

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Santa Clara River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Thursday, January 23, 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)  
Rick Viergutz\* (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)

Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)  
Heather Merenda (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:

Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)

\*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. Fahim Rahimi announced that he is being reassigned and that today is his last meeting for these efforts. The Chair, Mr. Darren Hernandez, reminded the committee to sign in, and where the restrooms are located.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2020**

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. Tom Cole made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2020. Kristen Ruffell seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2020 (unanimous).**

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

#### **a) Regional Watershed Coordinator Updates**

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Mr. Jon Abelson (District consultant) announced that the Safe, Clean Water GIS Reference Map will be on the Safe, Clean Water Program website under the Resources tab by the end of January.

## **b) Scoring Committee Updates**

The District also noted that the next Scoring Committee (SC) meeting is next Wednesday (January 29, 2020), and that meeting minutes and scoring sheets from SC meetings are posted on the Safe, Clean Water website.

The District announced that the Ex Parte Communication Guidelines document is posted on the Safe, Clean Water Program website. Any outstanding questions can be answered by County Counsel.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) noted the tentative upcoming WASC timeline. The District is currently scheduling project applicant presentations throughout February. The Committee will develop their Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) in March, and the Regional Oversight Committee will provide their review and recommendations in April. And, in May through June, the District will prepare the Board Letter and present the SIP to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for approval.

Ms. Heather Merenda expressed concerns with the SC process. Ms. Heather Merenda believes that the SC is issuing zero points for the water quality category because the Project Module is not clear and does not capture the same information applicants have in their conceptual studies/reports/designs. The District explained that this has come up with the SC recently, and that project applicants will be allowed to adjust their values. Ms. Kristen Ruffell stated that the SC needs to be using the stamped engineer's values and nothing more. Ms. Sandra Cattell stated that she is also concerned with the scoring process.

District staff reminded everyone that the City project has not been evaluated/scored.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked what happens when a project application does not meet the 60-point threshold. District staff responded that if the application only requires minor corrections, the project applicant can make the adjustments and resubmit for funding consideration this fiscal year (FY 2020-2021). Alternatively, the project applicant can make the necessary corrections and resubmit for funding consideration for the following fiscal year (FY 2021-2022).

Ms. Sandra Cattell stated that the WASC have not made revenue appropriations for this fiscal year. If the WASC approved project funding for \$3 million, do the selected projects have to stay within the allotted amount? WASC members responded that yes, the selected projects or studies must stay within the allotted amount.

## **4. Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

Mr. Hernandez received a Public Comment Form for agenda item #5.b)ii) Public Comment Period.

## **5. Discussion Items**

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## a) Ex Parte Communication Guidelines

As stated earlier in the meeting, the Ex Parte Communication Guidelines is available on the website.

The District reminded the WASC that it highly discourages outside communication. For clarification, Mr. Hunt Braly stated that discussions are not prohibited, but must be disclosed.

A Committee member mentioned the OurWaterLA meetings and whether project updates or project scores can be disclosed. Information can be disclosed, but any discussions which attempt to influence one's position on a project are strictly prohibited.

Ms. Heather Merenda disclosed that prior to today's meeting, she spoke with LA County staff regarding the SC and project scoring.

## b) Presentation

i) **Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project (Infrastructure Program) – Mr. Kevin Chang, Los Angeles County Public Works.** The Project will divert stormwater and urban runoff into infiltration galleries underneath the park fields. The Project will also include above ground park improvements, including drought tolerant landscaping, low-impact-development features, and educational signage.

Mr. Kevin Chang provided a PowerPoint presentation of his project submittal to the Infrastructure Program to the Santa Clara River WASC.

Ms. Sandra Cattell requested that a project map should include a blueline streams, and stated that nature-based projects are not just plants and trees, but rather, include small ponds and wetlands.

Ms. Heather Merenda asked where infiltration is occurring in the project improvements. Mr. Kevin Chang referred to his presentation slides and showed how the underground chamber will be used for storage and infiltration.

