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July 7, 2026

TO: Scoring Committee
Safe, Clean Water Program

FROM: Los Angeles County Flood Control District

IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER SUPPLY, WATER QUALITY, AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BENEFIT SCORING PILOT ADAPTATIONS AND PHASE-SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2027-28 CALL FOR PROJECTS

OVERVIEW

As part of the ongoing adaptive management of the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program, the Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) analyzed 230 Infrastructure Program Project applications (including Projects that were accepted and funded, considered but not funded, referred to the Technical Resources Program, and withdrawn) to inform potential modifications to the SCW Program Scoring Criteria for Water Supply Benefits, Water Quality Benefits, and Community Investment Benefits.

EVALUATION AND FINDINGS

Several alternative approaches to score Water Supply Benefits and Water Quality Benefits were evaluated, including calibrating scoring to historical projects and adding gradation to scoring rubrics for Water Supply and Water Quality, and adding gradation and refining the calculation of cost-effectiveness by using an updated 24-hour Best Management Practice (BMP) definition (the maximum volume managed by a Project during a 24-hour, 85th percentile design storm event) to scoring rubrics for Water Quality.

For Water Supply Benefits, it was determined that calibrating the Water Supply Benefits scoring rubric to historical projects and adding gradation would continue to provide a viable alternative to test in the next year of implementation. It creates a refined framework for projects to potentially increase their Water Supply score and addresses stakeholder concerns about inflation and potential diminishing opportunities resulting from water captured by nearby projects. This approach is consistent with the previous alternative recommendations during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 pilot adaptations, as it continues to perform effectively with the new Project applications.

For Water Quality Benefits, it was determined that calibrating the Water Quality Benefits scoring rubric to historical projects is unlikely to provide a viable alternative to test in the next year of implementation. This is mostly attributed to the distribution of project scores under the current scoring criteria, which awards relatively high point values to a broad array of historical projects. The act of calibrating scoring criteria inherently shifts this distribution, substantially reducing potential project scores. Adding gradation to the current scoring criteria, however, continues to be a viable alternative to test in the next

year of implementation. Additionally, this effort determined that cost effectiveness calculated with 85th percentile storm capture volumes is much more correlated with pollutant capture efficiency and may be more aligned with Water Quality Benefits. This approach uses the same alternative recommendations during the FY 2026-27 pilot adaptations, as it continues to perform effectively with the new Project applications.

Several alternative approaches to score Community Investment Benefits were informed by an evaluation of historical project performance and identified limitations in the current Community Investment Benefits scoring rubric. Alternatives included increasing granularity within scoring ranges, adopting more incremental scoring methods, and reorganizing evaluated criteria. The effort also examined how to translate broad benefit categories into more evidence-based criteria by incorporating Metrics & Measures data to improve the clarity and consistency of Community Investment Benefits scoring.

For Community Investment Benefits, it was determined that introducing additional granularity within the middle range of the Community Investment Benefits scoring rubric would provide a viable alternative to test in the next year of implementation. This approach applies consistent two-point incremental scoring across increasing levels of Community Investment Benefits integration, creating a more balanced framework that rewards both the initial and expanded incorporation of benefits within Project plans. This structure establishes clear and predictable scoring thresholds while continuing to differentiate Projects that incorporate a greater number of Community Investment Benefits.

IMPLEMENTATION

As a result, Public Works is continuing a pilot scoring rubric to aid project applicants in estimating Water Supply Benefits scores calibrated to historical projects, with added gradation, as an alternative Scoring Criteria for Water Supply Benefits. Additionally, Public Works is continuing a pilot scoring rubric to aid project applicants in estimating Water Quality Benefits scores, with gradation added to the current criteria with redefined project capacity. Public Works is also providing a pilot scoring rubric to aid project applicants in estimating Community Investment Benefits scores, with gradation added to the middle range of the current criteria. These criteria are to be applied to all nine Watershed Areas in FY 2027-28 Call for Projects only.

