

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER

WATERSHED COORDINATOR UPDATES

2/22/22



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**

sga
MARKETING

TODAY'S AGENDA



UPDATES ON SOEP IMPLEMENTATION

BY FOCUS AREA



REVIEW OF DAC BENEFITS IN LLAR

BY PROJECT



COORDINATOR
FOCUS
AREAS



1

**UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY
NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN
WATERSHED**

2

SOLICIT NEW PROJECTS

3

SUPPORT CURRENT PROJECTS

4

**RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS
ABOUT SCW**

5

SUPPORT WASCS

FOCUS 1

UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY NEEDS IN THE WATERSHED AREA

Goal:

To enhance the Coordinator's ability to guide and assist project applicants and the WASC's ability to review projects



FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Strategy A: Identification of Interested Party Contacts Details

We identified and compiled databases of the following interested party groups:

- 55 NGOs, CBOs, and Environmental Organizations
- 48 City and County Agencies
- 3 State and Federal Agencies
- 9 Educational Institutions
- 6 Councils of Government
- 18 Water Purveyors
- 2 Native American Tribes
- 15 Companies and Chambers of Commerce
- 89 City and County elected officials

Completed:

9 databases

Goal:

4 databases



FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Strategy B: Engagement of local Interested Parties through meetings

Completed:	37 meetings or presentations
Goal:	32 meetings or presentations

INTERESTED PARTY MEETINGS

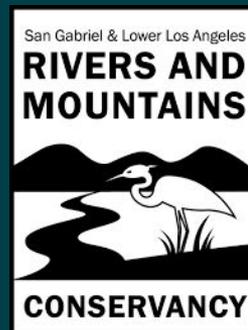
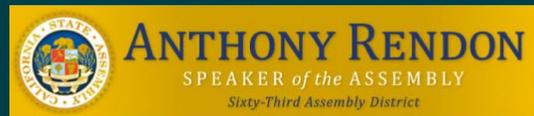
Below is a list of some of the interested parties SGA has met with. Full lists can be found in Quarterly Reports.

- *Tree People*
- *East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)*
- *Assembly District 63 Representative Anthony Rendon's Office*
- *Friends of the LA River*
- *Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (3 meetings)*
- *LA County Chief Sustainability Office*
- *LA Waterkeeper*
- *Paramount City Council*
- *LLAR Revitalization Plan Implementation Advisory Group*
- *Community Garden Council (2 meetings)*
- *Kounkuey Design Institute*
- *Trust for Public Land*
- *Prevention Institute*
- *SEITec*
- *City Fabrick*
- *Urban Waters Federal Partnership*
- *Central Basin Water District*
- *LA Neighborhood Land Trust & Communities for a Better Environment & EYCEJ*
- *City of Long Beach*
- *State Assemblymember 58th District Cristina Garcia's Office*
- *Liberty Hill*
- *Accelerate Resilience LA (2 meetings)*
- *WASC member meetings (11)*

FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Strategy B: Engagement of local Interested Parties through meetings

Completed:	37 meetings or presentations
Goal:	32 meetings or presentations



FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Strategy C: Develop a presentation about the SCW program for community audiences and a presentation about Technical Resources Program

We developed the follow presentations:

- 1 presentation about the SCW program and how to get involved for community members
- 1 presentation about the TRP program for potential applicants
- 1 presentation about the Scientific Studies Program for potential applicants

Completed:	3 presentations
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Goal:	2 presentations
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FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Strategy D: Develop and distribute a community needs survey.

Developed a community needs survey

- 9 questions total
- English and Spanish
- Gathers geospatial data to allow for Watershed- and neighborhood-specific sorting

Distributed community needs survey

- Developed a social media toolkit and distributed to WASC members plus Interested Parties
- In use at community events

