



Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report

A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: Santa Clara River
Watershed Coordinator: TreePeople
WC Contact: abegley@treepeople.org / petermassey@treepeople.org

Quarterly Report No: 2
Contract Year: 3
Year 2 Contract Start: 4/27/2023
Date of Submission: 11/13/2023
Period Covered: 8/1 to 10/31/23

A. Summary of Activities

The following is a summary of activities completed during the second quarter of Contract Year 3, and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work. TreePeople is honored and grateful to continue service as Coordinator for the Santa Clara River Watershed Area.

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

TreePeople supported efforts by SCVWA and the Watershed Wide Arundo Management Group to identify funding sources to pay for centralized, multi-year coordination of invasive species removal and to help define a Watershed-wide management structure for those engaged in restoration. Three funding opportunities were researched during the period, and two applications submitted - one to NOAA for \$32M and another to Newhall Foundation for enhanced engagement in Newhall. Both were declined during the period, though Newhall Foundation encouraged a new request early in 2024. The Bureau of Reclamation was also researched as a source, and a proposal will be submitted in December.

TreePeople met with the City of Santa Clarita to support the design of the Via Princess Park project, specifically discussing the education and interpretive elements. We scheduled a visit to TreePeople's headquarters and a meeting with our education specialists for the next reporting period.

TreePeople also continued a key strategy used throughout Years One and Two, leveraging the WaterTalks program to develop projects and programs for unincorporated areas in the watershed. These projects and highlights include:

- Septic System Evaluation and Support: a virtual training on septic system maintenance and management was held Aug 17, presented by Rural Community Assistance Corporation RCAC.
- Small Water System Partnerships: the Coordinators and WaterTalks partner Stantec hosted an information session on SB552 requirements for small water systems, on Sept. 26. Close to a dozen small systems were represented, and the session included staff from DWR, State Water Board and LA County Public Works to share how each can be of service to small systems.
- Acton Flooding Multi-Benefit Solution: TreePeople and Stantec shared initial findings with multiple staffers from LA County Public Works on Oct 30. The final Report of Recommendations will be shared with County staff and local residents in the next reporting period.
- Tataviam Land Conservancy: The Water Resources Inventory is with the Conservancy pending their final approval. At their request, we added a new task to provide a Phase 1 ESA for new property under consideration for the Conservancy.

2. Partnerships and networks engaged

In this period, we worked with the collective of Watershed Coordinators across the SCWP. This included our participation as a co-host in the Stormwater and Schools Tour (education event) at Victory Blvd Elementary School in North Hollywood. Sandra Cattell, a member of the SCR WASC, attended the Oct 24 event. The next tour is scheduled for Nov 17 at Northridge Middle School and several more in the coming months.

We leveraged education programs designed through WaterTalks to help increase the knowledge of Town Council and Coalition members around local water issues through the SB552 and Septic workshops. Much of our focus continued to be on meetings related to both education and project development with Town Councils and NGOs, including the Watershed-Wide Arundo Management Group (WWAM) and the SCV Eco Alliance, formed last year. The Alliance has been planning an inaugural Eco Film Festival, which has now been slated for March of 2024.

3. Engagement of conventional and unconventional stakeholders

- Working with the Placerita Canyon Nature Center to develop a watershed education and SCWP awareness-building docent training to be hosted in March 2024.
- Waters of Bouquet: TreePeople supported the Watershed Committee for Bouquet Canyon meeting on Sept 5 focused on the historic challenges to groundwater supply for local residents in Bouquet Canyon.
- Continued participation in the College of the Canyons Sustainability Committee composed of multiple college departments and its potential connection to the SCV Eco Alliance.

