

Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: Upper LA River

Watershed Coordinator: Adi Liberman, Environmental Outreach Strategies, Inc.

WC Contact: adi@eoscal.com

Quarterly Report 1

Submitted: September 24, 2021

Contract start date: June 8, 2021

A. Summary of Activities

Overview:

June was the first month of work for Mr. Liberman and was a shorter month as the contract was not executed until June 8, 2021. Most of the time was spent on the preparation of the SOEP and coordinating with other Watershed Coordinators for the Upper LA River. Together, the Watershed Coordinators established a timeline for the draft and final versions of the SOEP, prepared an outline, and prepared survey questions to send to the ULAR WASC members for their feedback on what they are looking for from the Safe Clean Water Program. Mr. Liberman also fielded a request from the Montecito Heights Improvement Association for assistance with Rainwater Capture Projects. The team attended the monthly Watershed Coordinator Zoom meeting to collaborate with all the other Watershed Coordinators.

SOEP Preparation

In July, significant time was spent on the preparation of the SOEP and coordinating with other Watershed Coordinators for the Upper LA River.

- Time was spent reviewing the ULAR WASC members answers to the survey and scheduling meetings with ULAR WASC members.
- Mr. Liberman also began meeting with ULAR WASC members to obtain their feedback on what they are looking for in the SOEP.

In August, Mr. Liberman, along with ULAR Watershed Coordinators (Council for Watershed Health's C. Gust and C. Moran), met with ULAR WASC members to gather feedback on what those committee members would like to see in the SOEP and continued to review incoming surveys from WASC members.

- Time was spent wrapping up the formatting and final preparations of the SOEP and PowerPoint presentation in anticipation of the upcoming presentation of the SOEP at the September 1 ULAR WASC meeting.
- Time was also spent coordinating with CWH and meeting to practice the presentation for the upcoming WASC meeting.

By meeting with the WASC Members, the ULAR Watershed coordinators significantly expanded their circle of stakeholders and had the opportunity to speak in depth with each of these stakeholders, their concerns, and their hopes for the future.

Watershed Coordinator "Coordination"

The team attended two monthly Watershed Coordinator Zoom meetings to collaborate with all the other Watershed Coordinators and establish a regular meeting time for upcoming meetings.

The team helped draft the agenda and took the lead on providing a list of activities that could be coordinated across watersheds.

Community Driven Projects

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Mr. Liberman also continued to correspond with the Montecito Heights Improvement Association (MHIA) for assistance with Rainwater Capture Projects. A meeting with Roy Payan from MHIA took place August 10, 2021. Mr. Liberman was joined by C. Gust and toured various properties in Montecito Heights. They were joined by community members Ben Gordon and John Vangelesti.

Correspondence with LA Sufi Center to coordinate a meeting to discuss potential project. The meeting was scheduled for September 7. Correspondence to schedule a meeting between FoLAR and the Watershed Coordinators for the Upper and Lower LA River. The meeting was scheduled for September 7.

Exchanged sources of cost-share funding with other WASC members and regions. Goal is to develop a comprehensive source of cost-sharing funds that could be used for a wide variety of proposed projects.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Use the table below for a high-level summary of all engagement events held or attended. Flag for events held, and attach attendance records and materials provided. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	Attachments #
1.	Meeting with Montecito Heights Improvement Association regarding rainwater capture projects.	8/10/21	Toured various properties in Montecito Heights	Roy Payan, MHIA Ben Gordon John Vangelesti	Held	
2.	Meeting with WASC Members: Genevieve Osmeña and Ramy Gindi	8/23/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Members to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Genevieve Osmeña Ramy Gindi	Held	
3.	Meeting with WASC Members: Alfredo Magallanes and Michael Scaduto	8/16/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Members to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Alfredo Magallanes Michael Scaduto Shahram Kharaghani	Held	
4.	Meeting with WASC Member: Veronica Padilla-Campos	8/25/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Member to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Veronica Padilla-Campos	Held	
5.	Meeting with WASC Member: Rafael Prieto	8/2/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Member to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Rafael Prieto Sarai Bhaga Susie Santilena	Held	
6.	Meeting with WASC Members:	8/23/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC	Art Castro Delon Kwan	Held	

