

# WASC MEETING UPDATES

# QUARTER 1

**ALFREDO CAMACHO,**  
UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED COORDINATOR



**SAFE  
CLEAN  
WATER  
PROGRAM**

# AGENDA

- **Quarter 1 Overview** - August 2021 - October 2021
- **Quarter 2 Update** - November 2021 - Present
- **Looking Ahead** - What's Next



# LOOKING BACK

QUARTER 1 OVERVIEW



# OUR ROLE

The role of the Watershed Coordinator is to educate & build capacity in communities and to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement with the Safe, Clean Water Program.



# OUR TASKS

## Task 1

Facilitate Community Engagement in the SCWP

## Task 2

Identify and Develop Project Concepts

## Task 3

Work with Technical Assistance Teams

## Task 4

Identification/Representation of Community Priorities

## Task 5

Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships & Networks

## Task 6

Cost Share Partners

## Task 7

Leverage Funding

## Task 8

Local Stakeholder Education

## Task 9

Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

# FOCUS AREAS (SOEP)

**1**

Engage stakeholders, municipalities and community groups.

**2**

Solicit input and connect to technical assistance (TA) opportunities.

**3**

Ensure diverse perspectives are shared with the District and WASC.

**4**

Identify and ensure the involvement of members of disadvantaged & underrepresented communities.

**5**

Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological & community issues.

# 1 Engage stakeholders, municipalities and community groups.

Completing Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan (associated tasks)

**Approved 9/23/21**

Met with existing partners to discuss SCWP, stormwater capture & priorities, and to learn about other efforts in the Watershed Area; these include: Nature 4 All, Pomona ACTS, East San Gabriel Healthy Neighborhood, El Monte Partnership for Youth & Families, Clean & Green, Latino/a Roundtable of Pomona and San Gabriel Valley, Growing Roots, Lopez Urban Farm and Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

Hosted/participated in **11** community educational events and **7** public engagement meetings in the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area to educate/gather input about Safe Clean Water Program.

# 1 Engage stakeholders, municipalities and community groups.

Collaborated with other Watershed Coordinators to share best practices; specifically met one-on-one with Council for Watershed Health and Heal the Bay to share ideas.

Met with San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps several times to discuss project ideas & collaboration opportunities in the southern portion of the Watershed Area and West Covina.

Engaged with city staff that is represented in the WASC: Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Glendora, Industry, Pomona and La Verne; also met with San Dimas staff and Supervisor Hilda L. Solis' staff.

Worked with Bassett Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community (BAAEC) to coordinate outreach efforts and identify existing/new partners in the Basset, La Puente, Avocado Heights & North Whittier.



# 2 | Solicit input and connect to technical assistance (TA) opportunities.

Finalized Community Water Input Survey to gather input on project priorities.

**Complete**

Solicited input and project ideas from community partners, stakeholders and residents in the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area at community events and engagement meetings.

Developed Safe Clean Water Program Presentation, Potential Project Boards and other materials to help drive community and stakeholder input on potential projects.

Began connecting with new and continuing project applicants to learn more about status of projects and to get input on background of project development.

# 3 | Ensure diverse perspectives are shared with the District and WASC.

Conducted education on Safe Clean Water Program projects to our existing network of community-based organization partners.

Contacted Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs throughout the USGR Watershed Area to solicit feedback and coordinate presentations about projects and the Safe Clean Water Program.

Connected with Mt. SAC, Citrus College and Cal Poly Pomona staff to conduct education on the Safe Clean Water Program projects.

Attended various elementary, middle and high school events to connect with parents and young people to solicit feedback on the Safe Clean Water Program projects.

# 4 Identify and ensure the involvement of members of disadvantaged & underrepresented communities.

As an organization, our mission is to ensure we engage with members of disadvantaged communities, but we also worked with other environmental justice groups such as Nature 4 All, Clean & Green & Latino/a Roundtable of Pomona and San Gabriel Valley, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, God's Pantry and Our Savior Center to identify gaps in the Watershed Area.

Targeted outreach in regions in the USGR Watershed Area without project submissions to begin identifying project proposals.

Mapped out DAC areas in the USGR Watershed Area to drive the focus for outreach and stakeholder engagement.

