

# Welcome Back!



**SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**



# Regional issues...

1

Improve Water Quality

2

Increase Local Water Supply

3

Enhance Communities

Capture  
Clean  
Conserve

...Regional solutions







# The communities you represent



- Most of the 10 million people in Los Angeles County
  - About half of whom live in low-income and pollution burdened census areas
- If a state, LA County would be 10<sup>th</sup> largest.
- 1 in 35 Americans
- >\$700 Billion in economic activity annually





# The communities you represent



- Have decided to invest in improving environmental water quality (as required by MS4 permits)
- The decision included, however, ensuring the investments were:
  - community enhancing,
  - job creating,
  - overcoming of injustices,
  - improving water supply, and
  - relying on natural solutions to our problems whenever possible.



# Scoring Committee Structure

	Member	Appointment
1	<u>Subject Matter Experts:</u> Water Quality Benefits Water Supply Benefits Nature-Based Solutions/ Community Investment Benefits	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
2		Appointed by Board of Supervisors
3		Appointed by Board of Supervisors
4		Appointed by Board of Supervisors
5		Appointed by Board of Supervisors
6		Appointed by Board of Supervisors

Scoring Committee includes:

- At least **2** subject-matter experts in Water Quality Benefits
- At least **1** subject-matter expert in Nature-Based Solutions/Community Investment Benefits
- At least **1** subject-matter expert in Water Supply Benefits



# Scoring Committee Roles and Responsibilities

**Score** Projects and Feasibility Studies using the **Infrastructure Program Project Scoring Criteria** and apply Threshold Score. The initial Threshold Score is sixty (60) points.

**Forward** Projects with their respective score to the appropriate Watershed Area Steering Committees.

- Share expertise and provide guidance and information
- Use technical documents for reference and consideration such as new water quality and water supply studies, plans, and white papers

Refer to Infrastructure Program Project Scoring Criteria for additional details



# Stormwater Investments in SCWP

Board of Supervisors will consider 22-23 SIPs on 10/04/22

One Hundred and One new & continuing Infrastructure Program Projects:

- Leverage over \$540M in other funding
- Capture stormwater from over 220,000 acres increasing annual capture by over 55,000 AF
- Invest over \$340M in projects benefiting members of disadvantaged communities
- Will benefit the nine watershed areas through construction in 38 municipalities





# Call for Projects FY 2023-2024

Call for Projects closed on July 31st

Program	Preliminary Total SCW Funding Requested	Preliminary Projects Submitted
Infrastructure Program (>85%)	~\$247M	33*
Technical Resources Program (≤10%)	\$1.2M	4
Scientific Studies Program (≤5%)	~\$ 8M	4
TOTAL	~\$ 256M	41

Watershed Area	Approximate Number of IP Projects
Central Santa Monica Bay	3
Lower Los Angeles River	2
Lower San Gabriel River	5
North Santa Monica Bay	1
Rio Hondo	4
Santa Clara River	1
South Santa Monica Bay	4
Upper Los Angeles River	13
Upper San Gabriel River	0
Grand Total	33

\*values subject to change pending completeness check by the District





# 2022 Interim Guidance

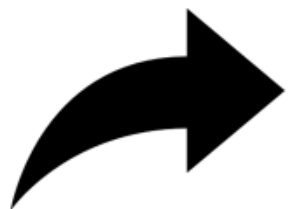


With stakeholder input, the District developed the 2022 Interim Guidance. Each component includes a brief vision for future guidance



## 2022 Interim Guidance

- Strengthening Community Engagement and Support (**New**)
- Water Supply Guidance (**New**)
- Programming of Nature-Based Solutions (no substantive changes from 2021 guidance)
- Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies (no substantive changes from 2021 guidance)



Other program aspects continue to be clarified or addressed through the Metrics and Monitoring Study and/or advancement of various regional studies



# Strengthening Community Engagement and Support

This guidance includes:

1. Engagement Prior to Application
2. Engagement Plan for Project Implementation

	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, SCW Program 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>





# Strengthening Community Engagement and Support



LEADERSHIP: COLLABORATION

## LD1.3 Provide for Stakeholder Involvement

18

POINTS

### INTENT

Early and sustained stakeholder engagement and involvement in project decision making.