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	Delon Kwan, Art Castro, Paul Liu, and John Huynh		Members to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Paul Liu John Huynh		
7.	Meeting with WASC Member: Max Podemski (CoChair)	8/2/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Member to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Max Podemski	Held	
8.	Meeting with WASC Member: Felipe Escobar	8/18/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Member to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	Felipe Escobar	Held	
9.	Meeting with WASC Member: TJ Moon	7/27/21	Watershed Coordinators met with WASC Member to gather insight on what they want in the SOEP, their concerns, and their hope for the future.	TJ Moon	Held	

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

Provide a list of potential cost-share partners contacted for projects within and adjacent to the Watershed Area. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	Attachments #
1	No activity this quarter.				
2					

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

Share all outside funding opportunities pursued and the status or outcome of the pursuit. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	Attachments #
1	No activity this quarter.		

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E. Detailed Progress Report

Provide an update on the amount of effort expended for each Task this quarter and note percentage complete:

Task #	Task	Total Task Level of Effort (from workplan)	LOE this quarter	Accumulated LOE to-date (from monthly reports)
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	25%	39%	39%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	20%	16%	16%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	5%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	15%	2%	2%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	10%	0%	0%
6	Cost-share Partners	5%	1%	1%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	0%	0%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	0%	0%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	5%	21%	21%
	Overall	100%	78%	78%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

Summarize activities undertaken which have benefitted members of disadvantaged communities. Distinguish between targeted efforts and ones that could benefit all communities.

By meeting with the WASC Members, the ULAR Watershed Coordinator significantly expanded the circle of stakeholders and had the opportunity to speak in depth with each of these stakeholders, their concerns, and their hopes for the future. A number of these WASC Members are diverse leaders from local cities with knowledge of the disadvantaged communities in their city.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

Discuss any scheduling concerns and issues encountered that may delay completion of the program or project. Describe any anticipated schedule or budget modifications.

There was a slight delay in getting started these first few months as the ULAR Watershed Coordinator. Since it was the very start of work, the team was busy preparing the Work Plan and the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan outlining how work will proceed. With the approval of the Work Plan and pending approval of the SOEP, the ULAR

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Watershed Coordinator does not believe there will be a delay in the completion of the program or project at this time. There are no anticipated schedule or budget modifications.

H. Expected activities next quarter

Summarize expected activities in the next quarter, including dates if known for outreach or education events being held.

In the next quarter, the ULAR Watershed Coordinator expects to finalize the SOEP, continue to field requests for project concepts, meet with FoLAR and LA Sufi Center, meet with representatives of LA County to discuss funding the MHIA project, and to attend the monthly Watershed Coordinator meeting.

In addition, during the next quarter the ULAR Watershed Coordinator expects to reach out to potential sponsors and co-hosts for “water tours” where community members join civic leaders on a tour of existing and potential clear water projects.

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Watershed: Upper LA River

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Quarterly Report 2

Submitted: January 21, 2022

Contract start date: June 8, 2021

A. Summary of Activities

Overview:

The second quarter included the months of September, October, and November. The draft SOEP was presented to the WASC, edited with feedback, and then the SOEP was finalized and approved in October. The team attended three monthly Watershed Coordinator Zoom meetings to collaborate with all the other Watershed Coordinators. Progress reports were prepared and submitted for each month of the quarter, as well as the first quarterly report prepared and submitted in September.

Finalizing the SOEP

On September 1, Mr. Liberman, along with the Watershed Coordinators from CWH, presented the draft SOEP at the WASC meeting.

- Time was spent continuing to meet with WASC members and incorporating their feedback into the final SOEP.

On October 6, the WASC voted to approve the final draft of the SOEP.

Community Driven Projects

In September, Mr. Liberman reached out to L.A. Councilmembers to request a meeting to discuss potential funding for the Montecito Heights Latona Ave project. He corresponded with Gerald Gubatan, Sr. Planning Deputy for Councilmember Cedillo and with Ben Gordon from the Montecito Heights Improvement Association (MHIA) on next steps for the Latona Ave project and to schedule day and time to attend a site visit with Mr. Gubatan.

