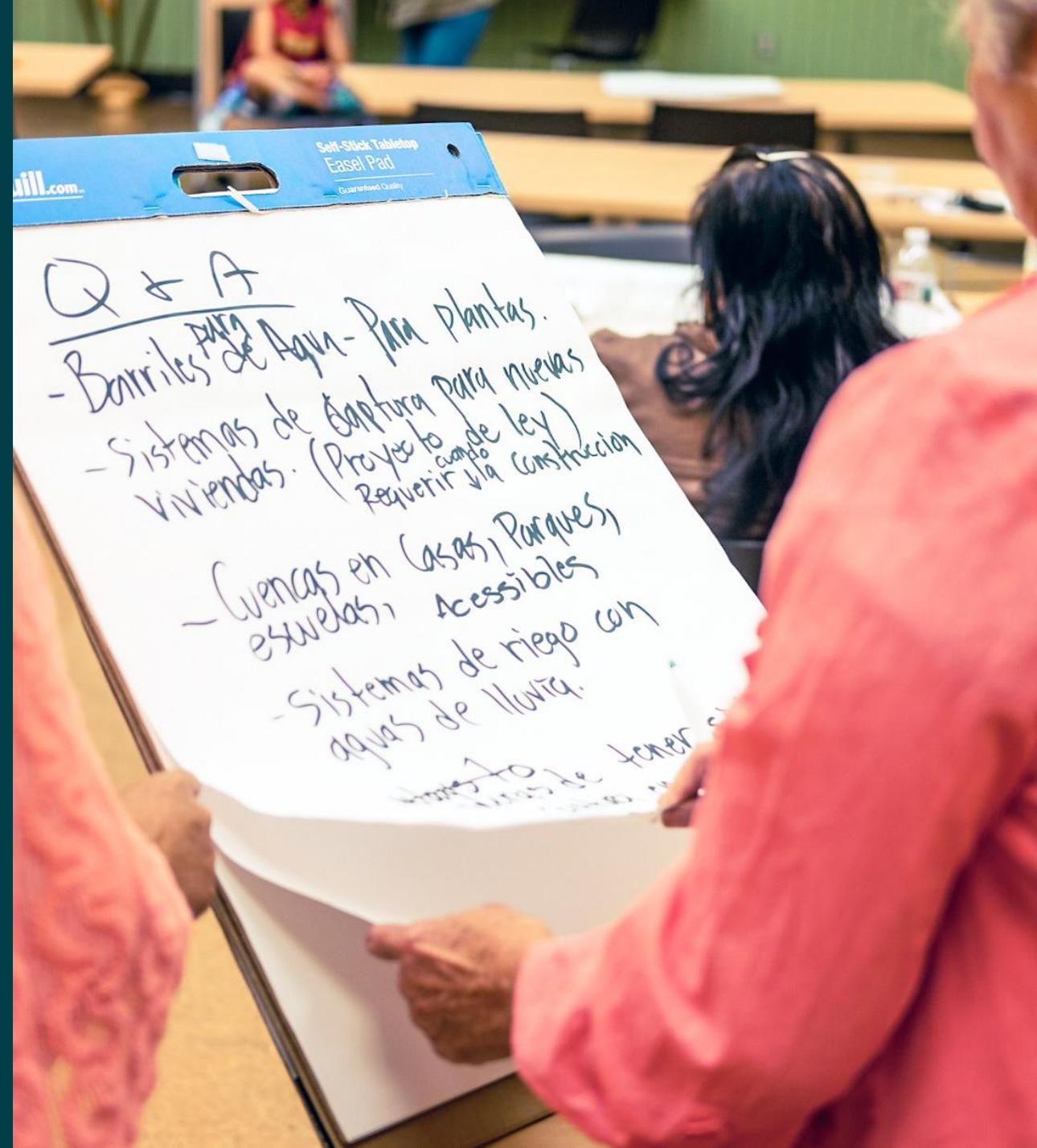


# Assessing Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Community Support for FY26-27 Project Applications

South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB)



# 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



# Program Definitions

“Disadvantaged Community” means a census block group that has an annual median household income of < 80% of the Statewide annual median household income.

- **'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  $\geq 110\%$  of the ratio of the disadvantaged community population to the total population in the Watershed Area. (*Section 18.04 (J)*)
  - To date, the SSMB SIPs have met and exceeded required investment in disadvantaged communities.

## Direct Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

Whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” to disadvantaged communities 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:

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

OR

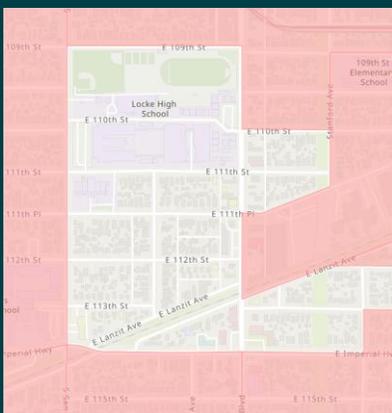
The project is **not located** within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community **BUT it provides a “direct benefit”** to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community.

# 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:

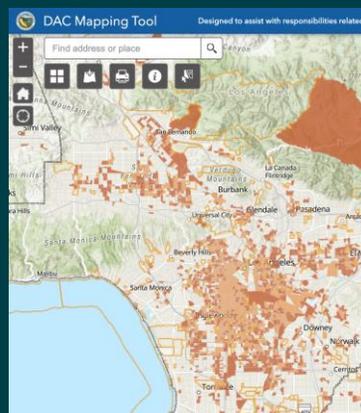


Some projects are near disadvantaged block groups.

