



TECHNICAL RESOURCES PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2027-2028

Calabasas City Fire Cistern: Rain for Calabasas

UPPER LA RIVER WATERSHED AREA

PRESENTATION DATE:
OCTOBER 7, 2026

PROJECT LEAD:

City of Calabasas
Tristan Leger



Project Overview

Determine the feasibility and capacity needs of building cisterns to capture 1.83 - 3 AF stormwater from Civic Center and Tennis and Swim Center to provide water supply for fire emergency system.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Evaluate and identify cistern storage locations at two municipal campuses to capture stormwater and provide a resilient local water source for emergency fire response.

WATER QUALITY + REUSE

Capture first-flush and rooftop runoff and evaluate on-site landscape reuse and biofiltration to reduce pollutant discharge.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Improve water-supply resilience at critical City facilities that serve as Emergency Operations Centers and cooling-center functions.

Technical Resource Program Funding Request: \$400,000

Feasibility Study Target: June 30, 2028

Project Location

TWO CITY-OWNED PROJECT SITES



SITE 1

CALABASAS CIVIC CENTER
100 Civic Center Way
City Hall • Library • Senior Center



SITE 2

TENNIS & SWIM CENTER
23400 Park Sorrento

WATERSHED CONTEXT

- Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area
- Municipality: City of Calabasas
- Approx. 68,379 sq ft / 1.83 acres impervious capture area
- Neither project site is located within a designated DAC

Two municipal campuses provide critical community and emergency-response functions.

Project Background

WHY WERE THESE SITES SELECTED?

The Civic Center and Tennis & Swim Center are critical community facilities. City Hall serves as the City Emergency Operations Center; the Library, Senior Center, and Tennis & Swim Center are cooling-center functions.

WHY THIS PROJECT?

The concept responds to the need for reliable local water during fire emergencies while capturing rooftop stormwater.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- Local fire emergency water storage
- Reduced untreated rooftop runoff to receiving waters
- Water re-use for local landscaping
- Greater resilience at critical public facilities
- Regional emergency-response value
- Potential biofiltration of received waters

DAC Consideration: Calabasas is not classified as a DAC; however, these public facilities serve residents and visitors from across the region, including people who may be disadvantaged. The Civic Center also serves an important regional emergency-response function. During the Palisades Fire, the Calabasas Civic Center was used as an Emergency Operations Center for City of Malibu staff.

Coordination and Collaboration

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

City of Calabasas — Project Lead
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Los Angeles County Fire Department
ULAR and NSMB Watershed Coordinators

PROPERTY / RIGHT-OF-WAY

The City owns the proposed project sites; separate property-owner concurrence is not required. No LACFCD infrastructure, facilities, or right-of-way are anticipated to be impacted.

DOCUMENTED SUPPORT

Letters of support were submitted from Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

FUTURE COORDINATION

Appropriate coordination can be incorporated during feasibility and design.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Storage feasibility • updated soil/geotechnical studies • preliminary hydrology and hydraulics • project design • development of a future SCWP Infrastructure Program application

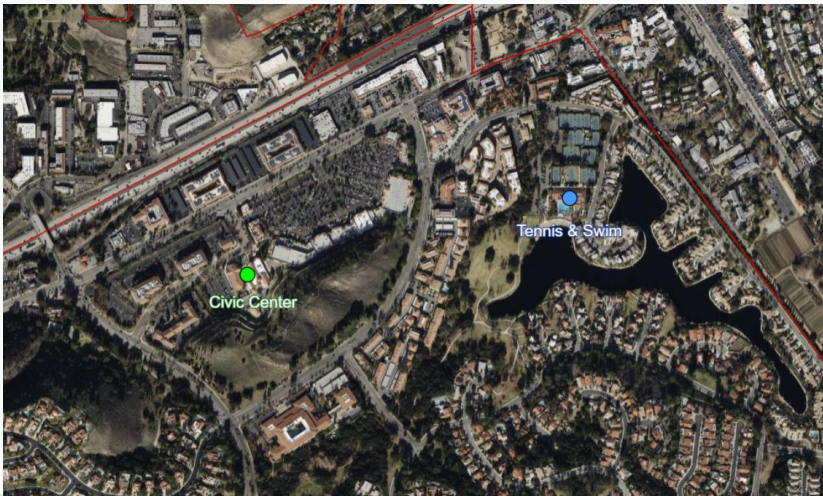
Project Details

The proposed project includes cistern storage to capture stormwater from rooftops at:

- Calabasas Civic Center campus
- Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center

The project intends to capture first-flush runoff from rooftops. Stored water would be used for emergency fire response and periodically used for site landscaping, providing a biofiltration treatment pathway.

Final locations will depend on soil, hydrology, hydraulics, safety, adjacent-property considerations, and detailed engineering.



Anticipated Schedule

MILESTONE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
30% Design	06/2028
60% Design	12/2028
ROW Acquisition (if required)	06/2029
CEQA Clearance	06/2029
90% Design	06/2029
100% Design	12/2029
Construction Begins	06/2030
Construction Completed	11/2030

Note: Milestones and estimated costs will be evaluated and further developed by the Technical Assistance Team.

