

Lower Los Angeles River  
**Implementation Advisory Group Committee Meeting**

March 23, 2023 | 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.  
Online Meeting / Conference Call

**AGENDA SUMMARY**

**Purpose & Charge:** Provide a public venue for discussion of proposed projects related to the Lower LA River, ensure proposed projects are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, and maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits.

- I. Welcome & Introductions**
- II. IAG Committee Meeting Summary**
- III. Agency / Project Updates**

- San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
  - Southeast LA (SELA) Cultural Center

Suely Saro (RMC) provided an update of the Southeast LA (SELA) Cultural Center on behalf of Melissa Bahmanpour, Project Development Manager. RMC is moving forward with bringing on board a CEQA consultant by the end of March and selecting an owner's representative in April. CEQA process is anticipated to start spring of 2023. In addition, The Lower LA River Outreach Engagement program will be starting this spring. The program is being led by RMC and a team of consultants, including MIG, SELA Collaborative, as well as SGA.

- River Ranger Pilot Program REACH Zone at the Lower LA River and Rio Hondo Confluence

Suely Saro (RMC) provided an update for the River Ranger Pilot Program. The River Ambassador Program is still ongoing, in which the first cohort graduated this past January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and the second cohort began on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. RMC partner River in Action (RIA) is continuing their community based environmental education K-5 workshops and field trips. In April, River in Action will be hosting a STEAM and artwork workshop and a nature walk. Nature for all will be hosting a bike tour on March 25<sup>th</sup> from Hollydale Park to Deforest Park and a LA River history day on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The River Ranger Program evaluator, Ersoylu Consultants, is currently conducting interviews and creating surveys for the project advisory committee to receive feedback on the planning, developing and implementation process.

- Lower LA River Recreation and Park District

Suely Saro (RMC) provided an update for the Lower LA River Recreation and Park District. The effort is still in formation, as the State Board of Equalization requires a legal geographic description to record the boundary of the Park District. RMC has brought in Stantec Consulting to assist in creating a legal geographic description and are working on having it finalized to submit to the State Board of Equalization by the end of April 2023.



- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
  - Maywood Riverfront Park

Laura Cortez (EYCEJ) provided an update on the Maywood Riverfront Park. Pre-pandemic East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice did community engagement for the Sleepy Lagoon Project. Through community processes, EYCEJ have selected the Maywood Riverfront Park as the place where they will memorialized and capture the importance of Sleepy Lagoon. The scope of the project is being expanded to include the whole park. Click [here](#) for more information on future events and updates on the project.

- Conservation Corps of Long Beach
  - DeForest Park

Michelle Loekman (PW) provided an update for the DeForest Park Project on behalf of Dan Knapp (CCLB). DeForest Environmental Center is up and running and is open for public use on an appointment basis.

- Wrigley Greenbelt

Michelle Loekman (PW) provided an update for the Wrigley Project on behalf of Dan Knapp (CCLB). The project is complete however the city is still determining the official opening/celebration date.

- City of South Gate

- Urban Orchard

Gladis Deras (South Gate) provided an update for the Urban Orchard Project. Construction of the project has been placed on hold due to some administrative clearances. The project will move forward with some improvements after receiving approvals in mid-April but are expecting the project completion date to be delayed by a few months.

- Los Angeles County Public Works

- Rainfall and Stormwater Capture

Michelle Loekman (PW) provided an update on the estimated total rainfall and stormwater capture during the 2022-2023 Water Year rainfall. The Total rainfall from 10/1/22 to date in downtown Los Angeles (Ducommun gage) is 25.8". This represents 201% of the average rainfall to date, and 168% of the annual average of 15.3" per year. Stormwater capture at groundwater recharge facilities from 10/01/22 to date is 214,600 AF (69.9 billion gallons) which is enough water for 1.7 million residents of Los Angeles County for a year. This represents 195% of the average stormwater recharge to date, and 107% of the annual average of 200,000 AF (65 billion gallons) per year.

