SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines

April 2026

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Background and Purpose of this Guidance

Section 18.07.B.3 of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code requires Project Applicants who are requesting funding from the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program) Infrastructure Program to satisfy the minimum requirements of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*;[1] however, feedback from interested parties, including the SCW Program Scoring Committee[2] and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,[3] suggested that certain adaptations were necessary to streamline the overall Infrastructure Program application process, including:

> **"Revised Regional Program application processes, feasibility study guidelines, and Scoring Criteria to account for additional performance indicators and distinct Project phases."**
>
> *1. LA County Board of Supervisors*

As a precursor to formal adaptation of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* and Scoring Criteria (which will involve public review and comment), **this supplemental guidance was developed in parallel with updates to the online Projects Module application to clarify *Feasibility Study Guidelines* requirements for specific Project phases**. This guide is intended to improve Project evaluation and accelerate implementation by better aligning Feasibility Study content with the certainty of Project attributes and benefits known during each respective phase.

This supplemental guidance also provides Regional Program Applicants with resources to estimate the benefits of proposed Projects, including the Performance Measures included in the **Metrics and Measures** component of the application process and **pilot adapted Scoring Criteria** for Water Quality Benefits, Water Supply Benefits, and Community Investment Benefits (CIBs).

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[1] https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2025/12/Feasibility-Study-Guidelines-20251119.pdf
[2] 2023: https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2023/08/SC_RevisedMemo_Round4_Final.pdf
2024: https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2024/07/FY24-25-SC-Memo-FINAL.pdf
2025: No Calls for Projects for Infrastructure Program Projects
2026: https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2026/04/FY26-27-Scoring-Committee-Memo.pdf
[3] https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/189664.pdf

Defining Project Funding Phases

Prior to release of this guidance, Project Applicants could apply for Infrastructure Program funding for the following Project phases: Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and Bid/Award. To streamline the application process and associated requirements, the funding phases have been consolidated to the following funding request categories:

- **Design**: Includes funding for planning and design of Project concepts for which 60-percent plans have not yet been developed.
- **Construction**: Includes Project designs that have advanced to 60-percent or beyond. Construction funding requests may also include additional design funding to advance from 60-percent to 100-percent design.
- **O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)**: Includes O&M funding for Projects and/or retrofits of Projects for which construction has been completed and was previously funded through the SCW Program Infrastructure Program.
- **O&M (for separately funded Projects)**: Includes O&M funding for Projects and/or retrofits of Projects for which construction has been completed and was previously funded through an external source to the SCW Program Infrastructure Program (for example, SCW Municipal Program- or grant-funded Projects).

The O&M funding phase has been separated into distinct application tracks for Projects that have previously been funded through the SCW Program for Construction, and those that were previously funded through external sources. This is because an objective of the SCW Program Infrastructure Program is to help fund and maintain watershed-based Multi-Benefit Projects. Projects previously funded through the SCW Program for Construction have already been subjected to SCW Program Infrastructure Program-specific requirements and scored by the Scoring Committee. For these Projects, the application process will be streamlined, and previous Final Scores from

the Scoring Committee will be carried over and subject to be verified by the Scoring Committee. Projects seeking O&M funding that have been previously funded through external sources will be subject to a more comprehensive application as they must be verified as meeting SCW Program Infrastructure Program Goals and requirements and subsequently scored by the Scoring Committee.

Additionally, Projects eligible to request O&M funding are also eligible to request funding for post-performance monitoring per the Regional Program Transfer Agreement[4], required after the first operational year and for a total of three years.

Figure 1 below presents a high-level depiction of the pathway to pursuing Regional Program funding for the different SCW Program funding phases across the Technical Resources Program and the Infrastructure Program.

[4] https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2024/09/Regional-Program-Transfer-Agreement-Template_1.pdf

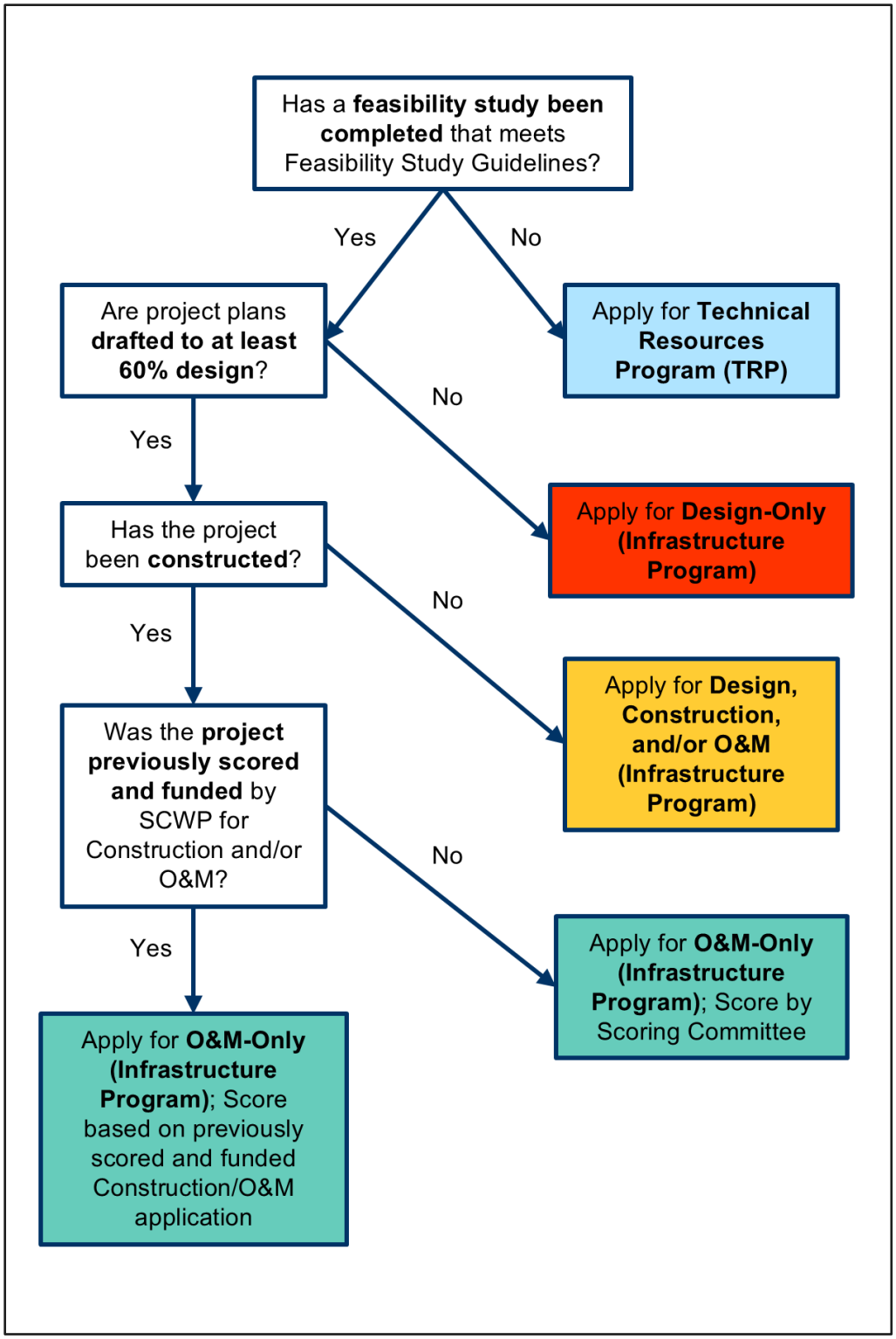


Figure 1. Regional Program Funding Pathway

Guidance to Address Requirements

The minimum requirements of Section 2.0 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* are summarized below in **bold blue font** and clarified with supplemental guidance. Note that the requirements are abridged in this document, so please refer to the full text in the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

1. Description: A detailed description of the proposed Project, including:

- **A summary of the Project's primary objective(s), secondary objective(s), and any additional objective(s).**
- **A description of the primary mechanisms by which the Project will achieve its objectives (e.g., runoff and/or pollutant reduction through infiltration, treat and release, capture and use, etc.).**
- **A description and schematic of the Project layout including its anticipated footprint and key components such as, but not limited to: inlet, outlet, diversion point, recreational components, nature-based components, pumps, treatment facilities, underdrains, conveyance, above ground improvements, and other Project components.**
- **An outline of the capture area for the Project on a map and a breakdown of acreage, land uses and percent imperviousness within the capture area.**
- **Land ownership and related rights of way.**

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #1	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide a **conceptual** Project layout including the elements described above. • Provide a **plan** for securing land ownership and related rights, if applicable.

