

Upper LA River Watershed Area Safe, Clean Water Projects & Disadvantaged Community Programming

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Contact cgust@watershedhealth.org with any questions or for more resources.



Purpose

1. Recall the “Interim Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines.”
2. Explore the location of awarded projects and current projects under consideration in relation to disadvantaged communities.
3. Inform WASC decision-making regarding direct benefits to disadvantaged communities.



Takeaway

- This slide deck is a resource for the WASC to reference when reviewing Round 3 projects.

Interim Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines

Safe, Clean Water Program

Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program



CONTENTS

Purpose	1
Disadvantaged Community Benefit Policies in the Safe, Clean Water Program	2
Key Definitions	2
Other Provisions	3
Regional Program Guidance for Interpreting “Disadvantaged Community Benefit”	3
Relevant Information in the Project Module	4
Consideration for “Direct Benefit” Determination	5
Inglewood Example	6
Community Support	7
WASC Tools and Strategies	8
Long Term Vision for Disadvantaged Community Benefits	9

Purpose

Experience to-date in the Regional Program reveals that aspects of Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) related to providing Disadvantaged Community Benefits require further guidance to better support achieving the outcomes sought. The SCWP emphasizes investments that produce benefits in or directly to disadvantaged communities. Complying with the Disadvantaged Community Benefit policy in the Program is complex, and asserting what benefits accrue to which communities is not easily quantified.

As of May 2021, the District Program is developing a study which, among many things, will review how other funding programs that direct investment in disadvantaged communities have worked to overcome the many challenges that remain when seeking to implement the SCWP policy. That study will inform future guidance, currently expected in the Spring of 2022, in support of Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) development in the Regional Program for Year 4 (2022-23).

Available on the website under “Regional Program”
safecleanwaterla.org/regional-program-2/

Program Definitions

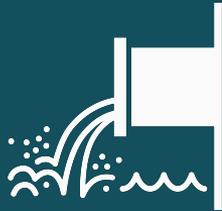
“**Disadvantaged community**’ means a census block group that has an annual median household income of less than eighty percent (80%) of the Statewide annual median household income (as defined in Water Code section 79505.5).” (Section 16.03(H))



Example of a Census Block Group in the ULAR

“**Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit**’ means a Water Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or Community Investment Benefit located in a DAC or providing benefits directly to a DAC population.” (Section 16.03(I))

“Water Quality Benefit”



“Water Supply Benefit”



“Community Investment Benefit”



SCWP Disadvantaged Community Benefit Policy

Provide Disadvantaged Community Benefits that are $\geq 110\%$ of the ratio of the disadvantaged community population to the total population in the Watershed Area. *(Section 18.04 (J))*

All Projects to Date

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY (DAC) ALLOCATION

Required DAC Ratio	50%
Required Funding for DACs FY21-26 (110%)	\$ 104,775,402
Funding Allocated for DACs FY21-26	\$ 176,784,576

To date, the ULAR SIPs have met and exceeded required investment in disadvantaged communities.

Projects provide a Disadvantaged Community Benefit if:

1. **Any of the construction effort** is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community

OR

2. **None** of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community **BUT it provides a “direct benefit”** to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community.

Projects provide a Disadvantaged Community Benefit if:

1. **Any of the construction effort** is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community

OR

2. **None** of the construction effort is within a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community **BUT it provides a** “direct benefit” to a census block group designated as a disadvantaged community.

What Counts as a “Direct Benefit?”

Whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” 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.

How Can you as a WASC Validate Direct Benefits?

Hearing from community members is the best way to validate a direct benefit.

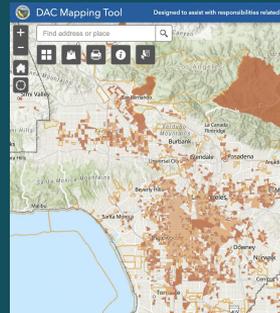
Other Possible Considerations:

Adjacency:



Some projects are near disadvantaged block groups.

External Datasets:



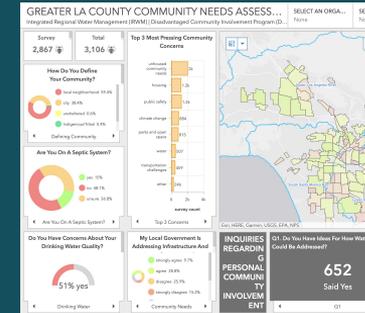
Other Census data
([DWR DAC Mapping Tool](#))



[CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#)



[LA County RPOSD Park Needs Assessment](#)



[IRWM DAC Involvement Program Greater LA County Needs Assessment](#)

Location of Projects

3 “Buckets”

Projects Located Within
a 2016 Disadvantaged
Census Block Group
(thus expressly benefit a
DAC)



