

# Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Update

Presented to the Rio Hondo WASC

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# Overview of Q2 Quarterly Report

Reflecting work September 25 –  
December 24, 2021





# General Topics Covered by Q2 Quarterly Report

- Summary of Activities
- Engagement and efforts benefitting disadvantaged communities
- Potential cost-share partners and leveraged funding
- Percentages of effort expended by task and scheduling concerns
- Expected activities next quarter



# Strategies and Tasks

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- The Watershed Coordinator Scope of Work includes nine (9) **tasks**, which are used to direct Program implementation and in monthly reporting.
  - Some overlap among tasks
- To focus efforts for the SOEP, the Watershed Coordinator team grouped efforts into five **STRATEGIES**.
  - Some efforts overlap strategies
  - Some Watershed Coordinator work – including seeking cost-share partners and opportunities to leverage funding, as well as collaboration with other Coordinators – is not listed as a strategy, but is fundamental to Program implementation and is ongoing

**Watershed  
Coordinator  
Program  
Implementation  
Strategies**

**Strategy 1 –**

Engage stakeholders,  
municipalities, community  
groups

**Strategy 2 –**

Solicit input, connect to  
Technical Resource opportunities

**Strategy 3 –**

Ensure diverse perspectives  
are shared with the District  
and WASCs

**Strategy 4 –**

Identify and ensure the  
involvement of members of  
disadvantaged/underrepresented  
communities

**Strategy 5 –**

Identify educational  
programming about  
watershed management,  
ecological, and community  
involvement



# Summary of Q2 Activities by Strategy

- **Strategy 1 – Engage Stakeholders, municipalities, community groups – heavy emphasis.**
  - Final SOEP presented to WASC on October 19, 2021 and approved by the WASC
  - Reviewed previously approved projects and submittals for FY 2022-23
  - Participated in two virtual events and one in-person outreach event hosted by Nature for All, during which we were able to directly engage with community members.
  - Conducted Watershed Area reconnaissance and site visits for proposed projects
  - Reached out to cities in southern part of Watershed Area to meet with City staff
  - Investigated outside grants and potential to leverage funding

# Summary of Q2 Activities by Strategy (Continued)

- **Strategy 1 (Continued)**
  - Participated in monthly Watershed Coordinator meetings and had calls/meetings with coordinators in adjacent Watershed Areas
  - Participated in two environmental equity workshops
  - Participated in San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network meeting
  - Monitored three Scoring Committee meetings and one Regional Oversight Committee Meeting
  - Initiated social media presence (Instagram account: @RioHondoLA)
  - Corresponded with SCWP staff and project proponents and maintained Interested Party list

# Summary of Q2 Activities by Strategy

(Continued)

- **Strategy 2 – Solicit input, connect to Technical Resource Opportunities**
  - Solicited ideas from community members during outreach events
  - Solicited ideas from other Watershed Coordinators
  - Solicited ideas from consultants to Rio Hondo municipalities
  - Checked on status of TRPs with District staff
  - Began planning outreach events to solicit input regarding potential FY 2023-24 projects

## Summary of Q2 Activities by Strategy (Continued)

- **Strategy 3 – Ensure Diverse Perspectives are Shared with the District and WASC**
  - Emphasis on preparation for Q3 and Q4 activities
  - Reviewed articles and demographic information about communities within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area.
  - Researched Chinese population in Watershed Area and drafted memo to WASC regarding benefit of having printed materials translated into Chinese.
  - Discussed need for Chinese language materials with District staff and consultants
  - Reached out to selected organizations such as Nature for All, Day One, and Active SGV
  - Focused initially on disadvantaged communities along the I-10 corridor with the Watershed Area

## Summary of Q2 Activities by Strategy (Continued)

- **Strategy 4 – Identify and ensure involvement of members of disadvantaged communities and underrepresented communities**
  - Emphasis on preparation for Q3 and Q4 activities
  - Researched disadvantaged communities in Watershed Area via *redesign.la*, etc.
  - Participated in water equity and anti-racism workshops
  - Monitored LAR Urban Water Foundation Partnership meeting
  - Analyzed projects (IP and TRP) by sub-watersheds to better understand relationship between projects and communities

