

# WASC MEETING UPDATE

# APRIL

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



**SAFE  
CLEAN  
WATER  
PROGRAM**

# AGENDA

- April Update
- SCW Program 2022 Interim  
Guidance - Community  
Engagement



# APRIL UPDATE



# APRIL ACTIVITIES

- Attended ESGVWMG Meeting - Presentation on Infiltration Study – ESGVWM Group would like to report out their Draft Final Report in the near future.
- Planning for Summer Water Tours - site visits at Peck Road Water Conservation Park & Walnut Creek Nature Park
- Presented at the Regional Oversight Committee Meeting with Upper LA River Watershed Coordinator
- Attended first ReDesign LA Meeting
- Planning Meetings Schools & Stormwater Symposium
- Community Engagement - Easter Egg Hunt in Pomona, Spring Jubilee in Bassett and Monrovia Spring Egg Hunt
- Earth Day Events in Pomona, Pasadena, El Monte and North Whittier.
- Began updating Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan for Year 2.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Workshop Series FOR AGENCIES & ELECTEDS

WaterTalks for Agencies & Electeds is a no-cost workshop series designed to strengthen integrated watershed management across LA County and equip local leaders with the tools and resources needed to address water-related challenges.

**REGISTER & LEARN MORE**  
[watershedhealth.org/watertalks](https://watershedhealth.org/watertalks)

### Upper San Gabriel River & Rio Hondo Workshop 1

May 18th 10AM - 12PM PST on Zoom

[Agenda](#)

[Click to Register!](#)

#### Upper San Gabriel River & Rio Hondo Expert Panel



**David Diaz**

Executive Director, Active SGV

Board Member, El Monte  
Union High School District

**Alex Tachiki**

Deputy Director of Public Works

City of Monrovia

**Thomas Wong**

President

San Gabriel Valley Municipal  
Water District Board of Directors



**JOIN US!**  
May 19th, 2022  
9AM - Noon PST

**SCHOOLS &  
STORMWATER  
SYMPOSIUM:  
A MULTI-BENEFIT  
OPPORTUNITY**

Presented in collaboration with LA  
County Watershed Coordinators:  
Council for Watershed Health, Day One,  
Heal the Bay, TreePeople, and  
Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC

Council for Watershed Health is pleased to invite you to the upcoming 1-day Schools & Stormwater Symposium. This exciting event is hosted in partnership with [Watershed Coordinators](#) for L.A. County's [Safe Clean Water Program](#)!

**Schools and Stormwater Symposium: A Multi-Benefit Opportunity**  
May 19th, 2022, Virtual on Zoom  
9 AM-Noon PST

This important event will convene various water agencies, schools districts, administrators and staff, parent groups, and community-based organizations, among other experts, to spotlight the unique opportunities that schools hold to be sites for greening and stormwater capture projects.

Expert panelists will engage in insightful conversations covering three main topics:

- Highlight the multiple benefits of school stormwater and greening projects for students, their families, and the surrounding neighborhood community
- Describe specific case studies of impactful school-site projects with a special focus on how to locate, design, and implement projects by securing Measure W and Safe Clean Water Program funds
- Address liability considerations and how to overcome contractual barriers to implementing stormwater capture projects on school campuses

*This is a no-cost event, open and available for all.  
Please spread the word and we hope to see you there!*

[REGISTER HERE](#)



MELINA SEMPILL WATTS CONSULTING LLC  
Commit to Conservation





# INTERIM GUIDANCE

Strengthening Community Engagement and Support



# INTERIM GUIDANCE



## Safe, Clean Water Program 2022 Interim Guidance

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DRAFT

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#### Purpose

Community outreach, meaningful engagement, and the pursuit and attainment of community support are important tools for ensuring that Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) projects and expenditures deliver tangible *and* welcomed benefits on the ground. While such engagement is already “required,” experience to date has shown that there is additional guidance needed related to the details of community engagement and the desired evidence of community support required of every Project proponent and every recipient of Regional Program funds.

Community engagement is a key element of the SCWP that is woven through many different aspects of the Regional Program, Municipal Program, and District Programs; however, it is not an explicitly listed goal of the SCWP. The focus of this 2022 interim guidance is about community engagement for, and in support of, Infrastructure Projects submitted for the Regional Program. Nonetheless, key principles here can help provide some common terminology and backdrop for other existing programs and complimentary language.