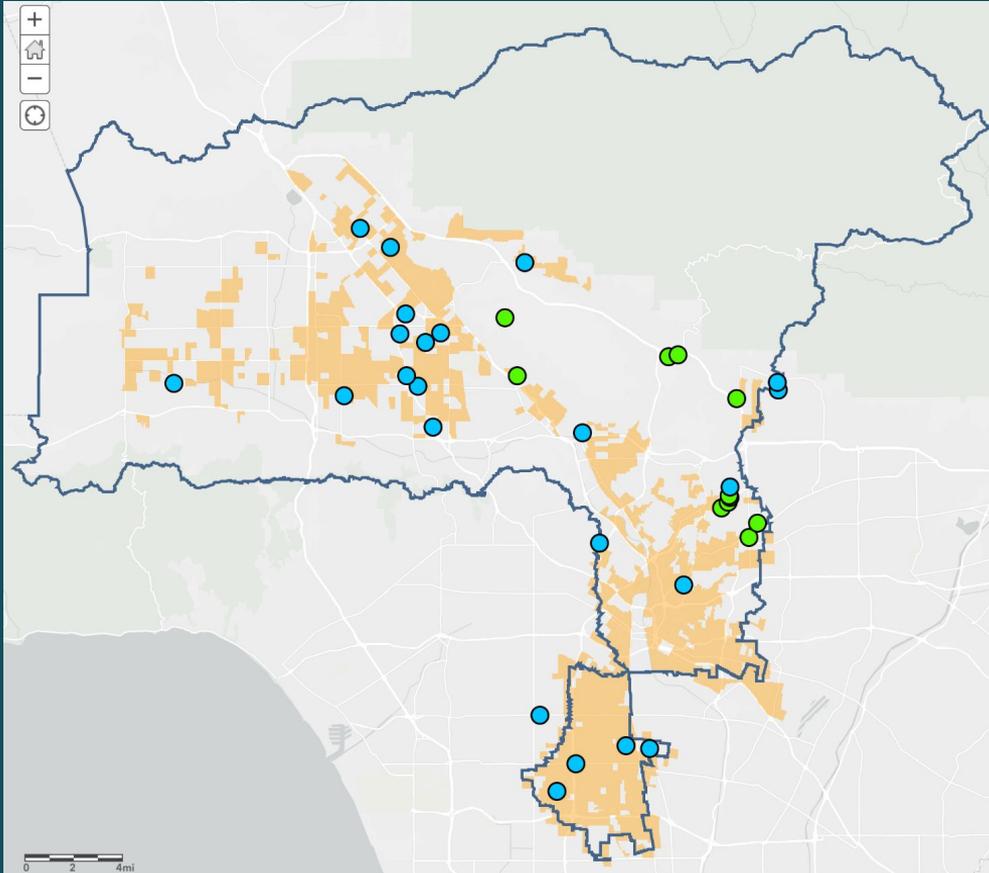
Projects NOT Located
Within a 2016
Disadvantaged Census
Block Group but NOT
Claiming a DAC Benefit



Projects NOT Located
Within a 2016
Disadvantaged Census
Block Group but ARE
Claiming a DAC Benefit



Awarded Projects To Date in ULAR



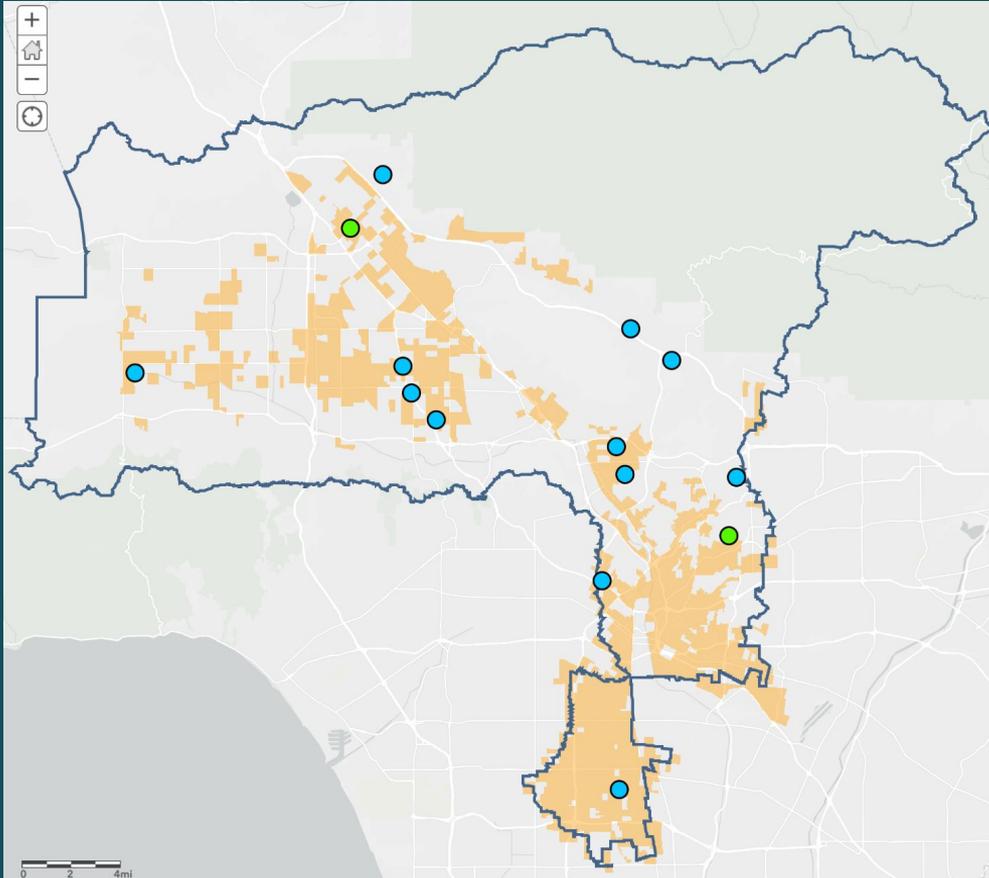
- Infrastructure Submitted Projects
- TRP Submitted Projects

