



Public Stakeholder Workshop: Question and Answer Summary

Project(s): Safe, Clean Water Program Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS or Study)

Subject: Public Stakeholder Workshops 01 and 02

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022
and, Thursday, November 17, 2022

Location: Online Zoom Meeting, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Workshop 01 Comments, Questions and Answers

Please see the collected questions and the MMS team response below.

From the Zoom Chat:

Getting funding to focus on creation, enhancement for “restoration of parks, habitat or wetlands” has not been something that we have found simple to do.

- There are multiple funding mechanisms that support these kinds of projects, though that isn’t exactly what you meant, we think. There are some projects that have been funded by the Regional Program that include these outcomes. The opportunity exists for projects to prioritize these outcomes as elements of how to provide water quality, water supply, or community investment benefits. We encourage this questioner to engage with the SCWP Watershed Coordinators that serve their areas of interest: [Watershed Coordinators - Safe Clean Water Program \(safecleanwaterla.org\)](https://safecleanwaterla.org).

Home-owners and businesses are good sources of information, is that built into this?

- The SCWP prioritizes community engagement in many ways, and home-owners and business owners are certainly among members of communities. Those responsible for engagement often engage with both of these community groups.
- This question was asked in the context of the “Finding and Documenting Community Voice” section of the presentation, and to be specific, the proposed tools would include ways for community members to directly contribute their valuable local knowledge and articulate their specific needs.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed stakeholders are very supportive of all efforts to include DAC community members.

- Thank you for your valuable input.

Question about the filter you'll be running the metrics through, question about who will be establishing the metrics. And who built the filter?

- The MMS is being conducted by a consultant team supervised by the SCWP team in the LA County Flood Control District. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee provides advice about decisions being made within the MMS process. The MMS is producing recommendations for the Flood Control District about the SCWP.

Is there a way to build community needs metrics and tools to include non-geographic water needs, such as Tribes and Indigenous peoples?

- The MMS Team appreciates this question and will consider how specific community members who share expertise about multiple communities, or large geographic areas, can be incorporated.

Aren't many of the people on WASCs serving on your Stakeholder Advisory Committee? So pretty hermetic?

- When the Stakeholder Advisory Committee was formed, people who hold decision-making roles in SCWP governance committees were intentionally not invited to participate. Since, several members of the SAC have been appointed to some of these governance committees.

70% of the open space in the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed is preserved as open space; this is the result of major efforts from our community. We want to see Measure W fund open space acquisition in our community ... which sustains water quality and provides open space for ... everyone. We feel that Measure W was voted for by community members who felt this funding would support open space acquisition to improve water quality. We want to see this built into the system.

- Thank you for this comment.

Is there a way to integrate community investment with the water quality and water supply shared? rather than have them be separate?

- The SCWP encourages multiple-benefit projects. Each project must have a water quality benefit, and projects that also provide water supply and community investment benefits are encouraged in multiple ways. The current understanding of where water quality benefits are needed is strong, because of regulations and planning. The current understanding of where water supply benefits can be achieved is less strong than water quality, but still relatively well understood. The current understanding of what community investment benefits are most sought by community members is weak, which is what drives the development of a way to "Find and Document Community Voice". Better integrating how projects produce benefits across the three categories we hope will be the result.

Safer bus stop. Sometimes the pipes smell bad

- Having community members participate and share about the hopes and worries they have is a really important element that is trying to grow more robust in the SCWP. These contributions are very important, and we thank you for sharing your voice with our team.

Buses = less cars, = less climate change = improved water supply, the other parties' bus project IS water supply...

- Thank you for this comment. The extent to-which people understand multi-benefit and the interconnections like you have voiced is an important element of the engagement and education efforts surrounding the SCWP. We will share this comment with other teams working on education and engagement.

I think there are some community investment metrics like % new green space or % impervious space that could be more integrated into how projects are prioritized.

- Thank you for these comments. Elements of what you have share are already within the program. Project prioritization in the SCWP is not fully quantitative. Any project submitted to the Regional Program that is judged eligible using the scoring system is then considered by the Watershed Area Steering Committees. There, the project benefits, costs, community input, and other factors are considered to make strategic investment decisions. This decision-making is supported with quantitative information, but not driven by it. Project prioritization in the regional program, therefore, is not driven by quantitative metrics.

And I think if community members are invited to share assets and needs there needs to be investment in community capacity building and technical assistance and a metrics system that actually supports community driven projects that come out of this asset and needs assessment.

- The white paper that generated the suggestion for "Finding and Documenting Community Voice" offers other advice as well that includes aspects of capacity building in communities. However, it also proposes that community members are already experts about the lived experience of the community, and while stormwater education is important, the stormwater managers should be the 'learner' while the community members are the 'teachers'. Elsewhere the Flood Control District is developing engagement and education programs that will provide some of the capacity building and learning proposed in this comment. This comment will be shared with those teams.