## Summary of Q2 Activities by Strategy (Continued)

- **Strategy 5 – Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological and community involvement**
  - Conducted outreach through participation in two virtual education workshops and one all-day tour and hike with Nature for All
  - Worked on ideas for educational presentation to municipal audience planned for Q3
  - Attended technical webinar sponsored by Council for Watershed Health on recycling runoff
  - Monitored LSGR educational virtual workshop
  - Reviewed city calendars for potential joint event opportunities
  - Initiated planning/scripting for educational video shoot for Q3 or Q4
  - Researched CBO/NGO events in Watershed Area for potential collaboration/participation, and contacted organizations

# Community Engagement & Efforts Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities



- Primary engagement activities were through Nature for All Events in Q2
  - Virtual trainings to empower community members to be part of decision-making in terms of park and water funding, and to learn more about community greening, and “water smart” actions they can take.
    - One event was specifically for residents of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre – 3 of which are in the Rio Hondo WA
  - In-person tour and hike in the San Gabriel Mountains – part of their mission to bring awareness of ways to be in nature in and near one’s community.
  - Not specifically for disadvantaged communities, but events bridged urban living with a connection to nature.

# Potential Cost-Share Partners and Leveraged Funding



- There was no direct contact of cost-share partners, nor any grant applications or leveraged funding this quarter.
- The research regarding potential partners and upcoming funding opportunities was primarily in preparation for seeking community-proposed projects for FY 2023-24.
- Suggesting grant opportunities and and/or other leveraged funding should be useful in assisting community-based organizations in applying for an IP or a TRP.



# LOA and Scheduling Concerns

- Four tasks accounted for 75% of effort in Q2:
  - Identification and representation of community priorities (31%)
  - Facilitation of community engagement (22%)
  - Leverage funding (12%)
  - Watershed coordinator collaboration (10%)
- The primary scheduling concern is the magnitude and duration of covid-related impacts on in-person gatherings.
  - This impact was a problem in Q2 and is anticipated to continue in Q3.
  - “Zoom fatigue” also may be an issue - attendance at virtual, voluntary engagement or education events is frequently low.

# Level of Effort by Task

Scope of Work Task #	Task	Total Task Level of Effort (from workplan)	LOE this quarter	Accumulated LOE to-date (from monthly reports)
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	50%	22%	49%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	10%	8%	6%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	5%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	10%	31%	17%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	0%	3%	1%
6	Cost-share Partners	5%	6%	3%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	12%	6%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	5%	9%	5%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	10%	13%
	Overall	100%	100%	100%

# Expected Activities Next Quarter

- Activities in **Q3** will largely relate to contributing to the WASC's decisions on FY 2022-23 proposed projects and developing community proposed projects for FY 2023-24.
- Conduct two outreach events
  - Tentatively one in south/southeastern portion of WA and one in northern area (probably virtual)
- Conduct one virtual educational event for municipal participants in Watershed Area
- Further outreach to organizations in Watershed Area active in community outreach

(Continued)

# Expected Activities Next Quarter

(Continued)

- Engage with selected communities to develop FY 2023-24 project concepts
- Continued development of social media outreach
- Continued coordination with other Watershed Coordinators



# Further Project Funding Analysis



# Appropriate Project Completion

- Important for the WASC to ensure that projects supported by the SCWP are completed and sustained over time
- Essential that projects operate together as a system that provides water quality, water supply, and community investment benefits.
- In Rio Hondo Watershed area, projects should be evaluated by sub-watershed tributary areas.