## External Datasets:



Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) ([Dashboard](#))



Other Census data ([DWR DAC Mapping Tool](#))



[CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#)



LA County RPOSD [Park Needs Assessment](#)

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

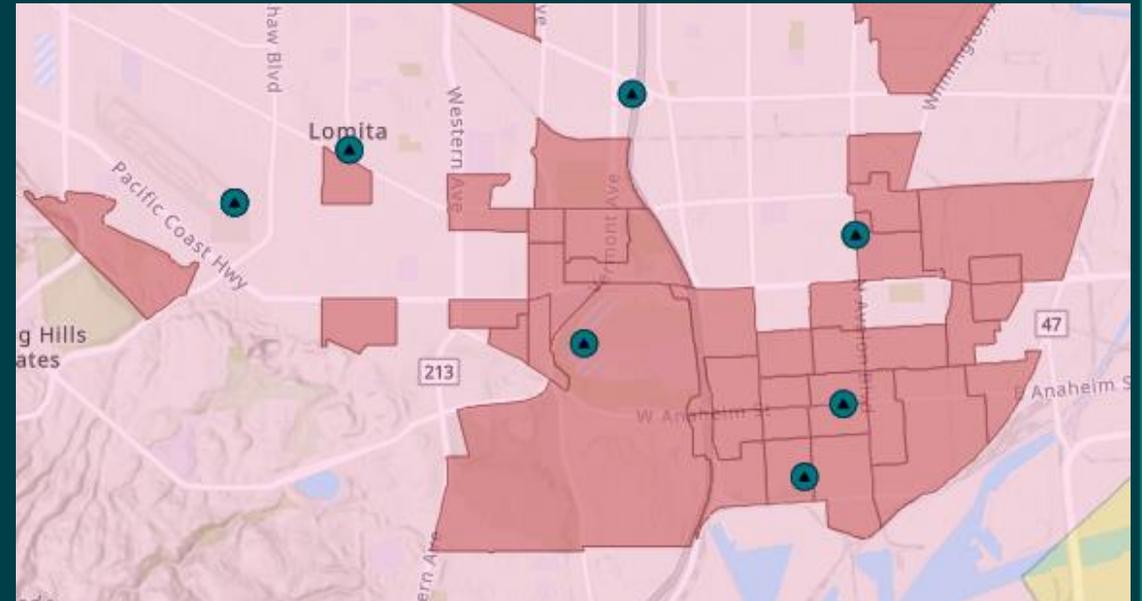
- Assess whether project **benefits** claimed by Project Applicants **align** with needs and priorities presented in CSNA responses
- Suggest **improvements** for future community outreach efforts based on existing efforts and CSNA responses

# Awarded Projects to Date in SSMB

Disadvantaged community designations for funded projects are included on the [SIP tool](#).

110% disadvantaged community investment requirement met and exceeded.

	Within a disadvantaged community block group	Not within block group and no benefit	Not within block group but does benefit
15 IP	5	5	5
8 TRP	2	2	4



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

# FY26-27 Projects Under Consideration

	Within a disadvantaged community block group	Not within block group and no benefit	Not within block group but does benefit
2 IP	Los Angeles Harbor College Stormwater Projects		Darby Park Multi-Benefit Project
3 TRP	Lucerne St. and Watson Center Rd. Dry Well Improvements		West Carson- Stormwater Improvement Project
			Victoria Park Stormwater Capture Project

## Project Overview

**Lead:** BuildLACCD

**Funding Requested:** \$3,974,463

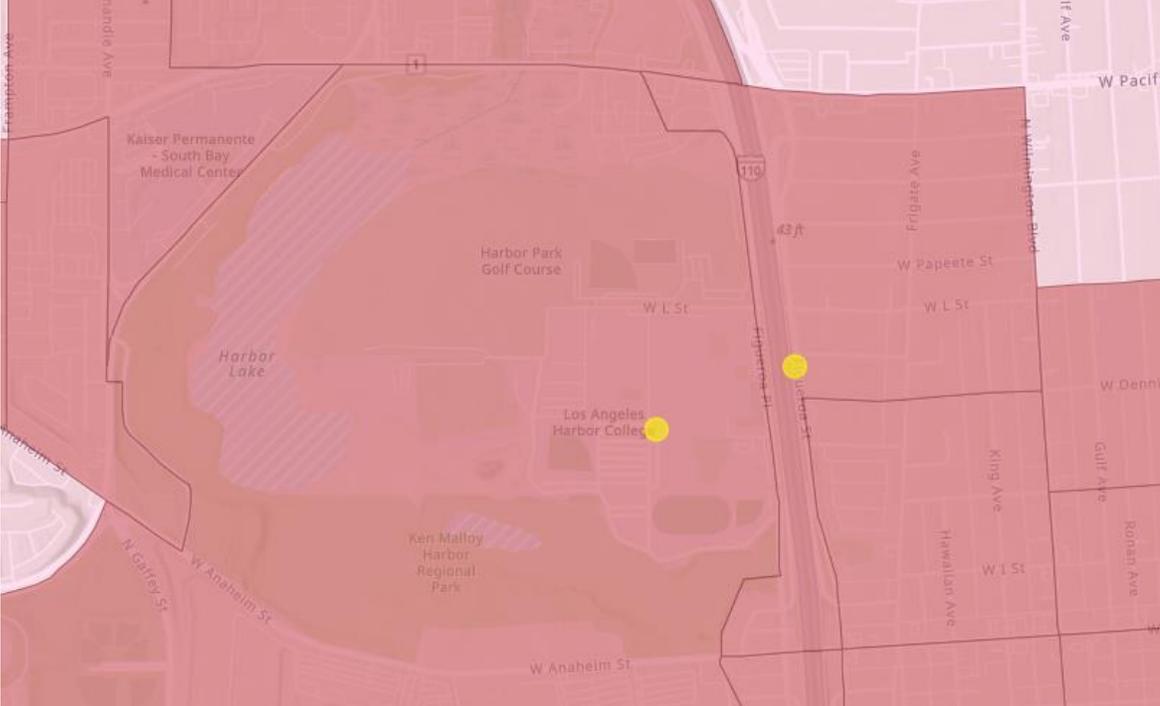
**Timeline/Current Phase:** Construction  
(complete 9/1/26)