Oftentimes community members are asked to share needs and assets but to no real end or benefit.

- Thank you for this comment. The effort described is aware of this history here and elsewhere, and the team is attentive to disrupting these past failures so civic engagement by communities more frequently produces sought-after-outcomes.

I concur. Cities have clean water act (MS4) mandates that they need to meet and have more votes on the steering committees. As a result, many first and second round projects have less than robust multiple benefits. We must ensure that city voices on the MM study and resulting tools that are developed are balanced with those from our communities.

- This comment contains very nuanced ideas about SCWP Regional Program as it is currently being implemented. The FCD has tasked the MMS team with broad and representative engagement during our work, and striving to incorporate the insights shared from those who are eager to see the SCWP adaptively managed towards greater success in the future.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed is very interested in an historical assessment of water supply creek by creek, river by river.

- Specific watershed historic assessments are not scheduled to be part of the current MMS. Other organizations have completed Historical Ecology projects for portions of the SCWP program area, which can be found online. There are several ways that the SCWP can support scientific and technical studies, and proponents interested in doing an assessment like can engage with the watershed coordinators as a first step.

From Mentimeter:

None

Workshop 02 Comments, Questions and Answers

Please see the collected questions and the MMS team response below.

From the Zoom Chat:

A friendly question: Is it possible to show the slides without the overlays? Say maybe in "presentation mode?" Thanks!

[response in chat]..we are in presentation mode but please know this slide deck will be available after up on the SCWP webpage after today

These are examples of metrics that are focused more on water quality and water supply than community investment benefits. Are you considering metrics centered around community investment benefits to better measure what benefits projects are bringing during the MMS process? And if so, what are some examples?

- The question was asked early enough in the workshop so as to not benefit from the presentation about Finding and Documenting Community Voice. We would refer that discussion for further discussion and examples.

So Glad to have the problems of Watersheds like North Santa Monica Bay be recognized as a part of this program! Thank you.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Can you share maps of opportunity areas with more defining information - roads, fwys, etc.

- The SCWP maintains an online spatial data library where one can view data related to the multiple benefits and opportunities that the program seeks to achieve. The data there is also downloadable. Visit here for more: [Regional Program - Safe Clean Water Program \(safecleanwaterla.org\)](https://safecleanwaterla.org)

Please let us know where and when we can access the recording. Our WASC had a workshop and a stream restoration tour today, and were not able to attend.

- The recording of the presentation, the slides and the summary of comments, questions and responses will be made available through the Safe, Clean Water website.

Is the Stakeholder Advisory Committee the same as the 9 Watershed Committee, or something else?

[response in chat from attendee]...the Stakeholder Advisory Committee is separate from the Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), although it does include some members from the 9 different WASCs

- The MMS Stakeholder Advisory Committee is made of member representing many different areas and interests related to Safe, Clean Water Program from project developer to community organizations. The goal was to provide a wide variety of perspectives to assist the MMS Team with valuable input into the results of the study.

What about Community Education?!? So important!

- A separate team within the SCWP is working to develop a community engagement and education effort, and this comment will be shared with them. The MMS team acknowledges education is a key companion to listening.

What about Water Talks in San Gabriel Valley?

- The WaterTalks program is managed by TreePeople, on behalf of the Greater Los Angeles County Regional Water Management Group. It included activity in the San Gabriel Valley.

Question: is this effort to increase/better measure community input and benefit connected to Infrastructure LA at all?

[response in chat]... Hi, Not currently. But we would certainly be open to that.

- InfrastructureLA is a different initiative within the County of Los Angeles, and isn't directly related to the work of the MMS. This comment will be shared with that team.

How is stormwater represented in these concerns collected by Water Talks?

- The WaterTalks program was not specifically about stormwater, and is carried out by a different team. The MMS is reviewing the engagement, information gathered during engagement, and the sharing of the information gained, as example processes for the SCWP. The data gathered by WaterTalks may prove important in some ways to the SCWP, but the data itself is not driving the MMS work of recommending metrics.

But don't you have to outreach beyond us mucky mucks?

- There are many elements of engagement within the SCWP. The MMS is scoped to support a Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and a number of public workshops.

IF drinking water is so important to the communities perhaps there should be some work to explain that many of these communities get all or some of their drinking water from groundwater. This program will augment groundwater and help to improve water quality. I think that this linkage is important in light of concern about drinking water.

- This comment captures one of the conclusions being drawn about listening to communities and developing both projects and programs from what is heard.

How can my community want to participate when they know nothing about water issues and needs. Need the community education first, then they'll want to participate.

- The MMS team imagines a bridge built from two directions. Water managers have much to learn by listening to communities, because community members hold expertise about their lived experience, their strengths to be reinforced and challenges to be overcome. Educating the community about how water issues intersect with that expertise is an important element of building trusting relationships and long-term engagement between communities and the agencies that serve them.

