

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

2:00pm - 5:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)
Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles - Sanitation)
Art Castro* (LA Dept of Water and Power)
David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Nisgaard & Smith)
Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)
Teresa Villegas (Los Angeles)
Patrick DeChellis (La Canada Flintridge)
Miguel Luna (Urban Semillas)
Cathie Santo Domingo (LA Recreation & Parks)
Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300)

Yazdan Emrani (Glendale)
Genevieve Osmena (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park Association)
Max Podemski (Los Angeles)
Rafael Prieto (Los Angeles)
Paul Alva (Los Angeles)
Kris Markarian (Pasadena)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Nahai, Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC called meeting to order.

CJ Caluag (District) welcomed Committee members and facilitated roll call voting for attendance and quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. David Nahai asked the committee members for comments or revisions, there were none.

Yazdan Emrani motioned to approve the minutes. Miguel Luna seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes. (Approved, See vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

The District provided the District updates, noting: the Scoring Committee (SC) completed all the scoring of projects submitted to the Infrastructure Program on January 12, 2021. For project applicants that did not meet the scoring threshold, they were notified and requested to submit clarifying project information to the District. The District also noted that the ULAR WASC had four projects that were deemed unable to score, and that these projects would be evaluated and rescored by the SC on January 25, 2021. The District further noted that there were 67 Watershed Coordinator (WC) proposals received from 21 different applicants for the Watershed Coordinator positions. Phase 1 of the WC evaluation was completed by the District's Contracts Division. Phase 2 of the WC selection process involves the WASC selection of their WC(s) and on-boarding of the WC(s) in March.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Regarding the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) the District noted that the ROC will be meeting on January 28, 2021 to discuss Water Supply Benefits and prioritization of Nature Based Solutions. Additionally, the ROC will also meet next month to discuss Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Community Engagement. The ROC intends on developing an interim program guidance with the assistance of experts for next year's future applicants.

With regards to the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Reporting Module, the District noted that it should be fully functional by April 1, 2021. The District further noted the reporting module is intended to assist project applicants, and Cities with the requirement of uploading their Quarterly Reports. The District proceeded with a brief demonstration of the reporting module's functionalities.

Finally, the District noted that Municipalities were requested to submit their Transfer Agreements, Resolutions and Annual Plans and for the Regional Transfer Agreements, project developers are also requested to submit the executed Transfer Agreements, Resolutions, Authorizations and Scope of Work (if applicable) to the District as soon as possible.

David Nahai encouraged Committee members to familiarize themselves with the SCWP Reporting Module and requested that the District provide step-by-step guide.

4. Ex Parte Communications

No Ex Parte Communication Disclosures received.

5. Public Comment Period

A member of the public commented on his organization's support of the Council for Watershed Health to fill the Watershed Coordinator positions. He stated that the organization has over 20 years of experience in Stormwater projects for communities within the greater Los Angeles area. Council for Watershed Health approaches projects at a community level, seek to understand what the residents need and implement programs based on ground level feedback. He added that the Council for Watershed Health has proven they have experience to have an interagency for the success of these projects. He expressed confidence in the organization's numerous years of experience working with numerous parties and having technical assistance in reducing Stormwater pollution, increased water supply and maximize reliance on local water resources.

A member of the public commented on Council for Watershed Health's experience working with underserved communities. He noted that Measure W was greatly supported by underserved communities and today these communities are requesting that the Committee give the Council for Watershed Health the necessary votes and contract of confidence so that underserved communities do not feel disproportioned. He further noted that the community needs a community-based organization. He added that people that were selected by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors do not represent underserved communities. Finally, he stated that the Committee choose an organization that has the capability and confidence to engage underserved communities because they are voters and taxpayers.

David Nahai thanked the public comment speakers and noted that their comments in support of Council for Watershed Health would be remembered by the Committee during the voting process. He also noted that there would be another second public comment period before the voting process.

6. Discussion Items

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



a) Technical Resources Program Presentations:

i) South Pasadena Huntington Drive Regional Green Street

Presented by Shahid Abbas, Director of Public Works for the City of South Pasadena with Cameron McCullough, of John Hunter & Associates.

Miguel Luna requested clarification that if the water gain benefits would remain the same if project was to be relocated and if the identified Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) being serviced would also remain the same. Shahid Abbas noted that if the project was to be relocated that the benefits and DAC services would remain the same.

Yazdan Emrani requested clarification that if the infiltration rate was not met then there would be a trunk shoreline that would be used to direct runoff. He further added that is not typical to direct runoff into a sewer system, these are kept separate to avoid issues downstream and treatment at the treatment plant as far as the concentration of the flow comes into the plant. Cameron McCullough noted that there would be a volume storage that the underground system would hold or drywells and from there a slow release to the sanitary sewer at a rate that could be accepted. That there wouldn't be a release at a rate that would impact the sewer lines to the point of causing an overflow or a flow issue in general.

Genevieve Osmena requested clarification on the project's community feedback as its location is in a residential area. Shahid Abbas noted that a similar project East of this proposed project was just completed with community support. There is also a similar project West of this proposed project in Phase I status in which the community is very supportive. Because of the positive support and feedback on the East and West projects the City Council and the Commission support the project. The corridor is an ideal corridor to be a Green Street Project; bike lanes, connect to Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) project, and pedestrian use with less traffic.

Veronica Padilla-Campos requested clarification on the benefits for Disadvantaged Communities. Shahid Abbas noted that the project will serve 1,500 community members in addition to other disadvantaged communities North and South of the project. The community benefits will be safer streets to walk, bike lanes and improved intersections but overall make this corridor whole. Veronica Padilla-Campos further requested clarification on the expanding of this project to other projects and what is the distance. Shahid Abbas noted that this project would connect to the City of Alhambra and Los Angeles.

Max Podemski requested clarification on the status of funding for the bike lanes and pedestrian improvements. Shahid Abbas noted that the funding for the bike lanes has been secured through LA Metro. In regards to intersection improvements to compliment the bike lanes, the City has approved funding and we are in the process of writing request for proposals.

David Nahai requested clarification on what exactly does estimated system capacity of 5 acre-feet mean i.e. either capture or divert 5 acre-feet annually. Cameron McCullough noted the 5 acre-feet capture is not annually. It is based on 85th percentile storm event; 1 inch of rain in 24/hours would be 5 acre-feet of water. David Nahai further requested clarification on the project's project \$5 million cost in terms of cost per acre-foot. Cameron McCullough noted not to have a precise number but could be cost out if necessary.

ii) McCambridge Park Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit

Presented by Stephen Walker, Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Burbank with Cameron McCullough, of John Hunter & Associates.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



David Nahai requested clarification on how much water is being saved as a result of the construction of the project estimated at \$17 million. Cameron McCullough noted that costs are preliminary and are based on a rough cost of a million dollars per acre-foot of infiltration.

Teresa Villegas asked the District to provide a list of previous projects to compare this project with in terms of size, similar scope of work and benefits. The District noted that the SCWP Reporting Module (which will be fully functional in April 2021) can assist with comparing project metrics.

Genevieve Osmena requested clarification if drywells or an underground gallery would be used for this project and if there had been discussions if project is developed and implemented the maintenance of the amenities. Cameron McCullough noted that there would be an infiltration gallery but that drywells are also being considered as part of the feasibility study analysis. He further noted that project is supported by the Department of Recreation and Parks and other cities.

b) Voting Process for Watershed Coordinator Selection

The District provided an overview of the WC selection noting that the roll call vote will be conducted to select the top three WCs as the primary choices (Primary). The WCs will need a majority vote to be chosen as a Primary. In an event that there is a two-way tie, three-way tie, or no specific WC that gets a majority, there will be a runoff vote between the top two WCs. Once the three WCs are chosen as the Primary, they will be removed from the list of choices for the selection of the 1st Alternate with the same roll call vote process. Once one WC is chosen as the 1st Alternate, they will be removed from the list of choices for the selection of the 2nd Alternate with the same roll call vote process. The District further noted that if the Committee members had any financial interest in one of the organizations being considered to disclose information and recuse themselves from the selection process.

7. Public Comment Period

A member of the public acknowledged that Committee members are asking the project applicants about community outreach and how the community will be involved in the project development process. They said we need more bike lanes and green space. They expressed that Measure W provides an opportunity to solve the issue of water being wasted in California by choosing the organization who best can engage the community throughout the process and help the community believe in the process. They expressed appreciation that the community component is being discussed and shows that the Committee are great people that have the community in mind.

A member of the public commented on their support for Council for Watershed Health to fill the three WC positions. This is a unique opportunity to have an in-house organization that we have worked with for nearly four years in the East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights areas through their program. First one called the Water Dialogues after that the empowering community based organizations to build multi benefit projects, all the mentorship that we have had, from their technicians, from the directors from the managers, has been with their eyes set on investing, connecting and building those long term relationships that are needed for the type of work that Measure W was intended to do.

A member of the public commented on her support for the funding of South Pasadena Huntington Drive Regional Green Street project submitted to the Technical Resources Program and suggested that if the Committee disfavored the project to indicate that decision sooner rather than later. She also commented on her support for Council for Watershed Health to fill the three WC positions.

The WASC took a 10-minute break.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



8. Voting Items

a) Selection of Watershed Coordinators for the Upper Los Angeles River WASC

The Committee voted for Council for Watershed Health as Primary for two WC positions and Environmental Outreach Strategies as Primary for one WC position; Day One for the 1st Alternate and Council for Watershed Health for the 2nd Alternate. (Approved, See vote tracking sheet).

9. Meeting Schedule

Next meeting, Wednesday February 3, 2021, 2-4PM.

Recurring meetings on the first Wednesday, 2-4PM (ongoing).

Additional meetings in February and March from 2-5PM to accommodate presentations.

10. Items for Next Agenda

a) Infrastructure Program presentations

11. Adjournment

David Nahai thanked the WASC members and the public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Upper Los Angeles River
January 13, 2021

Attendees

Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - January 13, 2020

Safe Clean Water LA	Anteneh Tesfaye	Teresa Villegas	Kirk Allen
Mayra Cabrera - LACFCD	Veronica Padilla	Rafael Prieto	Melissa Levitt
maria mehranian	Miguel Luna	katie m	MEHRAD KAMALZARE
Justin Jones (LACFCD)	Paul Glenn (GHD)	macshorty	Diana Mahmud
Stephen Walker	Joe Venzon - LA County	John Robinson	Adriana
Shahid Abbas	Paul Liu	D Ready	Jennifer Amarant
CJ Caluag - LACFCD	Francisco Romero	Patrick DeChellis	Ali Sharbat
Mike Antos	Taraneh Nik-Khah	shahram Kharaghani	Lisa Skutecki
Eileen Alduenda	Genevieve Osmena	Ernesto Rivera	Dawn Petschauer
Dawn Petschauer	Jeshow Yang	Teresa Villegas	D Ready
Clarasophia Gust	Art Castro	I EC	Laurel Hunt
Carlos Moran	Maritsa DRA Inc Garcia	Christine McLeod	April Mendez
John Luker	Johanna Chang	Paul Liu	David Diaz
Itzel Flores Castillo Wang	Thuan Nguyen	Yaz Emrani	macshorty
Pauline Louie	Benjamin Shorofsky	Wendi Gladstone	Aydin Pasebani
Christy Zamani	Max Podemski	Adi Liberman	Brenda Ponton
William OBraitis	Ernesto Pantoja	sarah rascon	macshorty
A M	Lynda Bybee	Nayiri Vartanian	Alexander Iglesias
david nahai	Cathie Santo Domingo	Yaz Emrani	Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources
Conor Mossavi	Yvana Hrovat	Kris Markarian	Arlene Guzman
Jon Ball	Paul Alva	Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources	Kirk Allen
Cameron McCullough	Susie Santilena	Ana Tabuena-Ruddy	Johanna Chang
TJ Moon	Jason Casanova	maria merino	Vik Bapna
Alvin Cruz - LACFCD	Mara Luevano	Michael Gagan	Diana Mahmud
Lena Nguyen	Brian Baldauf	Nayiri Vartanian	macshorty