### METRIC

Establishment of sound and meaningful programs for stakeholder identification, early and sustained engagement, and involvement in project decision making.

### LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
A + B	A + B + C	A + B + C + D	A + B + C + D + E	A + B + C + D + E + F
(3) Active Engagement	(6) Direct Engagement	(9) Community Involvement	(14) Community Satisfaction	(18) Stakeholder Partnerships
(A) Primary and secondary stakeholders are identified through a stakeholder mapping process. Stakeholder concerns and specific objectives for stakeholder engagement are defined.				
(B) A proactive stakeholder engagement process is established with clear objectives. This occurs at the earliest stages of planning and is sustained through project construction. Engagement moves beyond education into active dialogue. Stakeholder views are monitored, and a two-way line of communication is established to reply to inquiries. Sufficient opportunities are provided for stakeholders to be involved in decision making. The participation process is transparent with opportunities to provide meaningful input.				
(C) A lead person from the project team, in addition to any public involvement lead or manager, works with stakeholder groups to understand communication needs and the desire for and scope of involvement.				
(D) There are specific cases in which public input influenced or validated project outcomes. Potentially conflicting stakeholder views were evaluated and addressed equitably during decision making.				
(E) Feedback is sought from stakeholders as to their satisfaction with the engagement process, and the resulting decisions were made based on their input.				
(F) One or more stakeholders, having mutual interests or interdependencies, are identified and engaged as partners.				

This guidance includes several resources for designing and implementing engagement



# Strengthening Community Engagement and Support

Tools and strategies to evaluate Community Engagement and Support that WASC and Scoring Committee members can use:

- Read the justification provided in the application and submitted Feasibility Study about Community Engagement and Support for the Project.
- During presentations by Project proponents or SC evaluations, ask questions about the Community Engagement and Support for the Project.
- Ask Watershed Coordinator(s) to evaluate and report to the WASC how the people, city and county agencies, and other stakeholders would describe community needs, concerns, and objectives in the Watershed Area.

## 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).





# Water Supply Guidance

1. Establishes shared vocabulary
2. Clarifies characterization of Water Supply Benefits
3. Provides working guidance for some prominent uncertainty about water supply

## Water Supply Benefits in the Safe, Clean Water Program

Los Angeles Flood Control District Code Section 16.03.00: ***“Water Supply Benefit”*** means an increase in the amount of locally available water supply, provided there is a nexus to Stormwater or Urban Runoff capture. Activities resulting in this benefit include, but are not limited to, the following:

- reuse and conservation practices,
- diversion of Stormwater or Urban Runoff to a sanitary sewer system for direct or indirect water recycling,
- increased groundwater replenishment or available yield, or
- offset of potable water use.



# Water Supply Guidance

## Guidance for the Scoring Committee using Five Scenarios

1. Projects in watersheds with existing downstream stormwater capture facilities or other proposed downstream projects
2. Projects claiming to capture the “first flush” flows that would not be captured by existing facilities or concurrent projects (and therefore would otherwise be wasted to the ocean)
3. Projects claiming future Water Supply Benefit due to future projects or infrastructure
4. Projects diverting onsite runoff to a sanitary sewer
5. Projects claiming infiltration of water





# Water Supply Guidance

1. Projects in watersheds with existing downstream stormwater capture facilities or other proposed downstream projects
  1. Project proponents must complete a good faith effort to establish and describe the relationship to downstream projects, as required by the Feasibility Study, such as development of a stormwater model, references to relevant studies, a letter of concurrence from the downstream project developers, etc.
  2. The Scoring Committee should consider the fact-based analysis provided by the project proponent.
  3. The Scoring Committee should be the site of evaluating the relationship between the proposed project, and other downstream projects. Stakeholders or agencies with input about these questions should engage at the Scoring Committee to support decision-making there.



