

Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report

A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: Santa Clara River
Watershed Coordinator: TreePeople
WC Contact: petermassey@treepeople.org

Quarterly Report No: 2
Contract Year: 1
Date of Submission: 2/21/2022
Notice to Proceed: 5/18/21
Period Covered: 9/1/21 to 11/30/21

A. Summary of Activities

TreePeople is honored and grateful to serve as Coordinator for the Santa Clara River Watershed Area. Following is a summary of activities completed during our second quarter and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work:

1. Strategies used to integrate priorities for the community, municipalities, the watershed area, and the region

TreePeople continued a year-one strategy of focusing on unincorporated communities in the watershed, recognizing them as traditionally under-represented areas in terms of water related services. We were able to move forward on project development for these areas, leveraging resources through the WaterTalks program discussed below.

A key activity for this quarter was approval of the **Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)**. Comments on the draft SOEP (presented in August) were received through Sept 24, then incorporated into a revised draft in advance of the October 7 WASC meeting, where it was presented for approval. At that time, a request was made by the Acton Town Council for additional time for review and comments, which we were happy to provide. Additional comments were received through the end of October; an updated version was submitted in advance of the November 10 meeting, where it was presented again and approved. Notable additions for the final version are maps of the Agua Dulce and Acton Community Standards Districts, flood maps of Acton and Newhall, and a summary log of comment sources.

The SOEP includes the following strategies, current being deployed (as described in Section 2 and 3 below):

- *Build diverse relationships that support project identification and ongoing coordination.*
- *Draw from relationships to identify projects that serve community needs and SCWP goals.*

- *Focus community involvement on project development.*
- *Clarify educational needs that support understanding of how projects support shared goals.*
- *Share information through a regular public reporting structure.*

2. Partnerships and networks engaged

We continued work on leveraging the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (WaterTalks) resources, gathering information for an October design workshop of new project identification. Attendees included engineers from Stantec Environmental Services, TreePeople SCWP staff, as well as reps from the Council for Watershed Health and Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples. During the workshop, we identified 7 potential projects, project themes, or education programs that speak to identified community needs, and began work on further development. There are 3 that stand out in particular:

- Rural Water Supply Reliability (Acton/Agua Dulce) – this could draw from the state Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program, which we learned during the Quarter has a \$5M set-aside specifically for the LA/Ventura IRWM Region.
- Chronic Flooding in Acton - we really want to call out LACFCD staff for their work on this issue over several years and are once again engaged in looking at solutions. During the period we supported a community meeting to discuss the issue, as well as held conversations with LACFDC on how we can support their process; first, we will develop a high-level summary of alternative approaches using resources from WaterTalks.
- Invasive Weed Mapping and Removal – we’ve set up a meeting for December with current participants to learn more about their efforts.

Other project ideas are related to support for septic systems, small water systems, Native American communities, and education.

We tapped into a significant network resource by hosting a booth at the Santa Clara River Rally on Sept 18. During the 3-hour event, we talked with more than 200 community members, used a display tool to educate residents on how water moves through an urban watershed, and made initial contact with eight organizations to invite to our Interested Party collective. We obtained 35 surveys on water related needs from community members.

Another major network engaged was the **collective of Watershed Coordinators across the SCWP**. We attended monthly Coordinator meetings throughout the quarter and hosted the September meeting where we presented the WaterTalks program and how it’s resources can serve the SCWP.

3. Engagement of conventional and unconventional stakeholders

To support project development as mentioned above, we held key briefing meetings with Stephanie English, Field Rep for Supervisor Barger in the Agua Dulce area, and Field Rep Patsy Ayala from Assembly District 38 (Valladares) on SCWP. We look forward to continuing work together. We see Stephanie regularly at Agua Dulce Town Council meetings.

We also supported the LA County Water Plan effort, bringing community members to the September Listening Session, where facilitators were pleased and surprised to see a strong community turnout. Concerns for unincorporated areas were clearly voiced. These community members were then added to the Plan email list to stay connected for continued plan development.