Mr. Dirk Marks asked for an explanation of the pretreatment box. Mr. Kevin Chang explained how the components within the pretreatment unit separates large debris and sediment.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked what the usable groundwater levels in the project area are. She mentioned how the depth to water is important to know for all projects and asked if the infiltrated water will be monitored. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that the infiltrated water will be monitored, but that he did not have water depth information available.

The committee discussed adaptive management strategies for this project. Mr. Bruce Hamamoto answered that not specifically for this project, but from a "big picture" standpoint on water quality, yes.

Ms. Sandra Cattell asked for clarification on how solids will get removed from the pretreatment unit. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that a maintenance team will clean the pretreatment unit every two months. She then asked how the pretreatment unit will be monitored for solid build-up, and Mr. Chang responded that the operation and maintenance (O&M) details are still getting worked out.

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Mr. Tom Cole asked if other areas north of the park were considered for stormwater capture/treatment/infiltration to Hasley Park. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that other nearby parcels, including the nearby school, all currently drain to the Santa Clara River and not to Hasley Park.

Mr. Hunt Braly mentioned that the tributary area draining to Hasley Park may not be fully developed and that the Committee should know where these undeveloped areas will drain to.

Ms. Heather Merenda stated that water will be treated by these improvements, but asked how much of it will get recharged. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that the storage volume is modeled per the sub-watershed's hydrograph.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked what the total amount of water capture is. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that 38 acre-feet is what is modeled to be captured in a year, but this is dependent on the amount of rainfall events/runoff volume generation.

Mr. Tom Cole asked if other upstream properties, such as Castaic High School, should be considered as sources of water that can be included in the flows for this project. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that staff will look at upstream properties and determine if any of them could feasibly drain to Hasley Park.

Mr. Hunt Braly wanted to distinguish between which pollutants exceed the regulatory threshold versus which are regulated, and asked what type of outreach has been done to the nearby community. Mr. Kevin Chang responded that there is a bacteria, nutrients, trash, and chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Santa Clara River watershed, and currently, no outreach has been done to the local community, but that they are working with Parks and Recreation to develop a concept to have a framework before reaching out to the local community and schools.

#### **ii) Public Comment Period**

A member of the public and Ms. Mary Johnson expressed concern on how the project applicant was able to identify the quality of the water and the pollutants present. Mr. Kevin Chang and Mr. Bruce Hamamoto said that staff will look into that and explained the County's typical water quality monitoring protocol includes eight weeks of monitoring to confirm pollution, and further explained there will be pre-construction and post-construction monitoring.

Ms. Cattell asked if the Hasley Park project has monitored more locations than the three sampling locations in the Santa Clara River. Mr. Bruce Hamamoto explained that there are 300 existing monitoring locations and LA County Public Works developed the Watershed Management Modeling System (WMMS) to show what the water quality is for the various land uses throughout the region. Ms. Heather Merenda added that it is impossible to monitor at every location/outfall and at this time, 200 constituents are sampled at two outfalls per reach in the Santa Clara River, five times a year.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked if this project is the best area for a Safe, Clean Water project. Mr. Bruce Hamamoto responded that this is the "low-lying fruit" project, requiring no land acquisition and there is open space existing at the park. When park spaces get retrofitted with Safe, Clean Water projects, the next focus is typically green streets, then private land.

A member of the public recommended that the project applicant get a smaller scale of water quality sampling during the first flush of a storm to get the highest concentration of pollutants.

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She also requested that District staff look into how public comments during WASC meetings can be included into the SIP. District staff said that the County is discussing how this can be possible.

The Committee discussed how it would be beneficial if the City of Santa Clarita provide an overview on efforts that have been performed in the past – City staff agreed to develop and provide a presentation at a future Santa Clara River WASC meeting.

The group was reminded that a bacterial study presentation will be provided at the next WASC meeting for SIP consideration for the Scientific Studies Program.

## 6. Break

Committee decided not to take a break.

