

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Thursday, September 16, 2021
10:00am - 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen, LACFCD
Kevin Kim, LACFCD
E.J. Caldwell, West Basin MWD
Delon Kwan, LADWP
Sheila Brice, LADWP
Darryl Ford*, LADRP
Rita Kampalath, LA County CSO
Gloria Walton, The Solutions Project/SCOPE
Alysen Weiland*, PSOMAS
Melanie Rivera*, LA Waterkeeper
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills
Kim Braun*, Culver City
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles
Bruce Hamamoto, LA County Public Works
Curtis Castle, Santa Monica
Mikaela Randolph, Watershed Coordinator - Heal the Bay
Michelle Struthers, Watershed Coordinator - S. Groner Associates

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Roberto Perez (Los Angeles)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Susie Santilena, Chair of the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

The District conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 19th, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Member Darryl Ford. Member Gloria Walton seconded the motion. The committee approved the August 19th, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update, noting:

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- The Board of Supervisors voted to approve all 9 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for FY21-22. The District will contact project applicants and project developers with continuing projects to initiate the Fund Transfer Agreement and Addendum process.
- The CSMB WASC received 9 applications through the FY22-23 Call for Projects. The Scoring Committee will meet to score the Infrastructure Program projects.
- Regional Program fund recipients shall submit reports quarterly. Quarterly reports are currently under review and will come to the WASC for review.
- Municipalities' Annual Plans (due April 1st) must be submitted to receive their municipal share of the local return.
- Distributions of revenues are anticipated to be sent out in September or October 2021.

Chair Santilena asked how many projects the Scoring Committee has reviewed. District staff said that the Scoring Committee reviewed one project at their first scoring meeting, but also had in depth discussions that benefitted new Scoring Committee members.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Mikaela Randolph provided an update, noting:

- Updates to the interested parties list for the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan;
- Events and engagement have picked up because September is Coastal Cleanup Month;
- Saturday is Coastal Cleanup Day;
- The group continues to participate in monthly regional calls with other Watershed Coordinators;
- The group has been working and coordinating with LAC Parks and Rec.

Watershed Coordinator Michelle Struthers provided an update, noting:

- The group is working with Stantec on a presentation of Scientific Studies;
- Moving into final stages of Community Needs Assessment Survey (to be finalized in October);
- SGA led the regional coordination meeting for all twelve watershed coordinators, which focused on collective goals, last month. Watershed Coordinators are coordinating on funding opportunities. Anticipate first meeting of funding subcommittee will occur next month.

Member Josette Descalzo asked if in the future, notice of beach cleanup days can be shared with the WASC.

Member Rita Kampalath expressed gratitude for the Watershed Coordinators for their responsiveness at making changes to the SOEP requested by the WASC.

5. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

6. Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Member Cung Nguyen noted an informal discussion about the advancement of community projects the day prior with Chair Santilena and Member Braun. The Chair and other Members echoed Member Nguyen's sentiment.

Member Kim Braun noted a meeting with Member Kampalath to discuss their work on the LA

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County Sustainability Office.

b) Disadvantaged Community, Nature-Based Solutions, and Partial Funding Interim Guidelines

Presentation by Mike Antos (Reginal Coordinator from Stantec) which provided an overview of the three Guidance Documents.

Regarding Disadvantaged Communities project funding, Member Descalzo asked if the WASC can require additional items for approval for projects outside of Disadvantaged Community census tracts. Antos responded that the WASC may qualitatively evaluate a claim that a project located outside of a Disadvantaged Census Block Group will benefit a Disadvantaged Census Block. Much of the information needed to make this assessment is already collected by the Projects Module. This may be addressed in questioning with the Project Applicant during the presentation.

Chair Santilena asked why some of the census tracts in the presented figure show no data. Antos explained that the information comes from a State data set. Typically, "no data" indicates a lack of residential land in that area.

