



FUNDING MEMO

To:	Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee	From:	Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team
Project:	Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project	Date:	October 23, 2023
Project Lead:	City of Lynwood	Call for Projects Year:	Round 5 FY24-25
Watershed Area:	Lower Los Angeles River	Project Location:	11301 Bullis Rd. Lynwood, CA 90262

Reference: Leverage Funding Memo for Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project

Leveraged funding is a key program goal in the Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance (Chapter 18.04). This and other Funding Memos are generated for all eligible newly submitted Safe, Clean Water Program Infrastructure Program projects in Round 5 FY24-25. The intent of this funding memo is to strengthen the identification of leverage funding sources and support WASCs in funding priorities and partial funding decisions. Below is a summary of the project benefits, overview of the funding request, potential sources of leverage funding for this project, and an assessment of funding competitiveness in those programs.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Project Application describes the project in this way:

The Lynwood Park site is owned and operated by the City of Lynwood and is located within the Lower Los Angeles River watershed. The project seeks to improve water quality discharged to the Lower Los Angeles River and will restore and rehabilitate areas of the park. The project proposes two stormwater diversion structures from two branches of the LACFCD East Compton Creek storm drains. The water captured will be filtered by hydrodynamic separators and infiltrated into a 10.3 AF underground storage reservoir. Additional features include parking lot enhancements (native landscaping, permeable pavement, and bioswales), an ephemeral stream, and a butterfly garden.

The treatment drainage area for the project at 955 acres captures runoff from the jurisdictions of Lynwood and South Gate. This project has the potential to offer runoff storage and water quality benefits for these jurisdictions that can address the additional needs for stormwater management identified to achieve compliance in the WMP.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The Project claims to provide the following benefits, as copied verbatim from the Project Application:

- Water Quality: Achieving Water quality goals along with the associated MS4 compliance is the primary need [for] the Lynwood City Park project. Lynwood City Park is identified in the LLAR WMP as a priority site in the multi-project effort of meeting the LLAR volume reduction goals to achieve required pollutant reductions. The LLAR WMP's Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA)



used the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) Watershed Management Modeling System to demonstrate that the activities and control measures outlined in the WMP will achieve applicable Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs) and/or Receiving Water Limits (RWLs). Modeling was performed to quantify necessary load reductions to achieve the milestones. Based on these load reduction targets, a pollutant reduction plan was established that outlines the types and sequencing of BMPs for each jurisdiction to achieve milestones throughout the schedule. The RAA provides a detailed list of the capacities needed for BMPs over time, incorporating the existing BMPs and control measures identified in the WMP. These recommendations serve as goals for each jurisdiction to seek opportunities for implementation over time. The limiting pollutant in the LLAR WMP was determined to be zinc as elaborated in the LLAR WMP and the RAA. Reductions of zinc during WMP implementation are expected to drive reduction of other pollutants by emphasizing sediment control and retention/infiltration.

Lynwood City Park was modeled using zinc as the limiting pollutant and is expected to capture 100% of the zinc and other pollutants during dry weather and over 231 pounds of zinc (combined wet and dry weather) on an annual average basis, as well as other water quality priorities such as organics and E. coli.

- Water Supply: The Lynwood City Park project can be expected to infiltrate as much as 25 acre-feet per year of stormwater, of which the intent will be to supplement the underlying Central Basin. While this is an appreciable amount, and is likely to positively affect the near-surface aquifers, communications with the Water Replenishment District during the design phase have indicated that this will not have a significant impact on the deeper aquifers of the potable groundwater supply.
- Flood Risk Mitigation: The system has detention capabilities that can contribute towards enhanced flood retention capabilities of the whole storm drain system.
- Park Space, Habitat, or Wetland Space: The installation of the underground structure will require the removal and replacement of the park surface including the soccer field and the parking lot. The project proposes to create three improved soccer field surfaces including freshly installed turf grass. Additionally, a new ephemeral stream will be installed along the edges of the field that is supplied by the captured stormwater.
- Public Access to Waterways: The construction of a new ephemeral stream will provide the local community with access to this waterway and create a watershed education opportunity regarding the contributions of this project towards protecting the water quality in the Los Angeles River.
- Recreational Opportunities: The project proposes an ephemeral bioretention stream and associated bird and butterfly garden that will create passive recreational opportunities for the park visitors.
- Create or Enhance Green Space at Schools: The adjacent school routinely (as in everyday) [uses the park for activities].
- Urban Heat & Shade: Landscape plans post construction include additional native trees, shrubs, and grasses to be installed at select spots impacted by the construction throughout the park. Additionally, an ephemeral bioretention stream and associated bird and butterfly garden will increase the on-site native vegetation that will provide additional shade and cooling effects. This vegetation and the addition of zero impervious surfaces for this project will contribute to reductions in the heat island effect.



- **Shade & Vegetation:** Native trees that are part of the post construction landscape plan will contribute to increased tree count and shade for the park. Special consideration will be made for the bird and butterfly garden area to increase the total tree count at the site.
- **Disadvantaged Community Benefit:** Lynwood City Park mainly serves as a recreational sports community park. In addition to stormwater treatment and infiltration, the project will ultimately improve the community's recreational experience by providing a new parking lot, new turf for soccer field, an ephemeral stream with a bird and butterfly garden, and native trees and shrubs.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEED FOR PROJECT

The Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project is currently requesting \$8,880,000 of Safe, Clean Water Program Round 5 funding for FY24-25. The Project is tentatively requesting a total of \$22,200,000 of Safe, Clean Water funding through FY28-29 for Construction. The Project's total cost is \$22,200,000 (Planning, Design, Bid/Award, and Construction).

