

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, May 5, 2020
8:30am-11:30am
WebEx Meeting

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)
Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Noe Negrete (La Mirada)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Vicki Smith (Whittier)
Adam Galia (Resident)	Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)
Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)	Tammy Hierlihy (Central Basin)
Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)	

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Kevin Kim (District) provided an overview of the WebEx interface and provided instructions for a member of the public to provide a comment during the Public Comment Period. Ms. Morita (District) facilitated roll call for attendance and quorum was established.

Ms. Rapp, the Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River WASC, called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comment Period

Mr. Kim called on the OurWaterLA (OWLA) Core Team that submitted letters to the WASCs in March and April. Ms. Belinda Faustinos gave an overview of the OWLA letters. See attachment for the letters. Ms. Faustinos expressed her views on the importance of the SIP meeting the goals of the Safe, Clean Water set forth on the ordinance, and expressed her support and opposition of some of the project applications. Ms. Faustino also noted her concern regarding the two vacant community seats within this committee.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2020

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Rapp asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Mr. Negrete noted that he did not attend the previous meeting. His alternate, Mr. Marlin Munoz, attended on his behalf. The District noted the revisions.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes as revised from March 3, 2020 (14 aye, 1 abstention)

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4. Committee Member and District Updates

The public comment period for the draft Fund Transfer Agreement ended on April 21, 2020. District staff is reviewing the comments and will prepare the Board Letter early June.

Mr. Kim gave updates on the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) timeline, including the Committee is to approve their respective SIPs by late May. The Regional Oversight Committee is scheduled to reconvene in June and the Board approval is expected in August.

The Watershed Coordinator Request for Statement of Qualifications will be tentatively processed in June, then the Committee will review the potential applicants around August.

Mr. Kim clarified that once the SIP is approved by the Board of Supervisors, the District has delegated authority to execute the Fund Transfer Agreement and transfer funds to the applicant within 30 days.

5. Discussion and Voting Items

a) Overview of the SIP Programming Guidelines

Mr. Kim began this discussion by referring to the previously shared and discussed SIP Programming Guidelines, including a brief discussion for the Infrastructure Projects and the Technical Resources program, with Attachment A demonstrating the various potential funding scenarios.

Previously, the District had suggested an 80 percent funding allocation for the SIP. However, the current COVID pandemic has introduced a lot of uncertainty. Also, it's important to note there was not a Watershed Coordinator during this process. This said, these funds will prove beneficial in the current economy, so these are circumstances that each Committee will need to take into account when designating a percent funding SIP allocation. If the Committee ultimately elects to move forward with a higher allocation near the initial 80 percent recommendation, a written justification will be required to accompany the requested percent allocation as it moves forward for approval consideration.

Ms. Rapp clarified that once the WASC programs a Project across future years, the WASC would need to provide strong justification if they choose not to continue funding the Project.

b) [Voting item] – Assign percent allocation target

Ms. Rapp recommended the WASC assign the percent allocation organically through Project discussions. Mr. Negrete and Ms. Ruffell concurred.

Mr. O'Grady noted that it was important to consider percent allocation targets for all 5 years as many Projects request more funding in later years as they move into the construction phase.

The committee discussed and decided to utilize the SIP tool to populate scenarios. No voting occurred for this item.

c) Discussion of project rankings

Ms. Morita displayed the project ranking from the previous meeting. Ms. Rapp asked each applicant to provide an update on the Project's readiness to proceed.

Mr. O'Grady withdrew the Cerritos Sports Complex Project from consideration to refine the Project and the annual funding requests. Mr. O'Grady also recommended the WASC prioritize projects located on the San Gabriel River watershed as there are fewer Projects compared to the Los Cerritos Channel watershed.

Mr. Richard Watson, on behalf of Mr. Iniguez, withdrew the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project from consideration because Proposition 68 funding was not secured.

