



Public Comment Form

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Meeting: <u>WASC</u>	Date: <u>7/1/24</u>

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

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

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

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

Comments

Good afternoon. My name is Elva Yañez, I am President of the Board of Directors of Save Elephant Hill. I am here today to provide an update on our TRP project and the feasibility study by Ulteig Engineering on our behalf. The study is exploring potential nature-based stormwater improvements on open space land owned and managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority at Elephant Hill.

We are very excited about the work being done by Ulteig. The feasibility study process has exceeded our expectations. With funding from the Water Foundation, Save Elephant Hill is undertaking a community engagement process. So far, we have reached nearly 400 residences in El Sereno as well as organizational stakeholders and elected officials.

Our first community workshop took place to coincide with the new trail opening at Elephant Hill and was attended by more than 200 people. Our second event takes place at 2 PM, Saturday July 25th at the El Sereno Senior Center. To date, response from residents about the feasibility study process and potential nature-based stormwater improvements has been positive and enthusiastic.

Getting to this point has not necessarily been easy. There are a number of barriers faced by CBOs seeking to undertake Safe Clean Water projects focused on nature based stormwater solutions. For example, the application process is challenging and complex, and requires in depth technical assistance. Community benefits don't score as high as water quality or water supply in an application. And, it is difficult for CBOs to compete with municipalities on implementation projects or feasibility studies. Ideally these and other barriers would be resolved – possibly with a CBO-specific funding program – as the Safe Clean Water Program evolves. Finally, we are planning to submit for design funding in 2027.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a bit about our TRP experience.