



Public Comment Form

Name:* Esther Arias McDowell Organization*: Nature For All
Email*: earmcdlls319@gmail.com Phone*: 747.242.0473
Meeting: WSC - Rio Hondo Date: 3/16/2026

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

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Comments

My name is Esther Arias McDowell and I'm an Ambassador with Nature For All. I'm writing to express my full support to the East LA Meridian project.

A park like this one should be an example for future parks in the County of Los Angeles. Children have a safe and clean area to play, their parents can enjoy watching them and be happy to have their family together in nature, get together for a picnic, breathing clean air because of all the trees around and plants. Also it is very important that the facility have clean amenities, clean picnic tables, safe rides for kids activities, and a safe space to ride bicycles. This is why it is so important to have full funding for operations and maintenance.

This park also has the areas /jardineras to capture the water from the rain that otherwise can stay there for a long time flooding our streets, this is a new innovation that should be replicated in every park. I love this project for the community. Enough funds should be given for operations and maintenance to maintain a good facility for the community to enjoy a safe and advanced construction for everybody to enjoy.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Grace Kast Organization Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Authority
Email*: grace.gkconsult@gmail.com Phone*: 626-485-0338
Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Date: 3/17/2026

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Comments

The Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project and the Arcadia City Hall Project are projects that provide regional benefits and have strong partners that are dedicated to fulfilling the goals of the Safe Clean Water Program and the requirements of the MS4 Permit. Together, the projects are two of five regional projects to help meet compliance in the Rio Hondo watershed. The Project Developer for both projects is the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Authority, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA was specifically created as a partnership of cities to bring a strong focus to stormwater management.

Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Regional Project: We understand that SCWP funds are limited. We are very grateful for the funding thus far for this project. And we wish to express our strong commitment to continuing our efforts to actively securing funds from other sources. This Project will divert runoff from 10,634 acres, treating 193 million gallons of runoff and removing 828 lbs of zinc annually. The project is currently in design thanks to the SCWP funding of \$2.3M. While total estimated construction costs are \$34M, almost \$10M has been secured from state and Federal partners so far, with continued efforts to secure the remaining funds, including from the SCWP.

Arcadia City Hall Regional Stormwater Project: This is another project which represents a critical component of the overall solution to addressing regional stormwater issues in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area. This Project will divert runoff from 943 acres, treating 160 a/f of runoff and removing 212 lbs of zinc annually. The project must begin design soon in order to meet compliance and is requesting funds to get the project started. Design is estimated to be approximately \$1.2M and construction is estimated to be \$7.8M. With SCWP's funding assistance, the project can get started while the JPA seeks additional funds from other sources, including municipal funds, if needed.

We are here to request much needed SCWP funds for both projects. With that said, as you discuss and deliberate, please know that the JPA is strongly committed to continuing its efforts to secure funds from sources other than the SCWP, as evidenced by State and Federal funds received for construction thus far for the Ecosystem Project. On behalf of the JPA, thank you for your consideration.

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org



Public Comment Form

Name:* Janeth Juarez Organization*: Nature For All
Email*: jjanneth0529@gmail.com Phone*: 562-583-4046
Meeting: WSC - Rio Hondo Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Mi nombre es Janeth Juarez y yo soy Embajadora de Nature For All. Yo escribo para expresar mi apoyo al parque de East LA Meridian, por que este parque es un espacio muy importante para nuestras familias y la comunidad.

Tambien quisiera solicitar mas apoyo para operaciones y el mantenimiento de estos espacios, el proyecto no acaba cuando acaba la construccion. Cuando los parques estan limpios, seguros y bien atendidos, las familias puedendisfrutarlos plenamente y los ninos tienen un lugar sano para aprender y convivir con la naturaleza.

Gracias por considerar esta peticion y por seguir apoyando los espacios comunitarios que benefician a nuestra comunidad.

Translation:

My name is Janeth Juarez, and I am an ambassador for Nature for All. I write to express my support for the East La Median. This park is a space that is very important for our community and families.

I would also like to solicit support regarding operation and maintenance in spaces like this because the project doesn't end when construction finishes. When parks are clean, secure, and well-maintained, families can enjoy them, and children can have a safe place to learn and interact with nature.