In October, Mr. Liberman and the two other ULAR watershed coordinators met via Google Meet with Juliane Crump and Karen Lao with the Burbank Eco-Council on October 12 regarding potential school outreach projects. Mr. Liberman attended the site visit with Gerald Gubatan, Sr. Planning Deputy for Councilmember Cedillo and Ben Gordon from the Montecito Heights Improvement Association (MHIA) occurred on October 14, 2021. Mr. Liberman corresponded with Shahriar Eftekhazadeh from Seitec regarding his application for funding for a proposed North Hollywood Stormwater Capture Project. He met with ULAR WASC members Shahram Kharaghani and Art Castro to discuss Mr. Eftekhazadeh's proposal.

Mr. Liberman also spent time contacting city and elected officials, including council members in the ULAR. Those cities included the City of LA, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Burbank for the purpose of setting up briefings on the SCWP.

In November, Mr. Liberman met with Los Angeles City Councilman Bob Blumenfield and connected with John Popoch, his deputy chief of staff. They discussed arranging a meeting along with staff from the MRCA, LA San and LA Recreation and Parks to review a potential project in the district and visit some sites. The meeting was held on November 24, where Mr. Liberman and Mr. Popoch visited sites and discussed the possibility of county funds for Water Quality Projects. Mr. Liberman met with Melanie Winter and the River

Project. On November 22, EOS and CWH met with the Glendale Environmental Coalition to discuss how the watershed coordinators could support them.

Community Outreach Events

Mr. Liberman attended three community outreach events in November. On November 6, Mr. Liberman attended the Environmental Health Fair hosted by ONEgeneration and LADWP in Encino where he spoke with members of the community about the SCWP. On November 9, Mr. Liberman presented the SCWP to the BizFed Organization where approximately 100 people were in attendance. Those names were added to the mailing list for the newsletter. Mr. Liberman also attended Volunteers Cleaning Communities' Environmental Awareness Day on November 20 where he spoke with members of the community about the SCWP.

Grants

In November, Mr. Liberman attended the LAR Urban Waters Grants Brainstorm meeting on November 17 with other watershed coordinators. Ms. Amarant attended three funding workshops on November 10 and November 16: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Workshop, Recreational Trails Program (Non-Motorized) Workshop, and Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Workshop. Ms. Amarant also attended the Watershed Coordinators' funding working group meeting on October 2, 2021 on behalf of Mr. Liberman.

Social Media and eNewsletter Development

In October, Ms. Guzman worked along with CWH to develop and populate social media accounts including a Facebook group and a Twitter page. Ms. Amarant started a MailChimp account for the ULAR newsletter and prepared the first newsletter along with a landing page for stakeholders to sign up for the newsletter. EOS, along with CWH, prepared a mailing list of stakeholders from the ULAR watershed area for the eNewsletter.

The first eNewsletter was delivered on November 3 to the list of approximately 350 stakeholders.

Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

The team attended three monthly Watershed Coordinator Zoom meetings to collaborate with all the other Watershed Coordinators and continued to correspond with the other Watershed Coordinators.

The three ULAR Watershed Coordinators established a regular meeting schedule to keep each other updated on various ULAR activities. The WCs met to determine the best way to geographically split the ULAR watershed and reported the decision to the WASC.

Ms. Amarant attended the IRWM ULAR SC Meeting on September 28 on behalf of Mr. Liberman to view the presentation on the LA County Water Plan. Ms. Amarant also attended the Watershed Coordinators' funding working group meeting on October 2, 2021 on behalf of Mr. Liberman.

