



TECHNICAL RESOURCES PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2027-2028

LACOE Green Campus Initiative

LOWER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED
AREA

PRESENTATION DATE:
OCTOBER 13, 2026

PROJECT LEAD:

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Laura Verbryck



Project Overview

Stormwater capture retrofit at LACOE campuses to model green schools for LA County's education community

Primary Objective:

- Transform two asphalt-dominated LACOE campuses into a model for how educational facilities can manage stormwater, reduce extreme heat, and create greener, healthier places to learn, work and gather.

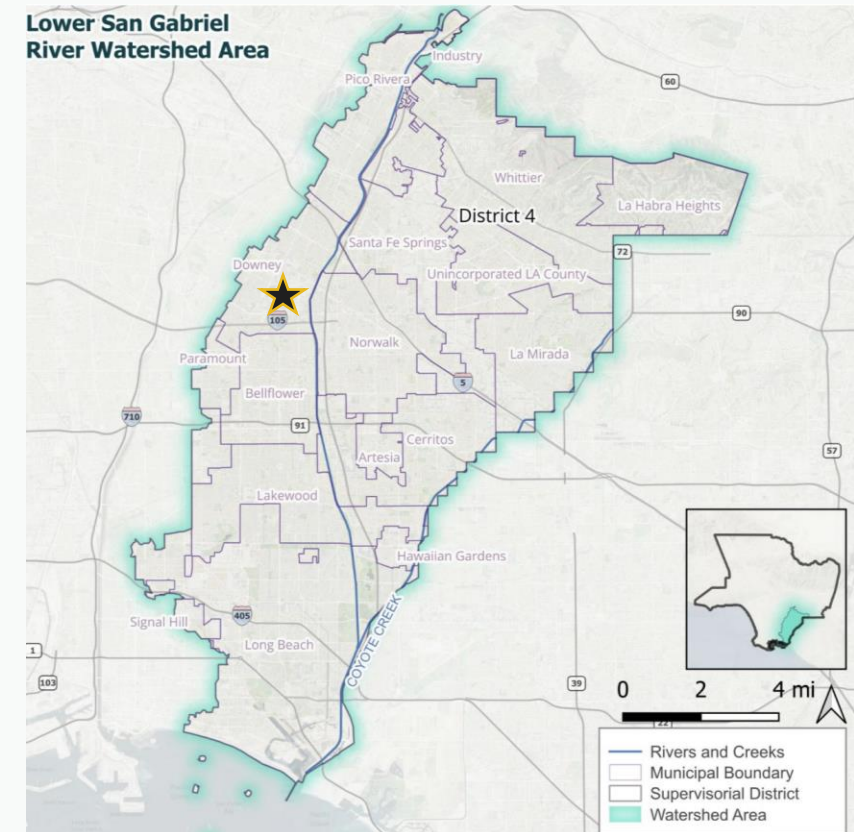
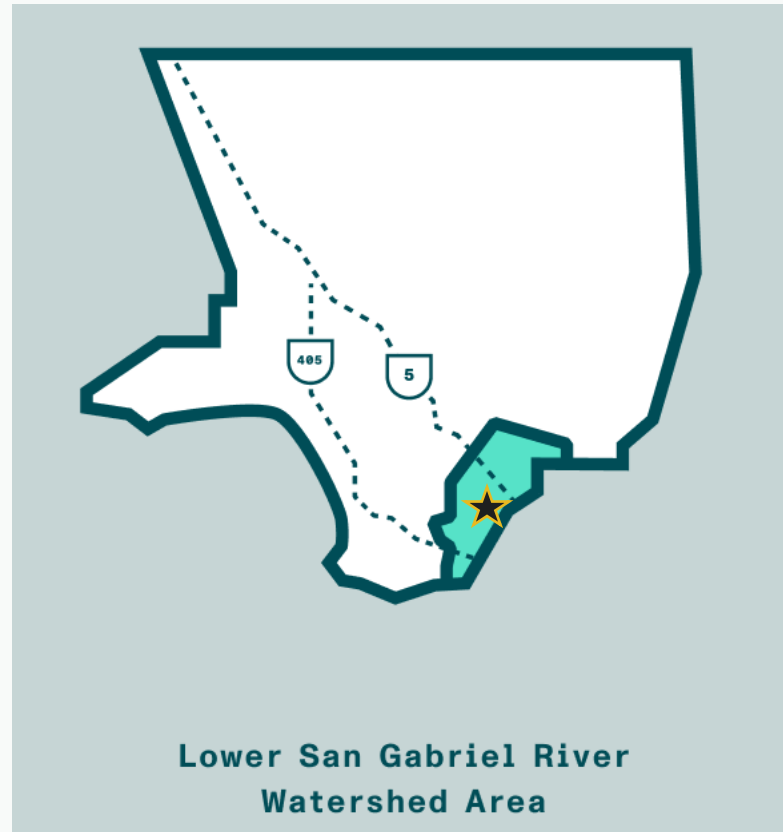
Secondary Objectives:

- **Water:** Capture and treat stormwater and evaluate infiltration/reuse.
- **People:** Increase shade, green space, outdoor learning and heat resilience in a disadvantaged community
- **Model:** Demonstrate solutions that can be replicated by LA County's education community.

Technical Resource Program Funding Request: \$400,000

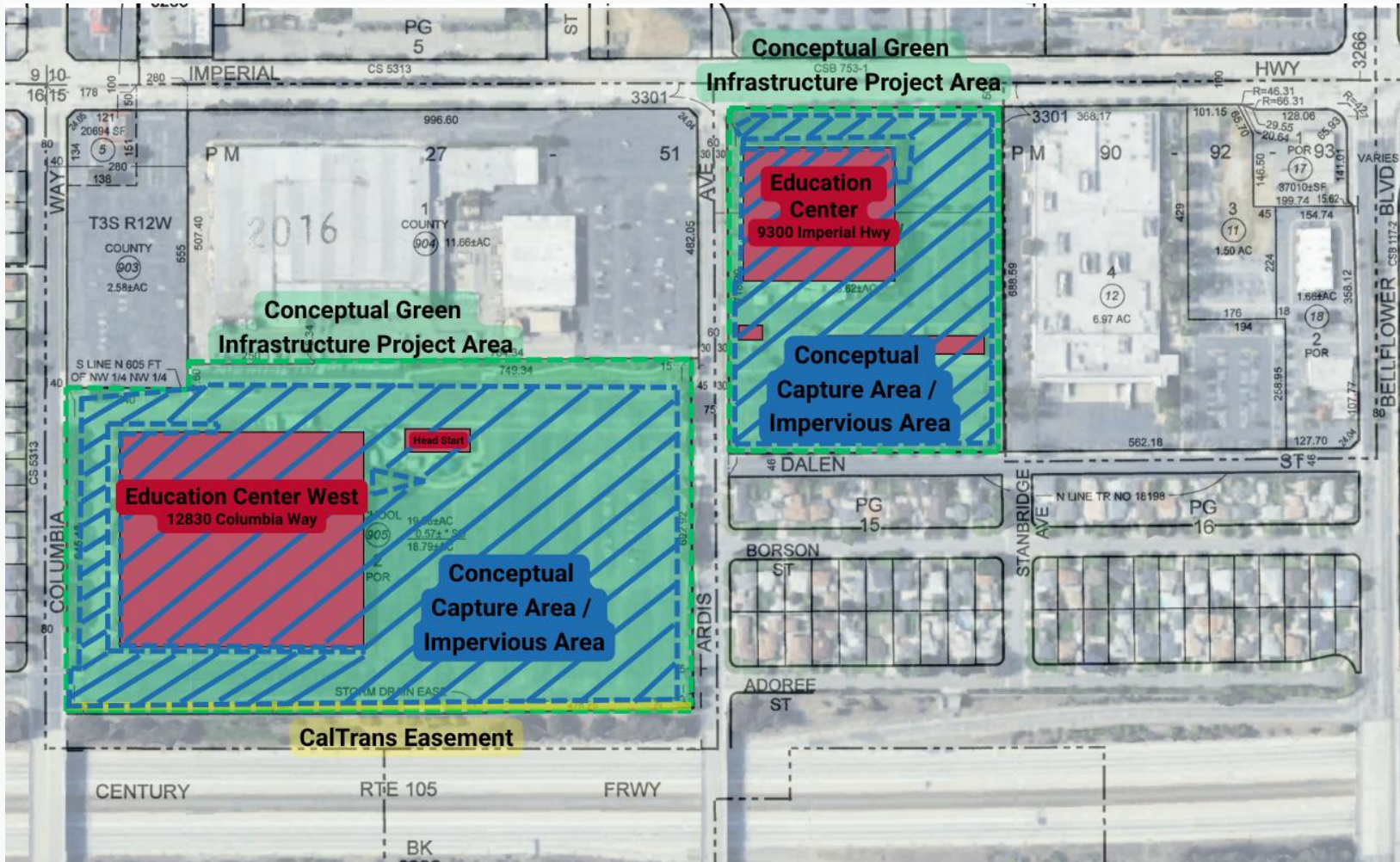
Project Location

Regional & Watershed Context



Project Location

Project Sites & Conceptual Capture Area



Municipalities Served:

Downey

Capture Area:

28 acres. Final drainage boundaries will be determined during the Feasibility Study

Addresses:

Education Center-top right
9300 Imperial Highway

Education Center West-bottom left
12830 Columbia Way

Project Location

Disadvantaged Community Context



Census Tract: 6037551800 (Population: 7,267)

Zoom to

The results for each indicator range from 0-100 and represent the percentile ranking of census tract 6037551800 relative to other census tracts.

Overall Percentiles

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile	83
Pollution Burden Percentile	94
Population Characteristics Percentile	61

Exposures

Ozone	43
Particulate Matter 2.5	82
Diesel Particulate Matter	93
Toxic Releases	94
Traffic	90
Pesticides	48
Drinking Water	34
Lead from Housing	87

Environmental Effects

Cleanup Sites	38
Groundwater Threats	64
Hazardous Waste	78
Impaired Waters	33
Solid Waste	22

Sensitive Populations

Asthma	53
Low Birth Weight	72
Cardiovascular Disease	84

Socioeconomic Factors

Education	68
Linguistic Isolation	48
Poverty	20
Unemployment	21
Housing Burden	63

Project Background

Why was the Project location selected?

The site serves as LACOE's Administration headquarters and has extensive impervious surfaces, limited tree canopy, location within a Disadvantaged Community, and a unique potential to demonstrate replicable green infrastructure for educational campuses across Los Angeles County. Why LACOE?