Regarding Partial Funding, Member Delon Kwan remarked that if that capability is available to the WASC, it may disincentivize matching funds. Member Kwan questioned how Partial Funding is applied to specific projects. Antos noted that the amount of funding each WASC has available is publicly known, so project applicants may consider how to effectively pursue funds and what level of funds to ask for. District staff noted that some projects last year were partially funded. Antos noted that when the time comes, as the SIP is under development and use of this resource is being contemplated, support will be available to guide conversation.

c) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for consideration to the CSMB WASC

Presentation by District staff reviewed the SCW Portal. Tutorial included the Multiple Benefits Summary dashboard, which presents information for submitted projects.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

a) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for scoring.

Member Walton motioned to send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee. Member Kampalath seconded the motion.

The WASC voted to send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b) Amendment to approved Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) with revisions requested at the August 19, 2021 WASC meeting.

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Member Walton motioned to approve the SOEP with revisions request at the August 19, 2021 WASC meeting. Member Nguyen seconded the motion.

The WASC voted to approve the SOEP with revisions requested at the August 19, 2021 WASC meeting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9. Items for next agenda

- a) Presentations for Scientific Studies Program
- b) Presentations for Technical Resources Program
- c) Presentations for Infrastructure Program

Member Brice asked if technical review by the Scoring Committee will be available before project presentations and noted that some projects may be assessed by the WASC prior to the technical review. Chair Santilena noted that while the Scoring Committee's evaluation is a helpful resource, WASC members are expected to use their own expertise during evaluation. District staff cited the schedule and confirmed that the scoring committee will provide the technical review before the scheduled presentations and that those comments will be shared at the WASC meeting.

Chair Santilena noted that last year, an external evaluation of the studies occurred. District staff responded that independent reviews will be conducted for Round 3.

10. Adjournment

Chair Santilena thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation. Member Descalzo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Prieto seconded the motion.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 21, 2021

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

See SCW website for meeting details

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - September 16, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	8/19 Meeting Minutes	Send All Completed FS to Scoring Committee	Amendment to approved SOEP
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Mark Beltran		A	Y	Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x	Alex Heide		Y	Y	Y
Agency	LA Water & Power	Delon Kwan	x	Art Castro		A	Y	Y
Agency	LA Sanitation District	Sheila Brice	x	Michael Scaduto		A	Y	Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	LAC Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath	x	Gary Gero		Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Lipa Consulting Company / Business Sector	Jacob Lipa		Alysen Weiland	x	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	Gloria Walton	x	Gloria Medina		Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	LA Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik		Melanie Rivera	x	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	VACANT							
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Josette Descalzo	x	Hany Demitri		A	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Charles Herbertson		Kim Braun	x	Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez		Max Podemski				
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto	x	Adrienne Epstein		Not Present	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	<u>Susie Santilena</u>	x	Rebecca Rasmussen		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Geremew Amenu		A	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Curtis Castle	x	George Rodriguez		Y	Y	Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Mikaela Randolph	x			N/A	N/A	N/A
Watershed Coordinator	S. Groner Associates	Michelle Struthers	x			N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	9	15	15
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	5	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14	15	15
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Approved

Other Attendees
Ashley Loville
Brett Perry
Conor Mossavi
Craig Cadwallader
Dave Mercier
Elizabeth Gallo
Geremew Amenu
Haedy Torres
I EC
Jenna D'Ottavio
Jonathan Lee
Kamalpreet Cheema
Kara Plourde
Katie Harrel
Lauren Amimoto
Lorena Matos
Marisol Ibarra
Mike
Nichole Heil
Sean Singletary
Shahram Kharaghani
Tiffany Wong
Wendy Dinh
Katie M
Jessica Cassman
Danielle Chupa
Marissa Caringella

Guidance Documents Overview

Disadvantaged Community Benefit
Nature-Based Solutions
Partial Funding



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Disadvantaged Community Benefit Interim Guidance