Completed:	1 survey
Goal:	1 survey

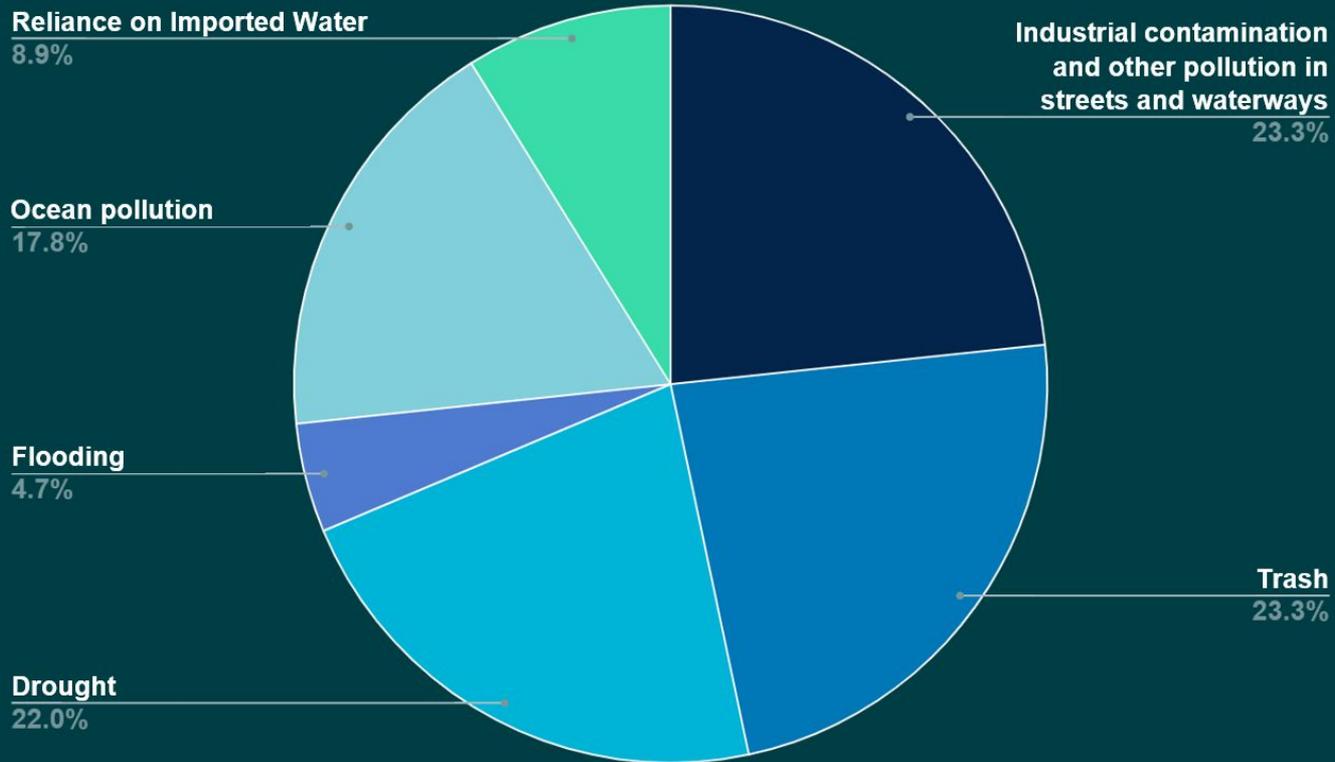


Find the survey here
linktr.ee/safecleanwater

FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

137 Survey Responses

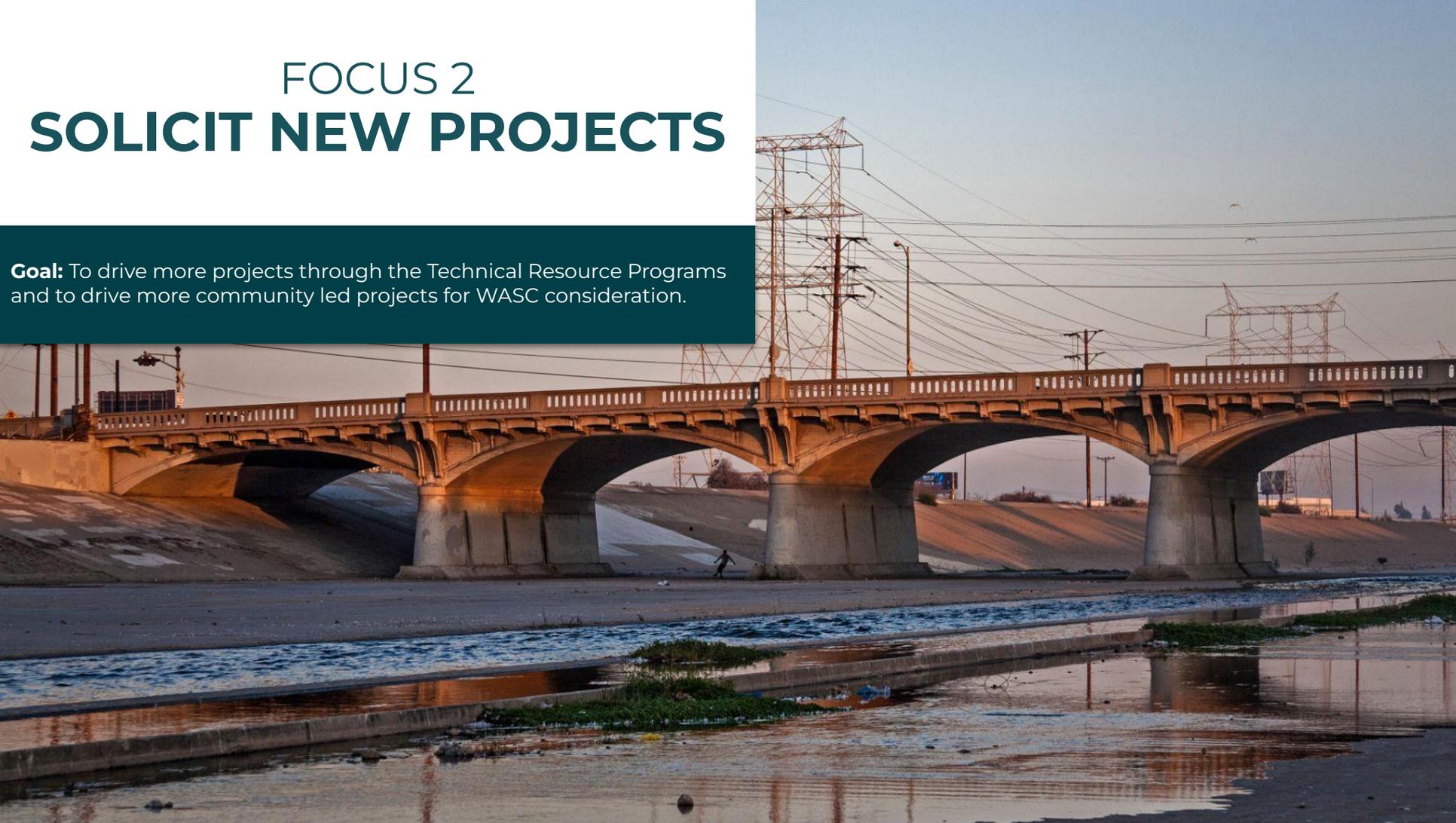
Survey question 1: What water-related issues are of greatest concern in your community?



FOCUS 2

SOLICIT NEW PROJECTS

Goal: To drive more projects through the Technical Resource Programs and to drive more community led projects for WASC consideration.



FOCUS: SOLICIT NEW PROJECTS

Strategy A: Presentations about the TRP

We combined our Interested Party meeting goal (22) with our TRP presentations goal (10), as many of these overlapped.

Completed: 37 meetings or presentations

Goal: 32 meetings or presentations



FOCUS: SOLICIT NEW PROJECTS

Strategy B: Distribute call for projects press release.

Completed: 1 press release

Goal: 1 press release

We distributed the press release to **108 interested parties.**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16th, 2021

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
pio@pw.lacounty.gov

L.A. County, CA - Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program is announcing its fourth annual call for stormwater project funding applications.

The Safe Clean Water Program, also known as Measure W, was passed by voters in 2018. It provides local, dedicated funding to modernize L.A. County's 100-year-old stormwater system. In a region that imports two-thirds of its water and is impacted by increasingly severe droughts, this Program aims to increase the region's water supply and improve water quality while also enhancing communities and protecting public health.