The SCW Program Projects Module will continue to show estimated Water Supply Benefits, Water Quality Benefits, and Community Investment Benefits scores based on the original criteria, per the Feasibility Study Guidelines, along with the pilot scores, per this memo. Project applicants may select from the original or pilot scoring options for Water Supply Benefits, Water Quality Benefits, and Community Investment Benefits, ensuring the Scoring Committee will only need to utilize one methodology or the other.
To improve Project evaluation and accelerate implementation, Public Works also

continued to implement phase-specific applications for the Infrastructure Program in FY 2027-28 Call for Projects. Project applicants with less than 60 percent of the design completed may apply for design funding only, while projects with more than 60 percent design completed may apply for design, construction, and/or operation and maintenance funding. Additionally, previously funded SCW Program Infrastructure Projects seeking funding for operations and maintenance may apply through a streamlined application process. All application types may select from the original or pilot scoring options, and then scoring would proceed based on the appropriate level of documentation needed for the respective phase(s) of the project. Supplemental guidance has been developed to clarify these requirements and support evaluation of phase-specific applications. Additional information is available in the Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines.

CONCLUSION

For the scoring of FY 2027-28 Infrastructure Program Projects, the Scoring Committee shall review and score the submitted projects based on each applicant's selected Scoring Criteria for Water Supply Benefits, Water Quality Benefits, and Community Investment Benefits, as was previewed at the FY 2027-28 Call for Projects information sessions held on May 13 and 14, 2026, and will be previewed at the Scoring Committee meeting scheduled for July 13, 2026.

It is important to note that these scoring pilot adaptations (enclosed) have not yet been formally incorporated into the original criteria outlined in the Feasibility Study Guidelines, and their application will be evaluated for adoption following the conclusion of the FY 2027-28 Scoring Committee proceedings as part of ongoing adaptive management.

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Scoring Pilot Adaptations for Fiscal Year 2027-28 Call for Projects

The purpose of this enclosure is to **summarize the most recent pilot adaptations of scoring criteria and evaluations for Water Quality, Water Supply, and Community Investment Benefits** based on the insights gained from seven rounds of Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program) Project submittals as part of adaptive management. To evaluate historical trends and alternative scoring rubrics, each study **analyzed 230 Regional Infrastructure Program Project applications**, including Projects that were accepted and funded, considered but not funded, referred to the Technical Resources Program, or withdrawn.

These adaptations aim to better align scoring criteria with the actual range of multi-benefit project performance observed under the SCW Program, while accounting for evolving opportunities, constraints, and economic conditions. Each scoring component evaluation included a review of existing criteria, historical scoring trends, and key data assumptions and limitations. The evaluations also summarized each alternative's approach, methodology, and underlying assumptions, along with the supporting analyses and results used to determine which alternatives would be advanced for pilot testing.

The Water Quality and Water Supply scoring pilot adaptations build on the previously recommended alternatives and apply the same approaches to re-scored Project submittal data through Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Call for Projects. The Community Investment Benefits section presents the newly developed scoring pilot rubric that was evaluated against seven alternative approaches, resulting in one recommended methodology to be implemented in pilot testing, with the remaining alternatives reserved for future consideration.

The following alternate scoring criteria will be piloted for FY 2027-28 Call for Projects:

1. **Water Quality:** Projects are currently scored based on their ability to capture, treat, or infiltrate stormwater, along with cost-effectiveness considerations. **The final recommendation proposes adjusting the scoring rubric to incorporate the 85th percentile storm runoff capture volume with added gradation.**

2. **Water Supply:** Projects are currently scored based on cost-effectiveness related to runoff volume captured and water supply volume generated. **The final recommendation proposes adjusting the scoring rubric to align with the historic range of submitted project data with added gradation.**

3. **Community Investment Benefits:** Projects are currently scored based on the inclusion of specific Community Investment Benefit implementations. **The final recommendation proposes adjusting the scoring approach to apply granularity to the middle range of the current rubric. Specific Performance Measures related to each claimed Community Investment Benefit criterion were also identified to inform scoring evaluation.**

Based on the updated round of Project submittals, the recommendations remain applicable and continue to demonstrate increased benefits and improved project performance under the recommended alternatives.