Mr. Watson stated that Caruthers Park should be operational in October and will not need operation and maintenance funding for the full fiscal year. Mr. Kim clarified that unused funds will be returned to

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the WASC and are detailed in the Fund Transfer Agreement. Mr. Watson also clarified that the tributary area of Caruthers Park is primarily within the San Gabriel River watershed.

Ms. Konya Vivanti noted that Mayfair should be completed by the end of July. She also noted that the construction costs were already funded which provides significant cost savings to the WASC.

Mr. Watson stated that Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture Project is ready to construct and has support of the cities and the management company of the golf course.

Ms. Rapp stated that Bolivar park is currently in operation.

Mr. John Hunter stated that Hermosillo Park is ready to initiate the design phase and that the Project is in the Sab Gabriel River watershed. Mr. Hunter also clarified that the project scope and score would not be impacted by the status of grant funding. Mr. Hunter noted that there will be additional feasibility studies conducted, but no major changes are anticipated.

Ms. Tseng noted that the project is currently in the design phase. Construction is targeted to start in January 2021. Ms. Tseng clarified that the funding requests were structured to be mindful of available funding. The project received funding from Caltrans, so there is flexibility to re-distribute SCW funding requests, if needed.

Mr. Negrete would like to include the sub-watershed area and funding request type in the Overview of Submitted Projects document. Ms. Morita also clarified the calculations in the SIP Planning Tool.

Ms. You noted that the El Dorado Regional Project is ready to proceed once funding is received. The City of Long Beach will likely apply for construction funds in Fiscal Year 23-24, but there may be changes due to the uncertainty of COVID-19.

d) Public Comment Period

Ms. Belinda Faustinos asked if Hermosillo Park will still include community engagement with its reduced budget. Mr. Hunter clarified that community-investment benefits were included in the budget request and will not be affected.

Ms. Fautinos encouraged applicants to incorporate robust community engagement and acknowledged the challenges associated with funding and the applicant's ability to amend budgets. Ms. Faustinos noted that Our Water LA (OWLA) would like to work with the SCW Program and Project applicants to help ensure that community engagement is addressed, as it is an important component of the Program.

Mr. Kim clarified that Project applicants would have to reapply to receive additional funding beyond their initial request.

Mr. Gonzales asked if a minimum outreach plan can be established for the El Dorado Regional Project. Ms. You noted that a robust community outreach is part of design process for the City of Long Beach. The Fund Transfer Agreements also have provisions for community engagement and community outreach.

e) [Voting item] – Selection of projects into the SIP

Mr. O'Grady motioned to approve the proposed Infrastructure Program Projects as shown (see attached). Ms. Ruffell seconded the motion.

The committee voted to approve the proposed Infrastructure Program Projects (unanimous).

Mr. Watson provided an update on the status of the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution including the status of WASC deliberations and communications with the RWQCB. Mr. Watson stated that if the study does not receive enough support from the WASC this fiscal year, he would reapply again next year with additional supporting information.

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The committee discussed their concerns regarding lack of information.

Ms. Faustinos noted OWLA's strong opposition of the proposal which is detailed in their comment letter.

Mr. Kim confirmed that in future years there may be a third-party reviewer available to provide technical guidance on Scientific Studies.

Mr. Negrete motioned to exclude the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution from the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 LSGR SIP.

Mr. Consunji seconded the motion.

The committee voted to exclude the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution from the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 LSGR SIP (10 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstention).

f) Restructuring of annual funding requests for selected Projects

Ms. Rapp asked each Project applicant to confirm their annual funding requests. All funding requests were confirmed by the Project applicant.

g) [Voting Item] – Confirm final Stormwater Investment Plan

Mr. Knapp motioned to confirm the final SIP as shown (see attached). Ms. Ruffell seconded the motion.

The committee voted to confirm the final SIP (unanimous).

Ms. Rapp encouraged all Project applicants that were not selected for the current fiscal year's SIP to resubmit in future years.

6. Items for next agenda

Mr. Kim will coordinate with Ms. Rapp to cancel the next meeting, if appropriate.