Construction	• Provide at least **60% design plans.** • Provide **documented evidence** that land ownership and related rights of way have been secured, if applicable. • Final design or as-built plans are preferred, if available.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide **final design** or **as-built** plans. • Provide a detailed description of the **maintenance plan**.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Provide **final design** or **as-built plans** including the elements described above. • Provide **documented evidence** that land ownership and related rights of way have been secured, if applicable. • Provide a detailed description of the **maintenance plan**.

Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Guidelines

In addition to the requirements of the Feasibility Study Guidelines, all applications, regardless of funding phase, must document that the Project is included in a stormwater resource plan in accordance with Part 2.3 of Division 6 of the Water Code, a Watershed Management Program developed pursuant to an MS4 Permit, an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, or other regional water management plan, if determined to be equivalent by the District. Refer to Section 18.07.B.1.c.3 of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code.

Inclusion in a Watershed Management Program

Project Applicants should contact the lead agency of the Watershed Management Program (WMP) that presides over the area where the project is located. See page 1 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts** to see the WMP Lead Agency contacts.

Each WMP is organized in a slightly different way and may consist of MS4 permittees representing different cities, Los Angeles County, and others interested in achieving water quality compliance in a particular area. SCW Program Project Applicants are encouraged to engage the appropriate WMP group with enough time to work through the process for including a project in their plans.

Project Applicants will need to provide information about their project or concept, such as location, type of project, drainage area, BMP capacity, description, and status. New projects can be included in the adaptive management section of the WMP Annual Report or the resubmittal of the WMP. The adaptive management section of the Annual Report is typically due December 15 of every year. The resubmittal of the WMP is allowed at any time. Projects that are not currently included in WMPs can be added at any time, though some WMPs have special instructions. See page 6 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts** to see the Special Instructions for Applicable WMPs.

For more information, please visit **Watershed Management Programs | Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**.

Inclusion in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan: Project Applicants that wish to have their projects included in the Greater Los Angeles County (GLAC) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan must sign-up through the **GLAC IRWM OPTI Webpage** to become a new OPTI user. Users can submit or modify projects.

Project Applicants must complete all the required project information fields in the OPTI Database. The GLAC IRWM Subregion and District Administrators will be notified of a new project entry. GLAC IRWM Subregion Administrators may then request Project Proponents attend a subregional steering committee meeting to present the project to its members and stakeholders and answer questions.

If a project is determined to support the IRWM Plan objectives and there are no issues or concerns, GLAC IRWM subregion voting members can cast a vote to accept the project as part of the IRWM Plan. The GLAC IRWM Subregion Administrator completes OPTI information that verifies acceptance of a project as part of the IRWM Plan and the project becomes eligible for consideration for inclusion in future IRWM funding proposals.

For more information about the GLAC IRWM subregional process, please contact the Subregional Steering Committee Administrator (page 5 of the Regional Water Management Plan Project Contacts). For questions about the OPTI system, please contact the District OPTI Administrators (page 5 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts**).

Inclusion in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, continued…

Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan:
Project Applicants that wish to have their projects included in the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan should review the **Project Submissions Form Guidance** and submit a completed **Project Submission Form**. Projects will either be included in the USCR IRWM Project List or Concept Project List, depending on the depth of information provided in the Project Submission Form.

Completed Project Submission Forms will be reviewed by the USCR IRWM Group at a scheduled stakeholder meeting. If the group agrees to include the project in the USCR IRWM Projects List, then the project is eligible for consideration in future IRWM funding proposals. All projects on the list are evaluated to their viability as it relates to the new funding criteria.

For more information about the USCR IRWM process, please contact the USCR IRWM Administrator (page 5 of the **Regional Water Management Plan Project Inclusion Contacts**).

2. Benefits: A description and estimate of the benefits provided (determined through best engineering estimates and modeling as appropriate). More information on how to estimate Project benefits is provided in Section 3.0 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

The Feasibility Study should provide enough information about a proposed Project to allow the Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) members to make an informed decision as to which Projects should move forward for consideration for funding. The Feasibility Study should also provide enough information or estimates to allow each Project to be scored through the 110-point Infrastructure Program Project Scoring Criteria (Exhibit A of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*). **For O&M funding requests, monitoring data should be provided to justify benefits, if available.**

Supplemental Guidance for Water Quality Benefits

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.1 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the Feasibility Study should clearly justify any claimed pollutant reduction considering the location and context of the proposed Project in the watershed. This means that Project Applicants should make a good-faith effort to estimate the *net* pollutant reduction considering how long-term capture may be impacted by concurrent upstream or downstream Projects; for example, if a Project is proposed downstream from an existing runoff capture Project (i.e., "nested" in the same watershed), the Project Applicants should consider modeling both Projects in series to estimate the net pollutant reduction of the system of Projects. The Projects Module allows for modeling treatment trains of Projects to estimate net runoff capture, and Project Applicants are encouraged to contact their respective Watershed Coordinators[5] for support identifying and characterizing upstream Projects. While Project Applicants are not required to compute the net benefits considering upstream/downstream Projects (because the status and certainty of those interacting Projects may be unknown), Project Applicants should, at a minimum, describe what existing, planned, and/or funded Projects may be located in the same drainage; the Watershed Planning Tool

[5] Project Applicants may use the Find Your Watershed tool to identify their applicable Watershed Area and access contact information for their respective Watershed Coordinators: https://safecleanwaterla.org/la-county-watersheds/

developed during the SCW Program Watershed Planning process is available to support this evaluation.

Note that the Projects Module generates an estimate of runoff captured during an 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event. This is useful for defining projects as Wet Weather or Dry Weather BMPs, and is also used to inform scoring under Feasibility Study Guidelines Scoring Criteria Category A.1.1 if Project Applicants choose to use the optional **Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot** described later in this document.

Project Applicants are to select the weather type (i.e., wet or dry). The Scoring Committee uses the selection to apply the appropriate Water Quality scoring criteria. However, the Scoring Committee may adjust the weather type designation for scoring purposes only, without affecting how the Project is categorized as a whole. The following are considerations when selecting the weather type in the Projects Module:

- Any Project may use wet weather scoring.
- Only Projects designed for 0.25-inch rainfall events or below may use dry weather scoring.
- Wet weather projects are specific, engineered systems or practices designed to collect and manage stormwater runoff during rainfall events.
- Dry weather projects focus on capturing and utilizing stormwater runoff that occurs even during periods where there is no rainfall.

If Project Applicants elect to provide their own user inputs, 85th percentile design storm modeling should follow recommended best practices to ensure defensible hydrology design, consistent modeling approaches and results, and standardized scoring for the SCW Program application process. To provide standard guidance for model use, Los Angeles County Public Works conducted a hydrology analysis that compared design storm results from different Los Angeles County models (WMS, WMMS 2.0, and HydroCalc). **While Public Works' Hydrology Section typically recommends use of WMS as the standard for hydrology modeling, the analysis suggested that HydroCalc can also produce acceptable results** (in alignment with WMS outputs) for a broad range of Infrastructure Program project scales. Note that, when modeling the design storm in HyrdoCalc, it is important to consider its limitations, including project drainage area; proper checks should be made for projects greater than ~750 acres by, for example, comparing HydroCalc and WMS results over the same drainage area. Other key considerations when modeling include:

- Understanding typical use cases and corresponding limitations of each hydrologic model (for example, HydroCalc being limited to a single drainage area).
- Delineating subareas to sizes of less than 40 acres to be consistent with the modified rational (MODRAT) method.
- Understanding differences in results due to model setup (for example, delineated smaller subareas tend to result in higher peak flows but similar 24-hour runoff volumes compared to single/lumped drainage areas).

