

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Santa Clara River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Thursday, January 16, 2020  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room  
23920 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, CA, 91355

#### **Attendees:**

##### Committee Members Present:

Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)  
Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies)  
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)  
Darren Hernandez (Santa Clarita)  
Bruce Hamamoto\* (LA County Public Works)  
Julian Juarez (District)  
Steve Cole (Santa Clarita Valley Water District)

Heather Merenda (Santa Clarita)  
Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)  
Tom Cole (Santa Clarita)  
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)  
Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)  
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)  
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

All committee members and the public stood up for the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

All committee members made self-introductions and quorum was established.

Mr. Darren Hernandez introduced Ms. Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council) as Mr. Wayne Crawford's (Santa Clarita Concrete) replacement in the committee.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2019**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Darren Hernandez asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Mr. Steve Cole requested that we include first names in the meeting minutes. Sandra requested that in future meetings an additional Public Comment Period agenda item is included after presentations from project applicants are given.

Mr. Darren Hernandez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 18, 2019 with the revisions noted above. Ms. Kristen Ruffell seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from December 18, 2019 (unanimous).**

### **3. Committee Member and District Updates and Disclosures**

District staff provided a summary of the Infrastructure Projects, Technical Resources and Scientific Studies received for FY 20-21. The District also noted there were no updates on current status for the conflict of

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interest and ex parte communication guidance documents and the Watershed Coordinators/funding transfer agreement.

No committee member updates or disclosures.

#### 4. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

Mr. Darren Hernandez received a Public Comment Form for agenda item #5.b) Discussion Items – Presentation.

#### 5. Discussion Items

##### a) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts and scientific studies submitted for Santa Clara River WASC for consideration.

District staff provided a copy of the Overview of Project Submittals for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 for Santa Clara River WASC consideration.

District staff provided an overview of the current status of project submittals: two (2) to the Infrastructure Program, zero (0) to the Technical Resources Program, and one (1) to the Scientific Studies Program.

Ms. Heather Merenda asked how the District will be quantifying or tracking the benefits of the Program to ensure its meeting the goals. Mr. Mike Antos responded that District is working methods to measure items that are quantifiable and hoping it can be available before the WASC has to develop the Stormwater Investment Plan. He also noted it will ultimately be a qualitative assessment by made by this committee.

Ms. Sandra Cattell requested additional map features on the Overview of Project Submittals handout, including: blue line streams, major streets, that city boundaries, County boundary, disadvantaged communities, and tributaries. District staff said that the features were discussed and noted at a previous Santa Clarita WASC meeting and will maybe be available to view online after the end of the month.

Mr. Darren Hernandez requested that District staff notify the committee when the map is available. District staff concurred. Mr. Mike Antos noted that a draft version could be made available the next meeting.

##### b) Presentation

**Newhall Park Infiltration (Infrastructure Program Project, No. 34) – 20 acre feet underground detention gallery to capture storm water under an existing park – Mr. Oliver Cramer, City of Santa Clarita.**

Mr. Oliver Cramer provided a PowerPoint presentation of his project submittal to the Infrastructure Program to the committee.

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A member of the public asked about supplemental funding for the proposed project and, if so, requested to receive updates on how much money will be supplemented. Also, asked if this project is being proposed to meet a regulatory compliance deadline. Mr. Oliver Cramer responded that the City of Santa Clarita is planning to use municipal funds to supplement the project and the project will supplement a portion of the 60 acre-feet the City needs to comply with.

The same member of the public asked if developers within the project's watershed will be exempt from discharge requirements after the project is constructed. Also, she expressed concern that the existing open area watershed is zoned for industrial and residential development and This would impact the hydrology at full buildout She would like to see updated hydrology for existing and full buildout. Mr. Oliver Cramer noted the City of Santa Clarita does not foresee the developers being exempted from their regulatory discharge requirements and Mr. Oliver Cramer took note hydrologic and hydraulic of the concern.

Ms. Sandra Cattell expressed concern on the duration of construction and maintenance after construction that will close the park for its many users. Ms. Cattell is also expressed concerns on why this project excluded runoff from another watershed that is known for flooding. Mr. Oliver Cramer responded that construction could take about a year. Maintenance of the infiltration gallery would have to be cleaned every 5 years and Ms. Heather Merenda added that there are ways to minimize construction time through parallel timelines between construction and design.