### Community Engagement and Support

Outreach resulted in overall 700 impressions as valuable feedback for the project, including the college campus, The Los Angeles Community College Citizens' Oversight Committee, adjacent landowners LADWP and City of LA (LOS), LAHC Baseball Team, LAHC students and student interns representing the surrounding DAC (2 LOS), 7 trade unions that work at LACCD, Council for Watershed Health (LOS), and completed CEQA requirements.

As the nature of the outreach was not specified but did result in 700 impressions and 4 Letters of Support, it can be assumed as "good" outreach (Good/Better/Best from 2025 Interim Guidance). There is also an outreach plan outlining efforts during construction that includes a design charette with the LAHC Citizens' Oversight Committee, engaging with classes that could be involved during construction, educational signage, and information available on the school website.

## Disadvantaged Community Benefit Validation

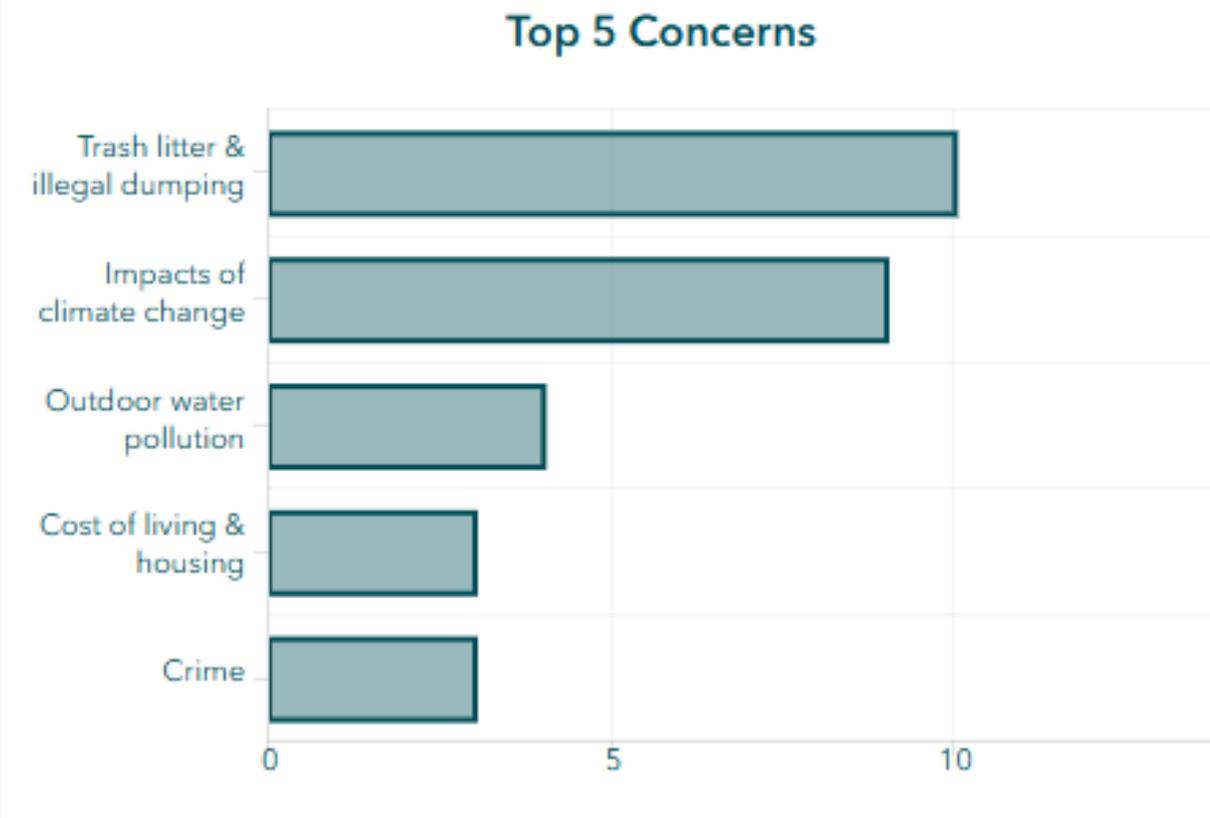


 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Does application claim benefits to disadvantaged communities?	Yes
Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	Yes
Distance to nearest disadvantaged community	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	51 percentile
Park Need	Moderate

**Direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant.**

## Community Priorities and Concerns



- 2 responses from the community are available via the CSNA data (13 including past WC/Water Talks Surveys).
- Top concerns in this community include trash litter & illegal dumping, impacts of climate change, outdoor water pollution, cost of living & housing, and crime.
- With two of the responses highlighting the community’s proximity to the ocean and their concern with litter on their roads, three surveys suggest that these benefits are of high priority:
  - A) Capturing and storing rainwater for future use
  - B) Cleaner waters in our bays, lakes, rivers, and beaches
  - C) Flood protection
  - D) Greener outdoor areas/less pavement in schools