The list below includes model input data sources for modeling the 85*th* percentile design storm in WMS and HydroCalc:

- **Drainage area delineation:** Delineate using GIS based on topography and/or digital elevation models and stormwater infrastructure; subdivide into areas of less than 40 acres for MODRAT modeling.
- **Rainfall depth:** Use Los Angeles County Hydrology Map's 85th percentile, 24-hour rainfall isohyetal maps (https://pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/hydrologygis/), or local weather data where available.
- **Design storm temporal distribution:** Apply the standard 4-day unit hyetograph, available in WMS (https://aquaveo.com/downloads-wms).
- **Imperviousness:** Use the NLCD imperviousness raster (https://www.mrlc.gov/data), or the imperviousness shapefile available in WMS download package.
- **Flow path length:** Use GIS to measure the longest hydraulic path for each delineated subarea ("unaltered flow path"); default to 2,087 feet for HydroCalc if detailed flow path analysis is less feasible ("recommended flow path" per Public Works and hydrology model analysis results).
- **Flow path slope:** Use digital elevation model to map upstream and downstream elevations in GIS, then use flow path length and "rise over run" to calculate slope.
- **Soil type:** Assign in WMS or HydroCalc using soil map provided by Los Angeles County Hydrology Map (https://pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/hydrologygis/) and WMS download package.

- **Time of concentration:** Calculate for each subarea using HydroCalc (downloadable here: https://pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/dsp_LowImpactDevelopment.cfm).

Supplemental Guidance for Water Supply Benefits

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.2 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the Feasibility Study should clearly justify any claimed increases in locally available water supply—as defined in the *2025 Interim Guidance*[6] and summarized below—considering the location and context of the proposed Project in the watershed. This means that Project Applicants should make a good-faith effort to estimate the *net* Water Supply Benefits considering how long-term capture may be impacted by concurrent upstream or downstream Projects (see the example of "nested" Projects above for Water Quality Benefits). Similarly, Project Applicants should consider accounting for the net runoff captured by proposed Projects given existing *downstream* capture infrastructure. For example, if a Project is proposed upstream from an operational spreading basin, only the net new volume captured (in addition to what would have been captured by the downstream basin before the proposed Project) would be considered new locally available water supply.

What counts as New Locally Available Water Supply?

Per the *2025 Interim Guidance*, the following fates of captured water **count as new locally available water supply** and a Water Supply Benefit (claims to be confirmed through modeling, geotechnical analysis, and/or engagement):

- **Net water used onsite for potable offset** (not including offset of Project-created water supply demand)
- **Diverted to existing treatment/reuse plant**
- **Diverted to future planned treatment/reuse plant operational within 10 years** with concurrence from treatment/reuse plant on timeline and capacity
- **Infiltration to managed useable groundwater aquifers**
- **Infiltration to unmanaged aquifer*** with geotechnical analysis and/or community acknowledgement to confirm infiltration and use
- **Treated and discharged to storm drain or receiving water** when tributary to a downstream water recharge facility if the Project facilitates the recharge of water that would otherwise not be used to augment water supply.

*see next page for discussion of unmanaged aquifers

[6] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

What does NOT count as New Locally Available Water Supply?

The following **do NOT count towards new locally available water supply** but do provide Water Quality Benefits:

- **Water that would have already been captured downstream** by an existing water recharge facility (see adjustment factors in Watershed Planning Framework that can be used to prorate the *net* new local water supply when captured upstream from existing facilities) and
- **Maintenance of existing capture/conservation infrastructure (i.e., sediment removal behind dams).**

Environmental water does not count as locally available water supply nor a Water Quality Benefit unless analysis proves that discharging clean water to channels to support ecological functions will offset potable supplies. Environmental water may provide a Water Quality Benefit if site-specific studies demonstrate improvement in flow ecology.

Unmanaged Aquifers

An unmanaged aquifer is an area of a groundwater basin that is not managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, an adjudication, or an alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan and is not subject to deliberate human interventions such as artificial recharge efforts and relies solely on natural replenishment mechanisms. Applicants claiming a new locally available water supply from infiltration in these areas must provide proof of a specific potable or non-potable use that will be enabled by the project (for example, if a project infiltrates to a perched, unmanaged aquifer and also installs a private well to extract water to offset existing irrigation).

Net Countable Supply Ratios

The Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) developed adjustment factors that can be used to prorate the increase in locally available water supply by a Project if it is located upstream from an existing runoff capture facility, as summarized in Table 1 and in Table H-16 of the SCW Program *Initial Watershed Plans– Appendix H: Baselines, Benefits, Targets, and Watershed Area Needs*[7]; the estimated runoff captured by a proposed Project can be multiplied by the net countable supply ratios to better estimate the net new locally available water supply. These factors are built into

[7] https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2026/02/SCWP_InitialWatershedPlans_Appendix-H.pdf

the Projects Module such that the appropriate net countable supply ratio will be automatically applied with the intent of streamlining the application process.

Table 1. Net countable supply ratios used to prorate runoff capture

Watershed Area	If Project is Upstream from…	Net Countable Supply Ratio
North Santa Monica Bay	No existing facilities	Not Applicable
Central Santa Monica Bay	No existing facilities	Not Applicable*
South Santa Monica Bay	No existing facilities	Not Applicable
Santa Clara River	Castaic Lake	11%
	Bouquet Reservoir	45%
	Pyramid Lake	0%
Rio Hondo	Eaton Wash Spreading Grounds	16%
	Peck Road Park Lake	21%
	Whittier Narrows Dam	34%
	Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds	47%
Upper Los Angeles River	Devils Gate Dam	68%
	Tujunga Spreading Grounds	42%
	Pacoima Spreading Grounds	16%
	Lopez Spreading Grounds	9%
	Hansen Spreading Grounds	36%
	Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds	98%
Lower San Gabriel River	San Gabriel Coastal	39%
Upper San Gabriel River	Citrus Spreading Grounds	7%
	Forbes Spreading Grounds	3%
	Ben Lomond Spreading Grounds	7%
	Puddingstone Reservoir	2%
	Walnut Spreading Grounds	6%
	Santa Fe Dam	23%
	San Gabriel River Dams	58%
	Whittier Narrows Basin Transfer	37%

*Note that proposed projects located within the Santa Monica Subbasin may be eligible to receive water supply points for groundwater infiltration. Please contact the Santa Monica Groundwater Management Authority (GMA) for more information. The Scoring Committee may only award points if a confirmation letter from the GMA is provided.

Diversion to Treatment/Reuse Plants

Projects seeking Water Supply benefit points for diverting stormwater to existing or planned treatment, reuse, or sanitation facilities must provide a Letter of Support from the appropriate sanitation agency confirming:

- Agency's awareness of the proposed Project.
- Agency's agreement that the proposed diversion or flow into the existing or planned facility is feasible.
- Any relevant conditions, limitations, or coordination needs identified by the agency.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #2	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• For Projects offsetting potable water demand, provide a **preliminary analysis** of supply and demand impacts of the Project. • Apply **best professional judgment, based on available data,** to justify claims of Water Supply Benefits and new locally available water supply; present a plan to obtain concurrence prior to construction. • Estimate dry weather flow rates using **desktop analysis** or modeling.
Construction	• For Projects offsetting potable water demand, provide a **monthly or seasonal analysis** of supply and demand impacts of the Project. • **Document concurrence** of claimed Water Supply Benefits and new locally available water supply estimates from local groundwater management agency, treatment/reuse plant manager, or community acknowledgement. • **Monitor** baseline dry weather flow rates, if possible.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• A **detailed description and supporting analysis** of how planned O&M activities will preserve sufficient Project functionality and effectiveness to maintain the benefits claimed in prior funding phases.

O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• For Projects offsetting potable water demand, provide a **monthly or seasonal analysis** of supply and demand impacts of the Project. • **Document concurrence** of claimed Water Supply Benefits and new locally available water supply estimates from local groundwater management agency, treatment/reuse plant manager, or community acknowledgement. • A **detailed description and supporting analysis** of how planned O&M activities will preserve sufficient Project functionality and effectiveness to maintain claimed benefits.

Guidance for Community Investment Benefits

Refer to Section 3.3 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* for requirements related to CIBs. In addition to the seven example CIBs included in the Scoring Criteria, Project Applicants are encouraged to document how the proposed Project addresses other community needs and priorities identified through engagement. To support this, the SCW Program has implemented a *Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Dashboard*[8] to report local priorities defined by community members. While direct outreach and engagement with members of the community is always the preferred approach to solicit input and support for proposed Projects, the survey results in the CSNA dashboard can provide supplemental information to guide early Project concepts. Refer to the *2025 Interim Guidance*[9] for additional recommendations.

As an additional tool to support CIB scoring, the CIB Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric has now also been developed. It clarifies CIB requirements and scoring by recommending a translation of broad benefit categories into consistent, evidence-based criteria that builds on Project Applicant-submitted Metrics & Measures data. By identifying comparable data points within each CIB (for example, acres of park/habitat improvements, net tree canopy change, public accessibility), the expanded CIB scoring enables clearer eligibility determinations and more transparent scoring processes. These improvements support greater differentiation among Projects based

[8] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8efe6e5f57804998be1a8c4067c41cab/page/Dashboard
[9] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

on the extent and quality of CIB delivery rather than being limited to assessments of presence/absence.