Ms. Sandra Cattell asked Oliver at what level will the project include educational efforts at the park? Mr. Oliver Cramer said there will be a high level of educational efforts based on the nature-based solutions of the project using placards and signage.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked at what percent design is the project at. Mr. Oliver Cramer said about 10% design plans.

Mr. Dirk Marks expressed his appreciation for the local water supply and quality efforts of the proposed project.

Mr. Julian Juarez asked that Mr. Oliver Cramer get conceptual approval from the Los Angeles Flood Control District about the two proposed connections to County-owned storm drains.

## 6. Voting Items

### a) **Send completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration**

District staff recommended this action for all WASC committees due to the expedited timeline. After Scoring Committee review, the WASC will still be able to discuss the project before being programmed into the Stormwater Investment Plan and receive presentations in February.

The Committee voted to approve sending completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration (unanimous).

Ms. Kristen Ruffell requested that the Santa Clara WASC discuss on the methodology of choosing projects within the committee. The committee decided to discuss this topic during the next WASC meeting.

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## 7. Meeting Adjourned

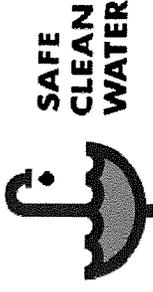
Mr. Hernandez thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, January 23, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room  
23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA 91355**

# Santa Clara River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

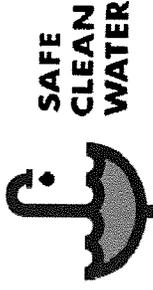


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	<i>Julian Juarez</i>
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Steve Cole	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	scole@scvwa.org	
Rick Viergutz	Santa Clara Valley Water Agency	rviergutz@scvwa.org	
Janine Prado	City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	JPRADO@santa-clarita.com	<i>Janine Prado</i>
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita	tpledger@santa-clarita.com	<i>Tyler Pledger</i>
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsds.org	<i>Kristen Ruffell</i>
Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts	mtremblay@lacsds.org	
Dirk Marks	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	dmarks@scvwa.org	<i>Dirk Marks</i>
Mike Alvord	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	malvord@scvwa.org	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery	hbraly@poole-shaffery.com	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council	maryjohnson767@gmail.com	<i>Mary Johnson</i>
Jason Gibbs	GP Strategies	jgibbs@gpstrategies.com	<i>Jason Gibbs</i>
Frederick Andre Hollings	CA Department of Tax and Fee Administration	fahollings1@gmail.com	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	zuliebear@aol.com	<i>Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel</i>

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Heidi Webber	Community Hiking Club	hwebber50@gmail.com	A
Sandra Cattell	Sierra Club	sumcatt@yahoo.com	P
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A
Paul Alva	Los Angeles County	PALVA@dpw.lacounty.gov	P
Mark Lombos	Los Angeles County	MLOMBOS@dpw.lacounty.gov	A
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	BHAMAMO@dpw.lacounty.gov	A
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	AMA@dpw.lacounty.gov	A
Darren Hernandez	Santa Clarita	dhernandez@santa-clarita.com	P
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita	Dseegmiller@santa-clarita.com	A
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita	HMERENDA@santa-clarita.com	P
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A
Robert Newman	Santa Clarita	rnewman@santa-clarita.com	P
Mike Hennawy	Santa Clarita	mhennawy@santa-clarita.com	A
Tom Cole	Santa Clarita	tcole@santa-clarita.com	P
David Peterson	Santa Clarita	Dpeterson@santa-clarita.com	A



# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

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Oliver Cramer, Project Coordinator  
City of Santa Clarita

Renovating an old park in the heart of a DAC with underground chambers capable of capturing 20 AF storm water, filter-out pollutants, and recharge ground water