Alternate Water Quality Scoring Pilot for FY2027-28 Call for Projects

The current Water Quality Benefits scoring rubric uses discrete, range-based scoring that translates performance values into standardized point tiers. The recommended Water Quality Benefits pilot rubric continues to integrate two key adjustments: applying the 85th percentile storm runoff volume in cost-effectiveness calculations and continuing added gradation across each scoring component. Resulting graded rubrics incorporating the 85th percentile storm runoff capture volume are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1. The pilot rubric for wet weather Water Quality Benefits with added gradation are shown in Table 2 and Figure 2, while the pilot rubric for dry weather Water Quality Benefits with added gradation are shown in Table 3 and Figure 3. These adjustments add 1-point increments to each scoring criterion to increase score granularity and better distinguish relative project performance. While the scoring rubric defines water quality cost-effectiveness as the 24-hour Best Management Practices (BMP) capacity per capital cost in millions of dollars or acre-foot per million dollars ($M), the Projects Module is actually using the construction cost in millions of dollars to calculate scores. Additionally, the supplied data shows that capital cost is not a metric that has been consistently captured across rounds of the Call for Project applications.

Table 1. Water Quality Cost Effectiveness / Dry Weather Capture Scoring Criteria, Using 85th Percentile Storm Runoff Volume, with Gradation

A.1.1: For Wet Weather BMPs only: Water Quality Cost Effectiveness (Cost Effectiveness) = (85th Percentile Storm Runoff Volume)[1] / (Construction Cost in $M)	Points *(20 points max)*
< 0.12	0
0.12–0.169	1
0.17–0.219	2
0.22–0.259	3
0.26–0.309	4
0.31–0.349	5
0.35–0.399	6
0.4–0.449	7
0.45–0.489	8
0.49–0.539	9
0.54–0.579	10
0.58–0.629	11
0.63–0.679	12
0.68–0.719	13
0.72–0.769	14
0.77–0.819	15
0.82–0.859	16

A.1.1: For Wet Weather BMPs only: Water Quality Cost Effectiveness (Cost Effectiveness) = (85th Percentile Storm Runoff Volume)[1] / (Construction Cost in $M)	Points *(20 points max)*
0.86–0.909	17
0.91–0.949	18
0.95–0.999	19
≥ 1.0	20
[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.*	
A.2.1: For Dry-weather BMPs Only: Projects must be designed to capture, infiltrate, treat and release or divert 100 percent (unless infeasible or prohibited for habitat, etc.) of all tributary dry weather flows. *(20 points max)*	20

Table 2. Gradation Added to Current Water Quality Benefits Scoring Rubric, Wet Weather Projects

A.1.2: For Wet Weather BMPs only: Water Quality Benefit - Percent of influent pollutants treated by BMP on an average annual basis over a 10-year period using WMMS model *(30 points max)*		Primary Class of Pollutants Points *(20 points max)*	Second or More Classes of Pollutant Points *(10 points max)*
Primary Class of Pollutants	Second or More Classes of Pollutant		
< 3%	< 10%	0	0
3.1-6.9%	10.0–19.9%	1	1
7.0–9.9%	20.0–29.9%	2	2
10.0–12.9%	30.0–39.9%	3	3
13.0–16.9%	40.0–49.9%	4	4
17.0–19.9%	50.0–55.9%	5	5
20.0–22.9%	56.0–61.9%	6	6
23.0–26.9%	62.0–67.9%	7	7
27.0–29.9%	68.0–73.9%	8	8
30.0–32.9%	74.0–79.9%	9	9
33.0–36.9%	≥ 80%	10	10
37.0–39.9%		11	
40.0–42.9%		12	
43.0–46.9%		13	
47.0–49.9%		14	
50.0–55.9%		15	
56.0–61.9%		16	
62.0–67.9%		17	
68.0–73.9%		18	
74.0–79.9%		19	
≥ 80%		20	

Table 3. Gradation Added to Current Cost-Effectiveness Scoring Rubric, Dry Weather Projects