Guidance for Nature-Based Solutions

Refer to Section 3.4 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* and the *2025 Interim Guidance* for requirements and guidance related to Nature-Based Solutions, as well as guidance related to Item 14 discussed in this document.

Leveraging Funds and Community Support

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.5 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines* and Item 18 of this document, note that letters of support included with a Feasibility Study should be addressed to the SCW Program.

3. Schedule: An estimated schedule to design, obtain permits for, construct, operate and maintain the Project.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #3	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide a **coarse timeline** for design completion and construction activities, considering the transition time while awaiting construction funding.
Construction	• Provide a **detailed construction schedule** including permitting, environmental documentation, bid and award, construction milestone targets, and commissioning/testing upon completion.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide a coarse timeline of completed design and construction phase including permitting, environmental documentation, bid and award, construction milestone targets, and commissioning/testing upon completion. • Provide a schedule for **routine and long-term maintenance activities**, for at least the extent of the period for which funding is being requested.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

4. Similar Projects: A review of the effectiveness of similar types of Projects already constructed, when available.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #4	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• **General review** of similar Projects to inform design approach.
Construction	• Demonstrate application of **lessons learned from previous Projects in the Los Angeles Region**.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Demonstrate application of **lessons learned from O&M activities for previous Projects in the Los Angeles Region**.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Provide adequate **demonstration that constructed Project components are in line with SCW Program Infrastructure Program standards**; Describe any application of lessons learned from the design and/or performance of previous Projects in the Los Angeles Region. • Should the Project fail to meet applicable SCW Program standards, a **detailed adaptive management plan must be provided** that describes how the Project will be sufficiently brought up to standard. • Demonstrate application of **lessons learned from O&M activities for previous Projects in the Los Angeles Region.**

Contact Watershed Coordinators to gather information about Project performance and standards in the relevant Watershed Area[10].

[10] Project Applicants may use the Find Your Watershed tool to identify their applicable Watershed Area and access contact information for their respective Watershed Coordinators: https://safecleanwaterla.org/la-county-watersheds/

5. Monitoring Plan: A monitoring plan to measure the effectiveness of the proposed Project once completed, including metrics specific to the identified benefits.

When documenting monitoring plans, Project Applicants should refer to the Performance Measures requested by the SCW Program in the Metrics and Measures section of the application in the Projects Module. These Performance Measures have been prioritized by the SCW Program for reporting progress towards SCW Program Goals; refer to Metrics and Measures in this document for additional guidance.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #5	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide an **acknowledgement** that a monitoring plan will be submitted after Design is complete, and list **key performance measures** anticipated.
Construction	• Provide a **detailed monitoring plan** for tracking Project effectiveness post-construction, both to inform reporting of benefits and to inform O&M.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide existing monitoring data to date, if available. • Provide a **final detailed monitoring plan** for tracking Project effectiveness post-construction, both to inform reporting of benefits and to inform O&M. • Provide a **detailed description** of how monitoring activities will inform and be incorporated into ongoing O&M and adaptive management efforts.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

6. Lifecycle Cost Estimate: A lifecycle cost estimate and schedule required to design, obtain permits for, construct, operate and maintain the Project.

> **Life-cycle cost estimates must contain Project costs including but not be limited to: costs related to early concept design, pre-Project monitoring, Feasibility Study development, site investigations, formal Project design, intermediate and Project completion audits, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and other environmental impact studies, land acquisition, permitting, construction, full lifetime operations and maintenance, monitoring, etc. The only costs not to be included in the life-cycle cost estimate are the dismantling and replacement costs at the end of life.**

In addition to the requirements in the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, lifecycle costs should account for and include estimates for **outreach and engagement and SCW progress reporting** in their respective phases. As noted above, no Project components should be omitted from the lifecycle cost estimate unless completely independent of the claimed benefits. For example, if funding is being requested for green street elements included in a larger road rehabilitation Project, the road resurfacing costs may be omitted from the lifecycle costs as long as those omitted elements are unrelated to the function of the green street elements and so long as the Project Applicant is not claiming Community Investment Benefits or Community Support for the road rehabilitation elements.

Cost estimates should be escalated using industry standards, although note that the Projects Module currently annualizes lifecycle costs at a rate of 3.375% per year. Project Applicants can also refer to the California Construction Cost Index for summaries of historical cost escalation.[11]

Cost estimates should use reasonable contingencies allowance that reflects the level of design development, anticipated risks, and industry standards for similar infrastructure projects. Project Applicants should provide the percent of total contingencies used for the total Project cost supported by the Project Applicant's professional judgment, historical project data, or established cost-estimating practices.

[11] https://www.dgs.ca.gov/RESD/Resources/Page-Content/Real-Estate-Services-Division-Resources-List-Folder/DGS-California-Construction-Cost-Index-CCCI

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #6	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• The lifecycle cost estimate and schedule can be based on **preliminary estimates**.
Construction	• The lifecycle cost estimate should include **detailed, line-item breakdowns based on the 60-percent plans**. • The lifecycle cost and schedule should be based on **actual expenditures**, where applicable.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• The lifecycle cost estimate should include **detailed, line-item breakdowns based on the O&M Plan in Requirement #5.** • The lifecycle cost and schedule should be based on **actual expenditures** and include projections through the timeframe for which funding is being requested. • **For retrofit funding requests**, include a detailed schedule up to completion and description of any anticipated impacts on routine and long-term maintenance activities. • **Retrofit cost estimates should be framed as a one-time expense**, rather than annual expenditure as is done for traditional O&M funding requests.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

7. Operations & Maintenance: A plan for how operations and maintenance of the Project will be carried out.

The plan should include but not be limited to: estimated annual costs associated with maintenance (including: estimates for number of crew required, hours of maintenance per month/year, the staff expertise level, Projections of maintenance cost increases over the life of the Project); how Project maintenance will accommodate Project Labor Agreement (PLA) considerations (if applicable); and identification of the responsible party that has agreed to perform the operations and maintenance.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #7	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide **preliminary maintenance considerations and an acknowledgment** that an O&M plan will be submitted after Design is complete.
Construction	• Identify the responsible party that has agreed to perform O&M. Provide a **detailed O&M plan** including the required elements listed in the *Feasibility Study Guidelines.*
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide a **detailed O&M plan and identify the responsible party** that has agreed to perform O&M. • Document ongoing maintenance activities – including evidence of the performance of O&M – and describe how those informed the O&M plan.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

Projects that have an estimated capital cost of over $25M must describe how the O&M plan will accommodate Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requirement and identify whether the Project is subject to the County-wide Project Labor Agreement or a PLA mirroring that agreement such (for example, a PLA adopted by a contributing Municipality). See the Regional Program Transfer Agreement[12] for more information.

[12] https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2024/09/Regional-Program-Transfer-Agreement-Template_1.pdf

8. Engineering Analysis: An engineering analysis of the proposed Project (e.g., estimates of site conditions, soil sampling, appropriate geotechnical investigations, preliminary hydrology report, site layout, utility search, environmental impacts, pertinent historical background for site location, etc.).

- **The minimum requirements for engineering analysis will depend primarily on the type of Project.**
- **The engineering analysis should, at a minimum, support all benefits claimed.**
- **It is understood that not all Projects will have completed CEQA and other environmental studies, so estimates and engineering analyses do not have to be as comprehensive as a full CEQA or other environmental study (unless those studies have already been completed and are available to support the Project).**

All Projects should, at a minimum, include a conceptual site layout and a preliminary hydrology evaluation sufficient to demonstrate that the proposed facilities can achieve the claimed benefits and can be accommodated within the site constraints. Depending on the Project type, extent of ground disturbance, or reliance on infiltration, additional technical investigations (such as geotechnical studies or utility mapping) may be required to confirm feasibility.

Refer to the supplemental guidance related to Item 2 above, and the following clarifications to certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #8	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Use **existing geotechnical data** available within 500 feet of the Project footprint and conduct at least one **cone penetration test**.
Construction	• Use **site-specific geotechnical** data, including **infiltration testing at the proposed subgrade**.

O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide **site-specific geotechnical data** gathered in the preliminary design report and as-builts, including **performance testing results.**
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Provide **site-specific geotechnical data** gathered in the preliminary design report and as-builts, including **performance testing results.** • Conduct and report the **results of infiltration testing** at the proposed subgrade, if not done during the project's construction stage.