The Project previously received \$1,691,629 in Safe, Clean Water Program funding in FY21-22 for Infrastructure Program – Design.

As disclosed in the Project Application, the Project Proponent has not leveraged external funding. The City of Lakewood is actively pursuing other funding sources but not likely to be finalized by the time of the Scoring Committee or WASC review.

- **Total SCW funding requested for FY24-25:** \$8,880,000
- **Total SCW funding awarded to date:** \$1,691,629 (Infrastructure Program – Design)
- **Total SCW funding requested:** \$22,200,000 (Infrastructure Program – Construction)
- **Total Infrastructure Project cost:** \$23,891,629 (Infrastructure Program – Planning, Design, Bid/Award, Construction)
- **Cost share and/or existing funding already leveraged:** None

	Year 1 – Current Ask	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Future Funds	Total Request
Request	\$8,880,000	\$8,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$2,186,502	\$ 133,498	\$ --	\$ 22,200,000
Phase	Construction	Construction	Construction	Construction	Construction	N/A	

Status and schedule of project:

- **Date of completion of Project planning and design:** 08/2024
- **Anticipated date of completion of Project construction:** 06/2029

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding/grant program opportunities align with the Lynwood Park Stormwater Capture Project. Funding/grant program opportunities are categorized into topic areas based on the claimed project benefits in the Safe, Clean Water Program project application. Each funding/grant program listed includes an assessment of the project's funding competitiveness in its description.



Funding competitiveness assessments will fall under three levels:

- **Strong:** The Project has a strong potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project provides numerous benefits and aligns strongly with the funding program's goals and priorities.
- **Moderate:** The Project has a moderate potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project features some benefits that align with the funding program's focus.
- **Low:** The Project has a low potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project features a benefit that aligns with the funding program's focus but does not directly align with funding priorities.

RECREATION & GREEN SPACE

[Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District's County Neighborhood Parks and Healthy Communities, Urban Greening Program – Measure A Annual Allocations Grant Programs](#)

funds planning and implementation projects that promote community-based park investments, neighborhood parks, healthy communities, and urban greening. Eligible projects must be located in a high-need or very-high-need study area as outlined in the County's Parks Needs Assessment. Applications are rolling with no deadline. The annual allocations grant program is funded annually by 13 percent of the Measure A expenditure plan and is replenished each fall. There is no cost-share requirement.

The Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project has a **strong potential** to be competitive for this program given the multi-benefits claimed by the Project Applicant. As stated in the Safe, Clean Water Project Application, the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project will provide recreational benefits by enhancing neighborhood park amenities, such as replacing soccer fields and increasing active and passive recreational spaces throughout the park. These benefits align well with Los Angeles County's Regional Parks and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Neighborhood Parks and Health Communities, Urban Greening Program's goals. As stated in the Safe, Clean Water Project Application Section 5.1, the Project is also located in a severely disadvantaged community and in a very-high-need park area, according to the 2016 Parks Needs Assessment, and thus strongly aligns with the RPOSD program's funding priorities.

URBAN HEAT

[Integrated Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Program's \(ICARP\) Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant Program](#) funds planning and implementation projects that reduce the impacts of extreme heat and build community resilience. The Program will build frameworks for change and invest in local, regional, and tribal projects that strengthen communities that are vulnerable to heat. The ICARP program plans to award a total of \$36 million in grants for the first funding round, with 40% of total funds allocated to planning grants and 60% of total funds for implementation grants.

Draft Grant Guidelines were released on October 12, 2023, and the following information is subject to change in the Final Grant Guidelines. The ICARP Program's funding award amounts categories are: Small Planning Grants (\$100,000 and \$250,000), Large Planning Grants (\$300,000 and \$750,000), Small Implementation Grants (\$100,000 and \$450,000), and Large Implementation Grants (\$500,000 and \$5 million). No match funding is required. Draft Guidelines were released on October 12, 2023.

Implementation grants may fall under four tracks: Track A) Build Public Awareness and Notification, Track B) Strengthen Community Services and Response, Track C) Increase Resilience of Our Build Environment, and Track D) Utilize Nature-based Solutions.



FUNDING MEMO

The Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project has a *moderate potential* to be competitive for this funding program, according to urban heat benefits claimed by the Project Applicant. The Project aligns with nature-based solutions.

Funding programs change frequently. The above identified funding opportunities are initial recommendations, and further research should verify project-specific eligibility requirements, latest funding levels, and appropriate timelines. Use the links above to research these programs further. If you are unsure about your project eligibility or competitiveness, reaching out to program coordinators via contact emails or webinars is a good way to get your questions answered. The [California Grants Portal](#) and [California Financing Coordinating Committee Funding Fairs](#) can serve as resources to identify additional funding opportunities.

Questions can be asked of the [Watershed Coordinator](#) or the [Regional Coordination Team](#).