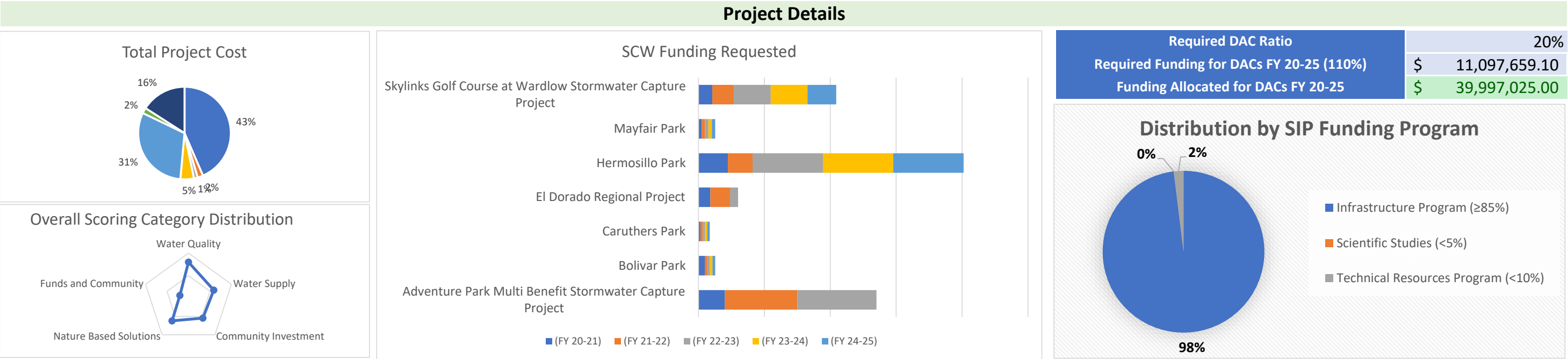
7. Adjournment

Ms. Rapp thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

LSGR WASC Meeting - MAY 5, 2020								
	Quorum Present				Voting Items			
Member Type	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	Proposed IP	No SS	Confirm SIP
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y	Y	Y	Y
Agency	Tammy Hierlihy	X			Y	Y	Y	Y
Agency	Diane Gatza		Lyndsey Bloxom	X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Agency	Kristen Ruffell	X	Mike Sullivan		Y	Y	A	Y
Agency	Stephen Scott		Meredith Reynolds	X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Dan Knapp	X	Kayla Slatten		Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Adam Galia	X	Thalia Campos		Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder								
Community Stakeholder								
Municipal Members	Mike O'Grady	X	Rebecca Scott		Y	Y	N	Y
Municipal Members	Delfino Consunji	X	Dan Mueller		Y	Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	<u>Lisa Ann Rapp</u>	<u>X</u>	Konya Vivanti		Y	Y	N	Y
Municipal Members	Melissa You	X	Alvin Papa		Y	Y	N	Y
Municipal Members	Bernie Iniguez	X	Glen Kau		Y	Y	N	Y
Municipal Members	Noe Negrete	X	Marlin Munoz		A	Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Vicki Smith	X	Kyle Cason		Y	Y	Y	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats	15			Yay (Y)	14	15	10	15
Total Voting Members Present	15			Nay (N)	0	0	4	0
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	1	0	1	0
Community Stakeholder	3			Total	15	15	15	15
Municipal Members	7				Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendees
LSGR WASC - MAY 5, 2020

eback	Lisa Rapp
Iwen Tseng	Lisa Rapp
Tori	IEC
Michelle Kim (JLHA)	Belinda V Faustinos
Mac User	Richard Watson
Stephanie Tong	Kevin Kim - LACFCD
dknapp	Michelle Kim (JLHA)
Kristen Ruffell	Thalia Campos
Lyndsey Bloxom	Vicki Smith
Ryan Kearns - CWE	Melanie Morita-LACFCD
Mike O'Grady	Courtney Bonilla
Stephanie	kruffell
biniguez	dconsunji
Melissa You	Melanie Morita-LACFCD
biniguez	Bryce Lee
gkau	Tammy Hierlihy Central Basin MWD
Ruby Wang	Meredith Reynolds
Javier Yescas	Christine Roberto
Mike O'Grady	Kast
Noe Negrete	Bernie Iniguez
Mike Sullivan	john
Stephanie	Kayla Kelly-Slatten
Joseph Gonzalez	Julian Juarez
Melanie Morita-LACFCD	Kristen Ruffell
OliverGalang	Roberto Gomez
Courtney Bonilla	Safe Clean Water LA