A.2.2: For Dry-weather BMPs Only: Tributary Size of Dry Weather BMP	Points *(20 points max)*
< 20 Acres	10
20.0–39.9 Acres	11
40.0–59.9 Acres	12
60.0–79.9 Acres	13
80.0–99.9 Acres	14
100.0–119.9 Acres	15
120.0–139.9 Acres	16
140.0–159.9 Acres	17
160.0–179.9 Acres	18
180.0–199.9 Acres	19
≥ 200 Acres	20

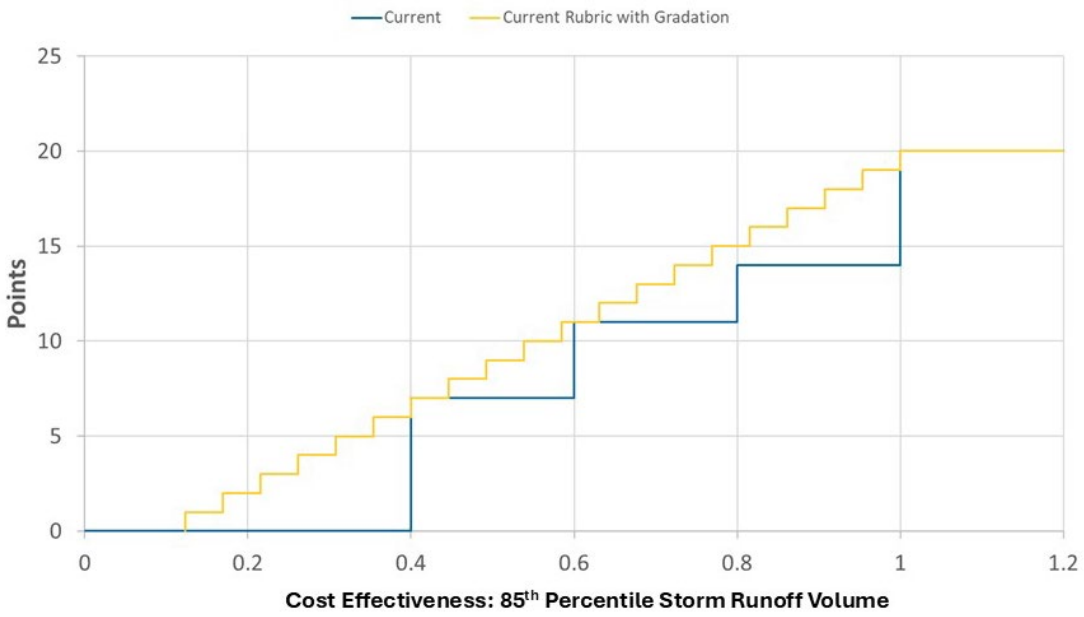

Figure 1. Cost-Effectiveness Scoring Rubric Using the 85th Percentile Storm Runoff Volume, with Gradation