#### IV. Grant / Funding Opportunities

- RMC Lower LA River Grants, On-Going Call for Projects - <http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/>

Suely Saro (RMC) provided an update for RMC Grant opportunities including Prop 1 and Prop 68 Grants. While both grants are ongoing, it was reported that there is not much grant funding available for project planning under Prop 68. However, there are still funding opportunities for project implementation under Prop 1.

- Safe Clean Water Program

Tara Dales (SCW) provided an update for the Safe Clean Water Program. The Lower LA River Watershed Steering Committee have finalized their annual decision on the 2022 grant applications and have recommended two (2) infrastructure projects which are Spane Park located in the City of Paramount and Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) located in the City of Long Beach and one (1) scientific study called “Ground Truth: Guiding a soils-based strategy for impactful nature-based solution” to evaluate the ground conditions in the LLAR watershed area for this year’s funding. The three (3) projects still need to be approved by the Regional Operation Committee and then the Board of Supervisors. Applications for FY24-25 are due July 31, 2023. For additional information, Ms. Dales can be reached at [tdales@sgamarketing.com](mailto:tdales@sgamarketing.com).

- Community Wetlands Grant Program

Maravilla Clemens (Coastal Conservancy) provided an update on the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program. The grant program partners include RMC, State of California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), and Coastal Conservancy. The request for proposals has been released and the deadline for the grant application is May 12, 2023. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Maravilla Clements at [Maravilla.Clemens@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Maravilla.Clemens@scc.ca.gov).

#### V. Lower LA River Events

- SELA Arts Festival
  - Summer 2023 (Schedule TBD)
- FoLAR’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great River Clean-Up - April 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> event will be located at Willow St. Estuary
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup> event will be hosted at Golden Shore Marine Reserve
- River Coalition’s Mi Tierra Earth Day Celebration – April 15, 2023, at 10am-2pm
  - Located at 6255 De Forest Avenue, LB DeForest Park
- Senator Lena Gonzalez Caltrans Highway Cleanup – April 15, 2023, at 9:00am-12:00pm
  - Click here to RSVP for event: [Caltrans Highway Cleanup](#)
  - Located in the City of Bell Gardens. Additional info forthcoming.