The Program is funded by an annual local parcel tax which provides approximately \$280 million a year for stormwater and urban runoff capture projects. The Safe Clean Water Regional Program funds three different programs:

- The Infrastructure Program funds the design, construction, or operation and maintenance of stormwater projects that have a feasibility study already completed.
- The Technical Resources Program funds the development of a feasibility study for project concepts typically owned by parties that do not have the capacity to develop their own feasibility study.
- The Scientific Studies Program funds studies related to regional stormwater or urban runoff capture.



Governance Committees evaluate and score projects, develop and recommend annual Stormwater Investment Plans and provide recommendations for funding. Eligible projects must improve water quality through regional stormwater or urban runoff capture. Competitive projects also increase water supply, utilize nature-based solutions, and provide community benefits such as creating green space and recreational opportunities, enhancing habitat, and increasing climate resilience.

To date, the Safe Clean Water Program has allocated \$240 million over two rounds of funding. It [has funded](#) 118 infrastructure projects and 45 technical resource projects covering 278,039 acres, as well as 17 scientific studies.

Now, the Program is accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 23-24 funding round which ends on July 31, 2022.

Any person or party with a project idea is encouraged to contact their region's Watershed Coordinator. Contact information can be found on the [Safe Clean Water Website](#).

Visit safecleanwaterfa.org to learn more about the Program and how to get involved.

HOW ELSE CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?
LET US KNOW WHAT WATER CONCERNS YOU HAVE

TAKE YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT:
COSTA MESA WATERSHED: CostaMesa@pw.lacounty.gov
MISSION WATERSHED: MissionWatershed@pw.lacounty.gov
LEHIGH LA RIVER WATERSHED: LehighRiver@pw.lacounty.gov



www.pw.lacounty.gov/sccw

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

FOCUS 3

SUPPORT CURRENT PROJECT APPLICANTS

Goal: To ensure that future projects submittals fulfill all 6 goals of the SCW. A key aspect of this focus is helping project applicants who may need more access to resources to apply for the Technical Resources program.



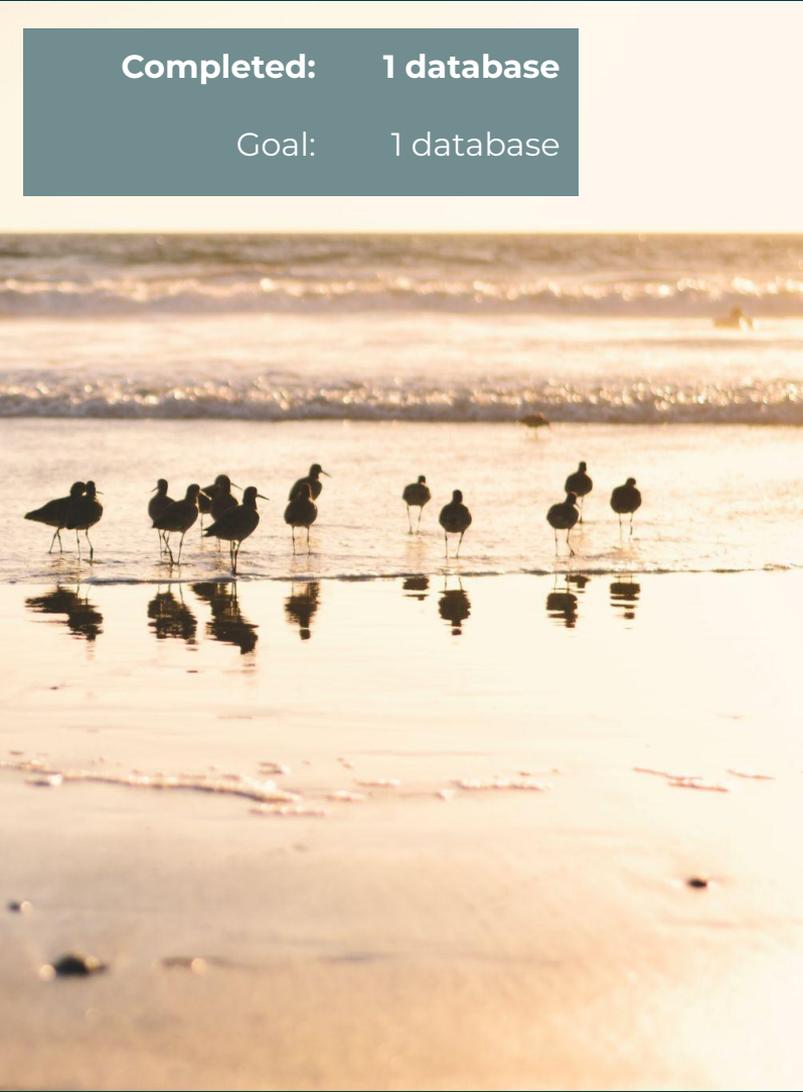
Completed: 1 database

Goal: 1 database

FOCUS: SUPPORT CURRENT APPLICANTS

Strategy A: Develop a cost-share database

- Published database of 86 funding opportunities in most recent quarterly report
- Contacted funded project leads to ask if they plan to seek further SCWP funding and presented to WASC in October
- Continue to share funding opportunities with project applicants





FOCUS: SUPPORT CURRENT APPLICANTS

Strategy B: Develop and distribute a community outreach checklist

We are collaborating with Heal
The Bay to develop a
community engagement
checklist including best
practices and input from
Interested Parties.

FOCUS: SUPPORT CURRENT APPLICANTS

Strategy C: Project guidance on community engagement.

We have offered support to the following project and potential project applicants.

Project Name:	Assistance Needed
Salt Lake Park Infiltration Cistern	Helped get conceptual letter of support from Water Replenishment District (WRD)
Willow Springs Park Wetland Restoration and Expansion Project	Provided comments on community engagement portion of FY22-23 application
Rosencrans Ave. Storm Tunnel	Connected applicant to WRD & provided cost sharing opportunities information
Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation	General application informational support

FOCUS 4

RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Goals:

1. To build awareness
2. To increase community engagement in projects
3. To gather information to help WASC members understand community needs



FOCUS: RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT SCWP

Strategy A: Attend community events in the watershed.