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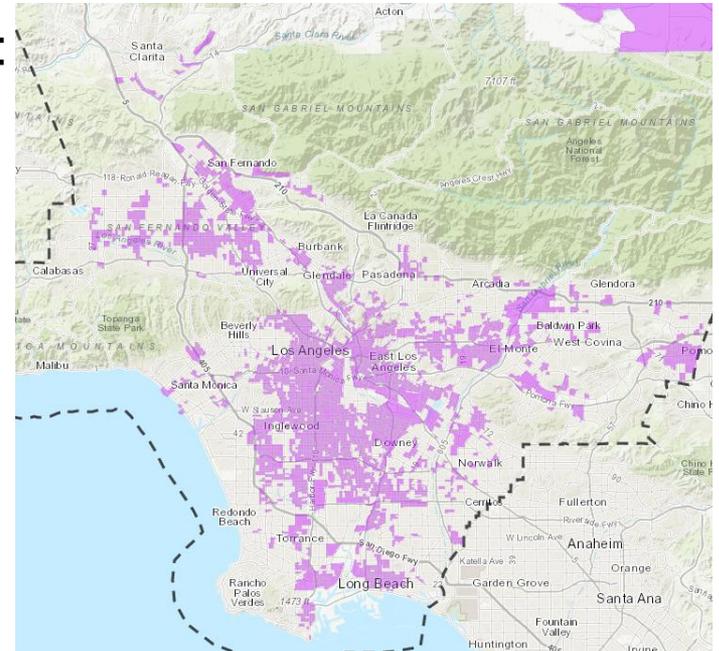


SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Goal

Investing in disadvantaged communities by:

- Locating beneficial Projects within, or
- Such that the benefits of a Project are directly provided to,

Census Block Groups where the median household income is less than 80% of the statewide median household income (MHI)



SCWP Digital Spatial Data Library

<https://arcg.is/rbKfm>



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Interpreting “Disadvantaged Community Benefit”

1. Projects where **any of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community** will be considered “within” a disadvantaged community, and therefore providing a Disadvantaged Community Benefit
2. Projects where **none of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community** can be considered to provide a Disadvantaged Community Benefit **if it provides a “direct benefit” to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community**



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Consideration of Direct Benefit

Whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” as used in SCWP policy will be **a decision made by WASCs on a project-by-project basis**, considering:

- the goals of the SCWP,
- the benefits provided to the community by each Project, and
- the area within which those benefits will be felt.



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Consideration of Direct Benefit

Considering different geographic boundaries

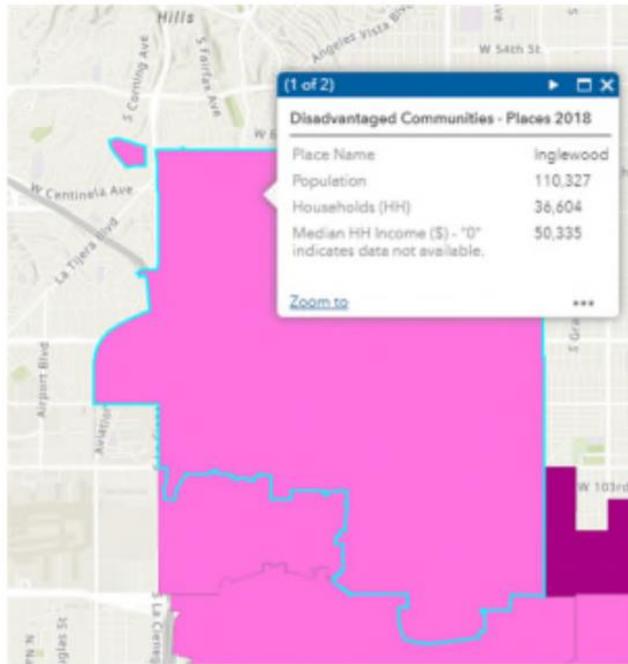


Figure 1 - Inglewood Census Place (DWR Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool): Pink is disadvantaged, and purple is severely disadvantaged.