Thank you for considering this petition and for continuing to support community spaces that benefit our communities.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Mackenzie Bolger Organization*: San Gabriel Valley Council of Government
Email*: mbolger@sgvcog.org Phone*: 626-214-1316
Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Meeting Date: 3/17/2026

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We are happy to share that the Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management Scientific Study was recently supported by the Upper LA River WASC and included in their recommend SIP. This study directly advances the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program aimed at protecting both stormwater quality and local water supply under the kinds of disaster conditions our region is increasingly facing. It will characterize real, local risks and identify strategies to ensure that water quality goals continue to progress even during the extreme events that we know are becoming more frequent and more severe. By funding this study, we can better safeguard our stormwater system through understanding vulnerabilities before they fail, and equipping agencies with practical, science-based tools to maintain services when our communities need them most. You are investing in a proactive, coordinated approach that ensures this region is prepared, not just to respond, but to withstand and recover to climate-driven disasters in a way that protects public health and strengthens regional resilience.

We urge you to join the Upper LA River WASC in supporting this study and helping ensure that our region is ready to meet the challenges of climate change with resilience and foresight.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Maggie Gardner Organization*: OurWaterLA Coalition
Email*: maggie@lawaterkeeper.org Phone*: _____
Meeting: Rio Hondo WASC Date: 3/17/2026

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Comments

Please see attached letter



Date: 17 March 2026

To: Rio Hondo WASC Committee Members
cc: SCWP Staff, Watershed Coordinator

From: OWLA Core Team (DayOne, Heal the Bay, LAANE, LA Waterkeeper, Nature for All, Pacoima Beautiful, The Nature Conservancy, and TreePeople)

RE: Input on Project Prioritization for SCWP SIP

Ahead of the 2026-2027 SIP Deliberation, the OurWaterLA Coalition (OWLA) reviewed all of the infrastructure applications that passed the scoring threshold to identify which projects we believe exemplify the spirit of Measure W. The categories we consider are:

- Location (within/outside a DAC)
- Need of an underserved community
- Anti-displacement measures
- Community support and engagement
- Water quality and water supply
- Public health, community investments, and multiple benefits
- Nature-based solutions
- Green jobs
- Cost and leveraged funding

Of the applications in the Rio Hondo watershed, OWLA has identified the following infrastructure projects as exemplar projects and has elaborated on what elements have made these projects stand out to us. We recommend you fund these projects as possible given your budget.

Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project

The Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project is a proposed Regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility located adjacent to Eaton Wash in Pasadena, CA. The project will benefit DAC communities by creating a safe path for the community to reach a park while augmenting green space. The project will create new green space, help with flood management, reduce local heat, increase shade and provide public access to waterways. Together with significant water quality and quantity benefits, the project is supported by the community and will advance the goals of Measure W.

East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project O&M

Funding this project will help to operate and maintain the stormwater components, as well as the projects recreational and educational amenities. Located in a disadvantaged community in East Los Angeles, the project provides significant water quality and supply benefits in addition to community amenities like workout stations, benches, tables, trees and drought tolerant landscaping. The project previously undertook community outreach and engagement efforts.

We would also like to highlight the **Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project**—this project deserves mention for its unique incorporation of Nature Based Solutions.

Finally, OWLA recommends moving forward with the **Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management**.

This study will assess how climate-related natural disasters affect stormwater systems, water quality, water supply, and infrastructure. The study will provide actionable strategies to help Los Angeles communities prepare for and respond to increasing climate risks.

Outside of our project specific recommendations, we also wanted to share some of the general patterns among all FY26-27 SCWP submissions that appeared as we reviewed.

General Patterns:

1. **Narrative response, especially in Community Investment Benefits, was lacking** on a number of applications this round. Applicants should give thoughtful responses and try to provide as much context as possible. Strong examples are provided in projects like Ganesha Park Stormwater Capture Project and Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project, which included multiple workshops, surveys, childcare/translation to support participation, and evidence of public feedback directly shaping project elements.
2. **Anti-displacement responses feel like a check-box**; applicant responses use similar responses and most responses do not include any specifics.
3. There are **few non-traditional applicants and non-profit partners** applying and/or participating in applications.
4. One project, Reimagining La Brea Tar Pits, created a Native American Advisory Council to co-develop their landscape plan and educational exhibits. **We would love to see more Tribal partnerships like this developed.**

As you consider what to fund in this year's SIP, OWLA strongly recommends that you approve projects that include strong remarks for water quality that:

- increase local water supply resilience,
- utilize vegetated nature-based solutions,
- clearly demonstrate a strong community engagement plan and process took place,
- include a significant community investment element,
- provide benefits directly to and, as applicable, are located in a disadvantaged community, and
- promote green jobs.

