Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes:
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Long Beach City Hall, Beach Conference Room, 2nd Floor
411 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802

Attendees

Committee Members
Dan Sharp (District)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)
Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)
Nick Jiles (Páo Strategies)
Marybeth Vergara* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)
James Vernon (Port of Long Beach)
Erica Maceda* (River in Action)
Gladis Deras (South Gate)
Carlos Moran* (TreePeople)
Dan Mueller (Downey)
Melissa You (Long Beach)
Gina Nila (Commerce)
Noe Martinez* (Lynwood)
Kelli Tunnicliff (Signal Hill)
Meredith Reynolds* (Long Beach Parks and Recreation)

Committee Members Not Present:
Kevin Wattier (Central Basin)
Adriana Figueroa (Paramount)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. James Vernon, the Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River WASC, called the meeting to order.

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Vernon asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Ms. Gladis Deras informed the group that she called into the January 14, 2020 meeting (she was marked under "Committee Members Not Present"). The District noted this, but still consider this an absence.

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2020 with the revision noted above. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2020 (unanimous).**

3. Committee Member and District Updates and Disclosures

a) Regional Watershed Coordinator Updates

Mr. Mike Antos (District Consultant) shared that his team is giving a presentation at the Regional Oversight Committee Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2020 on how to comply with benefitting

disadvantaged communities (DAC) and that the Safe, Clean Water GIS Reference Map, a digital spatial resource library, is now available on the Safe Clean Water (SCW) website.

b) Scoring Committee Update

Mr. CJ Caluag (District) announced that the Safe, Clean Water Scoring Committee met on January 21, 2020, and out of the approximately one-third of the projects scored, about half of the projects did not provide sufficient information to be scored. The outcome of the Scoring Committee results can be found in the meeting minutes in the Safe, Clean Water Program website. Project applicants who's project was not able to be scored will be able to amend their application in order for the Scoring Committee to review and score their project at a future meeting.

Mr. Caluag added that the Compton Boulevard Et. Al. Project passed the minimum scoring threshold and that the scoring result for the Furman Park Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project is to be determined due to issues with the water quality scoring.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

5. Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Guidelines

The District provided copies of the Ex Parte Communication Guidelines, announced that they were available on the Safe, Clean Water website, and reminded the Committee that any communication with any person about information which would influence a project(s) must be disclosed. Essentially, they are to help make the Regional Program as fair as possible.

Mr. Caluag added that other WASCs have had questions on what discussions are allowed and prohibited. The District will take written questions via e-mail, which can then be addressed by the Los Angeles County Counsel (Counsel).

Ms. Kelli Tunnicliff expressed concern with the many on-going communications in various other meetings/forums and believes the Ex Parte Communication Guidelines are a legal matter and that further discussion and direction is needed from Counsel. District staff will have ongoing discussion with Counsel on this matter.

Ms. Gina Nila expressed she has discussions on these projects regularly at work and agreed with Ms. Tunnicliff about getting more clarification on the matter.

b) Watershed Priorities

Mr. Vernon stated that at the last WASC meeting, the group discussed identifying and developing watershed priorities when developing the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). The intent of the SCW Program is to improve water quality, water supply and DACs.

A committee member stated that there are a lot of cities in the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR), and asked how funding is appropriated. Mr. Antos responded that the District estimated that the LLAR will receive $8.2 million for the Regional Program. In each watershed, the DAC figures is determined first

and removed from the allocated funding, with the remaining funding going to municipal projects. It will be imperative to have the SC and the watershed coordinator work closely together.

The committee discussed how project models seeking permit credit/compliance will need to work closely with the Regional Board, and that the purpose of the WASC is to make the best decisions for the watershed.

Mr. Vernon asked when the actual, final regional funding figures be available. Mr. Caluag stated that it is hard to say due to appeals, credits and reductions and that those applications will not be finished until June, which is after the SIP will be developed. Because of this, Mr. Caluag recommended that the Committee decide not to spend the maximum funds that may be allocated to the WASC.

Mr. Vernon asked the Committee how much the group would want to spend of the maximum funds that are allocated (i.e., 50 percent or 75 percent or other). Ms. Lyndsey Bloxom asked what happens to the unspent funds, and Mr. Vernon's response was that any unspent funds will roll over to the next fiscal year.

Mr. Carlos Moran recommended that another part of prioritizing the needs of the LLAR watershed includes discussing the types of projects the Committee would want to include in the SIP. He asked the Committee if a multi-benefit, nature-based project would want to be prioritized. Ms. Kristen Ruffell responded that right now, the priorities are water quality and water supply, with the other elements (i.e., nature-based) being secondary/tie-breakers. She mentioned that cost benefiting and engineering constraints will also need to be considered.