9. CEQA and Permitting: An assessment of potential CEQA-related and permitting challenges and associated time requirements and costs.

In addition to the requirements of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, provide the current CEQA status (i.e., completed or expected), approval date or expected approval date, Lead Agency, and environmental documentation type (for example, Environmental Impact Report, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Negative Declaration, or Notice of Exemption).

If CEQA is incomplete and the funding request is for construction, construction funds cannot be distributed until all required CEQA approvals and reviews are complete. Therefore, Project Applicants should clearly describe the expected timeline for securing these approvals and any risks or challenges that could affect the timeline.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #9	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Identify potential permitting challenges and **general** timeline based on the type of Project.
Construction	• Provide **specific** permitting challenges based on the 60-percent plans, permitting status, compliance documentation (if applicable), and permits required for O&M.

O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide **specific** permitting challenges based on the O&M plan, permitting status, and compliance documentation.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

10. Support for Non-Municipal Projects: For non-municipal Project Applicants/Developers (meaning entities that are not cities/municipalities, the LA county Flood Control District, or other government agencies) an initial Letter of Support from the Municipality in which the Project is proposed that includes concurrence with the plan for operations and maintenance and the responsible party that has agreed to perform the operation and maintenance.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #10	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide a letter from the Municipality confirming agreement or support to the **overall Project**.
Construction	• Provide a letter from the Municipality including **concurrence with the plan for operations and maintenance and the responsible party** that has agreed to perform the operation and maintenance throughout the Project's useful life (minimum 30 years), and agreement to be the **Lead Agency** during the CEQA process.

O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide a letter from the Municipality including **concurrence with the plan for operations and maintenance and the responsible party** that has agreed to perform the operation and maintenance throughout the Project's useful life (minimum 30 years), and agreement to be the **Lead Agency** during the CEQA process.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

Non-Municipal Project Applicants, such as community-based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others, are those that do not represent Municipalities (also known as Cities), the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), or other government agencies. Councils of Governments and Watershed Management Groups are not municipalities. Refer to section 16.05.D.1.h of the SCW Program Ordinance.

A **Municipality** is a city or other governmental agency within the boundaries of the LACFCD. Los Angeles County is also a Municipality that represents the County Unincorporated Communities. Municipalities can participate in the SCW Program Regional Program as Project Applicants and Developers, supporters or coordinating partners with other Project Applicants, or as the entities responsible for the operations and maintenance of the implemented projects.

Project Applicants should communicate early with representatives from the Municipality where the proposed project will be located to inform the Municipality about the project and to help secure support for its development. As obtaining a Municipal Letter of Support can take several months—and because Municipalities may have distinct procedures and review timelines—Applicants are encouraged to contact the appropriate Municipal representative well in advance to avoid schedule delays, ideally several months before the application deadline (typically July 31st of each year). The resource linked below provides Municipal contact information; if a specific Municipality is not listed, Applicants should contact the Municipality's Public Works Department.

- **Municipality Contact List**

Additionally, while a Non-Municipal Project Applicant can prepare their own California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents, they cannot sign off as a *Lead Agency* for the project. Accordingly, **a Letter of Support should also confirm that the**

Municipality agrees to take on the role of Lead Agency and to assist the Project Applicant with the steps necessary to facilitate the CEQA process.

After submission of a complete application, Public Works, on behalf of the WASC, may contact the Municipality that provided a Letter of Support to establish concurrence with the letter and their purported obligation and commitment to the proposed Project. If the Municipality decides to recall their support, they may be asked to provide the reasoning at a WASC meeting.

11. Outreach/Engagement: A plan for outreach/engagement to solicit, address, and incorporate stakeholder input on the Project, which should also address issues related to displacement and gentrification.

For all funding phases, also provide a description of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date, outcomes of engagement, and a plan for ongoing outreach/engagement. Refer to the *2025 Interim Guidance* for engagement requirements for each Project funding phase.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #11	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide a summary and documentation of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date (including the types of engagement pursued and outcomes of engagement, if any). • Describe the **general plan** for future outreach/engagement.
Construction	• Provide a summary and documentation of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date (including the types of engagement pursued and outcomes of engagement, if any). • Describe the **detailed plan** for future outreach/engagement (including costs, the types of engagement pursued, and evidence of engagement).

O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Describe the **detailed plan** for future outreach/engagement (including costs, the types of engagement pursued, and evidence of engagement).
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Provide a **summary and documentation** of outreach/engagement activities conducted to date (including the types of engagement pursued and outcomes of engagement, if any). • Describe the **detailed plan** for future outreach/engagement (including costs, the types of engagement pursued, and evidence of engagement).

12. Anti-Displacement: As applicable, the Feasibility Study must include an acknowledgment that the Project will be fully subject to and comply with any county-wide displacement policies as well as with any specific anti-displacement requirements associated with other funding sources.

Per the Projects Module, anti-displacement policies may include but are not limited to:

- Avoiding displacement of existing affordable housing.
- Avoiding gentrification and significantly impacting nearby housing affordability.
- Engaging the people and communities that would be affected by and the authorities overseeing gentrification, displacement, and housing affordability.
- Promoting a healthy neighborhood in relation to environment & air quality, green space, recreation, transportation, housing options, social support, income & wealth, jobs & work, business development, public safety, education, etc.

Project Applicants should describe measures being taking to prevent displacement. At the time this guidance was issued, county-wide anti-displacement policies are still under development.

13. Vector Minimization Plan: A plan to incorporate vector minimization into the Project design, operations, and maintenance. The California Department of Public Health's Checklist for Minimizing Vector Production in Stormwater Management Structures can serve as a basic guideline in developing the vector minimization plan. Projects creating vector-related public nuisances may be subject to abatement proceedings as specified in California Health and Safety Code sections 2060 et seq. It is recommended that Infrastructure Program Project Applicants have their vector minimization plans reviewed by the local vector control district or agency.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #13	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Describe **general vector minimization considerations** and provide acknowledgment that a plan will be submitted after Design is complete.
Construction	• Provide a **detailed vector minimization plan**, preferably with confirmation of review by local vector control district or agency. • If the vector minimization plan has not already been reviewed by a local vector control district or agency, please **acknowledge that the plan will be reviewed** and provide an estimate of when this review will be completed.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide a detailed description of how the **vector minimization plan will be incorporated** into ongoing O&M activities.

O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Provide a **detailed vector minimization plan**, preferably with confirmation of review by local vector control district or agency. • If the vector minimization plan has not already been reviewed by a local vector control district or agency, please **acknowledge that the plan will be reviewed** and provide an estimate of when this review will be completed. • Provide a detailed description of how the **vector minimization plan will be incorporated** into ongoing O&M activities.

14. Nature-Based Solutions: A description of how Nature-Based Solutions are utilized to the maximum extent feasible. If Nature-Based Solutions are not used, include a description of what options for Nature-Based Solutions were considered and why they were not feasible.

In addition to the requirements in Section 3.4 of the *Feasibility Study Guidelines*, demonstrate the quality of Nature-Based Solutions using the Good-Better-Best framework in the *2025 Interim Guidance.*[13]

If nature-based solutions are not utilized to the maximum extent feasible, include a description of what options where considered and why they were not included.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #14	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Estimate Good-Better-Best criteria based on **conceptual plans and best professional judgement**.
Construction	• Estimate Good-Better-Best criteria based on **60-percent design plans**.

[13] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Estimate Good-Better-Best criteria based on **constructed Project components**. • Describe O&M activities that will preserve integrity of the Project's Nature-Based Solution elements, including evidence of Nature-Based Solution usage and related O&M.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

15. Legal Requirements: A summary of any legal requirements or obligations that may arise as a result of constructing the Project, and how those requirements will be satisfied.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #15	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• **Initial** identification of legal considerations.
Construction	• **Full compliance plan** and/or documentation of ongoing legal obligations.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• **Full compliance plan** for legal obligations related to ongoing operation of Project.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• **Identification of legal considerations** and **full compliance plan** and/or documentation of ongoing legal obligations.

16. LA County Flood Control District Conceptual Approval: For Projects involving LA county Flood Control District (LACFCD) infrastructure, facilities, or right-of-way, provide confirmation of conceptual approval from LACFCD.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #16	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide **Letter of Conceptual Approval from LACFCD**.
Construction	• Not required if conceptual support was obtained during previous phases, unless significant changes to Project location, configuration, scope, or operation.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Not required if conceptual support was obtained during previous phases, unless significant changes to Project location, configuration, scope, or operation.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Provide **Letter of Conceptual Approval** from LACFCD.