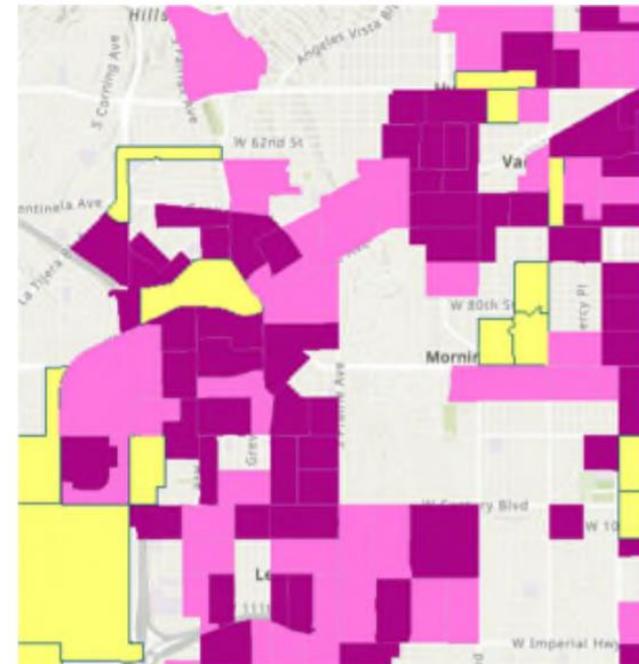


Figure 2 - Inglewood Census Block Groups (DWR Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool): Pink is disadvantaged, purple is severely disadvantaged, and yellow is missing data.



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Census Places

US Census places within SCWP boundaries that have an MHI below 80% of the statewide MHI (2018 data), and therefore could be considered disadvantaged at the scale of the municipality:

- Bell
- Bellflower
- Bell Gardens
- Commerce
- Compton
- Cudahy
- El Monte
- Gardena
- Hawaiian Gardens
- Hawthorne
- Huntington Park
- Inglewood
- Lynwood
- Maywood
- Montebello
- Paramount
- Pomona
- Rosemead
- San Fernando
- South El Monte
- South Gate
- Walnut Park



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Consideration of Direct Benefit

Considering different geographic boundaries

Steps to evaluate:

1. Is there a formal or informal community boundary more appropriate than Census Block Group boundaries to consider for the benefit area of a particular Project? If yes...
2. Using that boundary as a community, does the median household income statistic or the current CalEnviroScreen tool consider that community “disadvantaged?” If yes...
3. Does the WASC wish to recommend that the Project will provide benefits across the entire community boundary?

CalEnviroScreen:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/maps-data>



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Community Support

- One of the most effective ways to document if a Project will provide benefit to a community is if the community itself says so and expresses support
- Similarly, decisions by the WASC can rely upon the lack of documented public support, or the presence of documented resistance from members of a community



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Interim Nature-Based Solutions Programming Guidelines



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Nature-Based Solutions Guidance

- Guidance document clarifies how best to prioritize Nature-Based Solutions
- Specifically aims to help the WASCs prioritize Nature-Based Solutions when evaluating Projects and programming SIPs
- Highlights how different individuals and entities can support the SCWP requirement that Regional Infrastructure Program funds “Shall be programmed, to the extent feasible, such that Nature-Based Solutions are prioritized” (Section 16.05.D.1.g)



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Nature-Based Solutions in the SCWP

- Section 16.03.V: Nature-Based Solutions means a Project that utilizes natural processes that slow, detain, infiltrate or filter Stormwater or Urban Runoff. These methods may include:
 - relying predominantly on soils and vegetation;
 - increasing the permeability of Impermeable Areas;
 - protecting undeveloped mountains and floodplains;
 - creating and restoring riparian habitat and wetlands;
 - creating rain gardens, bioswales, and parkway basins; and
 - enhancing soil through composting, mulching, and planting trees and vegetation, with
 - preference for native species.