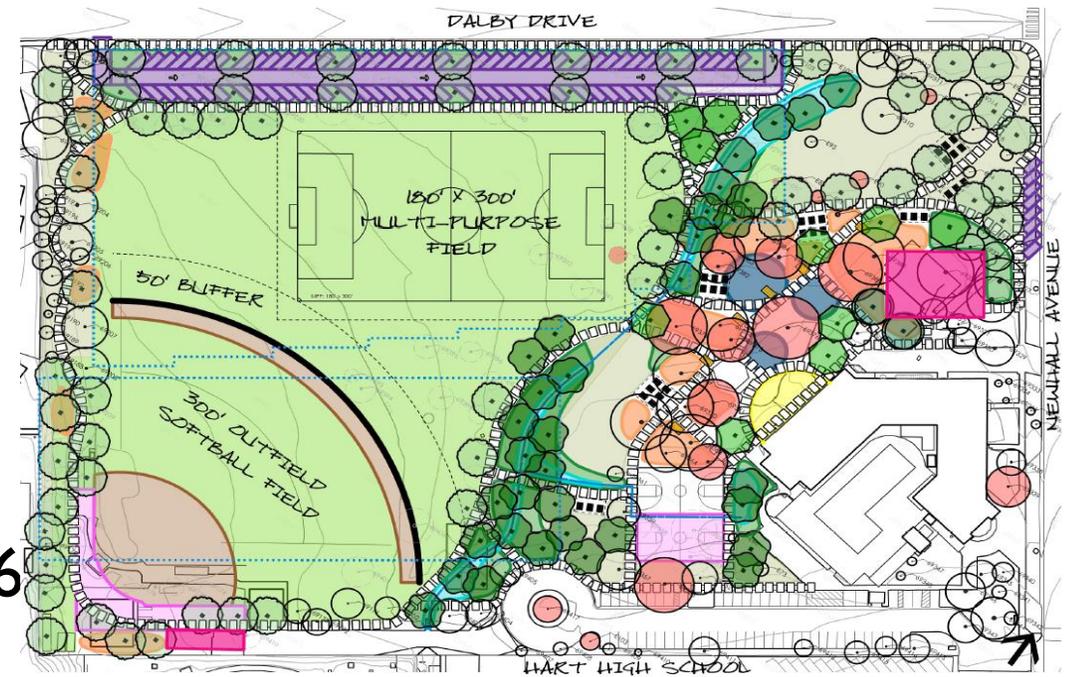


An older park reimagined to serve the Newhall community, with multiple water benefits

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

## Why this? Why here?

- Improves storm water quality in Reach 6
- Captures pollutants for the entire drainage area
- Replenishes local ground water
- Reduces risk of flooding
- Enhances and revitalizes an old park
- Positively affects a DAC neighborhood

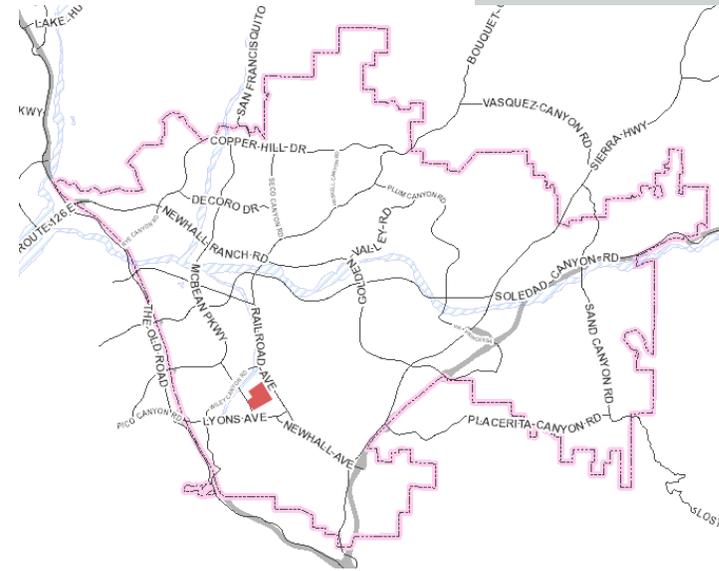
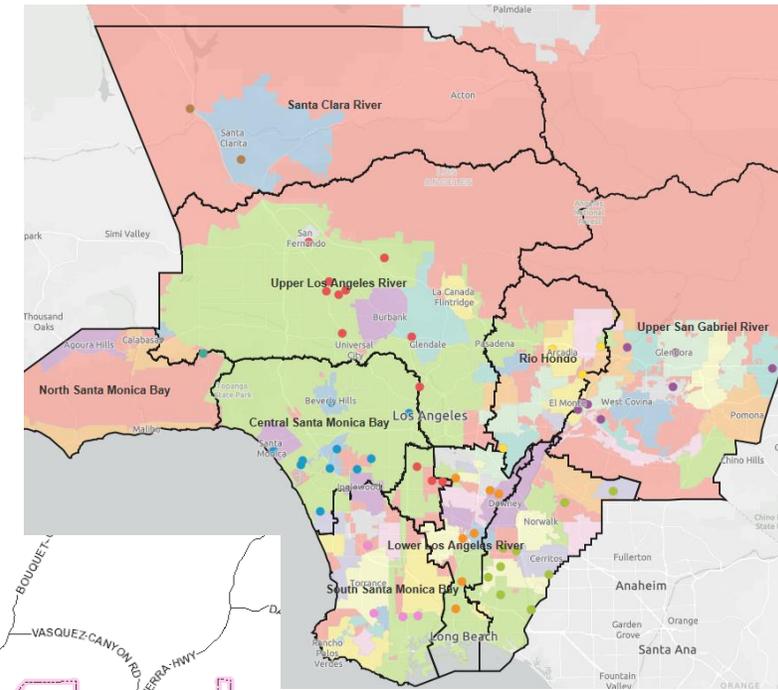