## 7. Voting Items

None.

## 8. Meeting Adjourned

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

### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, February 6, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room**  
**23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA 91355**

### Future Meetings:

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

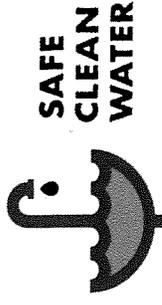
Thursday, March 19, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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# Santa Clara River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

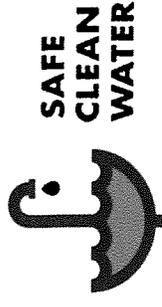


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	<i>Julian Juarez</i>
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Steve Cole	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	scole@scvwa.org	
Rick Viergutz	Santa Clara Valley Water Agency	rviergutz@scvwa.org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

# Santa Clara River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

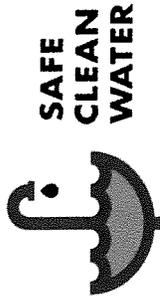


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Heidi Webber	Community Hiking Club	hwebber50@gmail.com	A
Sandra Cattell	Sierra Club	sumcatt@yahoo.com	P
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A
Paul Alva	Los Angeles County	PALVA@dpw.lacounty.gov	P
Mark Lombos	Los 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
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Tom Cole	Santa Clarita	tcole@santa-clarita.com	P
David Peterson	Santa Clarita	Dpeterson@santa-clarita.com	A

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Jonathan	Abelson	Starec	j.nathan.abelson@starec.com
Kevin	Chang	LACPW	kchang@pw.lacounty.gov
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TRACY	Costan	Action	bestbelly@hotmail.com
DON	Laird	ACTION	rte248@yahoo.com

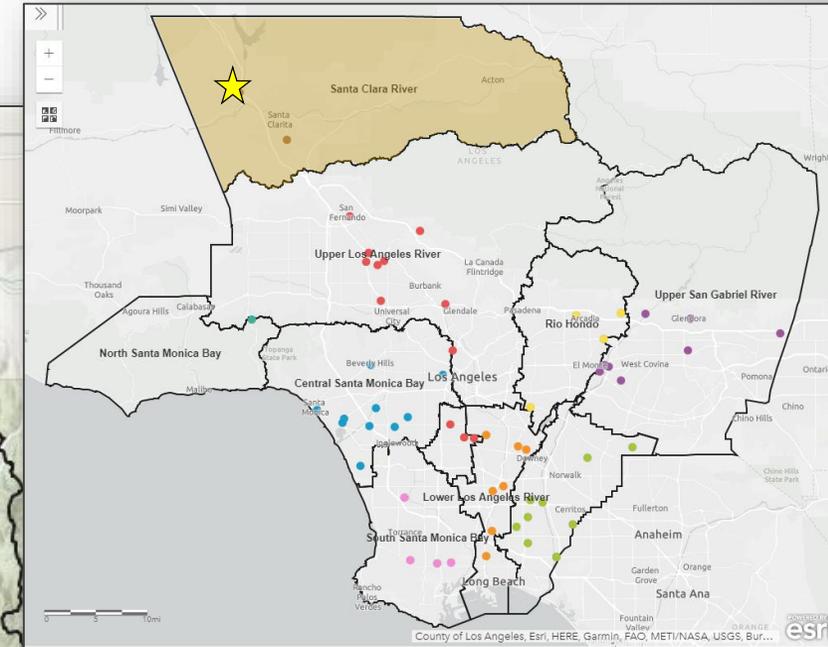
\*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public