The LACFCD is tasked with providing flood protection, conserving stormwater, and recreational and aesthetic enhancements within its boundaries. LACFCD does this through the management of stormwater infrastructure such as storm drains, open channels, and other infrastructure, as well as the management of other facilities and associated rights-of-way. LACFCD-managed drainage infrastructure is located within the 86 incorporated cities and the Los Angeles County Unincorporated Areas.

Projects involving a connection to LACFCD infrastructure (for example, conveyance of stormwater from a storm drain to an underground reservoir or above ground surface enhancement) or those that will be located within LACFCD right-of-way or another managed facility (for example, open channel access road) require **a Letter of Conceptual Approval from LACFCD** when applying for Infrastructure Program funding.

Projects involving LACFCD infrastructure, facilities, or right-of-way should contact the LACFCD Watershed Manager as early as possible or by May 31st before the Call for Projects deadline (typically July 31st).

The link below contains contact information for LACFCD watershed managers:

- **Watershed Area Boundaries Map and LACFCD Watershed Manager Contacts**

LACFCD will require submission of relevant Feasibility Study documents that clearly identify the LACFCD infrastructure, facility, or right-of-way that will be affected by the proposed project. LACFCD will review submitted documents to ensure the proposed project will not interfere with their operations and maintenance.

NOTE: Conceptual approval does not indicate LACFCD's consent to support or permit a proposed Project but rather an acknowledgment that LACFCD has been engaged and the proposed Project is not currently inconsistent with any LACFCD plans, policies, or goals. If Infrastructure Program funding is allocated to the Project, it is required that the Project Applicant remain closely engaged with LACFCD throughout each project phase and comply with any applicable agreement and/or permit provisions. Additionally, note that not all projects will require Conceptual Approval.

17. Eligible Expenditures: Acknowledgment of eligible expenditures being only those incurred on or after November 6, 2018.

No additional guidance. Refer to sections 16.05.A.2 and 16.05.A.3 of the SCW Program Ordinance for details regarding eligible and ineligible expenditures.

18. Leveraged Funding: A summary of the other sources of funding that are being leveraged for Project costs (if applicable). If no other sources of funding are being utilized, provide a summary of what other sources of funding were explored and/or why funding could not be secured through these other sources.

Only other funding sources (for example: Agreements, MOUs, Grant Awards, SCW Program Municipal Funds, Federal Funding) leveraged on or after November 6, 2018 should be included.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #18	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• Provide documentation **demonstrating the certainty of leveraged funding**.
Construction	• Provide **confirmation of leveraged funding and timeline**, in the form of support letter, grant award notice, etc.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Summarize **leveraged funding received** to date.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	• Summarize **leveraged funding** and **non-SCW Program Regional Program funded construction costs** to date.

19. Disadvantaged Community Benefits: If the Project is located within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), a summary of how the Project will benefit that DAC and a discussion of measures on displacement avoidance.

The SCW Program has implemented a Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Dashboard[14] to help Project Applicants identify local priorities. While direct outreach and engagement with members of the community is always the preferred approach to solicit input and support for proposed Projects, the survey results in the CSNA Dashboard can provide supplemental information to guide early Project concepts. Refer to the *2025 Interim Guidance*[15] for additional recommendations for estimating Disadvantaged Community benefits based on potential population served.

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #19	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• **Describe conceptual benefits** to Disadvantaged Communities and a plan for confirming those benefits align with local priorities.
Construction	• Demonstrate benefits to Disadvantaged Communities **based on priorities identified by community members** through outreach and engagement; if possible, include letters of support from members of Disadvantaged Communities and estimate the population served by specific Community Investment Benefits.
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	• Provide documentation demonstrating how the Project has **provided benefits to Disadvantaged Communities to date**; documentation should quantify benefits and population served and, if possible, verify alignment with community-identified priorities through letters of support.
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

[14] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8efe6e5f57804998be1a8c4067c41cab/page/Dashboard
[15] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/adaptive-management/

20. Watershed Planning Alignment: A detailed description of how the Project aligns with the applicable Watershed Area's watershed plan, including how it supports identified goals and priorities.

In February 2026, the SCW Program published Initial Watershed Plans for each Watershed Area within its jurisdiction. These Plans are intended to outline clear regionwide and Watershed Area-specific targets and needs, efforts to date, and highlight strategies and opportunities to guide future SCW Program investments. Through the Initial Watershed Plans and Watershed Planning Tool, Project Applicants can access information to inform Project-level advancement towards Program Goals and regional and Watershed Area targets.

Advancement towards and support of regional and Watershed Area targets should be achieved through the alignment of a given Project with the strategies explicitly discussed within Initial Watershed Plans. Each strategy is coupled with one or more potential actions representative of on-the-ground efforts that may be performed for that given strategy. Benefits may then be maximized through the location of appropriate projects and actions in opportunity areas with the greatest potential for attainment of a given benefit.

Project Applicants are encouraged to intentionally design their Project in line with the respective Watershed Area needs and strategies as identified in the Watershed Plans (see Chapter 5). Applicants should be able to demonstrate how their Project delivers multiple benefits while directly supporting Watershed Area needs and goals. Examples of alignment are provided in Section 5.2.1.11 of the Watershed Plans. Note that the opportunity areas in the Watershed Planning Tool provide a planning-level guide for Project Applicants to align Project locations with Watershed Area needs and goals, but Project Applicants may provide their own justification for project location based on more detail local understanding. Refer to the Watershed Planning webpage[16] for access to Initial Watershed Plans, the accompanying Watershed Planning Tool, and related resources.

[16] https://safecleanwaterla.org/what-we-do/watershed-planning/

The following supplemental guidance clarifies certain requirements for each phase; note that the Projects Module is configured to guide the Project Applicant through demonstration of alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans:

Feasibility Study Guidelines Requirement #20	
Phase	**Specific Requirements**
Design-Only	• **Identify which Watershed Opportunities** the Project supports based on its location. • **For each Planning Theme, select relevant strategies** and describe how they will be supported by the Project's design features and anticipated benefits.
Construction	
O&M (for previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects)	
O&M (for separately funded Projects)	

Additional Guidance to Characterize Project Performance

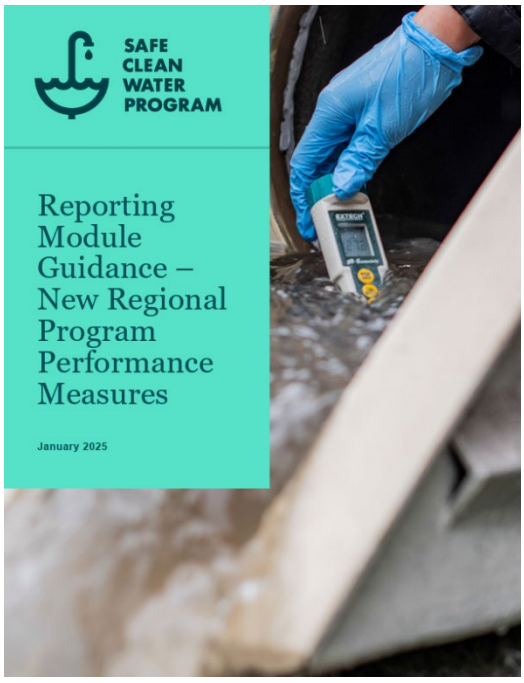
The supplemental guidance below provides Project Applicants with resources to estimate the benefits of proposed Projects, including the Performance Measures included in the Metrics and Measures

Metrics and Measures

Project Applicants are required to complete the Metrics and Measures section in the online Projects Module. The requested Performance Measures have been prioritized by Public Works and interested parties to track SCW Program Goals, inform watershed planning, and evaluate individual Projects. Project Applicants with Projects in the **planning** phase should provide data that **predicts** Project performance, while those in **design, construction, or post-construction** phases should provide data that **reflects their Project's design or implementation**.

The Performance Measures for each Project application will be saved in the Projects Module and, if funded, can be updated during subsequent Project phases through the SCW Program Regional Reporting process. **A guide for estimating the new Performance Measures is available at:**

https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2025/01/Regional-Program-Performance-Measures-Guidelines-20250128.pdf



The following Performance Measures must be provided in the Metrics and Measures section of the online Projects Module; those in blue are automatically calculated based on information provided in other parts of the Projects Module.