McCambridge Park Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project

Funding Program: Technical Resources Program (TRP)

Project Lead: City of Burbank

Presenters: Stephen Walker, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director

Cameron McCullough, JLHA



Project Overview

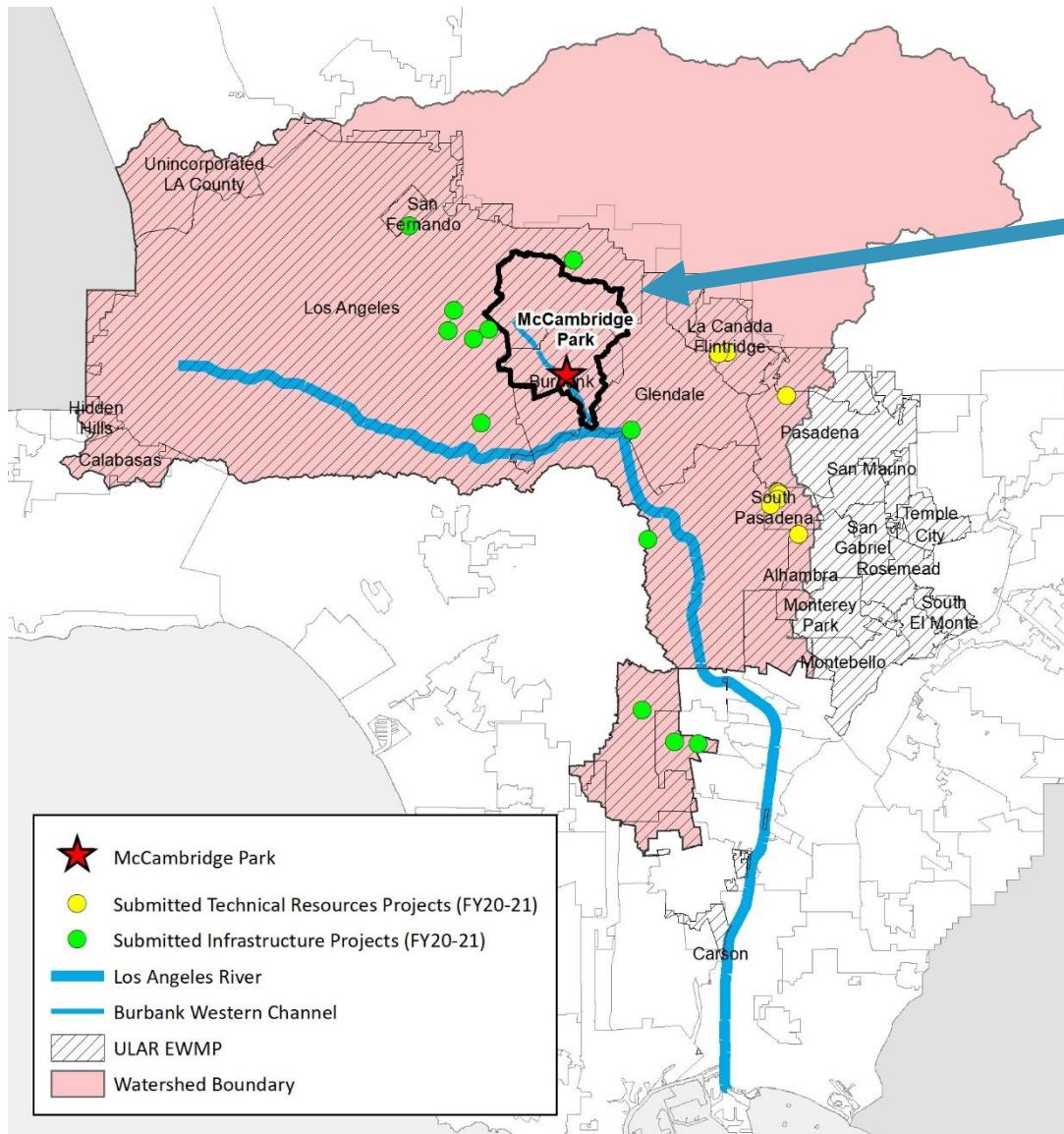
The City is requesting a feasibility study for the capture and use of regional stormwater flows to an underground basin at the City's McCambridge Park

- Objectives – improve water quality (primary), water supply, and flood management, and enhance park space and recreational uses
- Project Status – concept planning
- Total Funding Requested: \$300,000





Project Location: Watershed Area (Upper LA River)

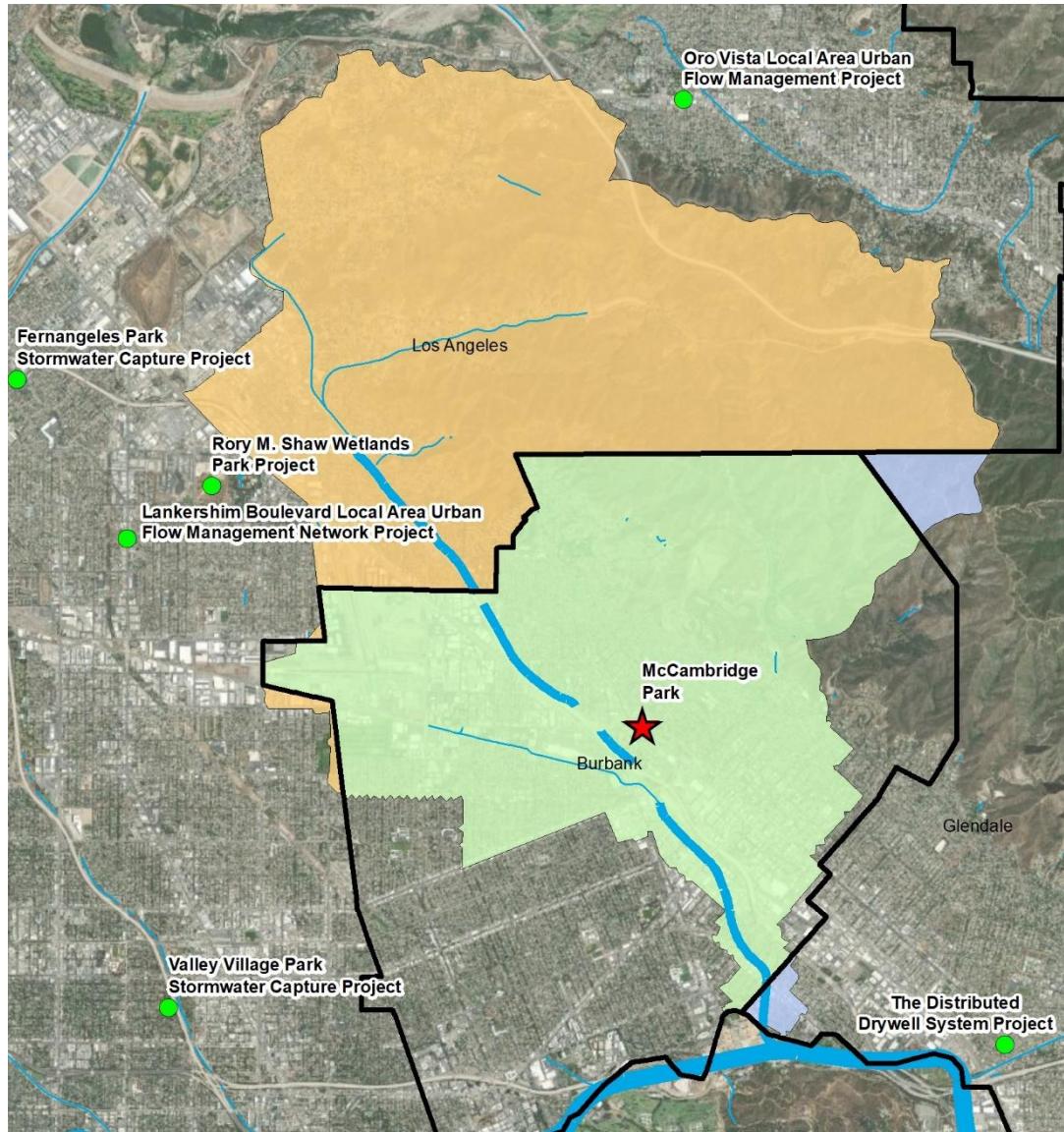


The Project drains to

- Burbank Western Channel
- LA River



Project Location: Subwatershed Area (Burbank Western Channel)



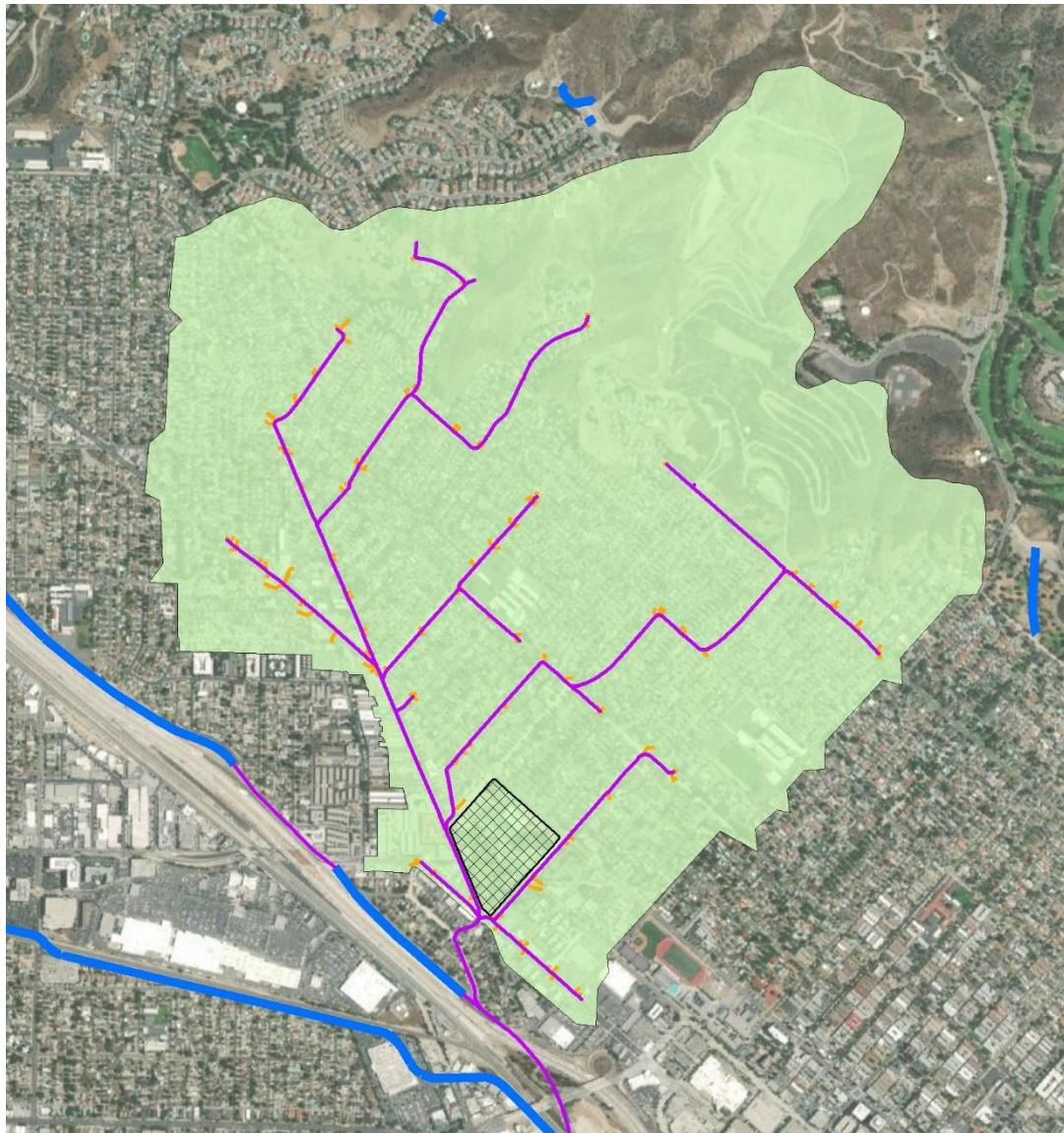
Burbank Western Channel is:

