



CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY - WC HIGHLIGHTS

WASC MEETING - OCTOBER 2026



WC MAY- SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past few months (May through September), we have been focused on advancing engagement and implementation across the CSMB Watershed. We've continued:

- Reaching out to interested parties and new partners, including landscaping and engineering firms and charter schools
- Assisting project proponents and supporting funded projects, and supported applicants for 1 TRP application, 5 Scientific Studies applications, and 1 IP application
- Expanding outreach and public awareness within our communities
- Hosting workshops and collaborative events, and attending and supporting SCWP events throughout the County

The following slides highlight a few key accomplishments and activities from this period. While these represent select examples, they reflect just a portion of the ongoing work and partnerships taking place throughout the watershed.

MAY UPDATES

- Tabled at Culver City EnviroFest and Venice Arts Fest
- Attended the LA County Water Plan Summit
- Tabled at Hollywood Bowl's Pancake Outreach event for their TRP project
- Met with:
 - City of Santa Monica Council District
 - Herrera Inc.
 - Silver Lake Reservoir Conservancy
 - KYA Group
- Notable Funding Identified:
 - Cal Fire Prop 4 funds

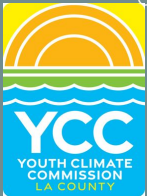


Silver Lake Reservoirs
Conservancy



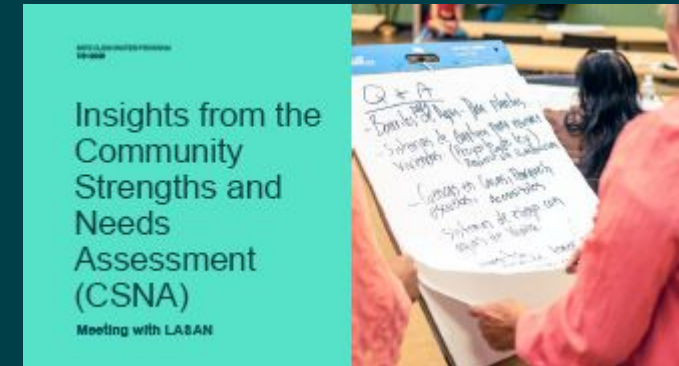
JUNE UPDATES

- Attended the Equity in Infrastructure Summit by Public Works
- Attended Party for the Parks in Historic Filipinotown
- Co-organized and promoted the "Drop by Drop: A Youth Conversation on Water" webinar with LA County's Youth Climate Commission
- Tabled at West Hollywood Pride
- Attended the Recharge LA event hosted by LA Waterkeeper
- Community Engagement and Interested Party meetings included:
 - LA County Youth Climate Commission
 - District 13
 - Sony Pictures - ***Could be a cost-share partner!***
 - Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
 - CalGreen Works



JULY UPDATES

- Hosted a virtual Application Info Session for Round 7 applicants
- Joined SCOPE LA's Water Academy
 - Held sessions in English and Spanish
- Started meeting with cities to present CSNA Data for their area
- Presented community engagement opportunities to the Santa Monica Pier Advisory Committee
- Began planning Healthy Soils and Nature-based Solutions workshops in fire recovery areas
- Participated in tour of the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project, a joint water-reuse infrastructure effort
- Met with:
 - LASAN
 - AtkinsRéalis
 - Verdant Venice Group
 - Kollab Youth
 - Venice Canals Association (TRP applicant)
 - Blackwelder Tract TRP Team



Tour of the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project

Hosted by URLAR - July 23, 2026



AUGUST UPDATES

- WELCOME MEGAN!
- Started developing application checklists for TRP, IP, and SS
- Attended the Water Boards Equity Workgroup meeting
- Participated in the LA County Water Plan Water Reliability Task Force
- Tabled at the Venice Art Crawl and Nothin' But Sand
- Hosted a Sustainable Water Infrastructure Tour in Santa Monica to highlight the SWIP
- Met with:
 - Terremoto
 - Spherical Studios
 - Venice Canals Association