- To support river wide Arundo management and restoration, we continue meeting with the Santa Clara River Watershed Steering Committee (primarily Ventura County) and the Steelhead Trout Coalition. Both entities provide “watershed coordinators” for various river-related goals.
- We meet monthly with other Watershed Coordinators to learn from each other, improve our knowledge and skills, and leverage efforts. Recent topics included the Coordinators’ process and Engaging Tribal communities.
- TreePeople continued to serve on the SCWP Metrics and Monitoring Stakeholder Advisory Committee, attending public meetings to gain feedback on the Metrics and Monitoring Study recommendations.
- We’ve continued on an advisory group for Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) who is developing community-led design computer tools. Residents can indicate on a map where they would like water infrastructure projects and other improvements, and the tool calculates potential benefits.
- Major tabling events this period include the Tataviam Cultural Night in Canyon Country, Tataviam Hart Park Pow Wow, Cal Arts Eco Expo (3 days) and the Santa Clarita River Rally.
- To support the WASC during the period, TreePeople provided a Quarter 1 Report and shared a draft version of a mobile education display for their feedback.
- Amanda Begley was interviewed on the September 22nd episode of AirTalk with Larry Mantle regarding the upcoming El Nino season and potential for stormwater capture through both the SCWP and best management practices for residential homeowners.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Summary (required elements)

Element	Minimum	This Qtr.	Total YTD
Engagement meetings held	4	14	24
Educational events held	2	3	8
Other meetings attended	0	41	76
Cost-share partner relationships	0	3	6
Leveraged funding pursuits	0	2	2

Detail

Mtg #	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?
1	Newhall FM	8.5.23	Tabling Event	Residents	Hosted table
2	WWAM	8.9.23	Restoration funding	Stillwater, UCSB	Hosted
3	Acton TC	8.7.23	SCWP updates	Members	Attended
4	Val Verde Civic Association	8.10.23	SCWP updates	Members	Attended
5	Tataviam Cultural Night Canyon Country	8.11.23	Tabling Event	Public, Tribal members	Hosted table

6	WC Schools Working Group	8.15.23	Sustainable Schools tour	Coordinators	Attended
7	SCWP Credit Trading workshop	8.16.23	Credit trading program	Multiple	Attended
8	Lee Alexanderson	8.16.23	Briefing on SCWP, WaterTalks	Lee	Hosted
9	Castaic TC	8.16.23	SCWP updates	Members	Attended
10	WASC	8.17.23	New projects	WASC, public	Presented
11	RCAC Training	8.17.23	Septic system training (WT)	Local residents	Co-hosted
12	SCV Community Gardens Council	8.19.23	Water management	Members	Attended
13	SCWP MMS SAC	8.24.23	Metrics comments review, NBS	Committee members	Attended
14	SCV Eco Alliance	8.25.23	Film Fest planning	Members	Attended
15	WWAM Mtg	8.30.23	Restoration mgmt. funding	Members	Attended
16	CASGEM webinar	8.30.23	Workforce Dev.	Interested parties	Attended
17	SCWP ROC	8.31.23	Biennial Review	NGOs, agencies, public	Attended
18	Bridgeport Park Sustainable Landscape Demonstration Garden	9.01.23	Opening Ceremony	Public	Attended
19	Bouquet Canyon Water Committee Meeting	9.05.23	Creek Restoration	Local community	Attended
20	SCV Eco Alliance	9.08.23	Film Fest planning	Members	Attended
21	Citizens Climate Lobby	9.09.23	Local climate issues	members	Attended
22	Schools & Stormwater Working Group	9.12.23	Schools tour planning	Coordinators	Attended
23	Agua Dulce TC	9.13.23	SCWP update	Local community	Attended
24	Sierra Club	9.14.23	SCWP update	Local community	Attended
25	SC River Rally	9.16.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
26	Acton TC	9.18.23	SCWP update	Community	Attended
27	Castaic TC	9.20.23	SCWP update	Local community	Attended
28	SCV Eco Alliance	9.22.23	Film Fest planning	Members	Attended