We also want to be clear that just because we don't identify a project as an exemplar, does not mean that it is not a quality project. That said, we do believe it is valuable for us to highlight the projects that went above and beyond because we believe they deserve recognition.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to continuing our engagement with this committee and the watershed coordinators to ensure a better water future for the region.

Sincerely,

OurWaterLA

About OurWaterLA. OWLA is a diverse coalition of community leaders and organizations from across Los Angeles County united to create a strong water future for Los Angeles. Our goal is to secure clean, safe, affordable and reliable water for drinking, recreation and commerce now and for the future. We have a deep commitment to uphold the trust that voters had in us when passing this measure and that projects which achieve Safe Clean Water Program objectives of water quality, water supply, nature-based solutions and community investments are prioritized.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Maria Badillo Organization*: Nature For All
Email*: m4ri4b4dillo1018@gmail.com Phone*: 818-447-3139
Meeting: WSC - Rio Hondo Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Mi nombre es Maria Badillo. Yo escribo para expresar mi apoyo al proyecto de East LA Meridian. Quiero destacar que se agradece el que ya desde hace mucho tiempo se han estado haciendo este tipo de proyectos de parques resilientes que benefician la calidad del agua, el aire y la salud mental de la comunidad algo a lo que todos deberiamos de tener derecho, y claro tambien ayuda a reducir el calentamiento global.

y por consiguiente todo por servir se acaba, este es un proyecto de miles de personas que queremos que siga en pie y que tenga los recursos necesarios ya que es de suma importancia para la comunidad. es importante que tenga los fondos necesarios para las operaciones y mantenimiento, ya que de lo contrario se ira deteriorando.

La idea deberia de ser que todos estos proyectos siempre vengan con fondos economicos para el mantenimiento y operaciones de estos proyectos y asi estos parques sigan en funcion, pues es un lugar de respiro para nuestra madre tierra que tanto nos da. Muchas gracias por su atencion.



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Name:* Maria Badillo Organization*: Nature For All
Email*: m4ri4b4dillo1018@gmail.com Phone*: 818-447-3139
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Comments

Translation:

My name is Maria Badillo. I am writing to express my support for the East La Median project. I want to point out that these types of resilient park projects that benefit the quality of water, the air, and the mental health of the community, something that we all should have rights to, and in addition reduce global warming, are greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, everything has an end, but this is a project that thousands of us would like to see continue. We would like for this project to have the resources necessary since it is highly important to the community. It is important for this project to have the necessary funds for operations and maintenance (O&M) since the contrary will cause its deterioration.

The idea is for all these projects to be awarded the necessary O&M funds for their continuation. For these are breathing spaces for our mother earth that gives us so much already. Thank you very much for your attention.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Eric Morales Organization*: GroWorks Student
Email*: jose@learningworkscharter.org Phone*: 626-345-8620
Meeting: RH WASC Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Hello, my name is Eric Morales, and I'm a student involved in the GroWorks program.

Before joining the program, I didn't know much about gardening or where food comes from. Through GroWorks, I've learned how plants grow, how to take care of the soil, and why water conservation matters.

The Eaton Wash project would create a place where students like me can keep learning these lessons. It will also help capture and treat stormwater, which protects our rivers and communities.

Please consider prioritizing funding for the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project so students like us can continue learning and making a difference.

Thank you.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Jennifer Bailey Organization*: GroWorks
Email*: jennbailey@publicworksinc.org Phone*: 626-564-2871
Meeting: RH WASC Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Good afternoon Chair and members of the Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee. My name is Jennifer Bailey, and I serve as the Director of Student Support Services for GroWorks, a program of Learning Works Charter School that provides students with hands-on education through gardening, environmental science, and outdoor learning.