SEPTEMBER:

1. **Sept, 18- South Gate:** LA River RMC event
2. **Sept, 25 - Commerce:** Summer Concert 2021

OCTOBER:

3. **Oct, 5- Paramount:** First Fridays Night Market

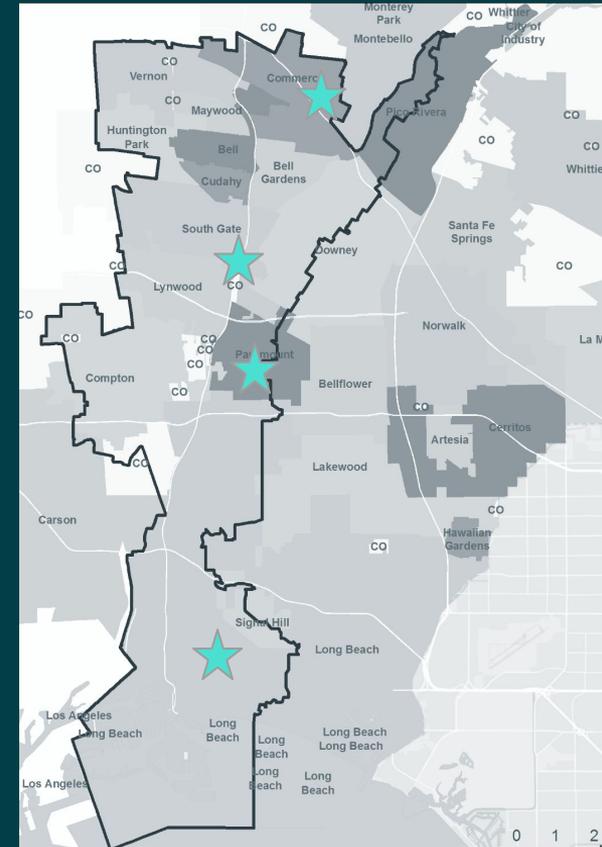
NOVEMBER:

4. **Nov, 5 - Long Beach:** Bixby Knolls First Fridays & Dia De Los Muertos

FEBRUARY:

5. **Feb. 17- Online:** Co-hosting a virtual workshop with LSGR Watershed Coordinators for SCWP project proponents about effective community engagement as well as the DAC Involvement Program
6. **Mar. 26 - Online:** Waterwise Gardening Webinar for Residents with Solano Centre

Completed:	4 attended 2 planned
Goal:	6 events





COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS



FOCUS: RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT SCWP

UPCOMING WEBINAR FOR PROJECT APPLICANTS

TIPS ON THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOCUS OF THE PROGRAM

Thursday, February 17th 2022 | 4:00 – 5:00 PM

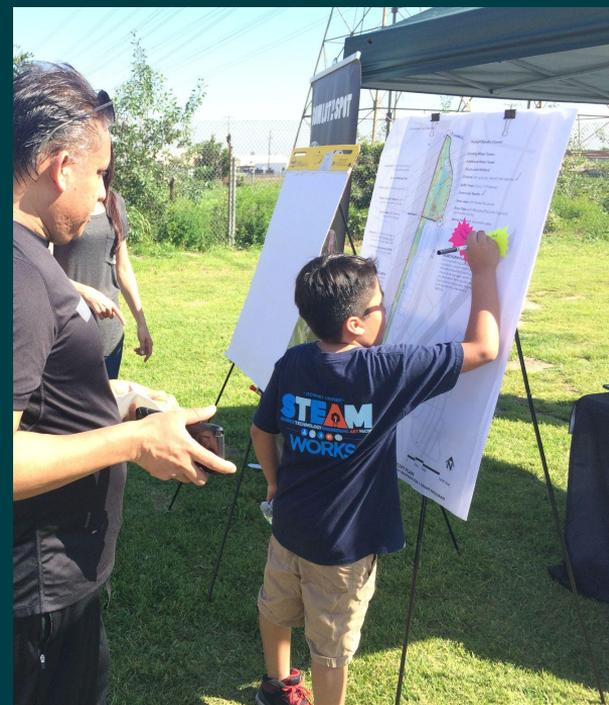


THE URBAN ORCHARD PROJECT- AN EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT - DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Peter Massey from TreePeople will cover details about this Program, what the steps are to develop a project that meets a community need, and how this Program works with the Safe Clean Water Program.



FOCUS: RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT SCWP

UPCOMING WEBINAR FOR RESIDENTS



WATERWISE GARDENING

FREE WEBINAR!

Join us and learn how to conserve water in your garden through rain harvesting and planting the right plants for your microclimate.

REGISTER HERE:
<https://bit.ly/3g6Kgsx>



FOCUS: RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT SCWP

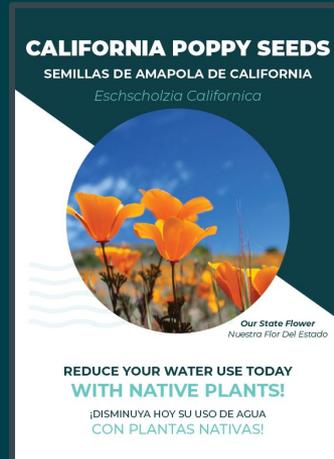
Completed: 1 event setup

Goal: 1 event setup

Strategy B: Design a community event set-up

We developed the following event materials:

- Roll-up banners
- CA poppy seed giveaways
- Table flyer
- Flyer hand-out
- Watershed activity for kids



CALIFORNIA POPPY SEEDS
SEMILLAS DE AMAPOLA DE CALIFORNIA
Eschscholzia Californica



Our State Flower
Nuestra Flor Del Estado

**REDUCE YOUR WATER USE TODAY
WITH NATIVE PLANTS!**
¡DISMINUYA HOY SU USO DE AGUA
CON PLANTAS NATIVAS!



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM (MEASURE W)?
¿QUE ES EL PROGRAMA DE AGUA SEGURA Y LIMPIA (INICIATIVA W)?