# 5 Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological & community issues.

Began identifying and learning about watershed education curricula from various sources to use as a model for the USGR Watershed Area.

Worked with the City of Pomona Parks & Recreation Department and Nature 4 All to include watershed management in their Outdoor Equity Grant Program proposals.

Attended/watched various live or pre-recorded trainings to learn best practices for watersheds and related ecological/community issues.

Enrolled in EPA's Watershed Academy Program to learn best practices and model the information in our programming.

# LESSONS LEARNED

## THE PROGRAM IS UNKNOWN AND BUILDING A BASE IS IMPORTANT

- Early on, we learned that although the Safe Clean Water Program was approved by the voters in 2018, members of the public were not aware of the program. Our staff found that it was necessary to conduct educational outreach that introduces the public to the program and educates them about the concept of stormwater capture.
- Resoundingly, a large majority of residents have never thought about the concept of stormwater capture, water quality, water supply or knew that we had a river that was the outlet for all of our shared waterways. Although drought was brought up, solutions included limiting water usage. It was exciting to be able to share this new knowledge, but also reminded us about the undertaking that it would be to **a)** educate the general public about stormwater capture and the SCWP, **b)** gather feedback from community about what they would like to see and, **c)** work with partners and community members to help develop project concepts.

# LESSONS LEARNED

## PEOPLE CARE ABOUT PARKS AND NATURE

- Overall, community priorities have emphasized parks/open space and pedestrian/bike roadways as opportunities for SCWP stormwater capture projects. Various community members and community partners shared in one form or another the need to create connectivity in the form of a multiuse walking or bike path in the region, examples highlighted have been the Pacific Electric Trail, the Emerald Necklace, the LA River Revitalization and the opportunity to develop the San Jose Creek.
- When mentioning stormwater, the channelized creeks came up often, as did the opportunity to create synergy between schools and “washes” as they were referred to; park improvements also came up a lot, particularly the creation of walking paths, splash pads, more shade, drinking water and opportunities to connect with nature, such as hiking or nature walk opportunities.

# LESSONS LEARNED

## PEOPLE WANT IT TO BE TANGIBLE IN ORDER TO GET EXCITED ABOUT IT

- Because many of the projects are still concepts and awaiting additional funding or have other barriers, it has been a challenge to share a concrete project concept that residents can get excited about.
- In the future, as projects move into the design and community engagement phase, we will be more effective in gathering community specific feedback. For now, most of our work and outreach has been in collaboration with existing events.
- As we move forward with the Safe Clean Water Program and receiving giveaways, materials and visuals from project concepts, engagement efforts will kick-up and involve more than informational/educational outreach.

# DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT

#	TASK	TOTAL TASK LOE (FROM WORKPLAN)	LOE THIS QUARTER	LOE TO-DATE (FROM MONTHLY REPORTS)
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	23.25%	44%	44%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	10%	9%	9%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	11.75%	2%	2%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	10.75%	10%	10%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	9.25%	8%	8%
6	Cost-share Partners	3.25%	2%	2%
7	Leverage Funding	4.75%	2%	2%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	9.25%	20%	20%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	7.75%	4%	4%
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



# QUARTER 2

NOVEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022



# AT-A-GLANCE



- **Meeting with Project Applicants**
- **Meeting with Elected Officials & Staff**
- **Pop-Up Events & Outreach at Touch Points throughout Watershed Area**
- **Planning Large-Scale Community Education Event**
- **Identifying Priority Areas for Projects**