Performance Measure	Metric Type	Units
Zinc Load Reduction	Zinc Load Reduction	lbs/year
Total Phosphorus Load Reduction	Total Phosphorus Load Reduction	lbs/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Average Annual Stormwater Captured	ac-ft/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Average Annual Stormwater Captured and Recharged	ac-ft/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Stormwater Capture Infiltrated	ac-ft/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Stormwater Capture Treated and Discharged	ac-ft/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Stormwater Capture Diverted	ac-ft/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Used On-Site for Potable Offset	ac-ft/year
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	Other Stormwater Capture	ac-ft/year
Net Area of Park Created	Net Area of Park Created, Enhanced, or Restored	ac
Net Area of Park Created	Net Change in Canopy at Maturity	ac
Net New Green Space and Tree Canopy on School Grounds	Net Area of Green Space at Public or Private Schools or Co-Located with a Youth-Based Education Program Created	ac
Net New Area of Cooling and Shading Surfaces	Net New Area of Cooling and Shading Surfaces	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Change in Hardscape	ac
Net Area of Green Space Created	Net Area of Green Space Created	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Impermeable Hardscape	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Permeable Hardscape	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Lawn and Natural Turf	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Native Vegetation and Habitats	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Climate Appropriate Non-Native Vegetation	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Non-Native Permanently Irrigated Habitat	ac
Net Change in Surface Types	Net Area of Non-Vegetated Habitat	ac
Leveraged Funding	Leveraged Funds	USD
Leveraged Funding	Proportion of Project Costs Attributed to Leveraged Funding	%
Leveraged Funding	Leveraged Planning Funding	USD
Leveraged Funding	Leveraged Design Funding	USD
Leveraged Funding	Leveraged Construction Funding	USD
Leveraged Funding	Leveraged O&M Funding	USD
Leveraged Funding	Leveraged Monitoring Funding	USD
Community-Stated Priority or Concern Addressed	Community-Stated Priority or Concern Addressed	--

Performance Measure	Metric Type	Units
Net Area of Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, or Protected	Net Area of Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, or Protected	ac
Net Area of Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, or Protected	Net Area of Habitat Created	ac
Net Area of Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, Protected	Net Area of Habitat Enhanced	ac
Net Area of Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, Protected	Net Area of Habitat Restored	ac
Net Area of Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, Protected	Net Area of Habitat Protected	ac
Net Area of Wetland Created, Enhanced, or Restored	Net Area of Wetland Created, Enhanced, Restored, or Protected	ac
Provide Benefit to DACs	Does the Project provide benefit to DACs?	Yes/No
Within DAC Boundary	Is the Project within a DAC boundary?	Yes/No
Annual FTE Jobs Created	Annuel FTE Jobs Created	Count
Project PLA Status	Is this Project Entered into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA)?	Yes/No
O&M Plan to Sustain Project Benefits	Is There an O&M Plan Being Implemented to Sustain Intended Project Benefits?	Yes/No
Level of Achievement for Community Engagement	Level of Achievement for Community Engagement	--
Level of Achievement for Tribal Engagement	Level of Achievement for Tribal Engagement	--

Scoring Criteria Pilot Adaptations

During the first five years of Regional Program implementation, interested parties, the Scoring Committee, and the MMS documented numerous considerations to adapt the Infrastructure Program Scoring Criteria. This section discusses two optional Scoring Criteria adaptations that were pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects (Water Quality and Water Supply Benefits), as well as a newly developed Scoring Adaptation Pilot for CIBs. **Project Applicants have the option (but are not required) to use the *Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric*, *Water Supply Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric, and/or Community Investment Benefit Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric* in Attachment A, Attachment B**, and **Attachment C**.

Water Quality Scoring Adaptation Pilot

The motivation to adapt the Water Quality Scoring Criteria stems from several challenges identified through the MMS. Primarily, the original scoring rubric—based on 24-hour BMP capacity per dollar and percentage pollutant reduction—may not accurately reflect the true Water Quality Benefits of each Project. For example, a Project's 24-hour BMP capacity is independent of its drainage area and does not reflect how much runoff or pollution the Project is expected to capture on a long-term basis. Additionally, Projects that capture substantial pollutant loads but do not achieve high percentage reductions can be undervalued. Note the Projects Module's specific use of construction cost (as opposed to capital cost) in calculation of Water Quality Benefit cost-effectiveness also has the potential to cause a misrepresentation of a Project's true cost-effectiveness. These issues highlight a potential disconnect between the Scoring Criteria and the Water Quality Benefit Performance Measures defined by the MMS.

Several alternative approaches to scoring were evaluated to address these challenges.

After analysis, the recommended pilot rubric for Water Quality Benefit scoring criteria combines two of the more promising approaches. First, it introduces one-point gradation into the existing scoring structure, allowing more nuanced evaluation of Project benefits. Second, it offers Project Applicants the option to use 85th percentile storm runoff capture volume instead of 24-hour BMP capacity for cost-effectiveness calculations. These adjustments provide better alignment with pollutant reduction

goals and more fairly reward a wider range of Project types. By balancing rigor and flexibility, the Water Quality Benefit pilot rubric helps modernize scoring in a way that remains performance-based and consistent with the SCW Program's multiple-benefit Goals. This Water Quality Scoring Adaptation (see Attachment A) was pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects.

Water Supply Scoring Adaptation Pilot

Adaptation of the Water Supply Benefit Scoring Criteria was largely driven by performance data showing that the original scoring rubric may be overly restrictive compared to the actual suite of multi-benefit Projects advocated by proponents across the SCW Program. For example, during the first several rounds of the Infrastructure Program, only about 24% of submitted Projects earned Water Supply Cost-Effectiveness points, while 71% earned Water Supply Benefit Magnitude points. Additionally, the original scoring rubric was based on stormwater capture Projects developed before 2018 and does not reflect the complexities and higher costs of today's integrated, multi-benefit designs. Economic inflation, regional hydrologic differences, and changes in the understanding of what constitutes a valid Water Supply Benefit also warranted review of the scoring criteria.

To address these issues, the MMS explored several alternative scoring strategies, one of which was pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Regional Program Call for Projects and revisited during 2025 adaptations. The alternative involves calibrating score thresholds to better match the historical performance and cost of submitted Projects, as well as introducing single-point increments across the full range of both cost-effectiveness and water supply magnitude scores. This approach effectively realigns expectations with what has been shown to be achievable under the SCW Program's existing constraints.

The Water Supply Scoring Adaptation (see Attachment B) was pilot tested during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Regional Program Call for Projects and has been calibrated to historical Projects to date, to improve scoring fairness, align evaluation metrics with real-world conditions, and support the SCW Program's Goal of incentivizing drought preparedness.

Community Investment Benefit Scoring Adaptation Pilot

Adaptation of the CIB Scoring Criteria was motivated by evaluation of historical Project performance and observed limitations in the original scoring rubric. Analysis of 230 previous Infrastructure Program applications indicated that while 96% of Projects

earned CIB points, 36% received the maximum possible score. This finding suggests that the existing structure may compress scores at the upper end and limit meaningful differentiation across Projects. Additionally, the original scoring rubric provides limited resolution across the range of Project performance, particularly in the middle range of CIB scores. Variability in Watershed Area conditions, potential Project constraints, and evolving CIB expectations further highlighted the need to reassess how incremental CIB scoring is applied within the existing framework.

To address these challenges, a series of alternative scoring approaches were evaluated with the intent to refine incremental scoring structures while maintaining overall consistency with the CIB Scoring Criteria. One such approach was developed to introduce additional granularity within the middle range of the rubric while preserving clarity and ease of implementation. This approach applies uniform two-point increments across increasing levels of CIB integration, assigning equivalent scores to Projects with one or two CIBs and progressively higher scores for Projects incorporating three through six or seven CIBs. By establishing more evenly distributed and granular scoring thresholds, this method reduces score compression and improves the differentiation between Projects with moderate and higher levels of CIB integration. The introduction of consistent incremental scoring across CIB ranges also rewards initial incorporation of CIBs while providing meaningful additional credit for Projects that demonstrate expanded CIB integration. Specific consideration was made to maintain compatibility with existing CIB categories and avoid introducing additional complexity or data requirements, thus supporting straightforward application within current SCW Program processes.