A program to modernize L.A. County's 100-year-old water system.
Un programa para modernizar el sistema de agua del condado de LA que data de hace 100 años.

HOW? ¿CÓMO?
Through the development of stormwater infrastructure projects, the Program will:
A través del desarrollo de proyectos de infraestructura de aguas pluviales, el programa tiene como objetivo:

- Increase local water supply through rainwater capture. Aumentar la disponibilidad de agua local mediante la recolección de lluvia.
- Reduce trash and toxins in our waters. Reducir la basura y los tóxicos en nuestros cuerpos de agua.
- Create more green space and parks. Crear más parques y espacios verdes.
- Build our climate change resiliency. Construir nuestra resiliencia al cambio climático.

WHERE ARE PROJECTS FUNDED? ¿DE DÓNDE SE FINANCIAN ESTOS PROYECTOS?
The program is funded by an annual local parcel fee.
El programa está financiado por un impuesto local parcelario.

Funding is distributed across L.A. County's watersheds.
Los fondos están distribuidos entre los diversos territorios del condado de LA.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED? ¿QUE ES UNA CUENCA HIDROLÓGICA?
An area of land that drains rainwater into the same body of water, like a river, lake or ocean.
Un área de tierra que drena el agua/llover hacia un cuerpo de agua, como un lago, un río o el océano.

LEARN MORE: MÁS INFORMACIÓN: safecleanwaterla.org



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

WHY DO WE NEED TO CAPTURE RAINWATER?
¿POR QUÉ NECESITAMOS CAPTURAR EL AGUA DE LA LLUVIA?

WE LIVE IN A WATER-SCARCE AREA.
AS CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES MORE WEATHER EXTREMES LIKE DROUGHT, WE NEED TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE OUR LOCAL WATER RESOURCES.
VIVIMOS EN UN ÁREA CON ESCASEZ DE AGUA. DADO QUE EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO ASÍ COMO FENÓMENOS METEOROLÓGICOS EXTREMOS COMO LA SEQUÍA, DEBEMOS TOMAR PASOS PARA MEJORAR NUESTROS RECURSOS DE AGUA LOCAL.

EVERY YEAR IN LA COUNTY: CADA AÑO EN EL CONDADO DE LA.:

- OVER 50% OF WATER BODIES ARE CLASSIFIED AS HAVING "IMPAIRED" WATER QUALITY. MÁS DEL 50% DE LOS CUERPOS DE AGUA ESTÁN CLASIFICADOS COMO DEFICIENTES.
- 1.4 MILLION ALMEDIAS ARE CAUSED BY 1.4 MILLONES DE DEFENSIVAS SON CAUSADAS POR AGUA CONTAMINADA.
- 2/3 OF OUR WATER IS IMPORTED. 2/3 DE NUESTRA AGUA ES IMPORTADA.



safecleanwaterla.org

FOCUS 5

SUPPORT THE WASC THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING

Goals: To communicate information learned in outreach to the WASC, so as to assist the members in their review of projects.



FOCUS: SUPPORT THE WASC THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING

Strategy A: Reporting

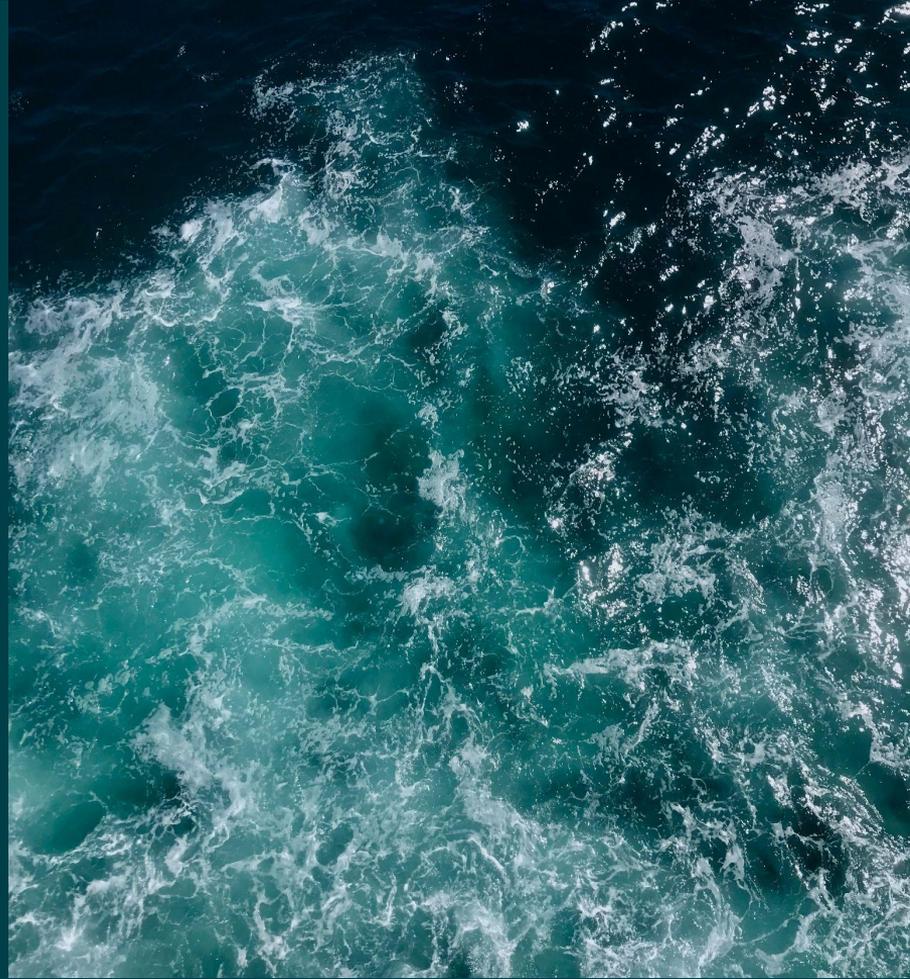
- 3 of 4 Quarterly reports completed
- 9 of 12 Monthly reports completed

Strategy B: WASC Presentations

- 7 WASC meetings attended
- 6 presentations given (out of a goal of 6)

Strategy C: Monthly watershed coordinator meetings

- Attended 6 watershed coordinator meetings



REVIEW OF DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY BENEFITS IN LLAR SCW PROJECTS



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”



LLAR Disadvantaged Community Allocation

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

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY (DAC) ALLOCATION

Required DAC Ratio	68%
Required Funding for DACs FY21-26 (110%)	\$ 24,494,968
Funding Allocated for DACs FY21-26	\$ 32,747,283

Source: LLAR 21-22 SIP

SCW DAC Policy Reminder:

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))*

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

1. **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.