Finally, reports on our activities were provided to the WASC as well as Town Council leaders throughout the period.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Summary (required elements)

Element	Minimum	This Qtr.	Total YTD
Engagement meetings held	4	2	2
Educational events held	2	1	1
Other meetings attended	0	9	26
Cost-share partner relationships	0	5	7
Leveraged funding pursuits	0	0	1

Detail

	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	ATTCH #
1	Agua Dulce Town Council	9.8.21	Monthly meeting; discussed drought impacts on well owners	NE area residents	Attended	
2	Santa Clara River Rally	9.18.21	Tabling at annual river clean up with 1200 volunteers	200+ community members, 35 surveys, 8 Interested Party organizations	Attended; hosted a booth	
3	Stevenson Ranch HOA	9.21.21	Presentation on Pico Canyon Park project by County	Stevenson Ranch homeowners	Attended	
4	County Water Plan	9.23.21	Listening Session for USCR area	USCR IRWM Stakeholders Group	Attended	
5	Assembly District 38 office	9.28.21	Briefed Field Rep on the SCWP; confirmed as an Interested Party going forward	Field Rep Patsy Ayala for Assemblymember Suzette Martinez Valladares	Held	
6	Agua Dulce Town Council	10.13.21	Monthly meeting; discussed nitrate levels in Sleepy Valley wells, and Acton flooding.	NE area residents	Attended	
7	Project Workshop	10.27.21	SCR area brainstorm	WaterTalks design team	Attended	
8	Acton residents	11.3.21	Meeting w LACFC, residents and TP re flooding	Acton residents	Attended	

9	WASC Meeting	11.10.21	Passage of SOEP	Committee	Attended	
10	SCVWA Water Resources & Watersheds Comm	11.10.21	Sustainability Managers Report (conservation)	Committee	Attended	
11	Stephanie English (SD5 Field Rep)	11.17.21	Briefing on SCWP; initial meeting	Supervisorial District 5 office	Held	
12	Castaic Town Council	11.17.21	Local issues	Council Members	Attended	

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	ATTCH #
1	NSMB Area	9.7.21	<i>Residential Native Plant Toolkit – Pilot Program</i>	Discussed proposal to LACO Supervisorial Dist. 3 (Kuehl)	
2	Lauren Everett	11.4.21	Water Resilience/Flooding	Grant writing support	
3	DWR	11.18.21	Water Resilience/Flooding	Drought Relief funding	
4	USCR IRWM Stakeholders Grp	11.18.21	Water Resilience/Flooding	Prop 1 IRWM Funding	
5	CA State Parks	11.9.21	Water Resilience/Flooding	Workshops on 3 funds	

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	ATTCH #
	(none this period)		

E. Detailed Progress Report

Task #	Task Name	LOE per Work Plan	LOE this period*	LOE YTD	Adj*
1	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	20%	38%	59%	64%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	20%	20%	10%	11%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	10%	0%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate, ID and Represent Community Priorities	10%	12%	5%	6%
5	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships / Networks	10%	5%	1%	1%
6	Cost-Share Partners	5%	3%	2%	2%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	0%	0%	0%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	8%	4%	5%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	20%	13%	14%
	Overall	100%	105%	94%	102%

*The average assumes 4 full months of work and is how reports and invoices have been filed through Stantec. The NTP was May 18 - equaling 6.4 months through November. The final column provides an adjustment to 6.4 months for comparison.

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

As previously shared, TreePeople prioritized outreach efforts during the period on unincorporated communities in the Watershed Area. These areas are considered “underrepresented” by the WaterTalks program, and such a view was confirmed by WASC members and other community leaders as we prepared the SOEP. TreePeople did not otherwise engage with communities defined as disadvantaged by SCWP during the period but will during subsequent Quarters.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

There are no scheduling concerns during this period.

H. Expected activities next quarter

- Meet with new stakeholders related to watershed health and eco-system management, including invasive weed management
- Support continued development of projects and programs in coordination with the WaterTalks program, including cost-share resources
- Explore Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief funding for use in SCR area projects.
- Begin an outreach plan and strategy to build relationships with state-recognized Native American tribes in the watershed area, especially the Tataviam people.