#### VI. Open Forum / Public Comment



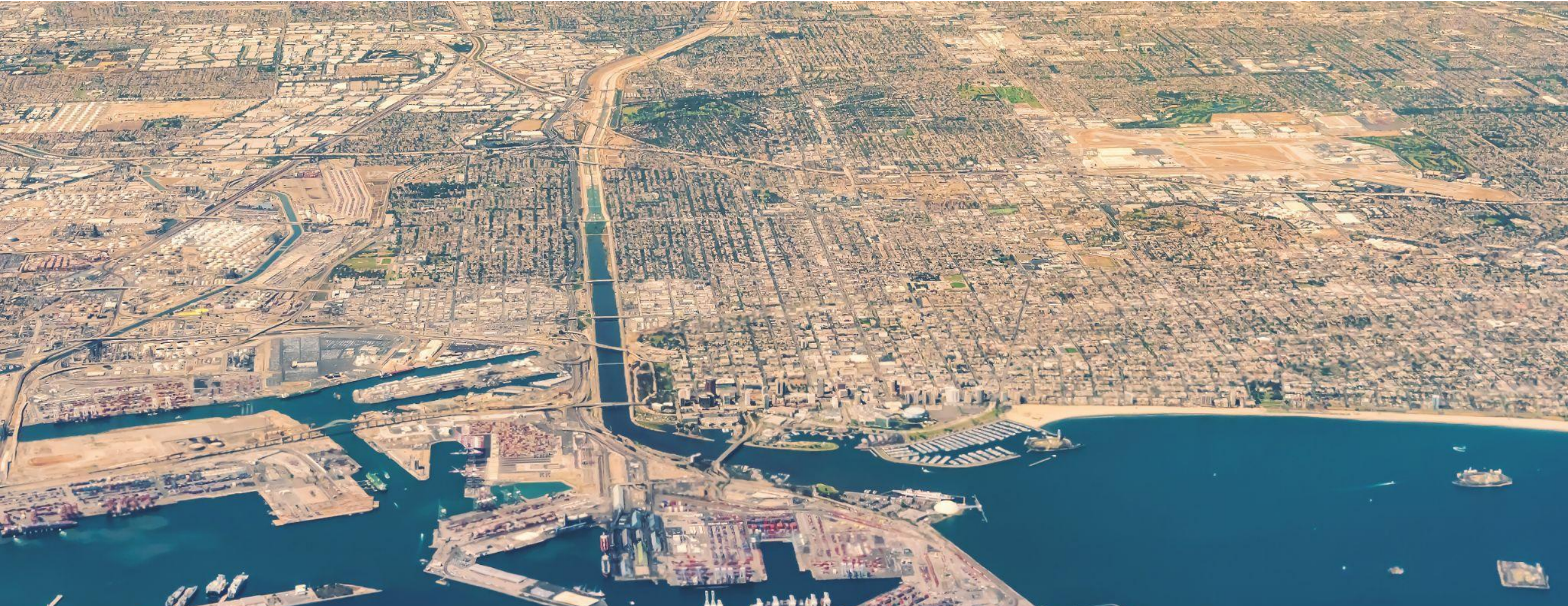
## **VII. Next Steps**

Next IAG Meeting – Thursday, June 22, 2023, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.





# LOWER LA RIVER WATERSHED COORDINATOR IAG Meeting- March 2023

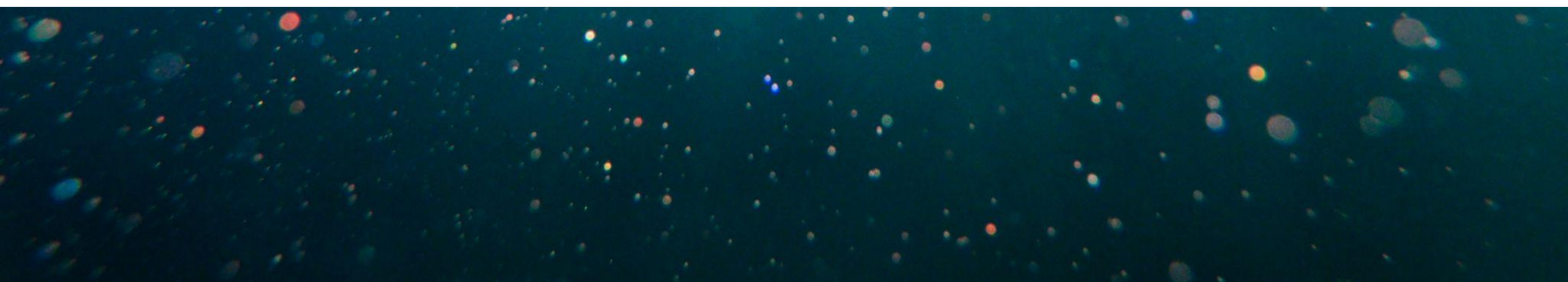






**FY 23- 24**

**Projects Recommended for Funding**



# SPANE PARK - Phase 2

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

This project will cover construction costs of a regional 8.6 acre-foot capacity stormwater capture and infiltration facility located at Spane Park beneath the the existing park surface.

**PROJECT LEAD:** City of Paramount

**WATERSHED:** Lower LA River

**AMOUNT:** \$18.9M

**COST SHARE:** Pending

### PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Improve water quality in the LA River
- Offset the potable water demand at the park
- Restore/rehabilitate park facilities
- Install a dedicated soccer field
- Construct a native landscaping area with an ephemeral stream
- Educate the public on the local water supply and demands
- Serves disadvantaged communities





# Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) - Phase 2

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Phase 2 involves constructing a new park with a 125,000-gallon cistern and pump station, and connecting 5 existing pump stations to the LB MUST Treatment Facility. This connection will enable the diversion of more dry weather flows and portions of first flush flows to the LB MUST Treatment Facility.