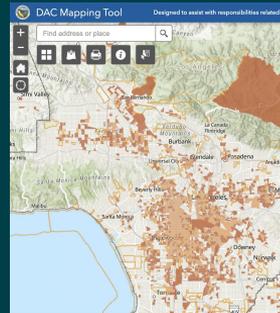
Other Possible Considerations:

Adjacency:



Some projects are near disadvantaged block groups.

External Datasets:



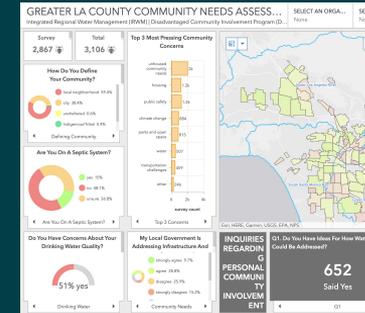
Other Census data (DWR DAC Mapping Tool)



CalEnviroScreen 4.0



LA County RPOSD Park Needs Assessment



IRWM DAC Involvement Program Greater LA County Needs Assessment

DAC Benefits Claimed vs. Location

3 “Buckets”

Projects Located Within a 2018 Disadvantaged Census Block Group (thus expressly benefit a DAC)



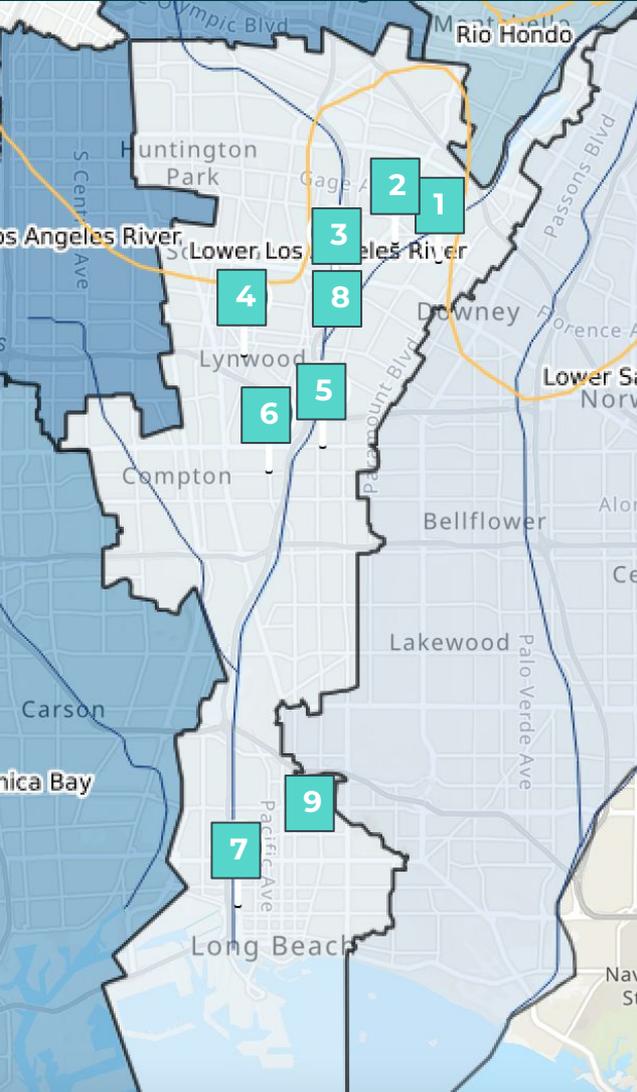
Projects NOT Located Within a 2018 Disadvantaged Census Block Group but NOT Claiming a DAC Benefit



Projects NOT Located Within a 2018 Disadvantaged Census Block Group but ARE Claiming a DAC Benefit



LLAR Projects Funded



#	Project	Provides DAC Benefit	Located In DAC Block Group
1	Furman Park (IP)	Yes	Yes
2	John Anson Ford Park (IP)	Yes	Yes
3	Urban Orchard (IP)	Yes	Yes
4	Lynwood City Park (IP)	Yes	Yes
5	Spane Park (IP)	Yes	Yes
6	Compton Blvd (IP)	Yes	Yes
7	LB MUST (IP)	Yes	Yes
8	Parque Dos Rios (TRP)	Yes	Yes
9	Willow Springs Park (TRP)	Yes	No



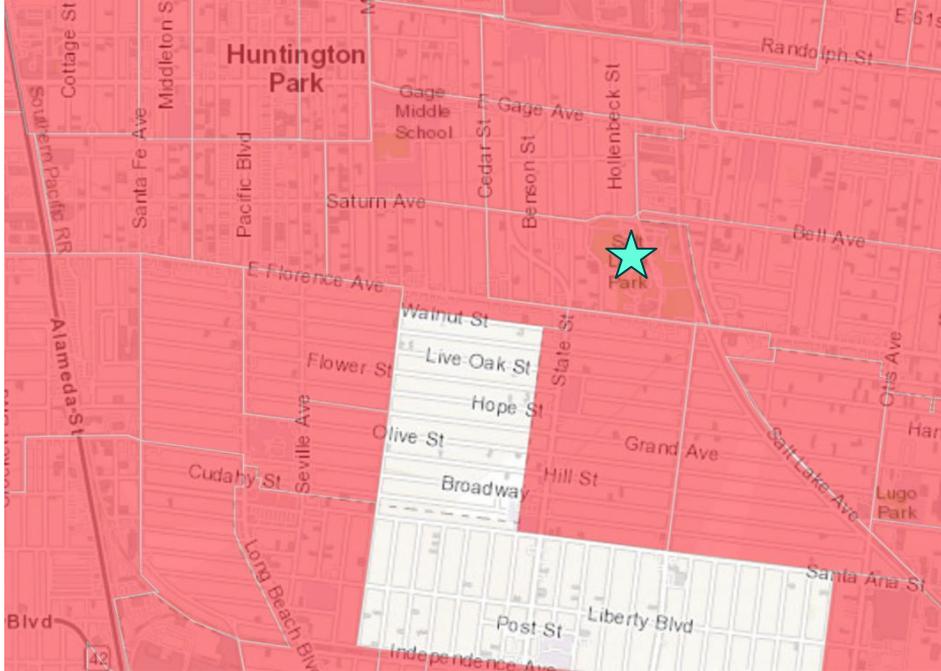
Submitted 22/23 Projects
Located Within a 2018 Disadvantaged
Census Block Group