Projects submitted for inclusion in Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) must document any community engagement prior to submittal and describe plans for engagement during Project implementation. Resources, like Watershed Coordinators and/or the Technical Resources Program may support proponents with community engagement prior to the award of funding. Even so, completing community engagement and/or providing sufficient evidence of community support prior to receiving funding can be challenging for many applicants. Further, community engagement does not guarantee community support, and a strong demonstration of community support may not necessarily be the result of engagement.

This 2022 interim guidance is intended to consolidate the existing requirements and encouragements for community engagement in the SCWP, and, at a high level, support SIP programming by providing information to help:

- Project Developers with early project development/engagement and application preparation

## LOCATION

[safecleanwaterla.org](https://safecleanwaterla.org)



MUNICIPALITIES REGIONAL PROGRAM RESOURCES

MUNICIPALITIES REGIONAL PROGRAM RESOURCES

2022 INTERIM GUIDANCE

CALL FOR PROJECTS

STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLANS



# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## PURPOSE

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# INTERIM GUIDANCE

Project developers with early project development/permit/engagement and application preparation.

- The Scoring Committee and Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) consistently employ decision-making tools and strategies (both quantitative and qualitative) to inform scoring and/or the development of SIP recommendations.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## PURPOSE

- **Specifically, this 2022 interim guidance includes the following:**
  - **Engagement Prior to Application:** Policies for establishing and documenting that community engagement has occurred (and to what level) and/or support for a Project exists (and to what level).
  - **Engagement Plan for Project Implementation:** Clarification of how Project proponents and WASCs can interpret and substantiate commitment to Community Engagement once a project is funded and being implemented.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## EXISTING COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE SCWP

- A Feasibility Study must include “A plan for outreach/engagement to solicit, address, and incorporate stakeholder input on the Project, which should also address issues related to displacement and gentrification.” (Section 2.0).
- Regional Program applicants can receive up to 4 points from the Scoring Committee if the project “demonstrates strong local, community-based support and/or has been developed as part of a partnership with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs).” This aspect of project development is not required, and how points are awarded between 0 and 4 is currently at the discretion of the Scoring Committee depending on the information provided by the proponent.
  - Note that the SCW Projects Module currently requests that if strong local, community-based support is to be considered for scoring, then the supporting organization(s) description of the support, and an optional supporting PDF should be uploaded to substantiate the level of engagement/support.
- A Feasibility Study must include the following if the applicant intends to receive points for community support, “A discussion of whether the Project has community-based support and/or has been developed as part of a partnership with local non-governmental organizations or community-based organizations.” (Section 3.5).

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## EXISTING COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE SCWP

- In addition to specific requirements for the Feasibility Study Guidelines, community engagement is woven through many other components of the SCWP related to Regional Program activities:
  - Watershed Coordinators as part of the Regional Program Technical Resources Program.
  - The District Education Program, including “Public education and community engagement Programs throughout the District, including a sustained education and engagement Program for disadvantaged communities.”
  - Municipal Program Implementation, including to “Identify or establish, and then execute, a plan to engage with Stakeholders in the planning process for use of the Municipal Program funds during the planning and implementation of Projects and Programs.”

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

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  - Municipal Program Implementation, including to “Identify or establish, and then execute, a plan to engage with Stakeholders in the planning process for use of the Municipal Program funds during the planning and implementation of Projects and Programs.”

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## SCWP FUND TRANSFER AGREEMENTS IN THE REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

- Recipients of SCWP funding in the Regional and Municipal Programs do not receive funds until they execute a fund Transfer Agreement, within which are several expectations relative to community engagement in Project design, implementation, and reporting."
- Regional Program recipients "shall submit a Stakeholder and Community Outreach/Engagement Plan for Infrastructure Program Projects and include a discussion of how local NGOs or CBOs will be involved, if applicable, and if not, why. Additional outreach/engagement activities, even if funded by other sources, should be referenced to provide an overview of anticipated overall project approach." Section A-8 (Stakeholder and Community Outreach/Engagement Plan) of the Regional Program Transfer Agreement has additional requirements for the Stakeholder and Community Outreach/Engagement Plan.
- **More Specific Information in SCW Program 2022 Interim Guidance (Page 5)**

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## INTERIM REGIONAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

In addition to the policies and requirements listed above, some interim guidance to be considered primarily by Project proponents and WASCs is presented below.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## EXPECTATIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY PROJECT PHASE

Sustained engagement to solicit, address, and incorporate stakeholder input on the Project, including issues related to displacement and gentrification, should occur throughout all phases of a Project.

All outreach and engagement activities, even if funded by other sources, should be referenced to provide an overview of anticipated overall Project approach. The goals and expectations for level of community engagement may vary based on timing and the current phase of the Project.