The old park is inefficient,  
but has so much potential

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

## Project Location

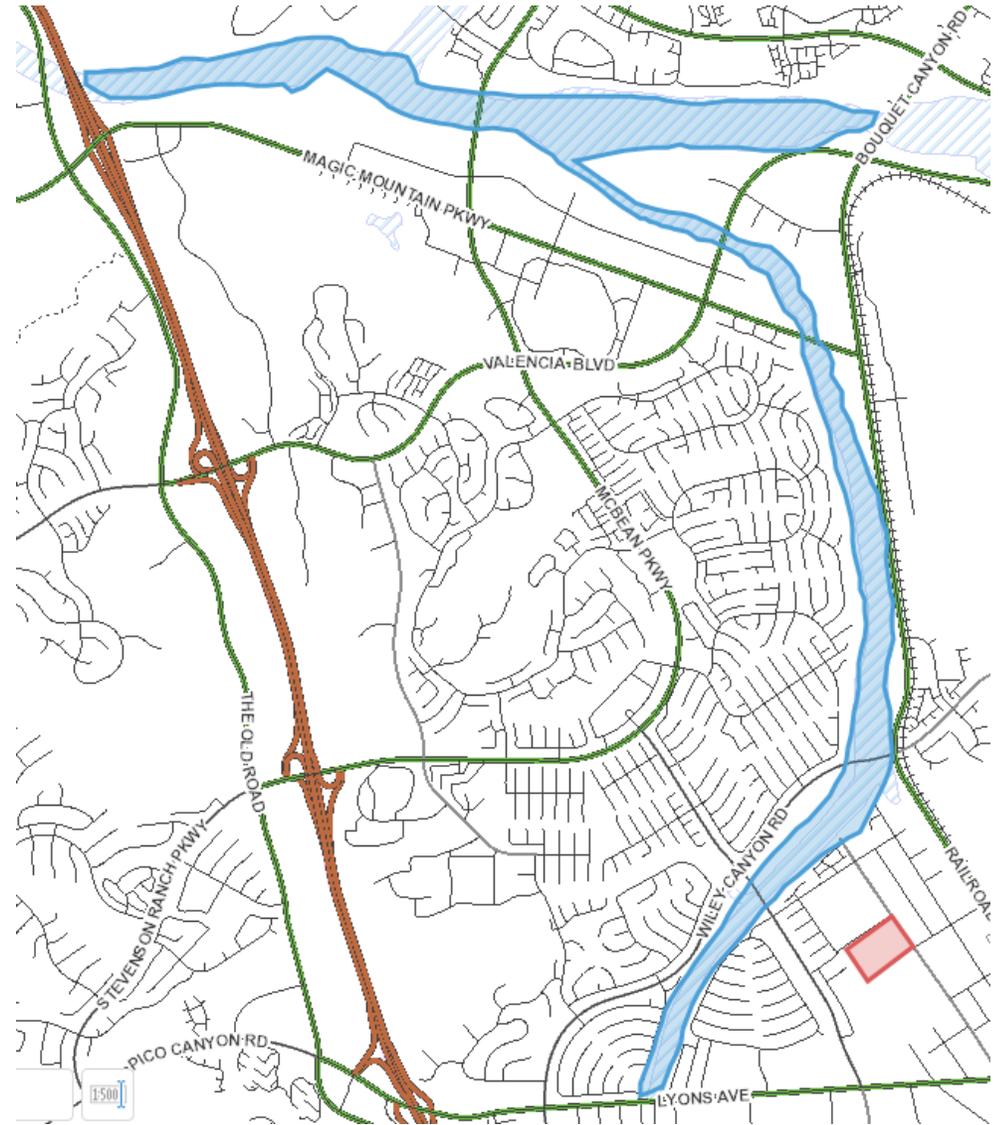
- Santa Clara River Watershed
- City of Santa Clarita
- 24923 Newhall Avenue
- Owner: City of Santa Clarita



# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

Improves storm water quality in  
Reach 6 of the Santa Clara River

- Bacteria
- Zinc
- Chloride
- Nitrates and Nitrites

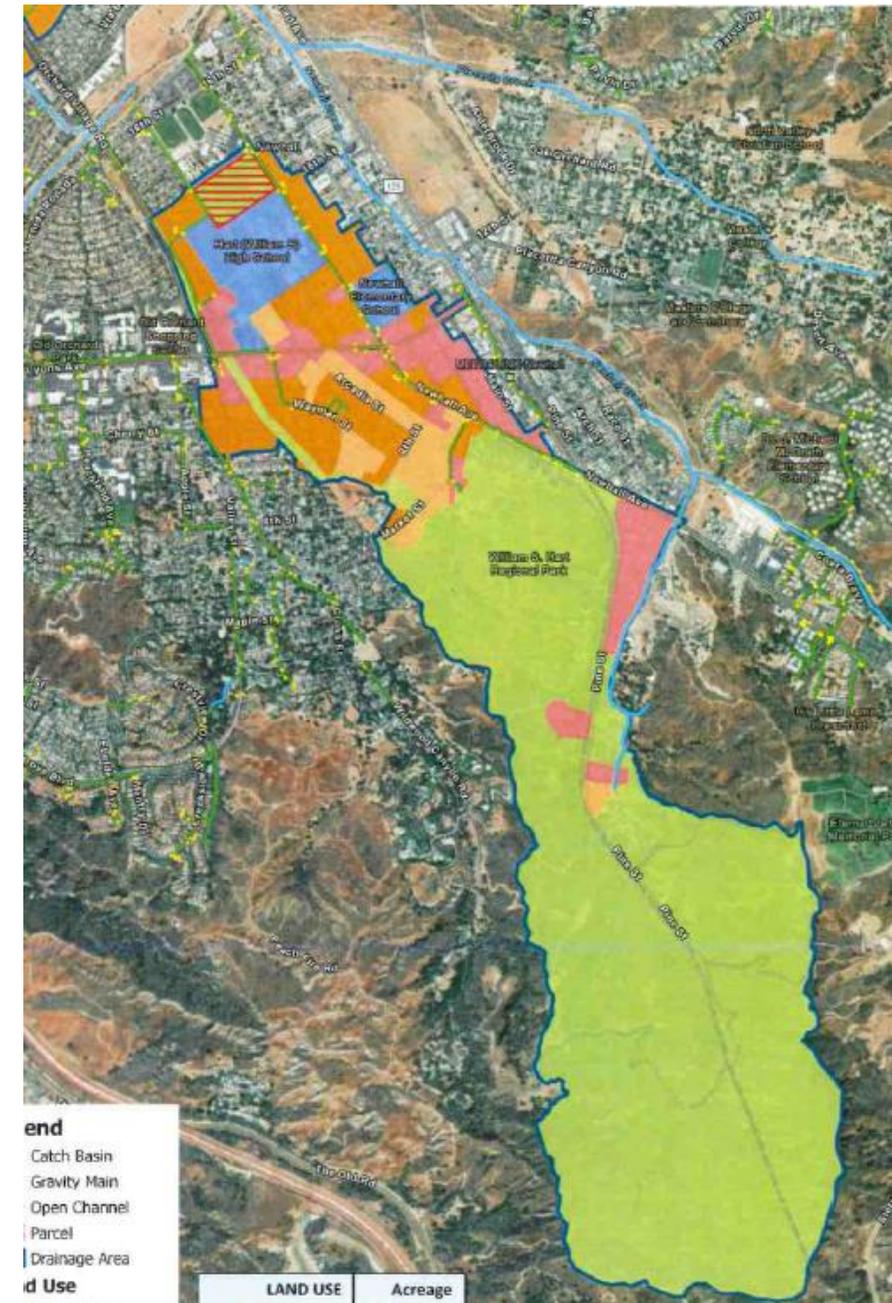


# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

Captures pollutants

Drainage Area Addressed