**Hasley Canyon Park  
Stormwater Improvement Project**

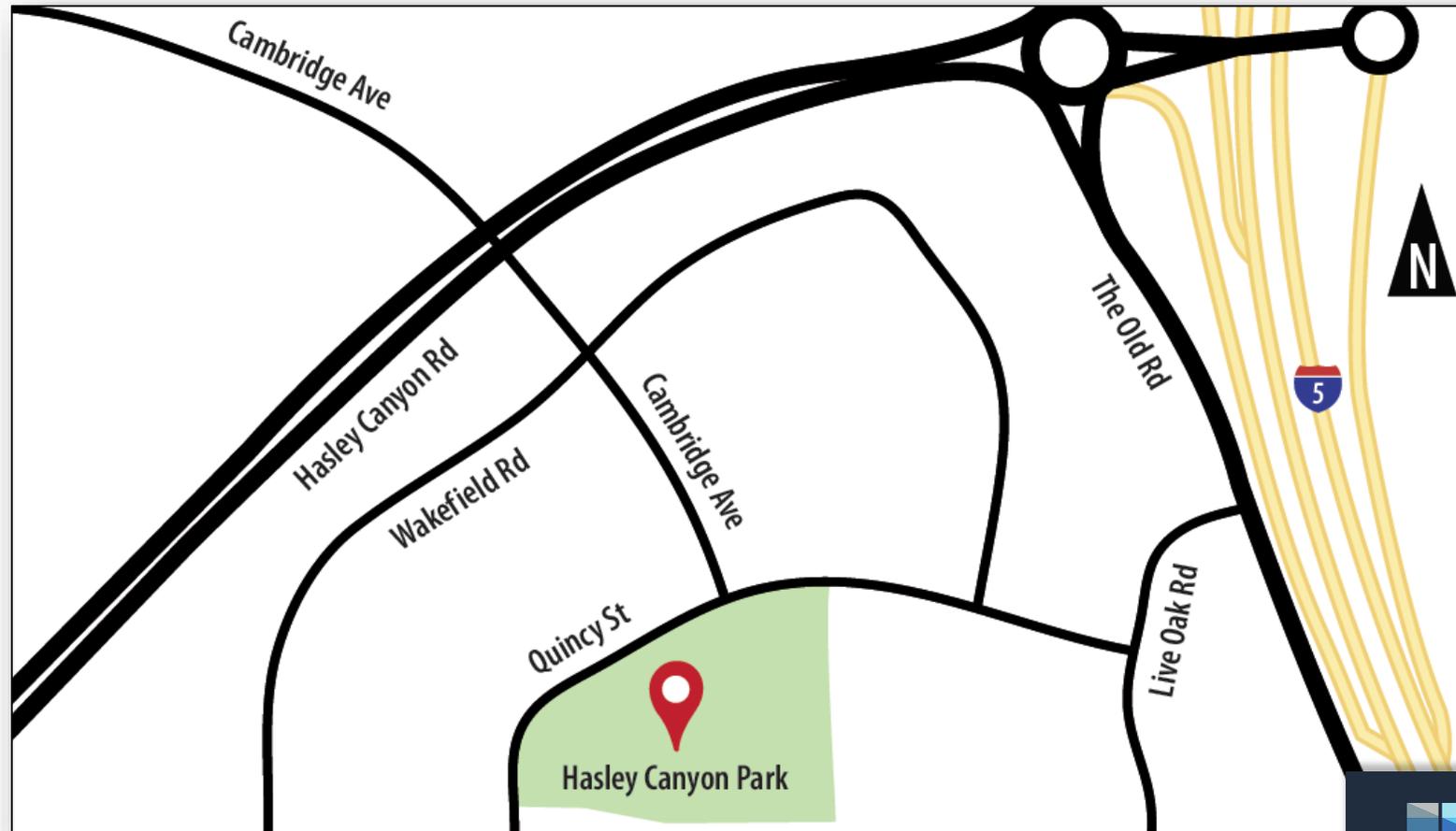
# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project