Stormwater Investment Plan Preview

	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
A. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Collected	\$16.67 M	\$16.67 M	\$16.67 M	\$16.67 M	\$16.67 M		\$83.33 M
B. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Available (A+D)	\$16.67 M	\$26.07 M	\$31.41 M	\$32.51 M	\$40.22 M		
C. Total Allocated in the SIP	\$7.26 M	\$11.33 M	\$15.56 M	\$8.96 M	\$8.33 M	\$0.00 M	\$51.44 M
D. Remaining Balance/Rollover Funds (B-C)	\$9.40 M	\$14.74 M	\$15.85 M	\$23.55 M	\$31.88 M		
E. Percent Allocated (C/B)	44%	43%	50%	28%	21%		62%

Row Labels	DAC	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
Infrastructure Program		\$ 7,060,594.00	\$ 11,126,907.00	\$ 15,361,433.00	\$ 8,761,433.00	\$ 8,133,538.00	\$ -	\$ 50,443,905.00
Adventure Park Multi Benefit Stormwa	Yes	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 5,500,000.00	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,500,000.00
Bolivar Park	Yes	\$ 473,000.00	\$ 198,225.00	\$ 198,225.00	\$ 198,225.00	\$ 198,225.00	\$ -	\$ 1,265,900.00
Caruthers Park	Yes	\$ 147,000.00	\$ 177,000.00	\$ 177,000.00	\$ 177,000.00	\$ 177,000.00	\$ -	\$ 855,000.00
El Dorado Regional Project	Yes	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00
Hermosillo Park	Yes	\$ 2,240,000.00	\$ 1,860,000.00	\$ 5,340,000.00	\$ 5,340,000.00	\$ 5,330,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,110,000.00
Mayfair Park	Yes	\$ 253,225.00	\$ 253,225.00	\$ 253,225.00	\$ 253,225.00	\$ 253,225.00	\$ -	\$ 1,266,125.00
Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Storm	No	\$ 1,047,369.00	\$ 1,638,457.00	\$ 2,792,983.00	\$ 2,792,983.00	\$ 2,175,088.00	\$ -	\$ 10,446,880.00
Technical Resources Program		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #1	(blank)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Grand Total		\$ 7,260,594.00	\$ 11,326,907.00	\$ 15,561,433.00	\$ 8,961,433.00	\$ 8,333,538.00	\$ -	\$ 51,443,905.00



DATE: March 10, 2020

TO: WASC Chair & Members
CC: LAC SCWP Staff

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations Concerning the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for 2019-2020**

OurWaterLA (OWLA) is a diverse coalition that has engaged communities, businesses, and organizations across Los Angeles County, building support to reinvent and reinvest in our water future using nature based infrastructure that provides community health benefits, environmental health benefits, and economic benefits. OWLA recommends that funding priority be given to the projects that best exemplify the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP), and that consideration should be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR STORMWATER PROJECTS

The Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) must achieve the fourteen programmatic goals clearly laid out in the SCWP Implementation Ordinance (Attachment 1), including the goals to improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements, as well as multiple additional community investments such as prioritization of nature based solutions, community engagement, equity, and quality jobs. Our top issues are shown below in bullet point format and described more robustly in Attachment 1.

Nature Based Solutions

The prioritization of nature based solutions is a specific programmatic goal of the SCWP, and therefore must be reflected in the projects for the SIP.