Mr. Liberman joined other watershed coordinators on November 16 for the Equity in Water Training workshop by Urban Waters Learning Academy & LA River Partnership. There was also a follow up meeting on November 19 to further discuss issues brought up in the training.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Use the table below for a high-level summary of all engagement events held or attended. Flag for events held, and attach attendance records and materials provided. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	Attachments #
1.	Meeting with the Burbank Eco-Council	October 12, 2021	Presented the SCWP to Cum and Lao. Learned about similar activities and projects supported by the Burbank Eco-Council	Juliane Crump and Karen Lao	Held	None
2.	Meeting with City of LA 3rd Council District	October 8, 2021	Presented the SCWP to a members of the LA City Council and his staff	Councilman Bob Blumenfield, Deputy Chief of Staff John Popoch	Held	None
3.	Meeting of BizFed	Nov. 9, 2021	Presented the SCWP to members of BizFed Organization.	Approximately 110 members of the Los Angeles County Federation of Businesses (BizFed)	Attended	Attachment A
4.	Meeting to discuss the Reseda Park Triangle proposed project	Nov. 24, 2021	Walked the project site and discussed next steps	City of LA 3rd Council District Chief of Staff John Popoch, Shahram Kharaghani of LA Sanitation, Darryl Ford of LA Parks and Recreation, Melissa Vega of MRCA, Tracey Chavira of MRCA, and Sofia Aleman of MRCA	Held	None
5.	Site Visit - Montecito Heights Latona Avenue proposed project	Oct. 14, 2021	Walked the project site and discussed next steps.	Gerald Gubatan, Sr. Planning Deputy for Councilmember Cedillo and Ben Gordon from the Montecito Heights Improvement Association (MHIA)	Held	None

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

Provide a list of potential cost-share partners contacted for projects within and adjacent to the Watershed Area. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	Attachments #
1	MRCA, Melissa Vega and Sofia Aleman	November 7, 2021	Reseda Park Triangle / Infrastructure Program	Partnership to develop a project on the northern triangle of Reseda Park	None
2					

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

Share all outside funding opportunities pursued and the status or outcome of the pursuit. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	Attachments #
1	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, MRCA	Exploring the use of Prop 68 and other funds that the SMMC and MRCA may have available for the Reseda Park Triangle proposed project.	None
2			

E. Detailed Progress Report

Provide an update on the amount of effort expended for each Task this quarter and note percentage complete:

Task #	Task	Total Task Level of Effort (from workplan)	LOE this quarter	Accumulated LOE to-date (from monthly reports)
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	25%	25%	32%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	20%	22%	19%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	5%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	15%	7%	5%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	10%	3%	2%
6	Cost-share Partners	5%	1%	1%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	10%	5%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	7%	3%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	5%	25%	23%
	Overall	100%	100%	89%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

Summarize activities undertaken which have benefitted members of disadvantaged communities. Distinguish between targeted efforts and ones that could benefit all communities.

1. The development of the Reseda Park Triangle Project directly benefits high concentrations of disadvantaged communities.
2. The development of a project at the Chatsworth Reservoir would provide benefits to areas of disadvantaged communities, benefits that would be shared with other, less disadvantaged communities.
3. Meetings to be set up with Burbank, Calabasas, and Los Angeles public officials will focus on identifying projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

Discuss any scheduling concerns and issues encountered that may delay completion of the program or project. Describe any anticipated schedule or budget modifications.

The ULAR Watershed Coordinator does not believe there will be a delay in the completion of the program or project at this time. There are no anticipated schedule or budget modifications.

H. Expected activities next quarter

Summarize expected activities in the next quarter, including dates if known for outreach or education events being held.

In the next quarter, the ULAR Watershed Coordinator expects to:

1. Further develop the Reseda Park Triangle Project, determining how the MRCA will work with the City of LA (including LA 3rd Council District, LA City Recreation and Parks, LA Department of Water and Power, the City of LA Chief Legislative Analyst, and the City of LA Chief Administrative Officer).
2. Further develop a project at Chatsworth Lake sponsored by the Sky Valley Volunteers and involving the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association and the Resource Conservation District.
3. Assist the Montecito Heights with their hillside restoration efforts.
4. Identify and proceed with at least one other project.
5. Continue to work with the MRCA on identifying potential projects and partnerships in the ULAR region.
6. Attend community events to facilitate outreach and engagement with residents and others.
7. Organize a tour of City of LA projects in the ULAR Watershed.

2021 BizFed Strategic Planning Session Participants

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