29	Cal Arts Eco Expo Day 1	9.22.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
30	Cal Arts Eco Expo Day 2	9.23.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
31	Natl Lands Day	9.23.23	St. Francis Dam Clean up	Public	Attended
32	Cal Arts Eco Expo Day 3	9.24.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
33	Sustainable Development Committee COC	9.26.23	Film Fest planning	Members	Attended
34	Steelhead Coalition	9.27.23	SCWP update	Member orgs	Attended
35	Watershed Coordinators monthly mtg	9.27.23	Future planning	Coordinators	Attended
36	Schools & Stormwater Working Group	9.29.23	Schools tour planning	Coordinators	Attended
37	Tataviam Pow Wow Hart Park	9.30.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
38	Tataviam Pow Wow Hart Park	10.01.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
39	SCR GSA BOD	10.01.23	Board actions	BOD	Attended
40	Acton TC	10.02.23	SCWP update	Community	Attended
41	WWAM	10.04.23	Task 7 updates	Members	Attended
42	SCV Eco Alliance	10.06.23	Event planning	Members	Attended
43	Stantec	10.09.23	WC Meeting Prep	Staff	Attended
44	ADTC	10.11.23	SCWP updates	Community	Attended
45	MMS Public Review	10.11.23	Study review and discussion	Public	Attended
46	VPP Interpretation	10.12.23	Education brainstorm, VPP	City, designers	Attended
47	Acton TC	10.16.23	SCWP updates	Community	Attended
48	Schools & SW Working Group	10.17.23	School Tour	Coordinators	Co-hosted
49	Castaic TC	10.18.23	SCWP updates	Community	Attended
50	WASC meeting	10.19.23	Mobile Display presentation	Members, public	Attended
51	Lakes School Fall Festival	10.21.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
52	Leona Valley Oktoberfest	10.22.23	SCWP outreach	Public	Table host
53	Schools & SW Tour #1 Victory Blvd ES	10.24.23	SW BMPs on campuses	Public	Co-hosted

54	WWAM mtg	10.25.23	Task 7 updates	Members	Attended
55	W Coordinators	10.25.23	Tribal engagement	Coordinators	Hosted
56	Ventura SCR Watershed Comm mtg	10.26.23	SCWP updates	Members	Attended
57	ROC	10.26.23	Biennial Report	Public	Attended
58	State of the City	10.26.23	City of SC Annual Update event	Public	Attended

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	ATTCH #
1	SGC RCC (review of guidelines)	12.2022 (Round 1)	SCR Regional Climate Collaborative (Round 2)	funder	
2	Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation	9.15.23	Newhall Tree Distribution / engagement	funder	
3	State Coastal Conservancy	9.28.23	Funding webinar	Funder	

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	ATTCH #
1	NOAA	LOI submitted in August; learned Oct 13 we're not invited for a full proposal	
2	SGC RCC program	Reviewed grant; decided not to reapply this cycle	
3	Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation	Proposal submitted 9.15.23; asked to reapply in 2024	

E. Detailed Progress Report

Task #	Task Name	LOE per Work Plan	LOE this period	LOE YTD
1	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	50%	72%	78%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	10%	5%	8%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	5%	0%	0%
4	Facilitate, ID and Represent Community Priorities	5%	0%	0%
5	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships / Networks	5%	1%	2%
6	Cost-Share Partners	5%	0%	1%
7	Leverage Funding	5%	8%	4%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	4%	4%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	5%	10%	11%
	Overall	100%	100%	100%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

TreePeople made initial contact with Elizabeth Arambula, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor for the City of Santa Clarita, and will meet soon to discuss how we might connect to non-environmental organizations in the city that serve Disadvantaged Communities. We continued outreach at the Newhall and Canyon Country Farmers Markets (both are deemed Disadvantage Communities by CA Dept of Water Resources definitions) as well as Tribal outreach events. 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.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

There were no scheduling concerns during this period.

H. Expected activities next quarter

- Continue development of a mobile display of the SCR for outreach and education.
- Support for Via Princessa Park educational components
- Participate in the TAT for the Jake Kuredjian Park project
- Support remaining technical assistance projects through the WaterTalks program and assist in distribution of products, reports and other findings as appropriate.

(End Report)