- A major LA River tributary
- Impaired (as is LA River)
- Under TMDLs for metals, bacteria, and trash

Requires its own water quality protection and projects



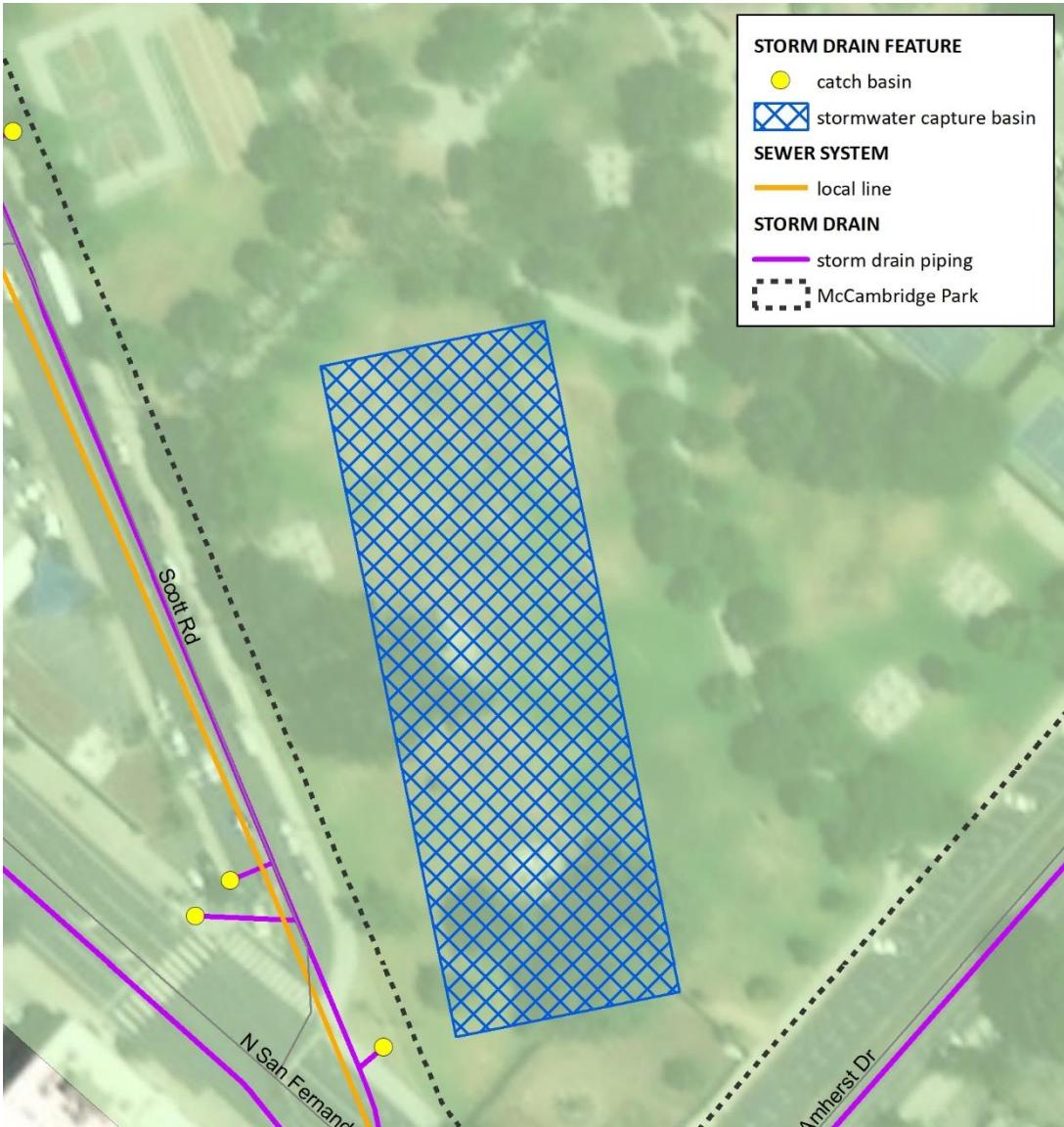
Project Location: Capture Area



- The Project could capture up to 1,000 acres of stormwater runoff



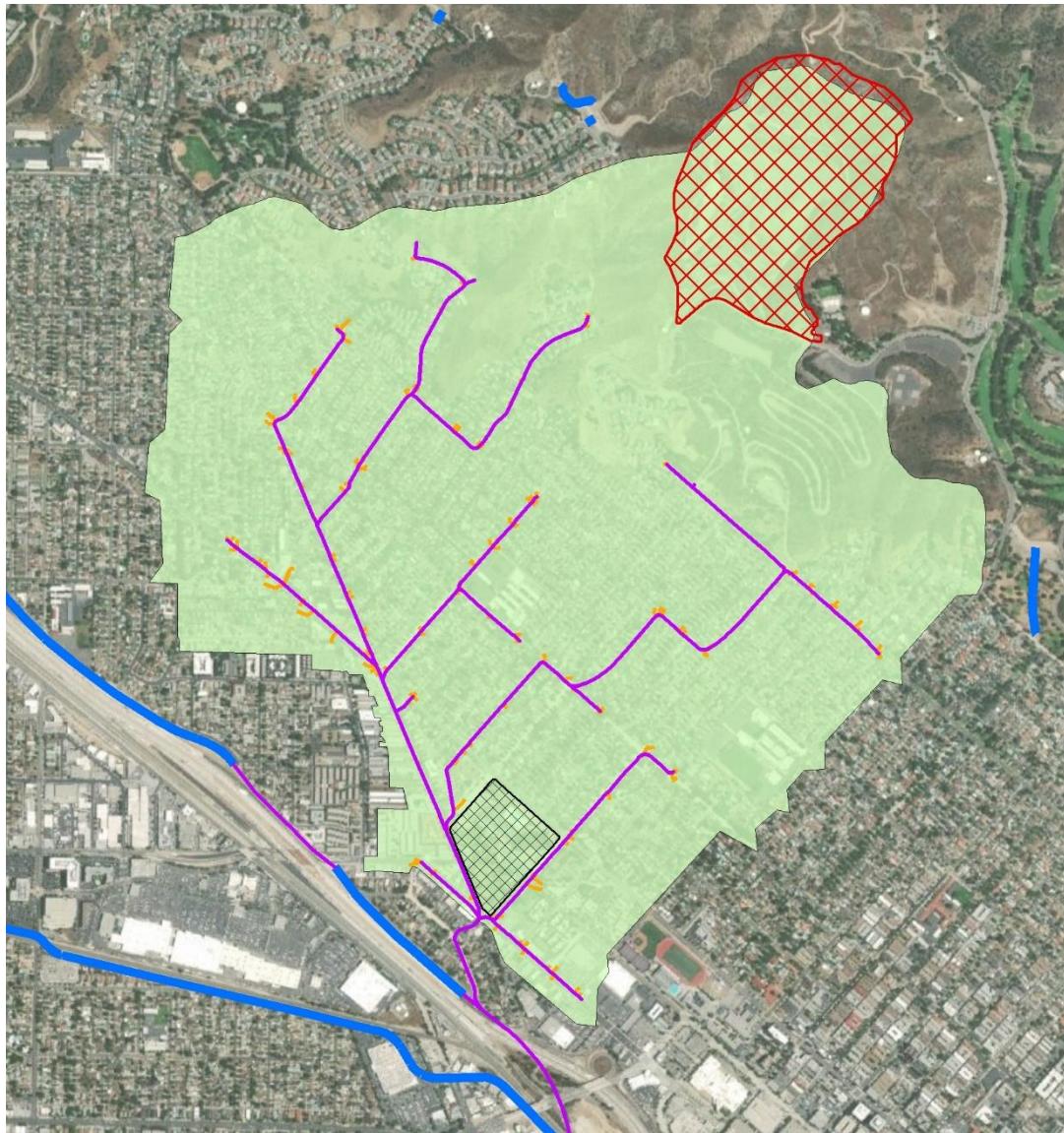
Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Quality)



- Could be sized to capture up to 35 acre-feet
- Initial assumption due to cost constraints is a 1-acre footprint with a 15-acre-foot capacity



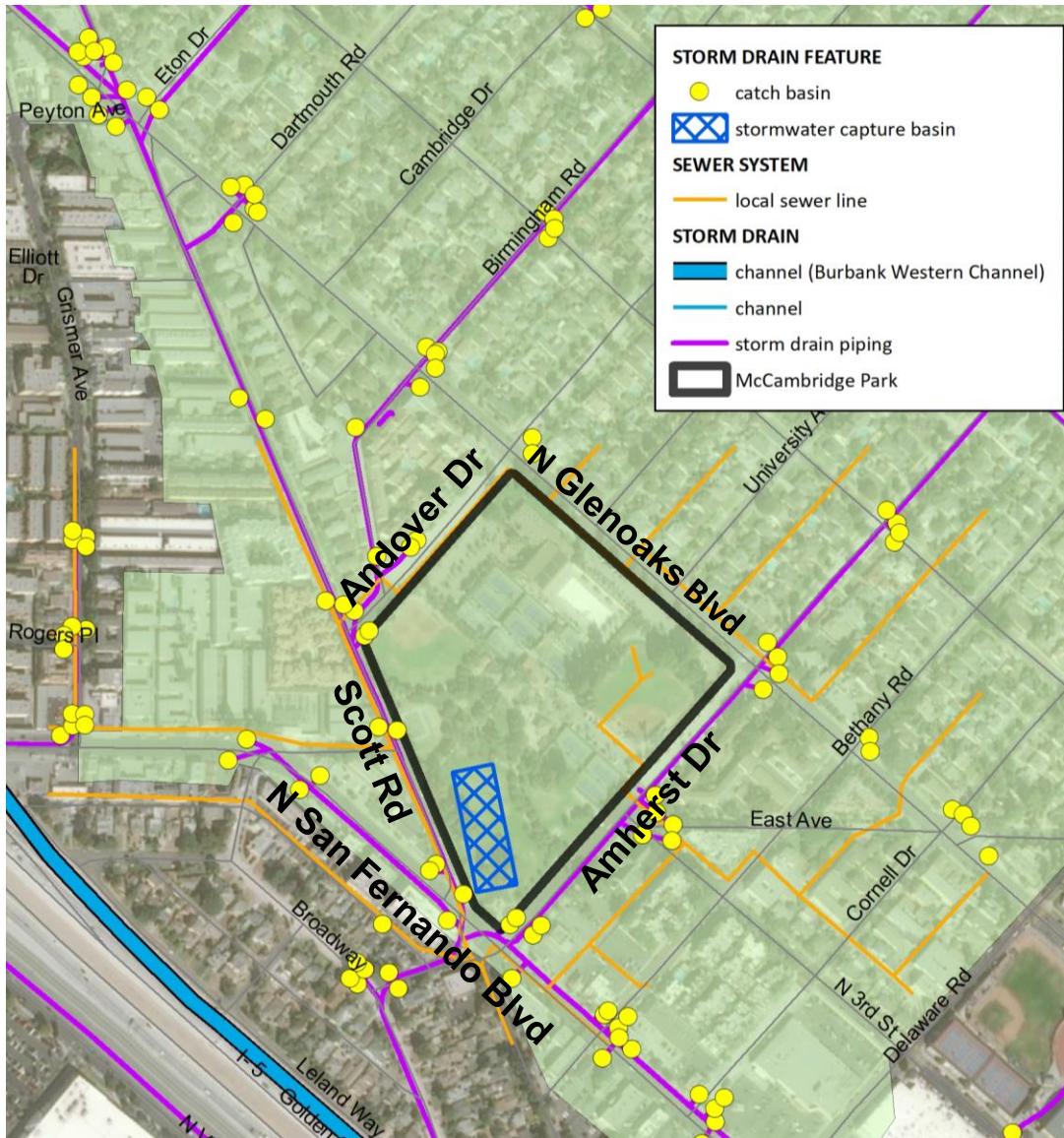
Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Quality)