## Project Overview

**Lead:** City of Inglewood

**Funding Requested:** \$790,450

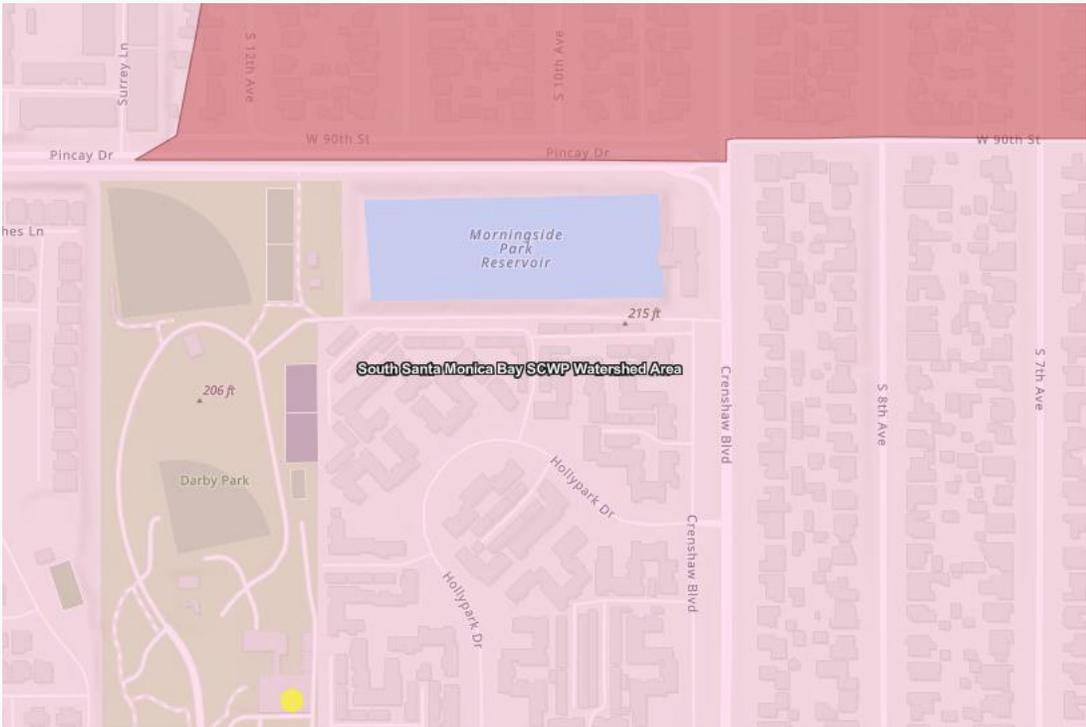
**Timeline/Current Phase:** Design (complete 3/1/2028)

### Community Engagement and Support

A virtual meeting was held in June 2025 where community members expressed the need for more shade, preservation of open space, and new rec opportunities. A survey was distributed and information made available on website. 6 letters of support secured, including from SJLI, WRD, and Amino Inglewood Charter High School.

The applicant held one community meeting and began to incorporate feedback into design elements, distributed a survey, hosted information online, and secured multiple levels of support from a range of different organizations. They developed an outreach and engagement plan for future phases with diverse and specific additional interested parties identified. The plan has a multitiered approach, using online media, local media, grassroots outreach, a digital campaign, and leveraging existing community events and hosting 4 town hall style events. Completed efforts follow “good” outreach and engagement practices and planned efforts incorporate some “best” practices.