- 80 School Districts
- 350+ Charter Schools
- 400 Employees using the campus daily

How was the Project developed?

The concept grew from LACOE's sustainability and campus planning efforts to address extensive asphalt, limited shade, stormwater runoff, and the need for greener outdoor spaces through an integrated, multi-benefit approach.

Description of benefits to municipality/municipalities.

Advances local and watershed goals by improving stormwater management, reducing runoff and heat, expanding tree canopy and green space, and demonstrating sustainable redevelopment of highly impervious institutional sites.

Description of benefits to Disadvantaged Communities, if applicable.

Provides water quality, shade, heat mitigation, green space, and public health benefits within a Disadvantaged Community (CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score: 82.60), including benefits to Head Start students and families, campus users, and nearby residents.

Project Background



Existing parking lot of Education Center West

- Few trees and shrubs at the periphery or adjacent to buildings
- Majority is asphalt

Project Background



Existing parking lot of Education Center West

- Mature trees along Columbia Way and along "front" facade

Project Background



Existing parking lot of Education Center West

- "Back" parking lot area along Ardis lacks trees

Project Background



Existing parking lot of Education Center (building to the right)

- Few trees and shrubs at the periphery or adjacent to buildings and throughout parking lot
- Majority is asphalt

Coordination and Collaboration

Who are the implementation partners already identified?

