



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER
PROGRAM**

FY27-28 Call for Projects Information Sessions Questions & Answers





How are Technical Resource Program (TRP) applications evaluated?

TRP applications are **not scored**. The TRP application is a much simpler version of the IP application and gathers project site information for the project concept. TRP applications are reviewed for completeness and assessed for Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) eligibility. If deemed complete and assessed to be SCWP eligible, the TRP application is then forwarded to the WASC for consideration. If funded, a Technical Assistance Team will support developing the project concept to meet the [20 Feasibility Study Requirements](#) to apply for Infrastructure program.

Does a TRP application require a Municipality letter of support?

Per [Watershed Area Steering Committee Operating Guidelines](#) Article VII, Section 2: TRP applicants must also submit a letter of non-objection from the Municipality in which the project concept is being proposed.

TRP applications from a non-municipality may submit application without the letter of non-objection. However, they must obtain a letter of non-objection from the Municipality before the TRP Project Concept can be considered by the Watershed Area Steering Committee for inclusion in Stormwater Investment Plans.

What are the deadlines for requesting and receiving a letter of non-objection for non-municipal TRP applicants?

Non-objection letters may be requested from the Municipality the project is located in. Each Municipality has their own timeline and policies to provide a letter of non-objection or support. For example, City of LA has a deadline of October 31st and their own intake form. Please check as soon as possible with the city the project is in for their specific process and timelines.

The [Municipal and LACFCD contact list](#) is located in the [Call for Projects Webpage](#).

When applying for construction and operation and maintenance (O&M), does the project applicant need to create a new project if there are already applications submitted for concept and design?

Previously funded projects will be able to add applications for later phases. Instead of creating a new project, please click on your previous project, which will take you to the

Applications page for the selected project. Click “Add New” to create a new Construction and O&M Application for the existing project.

If you have any issues or questions, or need help gaining access to the existing project, feel free to reach out to the Technical Support team at SCWPPortalSupport@ParadigmH2O.com.

For a non-municipal project concept that goes through TRP and results in a feasibility study, are the original TRP project applicants [e.g. a Community Based Organization (CBO)] the project lead for the subsequent Infrastructure Project application? Or does the project get adopted by the relevant Municipality (e.g. LA County) for CEQA, transfer agreement, etc?

Non-Municipal TRP Project Concept applicants applying for the TRP funding should acquire the Letter of Non-Objection from the Municipality when the TRP Project Concept is proposed. If the TRP is funded and Technical Assistance Team finds the TRP Project Concept feasible and develops a feasibility study, the original TRP lead applicant would also typically apply to the Infrastructure Program (IP) for project design, construction, and/or O&M funding. The project developer will have to be able to complete the project as proposed in the Stormwater Investment Plan. The Project Developer will be the one to execute the Transfer Agreement & subsequent Addendums to receive Regional Program Funds.

If the Infrastructure Program (IP) applicant is a non-Municipality, the applicant will need a letter of support from the Municipality confirming agreement or support of overall project. And if applying for Construction or O&M, the letter of support from Municipality must include:

1. Municipality 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 the
2. Municipality agreement to be the Lead Agency during the CEQA process. **CBOs cannot be the lead agency for CEQA.** See [Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) for more information.

If the Municipality instead chooses to take over project lead and collaborate with original TRP applicant to apply for IP for design, construction, and/or O&M funding, then the letter of support from Municipality and items noted above would not be required.

When will the module be updated to allow for selection of FY27-28?

The Projects Module for new IP Project, TRP Project Concept, and Scientific Study applications will be available June 1st, 2026. We will indicate this through the [Call For Projects webpage](#).

Will a project be less competitive if the community benefits or non-stormwater benefit costs are higher than the stormwater capture or water quality components? Or is that acceptable as long as the project clearly delivers measurable stormwater quality benefits and meets all the program criteria?

Per [Ordinance 16.05.D.1](#), Infrastructure Program projects **shall have a Water Quality Benefit**, as well as, either a Water Supply Benefit or Community Investment Benefit, or both.

The overall project cost affects the water quality score (based on construction costs) & water supply scores (based on life cycle costs). At this time, specific scoring recommendations or anticipated scoring evaluation from the Scoring Committee cannot be given. The [Projects Module](#) will automate preliminary scores per the [Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) scoring criteria and scoring adaptation pilots.

Applicants can refer to the [Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) available on the SCWP website for further details on the scoring of project breakdown.

Please refer to Attachment A in the [Supplemental Guidance](#) for the Water Quality Benefit Scoring Adaptation Pilot Rubric, Attachment B for the same for Water Supply, and Attachment C for the same for Community Benefits.

Additionally, you may view how projects were evaluated in the past on the [Scoring Committee webpage](#).

Can an applicant apply for funding to redesign a previously SCWP funded design project if major revisions are needed?

For redesigning a previously approved IP project, a project developer can:

- Submit a project modification request (PMR) if a previously funded project needs a redesign and the project from original application needs modification such as changes to BMPs or benefits. These types of PMRs will be inconsistent and

referred to the WASC for consideration. Please refer to the [Project Modification Guidelines](#) for more information.

- Withdraw the previously funded IP if it can no longer be delivered as proposed and funded by WASC. And then reapply to next available [Call for Projects](#).

What documents are required to be submitted as part of the LACFCD Conceptual Review Request?

Please refer to Requirement 16 in the [Supplemental Guidance](#) for the full list of required documents to be submitted as part of the LACFCD Conceptual Review Request.

