FUNDING MEMO

To:	Lower San Gabriel Watershed Area Steering Committee	From:	Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team
Project:	Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility	Date:	November 9, 2023
Project Lead:	City of Downey	Call for Projects Year:	Round 5 FY24-25
Watershed Area:	Lower San Gabriel River	Project Location:	12334 Bellflower Blvd. Downey, CA 90242

Reference: Leverage Funding Memo for Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility

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 proposed project in this way:

> Independence Park is owned and operated by the City of Downey and has been identified as a key Regional Project in the Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Management Program (LSGR WMP). Runoff within this corridor drains to the Bellflower Blvd Storm Drain, the San Gabriel River, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. The proposed project includes two individual projects on the same site: a 25 CFS stormwater drop-inlet diversion from the LACFCD BI 0615 storm drain in Bellflower Blvd that flows through a pretreatment unit and into a 4.2 acre-foot underground subsurface storage reservoir and either infiltrates or exits through a 7.84 CFS filter system; and a 3.34 CFS stormwater drop-inlet diversion from the LACFCD BI 3150 Line A storm drain in Dunrobin Ave that instead flows through a pretreatment unit into a 0.25 acre-foot bioretention basin that either infiltrates or exits through a 2.88 CFS filter system. The project seeks to improve the water quality of stormwater runoff flows conveyed through capture, storage, and filtration before returning flows back to the storm drain network.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The Project Application describes the following benefits will be provided by the project:

- Water Quality: Water quality/MS4 compliance is a primary need that the Independence Park project is addressing. Independence Park was listed as a potential site for future targeted control measures in the Lower San Gabriel River watershed in order to meet the LSGR WMP volume reduction goals to achieve required pollutant reductions. The LSGR WMP's Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) used the 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) with any compliance deadlines during the current MS4 Permit term. 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 according to 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.

- Water Supply: The project will infiltrate into the upper aquifers and may eventually reach the Central Basin where it will provide added supply to all who utilize that aquifer (although this is not likely to have a significant impact on the potable aquifers). The geotechnical investigation indicates that design infiltration rates are 1.1 in/hr (design adjusted to 0.5 in/hr). Although the City does not currently directly use stormwater to offset the water demand, there is a future possibility to augment local water supply through harvesting. This will provide additional assurance that the City of Downey and other cities that depend on the Central Basin that local water demand will not exceed available water supplies.

- Flood Risk Mitigation: The project will infiltrate into the upper aquifers and may eventually reach the Central Basin where it will provide added supply to all who utilize that aquifer (although this is not likely to have a significant impact on the potable aquifers). The geotechnical investigation indicates that design infiltration rates are 1.1 in/hr (design adjusted to 0.5 in/hr). Although the City does not currently directly use stormwater to offset the water demand, there is a future possibility to augment local water supply through harvesting. This will provide additional assurance that the City of Downey and other cities that depend on the Central Basin that local water demand will not exceed available water supplies.

- Park Space, Habitat, or Wetland Space: The system provides stormwater detention benefits that could address localized flooding within the drainage area. The project adds 4.45 ac-ft of storage for each storm event that would otherwise be conveyed down the San Gabriel River. Additionally, the newly installed permeable pavement parking stalls, bioswales, decomposed granite path, and bioretention basin will mitigate the present flooding experienced on the site. The addition of permeable surfaces will capture and detain flows to remove the volume from off the parking areas and into managed practices.

- Public Access to Waterways: The installation of the underground structure will require the removal and replacement of the west parking lot. The project proposes to replace it with permeable pavement stalls, additional bioswales, and additional parking stalls. Additional native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be installed at select spots impacted by the construction throughout the park to increase the shade canopy and provide additional habitat, such as surrounding the new bioretention basin, along the new decomposed granite path, and in the area where the storage building currently resides.

- Recreational Opportunities: The project proposes new field lighting around the east softball field, allowing for additional recreational opportunities during the evenings. New decomposed granite pathways will be installed around the perimeter of the ball fields to provide a looped walking trail. Additionally, proposed bioretention cells with new additional trees will create recreational opportunities for the park visitors including birding and butterfly observation.

- Urban Heat & Shade: While the park already has extensive tree canopy on the southeast, center, and northwest areas of the park, more trees could be planted along the softball fields, parking lots

and tennis courts to further reduce the urban heat island effect. This existing canopy is approximately 80,417 square feet and consists of 95 trees. As a part of this project, landscape plans post construction include additional native trees, shrubs, and grasses to be installed at select spots impacted by the construction throughout the park to add shade along the remodeled walkway and existing tennis courts. The initial estimated proposed canopy is an additional 6,032 square feet from 10 new trees. Additionally, a few bioretention cells will increase the on-site native vegetation that will provide additional shade and cooling effects. This vegetation, along with proposed biofiltration cells, increased pervious surface, and permeable pavement all contribute to reductions in the heat island effect.

- Shade & Vegetation: To promote a more natural biome, native trees and vegetation 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 bioretention basin and bioswales to increase the total tree count at the site. The project anticipates adding up to 10 trees throughout the impacted areas to increase the shade canopy along the remodeled walkway and existing tennis courts. The new vegetation is anticipated to sequester approximately 0.18 lbs of CO2 per year (assuming 1.13 lbs/ac/yr). The new tree locations can be found on the conceptual plans shown in Attachment E.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEED FOR PROJECT

The Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility is currently requesting a total of $1,310,458 of Safe, Clean Water Program through FY24-25 for Design. The Project's total cost is $13,336,273 (Planning, Design, and Construction).

The Project has not previously received Safe, Clean Water Program funding.

As disclosed in the Project application, the Project Proponent has not leveraged external funding outside of the Safe, Clean Water Program.

- **Total SCW funding requested for FY24-25:** $1,310,458
- **Total SCW funding awarded to date:** None
- **Total SCW funding requested:** $1,310,458 (Infrastructure Program – Design)
- **Total Infrastructure Project cost:** $13,336,273 (Infrastructure Program – Planning, Design, 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	$1,310,458	$ --	$ --	$ --	$ --	$ --	$ 1,310,458
Phase	Design	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Status and schedule of project:

- **Date of completion of Project planning and design**: 02/2025
- **Anticipated date of completion of Project construction:** 05/2027

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding/grant program opportunities align with the Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility. 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

Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District's (RPOSD) 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 Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility has a ***strong potential*** to be competitive for this RPOSD grant program. The RPOSD program funds project design phases. The Project's recreational aspects, as claimed in the Safe, Clean Water Project Application align with RPOSD's funding priorities. According to RPOSD's Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016), the Project location address is in the City of Downey, Study Area #162, and has a high park need.

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. Eligible planning activities should link to capacity building, pre-planning activities, and project development. 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 Built Environment, and Track D) Utilize Nature-based Solutions.

Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility has a ***moderate potential*** to be competitive for this ICARP grant program given its alignment with urban heat benefits. The project's design phase can be covered under eligible costs for implementation grants.

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.