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- **NOVEMBER**

- 2 Events/Community Meetings
- 14 surveys



- **DECEMBER**

- 5 Events/Community Meetings
- 23 surveys



- **JANUARY**

- 0 Events/Community Meetings
- 8 Pop-Ups/Touch Points
- 39 surveys

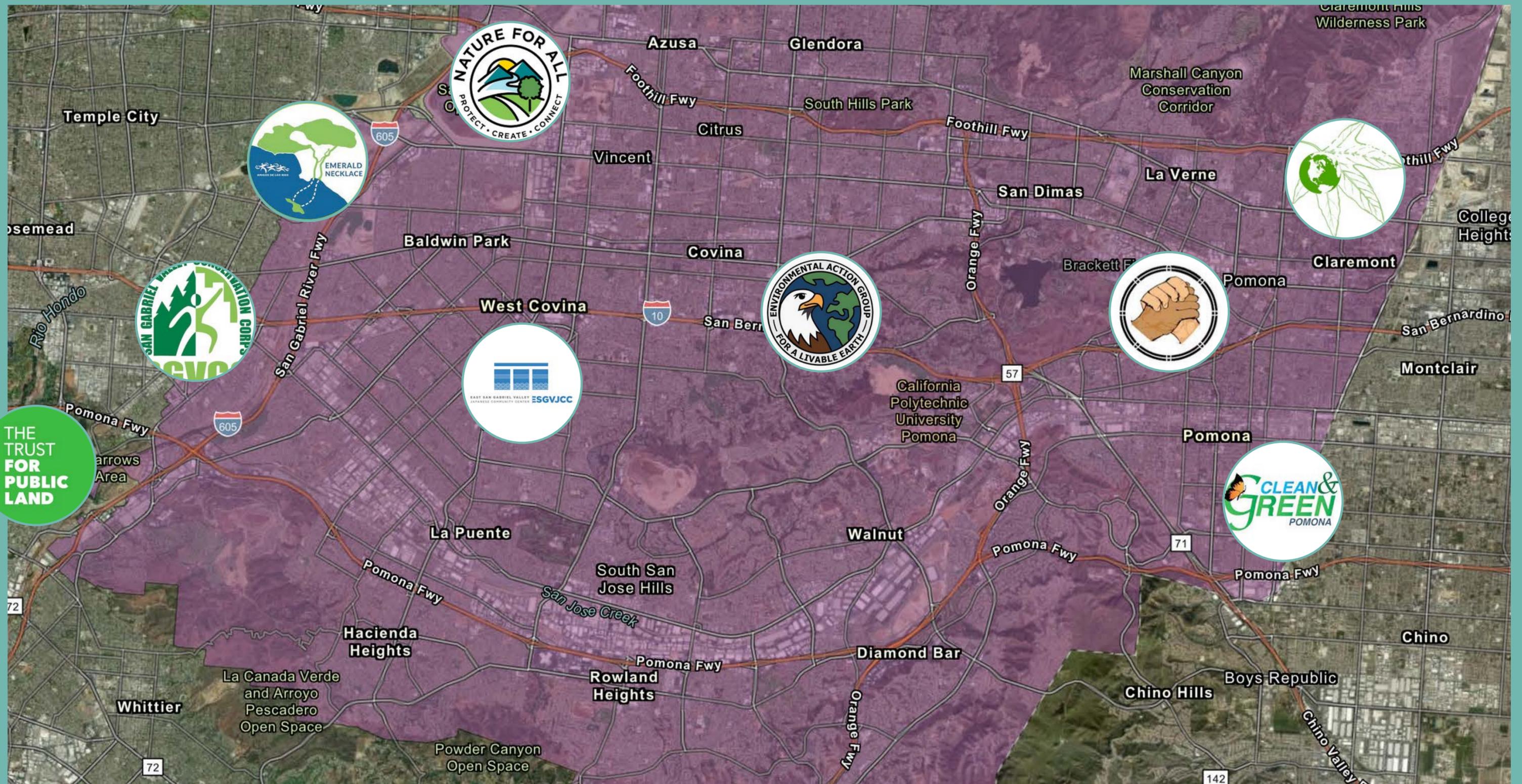
# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- **9 Meetings**

- CM Garcia, Preciado, Nolte - Pomona
- CM Chou - Diamond Bar
- Board Member McGuire - Charter Oak
- Assm. Freddie Rodriguez - Pomona
- Assm. Lisa Calderon - La Puente, Avocado Heights, Hacienda Heights
- State Sen. Susan Rubio - West Covina, Covina, Baldwin Park, La Puente
- State Sen. Anthony Portantino - Duarte, Monrovia, Claremont, Bradbury, San Dimas