I would add to comment: if there are few CBOs in a community to advocate for stormwater improvements, it becomes more difficult for a community to advance their ideas or concerns

- Thank you for your valuable input

How about getting the Watershed Coordinator out here to do some community engagement and education. One was hired but my community hasn't seen them, even though the County public works got a \$60 million stormwater capture/park project approved by the Watershed Committee. Hello, where are you?

- The SCWP has twelve Watershed Coordinators, supported by a Regional Coordination team, serving the approximate 10 million people who live within the boundaries of the program. The MMS team will ensure this comment is shared with the Regional Coordination team. This commenter, and others curious to meet with the Watershed Coordinator that serves their area of interest, can contact them at

this link: [Watershed Coordinators - Safe Clean Water Program \(safecleanwaterla.org\)](https://safecleanwaterla.org)

If the database will be a central gathering tool available publicly and CBOs, agencies, consultants etc. then it will be valuable for all WHAM and future project teams measures to learn/build from, instead of constantly asking community members over and over

[response in the chat]... that's a great point, and one of the things that we hope will occur

- The white paper concurs with this comment by suggesting that a living repository of community contributions would minimize the number of times community members are asked to make the same contribution to multiple projects.

What metrics are being developed to measure the other aspects of the SCWP not addressed here? i.e. municipal return, education, workforce, admin

- The MMS is evaluating potential metrics and monitoring strategies relevant to each of the 14 Program Goals specified in the Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance, which are relevant to the Municipal Program, Regional Program, and District Program. The MMS metric development process includes additional public engagement workshops and will provide opportunity to receive advice regarding measurement of municipal benefits, and will also include analysis and modeling to test potential metrics. The subsequent recommendations will be deliberated with the MMS Stakeholder Advisory Committee before recommendation to the Flood Control District for consideration. If the commenter has specific recommendations regarding other Program elements that should be considered, the MMS Team values your input (submit any additional comments to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov), Note that some elements mentioned in the comment (specifically education and workforce development) are being addressed through other Flood Control District-led efforts outside of the MMS.

Can you engage the Coastal Commission? Utilizing the beach for stormwater infrastructure could be a great opportunity for coastal cities.

- The MMS is not currently designed to lead an engagement with the California Coastal Commission. There are some projects within SCWP that are being implemented by coastal cities. Those who made this comment, and others who have suggestions for new partnerships or engagements should reach out to the watershed coordinators at this link: [Watershed Coordinators - Safe Clean Water Program \(safecleanwaterla.org\)](https://safecleanwaterla.org)

Trash Cans at bus stops that are emptied regularly would help beautiful streets and stop litter pollution.

- Thank you for your valuable input

How we measure municipal return is important. Should be done with the measurement of both benefits AND dollars.

- Within the Regional Program the policy states: Each Municipality shall receive benefits in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible, to be evaluated annually over a rolling five (5) year period; (Section 18.07B2d)
- This clause clearly describes the benefits are what is to be considered when evaluating the Stormwater Investment Plans. Work within MMS to recommend ways to assess the benefits project provide and to whom may support this required evaluation.

Caution that with any engagement tool, NIMBY's & other well-informed/connected parties can stack the comments with their opinions as well... how to value/weigh whose input/needs/concerns.

- Thank you for this comment.

I was hoping to hear about the guidelines for community engagement and evaluating allocations of resources in disadvantaged communities. What metrics and indicators has the SCWP landed on for these? When will the ROC hear more about these issues?

- Elements of this question are addressed in the white paper produced for the MMS and shared with the Flood Control District, but were not included in the limited agenda of the public workshop. Upcoming meetings of the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) have not yet been scheduled.

Can you measure the amount (i.e. hours, \$) of community engagement for each TRP and Infrastructure project?

- Thank you for this comment. The white paper proposes that assessing the effectiveness of engagement may be in how those who were engaged express their support for the ideas discussed, rather than metrics like this comment proposes.

Could we talk about the drinking water concerns and how this program can address those?

- The Safe Clean Water Program does not directly address drinking water. The program does support making more resilient a local water supply, which is both less costly and perhaps more sustainable than an imported supply. The concerns raised by many, including those shown during the workshop within the WaterTalks program, are being addressed by other agencies and programs.

Community Education Field Trips & Site Tours to experience desirable visionary projects. DAC members/Electeds/Staff can advocate more specifically for quality amenities if they see/visit Best Practice projects in different areas of the County.

- Currently the Watershed Coordinators and some project developers are conducting tours. A program of tours is also in development by other teams within the SCWP. This comment will be shared with them.

Could you please provide the scope, timeline and deliverable for the MMS effort at this point in time? What has been completed and what are next steps. Looking to bottom line the outcome of today. Thanks.

- The general scope and timelines for the MMS are provided on the SCWP website, under the Metrics and Monitoring Study. To date, the MMS has been focused on developing the framework for the evaluation of the SCWP metrics through the engagement of stakeholders. The current work is focused on the development and analysis of opportunities within the individual watersheds and identifying recommendations for improvements to the metrics that the SCWP employs. We are still early in this effort and anticipate more to come in the Spring and Summer of 2023.