- Upstream drainage area includes a landfill
- Landfills can be a source of industrial stormwater pollution



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Supply)

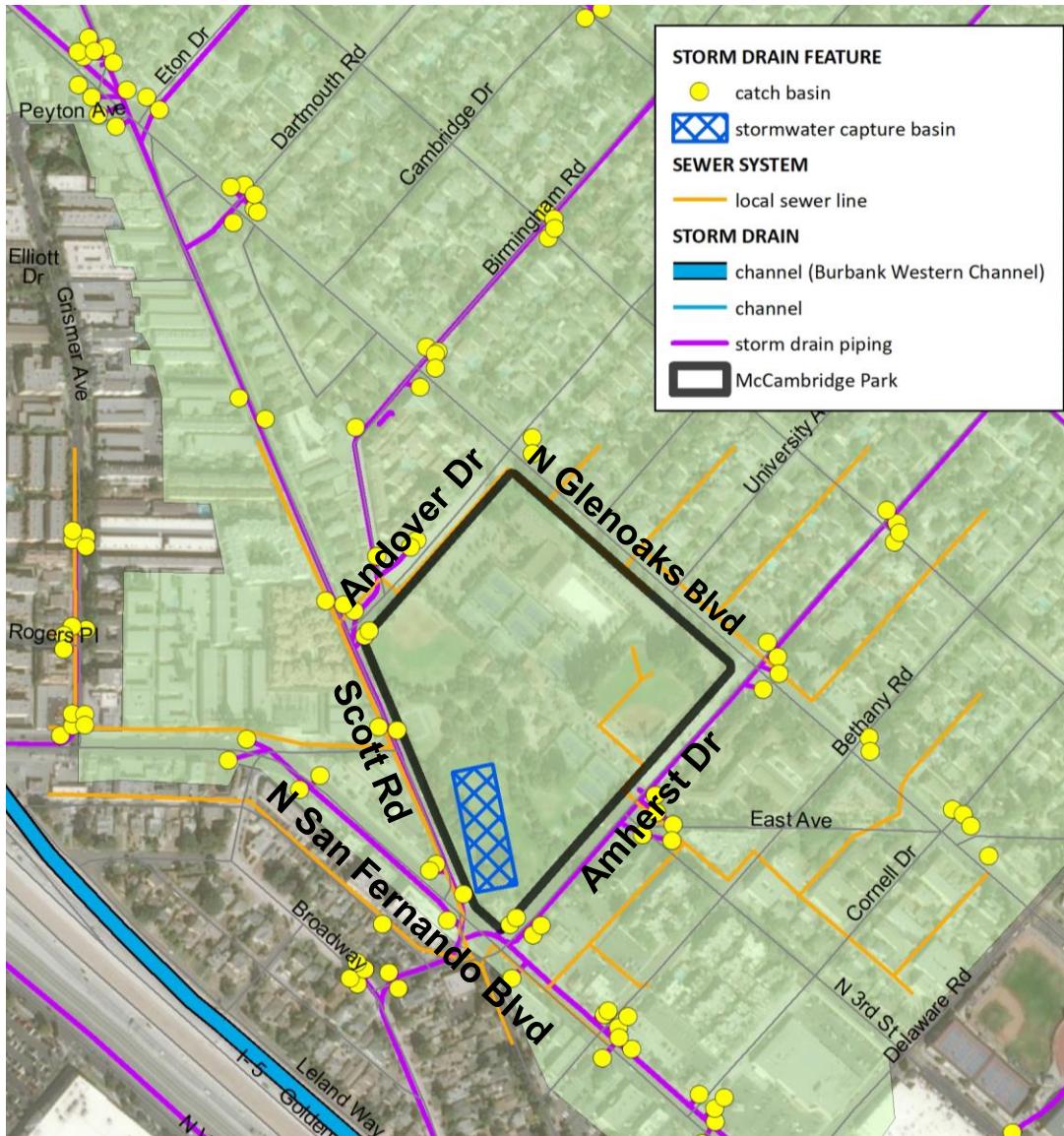


Storm Drain Diversion

- Project borders existing storm drains that allow for diversion.
- Existing storm drain lines ≈150 to 250 feet from system inlet.



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Supply)



Sanitary Sewer Option

- Captured runoff could potentially be released slowly to existing sanitary sewer.
- Sanitary lines eventually drain to Burbank Water Reclamation Plant.



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Community)

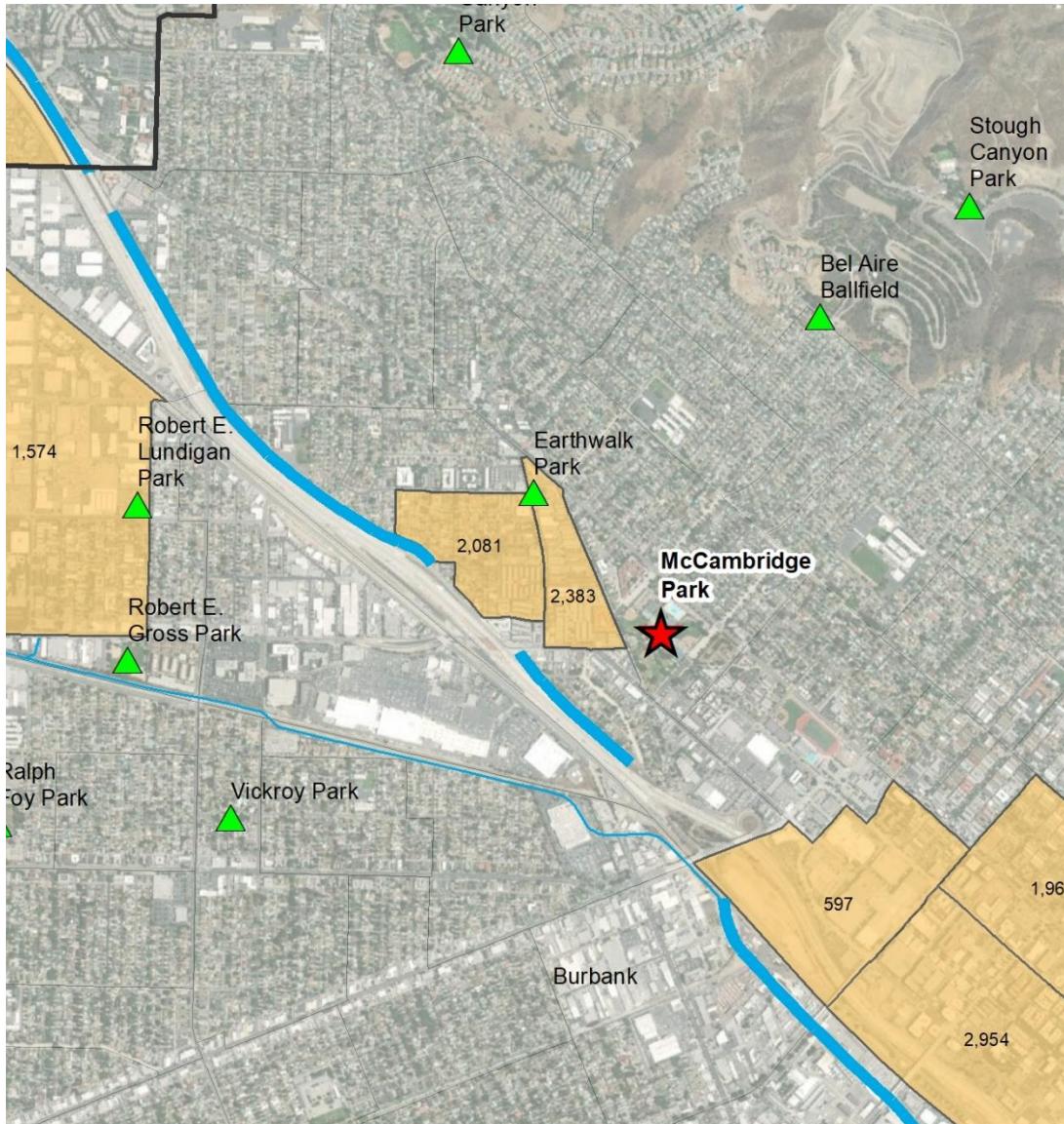


Park Improvements

- Provide shelters to shade picnic tables
- Include new ADA pathway for access to picnic tables
- Add fitness stations
- Add 9-hole disc golf course
- Improve walking paths
- Provide LED pedestrian and ballfield lighting throughout park
- Consider solar power at the recreation center, basketball courts, and bocce ball



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Community)

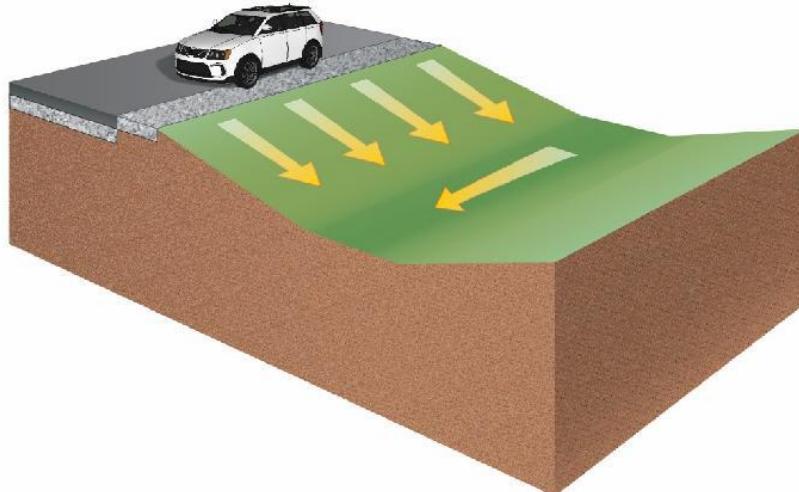


Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

- Borders Immediately adjacent to the west, and
- about 0.5 miles to the southeast



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Nature-based Solutions)



Feasibility Study will consider inclusion of

- Bioswales in two parking lots
- Planting of native trees adjacent to underground system



Project Background

Project Selection and Development

- 2017 – LA Dept of Water and Power (LADWP) contacted the City to have preliminary discussions about potential collaboration of stormwater infiltration projects.
- 2018 – City's Public Works Department reevaluated potential projects within the City. Identified McCambridge Park as a prime location.
- 2019 – City discussed this project location with LADWP and they expressed an interest in partnering on the project.
- The Upper LA River EWMP includes McCambridge Park as a potential regional project location.