Mr. Dan Sharp added that it will be harder for projects proposed in the LLAR watershed to increase water supply compared to project proposed in other watersheds.

Ms. Marybeth Vergara added that the Committee will need to find a way on how to consider large and small projects. She reminded the Committee that small projects that do not have matching funds will need to be given funding consideration. The District reminded the group that projects that do not qualify for the Infrastructure Program funding can be recommended by the Committee to go into the Technical Resources Program (TRP), with an estimated $1.3 million as the 10 percent appropriation for TRP efforts.

The Committee and District staff discussed the funding behind the District providing technical resources to a project in the TRP to ultimately develop a feasibility study appropriate for the Infrastructure Program submittal. The District reminded the Committee that funds will come out of the District funds if it goes over the flat rate, and money will go back into WASC funds if it is less.

Mr. Vernon asked if the group needs to vote on watershed priorities, or if priorities will take shape as the scores are issued. Additionally, Mr. Vernon asked the group if it wants to vote on a percent of the allocated funds (i.e., 50 percent or 75 percent or other). Ms. Tunnicliff and Mr. Dan Mueller agreed that maybe the voting can happen at a future meeting to allow the Committee to get more clarity on how much funds should be spent after the Committee sees all the project presentations.

Ms. Bloxom asked the group if there are any watershed priorities that have not been discussed. Mr. Nick Jiles stipulated that any multi-benefit projects that promote green space, outdoor/physical activities, and job opportunities should be priorities. He mentioned that he would like to see a project that will benefit the community long term and what will be said of the project 50 years from now.

Ms. Meredith Reynolds added that operation and maintenance with projects will need to be thought of in the long term.

Mr. Moran offered to provide a presentation at a future WASC meeting on tree canopy and how that looks across the LLAR watershed. He shared that TreePeople just released a LiDAR of tree overlay in all LA basin watersheds. This LiDAR study revealed that there is only five percent of tree overlay in the City of Commerce – probably the lowest percent in the region. Ms. Ruffell asked if the LiDAR data can be added to the interactive Safe, Clean Water GIS Reference Map that Stantec and the District developed. Mr. Moran said he will provide the LiDAR data to Mr. Antos.

c) Project Selection Process and Stormwater Investment Plan Details

Mr. Caluag explained that for the project selection process, tentatively, presentations will be scheduled during the February WASC meetings, with four scheduled for the next WASC meeting, two scheduled for the following WASC meeting, and two have yet to respond. In March, the WASC will develop the SIP. In April, the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) will review the SIPs, and in May-June, the District will prepare the Board Letter and present the SIP to the LA County Board of Supervisors to get approval.

Ms. Nila asked about the overlap between the presentations and the scoring results for the projects from the Scoring Committee. Mr. Caluag said that by February 4th, the Scoring Committee will be done reviewing the submitted projects, with some projects getting revised and resubmitted. He said a scoring sheet is anticipated to be available next week that will help the Committee when the SIPs are being assembled. Additionally, the District is working on an interactive module for the Committee that shows the location of the projects and the funding allocation by March.

Ms. Reynolds asked how the projects up for funding consideration fit into either a Watershed Management Program (WMP) or an Enhanced WMP or in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Ms. Ruffell said that is a feasibility requirement. She explained that projects should provide how much each is requesting from the SCW Program and what is already leveraged from other funding sources. A committee member suggested that it is the presenter's responsibility to provide all information necessary for consideration, such as whether the project is within a WMP/EWMP or IRWMP.

District stressed the importance of looking at the project module on the SCW website before the WASC meetings to be more informed because it can be helpful to develop questions before the meetings to ask the project applicant during the Q&A portion of their presentation.

Ms. Ruffell suggested that when the Committee start discussing projects for the SIP, that the Committee could vote for the top three projects, discuss, then vote again. Perhaps the Committee could go through a few rounds of that. She explained that from there, discussions on LLAR watershed priorities and how much to allocate will be easier.

