

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, October 3, 2023
1:00pm – 3:00pm
City Hall of Culver City, Patacchia Room
9770 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
EJ Caldwell, West Basin Metropolitan Water District (Agency)
*Art Castro, LA Department of Water and Power (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, LA City Recreation & Parks (Agency)
*Cecilia Mokler, PSOMAS (Community)
*Gloria Medina, The Solutions Project/SCOPE (Community)
Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper (Community)
Edgar Campos, T.R.U.S.T. South LA (Community)
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills (Municipal)
Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)
Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal), Co-Chair
*Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Curtis Castle, Santa Monica (Municipal)
Mikaela Randolph, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Michelle Struthers, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Absent Committee Members

Rita Kampalath, LA County Chief Sustainability Office (Community), Co-Chair
Sheila Brice, LA City Sanitation and Environment (Agency)
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx for participants joining online. Susie Santilena, Co-Chair of the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, shared a few housekeeping items, and called the meeting to order.

District staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. District staff and all Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 1, 2023

Member Bruce Reznik made a motion to approve, seconded by Member Curtis Castle. The Committee voted to approve the August 1, 2023 minutes, with 9 votes in favor, 4 votes in abstention, and 1 member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



3) Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- The Round 5 Call for Projects deadline was on July 31. Preliminarily, applications for 21 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, 5 Technical Resources Program (TRP) concepts, and 4 Scientific Studies (SS) were submitted to the SCW Program. Within the CSMB WASC, there were 1 IP, 1 TRP, and 3 SS applications. The Scoring Committee will soon begin scoring projects over the course of multiple meetings between October and December.
- Regional Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Quarter 4 (April through June) reports were due on August 15, and are required to be submitted even if there was no project activities for the quarter. Project developers may be asked to give an update at a future meeting.
- FY23-24 Quarter 1 (July – September) reports are due on November 15.
- Municipal Program Annual Reports are due on December 31, 2023. This report should cover activities between July 2022 through July 2023. Any expenditures or activities that deviate from the corresponding Annual Plans must be noticed to the District and should include appropriate justifying information.
- Regional Infrastructure Program Project Developers and Municipalities reporting on Projects should keep the Reporting Module updated, including adding all phases of the project to the schedule and adding Bid and Award details for projects. This will allow the public to see estimated construction dates and potential future bid opportunities.
- FY 23-24 Transfer Agreements and Addendums will begin soon. An email will be sent with instructions on how to use the new Transfer Agreement functionality within the Reporting Module. In the meantime, Project Developers should begin preparing their supporting documents for upload (Scope of Work, Authorizations, CEQA documents) as applicable.
- On July 25, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion authored by Supervisor Horvath to “Accelerate Implementation of the SCW Program”. The three actions in the motion include: 1) watershed planning, 2) simplified application process, and 3) resources and staffing for dedicated adaptive management. The report back to the Board is being drafted in parallel with the Regional Oversight Committee’s (ROC) Biennial Report.
- The ROC is preparing the Biennial Report and has been meeting to discuss the draft report and initiating the public comment period. The next ROC meetings are on October 26 and December 7. Meeting details can be found on the SCW Program website.
- The Board’s Commission Services Division is working to fill the Community Stakeholder seats by the end of the year. Existing members who occupy Community Stakeholder seats who no longer wish to serve should notify the District, or will otherwise continue to serve new members are appointed.

Member Gloria Medina clarified with District staff that existing Community Stakeholder Members were already added to the Board’s list of potential candidates.

Member Josette Descalzo clarified with District staff that the Transfer Agreements/Addendums mentioned were for Regional Program funds, but that Municipal Program funds can also be expected to be executed by the end of the year. District staff noted that Municipal Program Annual Reports should be completed to prevent delays in any Transfer Agreements or Addendums.

Chair Santilena requested that District staff review the Regional Program’s Annual Report requirements at the next meeting.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Mikaela Randolph gave an update on recent engagement efforts. Watershed Coordinators elevated the SCW Program at various Coastal Clean Up Day events held in LA County between September 16 through September 24. These events had over 7000 volunteers and included trash cleanups in both inland and coastal communities; over 16,000 pounds of trash was collected.

Through collaboration with other Watershed Coordinators, a series of school stormwater tours are being planned, with the first occurring on October 24 at Victory Elementary School. The purpose of these tours is to highlight the opportunity for schools and school districts to manage stormwater on campuses and implement climate change resilience strategies, such as permeable pavement. CSMB-specific tours are being planned for January.

Watershed Coordinator Michelle Struthers shared about the upcoming 2nd Ballona Creek Regional Coordination Meeting on October 17.

5) Public Comment Period

No comment cards were received before the meeting and there were no public comments during the meeting.

6) Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications disclosed.

b) FY24-25 – Round 5 – Projects Summary

By Watershed Coordinators, Mikaela Randolph & Michelle Struthers

Watershed Coordinators presented a summary of the Round 5 project applications. Later in today's meeting the Committee will vote on if they want to advance the one submitted IP project application to the Scoring Committee for evaluation.

The Projects Module on the SCW Program website has all the submitted project applications, which Committee Members can review. Watershed Coordinators are presenting the information received from the Projects Module. More specific questions may be asked at later WASC meetings when the applicants present on their projects, concepts, and studies.

The ***Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project*** is an IP project proposed by the City of Los Angeles Department of Sanitation and Environment. The Project is a wet weather project utilizing biofiltration and infiltration wells. The total SCW Program funding request is around \$9 million, with a 17% cost share from City of Los Angeles Municipal Funds, and an estimated completion date of June 2029. The applicant previously applied for funding for this project during the Round 4 Call for Projects but did not advance then due to the Scoring Committee's inability to score the water quality sections with the documentation included in the application.

This year, the project applicant has shifted the project area to east of La Brea, where groundwater has not been encountered, thus addressing the main issue of technical feasibility. The number of drywells, square footage of bioswales, and total drainage area all increased compared to the numbers included in the previous Round 4 application. The Project is also now located within a disadvantaged community, includes a detailed outreach and engagement plan, and has obtained additional letters of support.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza is a TRP project concept proposed by the City of West Hollywood to transform asphalt hardscape into permeable pavers, planters, and large planted structures. The applicant intends to use SCW Program TRP funding to explore the feasibility of incorporating stormwater capture elements in the project, which are not currently included. The concept proponents became aware of the SCW Program through conversations with the Watershed Coordinators; proponents were encouraged to investigate stormwater capture opportunities.