	Bucket 1	Bucket 2	Bucket 3
	Within a DAC block group	Not within DAC block group and no benefit	Not within DAC block group but does benefit
22 IP	10	3	9
11 TRP	1	-	10

5 IP and 1 TRP projects were directly adjacent to a disadvantaged block group.

110% DAC investment requirement met and exceeded

2022/23 Projects Under Consideration



- Infrastructure Submitted Projects
- TRP Submitted Projects

	Bucket 1	Bucket 2	Bucket 3
	Within a DAC block group	Not within DAC block group and no benefit	Not within DAC block group but does benefit
8 IP	3	2	3
2 TRP	1	-	1

3 project sites are directly adjacent to a disadvantaged block group.



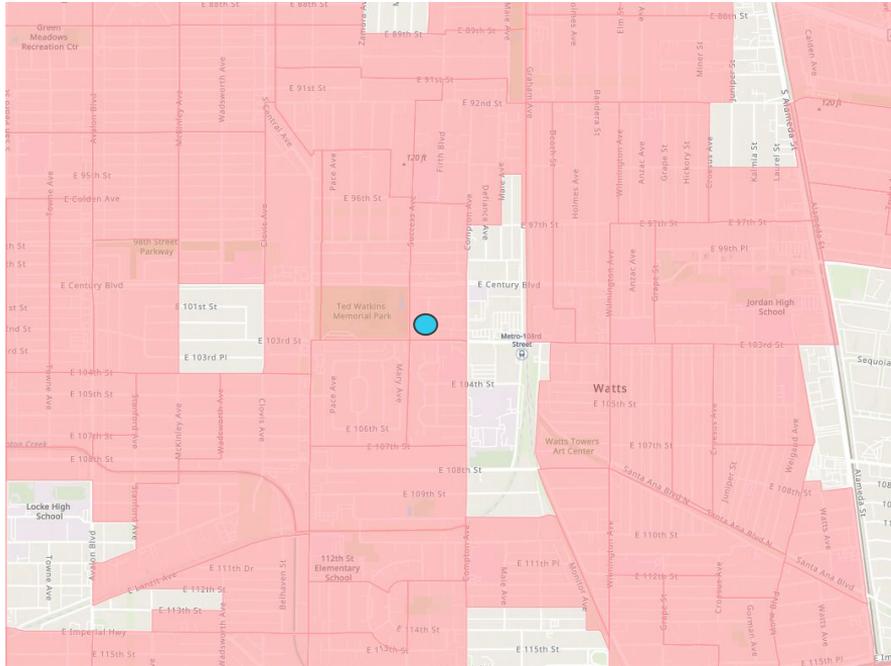
Submitted 22/23 Projects
Located Within a 2016 Disadvantaged
Census Block Group

Suggested Action: None. If implemented, expressly provide disadvantaged community benefits according to Safe, Clean Water Program Guidelines