I'm not sure that this gets to my point about finalizing the guidelines for these two areas: Community Engagement and Disadvantaged Communities. Adding in needs articulation from the community before finalizing the guidelines adds in another layer that I wasn't aware of.

- This comment would be best addressed by a review of the white paper, which was mentioned but not fully presented during the workshop. That paper can be found here: <https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Equity-in-Stormwater-Investments.pdf>

Documenting community voice can be engaging council members, if there is a meeting targeted for these individuals they will take it back to their community

- Thank you for your valuable input

In a separate effort, the SCWP Working Group convened by ARLA includes some helpful recommendations for metrics in DAC and outreach. Recommendations can be found here: <https://acceleratela.org/scwp/>

- Thank you for your valuable input

I want to plan an event where my community can watch the capture tank being lowered into the ground so they can understand the new infrastructure. When are we going to get an opportunity to plan that?

- We recommend this commenter, and others with similar questions, engage the Watershed Coordinator that serves the area you are interested in learning more about. You can find the right coordinator here: [Watershed Coordinators - Safe Clean Water Program \(safecleanwaterla.org\)](https://www.safecleanwaterla.org/)

Enjoyed this conversation. I especially appreciated the efforts to clarify terminology at the top of the call!

- Thank you for your valuable input

Thanks. I was hoping for a public comment period.

- We apologize for not having sufficient time to program a public comment period. If you have additional contributions to make for the SCWP, please email at SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov

From Mentimeter:

Question – What ideas, suggestions or questions about finding or documenting community voice would you like to share?

Would like to know what the community needs or wants in their local parks, especially for multi-benefit stormwater park projects.

- The MMS team is aware of an existing effort to update the Parks Needs Assessment in the County of Los Angeles, which may provide insight to this commentor.

Attendance at established community events.

- Thank you for your valuable input

I like what you've already done.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Discussion with community to understand their problems and suggestions.

- Thank you for your valuable input

In my experience people really want to see visual issues resolved prior to a new project being developed.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Community events.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Perhaps include presentations through neighborhood councils or city councils to help spread awareness.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Maybe using community apps like Nextdoor and Ring apps can assist in collecting info.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Level of support from the community and stakeholders.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Suggestion: Education first regarding benefits of improved water quality/supply/greening etc.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Develop metrics so that progress on community investment benefits can be measured and tracked.

- The white paper offers advice for developing ways to support community voice being the source of both the development of, approval, and ongoing evaluation of projects that provide benefits to a community. The ideas there will be among the advice provided from MMS for next steps within the SCWP.

Elicit their concerns, if any, if there is lack of knowledge then have water education dialogues, and then ask again about their concerns. Map how concerns vary through the watershed.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Community education needs to come before – since most people in the community do not know what the SCWP is nor what projects this program is building.

- The MMS team imagines a bridge built from two directions. Water managers have much to learn by listening to communities, because community members hold expertise about their lived experience, their strengths to be reinforced and challenges to be overcome. Educating the community about how water issues intersect with that expertise is an important element of building trusting relationships and long-term engagement between communities and the agencies that serve them.

I would like more community outreach and communication from non-profits and city government.

- Thank you for your valuable input

How do we know about community needs from those who couldn't attend outreach meetings?

- As with other elements of the SCWP, the idea of using engagement as the source of community strengths and needs, if implemented, would be adaptively managed. This means that as the effort is carried out, if it becomes clear that only portions of the community are being heard, engagement strategies will need to evolve.

How do you intend to get more community feedback into this MMS process?

- The MMS has a wide range of outreach built into this effort to try to maximize the ability for community feedback. The MMS hosted two workshops related to the white paper, will host five workshops about the overall MMS work, includes at least eight workshops with the MMS Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and additional workshops with other SCWP entities (ROC, Watershed Coordinators, WASCs).

Implementation timeline.

- The MMS will be providing final recommendations to the SCWP by the end of next summer. Implementation of these recommendations will follow the adaptive management processes established by the SCWP.

Reach out through religious entities, community organizations.

- Thank you for your valuable input

More investment in CBOs in marginalized communities to advocate for SW improvements.

- There are other teams inside SCWP working to develop engagement and education programs, where capacity building and support for CBOs is being considered. This comment will be shared with those teams.

Include feedback from youth groups. I think there are a lot of untapped opportunities for project proponents/designers to attend neighborhood council meetings. I also think climate change is a major concern and these concerns aren't a topline topic in SCWP conversations.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Another question would be: I think there are opportunities in my community for more water quality and water supply projects to bring community benefits?

- This comment expresses an understanding of the multi-benefit approach of the SCWP. The converse question could also be asked, and perhaps would be equally meaningful: "Are there opportunities in my community for community benefits that would also result in water quality and water supply benefits?"

Water quality benefits and cost per acre-feet.