Project applicants are encouraged to seek input from Watershed Coordinators to achieve desired goals based on Project phase. Please refer to the Watershed Coordinator webpage for more information.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## EXPECTATIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY PROJECT PHASE

- **Project Planning Phase**

- During the planning phase, the desired outcome of community engagement is to identify stakeholders and involve them in identifying community needs, concerns, and objectives, as well as the potential solutions.
- At a minimum, Project Applicants should identify stakeholders and Inform/Consult stakeholders prior to submittal of the application (see Table 2 below, which should be used to standardize terminology and qualitatively identify levels of engagement at each project phase).
- Resources for community engagement during the planning phase should be prioritized and secured utilizing other available funds, as applicable, including Municipal Program funds if the applicant is a municipality.
- If such resources did not exist during planning, a clear description of the limitations should be included by the Project Applicant along with a description of any planned efforts to procure future resources for these important planning activities.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## EXPECTATIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY PROJECT PHASE

- **Design Phase**

- During the design phase, the desired outcome of community engagement includes further solicitation, evaluation, and incorporation of stakeholder input, as applicable and able, such that Project decision making is done iteratively and equitably. This includes active education about Project benefits.
- The following graphic provides the information and tips presented as part of the call for projects for Year 3 (FY22-23) with an example of a well-scoring Project for community engagement and support. (next page)

# INTERIM GUIDANCE



## Scoring Criteria – Community Support

### Definition

- Support from and/or partnerships with the local community as a result of engagement throughout project development.

### Tips

- Remember: outreach TO communities is different from support **FROM** or partnerships **WITH** communities.
- When showing community support, provide evidence of **partnerships with NGOs**, or **compelling evidence** that project enjoys **widespread community support** (e.g., multiple letters of support from diverse constituencies within the community; public polling; documentation that the community helped inform the project).

### Examples

#### Urban Orchard Project

Support includes:

- 39 community meetings, focus groups, and tabling events.
- 986 community members engaged.
- Bilingual community outreach throughout entire project process.
- 7 letters of support from community members, Speaker of the CA State Assembly, and NGOS.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## EXPECTATIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY PROJECT PHASE

- **Construction Phase through Monitoring and Operations and Maintenance Phases**
  - During and following the construction phase, the desired outcomes of community engagement are to realize effective partnerships, maintain relationships and sustained education, and communicate/recognize Project progress and Project benefits in order to best prepare for the success of long-term maintenance, monitoring, and/or plans for future Project phases.
  - Project developers are already required to report on activities through the funded duration of the project. Project developers can refer to Table 2 for best practices (see below).
  - It should be noted that volunteerism and workforce development activities related to Operations and Maintenance can both be important elements of community engagement and are both aspects of SCWP goals.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Below is a table outlining best practices for conducting outreach and engagement for the SCWP and helping ensure equity, inclusion, and accessibility. These best practices, and the corresponding terminology, are derived from professional standards, guidance/input received to date, benchmarking, and existing analyses from Cities, non-profit experts, and other project developers and stakeholder groups. Some of these resources include the Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership, originally developed by Rosa González of Facilitating Power in partnership with Movement Strategy Center and the Principios y Comunidad: Principles that Redefine Strategies & Approaches for Impactful Community Engagement by Mujeres de la Tierra.
- These guidelines/terms may be applied to all aspects of the SCWP, including Regional Program Project applicants, Watershed Coordinator efforts, and planning/reporting in the Municipal Program. SCWP projects should ultimately target the “Best” category at all project phases. Those claiming “Better” or “Best” engagement practices should also demonstrate the incorporation of listed examples from the lower categories when documenting their justification of completed or planned outreach and engagement.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

	Good	Better	Best
Engagement Levels	<p><b>Inform</b> - Provide the community with relevant information</p> <p><b>Consult</b> - Gather input from the Community</p>	<p><b>Involve</b> - Ensure community input, needs, and assets are integrated into processes, receive demonstrable consideration and appropriate responses, and inform planning</p> <p><b>Educate</b> – Grow community understanding of the existing infrastructure systems, purposes, perceived outstanding needs, pertinent history and regulations, SCWP opportunities (including Watershed Coordinators) to establish</p> <p><b>Learn</b> – Grow own understanding of existing community, perceived needs, pertinent history, key concerns, and other potentially interested parties.</p>	<p><b>Collaborate</b> - Leverage and grow community capacity to play a leadership role in both planning and implementation</p> <p><b>Incorporate</b> - Foster democratic participation and equity by including the community in decision-making, bridge divide between community and governance</p> <p><b>Partner</b> – Establish certain project concepts based on community-driven and identified needs, solidify formal partnerships, and build in sustained paths forward to joint implementation and management with well-defined roles per agreement</p>