IP Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway

Lead: City of Los Angeles Council District 15

Funding Requested: \$2.7 M



 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

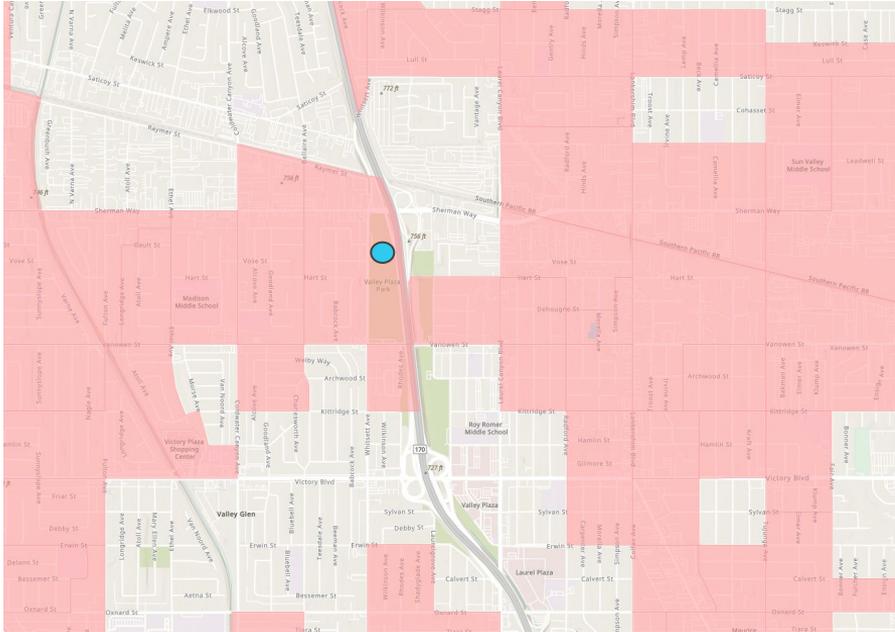
Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	Yes
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
CalEnviroScreen Score	97th percentile
Park Need	Very High

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



Lead: LADWP

Funding Requested: \$8.4 M



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

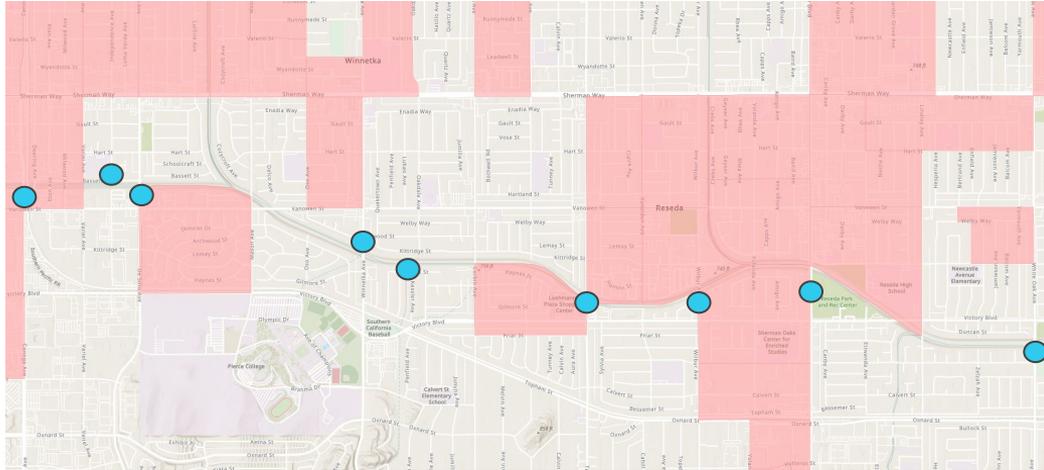
Located within 2016 DAC Block Group?	Yes
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
CalEnviroScreen Score	>95th percentile (Highest)
Park Need	Very High

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



IP LA River Green Infrastructure Project

Lead: LA Sanitation & Environment
Funding Requested: \$31.8 M



Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	Yes, some
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
CalEnviroScreen Score	67th - 91st percentile
Park Need	High - Very High

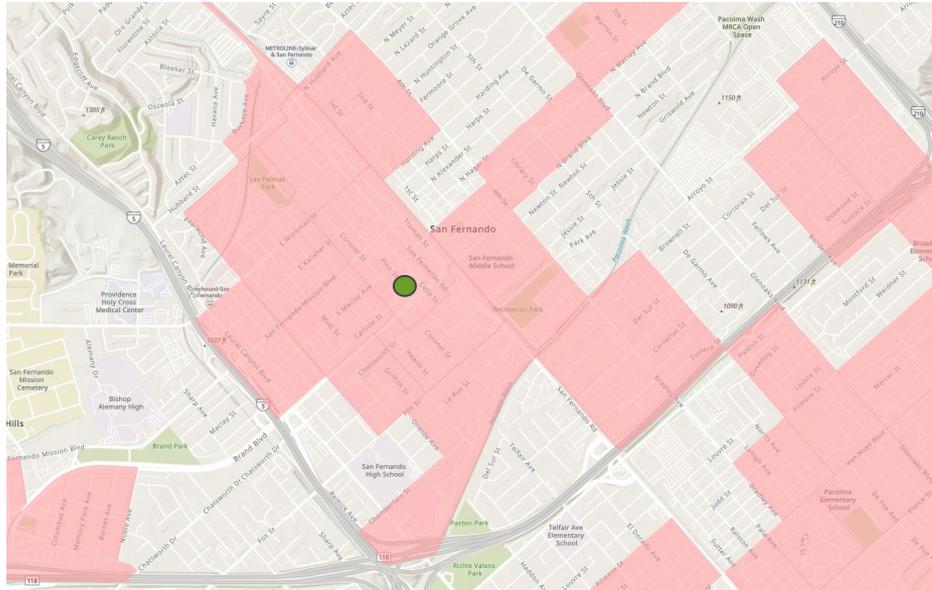
 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



Lead: City of San Fernando

Funding Requested: \$300,000



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	Yes
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
CalEnviroScreen Score	84th percentile
Park Need	High

Note: The ~\$300k budgeted for a TRP is not included in the calculator for the required DAC return allocation.