# Disadvantaged Community Benefit Validation

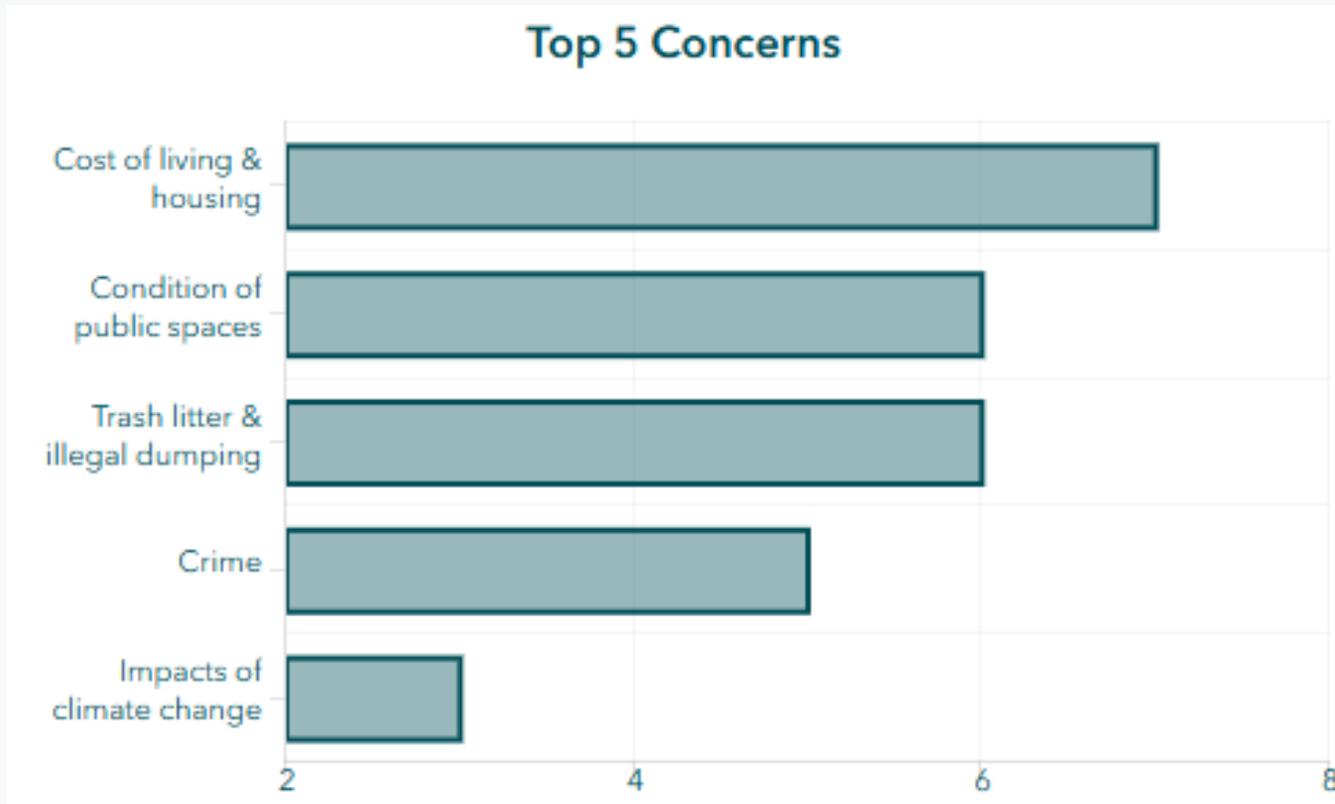


 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Does application claim benefits to disadvantaged communities?	Yes
Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest disadvantaged community	0.1 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	64th percentile
Park Need	Very High

**Direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant.**

## Community Priorities and Concerns



- 9 responses from the community are available via the CSNA data (72 including past WC/Water Talks Surveys).
- The top 5 concerns the community members face were from the more recent surveys: cost of living & housing, condition of public spaces, trash litter and illegal dumping, crime, and the impacts of climate change.
- The members of the neighborhood surrounding Darby Park prioritize education and stewardship, reducing flooding, more shade, and clean rivers and ocean.

## Project Overview

**Lead:** City of Carson

**Funding Requested:** \$400,000

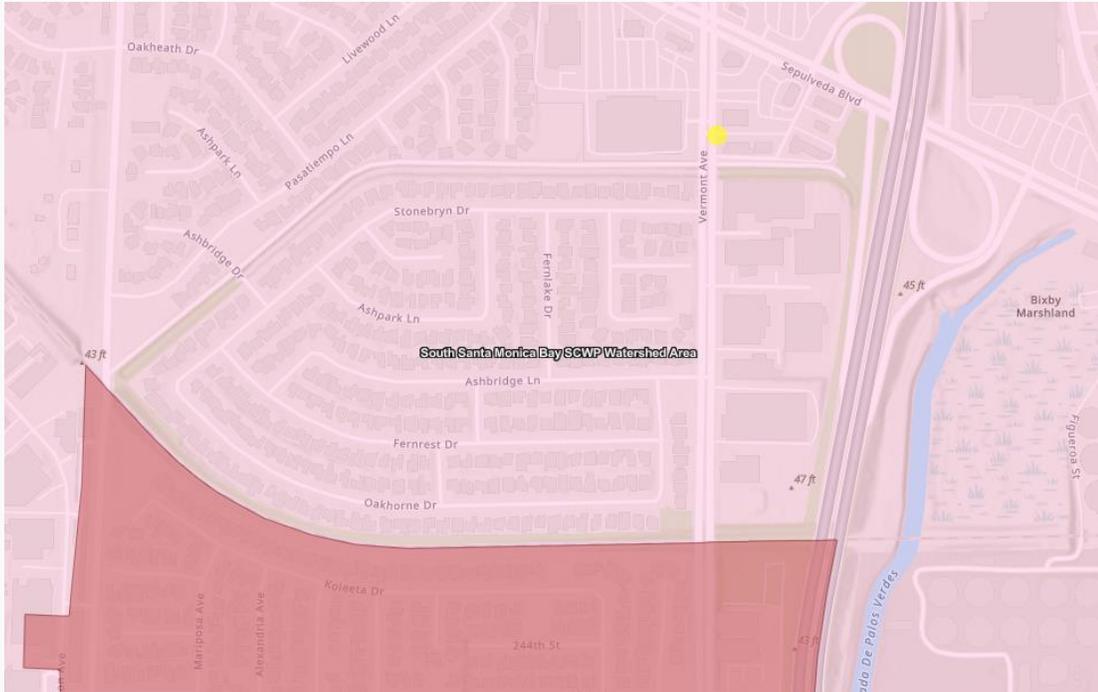
**Timeline/Current Phase:** Design Start  
12/2028

### Community Engagement and Support

No level of outreach and engagement conducted, including none with the Watershed Coordinator.

With no outreach, cannot provide a level of engagement from the 2025 Interim Guidance  
*“Expectations for Community Engagement by Project Phase.”*

