

Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Update

Presented to the Rio Hondo WASC

18 January 2022

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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

- 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.



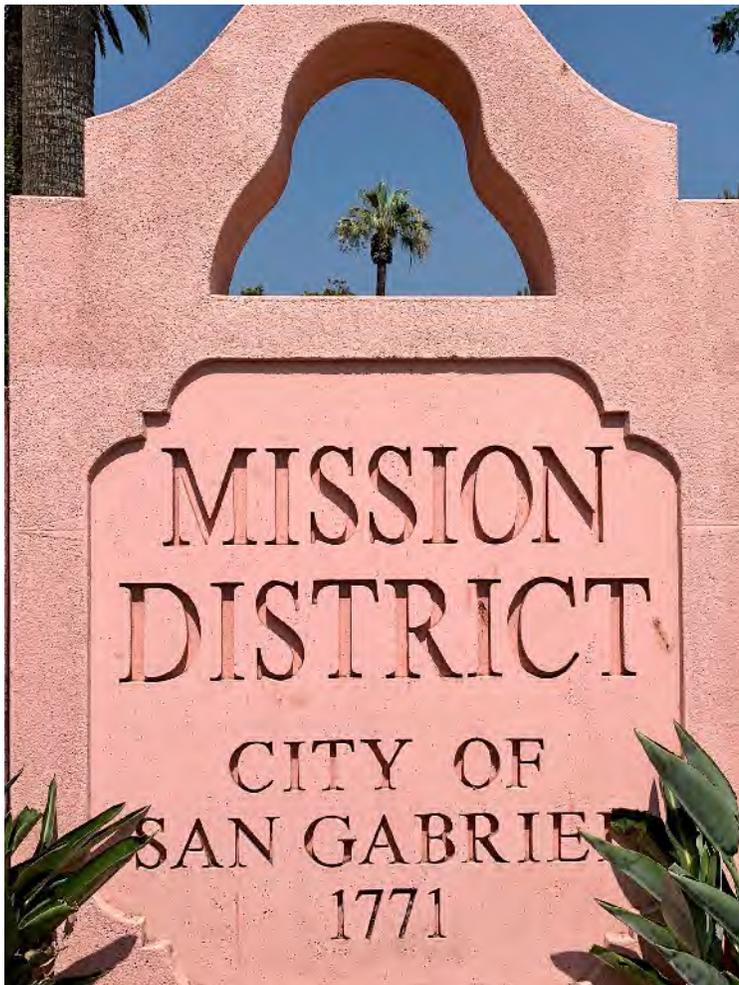
Projects to Date for Sub-watershed being Evaluated

- 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)

	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 25-26	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	Future Funding	TOTAL
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 ¹	\$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)	92%	30%	25%	2%	1%		35%

¹ 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