LACOE's Head Start Program, which operates the on-site early education center and represents a key campus user and beneficiary and the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, a community-based organization that can support educational engagement and broader dissemination of project outcomes. Additional community, technical, and educational partners will be identified through the Feasibility Study.

Have you received a letter of concurrence from the underlying property owner (if needed)?

Not applicable

Have you received a letter of concurrence from the Flood Control District (if needed)?

Not yet; coordination will occur during feasibility.

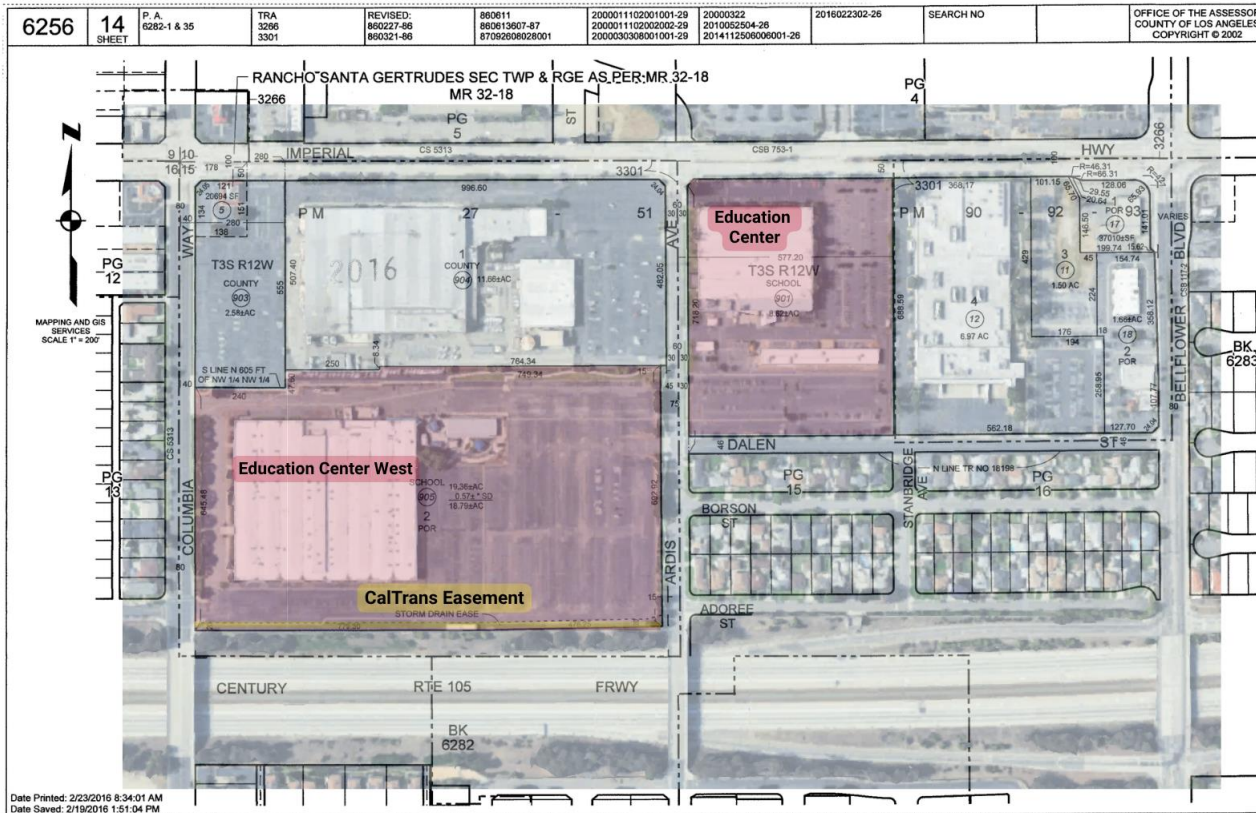
What communities or groups have expressed support for the Project via letters of support?

City of Downey has provided the required Letter of Non-Objection. GLAEF and LACOE Head Start are identified project partners; additional community support will be developed during feasibility.

Have you yet engaged the appropriate vector control district about the project concept?