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



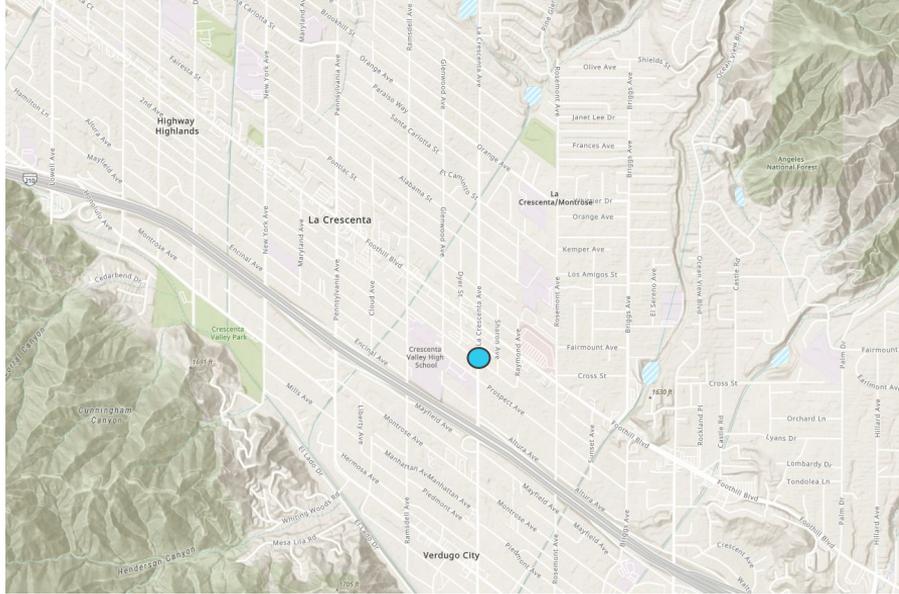


Submitted 22/23 Projects
NOT Located Within and NOT Claiming
Benefits to a Disadvantaged
Census Block Group

Suggested Action: None. No further assessment required by WASC regarding disadvantaged community benefit.

Lead: County of Los Angeles

Funding Requested: \$1.5 M



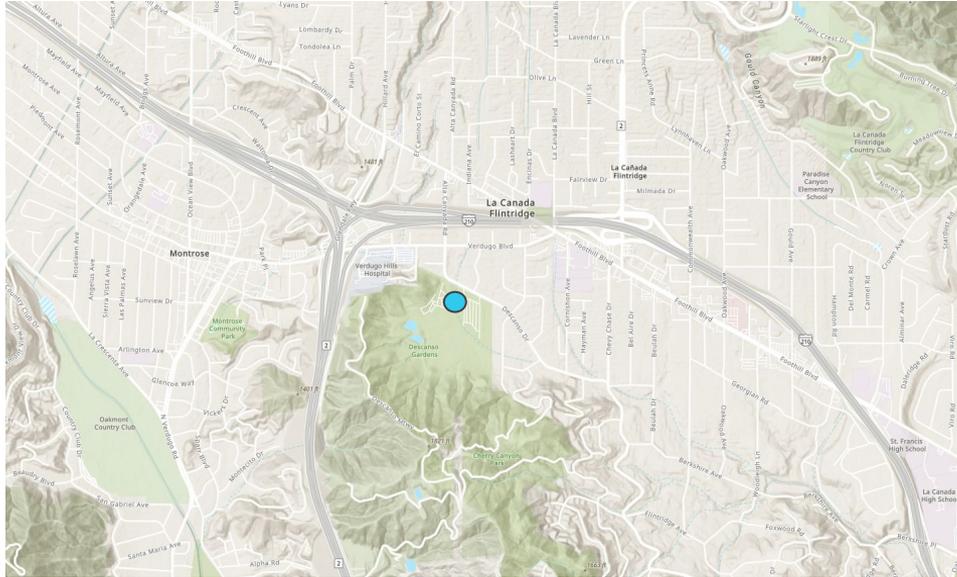
Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Does application claim DAC benefit?	No
CalEnviroScreen Score	33rd percentile
Park Need	Very Low

No direct benefit to a disadvantaged community claimed by applicant

Lead: Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc.; City of La Canada Flintridge

Funding Requested: \$6.8 M



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Located within 2016 DAC
Census Block Group?

No

Does application claim DAC
benefit?