Water Quality & Water Supply Benefits

1.83 ACRES

Impervious tributary area

WET

Weather configuration

1.83–3 AF

Conceptual storage range*

14 IN./YR

Average annual rainfall

WATER QUALITY

- Capture first-flush rooftop runoff before discharge toward the LA River headwaters / local creek and storm drain system.
- Capture rooftop detritus: pollutants of concern include ash, aerial deposition, smog-related pollutants, heavy metals, PAHs, particulates and nitrates.
- Potential landscape release allows soil and vegetation to provide biofiltration benefits.

WATER SUPPLY + FIRE RESILIENCE

- Maintain a local stored-water source at critical public facilities for emergency fire response.
- Evaluate grid-independent pumping and distribution so stored water can remain accessible during emergencies.
- Feasibility will confirm final capacity, emergency reserve, operating rules and any landscape-reuse configuration.

** Final storage capacity to be confirmed during feasibility.*

Fire Resilience & Benefits

WHY FIRE RESILIENCY MATTERS

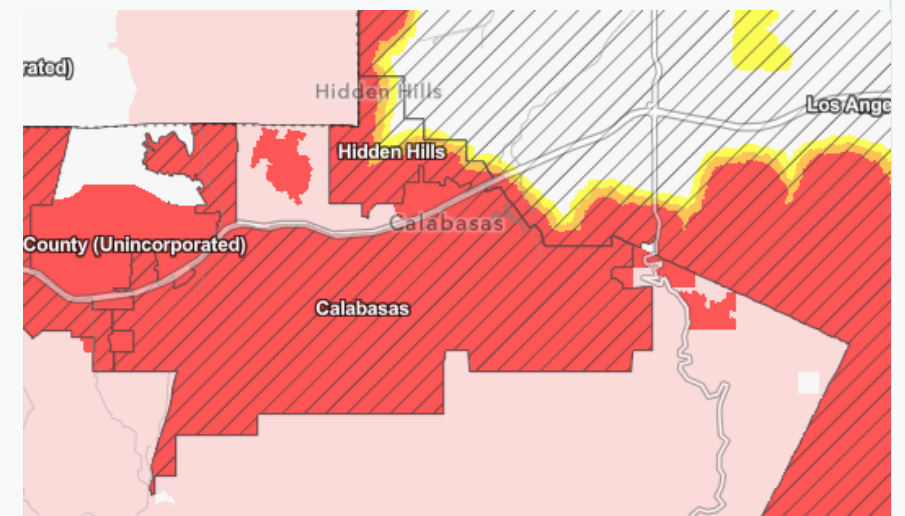
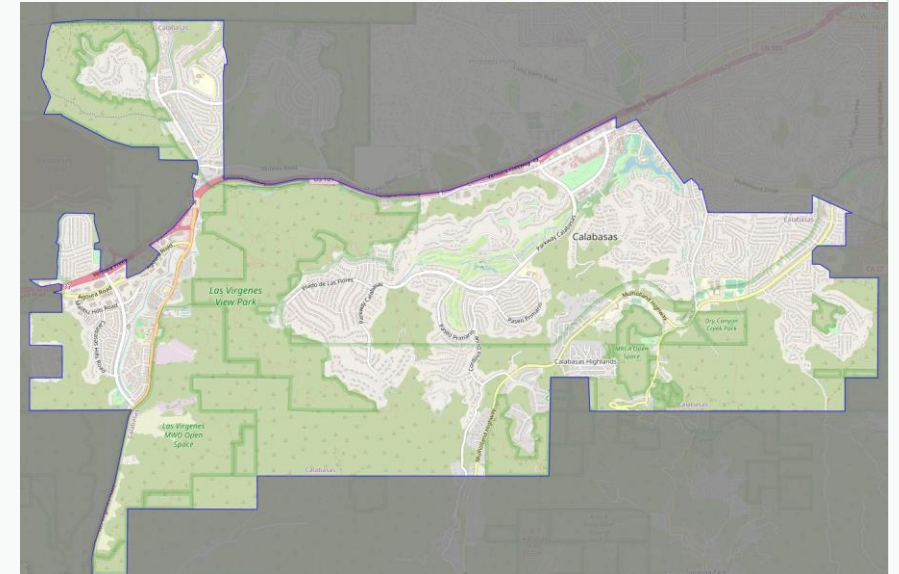
Calabasas sits in a very high fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) according to CalFire, with over 50% of the City's footprint being open space.

Recent fires that have impacted the City of Calabasas:

- 2025: Palisades Fire
- 2018: Woolsey Fire
- 2007: Corral Fire and Canyon Fire
- 1996: Calabasas Fire

BENEFITS

Provide local, emergency fire prevention for the City Emergency Operations Center and Cooling Center locations.