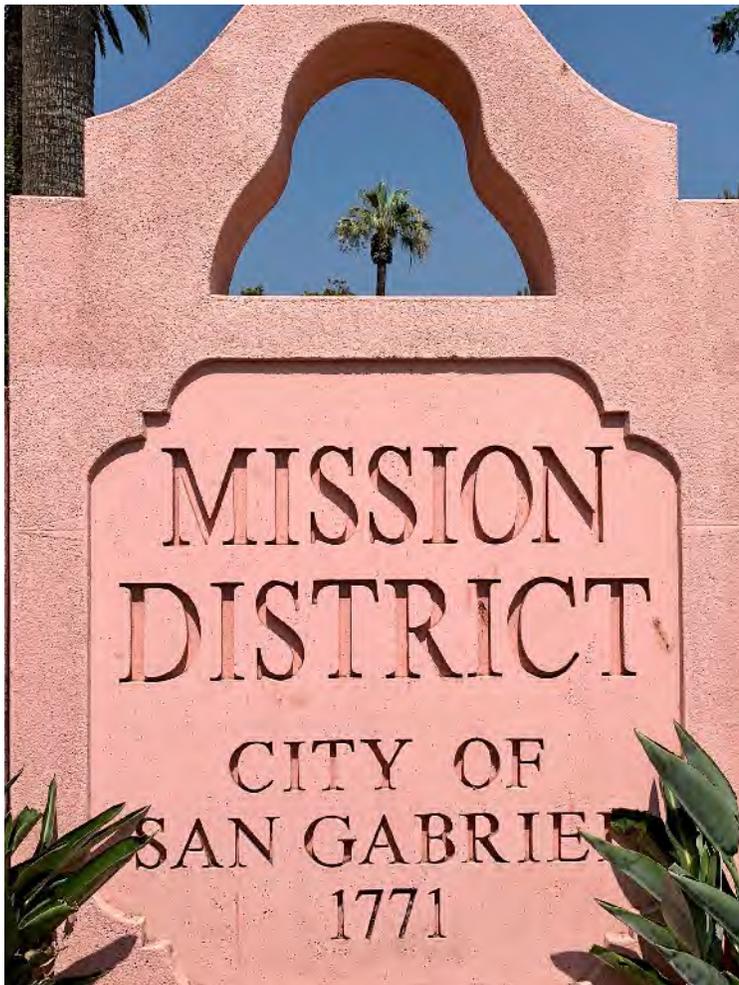
# Projects to Date for Sub-watershed being Evaluated

- Alhambra Wash – 2 IPs
- Arcadia Wash – 1 IP, 1 TRP
- Eaton Wash – 1 IP, 1 TRP
- Rio Hondo Reach 2 - 3 IPs (one not funded yet)
- Rio Hondo Reach 3 – 1 IP, 1 TRP
- Rubio Wash - 2 IPs, 1 TRP
- Sawpit Wash – 2 IPs





# FY 2022-23 Project Proposals



- One (1) scored IP based on 2020-2021 TRP
- One (1) unscored IP coming back for 2023-24 project year
- No TRPs
- Seven (7) scientific studies



# Hypothetical SIP Preview

## Hypothetical Stormwater Investment Plan Preview

(Assumes all FY 22-23 projects approved, but does not account for FY 23-24 or other future projects)

	<b>FY 22-23</b>	<b>FY 23-24</b>	<b>FY 25-26</b>	<b>FY 25-26</b>	<b>FY 26-27</b>	<b>Future Funding</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds	\$11.5 M	\$11.5M	\$11.5 M	\$11.5 M	\$11.5 M		\$57.5 M
Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Available (A+D)	\$13.5 M <sup>1</sup>	\$12.5 M	\$20.3 M	\$26.7 M	\$37.6 M		
Total Recommendations in Current SIP	\$4.6 M	\$1.4 M	\$2.8 M	\$0.4 M	\$0.3 M	0	\$9.5M
Total Allocated in Previous SIPs	\$7.9 M	\$2.3 M	\$2.3 M	\$0.2 M	\$0.2 M	0	\$12.9 M
Remaining Balance/Rollover Funds (B-C)	\$1.0 M	\$8.8 M	\$15.2	\$26.1 M	\$37.1 M		
Percent Allocated (C/B)	<b>92%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>		<b>35%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Including \$2M in rollover funds from FY 21-22



# FY 2023-24 Project Considerations

- Four incomplete TRPs
- Due date for submittal of project proposals is July 31, 2022
- Need community-based proposals
- Watershed Coordinator emphasis in Q3 will be identification of potential projects that meet SCWP benefit goals.
- Watershed Coordinator emphasis in Q4 will be advising/assisting communities, especially disadvantaged communities, with project proposals.



# Questions and Discussion

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Monrovia Canyon Park, Photo Courtesy City of Monrovia