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

	Good	Better	Best
<b>Example Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact Sheets with translation as needed</li> <li>• Open Houses</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Videos</li> <li>• Online Media</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Local Media</li> <li>• Listening Sessions</li> <li>• Public Comment</li> <li>• Focus Groups</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Polling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Meetings</li> <li>• Interactive Workshops &amp; Tours</li> <li>• Community Forums</li> <li>• Canvassing</li> <li>• Transparent responses to community comments</li> <li>• Document expanded understanding and commitment to ongoing relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOUs or support letters with Community Based Organizations</li> <li>• MOUs or support letters from Elected Officials</li> <li>• Community Organizing</li> <li>• Citizen Advocacy Committees</li> <li>• Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling</li> <li>• Community-Driven Planning</li> <li>• Consensus Building</li> <li>• Participatory Action Research</li> <li>• Participatory Budgeting</li> <li>• Cooperatives</li> </ul>

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- Project Developers, the Scoring Committee and WASCs may also refer to additional references that can help suggest certain types of documentation and supplement discussions/evaluations based on Table 2 above.
- One such reference is the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) Envision Manual, section LD1.3 that includes a scale of Improved to Restorative to characterize levels of engagement. There is also guidance and examples related to evaluation criteria and documentation for engagement (e.g., stakeholder lists, engagement plans, letters of support, meeting minutes, memoranda, etc.) See *Attachment A - Envision Manual, section LD1.3 - Provide for Stakeholder Involvement* for more information.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- Additional best practices for effective and inclusive community outreach and engagement include:
  - Project Proponents should provide a reasonable budget for outreach/engagement activities that aligns with the outreach/engagement plan. These costs can be included in the SCWP funding request or funded by other sources and should acknowledge/account for any specific needs or focuses during certain project phases.
  - Communicate early and often with your respective Watershed Coordinator.
  - Engage with elected representatives of communities to benefit from existing conversations, relationships, and planning efforts.
  - Leverage existing relationships in the community and the outreach/engagement expertise of local Community Based Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- Use outreach and engagement methods that are appropriate in scale and type to the community being served (e.g., neighborhood-specific, family-focused, culturally appropriate, etc.).
- Review recent engagement efforts undertaken by others with the same community to become familiar with community goals and wishes. Ensure new engagement honors other recent contributions made by the community.
- Coordinate with partner educational, non-profit, and governmental entities to prevent community meeting fatigue and frustration about redundant meetings.
- Support awareness of outreach/engagement events through multiple platforms (Online Media, Local Media, Grassroots Outreach, etc.).
- Inform the community at least one week prior and send reminders a day or two before the event.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- Draft language that is plain, clear, and relatable.
- Provide necessary information and materials in the primary languages spoken in the community.
- Provide Project team training and consider utilizing residents from the local community.
- Consider transportation options for community members who do not own vehicles or holding community outreach and engagement activities where the community already meets.
- Consider virtual or online meetings to increase access to information and participation. If an online approach is taken, consider the digital divide for community members who do not have reliable access to the internet.

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## FUTURE VISION FOR STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

- In the near term, the District has enlisted third-party experts from the University of California Los Angeles to assist in creating additional guidance for the SCWP community engagement.
- This information is anticipated to assist with the planning and execution of engagement activities by Project proponents as well as evaluation of Projects.
- Additionally, and consistent with the Transfer Agreement language, the District intends to launch a dedicated portion of the webpage to highlight appropriate community events/engagements, which may be coordinated with the Watershed Coordinator efforts.
- Future guidance is currently expected to include the following (next page)

# INTERIM GUIDANCE

## FUTURE VISION FOR STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

- Refinement of best practices for community engagement (what “good”, “better” and “best” community engagement looks like in the SCWP and when it should take place, with additional examples)
- Recommendations for refining the documentation and demonstration of community outreach, engagement, and support, including potential adjustments to scoring if needed.
- Integration with Watershed Coordinators’ work and District Stormwater Education Programs.
- Metrics and indicators for evaluating community engagement efforts over time and how to strengthen it.
- Techniques for WASCs supported by watershed coordinators, or project proponents, for establishing community wishes, both strengths to be reinforced, and needs to be addressed.
- Integration with the guidance for implementation of DAC Benefits.
- Metrics and indices that could be used to better evaluate Projects and overall program equity.



# QUESTIONS?