Our program works with young people who benefit greatly from experiential learning environments—spaces where they can connect classroom knowledge to the real world. Through gardening, our students learn about biology, nutrition, ecology, and the importance of environmental stewardship while developing life skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and leadership.

Unfortunately, our students recently lost access to the community garden space we had been using in Pasadena. That loss was significant for our program and for the students who relied on that space to learn and grow.

The City of Pasadena's Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project offers an incredible opportunity to restore that learning environment while also expanding the impact of our program. By incorporating a new community garden into the project area, the City is creating a space where students can once again participate in hands-on environmental education while being directly connected to a real watershed improvement project.

This project does something very powerful—it combines infrastructure with community benefit. It 



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Name:* Jennifer Bailey Organization*: GroWorks
Email*: jennbailey@publicworksinc.org Phone*: 626-564-2871
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Comments

This project does something very powerful—it combines infrastructure with community benefit. It will capture and treat stormwater, improve water quality, and protect our watershed, while simultaneously providing a place for young people to learn about sustainability and environmental responsibility in a meaningful and tangible way.

For our students, this is more than a garden. It is a living classroom that teaches them how their actions can positively impact their community and the environment.

We strongly encourage the Rio Hondo WASC to prioritize funding for the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project. Supporting this project means investing not only in water quality improvements but also in the education and empowerment of the next generation of environmental stewards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.





Public Comment Form

Name:* Johnathan Sachez Organization*: GroWorks Student
Email*: jose@learningworkscharter.org Phone*: 626-345-8620
Meeting: RH WASC Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Hello, my name is Johnathan Sanchez, and I'm a student involved in the GroWorks program.

GroWorks teaches us more than gardening. We learn about science, nutrition, and how our actions affect the environment.

Having a garden space helps students feel proud of what they grow and understand how important water is for our community.

The Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project would create a new garden space for students while also improving water quality in the watershed.

I hope you will support funding this project so programs like GroWorks can continue helping students learn and grow.

Thank you.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Jose Ramirez Organization*: GroWorks
Email*: jose@learningworkscharter.org Phone*: 626-345-8620
Meeting: RH WASC Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Jose Ramirez, and I work as a Student Programmer with GroWorks. My role focuses on supporting students as they participate in hands-on gardening, environmental learning, and outdoor activities that help connect them to both their education and their community.

Programs like GroWorks are incredibly important for students because they give them the chance to learn by doing. Through gardening and environmental projects, students gain practical knowledge about food systems, ecology, water conservation, and sustainability. Many of our students discover interests in science, agriculture, and environmental careers through these experiences.

When we lost access to our previous garden space, it was a difficult moment for the program and for our students. That garden was not just a place where we grew vegetables—it was a place where students learned responsibility, collaboration, and how environmental systems work.

The Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project provides an opportunity to restore that experience for our students while connecting them to something even larger: a real project that improves water quality and benefits the entire watershed.

What excites us most is that students will be able to see firsthand how stormwater capture, water treatment, and sustainable landscapes work together. They will learn that environmental



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What excites us most is that students will be able to see firsthand how stormwater capture, water treatment, and sustainable landscapes work together. They will learn that environmental infrastructure is not just something that happens behind the scenes—it is something that can create healthier communities and spaces for learning.

By incorporating a community garden within the project footprint, the City of Pasadena has found a way to combine environmental infrastructure with education and community engagement.

Projects like Eaton Wash demonstrate how public investments can serve multiple purposes: protecting water quality, supporting community spaces, and inspiring young people to become environmental leaders.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage the Rio Hondo WASC to prioritize funding for the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project.

Thank you for the opportunity.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Mayner Cabrera Organization*: GroWorks Student
Email*: jose@learningworkscharter.org Phone*: 626-345-8620
Meeting: RH WASC Date: 3/16/2026

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Comments

Hello, my name is Mayner Cabrera, and I'm a student involved in the GroWorks program.

Through GroWorks I've learned how to grow vegetables, understand soil, and learn where food really comes from. It helped me feel connected to nature and to my community.

When we lost our garden space, it was really disappointing because that was where we spent time learning and working together.

The Eaton Wash project would give students like me a new place to garden and learn again. It also helps clean stormwater before it reaches our rivers, which is really important for our environment.

I hope the committee will support funding this project so students can continue learning and helping our community.

Thank you.