



TECHNICAL RESOURCES PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2027-2028

BALLONA-VENICE TIDAL PROJECT

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WATERSHED AREA

PRESENTATION DATE:

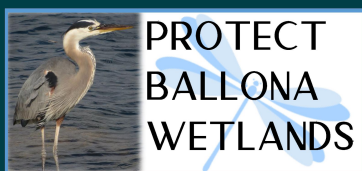
OCTOBER 6, 2026

PROJECT LEAD:

Venice Canals Association (VCA)

Protect Ballona Wetlands (PBW)

Presenters: Mark Galanty - VCA
Marcia Hanscom - PBW



Project Overview

Feasibility study to improve water quality, tidal circulation, habitat, flood resilience, and public access across the 1.8-mile Ballona-Venice tidal system.

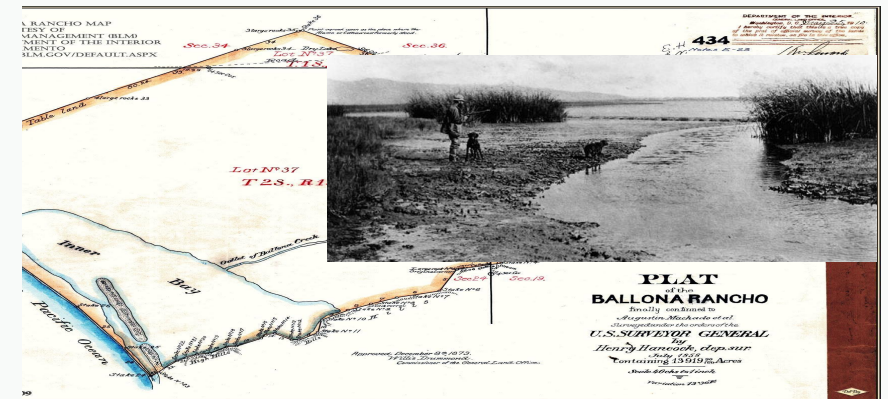
Primary Objective:

Improve water quality and tidal circulation by evaluating nature-based and targeted built infrastructure solutions for reducing untreated urban runoff, stormwater runoff, and existing tidal-waterway conditions.

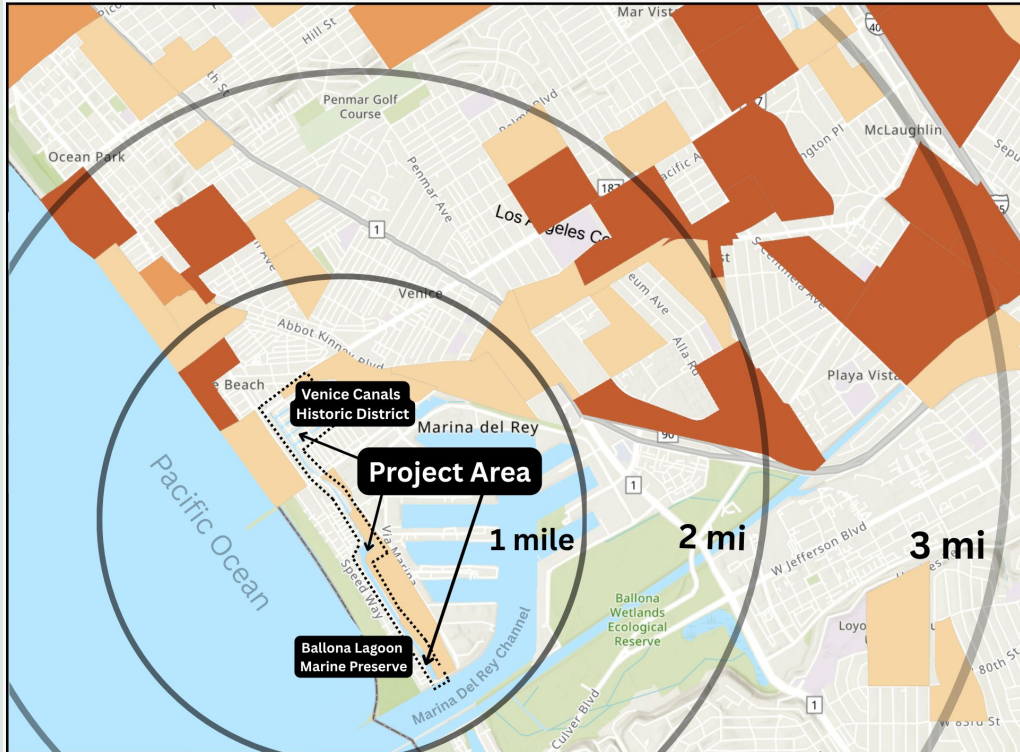
Secondary Objectives:

- Restore and protect wetland/habitat function and improve flood resilience for local waterways.
- Improve public access, recreation, education, and environmental stewardship.

Technical Resource Program Funding Request: \$400,000



Project Location



MAP KEY

..... PROJECT AREA
— MILE RADIUS

 DACs (\$57,800 - \$77,067)
 SDACs (<\$57,800)
 Data Not Available

Project Concept Site: 1.8-mile connected tidal system
Watershed Area: Central Santa Monica Bay / Ballona Creek–Marina del Rey.

Capture/tributary area: Surrounding street and storm-drain runoff; to be refined in feasibility

Municipality: City of Los Angeles; coordination with LA County/Marina del Rey

DAC: Project area is adjacent to several DAC/SDAC areas and schools; access, education, and stewardship benefits.

Map and DAC date source: State of California Department of Water Resources <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

Project Background

Why was the Project location selected?

This is a rare, historic, connected estuarine/canal system receiving untreated urban runoff and experiencing bacteria, algae/HABs, habitat stress, aging infrastructure, and downstream coastal impacts. This area is also an international tourist destination and is a local resource for Los Angeles residents.

How was the Project developed?

Project developed collaboratively by Venice Canals Association, Protect Ballona Wetlands, LA Sanitation and Environment, Environmental groups, Councilwoman Traci Park (CD11), watershed coordinators, technical advisors, researchers, and community partners.



Benefits to municipalities

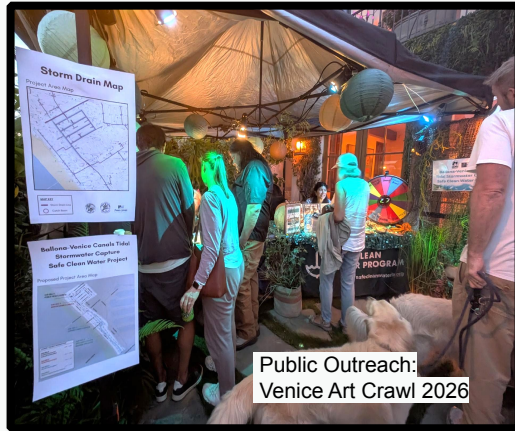
Cleaner receiving waters; improved tidal circulation and habitat; flood resilience; public access/recreation; environmental education; and nature-based green infrastructure.

Benefits to disadvantaged communities

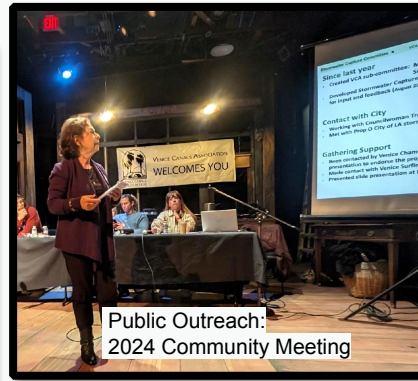
This project is intended to serve nearby disadvantaged and underserved communities, schools, youth programs, and visitors through expanded access, education, and stewardship, including free public outdoor nature activities such as local boating, recreation, walking paths, and wildlife viewing.



Coordination and Collaboration



Public Outreach:
Venice Art Crawl 2026



Public Outreach:
2024 Community Meeting



Environmental Field Tour



Community Engagement Site Tour



Stakeholder Engagement

Implementation partners/collaborators:

- Venice Canals Association (lead applicant) and Protect Ballona Wetlands
- City of LA Sanitation and Environment; Councilwoman Traci Park (CD11)
- Watershed coordinators; UCLA researchers; local schools and environmental/community organizations

Underlying property / municipal concurrence

- City of Los Angeles Letter of Non-Objection obtained on July 15, 2026.

Flood Control District

- Potential LACFCD facility/right-of-way interfaces will be confirmed during feasibility and agency coordination.

Community support/engagement

- Meetings, site tours, technical review and outreach with LASAN, CD11, watershed coordinators, UCLA researchers, schools, environmental organizations and neighborhood stakeholders.

Vector control

- Engagement/feedback to be addressed during feasibility, as appropriate.

Project Details



Four connected sub-sites

Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve; Grand Canal Lagoon; North Venice Canals; Venice Canals Public Boat Launch.

Existing conditions/constraints

Storm-drain outfalls, poor tidal circulation, algal buildup, harmful algae, degraded habitat, aging infrastructure, flood risk, shallow groundwater, limited infiltration, protected habitat, historic resources, and continued public access.

Studies/analyses

1991–2008 hydrology studies plus ongoing water-quality sampling will inform feasibility. Additional hydrology, geotechnical, water-quality sampling, system-capacity and pollutant-reduction analyses remain to be completed.

Alternatives to evaluate

Wetland restoration, biofiltration, bioswales, rain gardens, permeable paving, stormwater treatment, improved tidal circulation, and tide-gate rehabilitation.

Anticipated Schedule

Milestone	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
TRP begins – scoping / team engagement	July 2028
Feasibility Study completion	November 30, 2029
Anticipated Infrastructure Program submission	July 2030
60% / 100% design, CEQA, CA Coastal Act, and construction	Future phases – dates TBD
TRP feasibility duration	Approximately 16 months

Schedule reflects LA County guidance: TRP development is anticipated to begin in July 2028; design and construction are possible future phases.

Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits

Primary mechanisms

- Evaluate an improved tidal circulation and tide-gate improvements.
- Evaluate wetland restoration, phytoremediation, biofiltration, bioswales, rain gardens, permeable paving, stormwater capture/pretreatment, and other treatment options.

Tributary/capture area Around 40 acres feet of drainage in the proposed project area.

Surrounding street and storm-drain runoff tributary to the connected waterways; acreage to be refined during feasibility.

Wet / Dry Runoff

- Assessment of dry-weather and wet weather pollution runoff and flooding-related issues.

Pollutants & Water Monitoring

- Primary regulatory pollutants of concern include bacteria, zinc, and copper; also nutrients, algae/HABs, sediment, trash, and other urban-runoff pollutants. Existing County, City, Mariposa, and UCLA monitoring will inform the study.

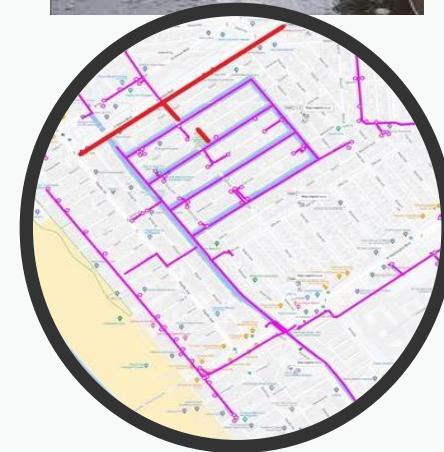
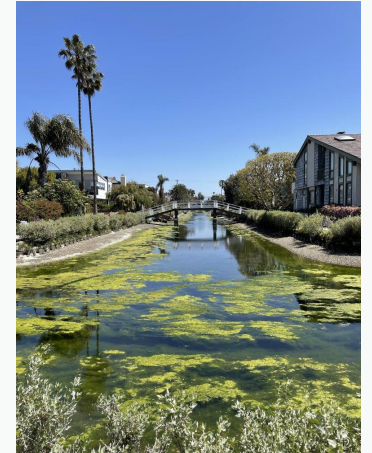
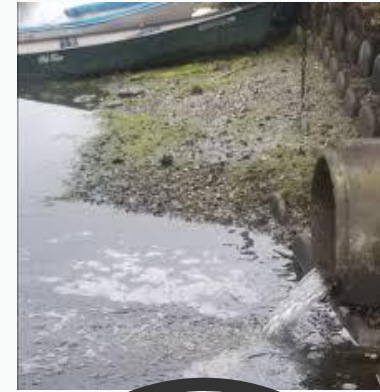
Capacity & Pollutant Reduction Estimated 33.8 Acre feet of runoff per year.

Capacity, annual volume, pollutant reduction, and cost-effectiveness will be quantified during feasibility.

Local water Supply

- Recharge is constrained by shallow groundwater/limited infiltration. Irrigation/reuse near the Public Boat Launch and future recycling/diversion may be explored.

The feasibility study will determine final recommendations and quantified benefits.



**LA City & LA County
Storm Drain Map**



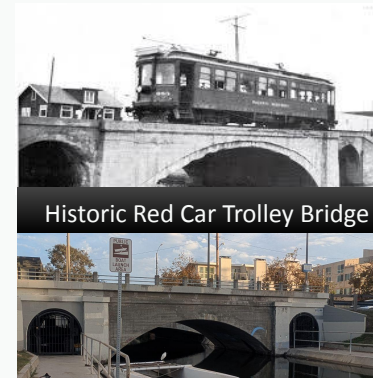
Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions

Community Investment Benefits

- Enhance flood management, habitat, public access, recreation, shade, and environmental education.
- Evaluate improvements to observation areas/decks, Public Boat Launch access, pathways, bridges, signage, and waterfront connections. Possible improvements and repairs to be considered for existing infrastructure.
- Expand compatible nature-based recreation and equitable coastal access for schools, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, residents, visitors, and underserved communities.
- Cleaner waterways are themselves a community and recreation benefit, supporting boating, walking, wildlife viewing, education, and nature observation.

Nature-Based Solutions

- Evaluate native wetland restoration and planting, phytoremediation, bioswales, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, water-retention features, and shade trees.
- All public-access improvements would be evaluated for compatibility with the sensitive wetland and marine habitat.



Historic Red Car Trolley Bridge



1906 Washington Blvd Tide Gates



Public Boat Launch (Venice Canals)



Existing Tidal Gates – Washington Boulevard



Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve



Grand Canal Path (East Side)



Prefabricated bridge
(Driftwood & Hurricane)

Leveraging Funds and Community Support

Leveraging Funds

- TRP request: \$400,000 for feasibility study.
- The project is intended to position future implementation for the Infrastructure Program and partner-supported funding.
- In the process of applying for LA28 Resilience Champions Fund, to cover more surface-level beautification aspects of the project.
- Potential complementary efforts include restoration, school planting, education, outreach, and other watershed funding opportunities.

Community Support

- Built on meetings, site tours, technical review and outreach with LASAN, CD11, watershed coordinators, UCLA researchers, Biologist, schools, environmental organizations and neighborhood stakeholders.
- Ongoing water-quality sampling by UCLA researchers can provide contemporary baseline data.
- Outreach and stakeholder coordination continue through feasibility.



Posse Foundation,
Community Engage Wetland Planting



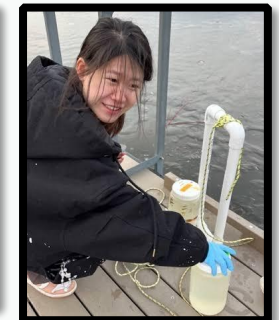
City of LA / LA County /
Mariposa Landscaping Water
Testing in the project area



Dr. Martha Sutula
(SCCWRP)



JAYLab (Dr. Jennifer Jay Research Group
Water Testing Ballona and Venice Tidal Waters (UCLA)