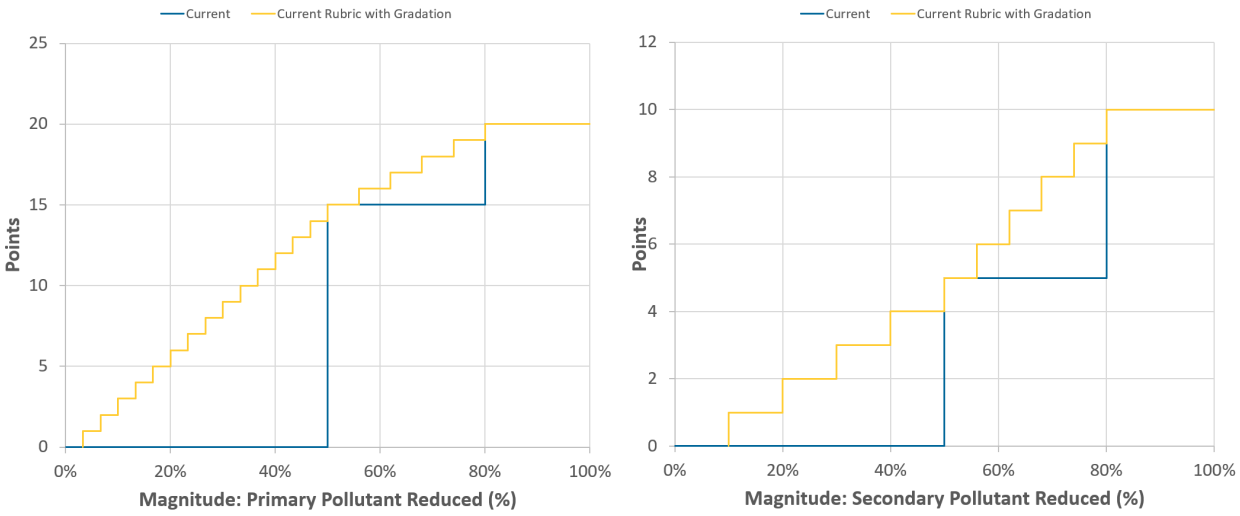

Figure 2. Gradation Added to Current Magnitude Scoring Rubric

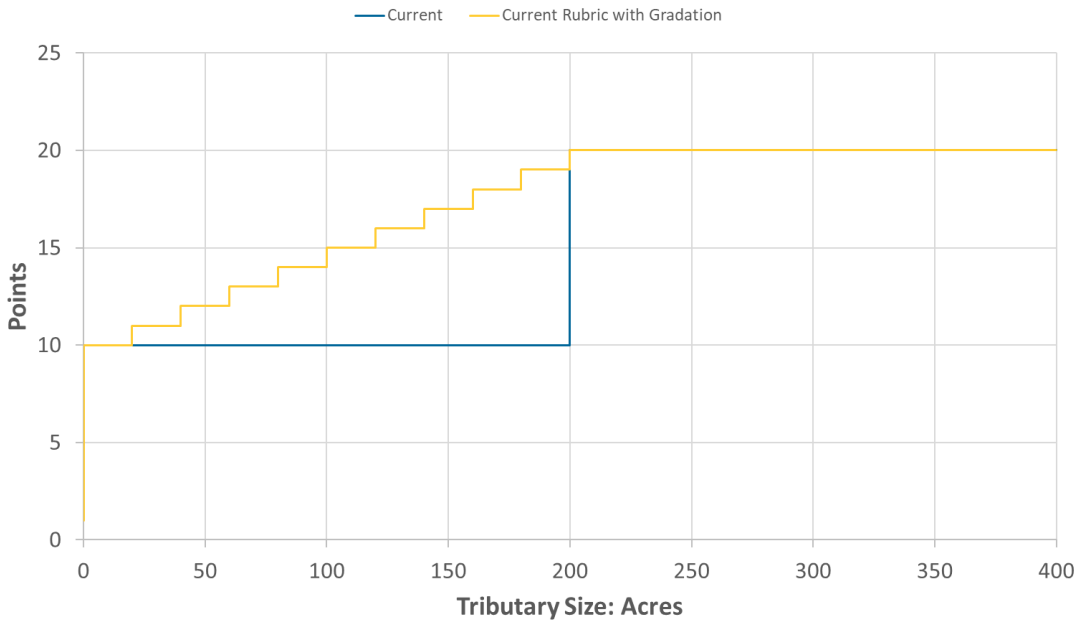

Figure 3. Gradation Added to Current Water Quality Benefits Scoring Rubric for Dry Weather Projects

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Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot for FY2027-28 Call for Projects

The Water Supply Benefits scoring rubric is currently structured using a categorical framework that assigns points across incremental scoring brackets. The recommended Water Supply Benefits pilot rubric recalibrates the existing score ranges using historical project data submitted through FY 2026-27 Call for Projects and adds gradation. The update applies to historical cost-effectiveness and water supply capture magnitude percentiles, building on the prior calibration approach with updated data. Table 4 and Figure 4 present the revised cost-effectiveness scoring rubric based on historical calibration, while Table 5 and Figure 5 show the historically calibrated magnitude scoring rubric. Incorporating 1-point scoring increments in the rubric helps enhance evaluation precision while maintaining consistency with the existing scoring framework.