## Disadvantaged Community Benefit Validation

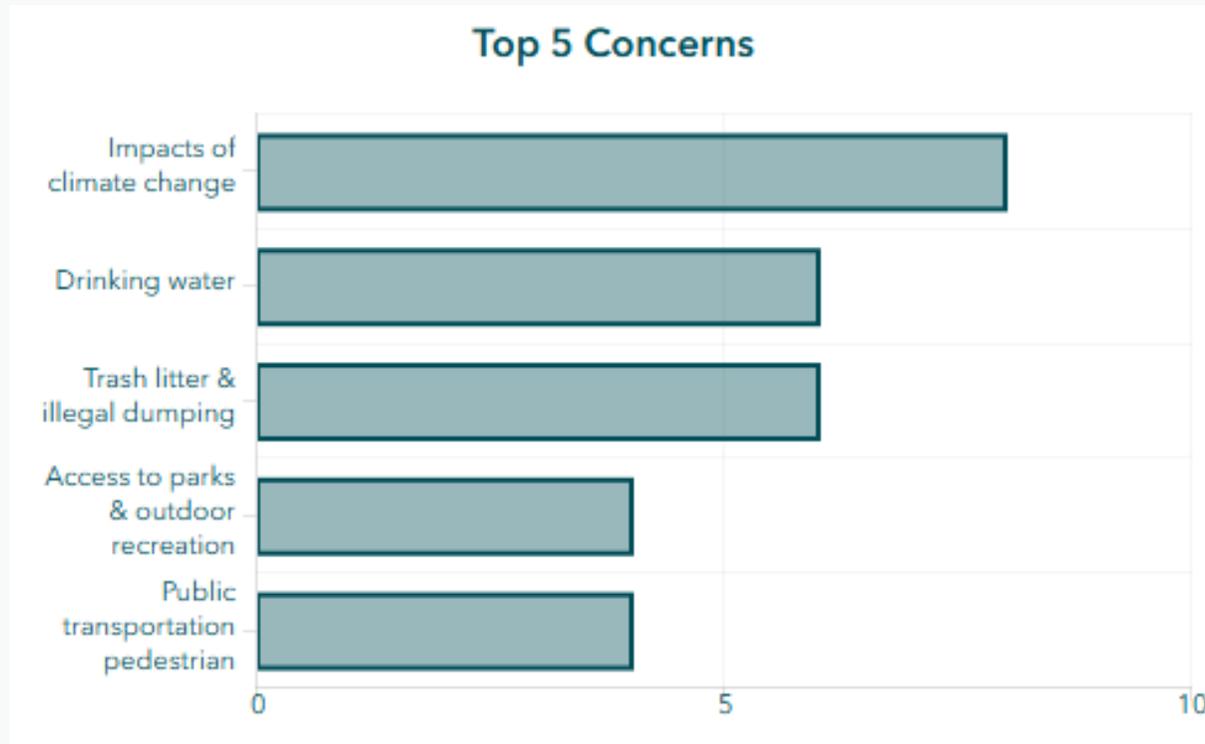


Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Does application claim benefits to disadvantaged communities?	Yes
Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest disadvantaged community	0.3 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	64 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Park Need	High

**Direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant.**

## Community Priorities and Concerns



- 1 response from the community is available via the CSNA data (12 including past WC/Water Talks Surveys).
- As the West Carson community is concerned for their accessibility to outdoor recreation, the impacts of climate change, and traffic, they prioritize access to parks, wildlife habitats, and green spaces and schools.
- One comment says, "all of Vermont in the West Carson area street, needs sidewalks" - in reference to answering what outdoor areas would benefit from improvement.

## Project Overview

**Lead:** City of Carson

**Funding Requested:** \$400,00

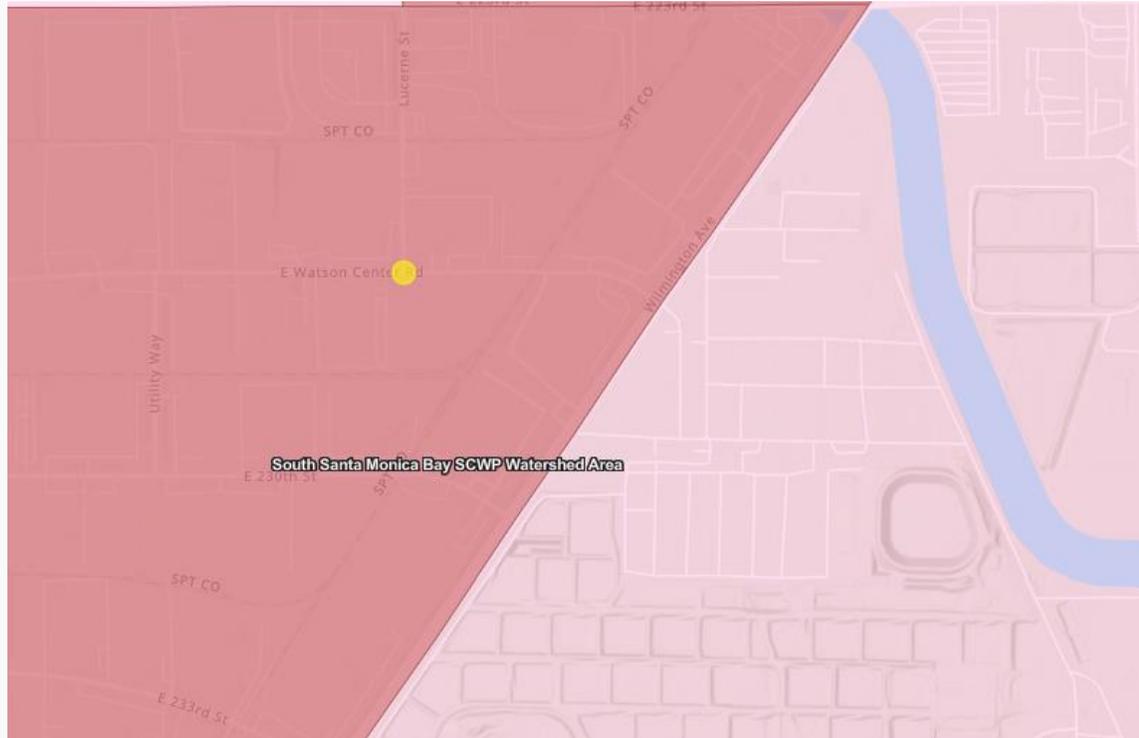
**Timeline/Current Phase:** Planning 7/2028,  
Design 7/2030

### Community Engagement and Support

No external outreach conducted. Workshops were held between various city departments and an email about the project was sent to the Watershed Coordinator in June 2025.