Venice
Canals
Association
... Since 1976

TERRE
MOTO



SEPTEMBER UPDATES

- Toured Metro Rail-to-Rail Segment A
- Held the Urban Watershed Working Group, focused on funding for School Greening
- Attended LA Walks' Podcast Launch, Voces de Wilmington
- Helped host Coastal Cleanup Day
 - Kuruvungna Springs
 - Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook
- Engaged with:
 - SMMUSD
 - LA Metro
 - Cal Poly Pomona Landscape Architecture Students
 - Palisades Recovery Coalition
 - Los Angeles County Office of Education
 - Verdant Venice



**Green
Schoolyards
America**

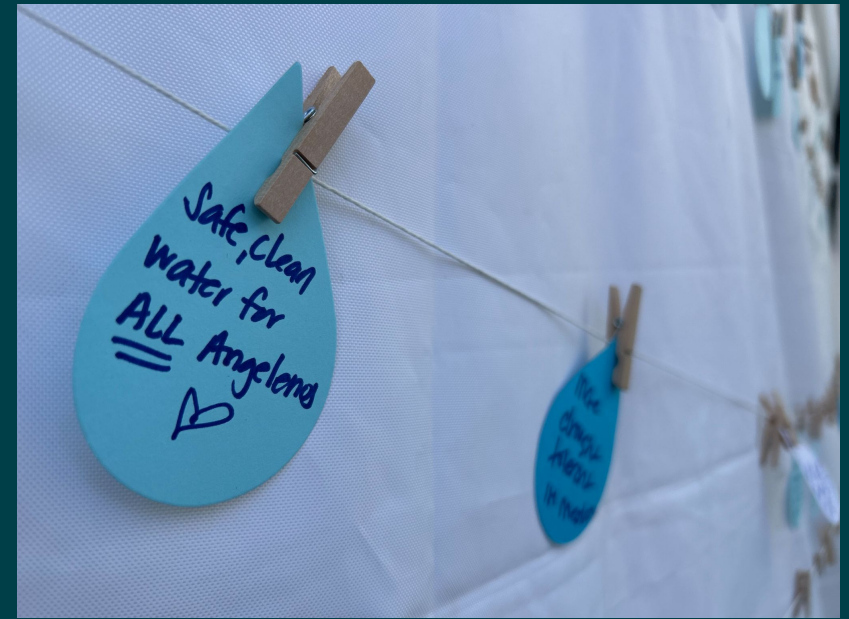