Project Background

Description of benefits to municipality/municipalities

- Water quality – protects Burbank Western Channel & LA River
- Water supply – via aquifer recharge or reclamation
- Community – park improvements
- Disadvantaged communities – on west border & 0.5 mi SE



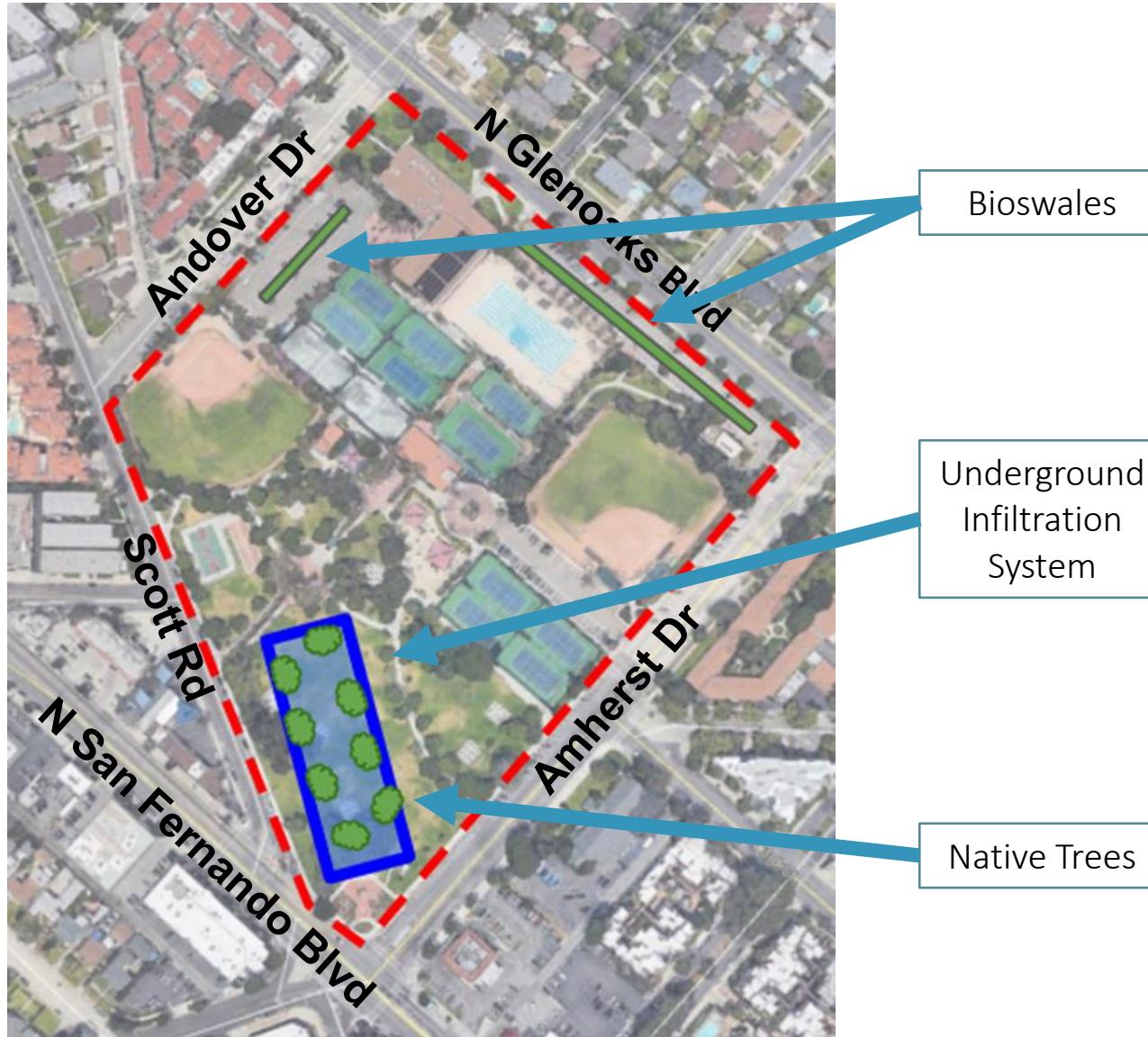
Project Background

Benefits to Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits

- There are two DAC block groups of 4,464 people directly across and within a short walking distance to the park space/project area.
 - **Source:** California Dept of Water Resources' DAC Mapping Tool



Project Details



- Located within City of Burbank owned McCambridge Park.
- Underground system is situated in an open space area of the park
- **Constraints:** temporarily reduced available park space during construction
- **Alternatives:** upsizing project scope based on funding



Community Engagement and Collaboration

Parks & Recreation Board

- The City's Parks & Recreation Board works in an advisory capacity with Department staff to identify and meet the recreational and human service needs of the Burbank community.
- The City will present the project concept to the Parks & Recreation Board.

General public and other stakeholders, such as local environmental groups

- Workshops will inform stakeholders on the City's project approach, and allow them to participate in project development.
- The City will hold community-based workshops.



Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Approximate Schedule
Planning & Design	Includes early concept design, pre-project monitoring, feasibility study development, site investigations, formal project design, intermediate and project completion audits, CEQA and other environmental impact studies and permitting.	\$2,300,000.00 ^C	FY21-23
Construction	Construction	\$15,000,000.00 ^C	FY23-25
O&M	Maintenance	\$50,000.00 ^A	FY26+
O&M	Operation	\$5,000.00 ^A	FY26+
O&M	Monitoring	\$15,000.00 ^A	FY26+
TOTAL	50 year Project Life Span	\$20,800,000.00	

A = Annual, C = Capital



Funding Request

Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$300,000.00	Planning and Design	Feasibility Study, FY21-22
2			
3			
4			
5			
TOTAL			

- If funded, the City plans to follow with a submission of an SCWP infrastructure application



McCambridge Park Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project

Questions?

South Pasadena Huntington Drive Regional Green Street

Funding Program: Technical Resources Program (TRP)

Project Lead: City of South Pasadena

Presenters: Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director

Cameron McCullough, JLHA



Project Overview

The City is requesting a feasibility study for the capture and potential infiltration of regional stormwater flows to a green street along Huntington Drive.

- Objectives – improve water quality (primary), water supply, and flood management, and enhance green space
- Project Status – concept planning
- Total Funding Requested: \$300,000





Project Overview (cont.)

Summary

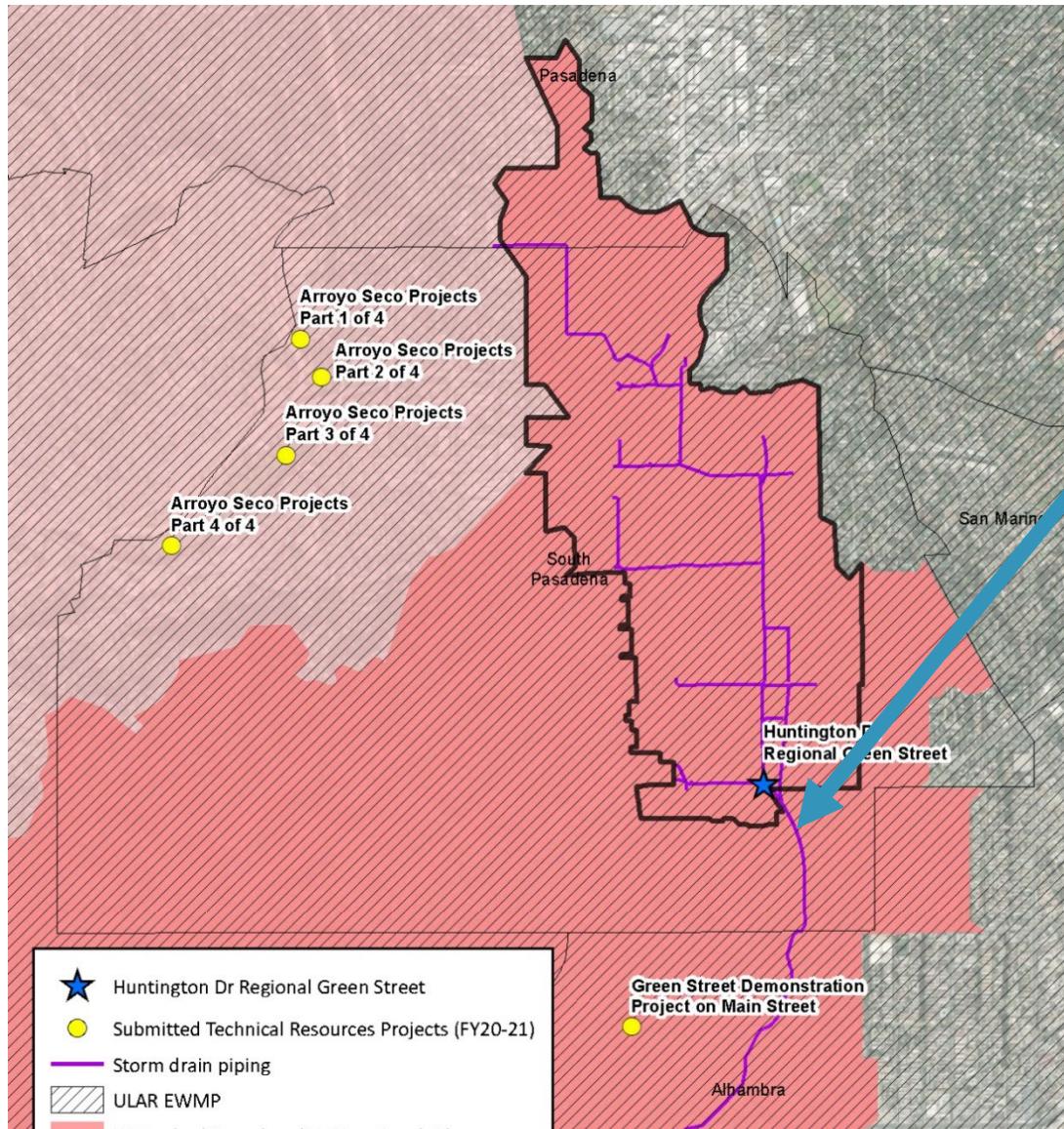
- Capture area – up to 600 acres
- Medians – 33,345 sq ft (0.77 acres) of open space
- Estimated system capacity – up to 5 acre-feet
- Complements and extends existing Huntington Drive project

Benefits

- Water quality – protects LA River
- Water supply – via aquifer recharge or reclamation, irrigation reduction
- Community – beautification along Huntington Drive



Project Location: Watershed Area (Upper LA River Reach 2)

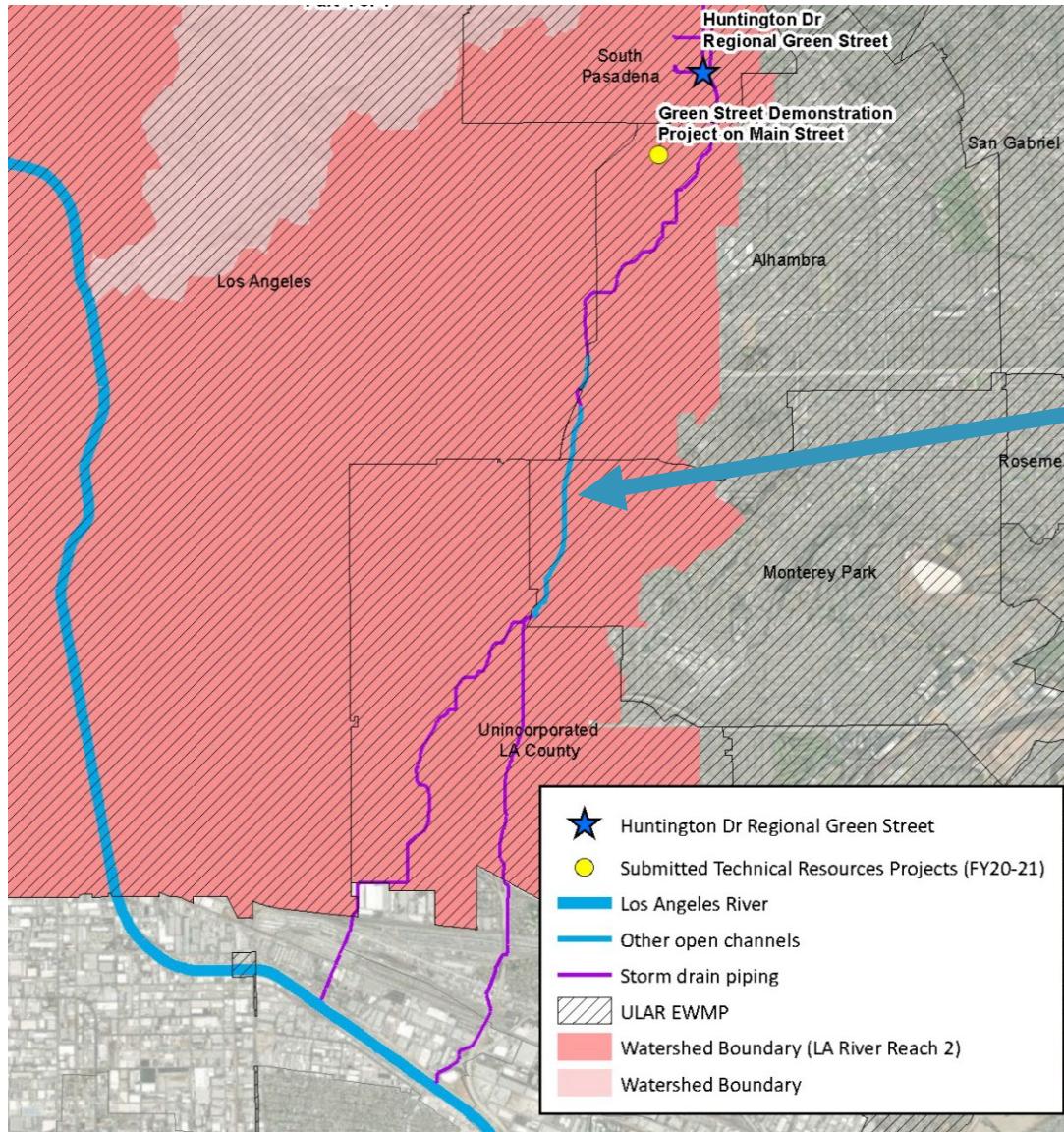


The Project drains to:

- underground storm drains
- Laguna Channel
- LA River



Project Location: Watershed Area (Upper LA River Reach 2)

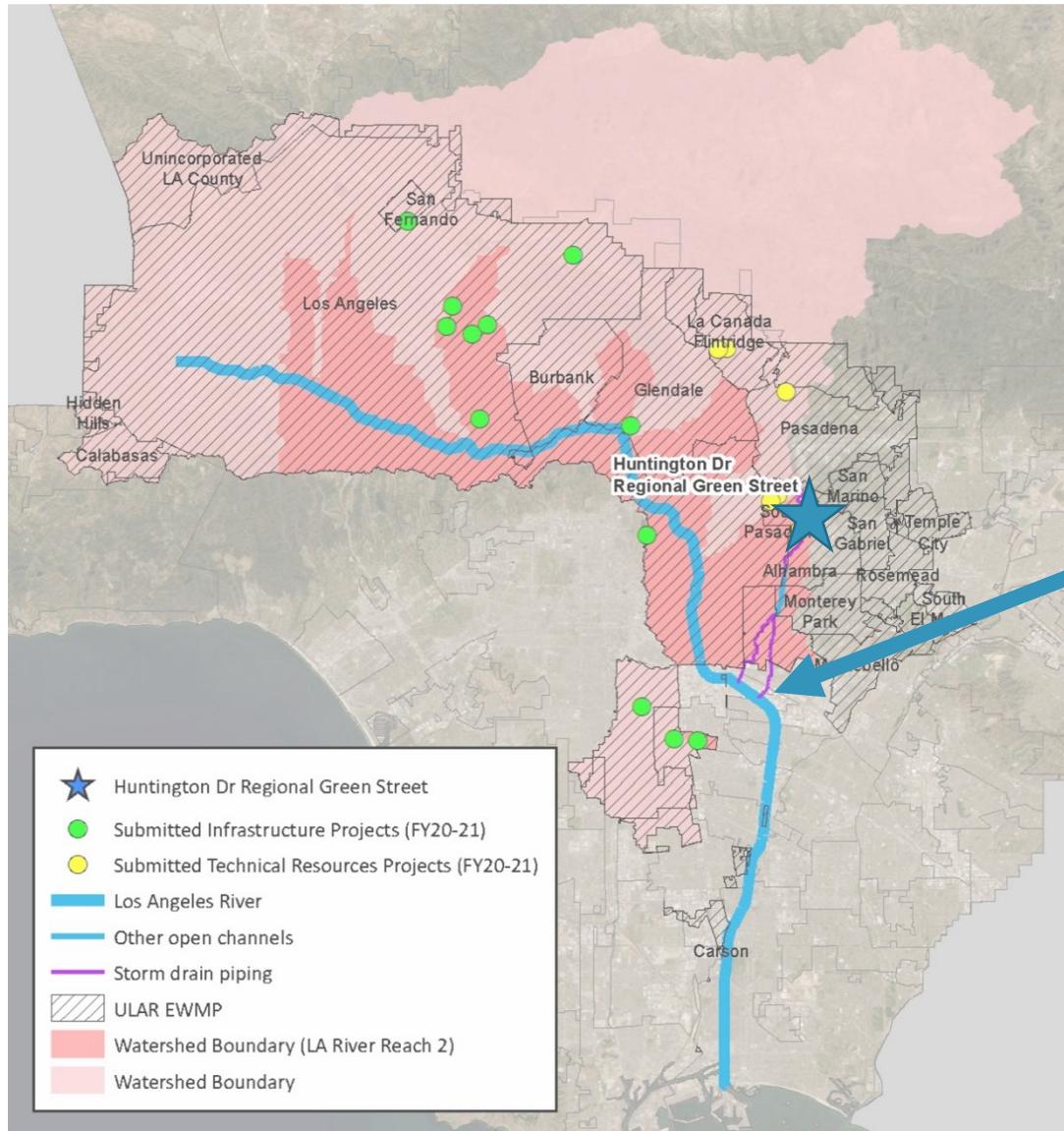


The Project drains to:

- underground storm drains
- Laguna Channel
- LA River



Project Location: Watershed Area (Upper LA River Reach 2)

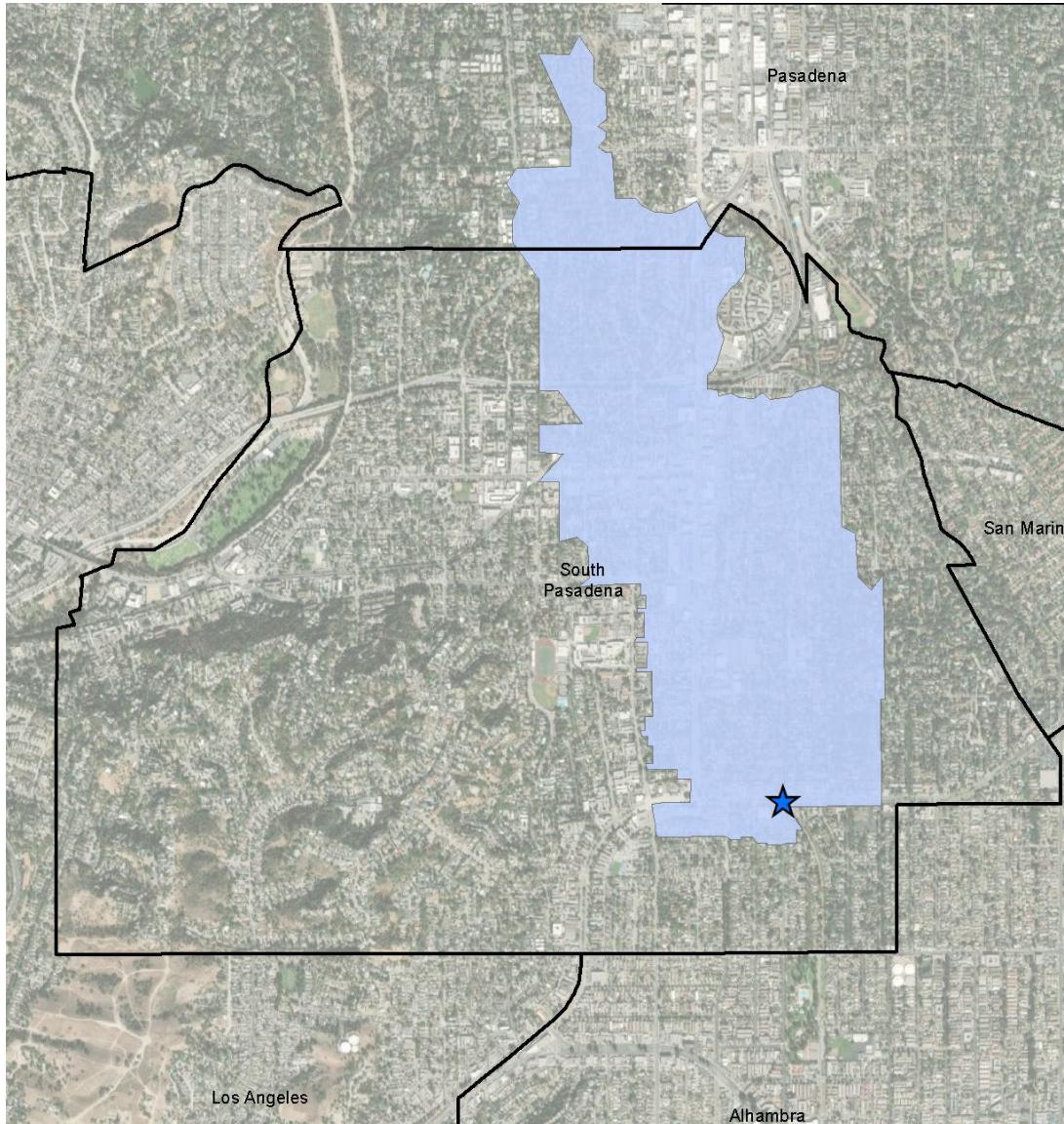


The Project drains to:

- underground storm drains
- Laguna Channel
- LA River



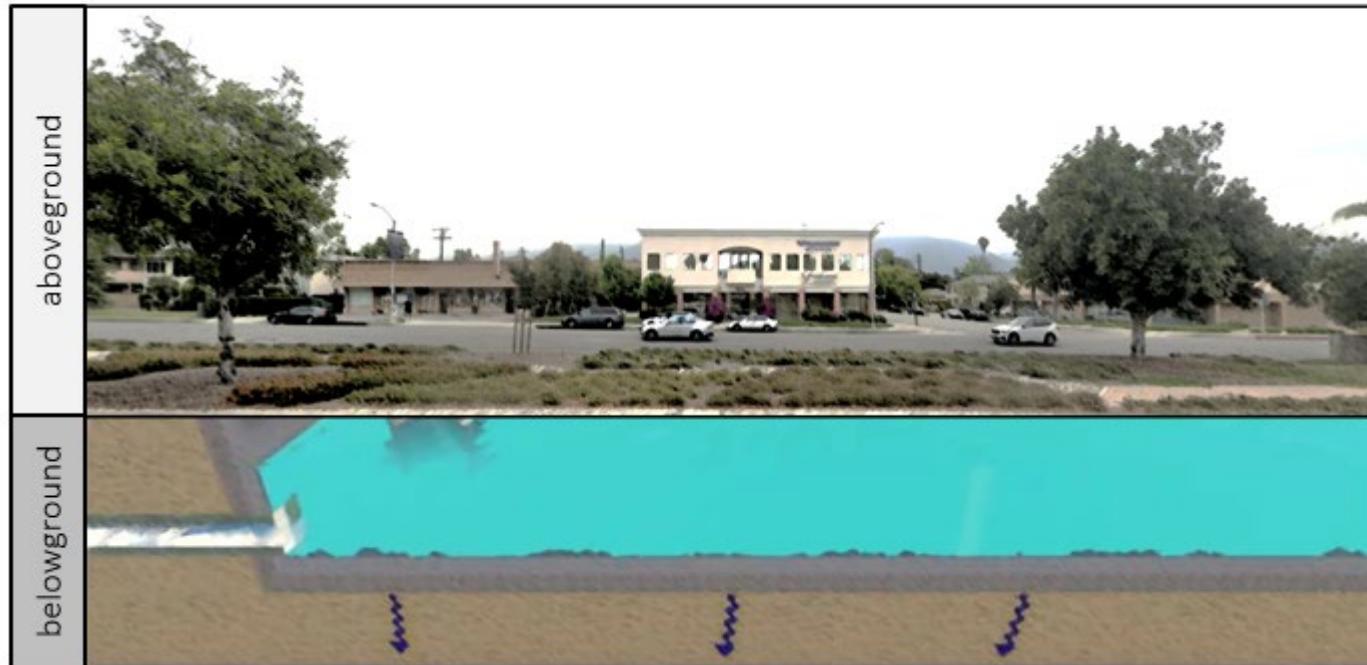
Project Location: Capture Area



- The Project can capture up to 600 acres of surface drainage



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Quality)



Runoff flows could be captured beneath street medians with:

- underground storage chambers, or
- dry wells

Could be considered a “regional green street” along with “Nature Based” median improvements.