With no external outreach efforts, cannot provide a level of engagement from the 2025 Interim Guidance *“Expectations for Community Engagement by Project Phase.”*

## Disadvantaged Community Benefit Validation

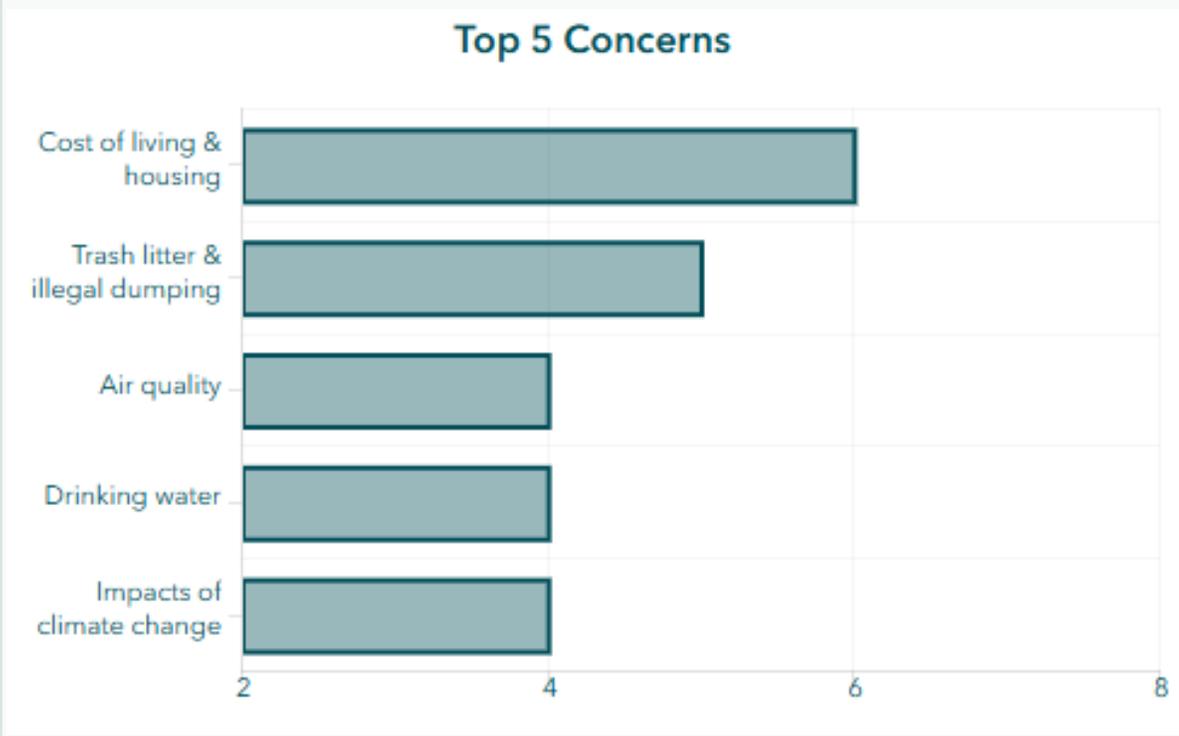


Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Does application claim benefits to disadvantaged communities?	Yes
Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	Yes
Distance to nearest disadvantaged community	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	93 <sup>rd</sup> percentile
Park Need	High

**Direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant.**

## Community Priorities and Concerns



- 13 CSNA responses in Carson inform community priorities (53 including WC/Water Talks surveys).
- The City of Carson is concerned on these 5 topics: cost of living & housing, trash litter & illegal dumping, air quality, drinking water, and the impacts of climate change.
- The community has distinguished access to parks, green spaces & schools, and shade trees as areas of high priority.
- One member states, "I enjoy how many recreational and sporting activities are in my community because it improves physical and mental health, enhances social skills, and opportunities for personal growth helping myself and other kids in my community".