Not yet; coordination will occur during feasibility.

Project Details



**Los Angeles County
Office of Education
(LACOE)**

**LACOE Green
Campus Initiative**

9300 Imperial
Highway and 12830
Columbia Way,
Downey, CA 90242

**OWNERSHIP AND
EASEMENT MAP**

**Safe Clean Water
Program – Technical
Resources Program**

**Lower San Gabriel
River Watershed**



Scale: Not to scale
Drawn by:
Laura Verbryck
5/14/26

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Existing Conditions: LACOE-owned, asphalt-dominated campuses with limited tree canopy. Caltrans easement along the south side of Education Center West.

Constraints: Active campus operations, parking, utilities, public access, future capital projects and easement coordination.

Engineering Status: No hydrology, geotechnical analysis or conceptual design completed; these will be addressed through TRP.

Alternatives: Nature-based and distributed stormwater solutions will be evaluated during feasibility.

Anticipated Schedule

MILESTONE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
Feasibility Study completion (30% design)	1/2029
60% Design and Begin CEQA	10/2029
100% Design & CEQA approved	4/2031
Construction	6/2031

Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits

- Primary Mechanisms that achieve Water Quality and Water Supply Benefits claimed
 - Nature-based infrastructure will capture, filter, and infiltrate runoff to reduce pollutant loads, while infiltration and potential irrigation reuse will be evaluated for their ability to support groundwater recharge and reduce potable water demand
- Tributary Area: 28 acres
- Wet/Dry
 - Wet Weather – the Project Concept is intended to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff generated during rain events from campus rooftops, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces
- Capacity
 - TBD – Project capacity will be determined through hydrologic modeling and conceptual design during the Feasibility Study

Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits

- Pollutant Reduction
 - TBD – Quantitative pollutant reductions will be determined through the Feasibility Study. The project is anticipated to reduce metals, bacteria, nutrients, sediment, and trash through stormwater capture, filtration, and infiltration.
- Water Supply Use (irrigation, water recycling, water supply aquifer)
 - The Feasibility Study will evaluate use of captured stormwater for onsite landscape irrigation and infiltration for potential groundwater recharge. The project is not anticipated to provide water for recycling by a wastewater treatment facility, and connection to a managed water supply aquifer has not yet been confirmed.

Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions

- Community Investment Benefits

- Stormwater Capture
- Shade & Heat Relief
- Tree Canopy
- Green Space
- Outdoor Learning
- Habitat
- Safer Pedestrian Passages

- Nature Based Solutions

- Bioretention
- Bioswales
- Permeable Surfaces
- Native Landscaping and Trees



Leveraging Funds and Community Support

- Leveraging Funds – Future SCW Infrastructure Funding
 - LACOE Capital Projects
 - Parking Lot Improvements
 - Potential Caltrans Participation
- Community Support –
 - Planned Community Engagement
 - LACOE employees
 - Head Start staff and families
 - Campus visitors
 - Neighboring Residents
 - Educational Partners
 - Continued Coordination
 - City of Downey
 - Watershed Partners
 - Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation
 - Countywide Educational Network