- Single Family Residential
- Multi Family Residential
- Commercial
- Institutional
- Open Space



# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

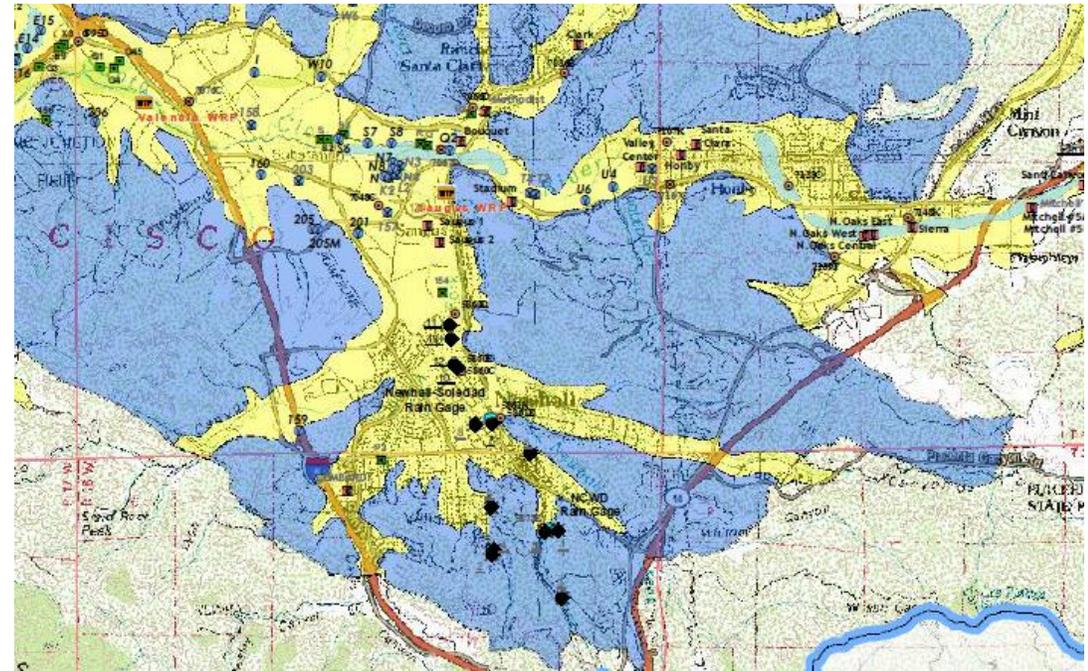
## Newhall Disadvantaged Community

- Annual median household income that is <80% percent State average
- 1,693 households are DAC