## Project Overview

**Lead:** City of Carson

**Funding Requested:** \$400,00

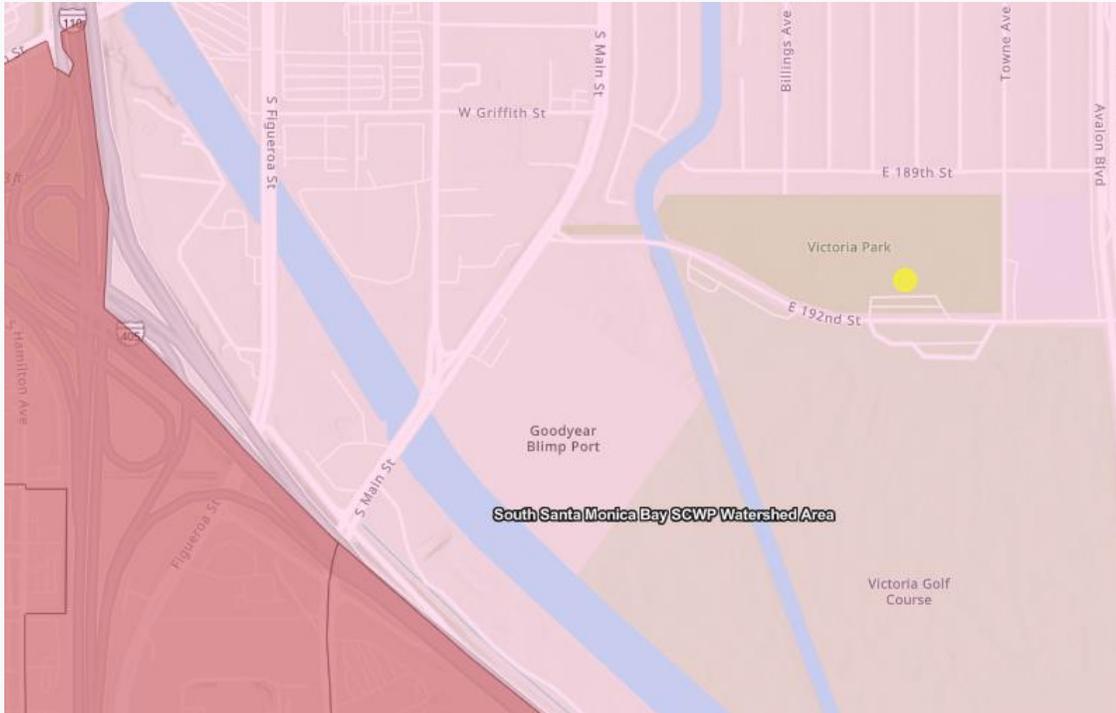
**Timeline/Current Phase:** Planning 7/2027,  
Design 7/2029

### Community Engagement and Support

No external outreach conducted. Workshops were held between various city departments and an email about the project was sent to the Watershed Coordinator in June 2025.

With no external outreach efforts, cannot provide a level of engagement from the 2025 Interim Guidance *“Expectations for Community Engagement by Project Phase.”*

## Disadvantaged Community Benefit Validation

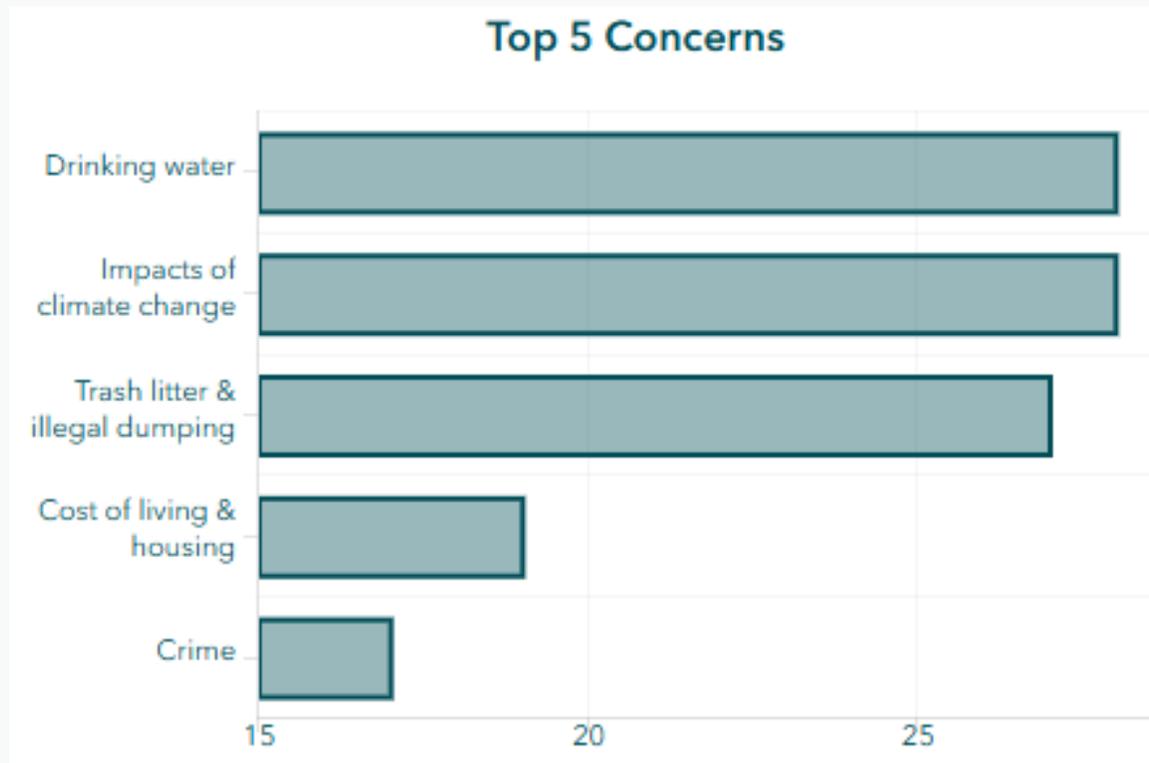


 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2020)

Does application claim benefits to disadvantaged communities?	Yes
Located within 2020 disadvantaged community Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest disadvantaged community	0.5 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	93 <sup>rd</sup> percentile
Park Need	High

**Direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant.**

## Community Priorities and Concerns



- There are a total of 13 CSNA response, (53 including WC/Water Talks surveys).
- As this community prioritizes green public spaces, access to parks, and shade trees. Clean rivers & ocean and stormwater capture are a second-tier priority for the residents (CSNA results).
- One respondent believes that the parks in their neighborhood can benefit from beautification and improvements, and another member states, "[Carson Park should be beautified and improved because though it does have some trees, it can use different types of trees that help with more shade\[...\]](#)".

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



# Thank you

## QUESTIONS?

Contact the program team at:

[www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)

[SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov)

1-833-ASK-SCWP (1-833-275-7297)