The **Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity** is a SS study proposed by California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The study applicant is requesting just under \$5 million. This study is requesting funding from each of the SCW Program's nine WASCs and plans to have a project site within at least one Municipality per Watershed Area. The objective is to assess drywell approaches, maintenance practices, and infiltration capacity over time, among other drywell related parameters.

The **Street Sweeping Study** is a SS proposed by the City of Los Angeles. The study is applying for funding in the CSMB, South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB), and Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASCs. The funding request totals \$975,000 for all three watersheds, with around \$174,000 from the CSMB WASC. Anticipated benefits include potential enhancements to street sweeping to remove pollutants from street surfaces, potential improved sweeper effectiveness by testing new or different sweeping equipment. The study will characterize street pollutant levels and accumulation rates.

The **Pollutant Source Characterization Study** is a SS, proposed by the City of Los Angeles, and is applying for funding in the CSMB, SSMB, and ULAR WASCs, requesting a total of \$3,500,000 for all three watersheds; approximately \$623,000 is being requested from the CSMB WASC. The expected benefits include the configuration and calibration of water quality models, which will optimize source control best management practices. There are opportunities for workforce development and community awareness through continuing relationships with community organizations.

Chair Santilena thanked the Watershed Coordinators for the project summaries and urged Committee Members to also read through each application to identify specific questions for project applicants, who will be invited to future meetings to present.

Member Castle inquired about the process that the Watershed Coordinators went through to recruit **The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza** applicant. The Watershed Coordinators often attend various municipal, community, or city council meetings to stay aware of proposed projects. The project proponent was presenting at a community meeting and the Watershed Coordinators followed up, fostering a relationship with the project proponent and informing them of SCW Program opportunities.

Member Reznik noted that LA Waterkeeper is always interested in how to effectively leverage funding and confirmed with Watershed Coordinator Struthers that the TRP project is also having active conversations with LA Metro given its proximity to planned transit lines. The project proponent is also in discussion with California Wildlife Board given the habitat space planned atop of the structures. Municipal cost sharing is also planned. Finding funding matches is a priority, and the project proponent will seek out leveraged funding to offset the expensive project. Member Reznik will follow up with the Watershed Coordinators about integrating different programs, mentioning the Ballona Creek Project's bike path.

Member EJ Caldwell echoed the comments made about integrating the various agencies and programs that exist within LA County. There are many funding opportunities for people to partner together. For the TRP project specifically, there are many opportunities to partner with water districts given the project's elements, such as cisterns, trees, and pervious pavement. Metropolitan Water District serves portions of West Hollywood, and the rest are served by other water purveyors. There are existing opportunities to maximize cost sharing.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Member Medina clarified with the Committee that the ***Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project*** did not move forward last round mainly due to the technical infeasibility and not because of the lack of engagement. The updated application does include a detailed outreach and engagement plan, which includes evidence of past engagement efforts as well as planned engagement. Member Reznik, who also serves on the Scoring Committee, provided a distinction between projects that are unable to reach the passing scoring threshold because of a lack of community engagement points versus projects that are not able to be scored by the technical experts on the Scoring Committee due to the design of the project components. This IP project fell into the latter category.

Member Reznik made a general note expressing the difficulty of evaluating community engagement and outreach for projects applying for planning, design, and construction funding all at once. A project applying for only planning or design phase funding may only need an engagement plan, however, a project applying for construction should have demonstrated proof of engagement activities that occurred throughout the project.

The Committee had a discussion whether Committee Members can reach out to project applicants prior to the project presentations, which would allow project applicants to include answers to those questions in the presentation. Typically, project applicants are given a standard template for the presentation. Chair Santilena noted that ex parte communications would need to be considered. Additionally, many project applicants attend the WASC meetings as participants, so Committee Members could voice questions during the meeting for project applicants to hear and potentially respond to during public comment. The Watershed Coordinators can also serve as an avenue of communication, given that Watershed Coordinators are non-voting members of the Committee.

Member Edgar Campos clarified with District staff that the water quality benefit of 100% trash removal stems from established total maximum daily loads (TMDL) for pollutants that commonly exist in stormwater. Trash is often chosen as the secondary pollutant and is based on capturing 100% of the trash as specified in the TDML requirements.

The Committee discussed ***The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza*** TRP's accountability given rising costs. Member Campos mentioned the concern of ensuring that the Project's vendors do not have a history of going over budget. Some Committee Members noted that the Project is currently only applying for TRP funds, and that if the Project were to return for IP funding, then quarterly reporting would be a mechanism to ensure accountability for how the Project spends its funds. The cost effectiveness metric in the IP application would also highlight the Project's intended use for funds for water related benefits. Additionally, Member Castle mentioned that the project proponent and District would most likely enter a Memorandum of Understanding, which guarantees the County funds be returned if the project is not completed in the terms stipulated.

Member Geremew Amenu brought up a concern that for projects applying for planning, design, and construction, it is difficult to accurately account for rising costs for later phases of the project. This unpredictability would mean that the total projected cost may differ between when a project applies for TRP funding and when it returns for IP funding. District staff clarified that not all IP projects are required to go through the TRP prior to IP submittal of an IP application. Also, funding requests are evaluated by experienced professionals on a case-by-case basis that determine if the requested funding is reasonable. Quarterly reporting for IP projects is also a way the Committee can receive regular updates, including those regarding cost. Chair Santilena also noted that some project proponents pay for the increased cost themselves or find additional funding.

Member Medina confirmed with District staff that project applicants will present at the November meeting and are not required to attend in person.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



c) Advancing IP Project to Scoring Committee

Member Castle shared support for the *The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza* project concept and would like to see further detail on the 100% trash removal benefit, noting that specific trash separating devices were not mentioned in the summary description. District staff noted that each application does undergo a completeness check where District staff verify benefits claimed.