# Water Supply Guidance

2. Projects claiming to capture the “first flush” flows that would not be captured by existing facilities or concurrent projects (and therefore would otherwise be wasted to the ocean)
  - In the interim, such projects should demonstrate the benefit of capturing these limited events, including the anticipated capture amount, other factors impacting the scale of the beneficial use, detailed discussion of downstream facilities/projects that are not suited to capture first flush flows, the intended beneficial use, and clear justification of how the proposed efforts to capture first flush flows will not have any adverse impacts (e.g., to water quality, etc.).
  - Scoring Committee should use only the first flush flows, substantiated by modeling, to determine Water Supply Benefit.





# Water Supply Guidance

3. Projects claiming future Water Supply Benefit due to future projects or infrastructure
  - Projects cannot receive Water Supply Benefit points for water diverted to a downstream project that is not yet built and operational. The future project may receive Water Supply Benefits from the water diverted to it.
4. Projects diverting onsite runoff to a sanitary sewer
  - It can be a challenge to calculate how much volume of the stormwater runoff would reach a water reclamation plant and be converted to locally available water supply. At this time, the full calculated diversion volume will be considered locally available water supply. This may change in the future when a more refined quantitative analysis becomes available



# Water Supply Guidance

## 5. Projects claiming infiltration of water

- For infiltration Projects, it remains difficult to quantify the volume of water (and the time it would take) to reach a managed, usable, groundwater aquifer as locally available water supply. The District is conducting research in partnership with the US Bureau of Reclamation that may provide additional insights for this topic. As Interim Guidance, if a project proponent provides written concurrence from the agency managing the groundwater basin that the project is believed to increase local groundwater supplies, then the project's full calculated capacity to infiltrated water will be considered by the Scoring Committee and WASCs as a benefit to locally available water supply.






# Water Supply Guidance


## Long-Term Vision for Water Supply Guidelines


In the long term, the District may further enlist third-party experts to assist in informing additional guidance to score and evaluate Water Supply Benefits, in conjunction with any pertinent results from the ongoing Metrics and Monitoring Study. Future updates to this guidance are currently expected to consider the following:


### 1. Refinement or Additions to 2022 Interim Guidance

 **2. Assessment of Watershed-Specific Conditions:** Analysis of hydrogeological conditions and groundwater management on a watershed basis, including where it is believed that all dry weather and stormwater runoff is captured or recharged or is accounted for in existing management agreements – and where that lack of opportunity may have a significant impact on the ability of projects within those watersheds to meet the minimum Threshold Score.

**3. Establish and/or Refine Definitions and Metrics:** Guidance for what is considered locally available water supply and the scale at which those benefits should be considered.

 a. Further guidance for understanding how regional improvements in local water supplies can be judged as benefiting individual municipalities or disadvantaged communities (for now, see Disadvantaged Community Benefits guidance for current practice).

 b. Further standardization regarding how to calculate first flush flows and how/whether to apply benefits for projects capturing such flows;

 c. If and/or how cleaned dry weather or stormwater runoff to streams or waterbodies with habitat beneficial uses could be judged a water supply for nature or environmental water and therefore counted towards water supply benefits; and

### 4. Guidance for Addressing Water Rights Implications

Additional issues warranting further guidance may also be considered in the future, with the next round of updated guidance currently anticipated in 2024 to include findings of the District-led Metrics and Monitoring Study, anticipated to be completed in 2023.