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Nature-Based Solutions Examples



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Nature-Based Solutions Examples



Nature-Based Solutions Examples



Links between Needs, SCWP Goals, and NBS

Identified Need or Desired Outcome	Potential Natural Processes & Nature-Mimicking Strategies	SCWP Benefits
Improved environmental water quality	Bioretention; biofiltration; removed impermeable area; increase of permeability; soil enhancement; green streets	Water Quality Benefit
Increased local water supply	Surface and subsurface infiltration to groundwater; treat and release clean stormwater flows for a justified beneficial use; stormwater capture to offset irrigation with potable water; soil enhancement to offset irrigation with potable water; new native and climate-appropriate planting to offset irrigation with potable water; remove impermeable area; increase permeability	Water Supply Benefit
Improved flood management	Bioretention; native and climate appropriate planting; removal of impermeable area; increase of permeability; microtopography changes; protection or restoration of riparian or wetland systems	Community Investment Benefit (CIB): Flood Management
Improved flood conveyance	Stream daylighting; bioretention; microtopography changes; removed impermeable surfaces; increase of permeability; localized infiltration to groundwater	CIB: Flood Conveyance



Complete table on pages 6-7



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WASC Assessment of Projects

Questions to Ask Regarding Individual Projects

Are there natural processes or nature-mimicking strategies that this Project will use to address watershed needs and deliver SCWP benefits?

If not, should this project be revisited for future SIP consideration instead?



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WASC Assessment of SIPs

Questions to Ask Regarding SIPs

Has the WASC prioritized Nature-Based Solutions within this and prior Stormwater Investment Plans?

How are the Nature-Based Solutions funded to-date collectively providing the anticipated benefits to the Watershed Area, and where are the biggest needs or opportunities?

WASC Tools and Strategies

To evaluate Disadvantaged Community Benefits or Nature-Based Solutions in their Watershed Area, WASCs can:

- Ask their Watershed Coordinator(s) to evaluate and report how people, city and county agencies, and other stakeholders would describe the preferred Disadvantaged Community Benefits and prioritize Nature-Based Solutions
- Invite presentations to better understand potential Disadvantaged Community Benefits sought and how Nature-Based Solutions would bring benefits in the Watershed Area



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Partial Funding Guidelines



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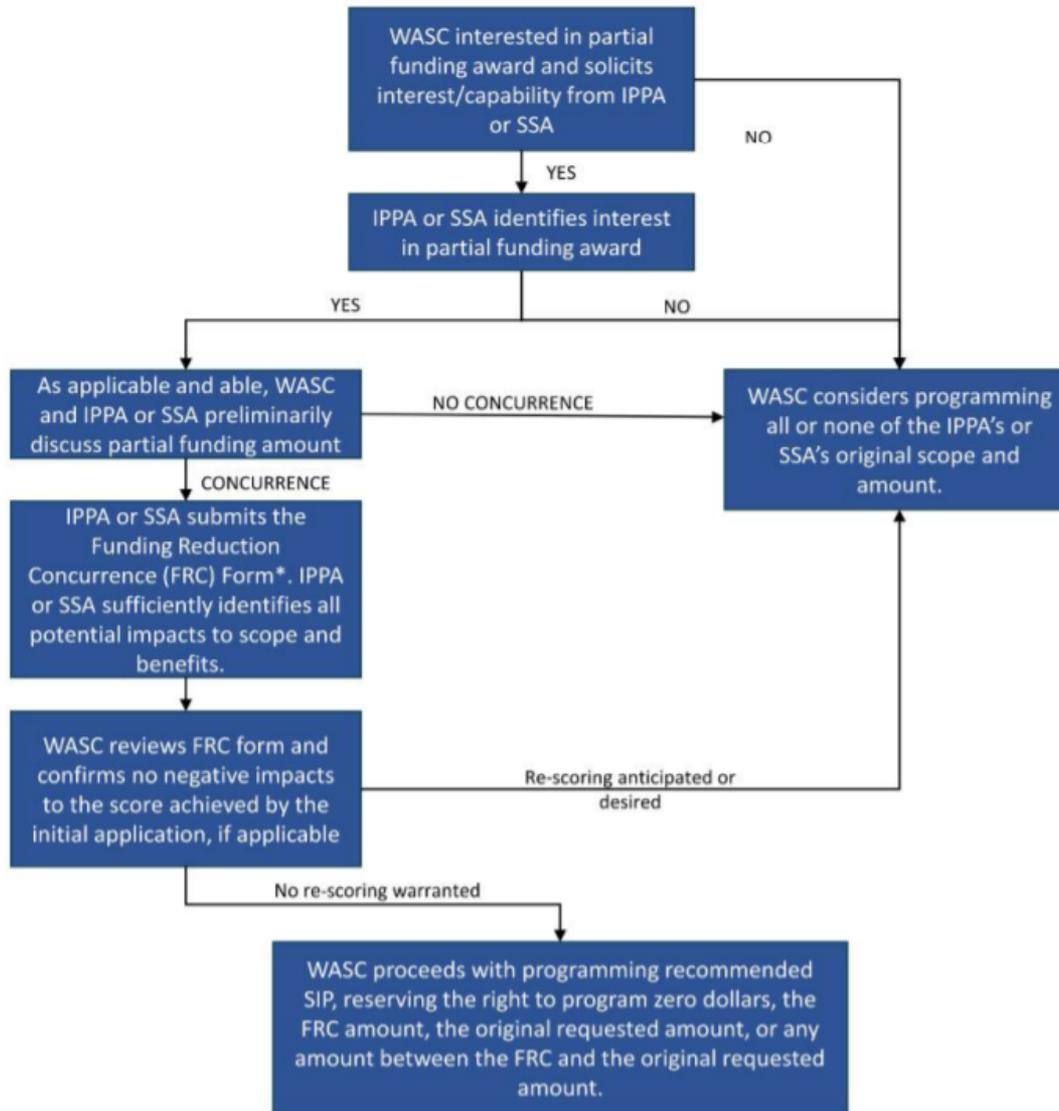
Partial Funding