Table 4. Updated Alternative Cost-Effectiveness Scoring Rubric Calibrated to Historical Project Data, Constrained to Current Point Values

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	**Points** ***(13 points max)***
≥ $69,420.00	1
$69,419.99 – $43,240.00	2
$43,239.99 – $29,870.00	3
$29,869.99 – $19,740.00	4
$19,739.99 – $13,440.00	5
$13,439.99 – $9,370.00	6
$9,369.99 – $7,180.00	7
$7,179.99 – $5,560.00	8
$5,559.99 – $4,200.00	9
$4,199.99 – $2,430.00	10
$2,429.99 – $1,830.00	11
$1,829.99 – $930.00	12
< $930.00	13
[2]Total life-cycle cost: The annualized value of all capital, planning, design, land acquisition, construction, and total life operation and maintenance 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 operations and maintenance). The annualized cost is used over the present value to provide a preference to projects with longer life spans.	

Note: The Regional Program module applies a constant 3.375 percent discount rate per year to compute the present value of the annualized total life-cycle cost.

Table 5. Updated Alternative Magnitude Scoring Rubric Calibrated to Historical Project Data, Constrained to Current Point Values

B2. Water Supply Magnitude. The yearly additional water supply volume resulting from the Project	Points *(12 points max)*
< 2.6 ac-ft/year	1
2.7 – 6.9 ac-ft/year	2
7.0 – 18.6 ac-ft/year	3
18.7 – 37.9 ac-ft/year	4
38.0 – 62.2 ac-ft/year	5
62.3 – 101.0 ac-ft/year	6
101.1 – 144.8 ac-ft/year	7
144.9 – 186.0 ac-ft/year	8
186.1 – 247.4 ac-ft/year	9
247.5 – 412.4 ac-ft/year	10
412.5 – 746.3 ac-ft/year	11
≥ 746.4 ac-ft/year	12

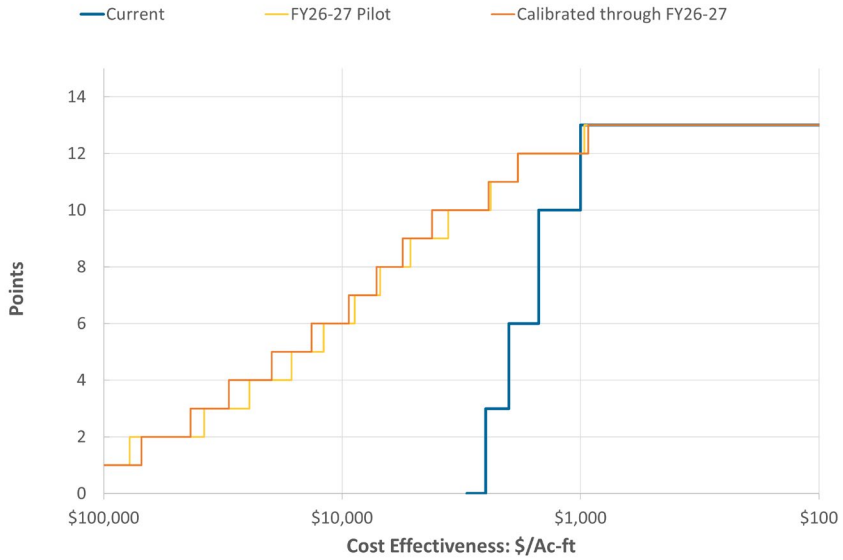

Figure 4. Updated Alternative Cost-Effectiveness Scoring Rubric Calibrated to Historical Projects