## Ongoing Related Efforts

- The SCWP Metrics & Monitoring Study
- FCD / USBR Study
- Other efforts



# Programming of Nature-Based Solutions

The guidance clarifies how best to prioritize Nature-Based Solutions by:

1. Establishing a shared vocabulary
2. Providing guidance to the nine WASCs
3. Clarifying prioritizing Nature-Based Solutions; and
4. Highlighting how the Feasibility Study requirements and the Projects Module support Project proponents and WASCs in the prioritization of Nature-Based Solutions







# Links between Needs, SCWP Goals, and NBS

Identified Need or Desired Outcome	Potential Natural Processes & Nature-Mimicking Strategies	SCW Program Benefits
Improved environmental water quality	Bioretention; biofiltration; removed impermeable area; increase of permeability; soil enhancement; green streets	Water Quality Benefit
Increased local water supply	Surface and subsurface infiltration to groundwater; treat and release clean stormwater flows for a justified beneficial use; stormwater capture to offset irrigation with potable water; soil enhancement to offset irrigation with potable water; new native and climate-appropriate planting to offset irrigation with potable water; remove impermeable area; increase permeability	Water Supply Benefit
Improved flood management	Bioretention; native and climate appropriate planting; removal of impermeable area; increase of permeability; microtopography changes; protection or restoration of riparian or wetland systems	Community Investment Benefit (CIB): Flood Management
Improved flood conveyance	Stream daylighting; bioretention; microtopography changes; removed impermeable surfaces; increase of permeability; localized infiltration to groundwater	CIB: Flood Conveyance





# NBS in the Funds Transfer Agreement

Recipients are to consider using Nature-Based Solutions for infrastructure projects and tinclude in each quarterly and annual report whether and how their project achieves a good, better, or best for each of the 6 NBS methods in accordance with the guidance below. Additionally, reports should include discussion on any considerations taken to maximize the class within each method. If at least 3 methods score within a single class, the overall project can be characterized as that class.

*Note that because Nature-Based Solutions are inherently holistic approaches, many attributes of projects that meet the description under one method will receive credit under other methods.*

## NBS Methods described:

1. Vegetation/Green Space
2. Increase of Permeability
3. Protection of Undeveloped Mountains & Floodplains
4. Creation & Restoration of Riparian Habitat & Wetlands
5. New Landscape Elements
6. Enhancement of Soil

## Good, Better, Best for Vegetation/Green Space

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
GOOD	Use of climate-appropriate vegetation (groundcover, shrubs, and trees) / green space  5%-15% covered by new climate-appropriate vegetation
BETTER	Use of native, climate-appropriate vegetation (groundcover, shrubs, and trees) / green space  16%-35% covered by new native vegetation
BEST	Establishment of plant communities with a diversity of native vegetation (groundcover, shrubs, and trees) / green space that is both native and climate-appropriate  More than 35% covered by new native vegetation





# Programming of Nature-Based Solutions

Scoring nature-based solutions – unchanged this round

D. Nature-Based Solutions	15 points max	The Project implements Nature-Based Solutions
	15 points	<p>D1. Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implements natural processes or mimics natural processes to slow, detain, capture, and absorb/infiltrate water in a manner that protects, enhances and/or restores habitat, green space and/or usable open space = 5 points</li><li>• Utilizes natural materials such as soils and vegetation with a preference for native vegetation = 5 points</li><li>• Removes Impermeable Area from Project (1 point per 20% paved area removed) = 5 points</li></ul>

- 5 points for implementing natural processes (yes/no)
- 5 points for utilizing natural materials (yes/no)
- Up to 5 points for removing impermeable surface (1 point for every 20% impervious area removed)



# Programming of Nature-Based Solutions

## Long-term Vision for NBS

- **Regional Program Scoring:** Assessment of potential adjustments to **scoring** as part of comprehensive **scoring** review following MMS and robust stakeholder processes that may include modifications related to any or all of the following:
  - Desirable Nature-Based Solutions are competitive in **scoring** (i.e., pass threshold)
  - Nature-Based Solutions on the lower end of the good/better/best spectrum are not awarded de facto full points
  - Nature-Based solutions be a means to desired outcomes related to the primary benefits and Goals of the SCW Program.





# Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies

This guidance includes the following:

1. Clarification of how to interpret and substantiate a Project's ability to deliver Disadvantaged Community Benefits
2. Procedures for consistently accounting for the 110% SIP provisions
3. Considerations to inform deliberation and discussion

**No role for Scoring Committee  
in DCB beyond community  
engagement considerations**

## SCW Program 2022 Interim Guidance

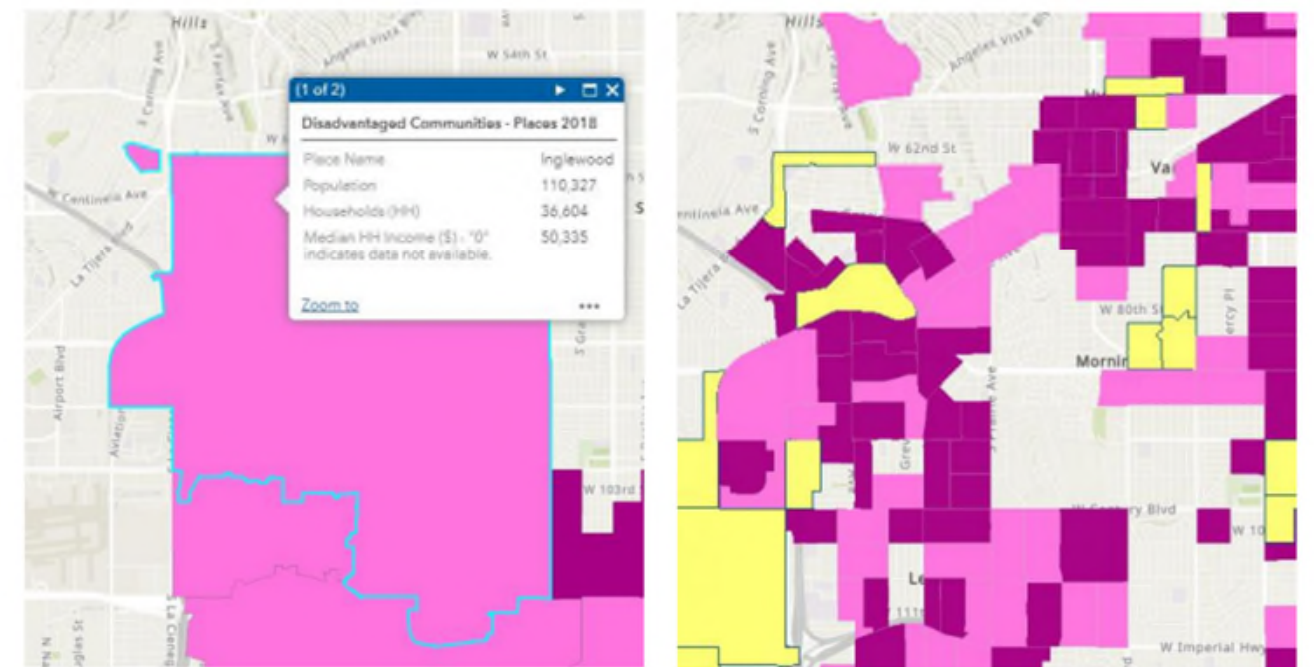
Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program



- Link to DWR Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool: <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>
- Link to CalEPA CalEnviroscreen: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>

### Inglewood Example

If you calculate the median household income for the city of Inglewood as a Census Place (Figure 1), you find that the city has a median household income below 80% of the statewide median household income, and therefore can be considered a disadvantaged community. However, when you review the many Census Block Groups within the city of Inglewood (Figure 2), you find that some are considered disadvantaged, some severely disadvantaged (defined in the State Water Code as having a median household income below 60% of the statewide median household income), and some are neither.







# Discussion

Contact the program team at:  
[www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)  
[SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov)  
 1-833-ASK-SCWP (1-833-275-7297)



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