



Public Comment Form

Name:* Rosa Ruiz Organization*: Pacoima Beautiful & Our Water LA
Email*: rruiz@pacoimabeautiful.org Phone*: 818 439 7559
Meeting: Lower San Gabriel River Date: 3/2/2026

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. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to 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

Please, see attached letter.



Date: March 10, 2026

To: LSGR 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) has reviewed all infrastructure applications that met 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)
- 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

There were no infrastructure projects in LSGR WASC this year. Still, OWLA would like to highlight some of the general patterns we noticed this year in applications for any applicants considering applying in Round 8.

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. **Few non-traditional applicants and non-profit partners are** 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.**

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

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.



Public Comment Form

Name:* James Cluxton Organization*: OhanaVets, Inc.
Email*: jim@ohanavets.com Phone*: 7608140716
Meeting: March 10, 2026, LSGR WASC Date: 3/10/2026

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Comments

Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is James Cluxton, President of OhanaVets, a certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise, and the outgoing Watershed Coordinator for the Lower San Gabriel River watershed. OhanaVets served as the inaugural Watershed Coordinator for the first five years of this program.

I submit this not only for the public record, but also to ensure that this Committee understands that the issues surrounding last year's selection process remain active and unresolved.

I want to note for the public record that OhanaVets was removed from the Watershed Coordinator role with only nine days' notice and without any coordinated transition with the incoming consultant.

Let me be very clear on that point: no one from the County or the Safe Clean Water Program contacted us even once to meet, confer, or request the transfer of information, files, contacts, schedules, pending matters, or other institutional knowledge to the incoming Watershed Coordinator. There was no transition meeting, no handoff process, no request for briefing materials, and no effort to preserve continuity in a program that depends on long-term relationships, active stakeholder coordination, and detailed knowledge of watershed priorities and history. For a public, taxpayer-funded program of this importance, that is not a serious or responsible way for the County to manage a transition. **(continued on next page)**

(James Cluxton Public Comment, 3/10/26 - Continued from previous page)

I also want the Committee to understand that this abrupt transition did not occur in a vacuum. It is directly tied to the unresolved issues surrounding last year's selection process. It has now been more than eight months since the July 8 WASC meeting, and concerns involving conflict-of-interest questions raised by this Committee, Brown Act compliance, and other governance issues have largely gone unaddressed.

As you know, we have raised these issues with the County numerous times over the past eight months, with minimal response and even less action, and have now taken the step of asking outside counsel to help us obtain a clear response and resolution. Those concerns remain pending today.

These issues require a clear response and meaningful action from the County, and we intend to continue pursuing that resolution for the good of this public, taxpayer-funded program and the communities it serves.

This program is too important, and the public trust behind it too significant, for these issues to simply remain unresolved.

Submitted for the public record. Thank you.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Dr. Win Cowger Organization*: Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Res
 Email*: wincowger@gmail.com Phone*: 515-298-3869
 Meeting: LowerSanGabrielRiver Date: 3/10/2026

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

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Comments

Will the project create additional challenges and tools for current trash management?

Our goal is to make the study complementary to agency efforts currently underway, rather than an obstacle or burden on agency staff. We understand that management is already spread thin on trash, and we want to make their job easier, not harder. Our goal with the project is to make trash management easier by identifying strategies, common source(s), and control measures that lower cost and increase efficiency compared to currently employed techniques. We are interested, from a scientific perspective, in identifying new opportunities for source control (i.e., not cleanup and capture) that would unburden O&M and primarily involve actions taken by communities, companies, and policymakers.

Is this project going to make my current practices look bad or shame what I am currently doing?

No. Our goal is to work collaboratively with the agencies so that our findings and lessons learned can be translated into agency procedures that complement, not contradict, their efforts. We understand that trash is a socially/politically sensitive topic, and we will build a TAC composed of diverse stakeholders, including regulatees, regulators, community members, and researchers. Our goal will be to work with this diverse TAC to identify what is working well and figure out how to make it work even better. We will try to foster collaboration between parties, not create friction. We want our collaborators to look and feel good about our work together, and we will not be trying to shame anyone.

How will this project leverage the existing efforts by the county and MS4 permittees to address trash currently?

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

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Our ultimate goal is to create easy-to-understand graphics that highlight the most common source(s), pathways, etc. that contribute to trash levels in creeks and rivers (e.g., such as a pie chart showing the breakdown of individual contributions). We plan to aggregate all their data into a single harmonized format and use it to build new models to better understand the trash problem and establish quantitative metrics for the efficacy of current BMPs, which will help future BMP planning.

Do you think we aren't already doing enough on trash?

We know that local municipalities are already doing a lot to control trash, but the regulatory agency might believe otherwise. For example, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board recently adopted the Non-Point Source Waste Discharge Requirement resolution, citing its position that the Los Angeles area's receiving waters continue to have trash issues. We would like to help the State and local municipalities better understand what each side is doing well and how practices could be improved (e.g., more cost-effectively). California is a world leader in trash management, and DAC surveys indicate that the LA County community feels that trash is their number 1 priority. But there has yet to be a scientific study funded on trash that highlights the factors that continue to make trash levels a concern for local waterways. We believe this study would reassure the public that WASCs are considering community priorities in funding allocation for scientific studies (see comment letter from Ezrach a community based organization in LA County).

Why would we do science on trash instead of just cleaning up trash or doing education?

We would like to help by identifying the remaining factors contributing to elevated trash levels near the Port of Long Beach (see the letter of support from Long Beach Council Member Duggan linked below). The great thing about this study is you don't need to choose between those three options. We do believe that science has unique merits for improving management, policy, and education that the other two actions do not, which is why Safe Clean Water designated 5% of its budget to science projects.

Aren't trash capture devices already capturing most of the trash from roads before it gets into the river, creating an indirect nexus?

Certified full capture devices do an incredible job of capturing trash, but not every location requires a trash capture device, according to State policy. At the same time, State policy provides guidance on how much trash is allowed in local waterways before conditions become unacceptable. Our goal with this study is to help agencies identify where intercepting trash makes the most sense from both environmental and cost-efficiency perspectives. Furthermore, a goal of this study is to determine whether trash levels in local waterways stem from road runoff, windblown, or other sources.

Will social media releases of the results be controversial?

We are scientists, not politicians or influencers. We aim to release information that is useful, accurate, and insightful in a way that is fun and digestible. There is too much doom and gloom and controversy out there on the internet, and we don't want to feed into it. We want to find uplifting, actionable stories and narratives to discuss on social media and focus on those. We also understand that our press release needs to communicate the great work that agencies perform and are committed to working with agency staff to capture those success stories accurately.

Additional Letters of Support

Ezrach, a community-based organization, provides a letter of support and intent to collaborate with us: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14SHSjlkWMN9Biq0mHleqAqdB6s-A90qG/view?usp=sharing>