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Quality & Supply)

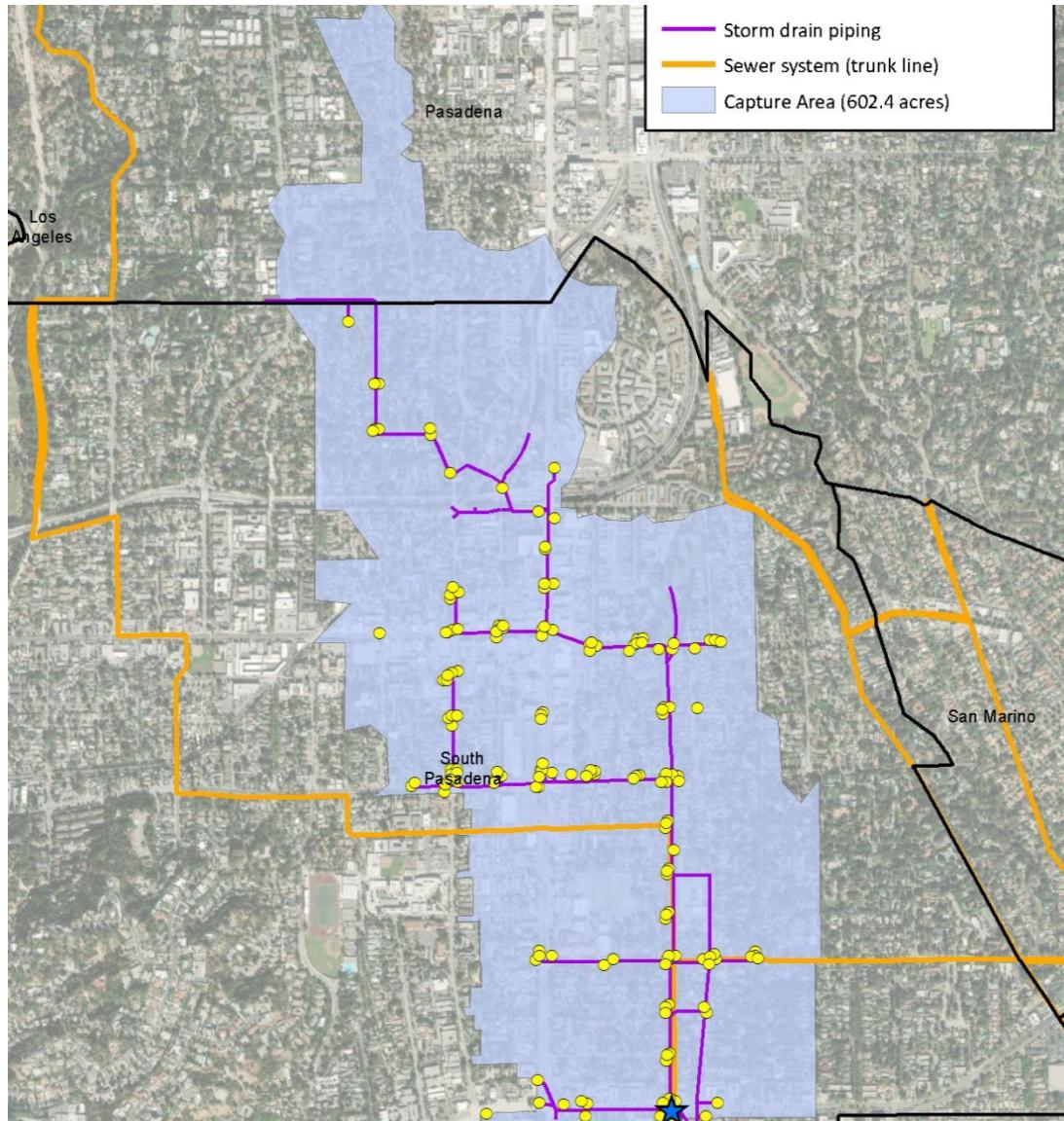


- The medians have $\approx 33,345$ SQ FT of open space between Fair Oaks Ave and Fletcher Ave.
- The initial estimated storage capacity of the system is up to 5 acre-feet.





Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Supply)

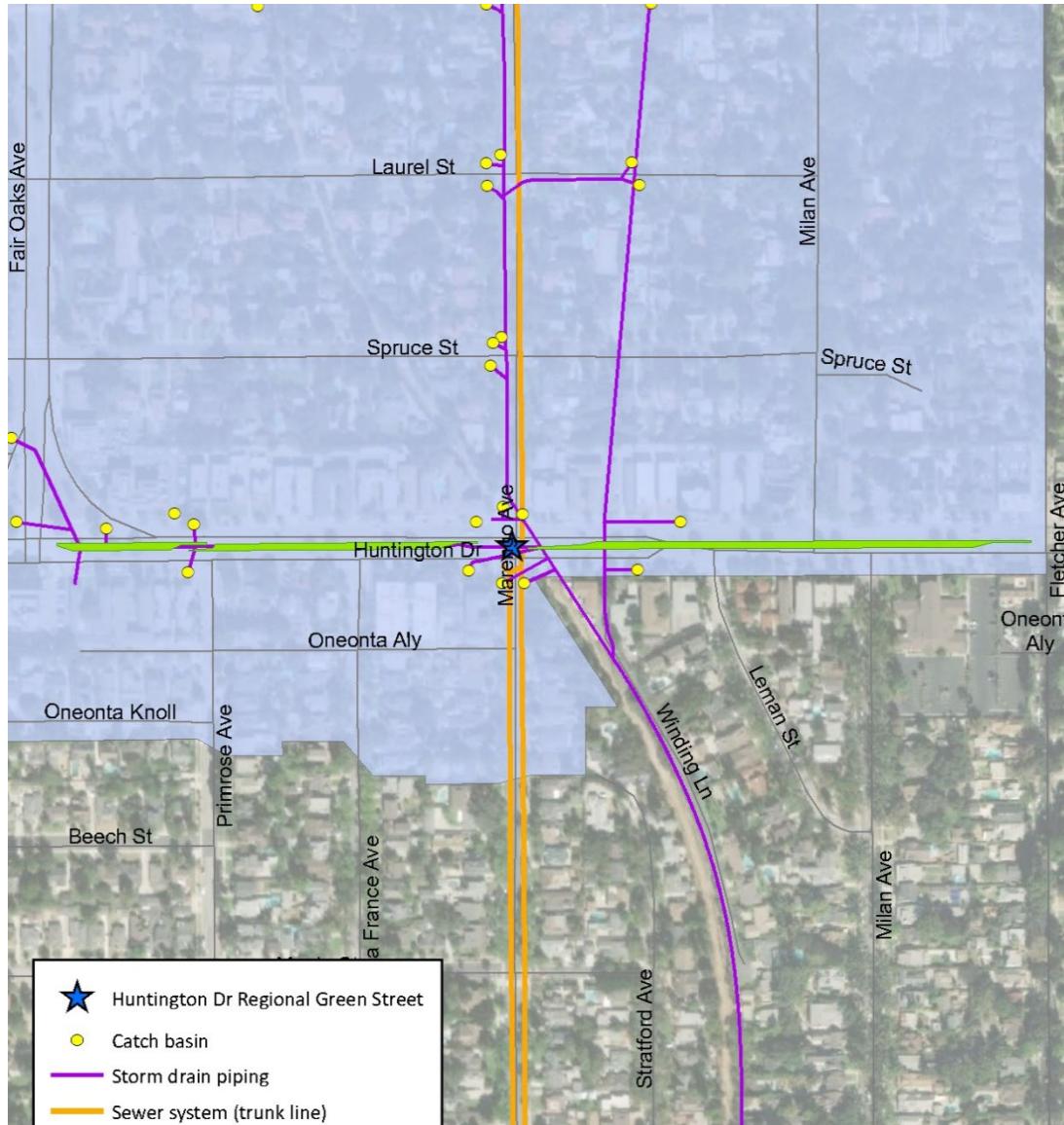


Storm Drain Diversion

- Stormwater captured would infiltrate (if feasible) and be used to recharge groundwater



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Supply)

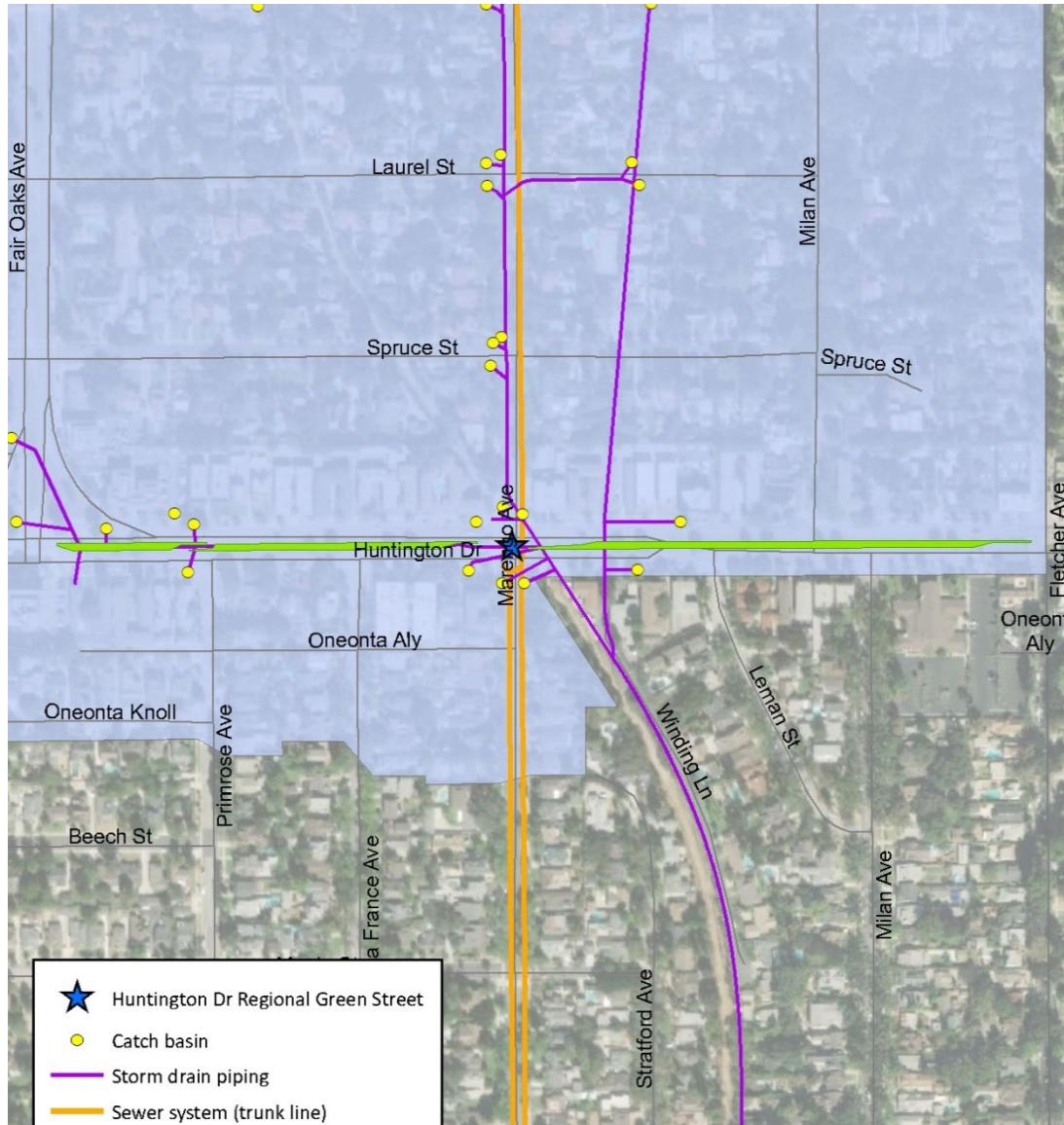


Sanitary Sewer Option

- Captured runoff could be released slowly to an existing 18-inch sanitary sewer trunk line