Member Descalzo confirmed with Committee Members that the project cost may include some operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. Several Committee Members noted that the cost may be low, depending on how many years of O&M costs are included.

d) Presentation: Highlights from LA Waterkeeper's SCWP Research Showcase By Watershed Coordinators, Mikaela Randolph & Michelle Struthers

The Watershed Coordinators shared a presentation on highlights from LA Waterkeeper's SCWP Research Showcase in July. Participants included Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), UCLA Luskin Center, Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA), and Our Water LA. A comprehensive event recap and links to all cited research is available on LA Waterkeeper's website.

The highlights from the Research Showcase include:

- A consensus on hardscape removal and new green space
- Recommendations for adaptive management of scoring and metrics monitoring
- Reactive/proactive approach of the program, importance of watershed wide planning

The Watershed Coordinators also mentioned SCOPE's report on equitable implementation, the link model to create new and improved parks in underserved communities, and ARLA's SCW Program Working Group's watershed modeling findings, which concluded that community assessments should be conducted and that projects in a watershed should be planned in conjunction with each other to maximize benefits, which may look different for each watershed.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the slides presented by the Watershed Coordinators incorrectly implied that Stantec Consulting was involved at the SCWP Research Showcase.

Watershed Coordinator Randolph mentioned that the SCW Program's commitment to adaptive management was very apparent at the Research Showcase, considering all the research being done to evaluate and offer beneficial updates to the SCW Program.

Member Reznik noted that LA Waterkeeper assessed the SCW Program after Round 3 which highlighted the exemplary projects that came out of the SCW Program. Member Reznik expressed the SCW Program currently lacks in its objective to provide green space and remove hardscape, and that a proactive approach specific to each watershed is important. For example, the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) might not be suitable for many water supply projects, so project applicants should focus on greening projects; other watersheds may benefit from a different combination of project features.

Watershed Coordinator Struthers emphasized the Research Showcase's recommendation about each watershed finding its "watershed signature," noting how the WASC discussed strategic planning at the last meeting. This master planning aligns with the Board's recent motion, along with projects that exist in other watersheds that tackle strategic planning, such as LLAR and Lower San Gabriel River's Gateway Authority Pathfinding Analysis and ULAR's preSIP study.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Member Darryl Ford added a perspective focusing on open space, mentioning how the SCW Program has historically had projects located within existing open space or improving existing open space. The SCW Program should capitalize on its ability to create new open space, which may include larger challenges, and dollar amounts, related to land acquisition. Member Ford expressed this discussion needs to be included in adaptive management conversations, especially regarding a metric to adequately evaluate greening projects. The current cost effectiveness score for IP projects typically punishes greening projects. Member Ford noted this sentiment has been echoed by municipalities and NGOs alike in the past, and the SCW Program needs to address how to better evaluate greening projects.

e) Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) Follow-up

Chair Santilena opened the floor for any follow up comments, questions, regarding the SOEP presented last meeting. There was no additional discussion.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Voting Items

a) Approve the FY23-24 SOEP

Member Descalzo motioned to approve the FY23-24 SOEP, seconded by Member Reznik. The motion was approved, with 13 votes in favor and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

b) Approve advancing IP Project to Scoring Committee

Member Castle motioned to advance the FY24-25 *Baldwin Vista Green Streets* IP Project to the Scoring Committee, seconded by Member Ford. The motion was approved, with 13 votes in favor and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

9) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 1:00pm – 3:00pm and will be hybrid, held in person at Culver City Hall and online via WebEx. See SCWP website for meeting details. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) FY23-24 Q3 & Q4 Quarterly Reporting Summary
- b) Round 5 Project, Concept, and Scientific Studies Presentations
- c) Regional Program Annual Reports

District staff noted that Committee Members can send agenda items to be added to future meetings.

District staff shared onscreen how to access the quarterly reporting module by hovering over the “Projects Dashboard” tab and clicking the “Reporting” tab. New Committee Members can send District staff an email for login information. Public members can view quarterly reports for an existing project by hovering over the “Projects Dashboard” tab and clicking the “Dashboard” tab. Users then select a project and view the quarterly reports linked on the popup that opens.

Member Reznik noted that discussions on proactive approach should be conducted by the WASC.

Regional Coordinator Mike Antos noted that there are two Metrics and Monitoring Study public sessions planned for October 11 at 10:30am -12:00pm and 5:00pm – 6:30pm.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



10) Adjournment

Co-Chair Santilena thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - October 3, 2023

| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Items | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Member Type | Organization | Primary Member | Attendance: In-person ("x" for present) | Alternate Member | Attendance: In-person ("x" for present) | Approval of 08/01/23 Meeting Minutes | Approval of FY23-24 Watershed Coordinator SOEP | Advance the FY24-25 IP Project to Scoring Committee |
| Agency | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | Marcela Benavides | x | Mark Beltran | | Y | Y | Y |
| Agency | West Basin Municipal Water District | E.J. Caldwell | x | Matthew Veeh | | Not Present | Y | Y |
| Agency | Los Angeles City Water & Power | Delon Kwan | | Art Castro | x | Y | Y | Y |
| Agency | Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment | Sheila Brice | | Hubertus Cox | | | | |
| Agency | Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks | Cathie Santo Domingo | | Darryl Ford | x | Y | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office | Rita Kampalath | | Rebecca Ferdman | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | PSOMAS / Business Sector | Alysen Weiland | | Cecilia Mokler | x | A | A | A |
| Community Stakeholder | The Solutions Project / SCOPE | Gloria Walton | | Gloria Medina | x | Y | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Los Angeles Waterkeeper | Bruce Reznik | x | Maggie Gardner | | Y | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | T.R.U.S.T. South LA | Edgar Campos | x | Kiara Phillips | | A | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Beverly Hills / West Hollywood | Josette Descalzo | x | Matthew Magener | | Y | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Culver City | Sean Singletary | x | Yanni Demitri | | Y | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Los Angeles | Roberto Perez | x | | | A | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Los Angeles | Rafael Prieto | | Blayne Sutton-Wills | x | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Municipal Members | Los Angeles | Susie Santilena | x | Ryan Jackson | | Y | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Los Angeles County | Bruce Hamamoto | | Geremew Amenu | x | A | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Santa Monica | Curtis Castle | x | Selim Eren | | Y | Y | Y |
| Watershed Coordinator | Heal the Bay | Mikaela Randolph | x | | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Watershed Coordinator | SGA Marketing | Michelle Struthers | x | | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | | 17 | | | Yay (Y) | 9 | 13 | 13 |
| Total Voting Members Present | | 15 | | | Nay (N) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Agency | | 4 | | | Abstain (A) | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 4 | | | Total | 13 | 14 | 14 |
| Municipal Members | | 7 | | | | Approved | Approved | Approved |



Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: October 3, 2023

| Member Type | Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Role | Signature |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| Agency | Marcela Benavides | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | P | |
| Agency | Mark Beltran | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | A | |
| Agency | E.J. Caldwell | West Basin Metropolitan Water District | P | |
| Agency | Matthew Veeh | West Basin Metropolitan Water District | A | |
| Agency | Delon Kwan | Los Angeles City Water & Power | P | |
| Agency | Art Castro | Los Angeles City Water & Power | A | |
| Agency | Sheila Brice | Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment | P | |
| Agency | Hubertus Cox | Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment | A | |
| Agency | Cathie Santo Domingo | Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks | P | |
| Agency | Darryl Ford | Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks | A | |
| Community Stakeholder | Rita Kampalath | Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office | P | |
| Community Stakeholder | Rebecca Ferdman | Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office | A | |
| Community Stakeholder | Alysen Weiland | PSOMAS / Business Sector | P | |
| Community Stakeholder | Cecilia Mokler | PSOMAS / Business Sector | A | |
| Community Stakeholder | Gloria Walton | The Solutions Project / SCOPE | P | |
| Community Stakeholder | Gloria Medina | The Solutions Project / SCOPE | A | |
| Community Stakeholder | Bruce Reznik | Los Angeles Waterkeeper | P | |
| Community Stakeholder | Maggie Gardner | Los Angeles Waterkeeper | A | |
| Community Stakeholder | Edgar Campos | T.R.U.S.T. South LA | P | |
| Community Stakeholder | Kiara Phillips | T.R.U.S.T. South LA | A | |
| Municipal Members | Josette Descalzo | Beverly Hills / West Hollywood | P | |
| Municipal Members | Matthew Magener | Beverly Hills / West Hollywood | A | |
| Municipal Members | Sean Singletary | Culver City | P | |
| Municipal Members | Yanni Demitri | Culver City | A | |



Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: October 3, 2023

| Member Type | Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Role | Signature |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Municipal Members | Roberto Perez | Los Angeles | P | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Municipal Members | Rafael Prieto | Los Angeles | P | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Municipal Members | Susie Santilena | Los Angeles | P | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Municipal Members | Ryan Jackson | Los Angeles | A | |
| Municipal Members | Bruce Hamamoto | Los Angeles County | P | |
| Municipal Members | Geremew Amenu | Los Angeles County | A | |
| Municipal Members | Curtis Castle | Santa Monica | P | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Municipal Members | Selim Eren | Santa Monica | A | |
| Watershed Coordinator | Mikaela Randolph | Heal the Bay | WC | |
| Watershed Coordinator | Michelle Struthers | SGA Marketing | WC | <i>[Signature]</i> |

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN: October 3, 2023



| First Name | Last Name | Municipality/Organization | Email Address |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Johanna | Ortiz | CD8 | Johanna.valiente@lacity.gov |
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*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY

WASC MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2023

Watershed Coordinators Presentation



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**

sga
MARKETING

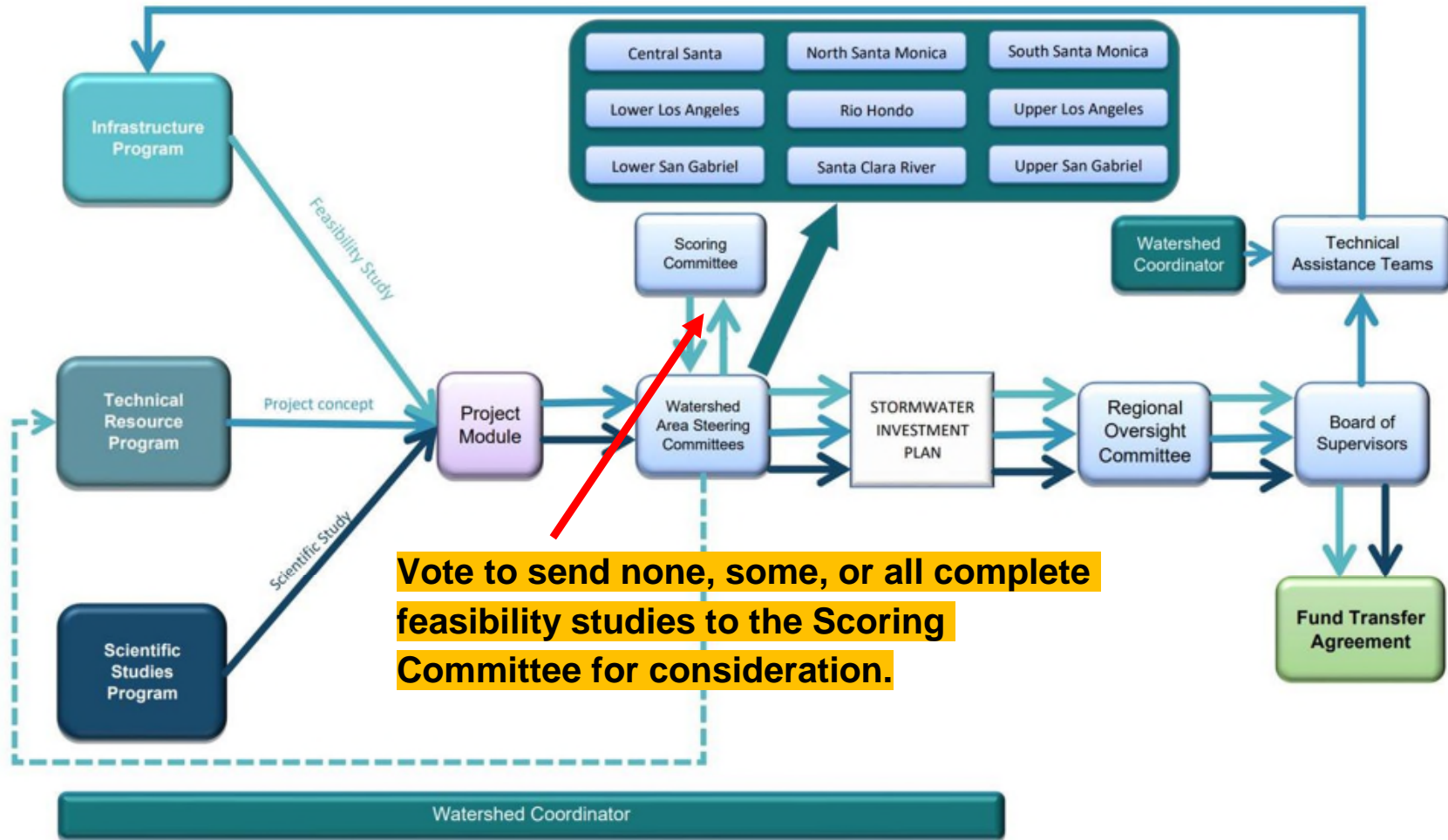


Safe Clean Water Program Watershed Coordination

Summary of FY24-25 (Year 5) Regional
Program Project Submissions in the Central
Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area



Regional Program Structure and Flow Chart





Projects Module



Welcome to Safe Clean Water Program

Login

Email _____

Password _____

LOGIN Sign Up

[Forgot Password](#)

- MY PROJECTS
- Regional Projects General Information
- Design Elements
- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Community Investment & Local Support
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Cost & Schedule
- Additional Feasibility Information
- SCORE
- SUBMITTAL



Safe Clean Water Projects Module | Emerald Necklace John Muir High School Campus Natural... Est. Sco

Table of Contents Informational Session Overview Location **Project Descripti**

Illustrative summaries included in Project Description tab



Submitted projects can be found via the “manage all projects” functionality in the [Projects Module](#).

Be careful not to edit project submissions when viewing information.

Welcome to the Regional Projects Module!

This interactive tool guides the user through the process of inputting all necessary Project data as well as data required for scoring by the Scoring Committee. This tool effectively represents a template for Feasibility Studies and incorporates all required information called out in the feasibility study guidelines. A complete submission will be considered equivalent to a Feasibility Study upon confirmation from the corresponding Watershed Area Steering Committee.

A Feasibility Study is required before a Project can be submitted for consideration, scoring, and potential recommendation for incorporation into a Stormwater Investment Plan. The [Feasibility Study Guidelines](#) include 19 requirements; an overview of this Module and mapping to corresponding requirements is summarized below.

Submissions that receive SCW funds are subject to the requirements outlined in the Regional Program Fund Transfer Agreements ([Regional TA](#)). Applicants are encouraged to review and be familiar with these requirements prior to submission.

| MODULE SECTION | TAB (CLICK TO BE DIRECTED TO SECTION) | REQUIREMENTS ADDRESSED # |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| GENERAL INFORMATION | Informational Session | N/A |
| | Overview | 10 |
| | Location | 1, 12, 19 |
| | Project Description | 8, 1 |



Supporting WASC Decision-making

Task for Watershed Coordinators:

Summarize FY24-25 Call for Projects submissions

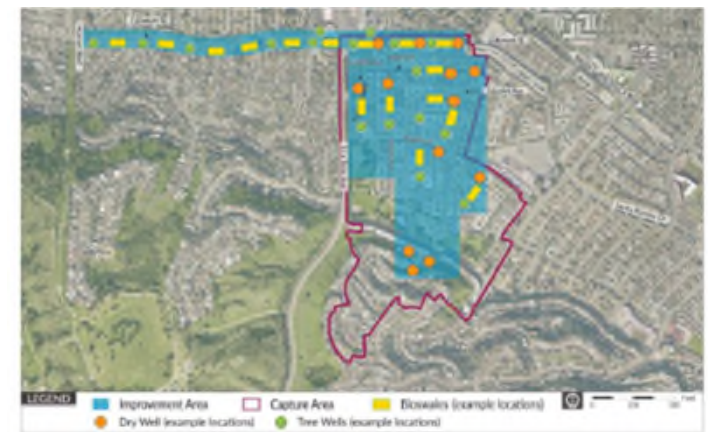
Goals:

1. Help WASC members understand the diversity of projects submitted and improve familiarity with initial projects
2. Support WASCs' authority to decide which projects to transfer to the Scoring Committee



Infrastructure Project Summary: Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project

- **Lead:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)
- **Location:** 5050 Coliseum Street, Los Angeles, CA 90016
- **Wet or Dry:** Wet weather
- **BMP Type:** Biofiltration, Infiltration well
- **Total request:** \$9,076,647 over five years for Planning, Design, Construction, and O&M.
- **Cost-share:** \$1,892,861 from Municipal Funds (17% total project cost)
- **Timeline:** Planning - 07/2024; Design - 07/2025; Construction - 01/2027; Design (Post-construction monitoring) - 1/2029 Completion date - 06/2029





Infrastructure Project Summary: Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project

Summary of Scoring Committee Feedback on Year 4 Application:

- Scoring Committee determined project was unable to be scored on water quality and therefore not eligible for funding
 - Earlier drywell designs were not feasible for infiltration in the originally proposed area
 - Committee recommended further development be done to confirm groundwater in the area
- Other feedback included a desire to see more community participation and that no points should be awarded to water supply because recharge is not possible in this area

New or Altered Features of Year 5 Application:

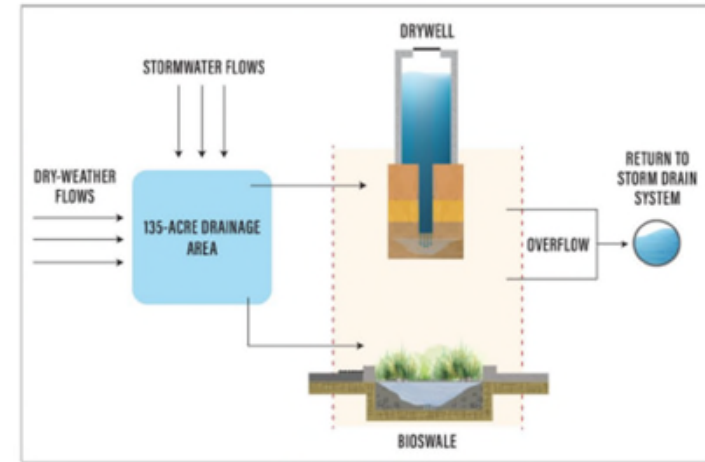
- Project area has been shifted to the east of La Brea, where groundwater has not been encountered during geotechnical investigations
- Addition of 10 dual drywells (13 → 23) and 150 sq ft of bioswales (300 → 450)
- Increased drainage area by 46 acres (89 → 135)
- Now located in a DAC
- Detailed Outreach and Engagement Plan included in Year 5 application



Infrastructure Project Summary: Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project

Project Description:

- Approximately 23 double drywell units and one single drywell unit (total of 47) along Coliseum Street and the surrounding community
- Approximately 450 square feet of bioswales with California native landscaping along Coliseum Street and the surrounding community
- Approximately 40 new street trees along Coliseum Street and the surrounding community
- 7 educational displays along Coliseum Street



Source: Cordoba Corporation

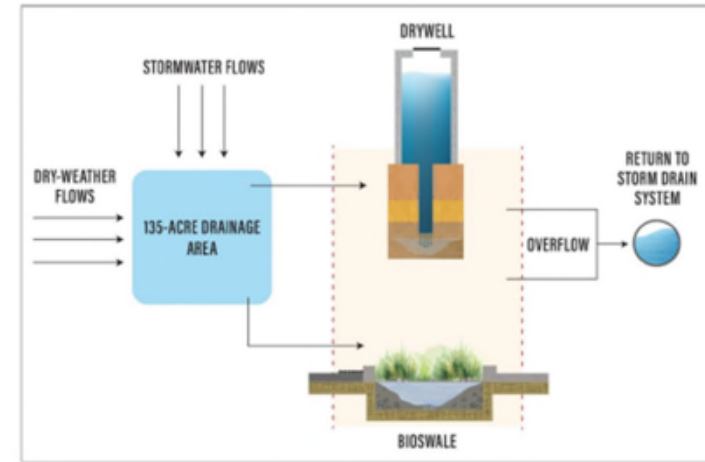




Infrastructure Project Summary: Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project

Summary of Benefits:

- 80% reduction in zinc and 100% reduction in trash
- Will alleviate flooding issues along Coliseum Street and other nearby areas with identified flooding concerns during light to moderate storms
- Reduced flooding will help calm traffic, reduce possibility of accidents during and after storms, and improve pedestrian/bicyclist mobility during storms
- Street trees and bioswales will provide aesthetic and environmental benefits to pedestrian route, including reduction of heat island effect, increased shade, improved air quality
- Vegetated areas will be planted primarily with CA native plants and replace some existing impermeable surface area



Source: Cordoba Corporation





Infrastructure Project Summary: Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project

Letters of Support: YES

- Prior Letters of Support for Round 4 Application:
 - Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council (ECWA) (July 14, 2022)
 - Councilmember Herb Wesson, Tenth District (July 6, 2022)
 - Village Green Resident Lisa E. (July 8, 2022)
 - 9 letters of support from Baldwin Vista Residents (June 30, 2022)
- Support for Round 5 Application:
 - 15 letters of support from Baldwin Village and Baldwin Vista residents (July 27, 2023 - September 21, 2023)
 - LASAN will follow up with ECWA and CD10 for updated letters of support



Claimed Disadvantaged Community Benefit: YES

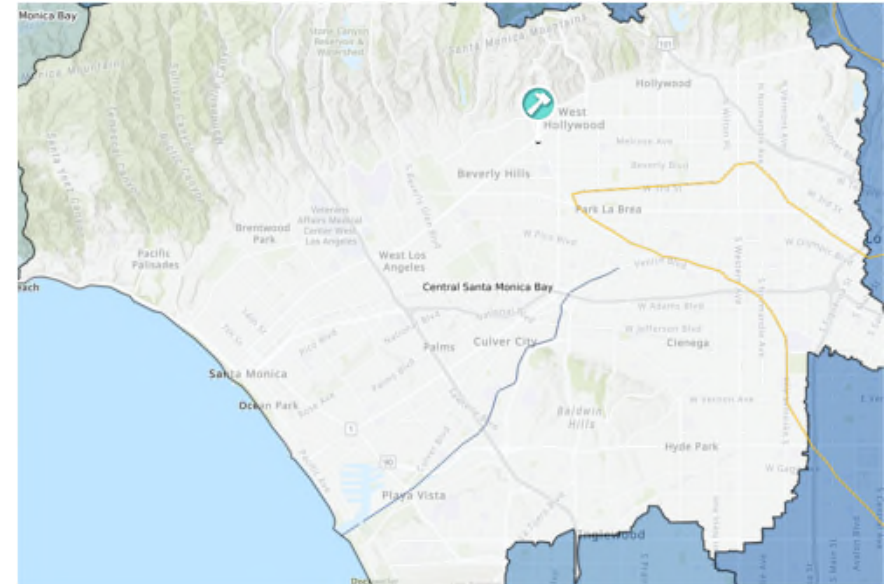
- Located within a DAC east of La Brea Avenue



Technical Resources Program Project Concept Summary:

The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza

- **Lead:** City of West Hollywood
- **Project location:** 647 N. San Vicente Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069
- **Funding request:** \$300,000
- **Anticipated Cost:** \$1.8M for Planning & Design; \$19.8M for Construction
- **Timeline:** Planning and Design - FY 24-25; Construction - FY 26-27





Technical Resources Program Project Concept Summary: The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza

Description of Concept:

- Transform 1.3 acres of asphalt hardscape into restoration-based and climate responsive ecosystem
- 3 steel canopy structures will collect rainwater, create new shaded area, and create wildlife habitat with native oak woodland planting palette
- 7 large moveable planters with native pollinator-supporting species
- Cisterns collect rainwater for onsite irrigation reuse feeding small ponds and vegetation
- Pervious pavers and surfaces will replace concrete and asphalt
- Addition of 20 street trees, bicycle parking and streetscape seating





Technical Resources Program Project Concept Summary: The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza

Summary of Benefits:

- Rainwater collection and onsite reuse
- Removal of impervious surfaces
- Increased shade, vegetated area and wildlife habitat
- Improved flood mitigation and reduced urban heat island effect
- Slowed traffic and improved multimodal safety
- Enhanced recreational opportunities





Scientific Study Summary #1

Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity

- **Lead:** California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Additional study collaborators: University of California Santa Barbara, Hydrology Laboratory, Kindred Hydro, Inc, Groundswell Technologies, LLC.
- **Location:** at least one municipality from each Watershed Area
- **Total request:** \$4,951,453 over five years
 - Estimated cost for Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area: \$408,871 over five years
- **Timeline:** Study-site selection - 06/30/25; Planning field program - 09/30/25; Operations documentation - 12/31/25; Reporting, Outreach & Engagement, Field Visits: O&M Activities, and Infiltration Testing - 6/30/29



Scientific Study Summary #1

Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity

Benefits included (Expected Outcomes):

- Assessment of drywell design approaches, pre-treatment strategies, and maintenance
- Baseline for monitoring long-term performance and sustainability of drywells
- Outreach & engagement to ensure broad dissemination and practical application of findings
- Engineering workforce development with focus on disadvantaged and underrepresented groups
- Support regional stormwater management, water quality, and water supply goals



Scientific Study Summary #2

Street Sweeping Study

- **Lead:** City of Los Angeles
- **Watershed Areas:** Central Santa Monica Bay, South Santa Monica Bay, Upper Los Angeles River
- Total request: \$975,000 over three years; Cost share: \$105,000 of Municipal Funds
 - Estimated cost for Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area: \$173,550 over three years
- **Timeline:** Start - 10/24; Compilation of Existing Data - 10/24; Sweeper Effectiveness Testing (Controlled Environment) - 10/24; Dirt Characterization Sampling - 05/25; Sweeper Effectiveness Testing (Real Streets) - 05/25; Year 1 Update Memo - 09/25; Year 2 Update Memo - 09/26; Complete Sweeper Effectiveness Testing - 11/25; Complete Street Dirt Characterization - 11/26; Draft Results Report - 06/27; Final Results Report - 09/27



Scientific Study Summary #2

Street Sweeping Study

Benefits include (Expected Outcomes):

- Will identify potential enhancements to street sweeping that will remove more pollutants from street surfaces and lead to improved downstream water quality
- Sweeper effectiveness testing: Generate information on the potential for new or different sweeping equipment to increase effectiveness
- Street dirt characterization: understand how pollutant levels and accumulation rates on street surfaces vary across the city based on land use, traffic volume, and watershed



Scientific Study Summary #3

Pollutant Source Characterization Study

- **Lead:** City of Los Angeles
- **Watershed Areas:** Upper Los Angeles River, South Santa Monica Bay, Central Santa Monica Bay
- **Total request:** \$3,500,000 over five years
 - Estimated cost for Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area: \$623,000 over five years
- **Timeline:** Study start - 10/24; Draft Work Plan - 04/25; Final Work Plan - 06/25; Land Use, HRU, and Accumulation Material Sampling (Start) - 10/25; Year 1 Update Memo - 06/26; Year 2 Results memo - 06/27; Year 3 Results Memo - 06/28; Land Use, HRU, and Accumulation Material Sampling (End) - 04/29; Draft Results Report - 06/29; Final Results Report - 09/29



Scientific Study Summary #3

Pollutant Source Characterization Study

Benefits include (Expected Outcomes):

- Data collected are intended to be utilized directly in the configuration and calibration of water quality models for improved accuracy and precision
- Data could help permittees optimize implementation of source control BMPs and support non-structural source control actions
- Opportunity for water and environment workforce development and community awareness via fostered relationships with educational institutions and community organizations

The background features a dark blue gradient with soft, out-of-focus light spots (bokeh) in shades of blue and white. A white rectangular box is centered horizontally, containing the main text.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LA WATERKEEPER'S SCWP RESEARCH SHOWCASE

July 27th, 2023

Overview of Research Showcase



- Hosted by LA Waterkeeper
- Participants included: SCOPE, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation and Stantec, ARLA Working Group, the Scoring Committee
- Our Water LA (OWLA) reviewed recommendations from participants, as well as historic stances and recommendations, to identify overlap
- Event recap and all cited research available on LA Waterkeeper's blog



Overview of Research Showcase



Highlights

- Consensus around prioritizing hardscape removal and creating new green space, particularly at schools and in park-poor communities
- Many recommendations for adaptive management of scoring, metrics and monitoring
 - E.g. sliding scales for more nuanced scoring, publicly available monitoring dashboard
- Reactive → Proactive approach based on specific watershed and subwatershed “signatures”



Overview of Research Showcase

Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership

| Stance towards community | 0 IGNORE | 1 INFORM | 2 CONSULT | 3 INVOLVE | 4 COLLABORATE | 5 DEFER TO |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Impact | Marginalization | Placation | Tokenization | Voice | Delegated Power | Community Ownership |
| Community Engagement Goals | Deny access to decision-making processes | Provide the community with relevant information | Gather input from the community | Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process and inform planning | Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions | Foster democratic participation and equity by placing full decision-making in the hands of the community; bridge divide between community and governance |
| Message to Community | "Your voice, needs, and interests do not matter" | "We will keep you informed" | "We care what you think" | "You are making us think (and therefore act) differently about the issue" | "Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue" | "It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions" |
| Activities | Closed-Door Meetings Misinformation Systematic Disenfranchisement Voter Suppression | Fact Sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos | Public Comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys | Community Organizing & Advocacy House Meetings Interactive Workshops Polling Community Forums | MOUs with Community-Based Organizations Community Organizing Citizen Advisory Committees Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling | Community-Driven Planning Consensus Building Participatory Action Research Participatory Budgeting Cooperatives |
| Resource Allocation Ratios | 100% systems admin | 70-90% to systems admin 10-30% to promotions and publicity | 60-80% to systems admin 20-40% to consultation activities | 50-60% to systems admin 40-50% to community involvement | 20-50% to systems admin 50-70% to community partners | 80-100% to community partners and community-driven processes that ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions |

- SCOPE report: "**Toward Equitable Implementation of the SCWP**"
- Focused on areas of SCWP that have a direct impact on equitable implementation:
 - Disadvantaged community (DAC) benefits
 - Community engagement
 - Community investment benefits

Overview of Research Showcase

The Link model

A municipal government or public agency

that wants to improve access to safe, clean parks in underserved neighborhoods and needs additional assistance with planning, community engagement, grant writing, and contracting.