Evaluation of historical Projects under this alternative rubric indicated that the approach generally increases average Project CIB scores across Watershed Areas while minimizing adverse impacts to individual Projects. Analysis results suggest that a substantial number of Projects would experience score increases, with a limited number of scores decreases and no Projects falling below the SCW Program's existing 60-point threshold score. This distribution reflects improved differentiation without destabilizing overall scoring outcomes. As such, the recommended CIB Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric (see Attachment C) represents a balanced refinement to the original CIB Scoring Criteria by enhancing transparency, aligning scoring increments with real-world Project performance, and supporting the SCW Program's objective of equitably incentivizing CIB integration.

Future Considerations

While the adaptations above will begin to better align Scoring Criteria with SCW Program's Goals and help alleviate barriers to pursuing Regional Program funding, additional revisions have been recommended for consideration by the MMS and interested parties. Following evaluation of the pilot adaptations tested in past years, additional scoring adaptations will continue to be explored, including revisions to the Community Investment Benefit, Nature-Based Solutions, and Leveraging Funds and Community Support scoring criteria.

Attachment A – Water Quality Benefit Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
A.1 Wet + Dry Weather Water Quality Benefits	50 points max	The Project provides water quality benefits
	20 points max	A.1.1: For Wet Weather BMPs Only: Water Quality Cost Effectiveness (Cost Effectiveness) = (24-hour BMP Capacity)[1] / (Capital Cost in $Millions) • < 0.12 = 0 points • 0.12–0.169 = 1 point • 0.17–0.219 = 2 points • 0.22–0.259 = 3 points • 0.26–0.309 = 4 points • 0.31–0.349 = 5 points • 0.35–0.399 = 6 points • 0.40–0.449 = 7 points • 0.45–0.489 = 8 points • 0.49–0.539 = 9 points • 0.54–0.579 = 10 points • 0.58–0.629 = 11 points • 0.63–0.679 = 12 points • 0.68–0.719 = 13 points • 0.72–0.769 = 14 points • 0.77–0.819 = 15 points • 0.82–0.859 = 16 points • 0.86–0.909 = 17 points • 0.91–0.949 = 18 points • 0.95–0.999 = 19 points • ≥ 1.000 = 20 points *(20 Points Max)* *[1]. Management of the 24-hour event is considered the maximum volume managed by a Project during a 24-hour, 85th percentile design storm event. Units are in acre-feet (AF).*

<table>
<tr><th>Section</th><th>Score Range</th><th>Scoring Standards</th></tr>
<tr><td>Wet + Dry Weather Water Quality Benefits

- OR -</td><td>30 points max</td><td>A.1.2: For Wet Weather BMPs Only: Water Quality Benefit - Quantify the pollutant reduction (i.e. concentration, load, exceedance day, etc.) for a class of pollutants using a similar analysis as the E/WMP which uses the Districts Watershed Management Modeling System (WMMS). The analysis should be an average percent reduction comparing influent and effluent for the class of pollutant over a ten-year period showing the impact of the Project. Modeling should include the latest performance data to reflect the efficiency of the BMP type.

<u>Primary Class of Pollutants</u>
• < 3.0% = 0 points
• 3.1–6.9% = 1 point
• 7.0–9.9% = 2 points
• 10.0–12.9% = 3 points
• 13.0–16.9% = 4 point
• 17.0–19.9% = 5 points
• 20.0–22.9% = 6 points
• 23.0–26.9% = 7 points
• 27.0–29.9% = 8 points
• 30.0–32.9% = 9 points
• 33.0–36.9% = 10 points
• 37.0–39.9% = 11 points
• 40.0–42.9% = 12 points
• 43.0–46.9% = 13 points
• 47.0–49.9% = 14 points
• 50.0–55.9% = 15 points
• 56.0–61.9% = 16 points
• 62.0–67.9% = 17 points
• 68.0–73.9% = 18 points
• 74.0–79.9% = 19 points
• ≥ 80.0% = 20 points
(20 Points Max)

<u>Second or More Classes of Pollutant</u>
• < 10.0% = 0 points
• 10.0–19.9% = 1 point
• 20.0–29.9% = 2 points
• 30.0–39.9% = 3 points
• 40.0–49.9% = 4 points
• 50.0–55.9% = 5 points
• 56.0–61.9% = 6 points
• 62.0–67.9% = 7 points
• 68.0–73.9% = 8 points
• 74.0–79.9% = 9 points
• ≥ 80.0% = 10 points
(10 Points Max)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">A.2 Dry Weather Only Water Quality Benefits</td><td>20 points</td><td>A.2.1: For dry weather BMPs only, Projects must be designed to capture, infiltrate, treat and release, or
divert 100% (unless infeasible or prohibited for habitat, etc) of all tributary dry weather flows.</td></tr>
<tr><td>20 points max</td><td>A.2.2: For Dry Weather BMPs Only. Tributary Size of the Dry Weather BMP
• < 20.0 Acres = 10 points
• 20.0–39.9 Acres = 11 points
• 40.0–59.9 Acres = 12 points
• 60.0–79.9 Acres = 13 points
• 80.0–99.9 Acres = 14 points
• 100.0–119.9 Acres = 15 points
• 120.0–139.9 Acres = 16 points
• 140.0–159.9 Acres = 17 points
• 160.0–179.9 Acres = 18 points
• 180.0–199.9 Acres = 19 points
• ≥ 200.0 Acres = 20 points
(20 Points Max)</td></tr>
</table>

Attachment B – Water Supply Benefit Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
B. Significant Water Supply Benefits	25 points max	The Project provides water re-use and/or water supply enhancement benefits
	13 points max	B1. Water Supply Cost Effectiveness. The Total Life-Cycle Cost[2] per unit of acre foot of Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff volume captured for water supply is: • ≥ $69,420.00/ac-ft = 1 point • $69,419.99 – $43,240.00/ac-ft = 2 points • $43,239.99 - $29,870.00/ac-ft = 3 points • $29,869.99 - $19,740.00/ac-ft = 4 points • $19,739.99 - $13,440.00/ac-ft = 5 points • $13,439.99 - $9,370.00/ac-ft = 6 points • $9,369.99 - $7,180.00/ac-ft = 7 points • $7,179.99 - $5,560.00/ac-ft = 8 points • $5,559.99 - $4,200.00/ac-ft = 9 points • $4,199.99 - $2,430.00/ac-ft = 10 points • $2,429.99 - $1,830.00/ac-ft = 11 points • $1,829.99 - $930.00/ac-ft = 12 points • < $930.00/ac-ft = 13 points *[2]. Total Life-Cycle Cost: The annualized value of all Capital, planning, design, land acquisition, construction, and total life O&M costs for the Project for the entire life span of the Project (e.g. 50-year design life span should account for 50-years of O&M). The annualized cost is used over the present value to provide a preference to Projects with longer life spans.*
	12 points max	B2. Water Supply Benefit Magnitude. The yearly additional water supply volume resulting from the Project is: • 2.6 ac-ft/year = 1 point • 2.7 - 6.9 ac-ft/year = 2 points • 7.0 -18.6 ac-ft/year = 3 points • 18.7 - 37.9 ac-ft/year = 4 points • 38.0 - 62.2 ac-ft/year = 5 points • 62.3 - 101.0 ac-ft/year = 6 points • 101.1 - 144.8 ac-ft/year = 7 points • 144.9 - 186.0 ac-ft/year = 8 points • 186.1 - 247.4 ac-ft/year = 9 points • 247.5 - 412.4 ac-ft/year = 10 points • 412.5 - 746.3 ac-ft/year = 11 points • ≥ 746.4 ac-ft/year = 12 points

Attachment C – Community Investment Benefit Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric

Section	Score Range	Scoring Standards
C. Community Investment Benefits	10 points max	The Project provides Community Investment Benefits
	10 points max	C1. Project includes: • Zero Community Investment Benefits identified = 0 points • One or Two Community Investment Benefits identified = 2 points • Three Community Investment Benefits identified = 4 points • Four Community Investment Benefits identified = 6 points • Five Community Investment Benefits identified = 8 points • Six or Seven Community Investment Benefits identified = 10 points [3]. *Community Investment Benefits include:* • *Improved flood management, flood conveyance, or flood risk mitigation.* • *Creation, enhancement, or restoration of parks, habitat, or wetlands.* • *Improved public access to waterways.* • *Enhanced or new recreational opportunities.* • *Greening of schools.* • *Reducing local heat island effect and increasing shade.* • *Increasing the number of trees and/or other vegetation at the site location that will increase carbon reduction/sequestration and improve air quality.*