# CBO ENGAGEMENT



# PROJECT MEETINGS

- **11/1/21** - Stormtunnels Project Concept Meeting - Shahriar Eftekharzadeh, SEITec
- **11/2/21** - Meeting for Barnes Park Project - Katie Harrel, CWE & John Beshay, City of Baldwin Park
- **11/4/21** - Marchant Park Project Meeting - Lauren Marshall, City of San Dimas
- **11/23/21** - Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project Meeting - Oliver Galang, Craft Water Inc
- **11/30/21** - Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Project Meeting - Fernando Villaluna, LADPW
- **11/30/21** - ESGVWVG Monthly Meeting (Pedley Spreading Grounds, Fairplex)
- **12/1/21** - Wingate Park Project Site Visit - Sharon Gallant, City of Covina
- **12/7/21** - Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project Meeting - Oliver Galang, Craft Water Inc

# SELECTING PRIORITY AREAS

- **Community-based Organization Interviews**

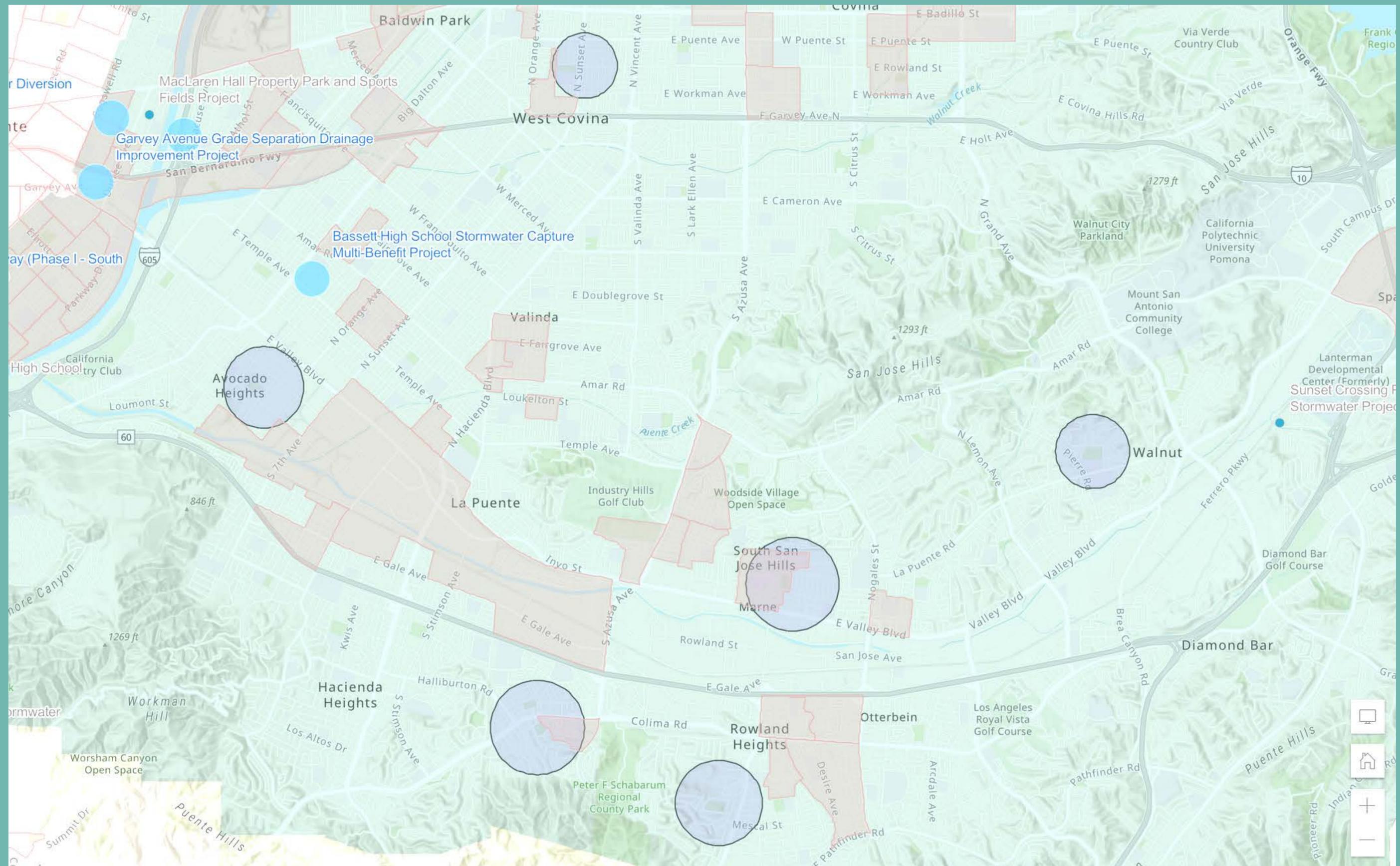
- **Stakeholder Interviews**

- **Survey Results, Outreach and Site Visits**