Ms. Melissa You asked about the five-year projections for each project that was recently requested to the project applicants. Mr. Antos responded that theoretically, the Committee should be able to see the cumulative expenses for the seven projects under consideration for the Infrastructure Program funding. Mr. Caluag added that the Committee can look at the project module for that information.

d) Presentation:

i) Willow Springs Park: Wetland Restoration Expansion (Technical Resources Program) – by Larry Rich and Meredith Reynolds, Long Beach Office of Sustainability and City of Long Beach

Willow Springs Park is 48-acres, of which 12 acres has been revitalized with bioswales and wetlands in 2017. The proposed wetland expansion project consists of an additional 14.5 acres to be revitalized, to include a 1-acre wetland, 7,812 ft of new trails, and restored habitat

intended to be completed in phases. The intent of the first phase of the expansion project is to determine if it is feasible to redevelop a low point of the site into a 1-acre constructed wetland as a nature-based flood control solution and stormwater mitigation measure.

Mr. Rich and Ms. Reynolds provided a PowerPoint presentation of their submittal to the Technical Resources Program to the Committee.

A committee member asked if the project applicant anticipates additional funding – Mr. Rich responded that no additional funding is expected.

The Committee discussed the history of the wetlands' restoration. Mr. Rich said that the wetlands in the south were restored, but that there is still habitat to be restored in the other surrounding areas.

The Committee discussed the height of the water table at the site and Mr. Rich replied that it depends on the flows and how much of it is pumped out.

Ms. Ruffell asked that as the District work on the feasibility study, should the project concept not meet the feasibility study requirements as defined in the SCW Program, if the project applicant will look into meeting the feasibility study needs. Ms. Reynolds stated that the project will be open to changing some of the project components to meet the feasibility study requirements so long as it aligns with the intent of the project goals.

Ms. Tunnicliff stated that there is not a lot of residential areas nearby the location of this project. As such, the project will need to include an assessment on accessibility (parking and walking/jogging pathways) and possibly include educational areas as well. Ms. Reynolds stated that there is a nearby parking lot and that accessibility and educational comments are noted.

Mr. Mueller asked how the project relates to the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan. Mr. Rich responded that this project is more than one-mile away from the LA River, and that the 240-acre tributary watershed does not have residential areas (the majority of the flows come from the 405-freeway). Mr. Rich added that 240 acres drain through this project location, but only 4 acre-feet are hung onto and that the intent of this project is to increase the amount that is retained on-site.

Ms. Tunnicliff expressed concern with the impacts of the surrounding oil facilities and needing to look at the sub-surface geologic conditions. Mr. Rich responded that a geotechnical study has been performed and it concluded that the oil activities on-site are concentrated and are not in the surrounding area of the proposed project improvements.

Ms. Ruffell asked if this project and/or the watershed are located solely in Long Beach. Mr. Rich responded that the majority of the tributary watershed is located in Signal Hill (and the 405 freeway).

The Committee expressed concern on having a better idea of the true cost of the TRP for a project. Mr. Antos stated that the WASC would allocate $300,000 for this feasibility study to ultimately make the project eligible for regional program/Infrastructure Program funding eligibility. Mr. Caluag added that the Technical Assistance Teams will be comprised of the District and/or as-needed consultants to perform the Feasibility Study, and whatever funds are not spent from the $300,000 would return to the LLAR WASC Regional Program fund.

6. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

7. Items for the Next Agenda

The District announced that will be four presentations at the February 11, 2020 WASC meeting.

No additional agenda items were discussed.

8. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Long Beach City Hall, Beach Conference Room, 2nd Floor
411 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Long Beach City Hall, Beach Conference Room, 2nd Floor
411 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Progress Park, 1500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA 90723

Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Progress Park, 1500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA 90723

Lower Los Angeles River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

SAFE CLEAN WATER

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Dan Sharp	FCD	DSHARP@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Diane Gatza	Water Replenishment District	dgatza@wrd.org	P	
Lyndsey Bloxom	Water Replenishment District	lbloxom@wrd.org	A	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov	P	
Meredith Reynolds	City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation and Marine	Meredith.Reynolds@longbeach.gov	A	
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsd.org	P	
Mike Sullivan	Sanitation Districts	msullivan@lacsd.org	A	
Kevin Wattier	Central Basin	kevinw@centralbasin.org	P	
Nick Jiles	Páo Strategies	nick@paostrategies.org	P	
Kedrin Hopkins	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	khopkins@cclb-corps.org	A	
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	mstanley@rmc.ca.gov	P	
Marybeth Vergara	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	Mvergara@rmc.ca.gov	A	
James Vernon	Port of Long Beach	james.vernon@polb.com	P	
Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach	dylan.porter@polb.com	A	

