



FUNDING MEMO

To:	Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee	From:	Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team
Project:	Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project	Date:	December 7, 2023
Project Lead:	City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)	Call for Projects Year:	Round 5 FY24-25
Watershed Area:	Central Santa Monica Bay	Project Location:	5050 Coliseum Street Los Angeles, CA 90016

Reference: Leverage Funding Memo for Baldwin Vista Green Streets 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 proposed project in this way:

The Project drainage area is located within the City of Los Angeles in the Ballona Creek Watershed. The Project will capture and treat surface runoff to reduce pollutants that otherwise will deposit in downstream receiving waters. Sediments, metals, trash, and bacteria will be removed before reaching Ballona Creek. The Project benefits the residents and businesses of the City of Los Angeles. Furthermore, safety, pedestrian, and recreational improvements will benefit all residents that use these local streets. The Project area east of La Brea Avenue is located within a [disadvantaged community]. The Project will enhance stormwater quality which benefits the entire community including [disadvantaged community] areas. The proposed green infrastructure will help alleviate flooding, thus resulting in more walkable sidewalks and fewer vehicle accidents during and after storm events.

PROJECT BENEFITS

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

- Water Quality: The Project will address water quality needs by implementing green street elements such as drywells, bioswales, trees, and vegetation within the drainage area. These components will serve to enhance infiltration and sedimentation processes within the Project area and thus, the CSMB watershed. Long-Term Performance modeling was conducted to determine project benefits from reductions in pollutant loading into the environment. Pollutants included in



the modeling effort include nutrients (Total Nitrogen & Phosphorus), metals (Total Cadmium, Lead, & Zinc), and Total Suspended Solids.

Zinc was selected as the primary pollutant to evaluate this score because it was one of the limiting pollutants in the Santa Monica Bay EWMP. The Project will result in a reduction of 80 percent of the primary pollutant. Trash is selected as the secondary pollutant to address the Los Angeles River Watershed Trash TMDL. The Project will achieve 100 percent reduction of trash.

- Water Supply: The Project seeks to increase local water supply through the implementation of drywells. According to discussions with the Water Replenishment District (WRD), impermeable layers of clay and silt in many areas of the City prevent stormwater from percolating into the deeper aquifers currently used for municipal purposes. However, the treated stormwater will be infiltrated into local shallow groundwater (perched aquifers). Future uses of the infiltrated stormwater may include extracting the groundwater for non-potable uses or treating and used for potable demands (these processes are not part of this study).
- Flood Risk Mitigation: The Project will address flooding issues along Coliseum Street that benefit pedestrians and vehicle traffic and reduce flood complaints in the project area. The Project will improve flood management, flood conveyance, and flood risk mitigation through the implementation of stormwater infrastructure. Drywells will remove surface flows from Coliseum Street, and excess flows will be directed to the existing storm drain.
- Park Space, Habitat, or Wetland Space: The Project will restore habitat for birds and other species along Coliseum Street and adjacent streets through the addition of up to 40 trees. Installation of bioswales along Coliseum Street and adjacent streets will add California native plants. The addition of trees and native plants will enhance the ecosystem, improve air quality, increase shade, and reduce the heat island effect.
- Recreational Opportunities: This Project enhances recreational opportunities to walkability and bikeability of local streets for all community members by adding trees, bioswales with landscaping, and educational displays.
- Urban Heat & Shade: Shade will be increased by the addition of approximately 40 new street trees. The trees will reduce the impact of radiation/heat island effect creating a cooler environment around them. The trees and plants will also help reduce the air temperature and improve air quality. Addition of the trees and plants will enhance the pedestrian experience within the community and improve walkability by reducing the heat island effect.
- Shade & Vegetation: The Project includes the addition of approximately 40 new trees and 450 square feet of vegetation. The trees will reduce the impact of radiation creating a cooler environment around them. The trees and plants will also improve air quality, increase shade, and reduce the heat island effect. Addition of the trees and plants will enhance the pedestrian experience within the community.
- Disadvantaged Community Benefit: The Project site is located within a [disadvantaged community] east of La Brea Avenue. The Project will enhance local stormwater quality for multiple [disadvantaged community] areas adjacent to the Project site. The goal of the proposed stormwater best management practices (BMPs) is to capture and treat dry and wet weather flows to reduce pollutants that otherwise would deposit in Ballona Creek and the Pacific Ocean. Sediments, metals (zinc, copper, and lead), bacteria, and trash will be removed from the stormwater improving water quality before reaching Ballona Creek, Ballona Creek Estuary, and the Pacific Ocean.



OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEED FOR PROJECT

The Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project is currently requesting \$500,328 of Safe, Clean Water Program Round 5 funding for FY24-25. The Project is tentatively requesting a total of \$9,076,647 of Safe, Clean Water funding through FY28-29 for Planning, Design, Construction, Operations & Maintenance (O&M), and Monitoring. The Project’s total cost is \$10,755,080 for Planning, Design, Construction, and Monitoring.

The Project previously applied for Safe, Clean Water Infrastructure Program funding in FY23-24, but was not awarded funding.

As disclosed in the Project application, the Project Proponent has leveraged \$1,892,861 from municipal funds.

- **Total SCW funding requested for FY24-25:** \$500,328
- **Total SCW funding awarded to date:** None
- **Total SCW funding requested:** \$9,076,647 (Infrastructure Program – Planning, Design, Construction, O&M, and Monitoring)
- **Total Infrastructure Project cost:** \$10,755,080 (Infrastructure Program – Planning, Design, Construction, O&M, and Monitoring)
- **Cost share and/or existing funding already leveraged:** \$1,892,861

	Year 1 – Current Ask	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Future Funds	Total Request
Request	\$500,328	\$464,591	\$3,823,939	\$1,965,576	\$2,322,213	\$ --	\$9,076,647
Phase	Planning	Design	Design, Construction	Design, Construction	Design, Construction, O&M, Monitoring	N/A	

Status and schedule of project:

- **Date of completion of Project planning and design:** 12/2026
- **Anticipated date of completion of Project construction:** 12/2028

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding/grant program opportunities align with the Baldwin Vista Green Streets 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.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

[California Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Program \(ATP\)](#) funds both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects that promote increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. The ATP program held a kick-off workshop on August 16, 2023 for the next round of funding (Cycle 6). More information on Cycle 6 is forthcoming.

Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project has a **strong potential** of securing funding through this program. ATP funds are allocated to local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in urban areas. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the local MPO, is responsible for allocating funding to projects in its jurisdiction. Under ATP guidelines, SCAG must ensure 25% of funds distributed benefit disadvantaged communities. As stated in the Safe, Clean Water Program Project Application, the Project benefits disadvantaged communities and enhances local walkability and bikeability, and thus, strongly align with the program's funding priorities.

VEGETATION

[California Department of Water Resources' \(DWR\) Urban Streams Restoration Program \(USRP\)](#) funds projects to restore streams impacted by urban development to a more nature state. Project types include stream cleanups, bank stabilization projects, revegetation, recontouring of channels to improve floodplain functions and localized flood protection, acquisition of strategic floodplain properties. Grant administration for the USRP is now combined with the [Riverine Stewardship Program](#); however, each program has separate grant guidelines. The USRP funds projects across California. A major objective of the USRP is community engagement and support. Grant applications must have two applicants: one local public agency or non-profit organization and one local community group. There is a 20%, non-state source, cost share requirement for projects funded with Proposition 68 funds. The cost share requirement may be waived for disadvantaged communities.

The Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project has a **moderate potential** to be competitive for the USRP. The Project's vegetation benefits claimed in the Safe, Clean Water application align with DWR's grant program's focus; although, this grant program requires two applicants, including one that is a local community group. The USRP additionally requires significant outreach before and after the project is completed. The Project Applicant must conduct substantial community engagement efforts early in the process to qualify for this grant program.

WATER SUPPLY

[California State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) offers low-cost financing for a wide variety of wastewater and water quality projects, including funding for stormwater projects. Financing is offered through low-interest loans (at half the general obligation bond rate, currently 3% as of October 2023). California's CWSRF—which is managed by the State Water Resources Control Board—receives annual funds from principal and interest on past loans, federal



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allocations, periodic allocations to the State Water Board from the California annual budget, and other funds approved by California voters such as Proposition 1 and Proposition 68. The California CWSRF offers an average of \$736 million in financing annually. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed at the end of the calendar year. Projects in small (defined as less than 20,000 people) and/or disadvantaged communities are prioritized for grant funding and principal loan forgiveness; however, the proponent may still consider applying for a low interest loan that (usually) has a 30-year horizon for repayment. Specific funding percentages and caps change by the year but are developed annually through a stakeholder-driven process and released in that year's [Intended Use Plan \(IUP\)](#). Some public entities are unable to apply for the CWSRF financing due to conflicting requirements with existing debt, which the proponent should take into consideration.

The Baldwin Vista Green Streets Project has a ***moderate potential*** to be successful in procuring a CWSRF loan given the project's applicability to the program's driving objectives and the continuous replenishment of the fund's resources.

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 Coordinators](#) or the [Regional Coordination Team](#).