- Thank you for your valuable input. Cost-per-acre-foot is an often-used metric for assessing the viability of projects, however it can be misleading when considering multi-benefit and nature-based projects. For instance, if you factored the cost of the car and its maintenance, your tank of gas, and your insurance into the price of the cup of coffee you went to buy, would that be a fair way of assessing the cost of the coffee?

Education and data visualization.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Elected officials aren't present in SCWP conversations, but they are supposed to be representing community voice. Where's that linkage? Why isn't it more apparent?

- The participation of elected representatives in SCWP is uneven across the many cities and other layers of government that intersect with the program. As those who seek representation ask more of their representatives, and as education and engagement programs are developed, change may be the result.

Leverage funding.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Are community members familiar with green infrastructure facilities?

- The MMS team recognizes that there are many organizations in the region working to teach community members about green infrastructure. Elements of the engagement and education programs that are being developed by other teams will likely pursue this same outcome. This comment will be shared with those teams.

Local worker and/or internship opportunities.

- Thank you for your valuable input

"I think a database of strengths and needs would benefit how projects are developed in my community." There should be caution with this idea. It could persuade project developers to not engage with members of the community.

- The SCWP requires engagement at different points in the program pathway for any particular project. The intent of this tool is to greatly enhance the likelihood that an engagement would be productive, and meaningful. The white paper provides other advice about this topic.

If the tool is created, how do we ensure that project proponents use it?

- The word “ensure” is difficult to manage towards. The program is designed to support effort across a large landscape of communities, cities, and watersheds. Projects that are seeking competitive resources from the program from committees that are making strategic investments using public resources will benefit from tools that make projects stronger, and more supported. Developers that choose to not benefit from these resources will engage with the program and answer questions about their choice, and decisions will be made by the governance committees as they feel appropriate within the structure of the program.

Watershed coordinators developed a community needs assessment survey and have been implementing it for over a year. Perhaps it can be a building block for a tool that MMS builds/implements.

- The MMS team is aware that some Watershed Coordinators have adapted a survey instrument from the WaterTalks Program, and have been using it to support their engagement effort.

Community voice is really important: is there any work being done to look at making sure that projects follow through on the promised benefits?

- Thank you for this valuable input. Developing the process by-which these ideas will be administered within the SCWP is still a future task. This comment will influence that effort when it begins.

I don't think people need to be stormwater experts in order to provide input about community priorities.

- Thank you for your valuable input

As time progresses, how will this survey tool data be maintained to ensure community input is accurate and up to date?

- The proposed tool would be accessible to all, and areas that lack data, or lack up-to-date data, could be easily discovered, and turned into engagement efforts by the SCWP through the Watershed Coordinators, or via an engaged CBO or NGO, or even the constituent services team from an elected representative's office.

Caution that NIMBY's, other well connected, informed parties could stack the “community voice” tool with their opinions too.

- Thank you for this comment.

Mapping municipal return both fiscally and by benefits.

- Thank you for your valuable input

Can you measure the amount (i.e. hours, \$) of community engagement for each TRP and infrastructure project?

- Thank you for this comment. The white paper proposes that assessing the effectiveness of engagement may be in how those who were engaged express their support for the ideas discussed, rather than metrics like this comment proposes.

I'm not sure if it has already been mentioned but Watershed Area Steering Committee meetings are open to the public, so ideas, suggestions, and questions can be presented during those meetings.

- Thank you for this comment.

It seems like community investment benefits are the only benefits that would uniquely benefit DACs. Water Quality and water supply benefits are felt and dispersed regionally.

- The SCWP expressly says that “Disadvantaged Community Benefits” can be Water Quality, Water Supply, or Community Investment Benefits. For more discussion on these topics, the 2022 Interim Guidance released by the SCWP should be reviewed, which can be found on the SCWP website.

Follow-up Questions and Answers

Email 01 Received:

To: SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov

Hello SCWP MMS Team, Nature for All respectfully submits & underscores the following comments on the MMS proposals, offered by our Our Water LA partners at SCOPE:

Community Engagement

We need the SCWP to accelerate program funding for public education and job training to build the capacity of community members to engage in the SCWP and project development.

- The MMS team understands and agrees with this need. Work on this is being completed by other efforts within the SCWP Team, and this comment will be shared with that team.

Sustained community engagement is essential to identifying assets, needs, and possible project benefits and ensuring equitable processes and outcomes in the SCWP, especially for disproportionately impacted communities.

- Agreed, in conjunction with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation and Stantec, the MMS has completed the “Equity in Stormwater Investments” White Paper, which has provided recommendations and insights that the broader MMS team are considering in our analysis. An example of this is the discussion at the workshop regarding “hearing and documenting community voice”. We expect that recommendations for improved metrics and monitoring will come from the MMS.

Program funding must be leveraged to create a formal needs assessment process and tools that ensures information collected is robust, up-to-date, widely accessible, and able to address countywide needs.