## Project Location:

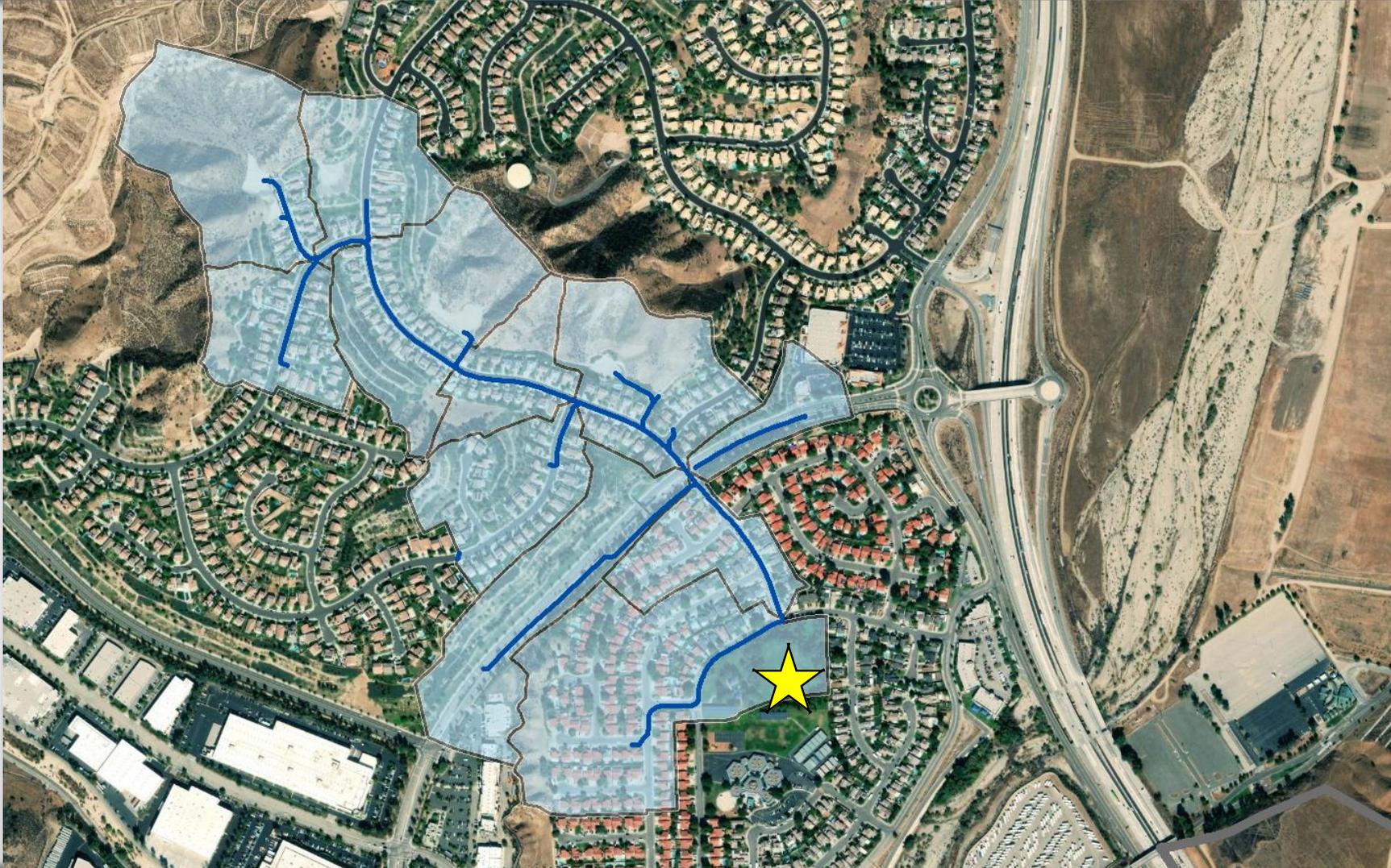


# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project

## Project Location:



# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



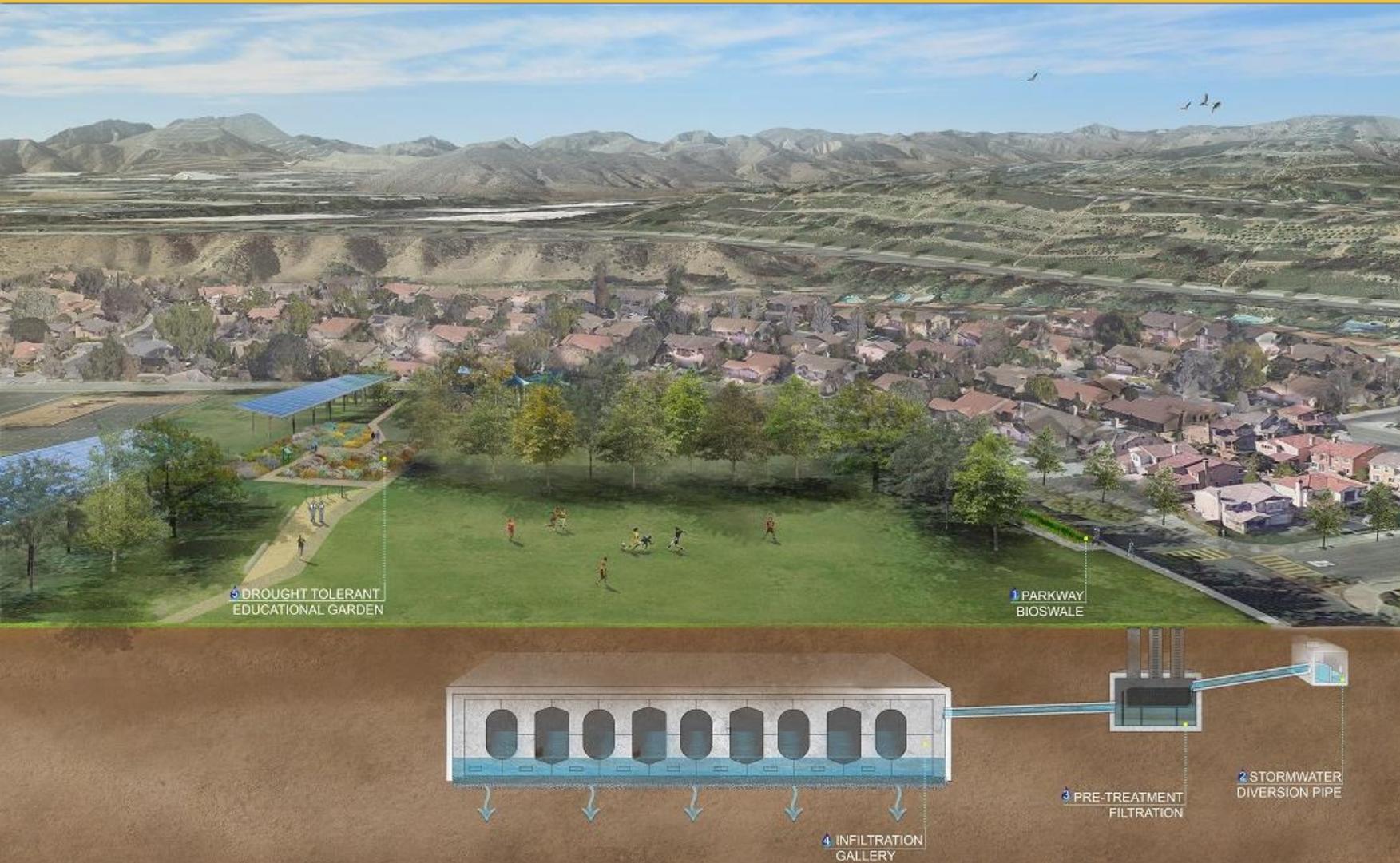
## Tributary Area

- 150 ac Drainage Area
- Unincorporated Castaic, CA
- Primarily Single Family Residential
- 5.09 ac-ft (85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Volume)

# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



## Key Components

- Infiltration Gallery
- Drought Tolerant Educational Garden
- Bioswales
- Decomposed Granite Walking Path
- Park Improvements
  - Shade Structure
  - Park Benches
  - Fitness Stations

# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project

## Project Objectives & Benefits



Water Quality



Recreational Opportunities



Remove Impermeable Area



Water Supply



Enhance Park/Habitat



Natural Processes



Flood Management



Reduce Heat Island Effect



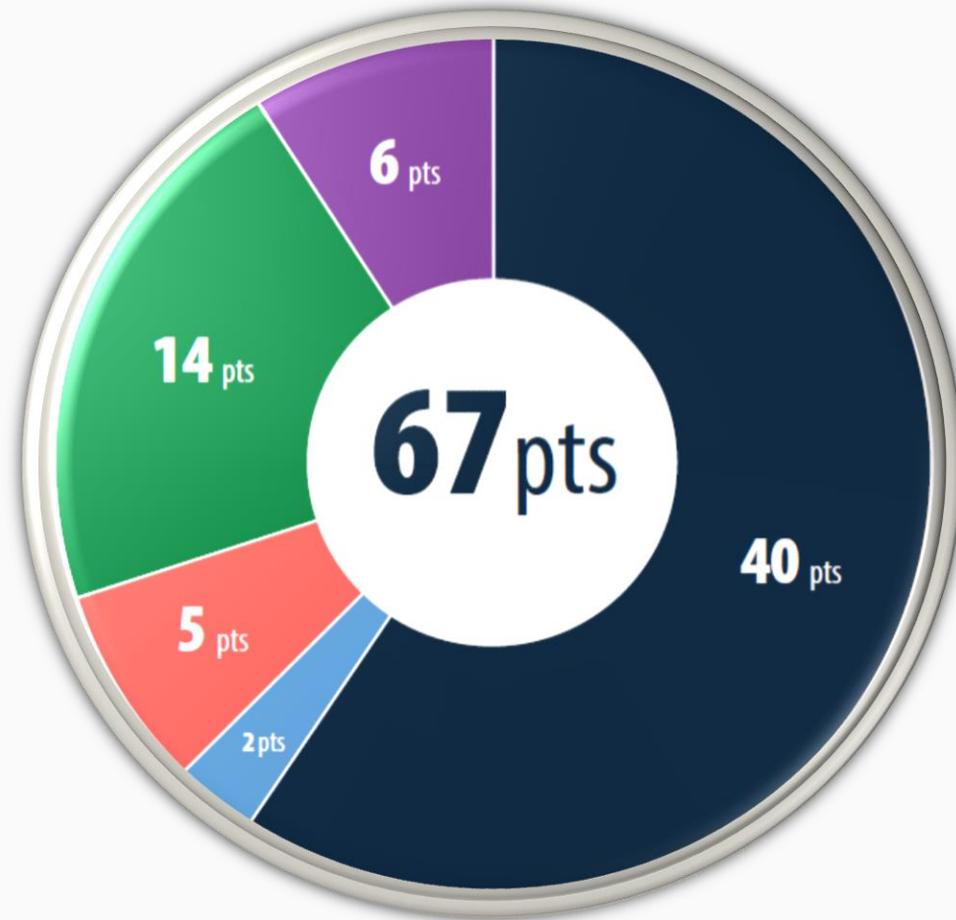
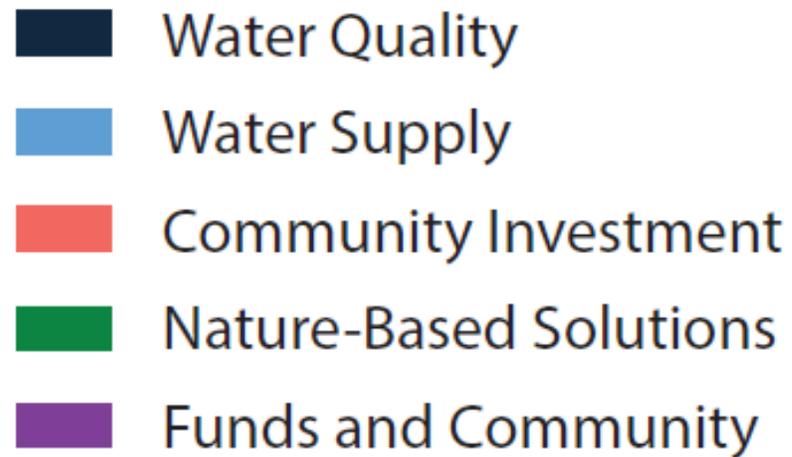
Open Area Enhancement