Lower Los Angeles River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

SAFE CLEAN WATER

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Melissa Bahmanpour	River in Action	melbahmanpour@gmail.com	P	
Erica Maceda	River in Action	ericamaceda@gmail.com	A	
Cindy Montanez	Tree People	CMontanez@treepeople.org	P	
Carlos Moran	Tree People	cmoran@treepeople.org	A	
Gina Nila	Commerce	ginan@ci.commerce.ca.us	P	
Chau Vu	Bell Gardens	CVu@bellgardens.org	A	
Dan Mueller	Downey	dmueller@downeyca.org	P	
Delfino Consunji	Downey	dconsunji@downeyca.org	A	
Melissa You	Long Beach	Melissa.You@longbeach.gov	P	
Alvin Papa	Long Beach	Alvin.Papa@longbeach.gov	A	
Laura Ochoa	Lynwood	Lochoa@Lynwood.ca.us	P	
Noe Martinez	Lynwood	nmartinez@lynwood.ca.us	A	
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount	afigueroa@paramountcity.com	P	
Sarah Ho	Paramount	sho@paramountcity.com	A	
Kelli Tunnicliff	Signal Hill	ktunnicliff@cityofsignalhill.org	P	

Lower Los Angeles River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

SAFE CLEAN WATER

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Cecil Looney	Signal Hill	clooney@cityofsignalhill.org	A	
Gladis Deras	South Gate	gderas@sogate.org	P	
Clint Herrera	South Gate	cherrera@sogate.org	A	

Lower Los Angeles River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN

SAFE CLEAN WATER

First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Jonathan	Abelson	Stantec	jonathan.abelson@stantec.com
Kahe	Hamel	CWE	khamel@cwecorp.com
Michelle	Kim	JLHA	
Mike	Antos	Stantec	MIKE.ANTIS@STANTEC.com
ALVIN	PAPA	Long Beach	alvin.papa@longbeach.gov
LINCOLN	LO.	LONG BEACH.	LINCOLN.LO@LONGBEACH.GOV.
Dillon	O'Donohue	Long Beach	Dillon_Odonohue@longbeach.gov
Steven	Vu	Bell Gardens	svu@bellgardens.org
Janet	Rodriguez	InlandEngineer@gmail.com	InlandEngineeringConsultants