**PROJECT LEAD:** City of Long Beach

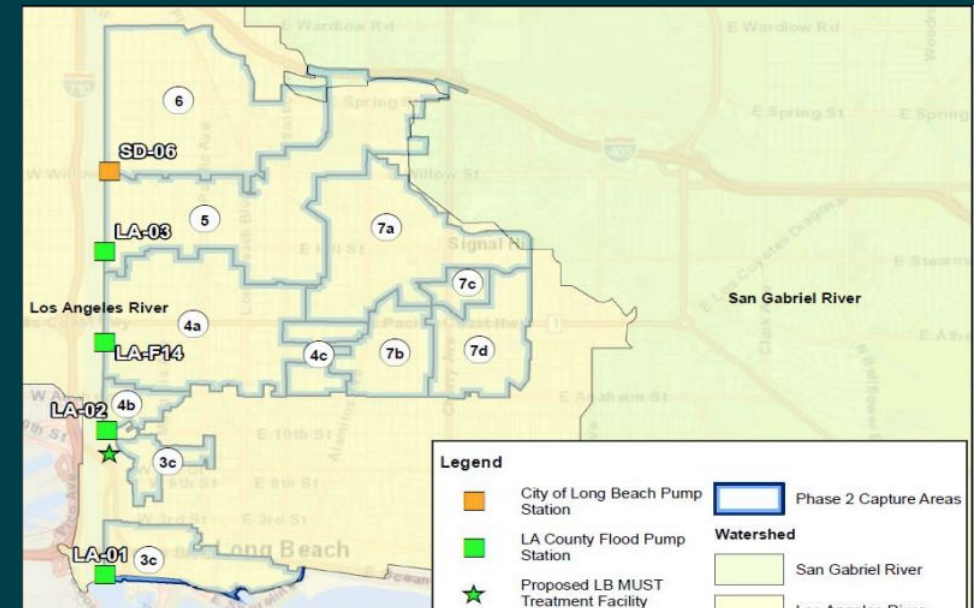
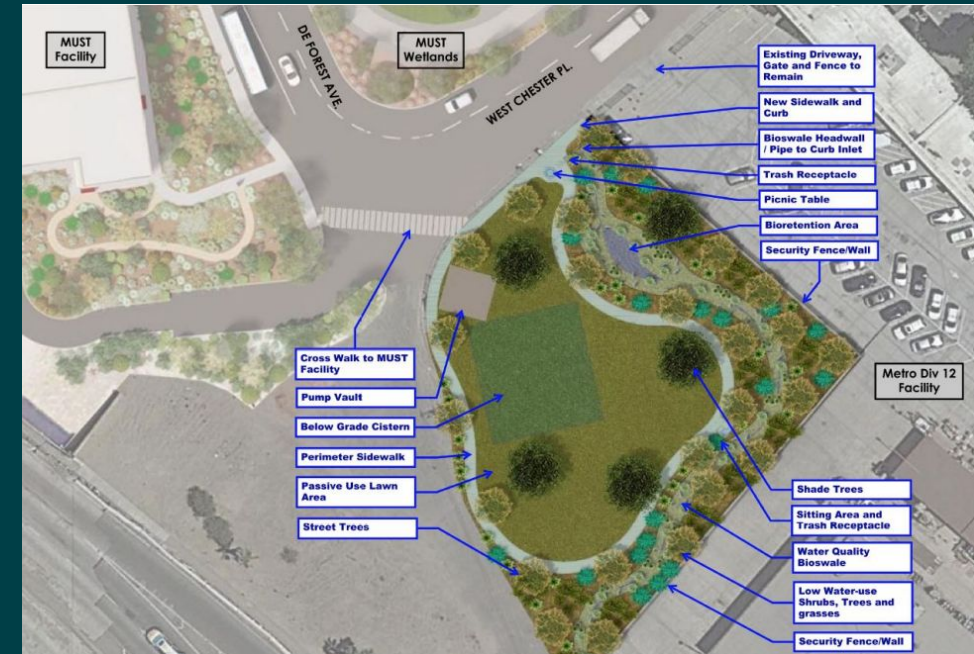
**WATERSHED:** Lower LA River

**AMOUNT:** \$10.4M

**COST SHARE:** \$7.9M

### PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Improve water quality in the LA River, estuary, and nearby beaches
- Treat 2M gallons per day with a planned 4M gallon capacity
- Establish a new park in a formerly industrial area
- Mitigate heat island effect by planting new trees and vegetation
- Address localized flooding by extending an existing bioswale
- Cistern water will irrigate Cesar Chavez Park
- Serves disadvantaged communities