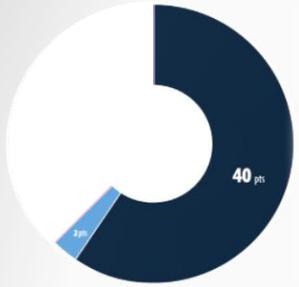
Increased Trees or Vegetation

# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project

## Safe, Clean Water Program Score



# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



## Safe, Clean Water Program Score

Water Quality

Treat:

- Bacteria
- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Metals
- Chlorides, toxics, trash

Water Supply

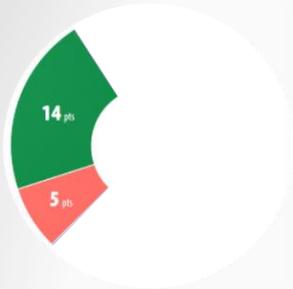
Infiltrate 37.7 AFY



Examples



# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



## Safe, Clean Water Program Score

### Community Investment

- Educational Garden
- Bioswales
- Walking Path
- Shade Structure, Benches,  
Fitness Stations

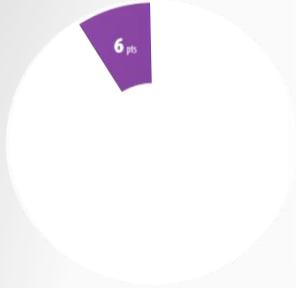
### Nature-Based Solutions

- Drought Tolerant  
Educational Garden
- Bioswales
- Decomposed Granite  
Walking Path



Examples

# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



## Safe, Clean Water Program Score

Leveraged  
Funding

Matching funds from:

- County General Fund
- SCW Municipal Fund
- Potential Prop 1 – IRWM Grant

### Project Cost Estimate

\$1.12M	Total Design Cost
\$4.16M	Total Construction Cost

### Funds Requested

\$2.89M	For Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Towards Construction
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# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project

## Estimated Project Schedule

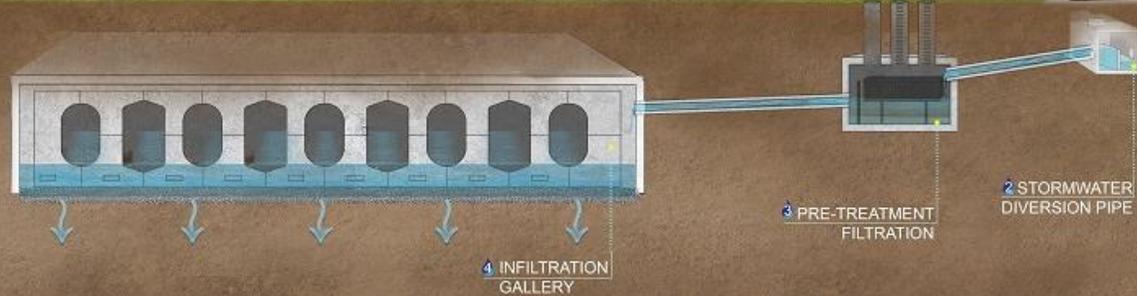


# Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvement Project



4 DROUGHT TOLERANT  
EDUCATIONAL GARDEN

1 PARKWAY  
BIOSWALE



3 PRE-TREATMENT  
FILTRATION

2 STORMWATER  
DIVERSION PIPE

4 INFILTRATION  
GALLERY

## Contact Information:

**Bruce Hamamoto**

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**Kevin Chang**

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(626) 458-7161