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

January 28, 2020

WILLOW SPRINGS PARK WETLAND RESTORATION EXPANSION

Project Lead: City of Long Beach
Presenters: Larry Rich & Meredith Reynolds

SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WASC MEETING

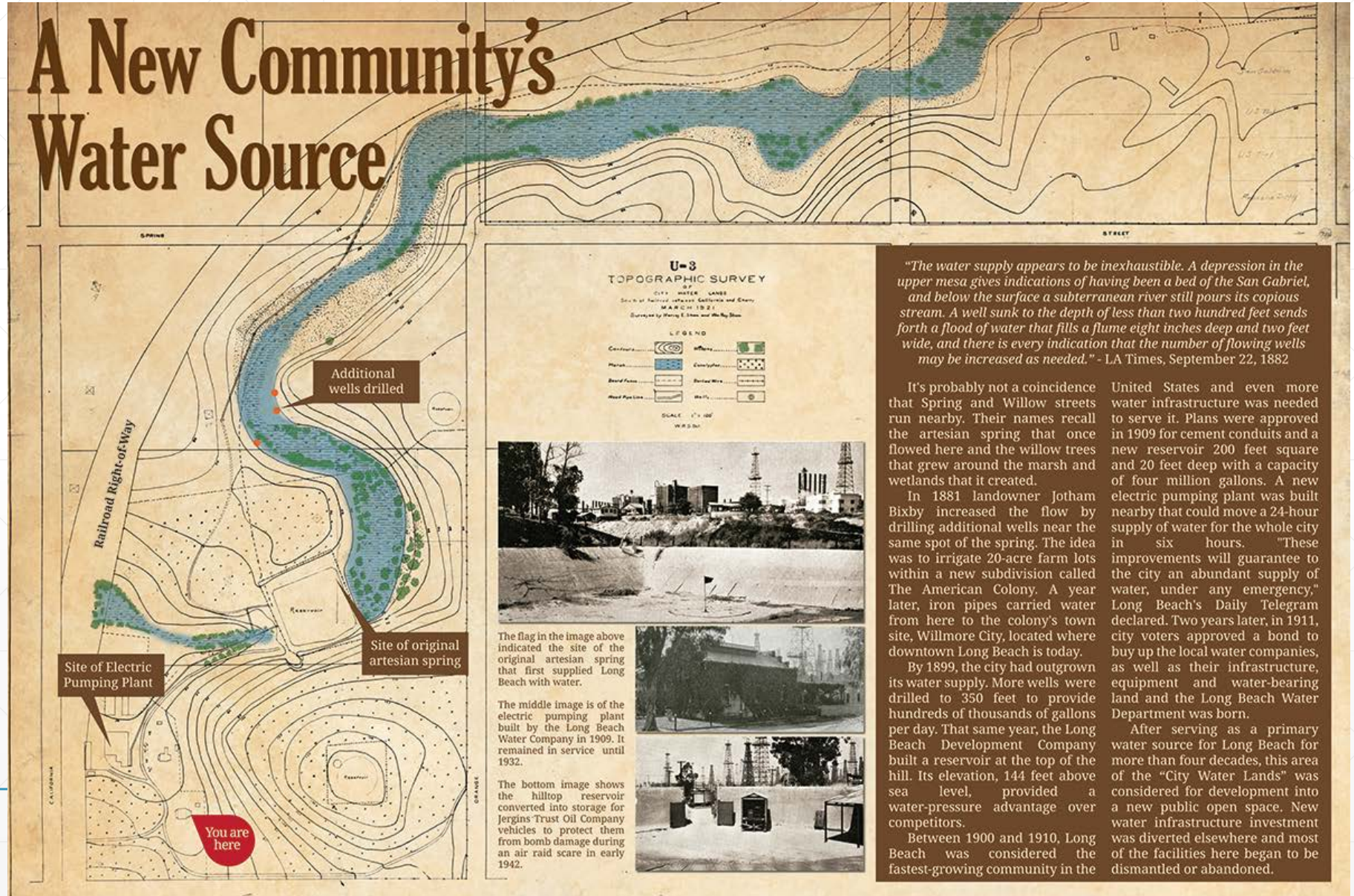
January 28, 2020

HISTORY & CONTEXT

- Willow Springs is the site of artesian springs that were the original water source for the founding of Long Beach in 1882
- Municipally-owned since 1911, active oilfield since 1922
- Willow Springs Park Master Plan adopted in 2013, including CEQA
- Willow Springs Wetland Project funded by Prop. 84 and completed in 2017 on 12 acres of total 48 acre property
- Willow Springs Wetland Recognized by American Planning Association with 2018 Implementation Award of Excellence for Large Jurisdiction

HISTORY & CONTEXT

- Site history and significance is detailed in 10 existing interpretive signs
- Future expansions can provide more public education on the benefits and advantages of green infrastructure enhancements