- The MMS team will test a framework for using community needs assessments to generate appropriate metrics and will document recommendations for how a program may be development and implemented.

Community-based organizations and non-profit organizations must have proper compensation as critical community engagement partners.

- The “Equity in Stormwater Investments” White Paper included similar discussions and recommendations that the District is considering.

We support adjusting scoring criteria to reward projects that meet higher standards of community engagement.

- Thank you for the comment, the MMS is providing recommendations for improved metrics and monitoring strategies but is not specifically addressing scoring. Some of the MMS recommendations may ultimately inform changes by the District, but that will be a separate discussion.

Disadvantaged Community Benefits

We need to see a more refined definition of a project providing a Disadvantaged Community Benefit that utilizes both qualitative and quantitative criteria. While qualitative metrics can be one way of capturing community needs and benefits, the SCWP also needs metrics that can be measured and monitored and used to hold projects to a standard of equity.

- This comment is in line with advice provided by the Equity in Stormwater Investment white paper. Questions of equity often are approached from a quantitative stance which can inhibit community led decision-making, if not designed very carefully. Project-by-project accountability is and will continue to be driven by comparing claimed to actual benefits between application and implementation. MMS plans to contribute recommendations that will allow SCWP to empower community voice, supporting more responsive project development, and program-level metrics that help understand the efficacy of the multiple ways the program is pursuing more equitable multi-benefit infrastructure investments.

Community concurrence through letters of support or surveys, for example, is key to validating claims of project benefits for disproportionately impacted communities.

- Thank you for this comment.

While the level of project funding in disproportionately impacted communities compared to Countywide can provide one view of whether investments are equitable, the SCWP should integrate approaches that can measure the magnitude of benefits to these community members.

- Thank you for this comment.

We support adjusting scoring criteria to reward projects that provide needed benefits to disproportionately impacted communities.

- Thank you for the comment, the MMS is providing recommendations for improved metrics and monitoring strategies, but is not specifically addressing scoring. Some of the MMS recommendations may ultimately inform changes by the District, but that will be a separate discussion.

Program Management

Both quantitative and qualitative criteria should be used to measure and monitor outcomes of SCWP projects over time and the program's progress toward equity goals.

- The MMS Team is charged with developing both project-level and programmatic metrics for evaluating SCWP success relative to the 14 Program Goals, many of which focus on realizing equitable distribution of SCWP benefits and investments.

Coordination across County agencies, including those engaged in Measures W, HHH, A, and M, can ensure multi-benefit investments, support broad community engagement, leverage the public sector workforce, and establish policies to prevent displacement and set strong labor and targeted hiring standards.

- Thank you for this comment. While the MMS is not specifically tasked with engaging across these other funding measures, we acknowledge that the outcomes of the study will likely support ongoing collaboration between the SCWP and other county efforts.

We look forward to your work improving the SCWP on behalf of LA County's communities.

- The MMS team thanks you for your input.

Bryan Matsumoto ([He, Him](#))

Program Manager

@lanatureforall: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)
LANatureforAll.org

Email 02 Received:

TO: Safe Clean Water Program Staff
Metrics & Monitoring Study Staff
Los Angeles County Flood Control District & Department of Public Works

FROM: ARLA Safe Clean Water Program Working Group

SUBJECT: Comments Regarding the First Round of Public Stakeholder Workshops

DATE: December 2, 2022

Dear Safe Clean Water Program and Metrics & Monitoring Study Staff: On behalf of ARLA Safe Clean Water Program Working Group, we are writing to provide our comments on the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS), specifically supporting the notion of strong community engagement and demonstration of community needs, while also reenforcing our belief in the need for clear metrics to demonstrate benefits are being achieved. Several members of the Working Group attended the first round of Public Stakeholder Workshops for the MMS on November 16 and 17, and we greatly appreciate the effort to seek diverse stakeholder input into this critical process to develop program methods, metrics and monitoring criteria. This is especially relevant as we approach the biennial review- a comprehensive assessment of how effectively the Safe Clean Water Program is meeting its goals. First, we were heartened to see the emphasis on community benefits deriving from a robust assessment of community needs. In fact, this aligns very closely with recommendation #6 (pages 38-39) in the Working Group's recommendations for the SCWP. While recommendation #6 is most on-point, the notion of strong community engagement and demonstration of needs can be seen throughout our recommendations (including #5).