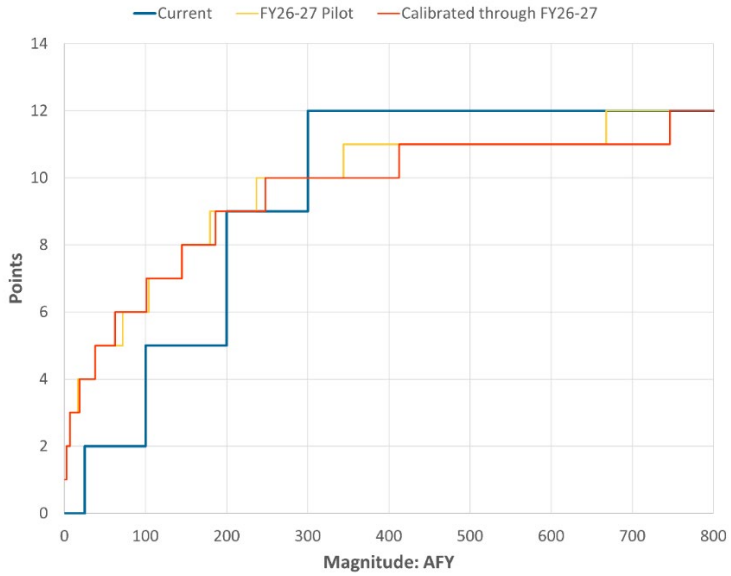

Figure 5. Updated Alternative Magnitude Scoring Rubric Calibrated to Historical Projects

Alternate Community Investment Benefits Scoring Pilot for FY2027-28 Call for Projects

The Community Investment Benefits scoring rubric currently award points based on discrete benefit counts, resulting in uneven point distributions. The recommended Community Investment Benefits pilot rubric applies granular, incremental scoring based on the number of benefits documented in project data. Under this approach, Projects receive points in consistent two-point increments, with one to two benefits earning two points and six to seven benefits earning up to ten points. This structure establishes clear, predictable scoring thresholds while continuing to differentiate Projects that incorporate a greater number of Community Investment Benefits. Table 6 and Figure 6 display the scoring pilot approach. This adjusted scoring approach introduces even point increments across all benefit inclusion levels, resulting in more accurate scoring.

Table 6. Adding Granularity to the Middle Range of the Scoring Rubric

C1. Project includes:	**Points** ***(10 points max)***
Zero of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	0
One of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	2
Two of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	2
Three of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	4
Four of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	6
Five of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	8
Six of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	10
Seven of the Community Investment Benefits identified below	10
Community Investment Benefits include: • Improved flood management, flood conveyance, or flood risk mitigation • Creation, enhancement, or restoration of parks, habitat, or wetlands	

C1. Project includes:	Points *(10 points max)*
• 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	