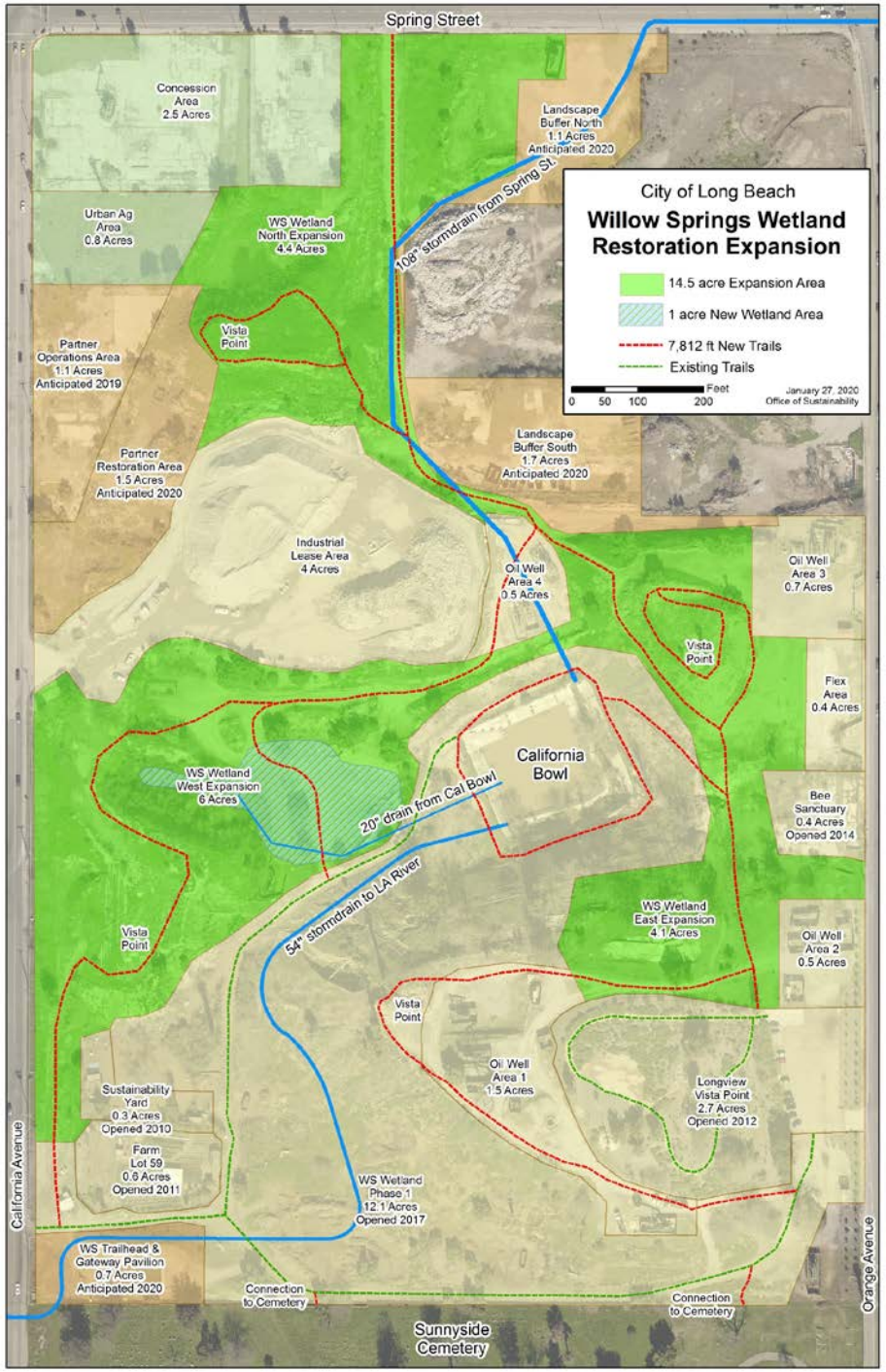


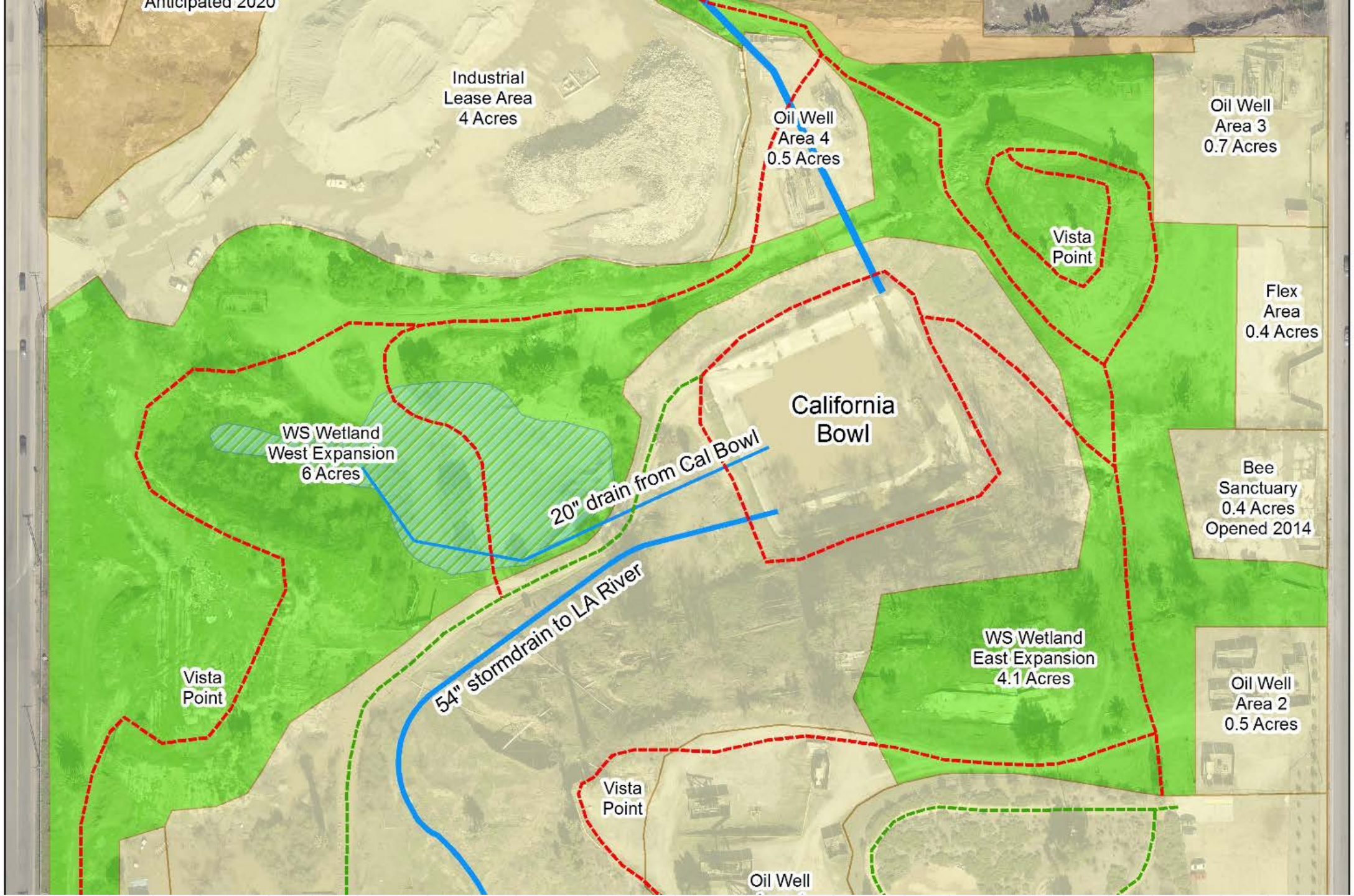
HISTORY & CONTEXT

- Urban runoff from 240 acre watershed passes through California Bowl to L.A. River
- Current onsite diversion limited to about 4 acre feet annually, fed to 1 acre of seasonal constructed wetlands

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Additional 14.5 acres available for a next phase expansion of wetland and upland areas
- One acre low-lying area can receive increased volume of diverted stormwater and create additional willow-riparian habitat
- 1.5 miles of new nature trails and vistas
- Willow Springs is surrounded by Disadvantaged Community Tracts with low open space to population ratios
- Conservation Corps of Long Beach will establish an urban wood recovery yard in adjacent area




Anticipated 2020
Industrial
Lease Area
4 Acres
Oil Well
Area 4
0.5 Acres
Oil Well
Area 3
0.7 Acres
Vista
Point
Flex
Area
0.4 Acres
California
Bowl
WS Wetland
West Expansion
6 Acres
20" drain from Cal Bowl
Bee
Sanctuary
0.4 Acres
Opened 2014
54" stormdrain to LA River
WS Wetland
East Expansion
4.1 Acres
Vista
Point
Oil Well
Area 2
0.5 Acres
Vista
Point
Oil Well