# SCIENTIFIC STUDY

## Ground truth: guiding a soils-based strategy for impactful nature-based solutions

**Project Lead:** Tree People  
**Additional Collaborators:** University of California, Riverside; Craftwater Engineering  
**Funding Requested:** \$498, 430  
**Timeline:** Study completion (Dec 2025)

**Project Description:** This study proposes to evaluate on-the ground conditions in the LLAR watershed area to determine how existing soils can be modified to create a soils-based strategy that fits into a hybrid watershed management portfolio that combines centralized, engineering solutions with distributed nature-based solutions.

- Benefits include:**
- Focusing on the use of soils in nature-based solutions contributes to two major objectives of the SCWP:
- Improve water quality: Soils can mitigate urban runoff by infiltrating stormwater; and
  - Increase water storage/supply: Healthy soils store water for use by plants and other components of natural systems.

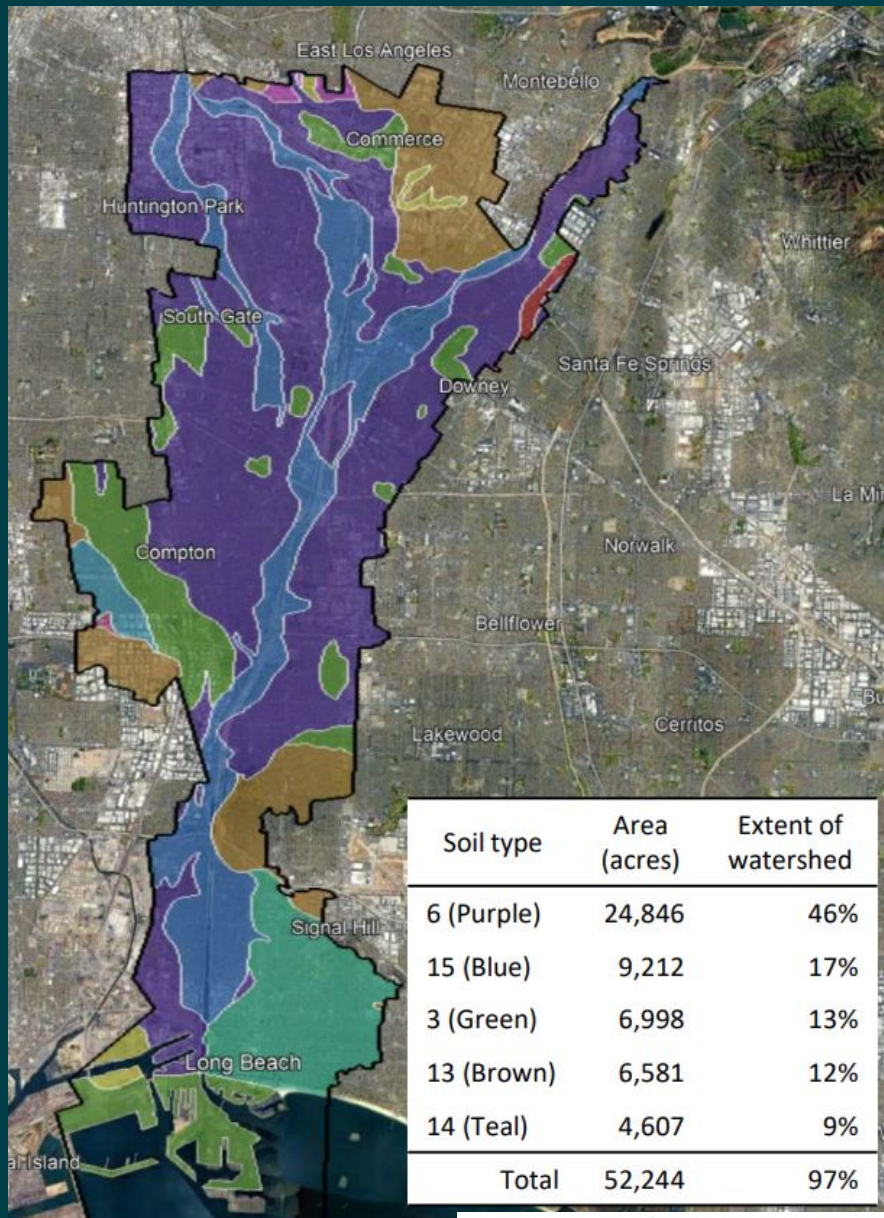


Figure 1. Map classifies the Lower Los Angeles River watershed by soil type. Five soil types comprise 97% of the total watershed extent.