No

CalEnviroScreen Score

11th percentile

Park Need

Very Low

**No direct benefit to a disadvantaged community
claimed by applicant**



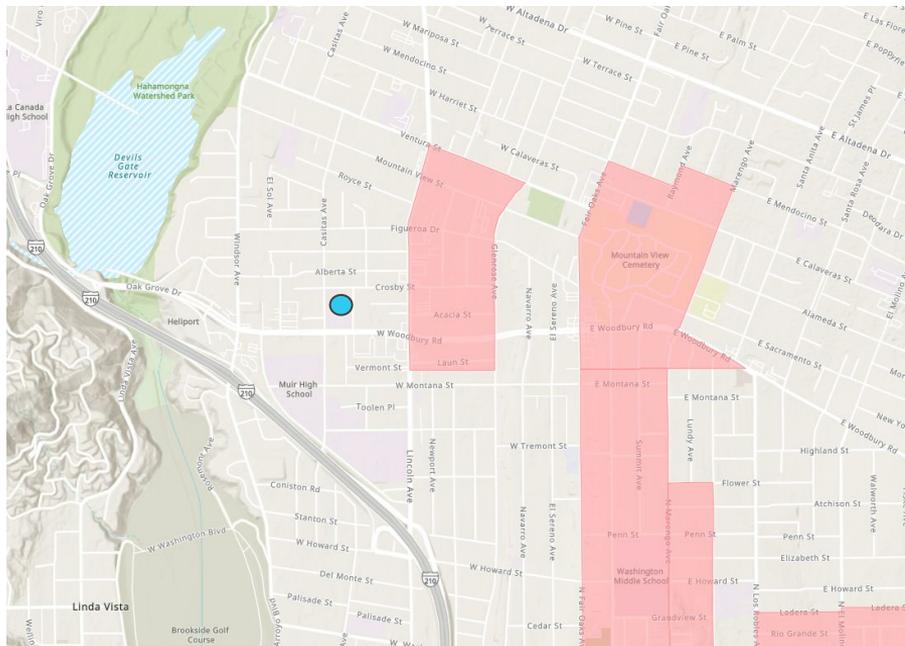
Submitted 22/23 Projects
NOT Located Within and ARE Claiming
Benefits to a 2016 Disadvantaged
Census Block Group

Suggested Action: Up to the WASC's discretion to validate whether these projects would provide direct benefit to disadvantaged communities if implemented.

Jackson Elementary School Campus Greening and Stormwater Quality Improvement Project

Lead: Amigos de los Rios; Pasadena Unified School District

Funding Requested: \$3 M



 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

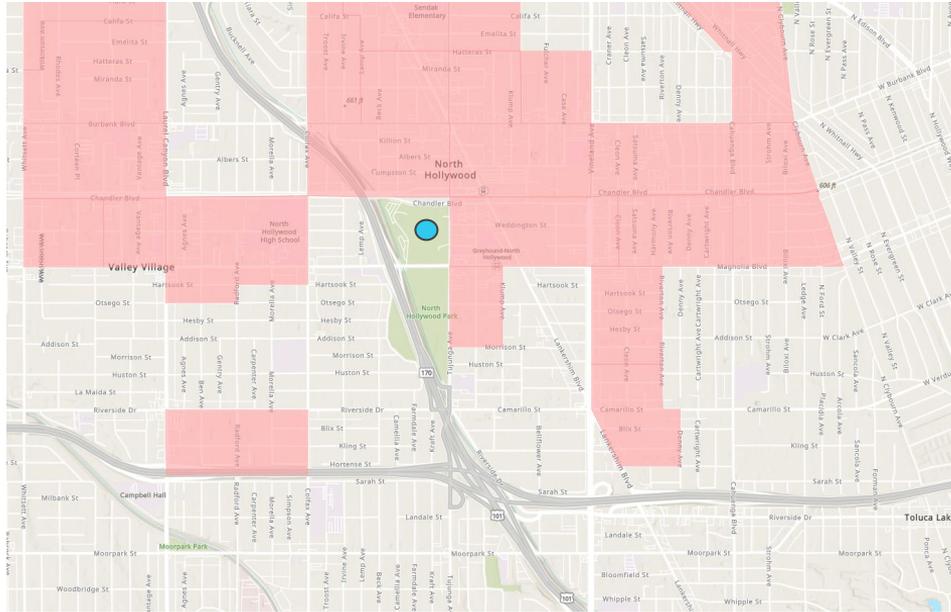
Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Located within 2018 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	0.18 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	58th percentile
Park Need	Low

Note: Given this is a school project, applicant provided information that 72% of students are eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

WASC to validate direct benefit to a disadvantaged community.