You may also contact the specific [Watershed Area Boundary Manager](#) early in the planning or design of the project for the requirements for a conceptual approval.

If a project is currently at vision plan stage with potential focus areas, should they first apply through the Technical Resources Program to develop a feasibility study, or should we apply directly for the Infrastructure Program?

Only feasibility studies that meet the [20 Feasibility Study requirements](#) may apply for IP project.

For TRP Project Concept, a vision plan may not suffice as the concept should have a clear vision of the potential project so that the Watershed Area Steering Committees can make informed decisions and so that the Technical Assistance Team can develop the project concept into a potential feasibility study.

Please reach out to the Watershed Coordinator for your Watershed Area and the SCWP team for assistance. Learn more about Watershed Areas and find your Watershed Coordinator at [LA County Watersheds - Safe Clean Water LA](#) website.

How detailed does the project concept need to be for a TRP application? Is a defined parcel boundary, drainage area, capture volume, and preliminary design required?

The TRP Project Concept application gathers all known information for the project site of the proposed concept and is a much simpler version of the Infrastructure Program Project application. The TRP Project Concept application should have a clear vision and identify location of proposed project so Watershed Area Steering Committees can make informed decisions and so that the Technical Assistance Team can develop the TRP Project Concept into a potential feasibility study.

If funded as a TRP Project Concept, a Technical Assistance Team will evaluate and develop the project concept into a feasibility study to meet the [20 requirements](#) to apply for IP. For example, the applicant may not have the resources to complete Geotechnical and/or hydrological investigations, and the Technical Assistance Team will support with this.

How is funding for additional years beyond the original project scope calculated for inflation and overrun of costs for factors such as labor, material, utilities, etc?

Project cost estimates should be escalated using industry standards. Currently, 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.

Ultimately, it is up to the applicant's responsibility to use their best judgment when calculating and updating their project's costs.

Is there a recommended lead time to start acquiring all the documentation and necessary components for all the requirements for an infrastructure project?

Applicants are responsible for determining how early they need to begin preparing their documentation. Their project manager should use their best judgment to assess the time required to gather all materials. See [Call for Projects](#) website for key dates and resources.

Please reach out to the Watershed Coordinator(s) for your Watershed Area for assistance. Learn more about Watershed Areas and find your Watershed Coordinator at [LA County Watersheds - Safe Clean Water LA](#) website.

What is considered a *new locally available water supply* for Water Supply Benefits?

The following instances of captured water count as *new locally available water supply* for Water Supply Benefits:

- Net water used onsite for potable offset
- Water that is diverted to sanitary sewers tributary to existing treatment/reuse plants

- Water that is diverted to sanitary sewers tributary to future planned treatment/reuse plants operational within 10 years
- Water infiltrated to managed useable groundwater aquifers
- Water infiltrated to unmanaged aquifer
- Water that is treated and discharged to storm drain or receiving water

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
- Maintenance of existing capture/conservation infrastructure

Environmental water generally does not count as locally available water supply nor a Water Quality Benefit unless analysis proves otherwise.

More information on the definition and qualifications of *new locally available water supply* can be found in the [Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) and the [2025 Interim Program Guidance](#).

Do follow-up discussions occur with the scoring committee and applicant after the application is submitted through the module?

After applications are submitted through the [Projects Module](#), Public Works will conduct a completeness check and follow up with project applicants if there are missing information or discrepancies. The Watershed Area Steering Committee will then vote to send the application to the Scoring Committee. The Scoring Committee will evaluate and score the feasibility studies from the project applications during their meetings, with the project applicants being invited to attend and answer questions. If the Scoring Committee is unable to score the feasibility study with the information provided in the application, Public Works will reach out to the applicants for clarification on the Scoring Committee's behalf.

For more information on the scoring criteria and methods, please refer to the [Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) and [Supplemental Guidance](#).

Does water capture into a nature-based solution count as improving water supply?

In general, these types of projects will provide additional water supply. The [Projects Module](#) will provide an estimate of the magnitude of new water supply, including the

net countable portion. Please refer to the Programming of Nature-Based Solutions section in the [2025 Interim Program Guidance](#).

For developers working towards the FY2028-29 submittal period (July 31, 2027) will the Projects Module be available for use this year (after July 31, 2026)?

The [Projects Module](#) receives annual updates and is made available around June of every application year. In the case of FY2028-29, the application module is anticipated to be made available by early June 2027.

How should applicants decide on whether to submit a project proposal as a wet-weather project or dry-weather project?

The criteria on what designates a project as a wet-weather project or dry-weather project can be found in Section 3.1 of the [Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) and the [Supplemental Guidance](#). The project applicant selects the weather type for their project, and the Scoring Committee uses that selection to apply the appropriate scoring criteria; however, the Scoring Committee may adjust the weather type designation for scoring purposes only, without affecting how the project is categorized.

If it is unclear how to categorize between the two weather types, and the project has been submitted in the past or is similar to a previously submitted project, the applicant should refer to the feedback previously provided by the Scoring Committee. If no such feedback exists, the applicant should reach out to the SCWP team regarding the specifics of the proposed project.

How is scoring handled for projects that have less than 60 percent of the design plans developed?

Projects in an early Design phase (i.e., less than 60% design plans completed) may only apply for Design funds through the Infrastructure Program. The score for leveraged funding is calculated consistently for a project requesting design funds versus a project requesting construction funds. The [Projects Module](#) automatically calculates the leveraged funding ratio based on the [Feasibility Study Guidelines](#). The formula for leveraged funding ratio can be found in the Projects Module, and it is based on the total SCWP funding requested.