**Next deadline: July 31st 2023**

**Contact watershed coordinator for assistance:  
[tdales@sgamarketing.com](mailto:tdales@sgamarketing.com)**





# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT (WRP)



## COMMUNITY WETLAND RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

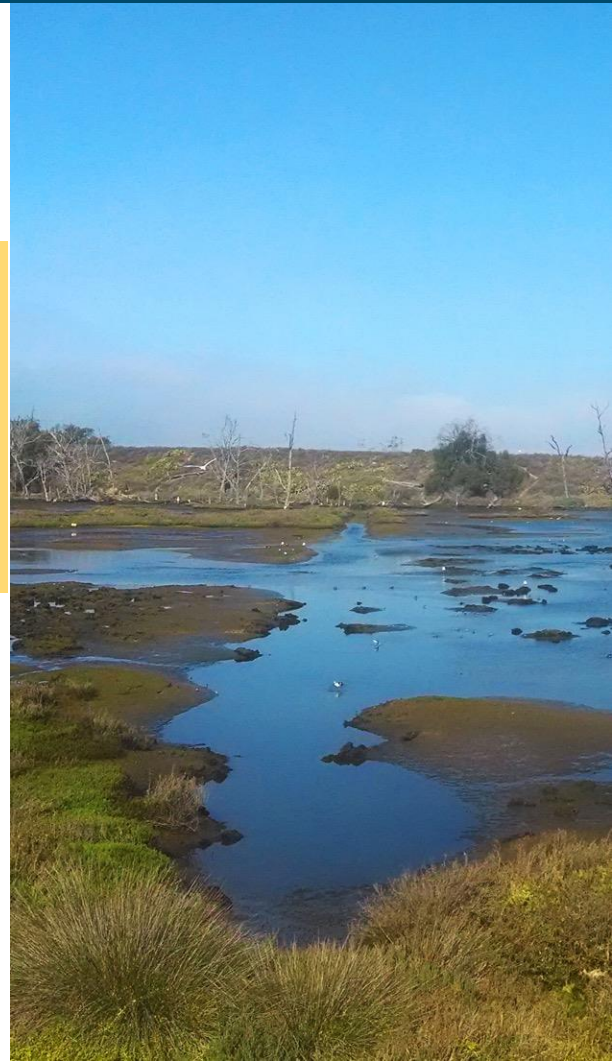
**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER  
IAG COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 22, 2023**



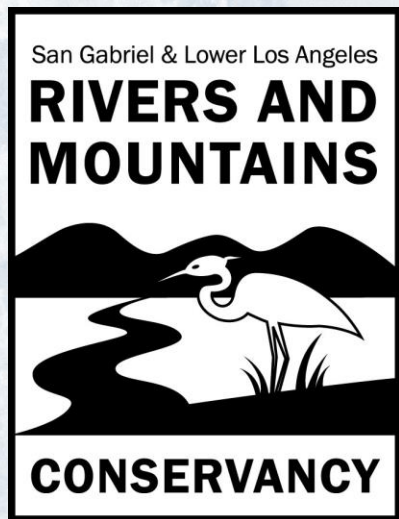
Maravilla Clemens  
NOAA Coastal Management Fellow  
State Coastal Conservancy



Coastal  
Conservancy



# Program Partners





# Request for Proposals are Out!

## Eligible Applicants:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Local government agencies (City or County)
- Federally Recognized Tribes
- Universities (non-profit or public)