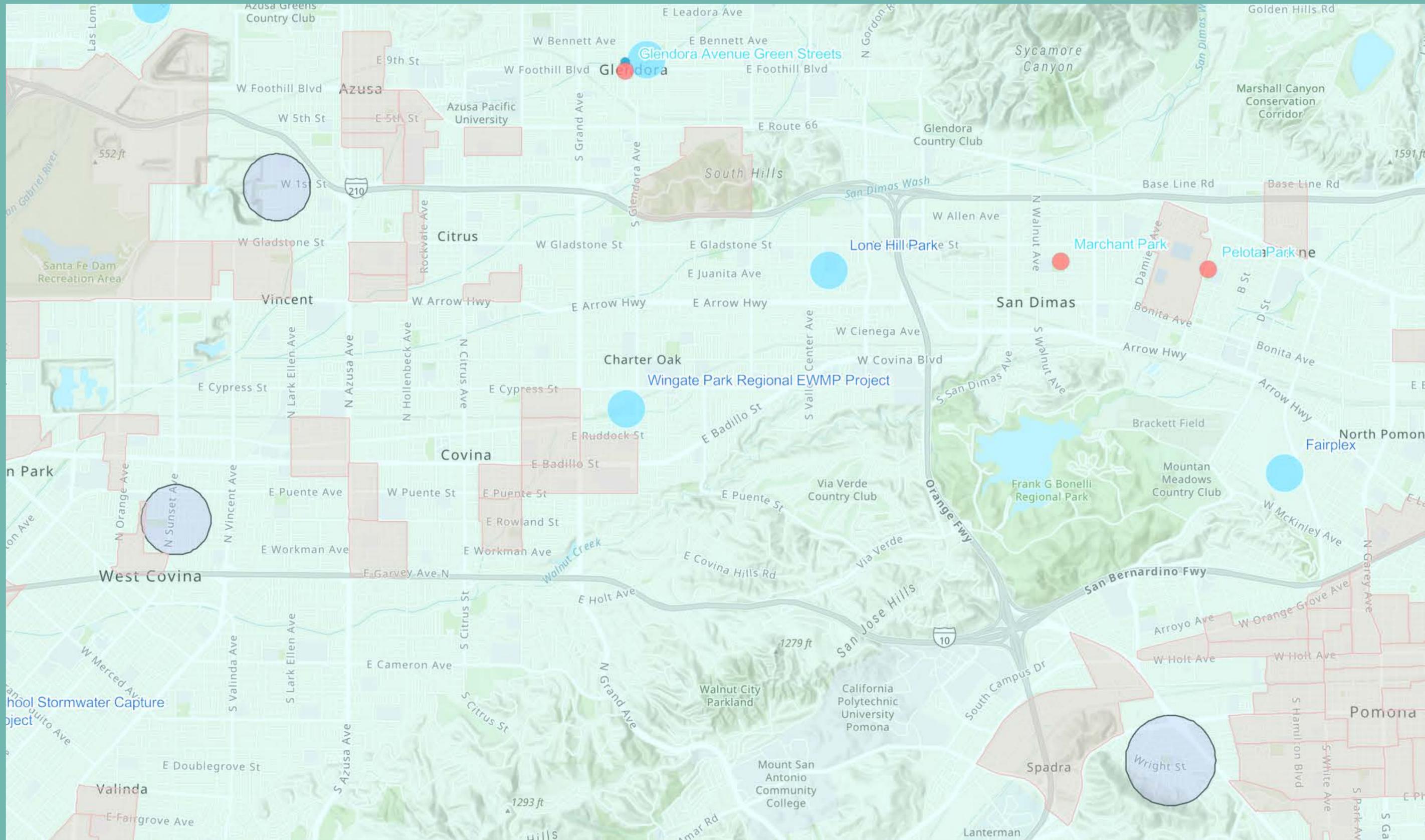
- **Funded IP Project Gaps**

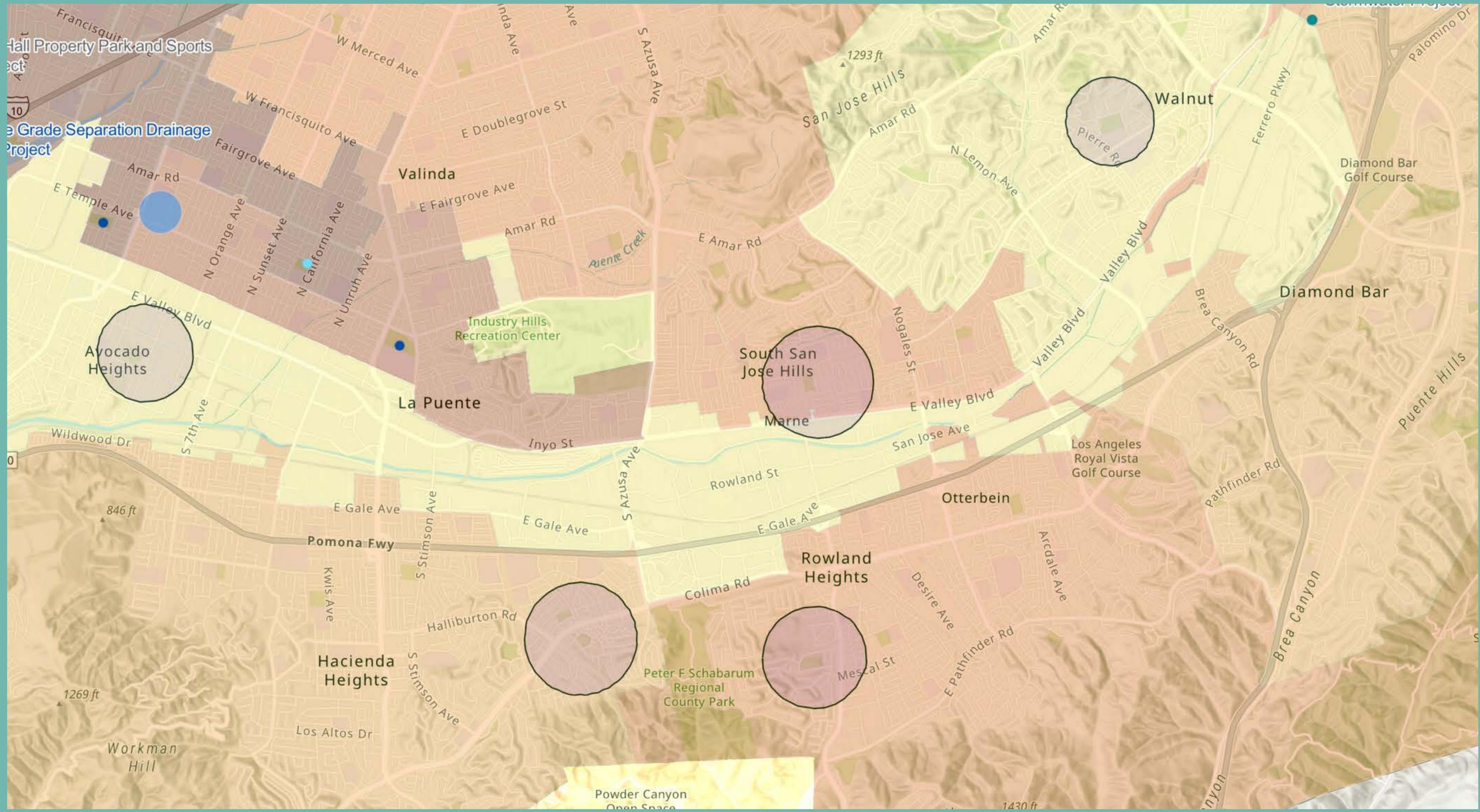
- **DAC Proximity Maps in the USGR**

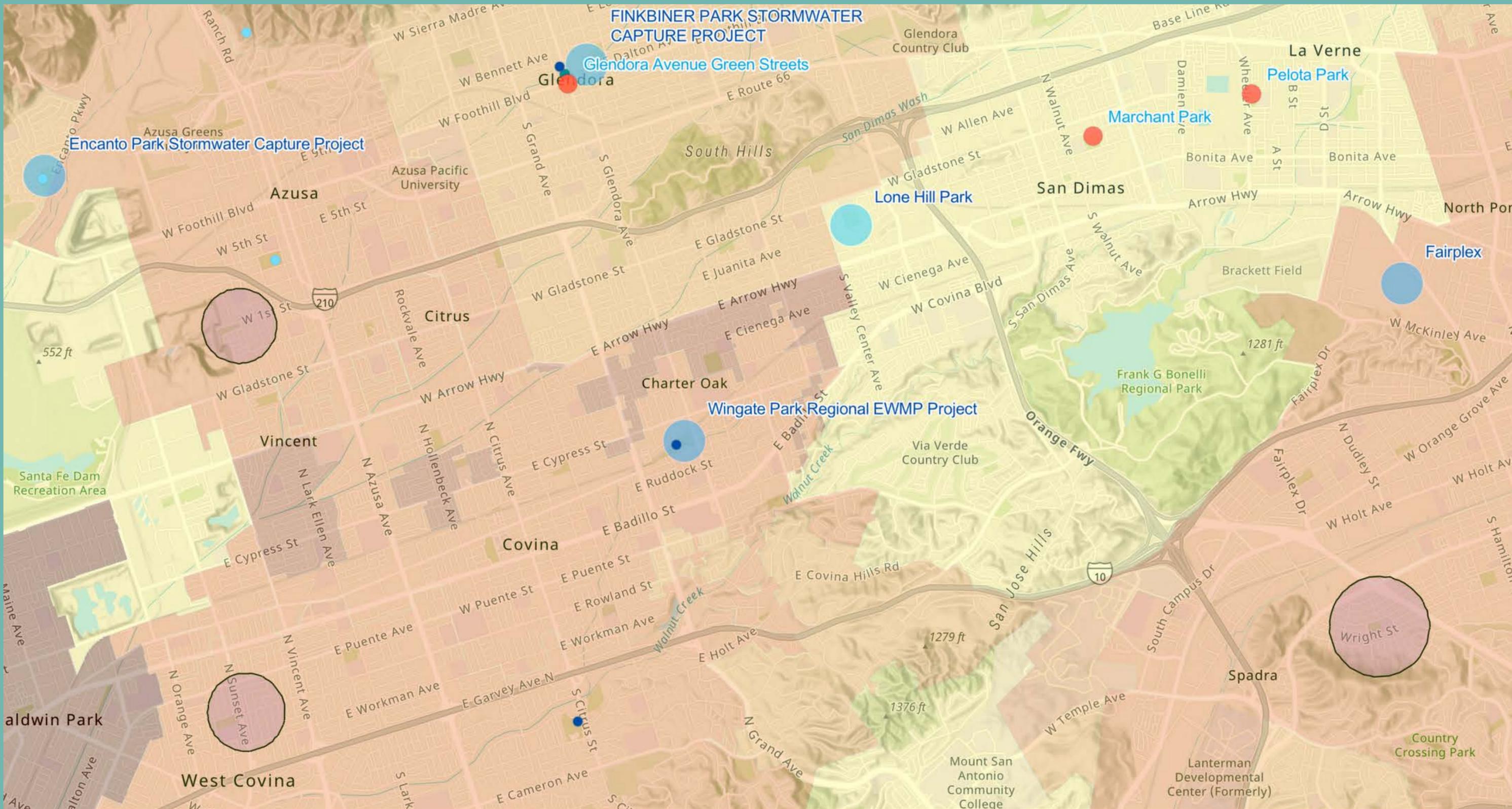
- **Parks Needs Assessment Park Need Areas**



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Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project

