



# Public Comment Form

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Meeting: NSMB WASC Date: 3/12/2026

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

\*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov). All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov) by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

## Comments

See attached comment letter.



**Date:** 3/10/2026

**To:** NSMB WASC Committee Members

**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) has reviewed all of the infrastructure applications that passed the scoring threshold to identify which projects we believe exemplify the spirit of Measure W, as originally approved by the voters of LA County.

The categories we consider are:

- Location (within/outside a DAC)
- Does the project address an actual 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

OWLA would like to offer the following comments to the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project. While this project does offer multiple benefits, and represents a good investment, OWLA does not consider it an exemplar infrastructure project.

**1. Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project**

- a. While the application mentions outreach to adjacent landowners, **it does not clearly identify the broader community impacted** by the project or **describe meaningful engagement with local residents**.
- b. The **nature-based solutions component appears limited**, with only one treatment feature incorporating biofiltration due to site constraints. The project also references existing oak habitat but **does not demonstrate an ecosystem-based approach** to supporting or enhancing that habitat.
- c. Questions also remain regarding aspects of the proposed design, including **dry-weather diversion assumptions** and **reliance on gravity diversion to sewer infrastructure**. Clarifying these elements in the final design will be important to ensure the project delivers the anticipated water quality benefits.

OWLA would like to make comment on the following scientific studies:

1. Assessment and Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs)
  - a. As this proposal is highly focused on water quality monitoring, OWLA encourages clarification on **how the study would provide additional information** beyond what will be required for post-construction monitoring, and **whether scientific study funding is the most appropriate mechanism** compared to strengthening monitoring components within individual projects.

2. A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds
  - a. OWLA would like further clarification on the **strength of the proposed modeling approach** and **how the study would generate new insights** beyond the substantial existing knowledge on trash pollution. As the study focuses on a single pollutant, further explanation of **how the work supports multi-benefit outcomes** would strengthen its relevance.

Outside of our project specific recommendations, we also wanted to share some of the general patterns we noticed this year in applications across all nine WASCs:

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, Core Team

*OurWaterLA 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.*