# WETLANDS ON THE EDGE

*The Future of  
Southern  
California's  
Wetlands*

REGIONAL  
STRATEGY  
2018





# Program Priorities

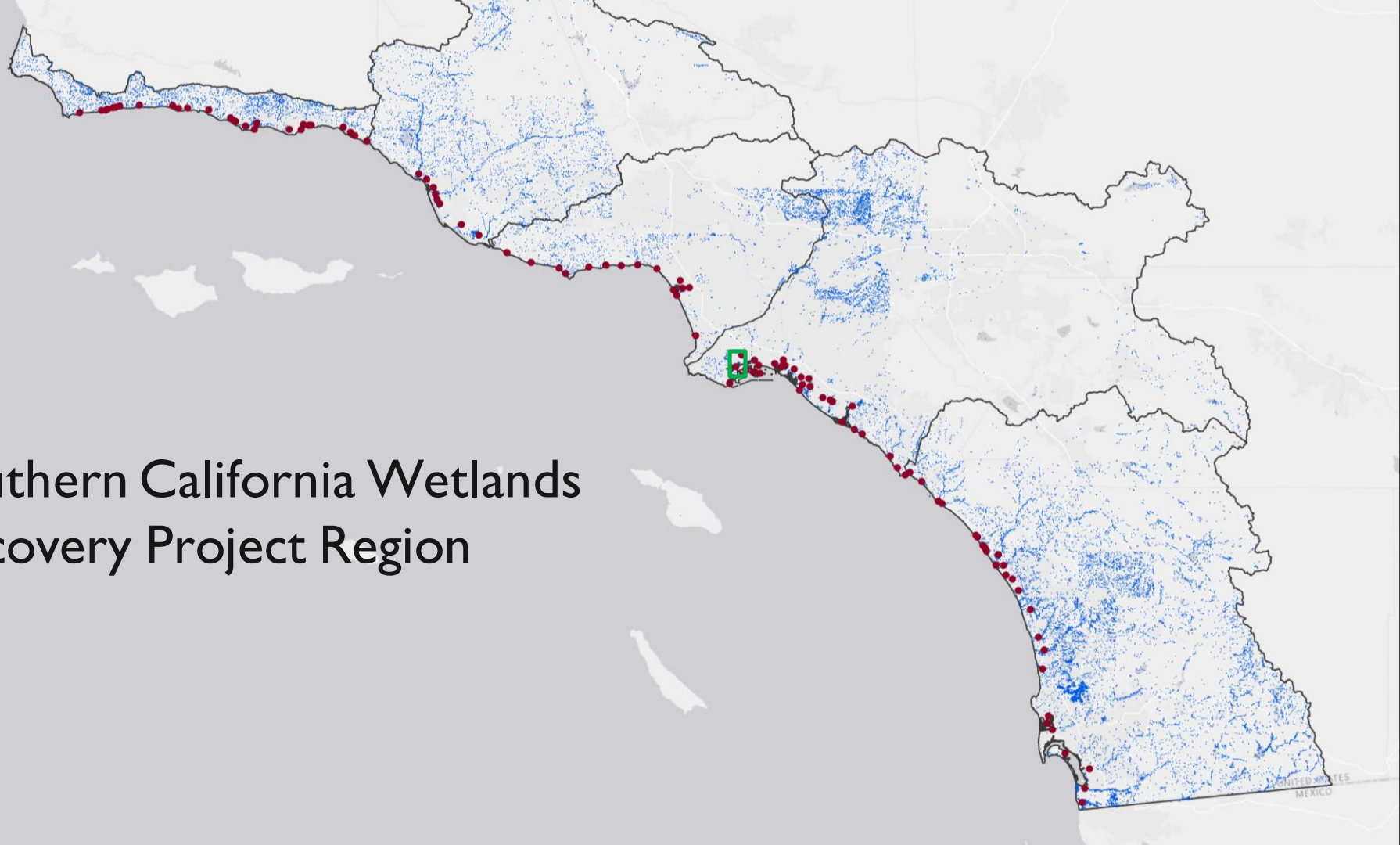
Engage CWRGP  
Priority Communities  
to restore or  
enhance coastal  
wetlands and  
coastal stream  
corridors