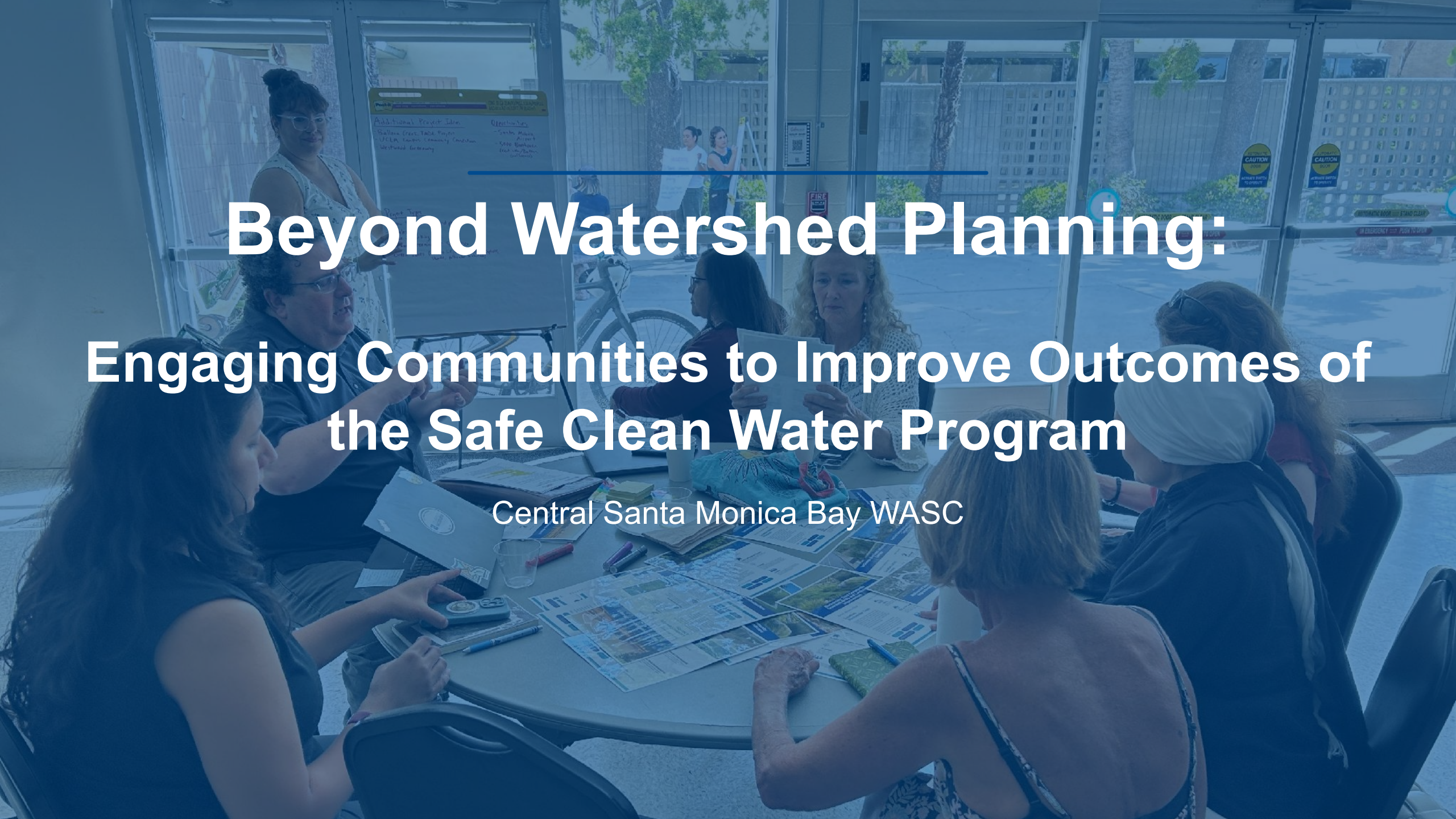
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Rest of 2026

- Hosting WC Office Hours on for applicants, with a special emphasis on non-municipal, non-profit, and CBO applicants (Sept 30)
- Holding a follow-up Urban Watershed Working Group in partnership with LA Trade-Technical College (Oct 22nd)
- Co-facilitating a tour of South Gate Urban Orchard with LLAR WC (Oct 24th)
- Continuing outreach to charter schools, HOAs, and other community stakeholder groups
- Tabling at the following events:
 - The Bay Foundation's Blue Waters Santa Monica Bay Boating Festival (Oct 3)
 - Del Rey Day (Oct 25th)
 - And more!