Lead: SEITEC

Funding Requested: \$68.2 M



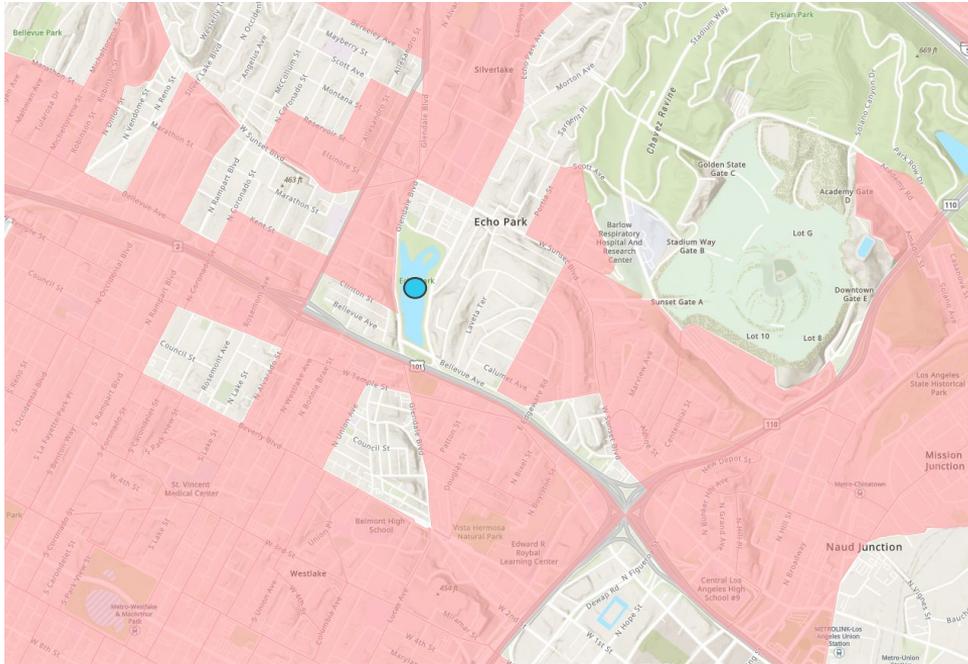
Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	No (but adjacent)
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Located within 2018 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	69th percentile
Park Need	Very High

WASC to validate direct benefit to a disadvantaged community.

Lead: LA Sanitation & Environment

Funding Requested: \$2.4 M



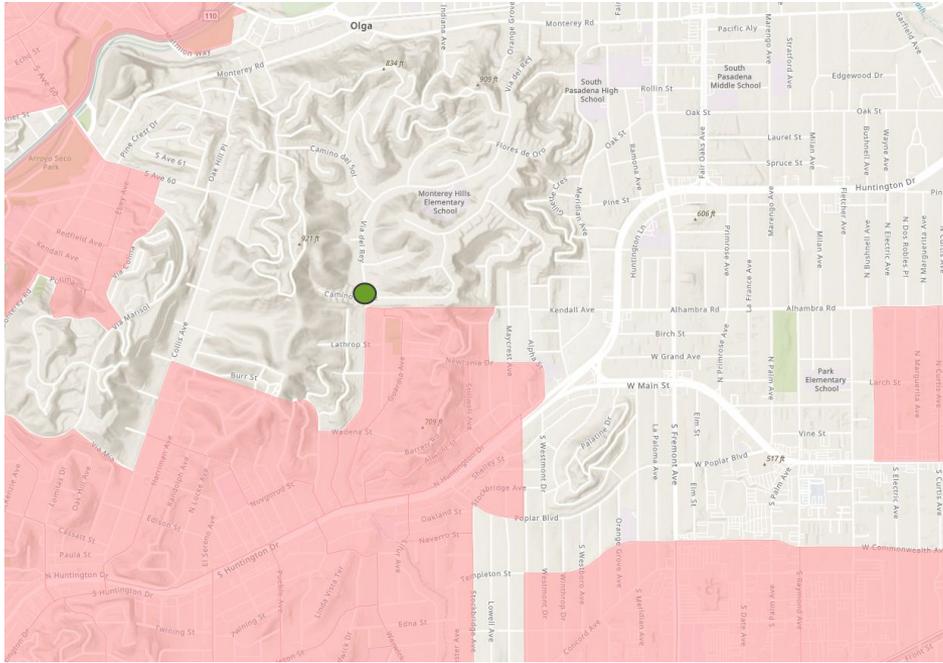
Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	No (but adjacent)
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Located within 2018 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	86th percentile
Park Need	Moderate

WASC to validate direct benefit to a disadvantaged community.

TRP Camino Verde Pocket Park Regional Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project

Project Lead: City of South Pasadena
Funding Request: \$300,000



 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

Located within 2016 DAC Census Block Group?	No (but adjacent)
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Located within 2018 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	0 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	6th percentile (62nd adjacent)
Park Need	Low/Moderate

Note: The ~\$300k budgeted for a TRP is not included in the calculator for the required DAC return allocation.

WASC to validate direct benefit to a disadvantaged community.

Moving Forward

As a WASC, you are tasked with validating whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” to a disadvantaged community. Done on a project-by-project basis.