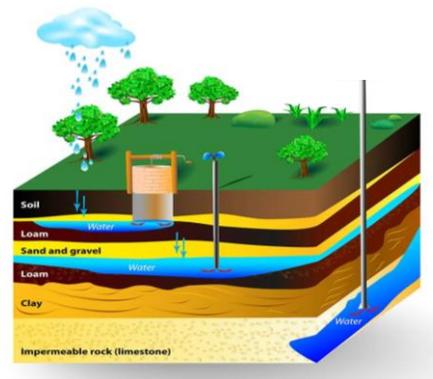
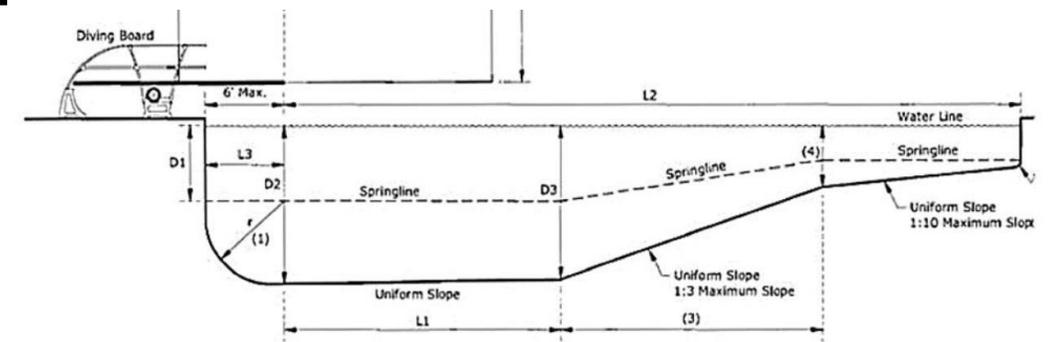


Located in the heart of the  
Newhall DAC

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project



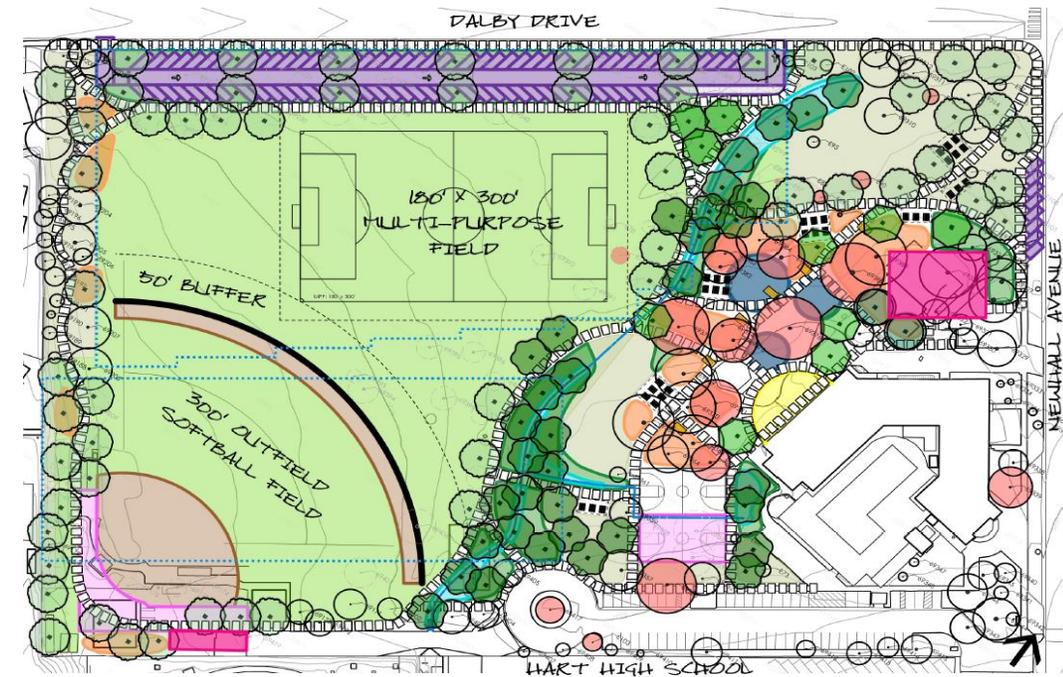
Replenishes local groundwater  
~20 acre-feet available capacity  
~147 acre-ft per year of storm water  
Depth to groundwater is >55 feet  
Infiltration galleys are 20 feet



# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

## Redesign and Refresh the Park

- New Multi-Purpose field
- Family-gathering/shade areas
- Enhanced multi-purpose room
- Educational areas