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

IP Salt Lake Park Infiltration Cistern

Lead: City of Huntington Park

Funding Requested: \$29 M



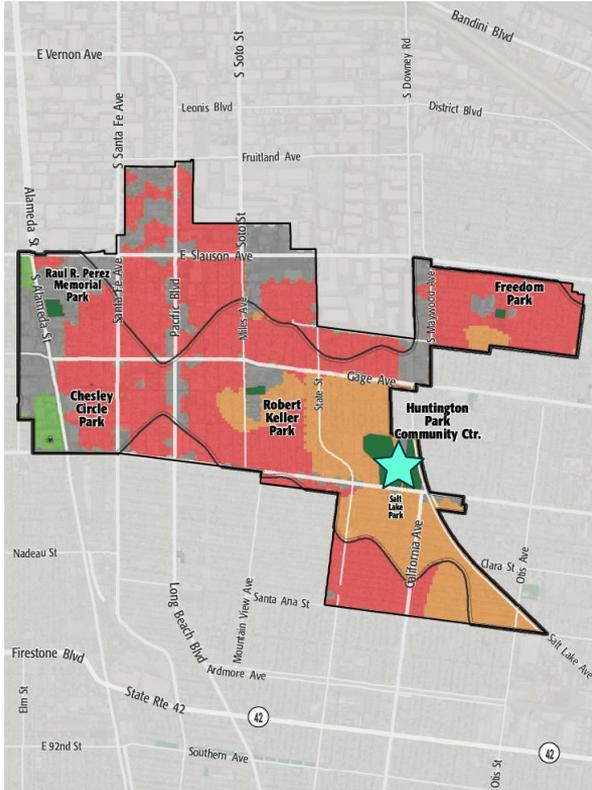
 Disadvantaged community census block groups (2018)

Located within 2018 DAC Census Block Group?	Yes
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
CalEnviroScreen Score	87th
Park Need	High

Provides direct disadvantaged community benefit according to SCWP guidelines



Park Need Map



PARK NEED CATEGORY

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- No Population
- Area within 1/2 mile walk of a park

HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED PARKS?



Community Support/Outreach

Letters of support from:

- Tree People
- City of Commerce
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Vernon

Future Outreach Plans

- City will identify an contact community groups and environmental organizations, Native American tribes believed to have inhabited the area, and public agencies that might have an interest in the project.
- Bilingual public meeting notices mailed to all residents within a 1,000-foot radius.
- Public meetings held onsite to re-introduce the project to the community.
- Letters will be sent to five Native American tribes advising them of the project and asking for their input. A paleontologist to be on-call throughout the project.

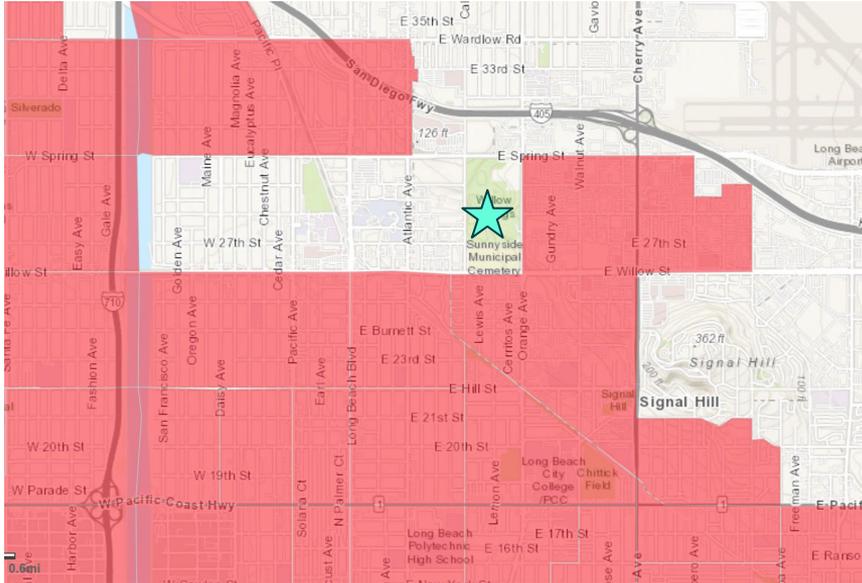


Submitted 22/23 Projects
NOT Located Within and ARE Claiming
Benefits to a 2018 Disadvantaged
Census Block Group