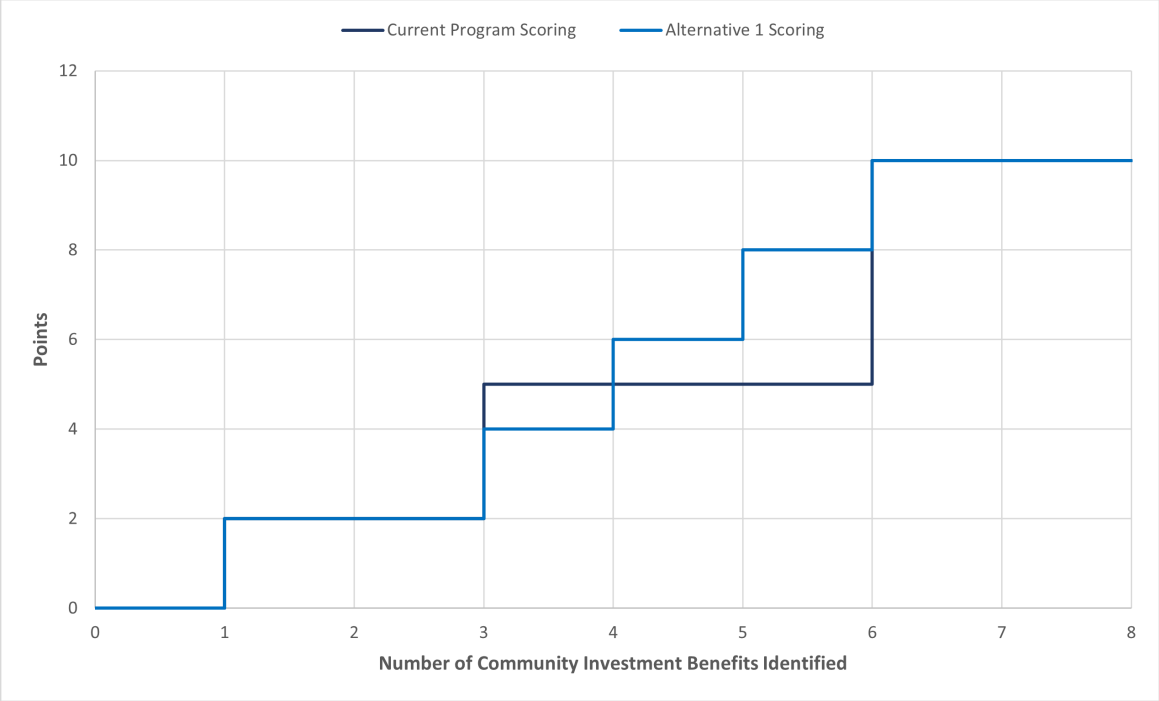

Figure 6. Adding Granular Scoring Rubric Comparison

Specific Performance Measures were identified for each claimed Community Investment Benefit criterion to support a more rigorous scoring evaluation. As summarized in Table 7, these measures build on the quantitative data already submitted by Project Applicants under the "Metrics and Measures" page of the Projects Module per the "Metrics and Measures" section of the *Supplemental Guidance to Support Feasibility Study Guidelines* (Supplemental Guidance). By clarifying what qualifies as a Community Investment Benefit and outlining potential methods for quantification, these measures provide a foundation for more consistent and transparent scoring. The SCW Program may use the proposed Performance Measures to establish standardized metrics within each category, which can serve as the primary basis for point allocation in future evaluations.

Table 7. Additional Data and Metrics for Community Investment Benefits Scoring Expansion

Community Investment Benefits	Additional Data	"Metrics and Measures" Section of *Supplemental Guidance*
Improved Flood Management, Flood Conveyance, or Flood Risk Mitigation	**Does Project Mitigate Flooding Issue:** Indicates whether project mitigates flooding (Yes/No/Partial)	Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects
	Select the Type of Flooding Issue Mitigated: Identifies flooding type addressed (fluvial, pluvial, storm drain surcharge, etc.) (Type selection)	
Creation, Enhancement, or Restoration of Parks, Habitat, or Wetlands	**Net Area of Park Created, Enhanced, or Restored:** Area of created/enhanced/restored park space (acres)	Improve Public Health
	Net Area of New Habitat Created, Enhanced, Restored, or Protected: Total habitat improvements (acres)	Deliver Multi-Benefit Projects
Improved Public Access to Waterways	**Public Access to Waterway Provided:** Type of waterway access provided (count)	Improve Public Health
	Is the Project Publicly Accessible: Indicates public accessibility (Y/N)	
Enhanced or New Recreational Opportunities	**Type and Number of Enhanced or New Recreational Opportunities:** Types and counts of recreational amenities (count)	Improve Public Health
	Area of Publicly Accessible Park or Green Space: Accessible recreation/open space area (acres)	
Greening of Schools	**Project on School Grounds:** Indicates project located on school grounds (Y/N)	Improve Public Health
	Net Area of New Tree Canopy at Maturity on School Grounds: Added canopy on school grounds (acres)	
	Net New Green Space on School Grounds: Added green space at schools (acres)	
Reducing Local Heat Island Effect and Increasing Shade	**Net New Area of Cooling/Shading Surfaces:** Area of new shade surfaces (acres)	Improve Public Health
	Net New Area of Manmade Shade Structures: Shade structure area (acres)	
	Net Change in Canopy at Maturity: Change in tree canopy area (acres)	
Increasing the Number of Trees and/or Other Vegetation at the Site Location Will Increase Carbon	**Quantity of Trees Planted:** Area or quantity of trees planted (acres)	Improve Public Health
	Net Change in Canopy at Maturity: Net canopy change (acres)	
	Net Area of Native Vegetation: Change in native vegetation (acres)	

Community Investment Benefits	Additional Data	"Metrics and Measures" Section of *Supplemental Guidance*
Reduction/Sequestration and Improve Air Quality	**Net Area of Climate Appropriate Vegetation:** Change in climate-appropriate vegetation (acres)	