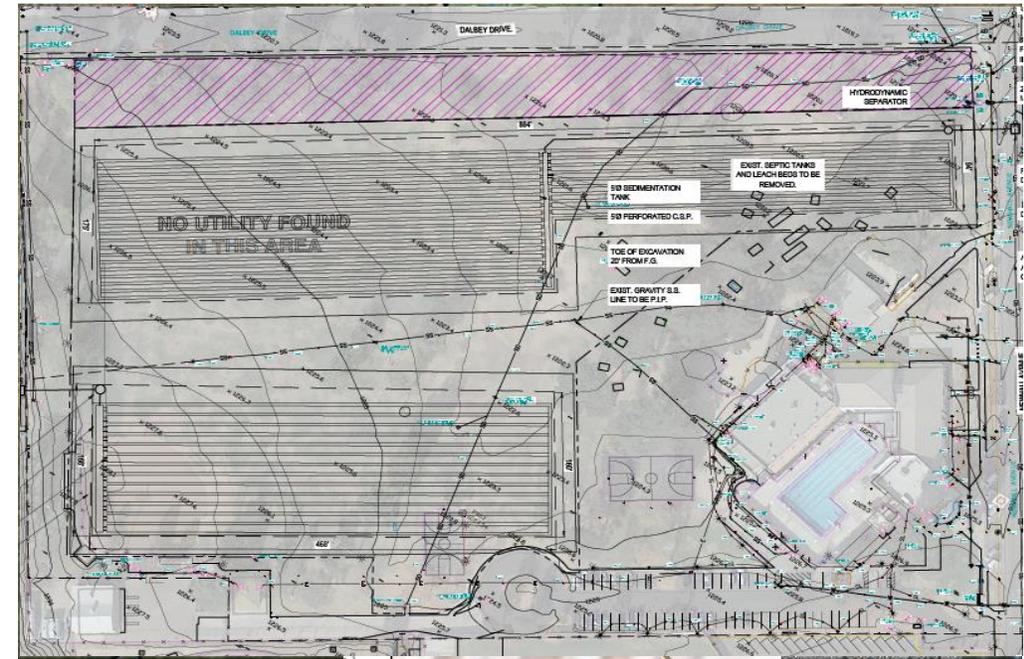


Redesigned with the  
community in mind

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project

## Alternatives Considered

- Other Parks
- Smaller storage capacity
- UV treatment for bacteria only
- Reroute storm water to sewer for treatment



- ✓ Pollutants captured from storm water
- ✓ Replenish groundwater
- ✓ Water storage opportunity
- ✓ Park improvement for a DAC

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project



Corrugated Metal Pipe – infiltration galleys to be located under the field turf

## Operation & Maintenance

- Bi-annual vacuor of main grit chamber
- 5 year vacuor of infiltration galleys
- Seasonal trimming of vegetation

## Stakeholder Coordination

- City of Santa Clarita
- Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- Santa Clarita Valley Water Company

Natural percolation allows the soil to filter pollutants, and the water to replenish the aquifer.  
Design keeps O&M low

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project



## New Park Landscape

- Multi-Purpose Field turf
- Native Species
- Shade Trees

## Making Drainage a Nature-based Solution

- Mimics the Santa Clara River
- Soft bottom, meandering design slows the flow
- Native species vegetation used
- Potential educational opportunity

The new Drainage Feature will  
be like our Santa Clara River:  
Dry when Dry, Wet when Wet

# Newhall Park Infiltration Project



- **Project Cost:**
  - Infiltration facility: \$18.3 million
  - Park improvements: \$8-\$17 million
- **Funding Requested**
  - **Potential Funding Sources**
    - Safe Clean Water, Regional – up to \$3M 2020
      - Future additional funding requests anticipated
    - Proposition I grant, IRWMP - \$3M 2020
    - Proposition I grant, stormwater - \$3M 2020
    - Safe Clean Water, Municipal
- **Schedule Overview**
  - Feasibility Studies – January 2020
  - CEQA Documentation – September 2020
  - Permits – November 2020
  - Design - November 2020
  - Construction – January 2021 – June 2022

The infiltration system will be out of sight.  
Less pollutants in Reach 6.  
Increases local groundwater.  
The old park will be redesigned and refreshed for the community