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Water Supply)



Water Conservation

- Existing turf would be replaced with drought tolerant landscaping

Onsite Irrigation Use

- Captured runoff could also be used to supplement irrigation of the median

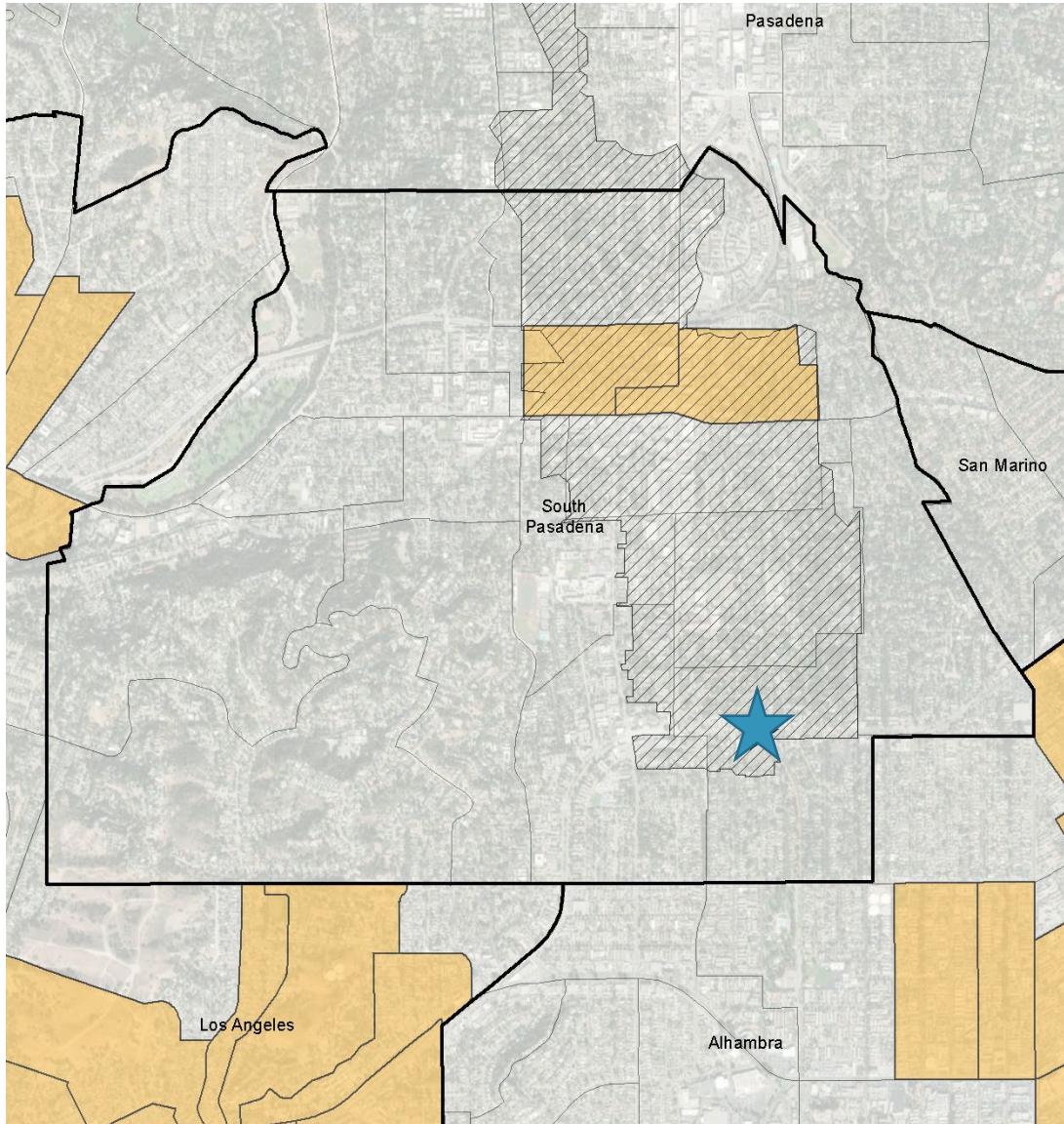


Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Community)

- Beautification of street (via replacement of the existing turf with native plants)
- Enhanced habitat (via replacement of the existing turf with native plants including potentially native trees)
- Improved flood protection
- New educational opportunities (via educational signage that may be incorporated in the walkways at pedestrian crossings)



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Community)



Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

- Border about 0.8 miles to the north, and about 0.5 miles to the southeast



Project Location: Municipality Benefits (Nature-based Solutions)



Existing medians on Huntington Drive



Potential median improvement

(picture taken from recent landscaping project at adjacent median)

- Opportunity to improve existing turf by replacing with drought tolerant, native plant species.
- Would complement and continue the adjacent project, just 50 feet from the westerly median, that was recently completed for the triangular median at Fair Oaks Ave & Huntington Drive.



Project Background

Project Selection and Development

- The ULAR EWMP requires the City implement stormwater capture projects within the LA River main stem watershed.
- The EWMP lists:
 - the implementation of both "green streets" and regional stormwater infiltration or capture/use projects as an optimal approach, and
 - Huntington Drive as a potential green street location.
- A 2020 review revealed a promising opportunity at the street medians along Huntington Drive, surrounding the intersection of Huntington Drive and Marengo Avenue.
- Huntington Drive is a major thoroughfare. Improvements to it will benefit the City as well as motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.



Project Background

Description of benefits to municipality/municipalities

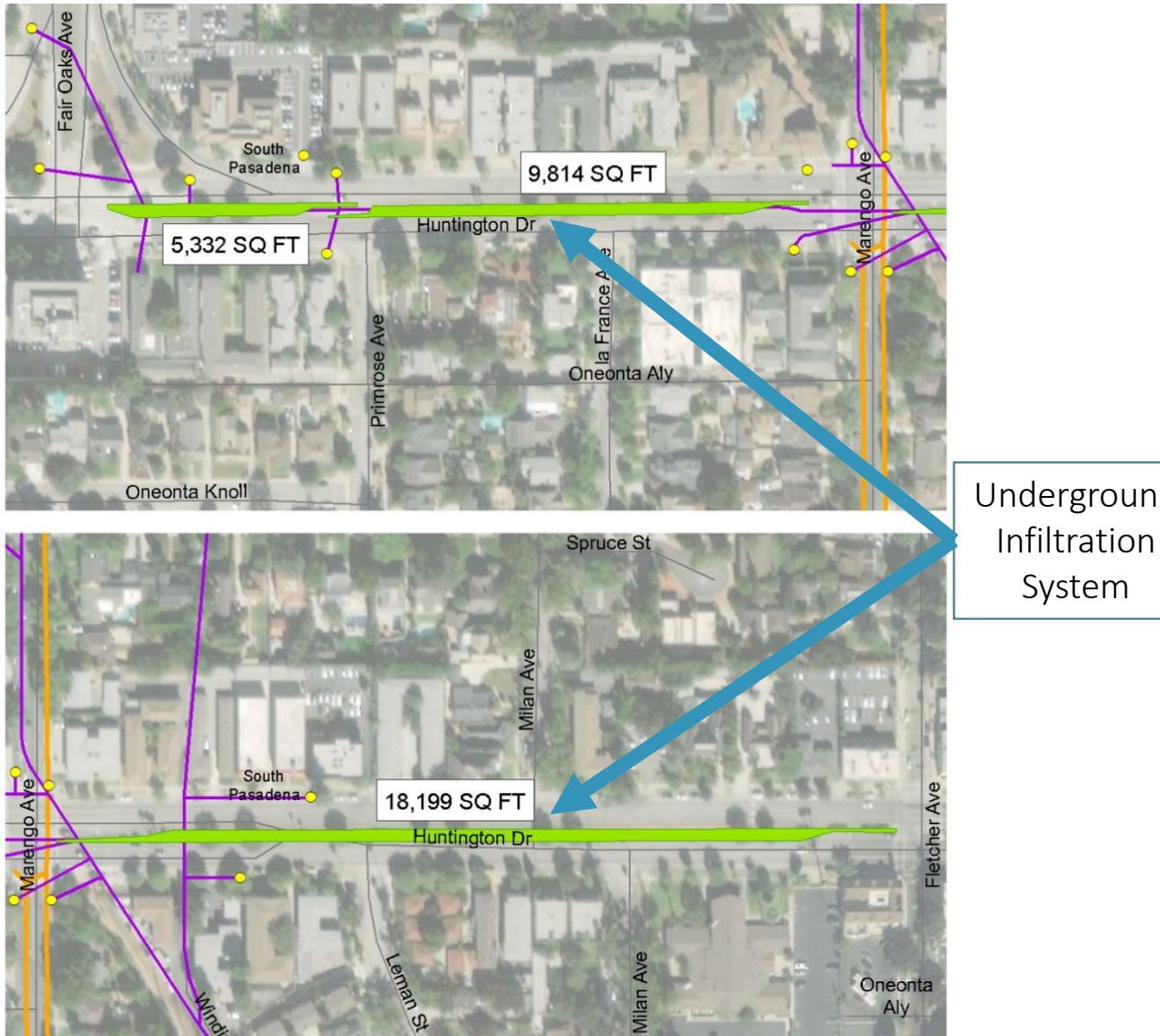
- Water quality – protects LA River
- Water supply – via aquifer recharge or reclamation, irrigation reduction
- Community – beautification along Huntington Drive

Benefits to Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits

- There are two DAC block groups of 1,591 people one mile upstream of the project area.
 - Source: California Dept of Water Resources' DAC Mapping Tool



Project Details



- Located in South Pasadena on City-owned right-of-way.
- Underground systems are situated in open space areas of the medians.
- **Constraints:** working in street and traffic impact
- **Alternatives:** Relocate (and downsize) project to parkway on north side of Huntington



Cost Estimate & Projected Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Completion Date
Planning & Design	Includes early concept design, pre-project monitoring, feasibility study development, site investigations, formal project design, intermediate and project completion audits, CEQA and other environmental impact studies and permitting.	\$500,000.00 ^C	TBD
Construction	Construction	\$5,000,000.00 ^C	TBD
O&M	Maintenance	\$30,000.00 ^A	TBD
O&M	Operation	\$5,000.00 ^A	TBD
O&M	Monitoring	\$5,000.00 ^A	TBD
TOTAL	50 year Project Life Span	\$7,500,000.00	

A = Annual, C = Capital



Funding Request

Year	SCW Funding Requested	Phase	Efforts during Phase and Year
1	\$300,000.00	Planning and Design	Feasibility Study, 2021
2			
3			
4			
5			
TOTAL			

- If funded, the City plans to follow with a submission of an SCWP infrastructure application



Questions?