SITE PHOTOS

- Solar panel shade canopy and interpretive sign

SITE PHOTOS

- California Bowl with submerged pump vault

SITE PHOTOS

- Outer channel with connector pipe to basin

SITE PHOTOS

- South-facing view of basin

SITE PHOTOS

- Outfall structure of 108 inch County storm drain pipe

SITE PHOTOS

- Constructed spring feature with water flowing

SITE PHOTOS

- Overgrown mulefat and willow thicket at site of 20" basin drain outfall

SITE PHOTOS

- Road crossing of low point, flooded after storms

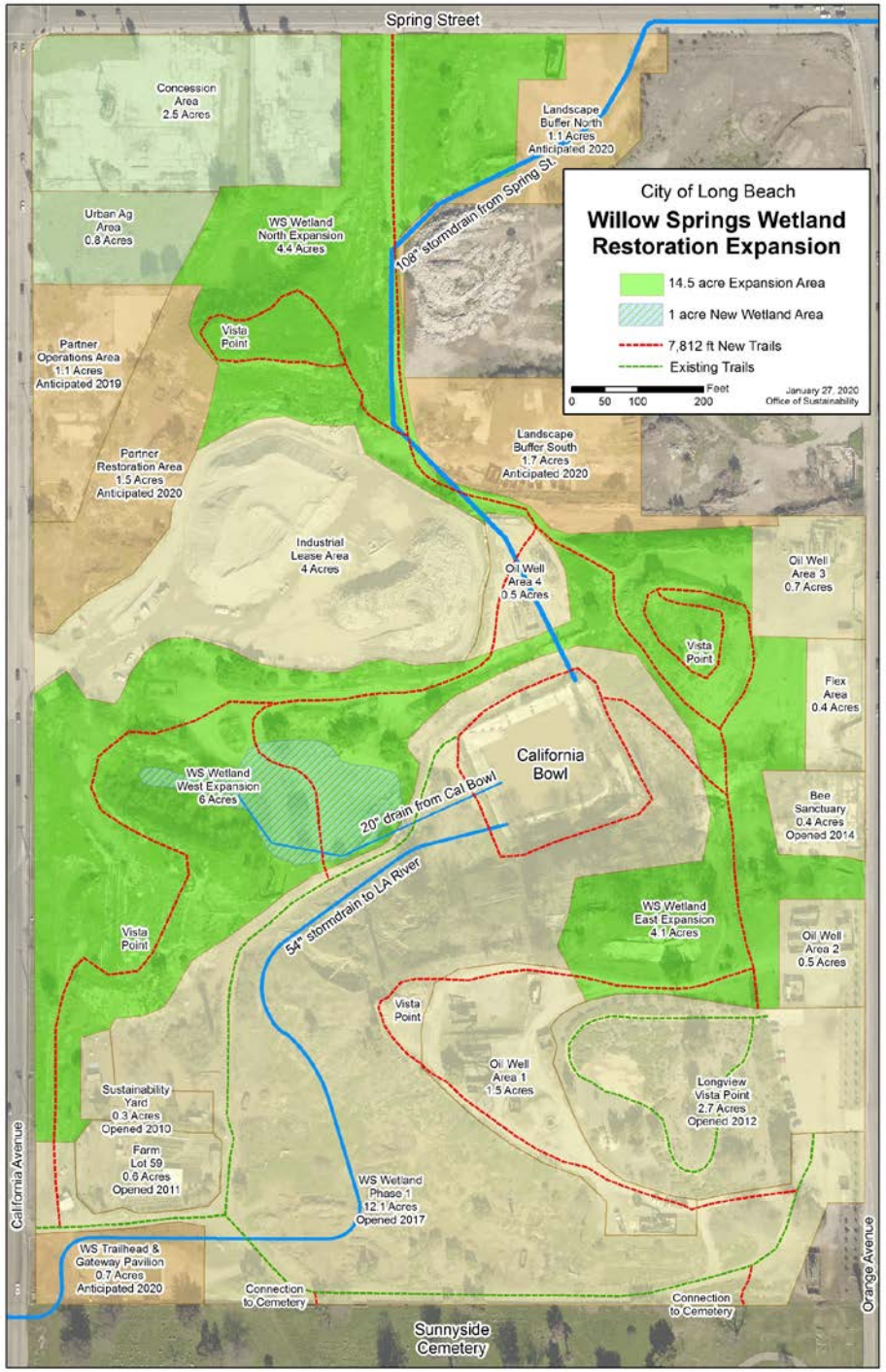
SITE PHOTOS

- Area of potential constructed wetland expansion via excavation

(up to 1 acre)

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Major green infrastructure demonstration site located within historic riparian wetland zone
- Largest undeveloped open space in park underserved area of Long Beach
- New trails and vista points create unique urban nature connection
- Existing biodiversity hotspot would be protected and enhanced
- Watershed education, stewardship, green jobs training site



PROJECT SCHEDULE

1. Feasibility Study & Conceptual Plan	1. 6 – 12 months
2. Implementation Grant Funding	2. TBD
3. Design & CEQA	3. 7 – 9 months
4. Construction Drawings (50%, 90%)	4. 5 – 6 months
5. Plan Check	5. 3 – 4 months
6. Local & Regulatory Permits (RWQCB, F&W, F&G)	6. 3 – 4 months (concurrent w/ plan check)
7. Project Bidding	7. 3 – 4 months
8. Contract Award	8. 1 – 2 months
9. Mobilization	9. 1 month
10. Construction	10. 4 – 7 months
11. Inspection	11. 1 – 2 months
12. Project & Grant Close Out	12. 2 – 3 months

ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET

Feasibility Study	TBD
Project Management	$545,000
Project Design & Permits	$300,000
Site Preparation	$810,000
Restoration Infrastructure, Planting, Access	$2,090,000
Site Furnishings	$135,000
Contingency	$120,000
TOTAL	$4,000,000

FUNDING REQUESTED

- FY 20-21 TBD (Feasibility Study)
- FY 21-22 $250,000 (Design, CEQA, PM)
- FY 22-23 $100,000 (Plan Check, Permits, Bidding, PM)
- FY 23-24 $2,311,500 (Site Prep, 60% Construction, PM)
- FY 24-25 $1,338,500 (40% Construction, Site Furnishings, Contingency, PM)