FINKBINER PARK STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT

Glendora Avenue Green Streets

Marchant Park

Lone Hill Park

Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project

Fairplex

West Covina

# LOOKING AHEAD

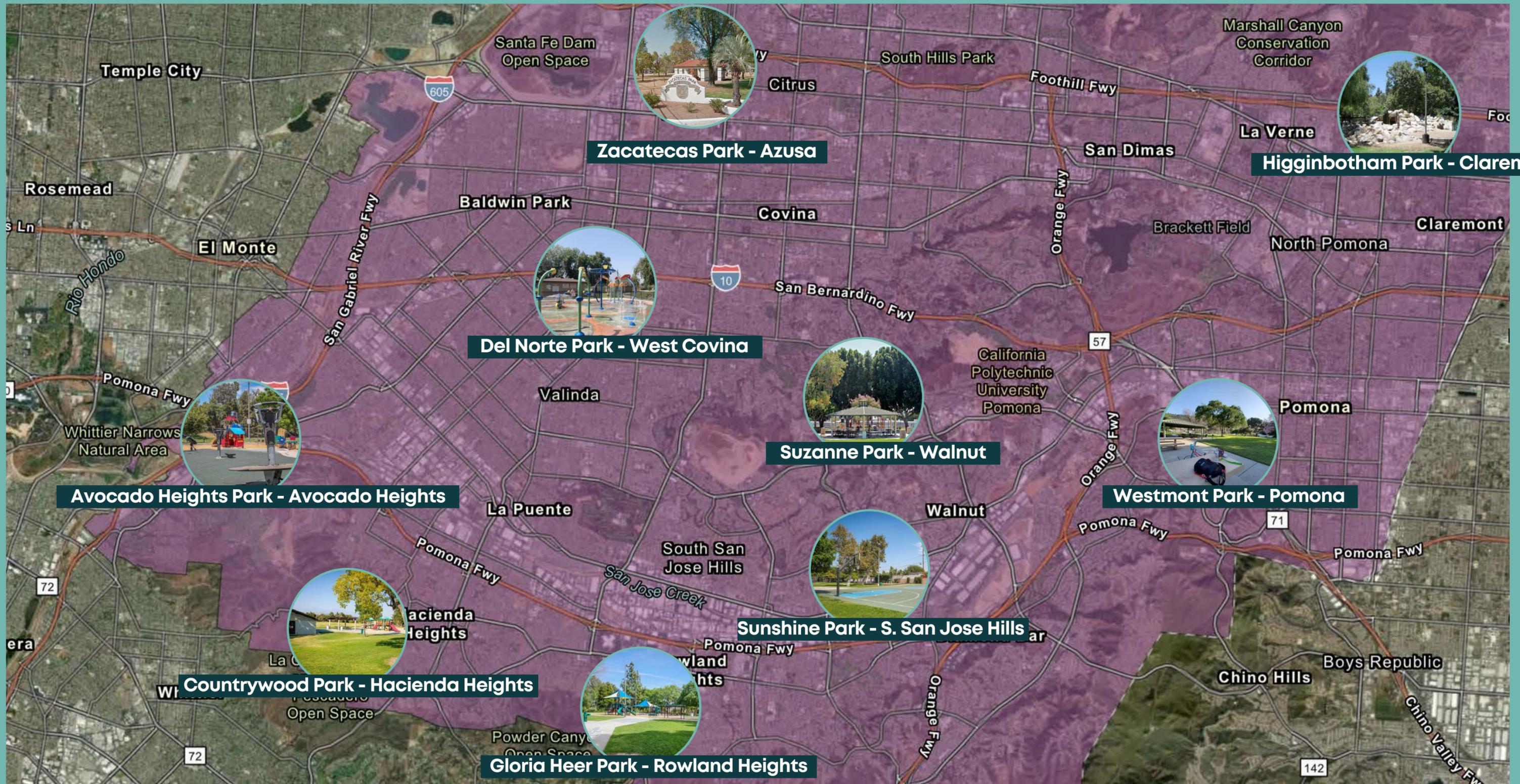


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# NEXT STEPS

- Large-scale Community Education Event with Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator - 2/22/22
- Continue outreach at Touch Points to develop projects ideas.
- Work with existing project applicants on community outreach, specifically, but not limited to, the DAC areas.
- Identify leverage-funding needs by working with new and existing applicants
- Launch "Nature Solutions Walks" to engage & educate residents in the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area

# TOUCH POINTS





# QUESTIONS?