Community Engagement

A plan for future community outreach is not sufficient for true community engagement in a project. Priority should be given to projects for which local community engagement, designed specifically for the proposed project, has already been initiated.

Equity

One of the most innovative aspects of the SCWP is the written requirements for the equitable distribution of community investments. When assessing the 110% benefit return on investments

for disadvantaged communities, it is important to clarify what type of benefits a project provides, and whether the proposed investments directly benefit the receiving community and verified by local community groups.

Quality Jobs

At a minimum, funding through the SCWP SIP must be contingent upon providing direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities.

We recommend that all of these programmatic goals be considered when selecting projects for full or partial funding for the 2019-2020 SIP, and that consideration be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects. One opportunity to reserve future funding is to fund projects in phases, to get projects through initial project development, such as project design.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

There have also been proposals for funding through the SCWP Scientific Studies Program. The purpose of the Scientific Studies Program is to provide funding for scientific and technical activities, including, but not limited to, scientific studies, technical studies, monitoring, and modeling related to *stormwater and urban runoff capture and pollution reduction*.

OWLA recommends that no funding be allocated for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study. It has no hypothesis or clear methodology, and no scientific professionals were involved in the development of the study, as is required under the SCWP Scientific Studies Program when feasible.

This proposal is asking for nearly \$10 million region-wide over the next five years to target a specific source of a specific pollutant rather than providing multiple benefits, and to potentially weaken water quality objectives rather than improving our water quality. This proposed study will not support many of the program goals, listed in Attachment 1. Additionally, there are other potential funding sources for this study including the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, which already has a similar study in its 5-year plan. **This nearly \$10 million should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects.**

Further, for those WASCs considering the Wet Weather Zinc study, this proposal is asking for \$500K to potentially weaken water quality objectives, rather than improving our water quality. Funds should instead be spent on multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. The Safe, Clean Water Program is not the right funding source for this study because this study does not support many of the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program or its Scientific Studies Program. There are other potential ways to achieve this type of recalculation, including working with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with each of you, with the County of Los Angeles, and with our communities to most efficiently and effectively reinvest in our water future. Many of us, including WASC members, recognize that this is a complex process, and we would be remiss not to stop and strongly re-evaluate the context for making these critically important funding recommendations. OWLA core team members want to work with you to be part of the solution for meeting water quality standards by implementing multi-benefit projects. Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

OWLA Core Team

ATTACHMENT 1

Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance: Section 18.04 SCW Program Goals.

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefiting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.

Addendum

OWLA has worked in coordination with Los Angeles County staff as well as the communities they serve to create, pass, and implement the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). In November 2018, Los Angeles County voters elected to pay an additional parcel tax to reinvest in their communities and address stormwater pollution region wide. As you make decisions concerning how to spend that revenue in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP), we urge you to consider the commitments made to the taxpayers when the SCWP Implementation Ordinance was adopted in July 2019.

As a region, we have been faced with the challenges of stormwater discharge for decades, and we now have the opportunity to fund the development, operation, and maintenance of new multi-benefit and nature-based stormwater capture projects to address stormwater pollution while also providing additional community investments. We must take advantage of this opportunity to take action against the discharge of polluted stormwater. However, the funding decisions made during this first round of funding allocation can have significant impacts on future funding availability, as new projects will be proposed each year.

Nature Based Solutions

Projects should take into account local recreational needs, provide local support, and include education on both native plants and indigenous culture. Projects should consider climate adaptation and mitigation in their design and implementation. Project proponents should follow native landscaping best practices to plant native and culturally relevant species - especially engaging local indigenous leadership, as well as scientists and academic partners to ensure that natural space is created and enhanced based on the needs of local ecology, hydrology, geography, geology, etc.

Community Engagement

There should be different outreach strategies for different communities depending on unique community types and needs, designed and conducted in coordination with community-based organizations with legitimate credibility in the communities they represent. At the very least, the project should have a detailed plan of how community engagement will be sustained throughout project development, implementation, operation, and maintenance.