Take into consideration:

- What you have heard from the community themselves?
- What benefits is the project providing and how are these quantified?
- What areas will experience those benefits?
- Do the project benefits meet community-identified priorities and concerns?
- What other project-specific considerations should be taken into account?
(E.g. community access to a site)

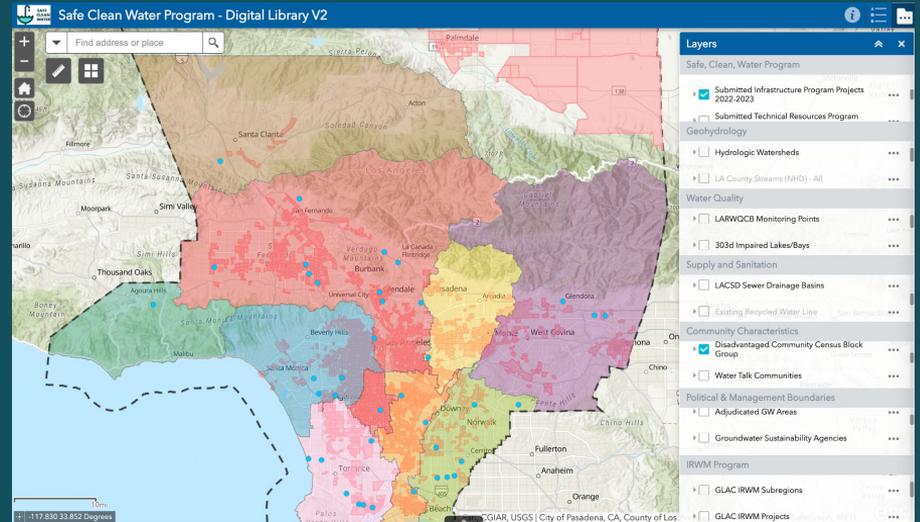
Resources

[Safe, Clean Water Program Spatial Data Library](#)

[Interim Disadvantaged Community](#)

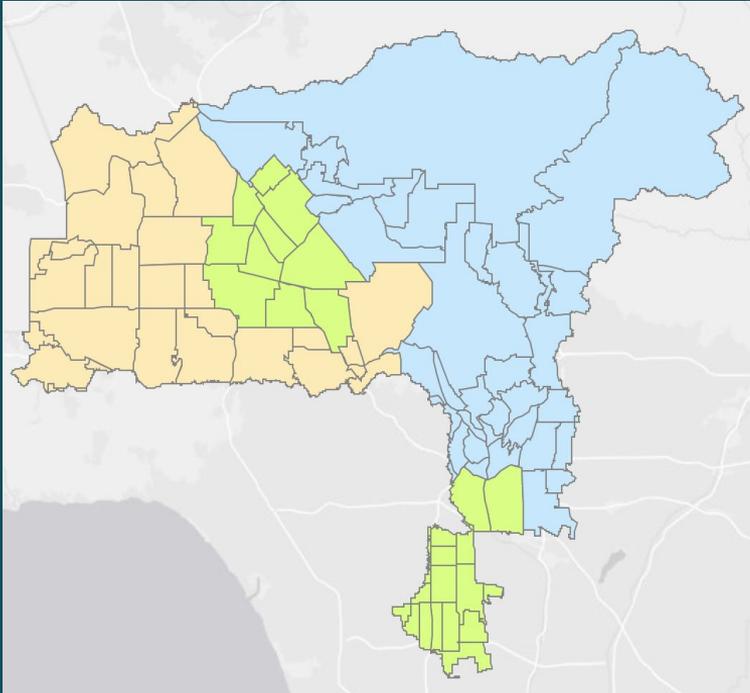
[Programming Guidelines](#)

[Regional Program Resources on the SCWP Website](#)



If there are questions about these guidelines...

Please contact us as your Watershed Coordinators!



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Program Definitions

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“**Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit**’ means a Water Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or Community Investment Benefit located in a DAC or providing benefits directly to a DAC population.” *(Section 16.03(I))*

“Water Quality Benefit” means a reduction in Stormwater or Urban Runoff pollution, such as improvements in the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of Stormwater or Urban Runoff in the District. Activities resulting in this benefit include but are not limited to: infiltration or treatment of Stormwater or Urban Runoff, non-point source pollution control, and diversion of Stormwater or Urban Runoff to a sanitary sewer system. *(Section 16.03(NN))*

“Water Supply Benefit” means an increase in the amount of locally available water supply, provided there is a nexus to Stormwater or Urban Runoff capture. Activities resulting in this benefit include, but are not limited to, the following: reuse and conservation practices, diversion of Stormwater or Urban Runoff to a sanitary sewer system for direct or indirect water recycling, increased groundwater replenishment or available yield, or offset of potable water use. *(Section 16.03(OO))*

“Community Investment Benefit” means a benefit created in conjunction with a Project or Program, such as, but not limited to: improved flood management, flood conveyance, or flood risk mitigation; creation, enhancement or restoration of parks, habitat or wetlands; improved public access to waterways; enhanced or new recreational opportunities; and greening of schools. A Community Investment Benefit also includes a benefit to the community derived from a Project or Program that improves public health by reducing heat island effect and increasing shade or planting of trees or other vegetation that increase carbon reduction/sequestration and improve air quality. *(Section 16.03(F))*