+

A nonprofit technical assistance provider

with expertise and a track record of success in grant writing, planning, and contracting to build and revivate parks in high-need communities.

+

A community-based organization

with established relationships in the community and successful experience in community organizing and running community engagement campaigns.

=

New and improved parks in underserved communities

come from community-driven planning that leads to successful funding proposals to renovate and build parks in high-need communities. Safe, clean parks contribute to community health, well-being, and civic engagement.

Overview of Research Showcase

“Some colleagues of mine at UCLA public health...found that if you were able to take all of the areas of the neighborhoods of Los Angeles County that are below average in tree canopy and park space, and if you just brought those up to the average for LA County...you would add nearly a million years of life expectancy to the current residents of LA County.”

- Jon Christensen of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Overview of Research Showcase

The Pilot Watershed: Alhambra Wash

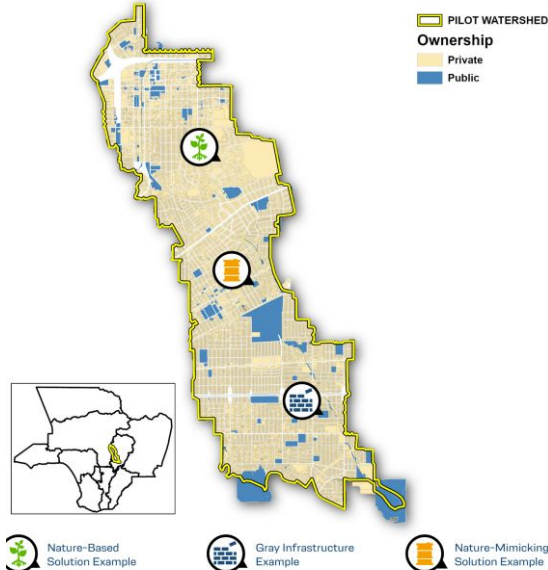


Figure 8. Alhambra Wash pilot watershed.

ARLA SCWP Working Group

- Assessed the extent to which SCWP guidance, criteria, structure, and processes are successfully driving meaningful progress toward the fourteen SCWP Goals.
- Used custom-built watershed modeling to simulate long-term implementation scenarios.
- Community needs assessment to identify local needs
- “Watershed signatures” can be used to inform investment decisions by suggesting which scenarios maximize benefits and meet local hydrological needs in that particular watershed.



Overview of Research Showcase

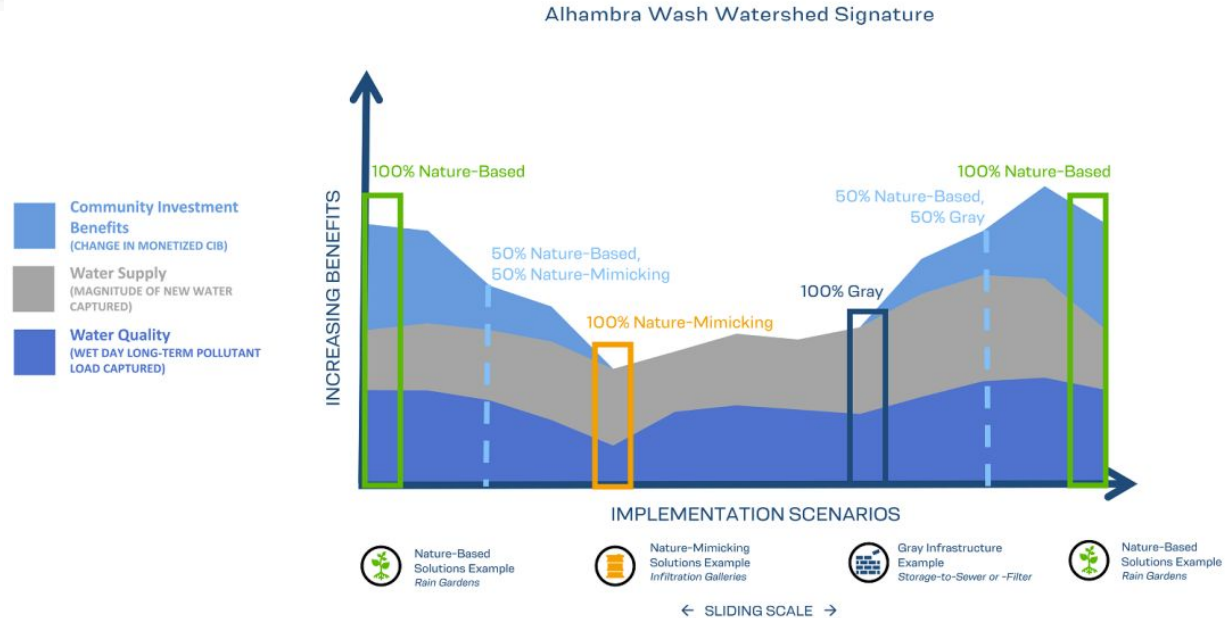


Figure 11. Customized development of a watershed signature for the Alhambra Wash. The horizontal axis of the watershed signature represents different blends of implementation scenarios ranging from 100 percent investment in rain gardens, infiltration galleries, or storage-to-sewer or -filter projects, and various blends of project types. The vertical axis of the watershed signature represents the magnitude of benefits arising from different project portfolios.