That said, we are concerned about some of the comments that suggest a possible move away from the need for quantitative metrics for community benefits. While we applaud the interest in connecting community needs assessments to community benefits, we still believe that quantitative metrics are necessary to truly understand the magnitude of benefits that projects are claiming and provide a mechanism for tracking and measuring of progress to ensure needs are being met (see recommendation #1). In other words, even if a community needs assessment shows that a community wants projects that will reduce flood risks or provide more shade and greenspace, it is imperative that projects demonstrate that they will make a meaningful impact in addressing those needs, which requires clear metrics. We also want to stress that existing data from efforts like the LA Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment should be used as a starting point, especially in near-term funding rounds while a process for collecting information about community needs is being established. Then, an SCWP community needs assessment process can build upon these prior efforts (see recommendation #6). Data from existing efforts can provide invaluable information that can help demonstrate community needs. Even assessments that rely on more technical information (rather than community input or surveying) - such as heat index maps or CalEnviroScreen – can help inform community needs. In short, quantitative data is useful and should be considered in tandem with qualitative data when determining community needs.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We are happy to further discuss our position and discuss how metrics and quantification should be integrated into the framework that you are considering.

Sincerely,

ARLA's SCWP Working Group

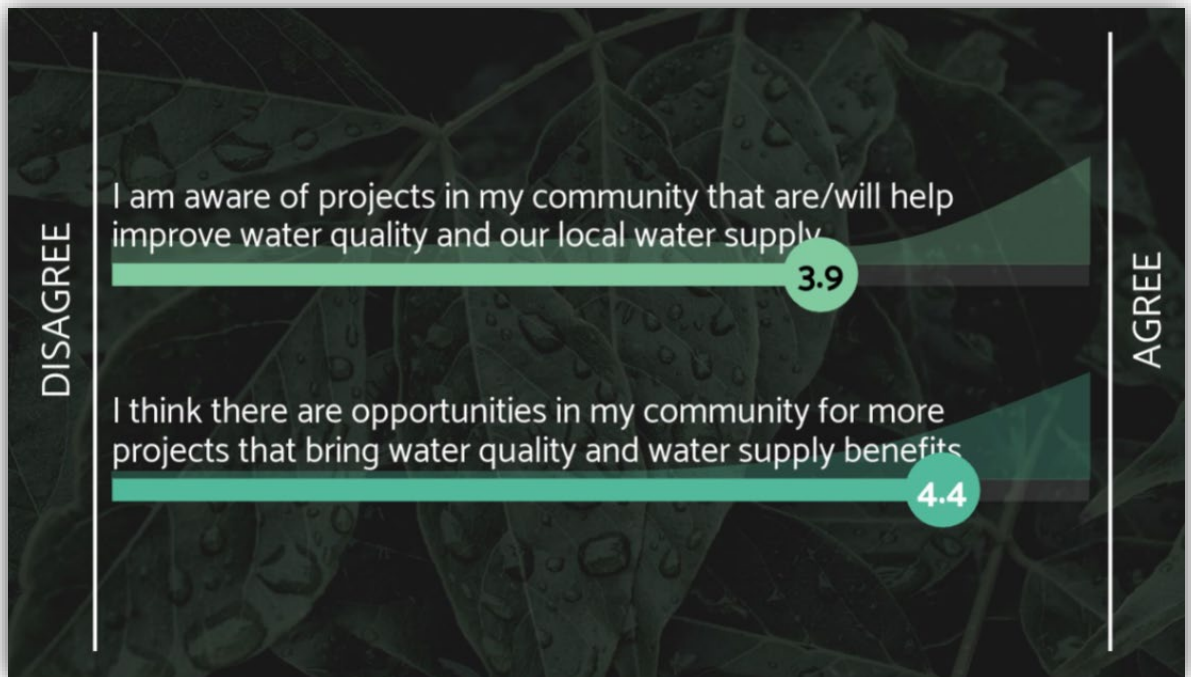
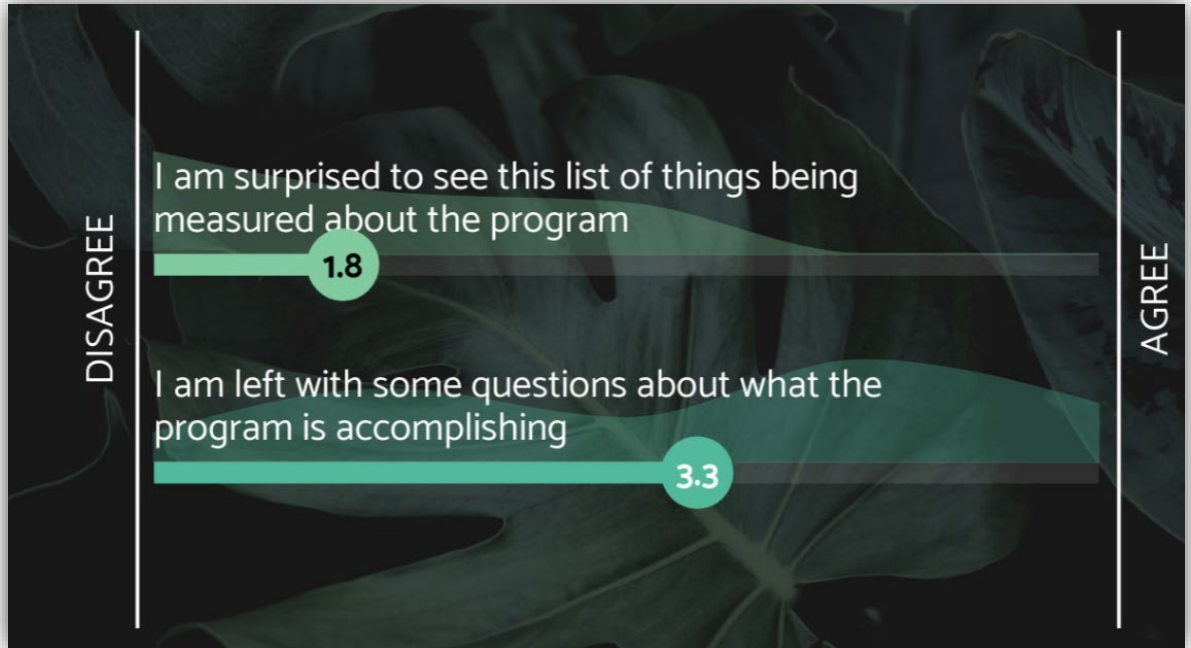
- Thank you for this response and thoughts regarding community investment benefits. How to best measure and the metrics associated with these benefits is an important part of the what the MMS is considering as part of the study. The consideration and evaluation of options is ongoing and expect more discussion to come.
- Much of these comments are in line with advice provided by the Equity in Stormwater Investment white paper. Questions of equity often are approached from a quantitative stance, which can inhibit community led decision-making, if not designed very carefully. Project-by-project accountability is and will continue to be driven by comparing claimed to actual benefits between application and implementation. MMS plans to contribute recommendations that will allow SCWP to empower community voice, supporting more responsive project development, and program-level metrics that help understand the efficacy of the multiple ways the program is pursuing more equitable multi-benefit infrastructure investments.