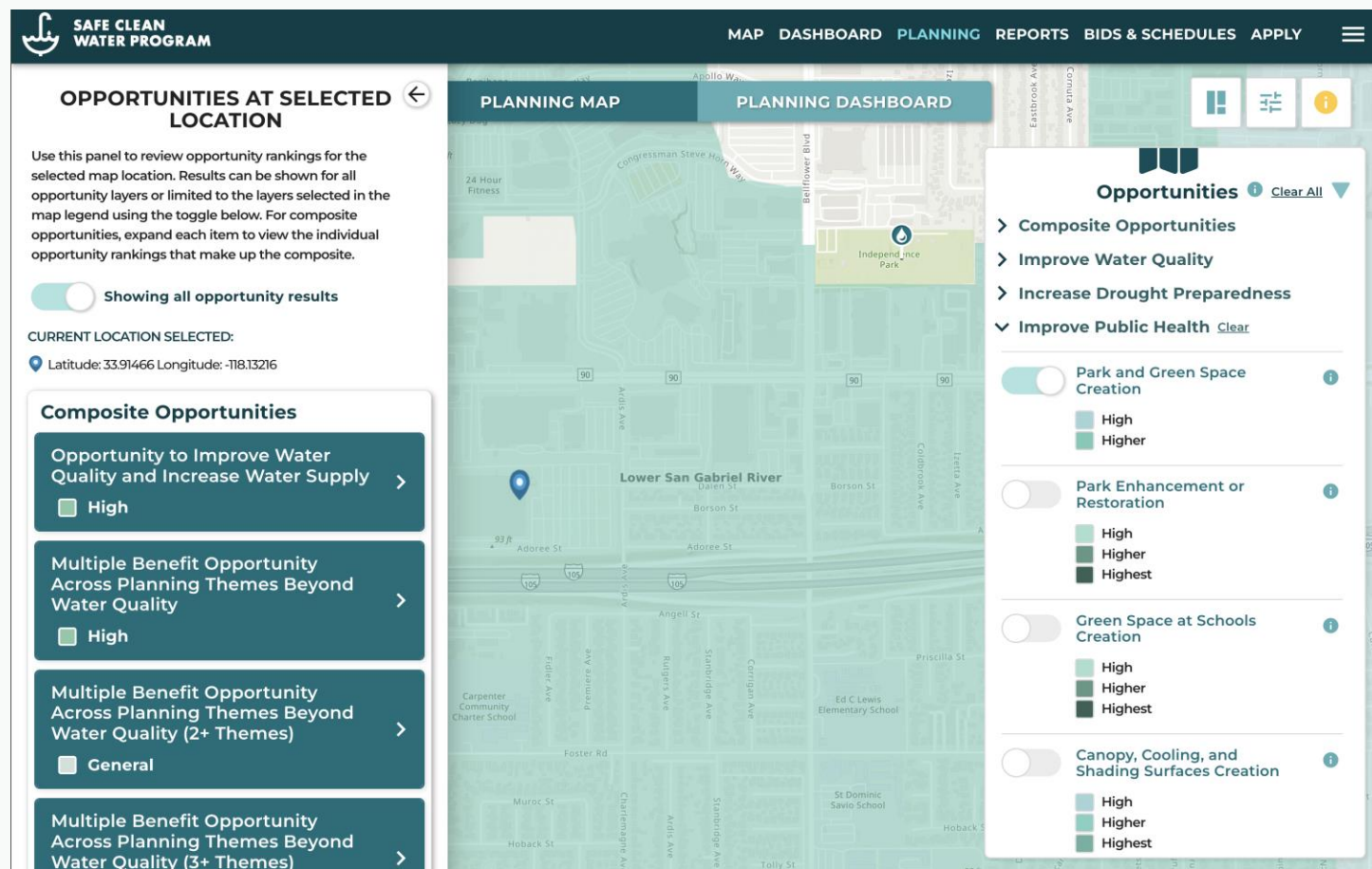
- **Strategy 2.3 – Local Water Supply:** Explore stormwater infiltration, groundwater recharge, and onsite beneficial reuse.



Watershed Planning Alignment

The **LACOE Green Campus Initiative** advances multiple LSGR Watershed Plan strategies by transforming highly impervious educational campuses into a multi-benefit demonstration of green infrastructure:

- **Strategy 3.4 – Green Space:** Convert asphalt-dominated areas into green, shaded, publicly accessible educational spaces.



Watershed Planning Alignment

LACOE Green Campus Initiative: A Regional Educational Leadership Opportunity for Watershed Planning

- **Transform impervious surfaces:** Convert asphalt-dominated educational campuses into functional green spaces.
- **Deliver multiple benefits:** Combine stormwater management with tree canopy, shade, habitat, and outdoor learning.
- **Support vulnerable populations:** Improve outdoor environments for Head Start students, families, staff, and surrounding communities.
- **Demonstrate regional solutions:** Create a model that can inform campus greening efforts across 80 school districts and more than 350 charter schools.

Thank you

QUESTIONS?

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