



# LOWER LA RIVER WATERSHED - WC UPDATES

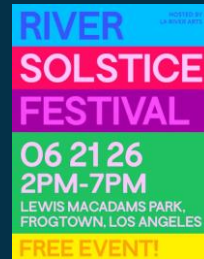
## WASC Meeting - September 2026



# JUNE UPDATES

## OUTREACH

- **Attended the River Solstice Festival** hosted by LA River Arts at Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park, connecting with CBOs and NGOs working along the river (6/21).
- **Met with Compton Unified School District** to share a program overview, resources, and school greening examples (6/24).
- Presented a SCWP update at the **Lower LA River IAG's quarterly meeting** (6/25).
- Distributed the **Q2 e-newsletter** to LLAR stakeholders (6/30).



## SUPPORT

- **Met with LBUSD and Council for Watershed Health** and used the Watershed Planning Tool to explore three potential school greening projects in Long Beach — Dooley Elementary, Perry Lindsay, and Cabrillo High (6/26).
- Invited recently connected school districts and stakeholders to the **Application Kick-Off Session** hosted by the CSMB Watershed Coordinators (6/29).



# JULY UPDATES

## OUTREACH

- **Attended and spoke about SCWP at the Lynwood Community Mural Celebration**, engaged community members and collected CSNA survey responses (7/25).
- **Attended the Safe Clean Water Application Kick-Off Session** hosted by the CSMB Watershed Coordinators (7/7).



## SUPPORT

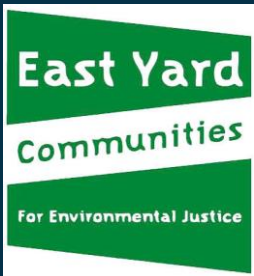
- **Supported City Fabrick and Riverpark Coalition, in successfully submitting a TRP application for the Wrigley Heights Greenbelt Project** in a DAC in North Long Beach (7/16-7/31).
- **Supported the AtkinsRéalis team** as they considered submitting a LLAR application for their Contaminants of Emerging Concern scientific study (7/8).



# AUGUST UPDATES

## OUTREACH

- **Connected with East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice** on their LA River work and grant funding (8/21).
- Connected with a community stakeholder regarding a **potential project at the Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum** in Compton — a walking trail that could connect the site to Compton Creek (8/24–8/25).



## SUPPORT

- **Four scientific study applications and one TRP** were submitted for the Lower LA River in this Call for Projects (7/31).
- **Initiated planning for a fall Urban Orchard tour** with the City of South Gate (8/25) and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (8/26).



# SEPTEMBER UPDATES

## OUTREACH

- **Met with Sustainable Labor Alliance (SLA)**, a Southeast LA landscape contractor and workforce-development social enterprise leading school greening projects in Lynwood and across the watershed, to explore alignment with SCWP (9/16).



## SUPPORT

- **Held an Urban Orchard tour planning call** with the City of South Gate, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, and Trust for Public Land, and coordinated with the LA County Youth Climate Commission's District 4 commissioners regarding collaboration opportunities (9/10).
- **Continued outreach to regional utility providers** to explore potential SCWP project partnerships.

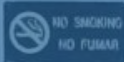


# COMING UP



## → SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

- **Presenting at the Lower LA River IAG quarterly meeting** (September 24)
- **Q3 quarterly e-newsletter** (late September)
- **Urban Orchard Community Tour. Saturday, October 24, 9–11 AM, South Gate.** Youth-focused and open to the public, co-hosted with the City of South Gate, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, and the Trust for Public Land
- Planning an inaugural **Lower LA River School Greening Working Group** meeting with school districts, CBOs, and partners working along the corridor.
- **Tabling at community events this fall:** currently applying for City of Bell and Long Beach
- **Utility Provider and Charter School outreach**



# Beyond Watershed Planning: Engaging Communities to Improve Outcomes of the Safe Clean Water Program

Lower LA River WASC  
September 22, 2026

# Workshops & Report

- **5 watershed workshops** held in 4 WASCs convened by LA Waterkeeper in 2025
- Purpose to build on intensive watershed planning efforts already undertaken by the SCWP
- LAW partnered with grassroots CBOs & watershed coordinators to inform and participate in the workshops.



# Key Findings

- The SCWP is **complex** and **can lack a holistic view of watershed needs**
- The annual funding cycle creates **structural challenges** that **favor mid-scale projects over large-scale and community-driven projects.**
- **Narrow scope** of project types being funded
- **Water quality prioritized** over other needs.
- **New green space creation targets are inadequate.**
- The SCWP is **too reactive** as currently structured.



# Recommendations

The SCWP should:

- Move toward a proactive watershed planning approach and develop a 20-year investment cycle that identifies priority projects or project types that collectively will meet watershed specific community and environmental goals.
- Improve metrics and definitions
- Strengthen targets for greening and community benefits.
- Improve community and Tribal engagement.

# Additional Recommendations

The report includes additional recommendations aimed at :

- **Maximizing biodiversity benefits** to align with other LA County priorities.
- Looking for opportunities to support **smaller organizations and municipalities** securing SCWP funding.
- Looking for opportunities to integrate the **best available science** into the program's approach for prioritizing project types.

# LLAR Workshop

- 22 workshop participants
- Community Partner:



# Overarching Feedback

- **Water pollution/trash** (can't swim in Long Beach)
- **Hidden waterways** (disconnected)
- **Drinking water** issues
- Opportunity to **convert golf courses** to open space
- **Lack of infiltration opportunities** (makes eligibility difficult)
- Watershed made up of many **small municipalities/high staff turnover**
- **Water rights/overlapping jurisdiction** challenges on LA River
- **Balance** 'benefitting all munis' w/ corridor approach/maximizing benefits
- **Aquifer contamination** due to brownfield sites (risks with infiltration)
- **Localized flooding** issues

# LLAR Project Type Priorities

- Schools
- Golf courses
- Native plants

# Priority Projects Identified

- Long Beach Riverlink/Wrigley Heights River Park
- Salt Lake Infiltration Cistern
- Urban Orchard, Phase 2
- Willow Springs Park Wetland Restoration
- Long Beach MUST & Drake/Chavez Vision Plan

# How This Report Can be Used by the WASC

- Helping refine **WASC priorities**
- Identify **challenges** within the watershed
- Identify **priority project types** that could inform WASC-based RFP and/or project evaluation for SIP
- Identify **specific projects** that could be uplifted (even from the ground)
- Provide a **workshop template** if the WASC wants to continue watershed planning (and develop proactive, long-term investment strategy) in the future

# Link to Report and Factsheet



**Supported by: Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA), Water Foundation, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's Safe Clean Water Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program**

**ARLA**

**WATER**  
FOUNDATION



**SAFE CLEAN  
WATER PROGRAM**

# THANK YOU

**LET'S STAY CONNECTED:**

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