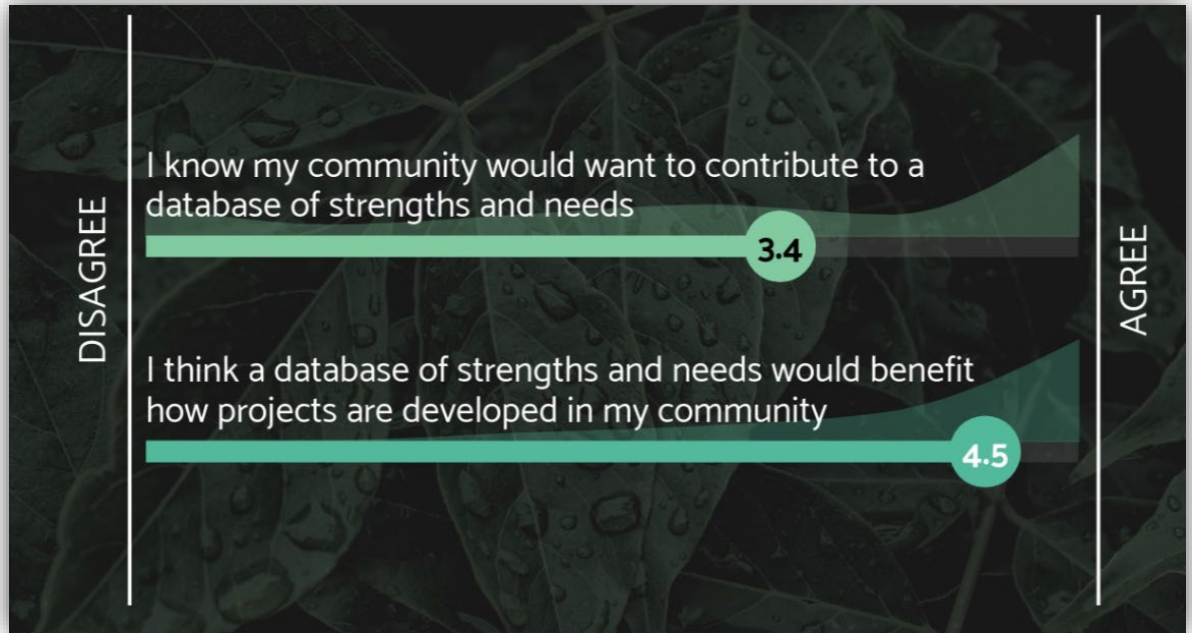
Menti Polling Results

Results Summary

Statement [Between Disagree (1) to Agree (5)]	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Average
I am surprised to see this list of things being measured about the program	1.8	1.8	1.8
I am left with some questions about what the program is accomplishing.	3.3	2.5	2.9
I am aware of projects in my community that are/will help improve water quality and our local water supply	3.9	3.8	3.85
I think there are opportunities in my community for more projects that bring water quality and water supply benefits.	4.4	4.6	4.5
I know my community would want to contribute to a database of strengths and needs.	3.4	3.6	3.5
I think a database of strengths and needs would benefit how projects are developed in my community.	4.5	4.4	4.45

Workshop 1:





Workshop 2:

