAR	FY21-22	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Demonstrate the potential of school campuses as multifunctional green infrastructure by retrofitting ten Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) sites to support stormwater management, water quality improvement, and community resilience • **Expected Findings:** Generate site-specific recommendations and a scalable implementation plan identifying infrastructure Projects for future SCW Program funding, integrating stormwater solutions into long-term regional and educational planning • **Broader Impact:** Advance Goals through NBS that improve drought resilience, public health, and green job creation—especially in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)—while fostering long-term environmental stewardship
Regional Pathogen Reduction Study	CSMB, LLAR, LSGR, NSMB, RH, SCR, SSMB ULAR, USGR	FY21-22, FY22-23, FY23-24	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Improve public health and water quality by identifying and addressing high-risk sources of human pathogens in stormwater and urban runoff, particularly at recreational sites throughout the Los Angeles region • **Expected Findings:** Develop risk-based pathogen reduction strategies, deliver an adaptive watershed modeling tool, and identify effective, cost-efficient Best Management Practices (BMPs) for targeted implementation • **Broader Impact:** Enable smarter, health-focused stormwater investments by filling data gaps in contamination risks and guiding the strategic placement of BMPs for long-term regional benefit
Additional Funding Request to Support the LRS Adaptation Addressing the Los Angeles LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group	RH, ULAR	FY22-23	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Support the ULAR WMG in implementing a refined LRS Adaptation Plan to address bacteria pollution in the LA River, particularly from human waste, through risk-based and source-specific strategies • **Key Activities and Findings:** Conduct data gap analyses, targeted source investigations, and early interventions to identify and reduce high-risk bacteria sources, especially in dry-weather flows; expected findings will inform cost-effective, health-protective approaches • **Broader Impact:** Improve regional water quality and public health outcomes while generating technical resources and facilitating knowledge-sharing through a dedicated webpage—supporting regulatory alignment and replicability across other Los Angeles WAs

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation	CSMB, ULAR, USGR	FY22-23	Completed	• **Purpose:** Evaluate the feasibility of using community gardens as sites for stormwater capture and water quality improvement through the identification and assessment of suitable locations within the watershed • **Key Findings:** Deliver a prioritized list of potential sites and develop detailed concept reports for three top locations to guide future implementation of BMPs • **Broader Impact:** Increase engagement and community awareness of the environmental and public health benefits of integrating stormwater infrastructure into shared green spaces
Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures	LLAR, LSGR, RH, ULAR, USGR	FY22-23, FY25-26	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Strengthen the performance, evaluation, and optimization of Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) in stormwater management across the San Gabriel Valley, with a focus on tracking water quality and supply benefits • **Expected Findings:** Produce tools including a regional MCM database, effectiveness models, standardized assessment methods, and a technical platform to support data-driven program management and planning • **Broader Impact:** Enhance the role of MCMs—like street sweeping and community outreach—as cost-effective, scalable alternatives to structural infrastructure, enabling more strategic investment in nature-based, multi-benefit Projects
Microplastics in LA County Stormwater	CSMB, LLAR, LSGR, SSMB	FY22-23	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Establish a baseline understanding of microplastic pollution in the Los Angeles region stormwater by identifying sources, quantities, and types of microplastics, and developing predictive tools for future pollution scenarios • **Expected Findings:** Deliver quantitative data on microplastic concentrations, insights into regional fluxes and watershed-scale budgets, and robust, cost-effective sampling methods to support monitoring efforts across Los Angeles County and California • **Broader Impact:** Inform regional stormwater policy, enhance public awareness through engagement and outreach, and support long-term environmental and human health protection from emerging contaminants

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
Ground truth: guiding a soils-based strategy for impactful Nature-Based Solutions	LLAR	FY23-24	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Assess and optimize the water management potential of compacted urban soils in the LLAR WA to enhance stormwater infiltration and the effectiveness of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) • **Expected Findings:** Deliver practical tools such as a soil impact calculator, improved watershed models, and off-the-shelf NBS designs, along with hybrid strategies that integrate centralized and distributed infrastructure • **Broader Impact:** Support cost-effective, soil-based practices that improve water quality and supply while laying the groundwork for a "water supply to nature" framework within the SCW Program, promoting resilient, community-centered watershed management
Targeted Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria-Related Compliance Objectives for the Los Cerritos Channel	LSGR	FY23-24	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Develop a strategic framework for reducing bacteria-related pollution in the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed by identifying and eliminating high-risk human waste sources in urban runoff, focusing on source control rather than structural treatment • **Expected Findings:** Deliver a prioritization plan for catchment areas, a comprehensive strategic plan for abatement, and actionable recommendations to target high-risk areas, leading to significant reductions in pathogen levels • **Broader Impact:** Improve public health protections, expedite compliance with bacteria-related water quality objectives, and provide a cost-effective, targeted approach to managing stormwater pollution in the region
Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity	CSMB, LLAR, LSGR, RH SCR, SSMB, ULAR, USGR	FY24-25	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Improve the long-term performance and sustainability of stormwater drywell systems by identifying optimal design, pre-treatment, and maintenance practices that enhance infiltration and system longevity • **Expected Findings:** Provide actionable guidance documents, performance benchmarks, and monitoring frameworks to support effective planning, maintenance, and investment in drywell infrastructure • **Broader Impact:** Strengthen local water supply and stormwater treatment outcomes while advancing workforce equity through training and engagement of young engineers from disadvantaged and underrepresented communities

Table E-3. SCW Program Scientific Studies funded to date (FY20-21 to FY24-25)

Study Name	Watershed Area	SIP Year(s)[1]	Status	Summary
Street Sweeping Study	CSMB, SSMB	FY24-25	In Progress	• **Purpose:** Evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of the City's street sweeping program as a BMP for improving water quality by identifying pollutant removal efficiencies and optimal sweeping strategies • **Expected Findings:** Provide data on sweeper technology performance, pollutant accumulation rates, and optimal sweeping frequency, leading to the creation of pollutant "heat maps" and more effective, data-driven route prioritization • **Broader Impact:** Support operational improvements in street sweeping, potentially reduce reliance on expensive structural stormwater solutions, and unlock co-benefits like better air quality and pollutant reduction credits for the City's Watershed Management Programs (WMPs)

[1] Scientific Studies funded in SIP Years FY20-21 to FY24-25 are summarized in this table. Note that while Scientific Studies that were newly funded in SIP FY25-26 are counted in the Initial Watershed Plans, they are not summarized here as the FY25-26 SIP was not approved in time to consider these Studies during Initial Watershed Plan development.