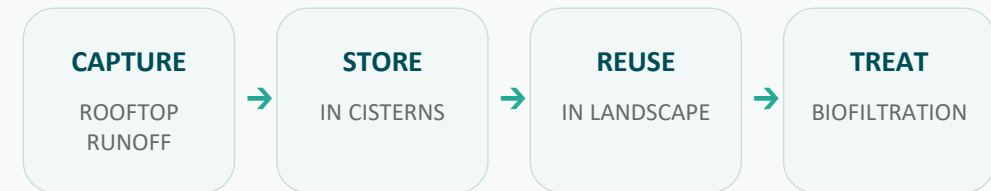


Community Investment Benefits and Nature Based Solutions

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BENEFITS

- Increase public safety and fire resilience by storing a local emergency water source at critical City facilities.
- Support Emergency Operations Center and cooling-center functions during extreme events.
- Address community concerns identified in the application, including climate-change impacts and air quality.
- Explore additional trees, pollinator plants and California native landscaping where feasible.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



- Stored stormwater can be released through on-site irrigation.
- Landscaping and soil function as the biofiltration mechanism.
- California native plants will be explored where construction affects landscaping.

Leveraging Funds and Community Support

LEVERAGING FUNDS

- No confirmed external funding match is identified in the submitted application.
- CalFIRE funding for pumps/cisterns was explored but is not currently available; Proposition 4 funding was also explored.
- The City will continue pursuing supplemental funding and intends to pursue SCWP Infrastructure Program funding based on the feasibility study findings.
- SCWP Municipal Program return funds are being considered as a potential future O&M source.

COMMUNITY + PARTNER SUPPORT

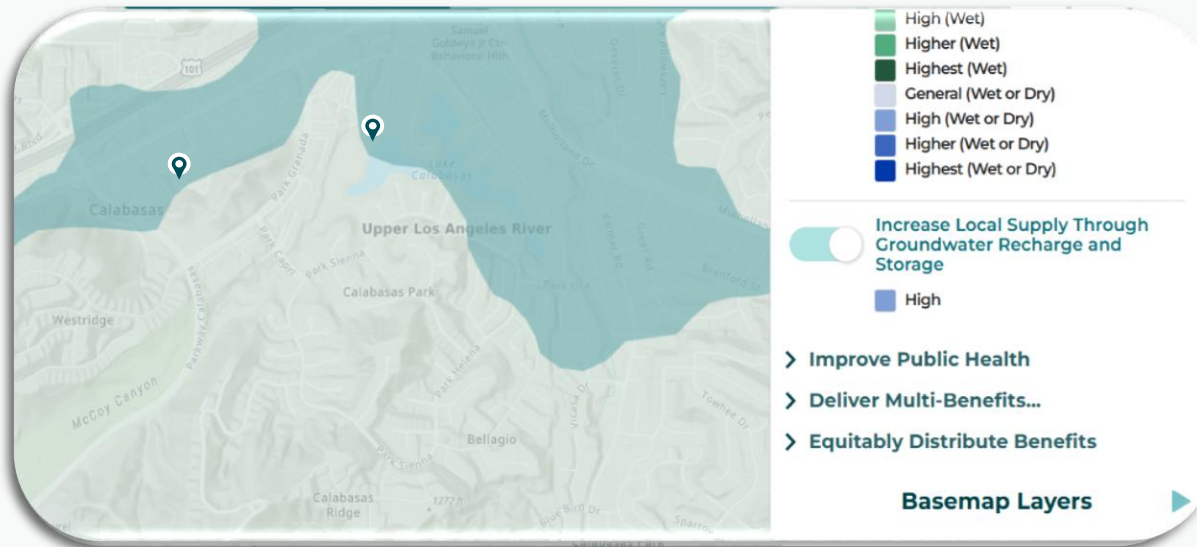
- Letters of support from Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Local research by ARLA has advanced regional interest in distributed cistern storage.
- Watershed Coordinators have supported project development and will plan additional public outreach with the City/ other municipalities.
- The City plans to share project information through its engineering website and continue LA County Fire coordination so the design supports emergency-response needs.

Watershed Planning Alignment

Upper Los Angeles River Initial Watershed Plan

HIGHEST • 3+ THEMES

PLANNING TOOL MAP — PROJECT LOCATIONS



HOW THE PROPOSED PROJECT ALIGNS

1 Improve Water Quality 1.1-1.2

Capture first-flush and post-fire rooftop pollutants; treat stored runoff through landscape biofiltration.

2 Increase Drought Preparedness + Local Supply 2.1-2.4

Maximize stormwater capture for emergency fire supply and onsite reuse.

3 Improve Public Health + Fire-Adapted NBS 3.3, 4.2-4.3

Support EOC/cooling-center sites located in extreme heat and fire prone areas; pair local water storage with biofiltration native landscaping as a Nature Based Solution.

SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES IN MAPPING TOOL Water quality + supply • Bacteria & phosphorus reduction • Stormwater capture • Canopy / cooling / shading

ADDITIONAL THEMES Leverage Funding & Invest in R&D (5.1) • Promote Green Jobs (7.1) • Ensure Ongoing O&M (8.1–8.4) • Prioritize Meaningful engagement (9.1–9.3)

Thank you

QUESTIONS?

City of Calabasas
Tristan Leger