- Goal to give WASCs additional flexibility when developing their SIPs
- The partial funding award should not result in ANY reduction to the scope or benefits of (or the score assigned to) the project or study as identified in the application (and as submitted in the Feasibility Study, if applicable)



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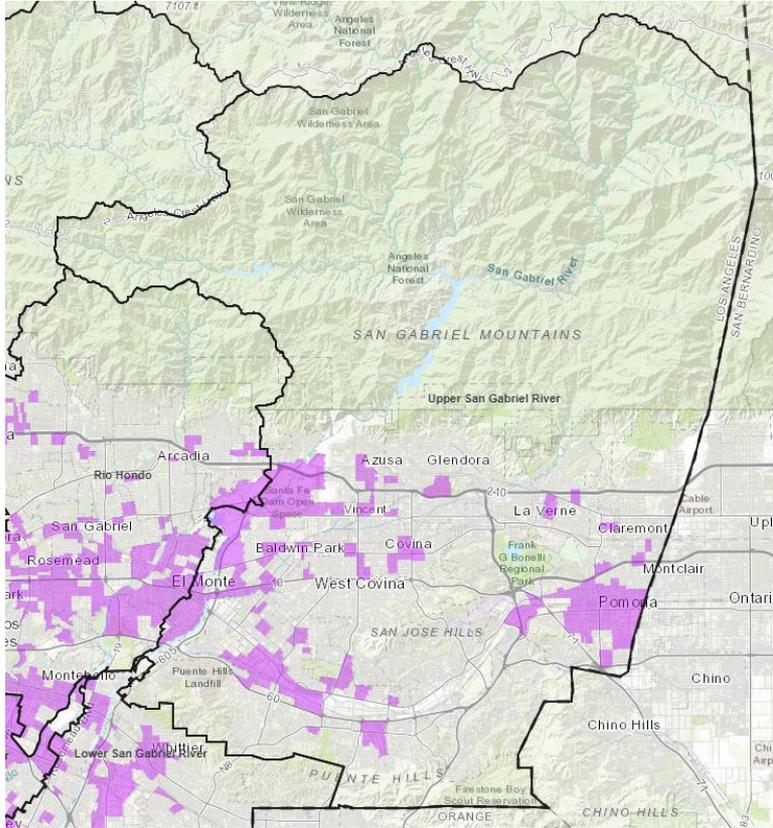




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Questions and Discussion



Full guidance documents available:

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/regional-program-2/>

SCWP Digital Spatial Data Library

<https://arcg.is/rbKfm>