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

Lead: City of Long Beach

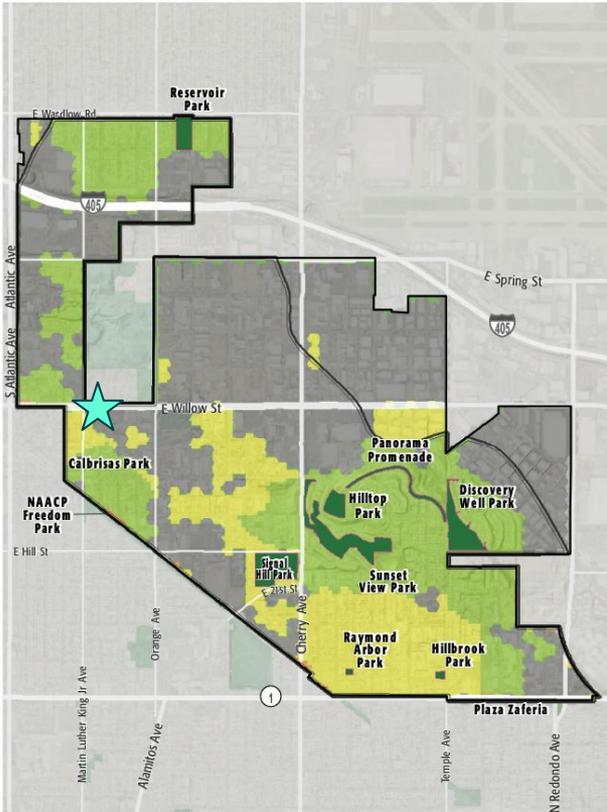
Funding Requested: \$1.2 M



Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

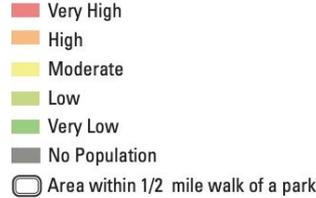
Does application claim DAC benefit?	Yes
Located within 2018 DAC Census Block Group?	No
Distance to nearest DAC	0
CalEnviroScreen Score	79th percentile
Park Need	Low-Moderate

Park Need Map



Source: LA County Park Needs Assessment (2016)

PARK NEED CATEGORY



HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED PARKS?



Community Support

Prior Outreach:

- 2 community workshops facilitated by a 3rd party contributed to & demonstrated community support for the Willow Springs Park Master Plan.

Additional entities that have expressed support:

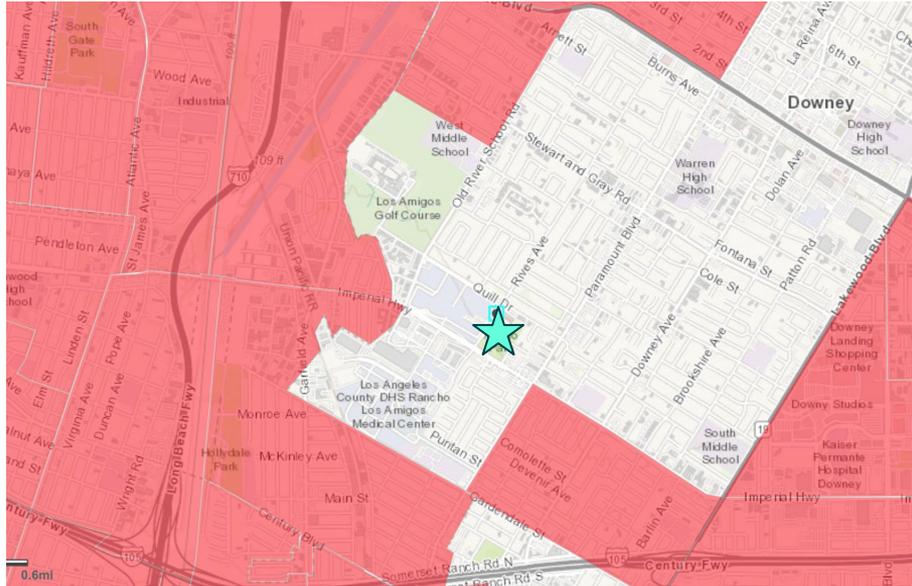
- Conservation Corps of Long Beach
- Pedal Movement
- Long Beach Local Inc.
- Signal Hill Petroleum Inc.

Future outreach planned:

- Outreach methods: Project meetings & events, Community meetings & events, Social media, Flyers, Press releases, Direct mail
- Has identified 19 local CBOs, NGOs, and agencies to reach out to.
- Has identified community hubs within 1 mile of project area
- Materials will be translated to Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog

Lead: City of Downey

Funding Requested: \$2.8 M

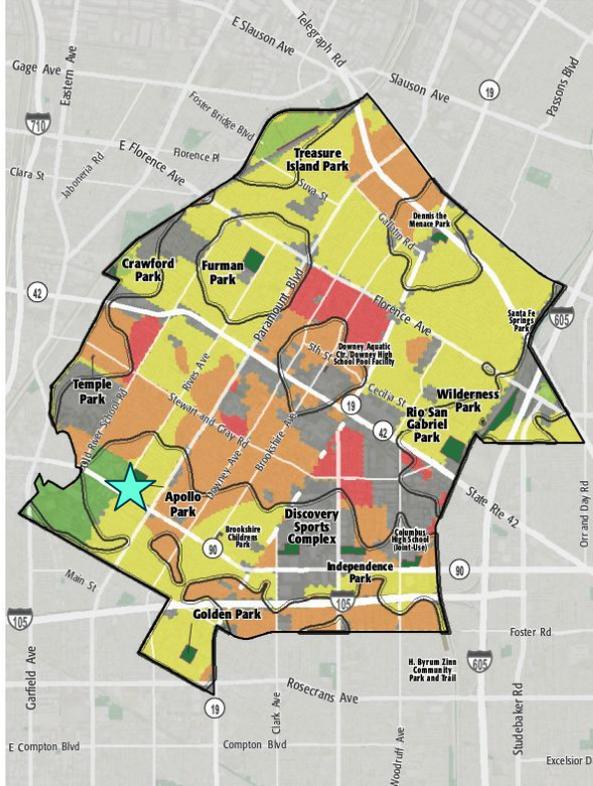


Disadvantaged community census block groups (2016)

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	0.5 miles
CalEnviroScreen Score	52nd percentile
Park Need	Moderate

Lead: City of Downey

Funding Requested: \$2.8 M



PARK NEED CATEGORY

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- No Population
- Area within 1/2 mile walk of a park

HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED PARKS?



Community Support

Previous outreach:

- City “reached out to select community groups to inform them of the project and solicit their support for the project.”

Letters of support have been received from:

- American Youth Soccer Organization, Region 24
- Downey Futbol Club/CalSouth
- Downey Junior Athletic Association

Additional outreach planned:

- Conversations with the public to solicit input on project features to inform refinements for the project design.
- Stakeholder roundtables
- CBO and NGO meetings focused on education and training
- Public workshops to educate community about project process