Equity

Examples of these investments include clean water, local hire, community engagement, access and safety around the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and their tributaries, field trips and educational opportunities, culturally relevant recreation, jobs and training, health benefits, habitat restoration, cooling, recreational access improvements, climate resilience and amplified community voice.

Jobs

One of the many community investments discussed above is local hiring for the equitable distribution of funds and to help foster a sense of community pride and stewardship for local projects. Priority should be given to projects that utilize these kinds of direct community investments.



DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), Scoring and Regional Oversight
Committee (ROC) Members
Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program Staff
Los Angeles County Board Public Works Deputies

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations - Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for
2019-2020**

On March 10, 2020 OurWaterLA (OWLA) submitted a memo for distribution to the WASC committees specifying our recommendations for the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) under consideration by the WASCs prior to the Safer at Home order. However, only a few of the WASC groups had the opportunity to review the memo. Given our new reality and the conditions under which extremely important decisions will be considered by the WASCs we wish to summarize and update the points we believe are extremely important to ensure that the decision-making process is transparent and results in only the best projects being funded during these unprecedented times.

The following are the major issues that we believe are critically important for your consideration as you deliberate on the recommendations you will be making for this first round of funding recommendations. Given the vast number of issues you will have to consider we are providing "bullet" points but encourage all members to review our more in-depth recommendations provided in the attached March 10, 2020 memo (Attachment 3). OWLA recommends the following:

Best Practices for Public Participation

- Notify the public of all meetings and hearings at least 72 hours in advance. Information on public meeting times, topics, and how public comments will be received should be easy to find on the SCWP website home page and within the meeting agendas (*currently not the case*). This information, as well as any additional accompanying meeting materials, should be translated into at least Spanish and Mandarin.

- Ensure language access needs are met by providing interpretation during public meetings. For remote meetings, use teleconference lines or audio channels.
- Consider participation barriers for members of the public that may not have access to the internet or a computer. Provide adequate telephone options, with interpretation, for virtual meetings and receiving public comments. Having multiple avenues to engage in a given meeting will ensure more robust dialogue and input.
- Use best practices for public comment periods in virtual hearings and meetings. This includes giving ample time for the public to submit comments prior to a meeting through multiple avenues and live during a meeting.
- Provide links to all materials including presentations at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Project Funding Recommendations

- Fund projects that best exemplify the goals (Attachment 2) of the SCWP. The best projects out of the 53 that are eligible for funding are listed in Attachment 1.
- No funding for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study.
- Fund projects in phases to get projects through initial project development, such as project design in order to preserve funds for future years.
- Require that all Technical Resources allocations include the development and implementation of a Community Engagement Plan.

Community Engagement, Equity, Community Investments & DAC Benefits

- Require that all project funding recommendations include a sustained community engagement element with the assistance of local experienced NGOs from design through construction and operations and maintenance.
- Require that all projects which claim points for Community Investments submit letters from local community groups verifying that the project includes tangible community investments.
- Those projects which claim that jobs will provide direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities must include documentation as to how they will achieve this goal.

ATTACHMENT 1

Projects Recommended for Funding

Project Name	WASC	Notes
MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project	Central Santa Monica Bay	<u>SCORE: 70</u> A strong water quality improvement project that uses nature-based solutions and provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Monteith Park and View Park Green Alley Stormwater Improvements Project	Central Santa Monica Bay	<u>SCORE: 80</u> A strong nature-based water quality improvement project that provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Salt Lake Park Infiltration Cistern	Lower Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 76</u> A strong nature-based water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds to provide DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Hermosillo Park Regional Stormwater Project	Lower San Gabriel River	<u>SCORE: 84</u> A good water quality improvement project which will provide additional community investment benefits.
East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project	Rio Hondo	<u>SCORE: 83</u> A good water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide significant water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project	Santa Clara	<u>SCORE: 63</u> A good water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide some additional community investment benefits.
Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project	Upper Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 96</u> Strong water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide significant water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
Strathern North Stormwater Capture Project	Upper Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 89</u> Good water quality, nature-based elements and community benefits project that would benefit DAC communities and had support letters from local groups.

Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project	Upper San Gabriel River	<u>SCORE: 92</u> Strong water quality improvement project that leverages funds and uses nature-based solutions to provide some water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
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Attachment 2

Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance: Section 18.04 SCW Program Goals.

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefiting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.

Attachment 3
March 10, 2020 Letter from OWLA to WASCs



DATE: March 10, 2020

TO: WASC Chair & Members
CC: LAC SCWP Staff

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations Concerning the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for 2019-2020**

OurWaterLA (OWLA) is a diverse coalition that has engaged communities, businesses, and organizations across Los Angeles County, building support to reinvent and reinvest in our water future using nature based infrastructure that provides community health benefits, environmental health benefits, and economic benefits. OWLA recommends that funding priority be given to the projects that best exemplify the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP), and that consideration should be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR STORMWATER PROJECTS

The Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) must achieve the fourteen programmatic goals clearly laid out in the SCWP Implementation Ordinance (Attachment 1), including the goals to improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements, as well as multiple additional community investments such as prioritization of nature based solutions, community engagement, equity, and quality jobs. Our top issues are shown below in bullet point format and described more robustly in Attachment 1.

Nature Based Solutions

The prioritization of nature based solutions is a specific programmatic goal of the SCWP, and therefore must be reflected in the projects for the SIP.

Community Engagement

A plan for future community outreach is not sufficient for true community engagement in a project. Priority should be given to projects for which local community engagement, designed specifically for the proposed project, has already been initiated.

Equity

One of the most innovative aspects of the SCWP is the written requirements for the equitable distribution of community investments. When assessing the 110% benefit return on investments

for disadvantaged communities, it is important to clarify what type of benefits a project provides, and whether the proposed investments directly benefit the receiving community and verified by local community groups.

Quality Jobs

At a minimum, funding through the SCWP SIP must be contingent upon providing direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities.

We recommend that all of these programmatic goals be considered when selecting projects for full or partial funding for the 2019-2020 SIP, and that consideration be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects. One opportunity to reserve future funding is to fund projects in phases, to get projects through initial project development, such as project design.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

There have also been proposals for funding through the SCWP Scientific Studies Program. The purpose of the Scientific Studies Program is to provide funding for scientific and technical activities, including, but not limited to, scientific studies, technical studies, monitoring, and modeling related to *stormwater and urban runoff capture and pollution reduction*.

OWLA recommends that no funding be allocated for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study. It has no hypothesis or clear methodology, and no scientific professionals were involved in the development of the study, as is required under the SCWP Scientific Studies Program when feasible.

This proposal is asking for nearly \$10 million region-wide over the next five years to target a specific source of a specific pollutant rather than providing multiple benefits, and to potentially weaken water quality objectives rather than improving our water quality. This proposed study will not support many of the program goals, listed in Attachment 1. Additionally, there are other potential funding sources for this study including the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, which already has a similar study in its 5-year plan. **This nearly \$10 million should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects.**

Further, for those WASCs considering the Wet Weather Zinc study, this proposal is asking for \$500K to potentially weaken water quality objectives, rather than improving our water quality. Funds should instead be spent on multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. The Safe, Clean Water Program is not the right funding source for this study because this study does not support many of the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program or its Scientific Studies Program. There are other potential ways to achieve this type of recalculation, including working with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with each of you, with the County of Los Angeles, and with our communities to most efficiently and effectively reinvest in our water future. Many of us, including WASC members, recognize that this is a complex process, and we would be remiss not to stop and strongly re-evaluate the context for making these critically important funding recommendations. OWLA core team members want to work with you to be part of the solution for meeting water quality standards by implementing multi-benefit projects. Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

OWLA Core Team

ATTACHMENT 1

Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance: Section 18.04 SCW Program Goals.

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefiting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.