Implement  
restoration projects  
that have strong  
community benefits

Demonstrate  
planning and  
implementation of  
projects that are  
anchored in  
community  
expertise

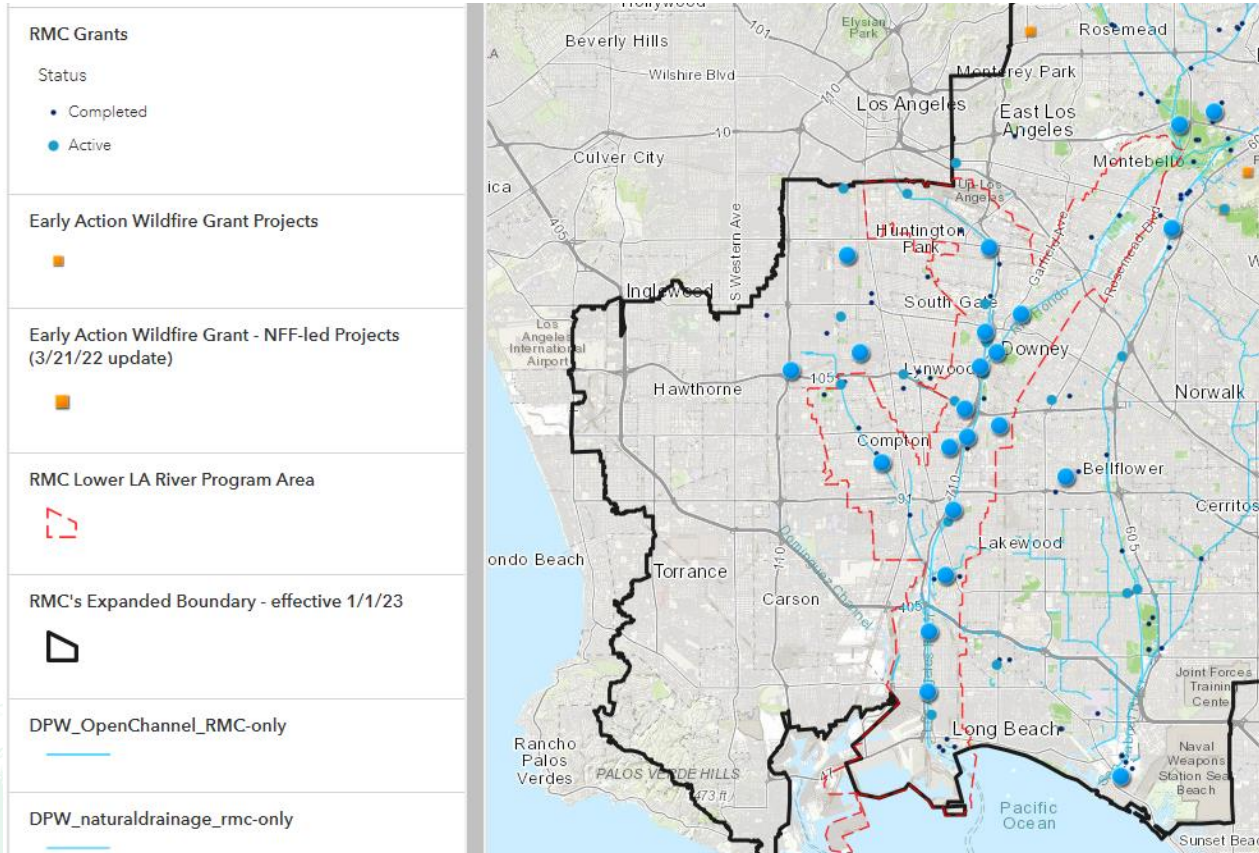
Increase  
organizational  
capacity to plan  
and implement  
habitat restoration  
projects

# Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Region





# PRIORITY AREA: LOWER LA RIVER BASIN



# GRANT PROCESS





# CONTACT

MARAVILLA CLEMENS

California State Coastal Conservancy

[Maravilla.Clemens@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Maravilla.Clemens@scc.ca.gov)

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<https://scwrp.org/community-wetland-restoration-grant-program/>