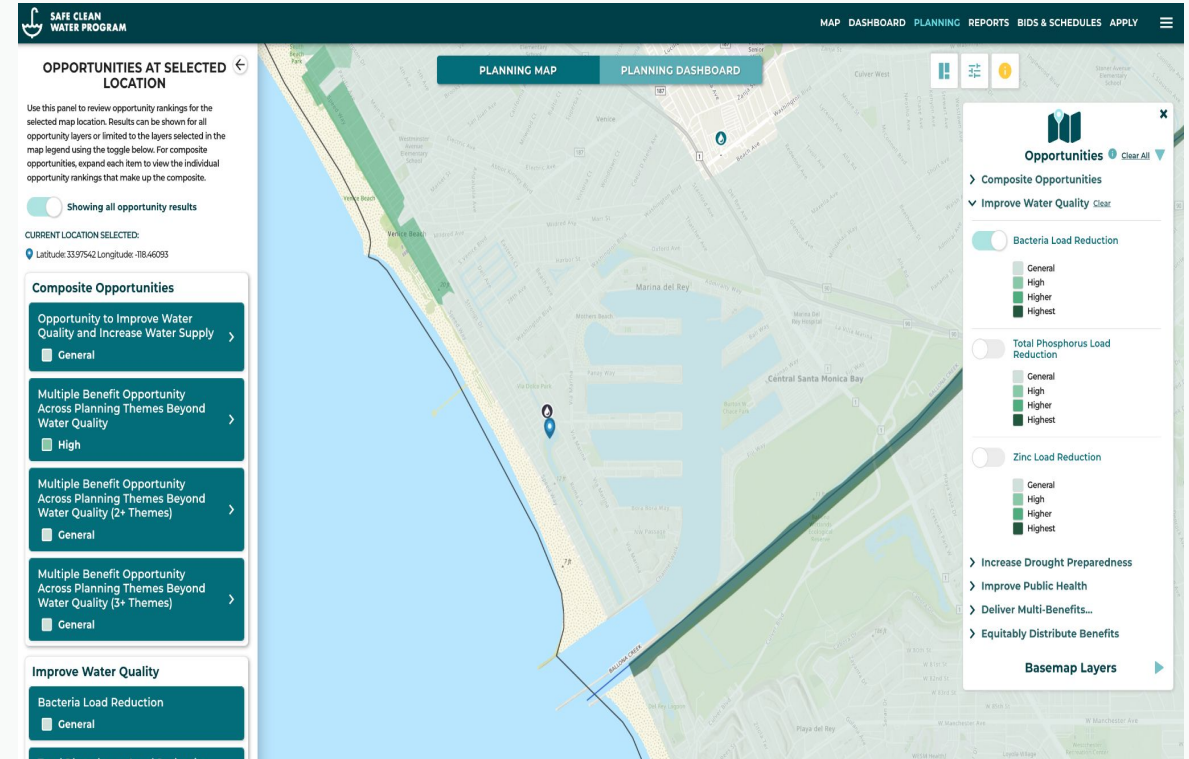
Watershed Planning Alignment

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area alignment

Strategies/actions to explore:

- Stormwater treatment and source reduction
- Nature-based treatment and wetland restoration
- Tidal circulation / tide-gate rehabilitation
- Water-quality monitoring and pollutant-source analysis
- Habitat, public access, education and stewardship
- Park enhancement and/or restoration

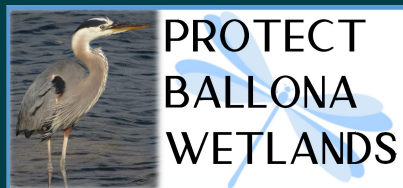
The feasibility study will evaluate on untreated urban runoff, high levels of bacteria / Zinc / copper, and other pollutants, tidal circulation, habitat, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, and equitable public access — all within a connected receiving-water system that ultimately discharges into Santa Monica Bay.



Opportunity Layer: Improve Water Quality / Bacterial Load Reduction

The project location aligns with the CSMB Watershed Planning Tool's **Improve Water Quality** opportunity. The feasibility study will evaluate opportunities to reduce bacteria, metals, and other pollutant inputs; improve tidal circulation and receiving-water quality; and incorporate nature-based habitat improvements within the connected North Venice Canals–Ballona Lagoon tidal system.

Site-specific hydrologic, water-quality, engineering, and environmental analyses will determine the most effective project alternatives.



Presenters:

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Venice Canals Association (lead organization)

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Marcia Hanscom

Protect Ballona Wetlands

MarciaHanscom@gmail.com



Thank You