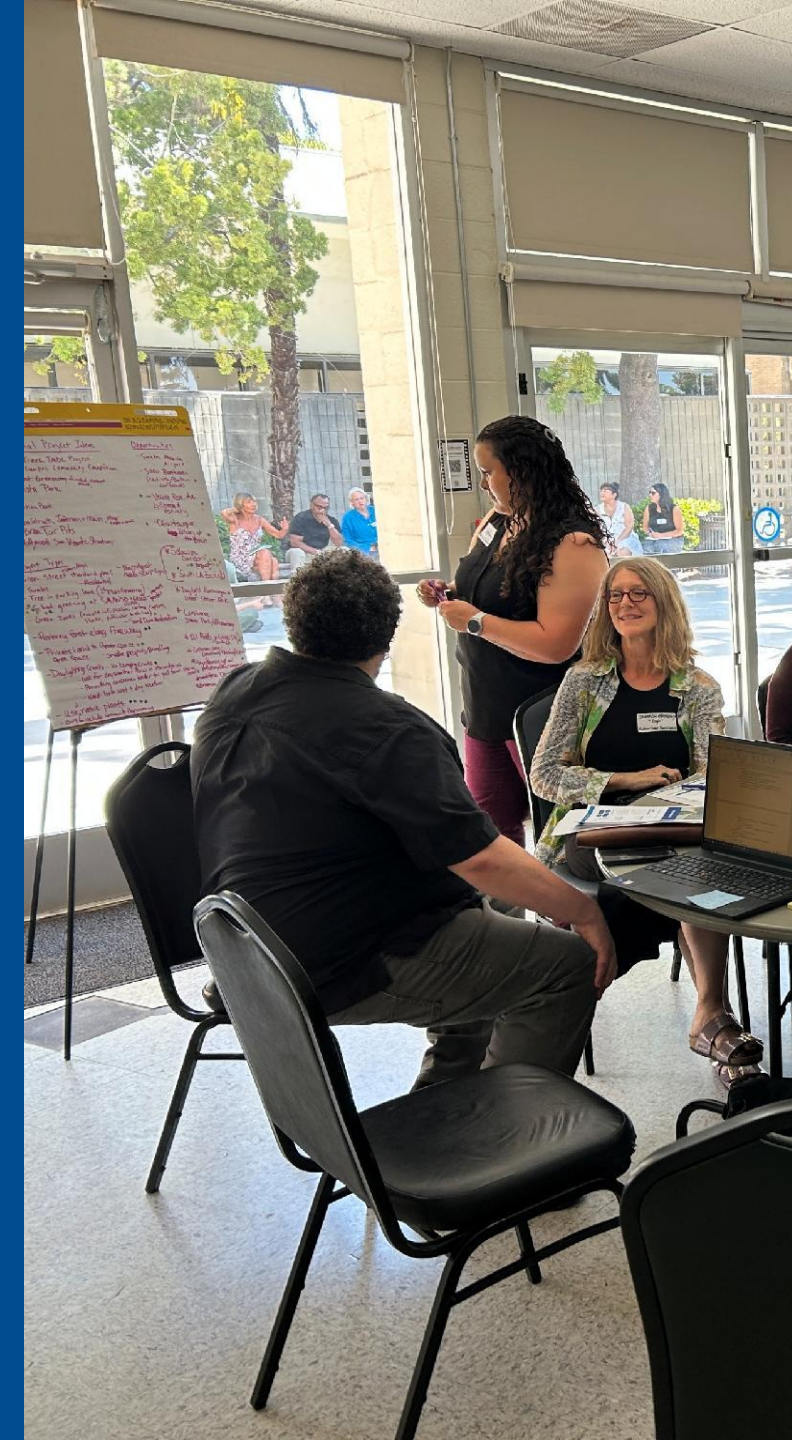


Beyond Watershed Planning: Engaging Communities to Improve Outcomes of the Safe Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay WASC

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



Additional Findings

- Measuring achievement is only as strong as metrics and definitions allow
- Watershed Coordinators need **more support and resources**
- SCWP Regional Program **application process can be too technical**
- Ecological health and biodiversity **missing from scoring criteria**
- Community engagement should be required and measured in project applications
- **SCWP falls short on outreach to Tribal communities and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

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.

CSMB Workshop

- 35 workshop participants
- Community Partner:



Overarching Feedback

- Providing as much **greening** as possible throughout the watershed
- Restoring **forests along freeways** (reduce stormwater pollution; safeguard communities)
- CSMB home to major **oil fields** where drilling will be phased out by 2028; opportunity to create new green space, but challenge with remediation

CSMB Project Type Priorities

- School greening
- Using native plants
- Restoring forest along freeways

Priority Projects Identified

- Slauson Corridor Project
- Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
- Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project
- Oil Fields in Culver City + South LA
- Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project

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

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THANK YOU



Let's stay connected:

Megan Lent

CSMB_WC_SGA@pw.lacounty.gov

Stephanie Gebhardt Rath

CSMB_WC_HTB@pw.lacounty.gov