

Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report

A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: Santa Clara River
Watershed Coordinator: TreePeople
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Quarterly Report No: 4
Contract Year: 1
Date of Submission: 7/1/2022
Notice to Proceed: 5/18/21
Period Covered: 3/1/22 to 4/26/22

A. Summary of Activities

Following is a summary of activities completed during our fourth quarter and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work. TreePeople is honored and grateful to serve as Coordinator for the Santa Clara River Watershed Area, and to having been selected for a second contract year (beginning April 27, 2022).

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

TreePeople moved further on project development for unincorporated areas in the watershed drawing on resources provided by the WaterTalks Program (IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program). This has been a key strategy throughout Year One.

These projects include:

- 1) Rural Water Supply Reliability,
- 2) Arundo Removal and Management in the Santa Clara River ecosystem,
- 3) Acton Flooding Multi-benefit Solution and
- 4) Native American Land Restoration.

Proposals for the first two were submitted for the CA Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program (UMDRP) via the DACIP program, along with presentations to the WaterTalks Task Force. Total funds requested is just over \$1M total (approximately \$500K each), and award notification is expected in June. The other two were submitted preliminarily to the USCR IRWM Prop 1 Round 2 funding process, with no funding amount specified, as both are still under development.

2. Partnerships and networks engaged

Most of our focus was on meetings related to project development, including the Acton and Agua Dulce Town Councils, CA Rural Water Association, and the Watershed-Wide Arundo Management Group (WWAM). We have been asked to join the core group of WWAM, working with multiple organizations and agencies. New parties included Green Valley County Water District and Sleepy Valley Water District, to ascertain interest in a program to connect small water systems for potential partnerships.

A survey was created and distributed to Acton and Agua Dulce Town Councils to help refine the Rural Water Supply Reliability Project / Proposal. Within a week, more than 70 surveys were received.

Another major network continues to be the **collective of Watershed Coordinators across the SCWP**. We attended monthly Coordinator meetings throughout the quarter and supported other Coordinator's efforts.

3. Engagement of conventional and unconventional stakeholders

TreePeople's engagement included holding two unique education events during the period to reach new audiences.

First, we tested an approach to community education combined with a hands-on native plant restoration event in San Francisquito Canyon. Participants included WASC member Sandra Cattell (Sierra Club); they were given a brief overview of the program, and then reviewed the watershed on a map, showing the course of the Santa Clara River and the location of the restoration site. Participants could understand the impact of their work in relation to watershed health. TreePeople plans to replicate this event multiple times; the event also led to a presentation on SCWP for the Sierra Club youth eco-club. We anticipate this approach will be replicated in Contract Year 2.

We also hosted a Native Plant adoption at Newhall Library April 16 to coincide with an Earth Month event at the Newhall Library and the weekly Farmer's Market. 75 natives were adopted by residents for planting at home. They received printed instructions on how to plant, and guidance on where to position the plants.

Photos of both events are attached to this report.

TreePeople was also asked to serve on the SCWP Metrics and Monitoring Stakeholder Advisory Committee and participated in the March workshop. The process will continue over several months. We are only one of two Watershed Coordinators asked to participate.

Finally, updates 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	7	22
Educational events held	2	2	3
Other meetings attended	0	7	33
Cost-share partner relationships	0	3	17
Leveraged funding pursuits	0	3	7

Detail

	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	ATTCH #
1	Watershed Area Steering Committee SCR	3.3.22	SIP project discussion	Committee, Public	Attended	
2	Acton/Agua Dulce Town Council reps	3.4.22	Feedback on project	Lead representatives	Held	
3	Agua Dulce Town Council	3.9.22	Provided update report on SCWP; promote survey	TC members, public, local agency reps	Attended	
4	CA Rural Water Assoc.	3.16.22	Briefing on SCWP, CRWA resources	Staff	Held	
5	Education Event #2	3.18.22	Combo of SCWP briefing + restoration event	Sierra club members, COC student, staff	Held	B11 photos
6	SCWP Metrics Study Stakeholder Group	3.30.22	Metrics & Monitoring Study	Staff	Attended	
7	Council for Watershed Health	3.28.22	Gave guidance on WaterTalks training in USCR	Curriculum designers	Attended	
8	Green Valley Co Water District	4.8.22	Community drought impacts	Board members	Held	
9	Agua Dulce Town Council	4.13.22	Provided update report on SCWP	TC members, public, local agency reps	Attended	
10	Sierra Club & Youth group	4.14.22	Briefing on SCWP and watershed	Valencia HS students, club members	Attended	
11	Education Event #3	4.16.22	Native plant adoption; tabling / Newhall Library	Community	Held	B12 photos
12	WWAM	4.21.22	SCWP Studies program briefing	WWAM core members	Held	
13	LA County Water Plan – (USCR IRWM mtg)	4.21.22	Stakeholder feedback for plan	Community	Attended	
14	Sleepy Valley County Water Dist.	4.25.22	Feedback for project sketch	Member/rep	Held	

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	ATTCH #
1	LA/Ventura Area DACIP Task Force	3.9.22	Rural Water Supply Reliability, Arundo Removal	Funding via CA Urban Drought Relief & Multi-benefit Program	
2	USCR IRWM Stakeholders Group	3.24.22	Rural Water Supply Reliability, Arundo Removal	Funding via CA Prop 1 IRWM Round 2	

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	ATTCH #
1	CA Urban & Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program	Submitted 2 proposals; awarding anticipated in May	
2	USCR IRWM	Entered 2 projects for Prop 1 Round 2 consideration	
3	CA Urban & Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program	(April) Updates to 2 proposals; awarding anticipated in May	

E. Detailed Progress Report

Task #	Task Name	LOE per Work Plan	LOE this period	LOE YTD
1	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	20%	61%	54%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	20%	24%	17%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	10%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate, ID and Represent Community Priorities	10%	1%	5%
5	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships / Networks	10%	0%	1%
6	Cost-Share Partners	5%	0%	2%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	16%	3%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	22%	7%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	15%	11%
	Overall	100%	139%	100%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

TreePeople continued to prioritize outreach efforts during the period on unincorporated communities in the Watershed Area. These areas are considered “underrepresented” by the WaterTalks program. TreePeople engaged a dedicated Community Organizer for the watershed area in May, who will include focus on state-defined Disadvantaged Communities in general outreach.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

There were no scheduling concerns during this period. With TreePeople renewal beginning April 27, CY1 was a total of 11 months rather than 12.

H. Expected activities next quarter

- Draft revisions to the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan.
- Year 2 Work Plan.
- Outreach participation in the Home and Gardens Show.
- Support development of projects and programs in coordination with the WaterTalks program.

(End Report)

