

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

September 28, 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. Agency / Project Updates**

- San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC)

- Para Todos

Suely Saro (RMC) provided the updates on Para Todos. On 8/23, the LLAR Para Todos campaign team hosted the Revitalization, Resilience, and Equity Tour, touring RMC projects along the Lower LA River, from LB-MUST to Urban Orchard. Additionally, the campaign team held a kickoff event for the community.

- Lower LA River Recreation and Park District

Suely Saro (RMC) provided the update on the Lower LA River Recreation and Park District. The application process is ongoing with the LAFCO. As part of the submittal, a legal boundary description, was completed. Financial information is also needed from local stakeholders as part of the application.

- Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA)

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

Suley Saro (WCA) provided the updates for the River Ranger Pilot Program. The third cohort of the Ranger Ambassador program began in September 2023 – led by the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. River in Action, CCLB, and Nature for all have been conducting activities monthly, including involvement with the Para Todos program kickoff.

- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

- Maywood Riverfront Park

Laura Cortez (EYCE-J) provided updates for Maywood Riverfront Park. Developments of the Park are ongoing, and EYCEJ is working with many partners, including LA Neighborhood Land Trust, Communities for a Better Environment, Council for Watershed Health, and others. The project recently received funding



from the State Coastal Commission to develop two mural projects. Sleepy Lagoon Project scope to be expanded. The Maywood Mural Art Project at the park is expected to be completed in January. The second Mural at the YMCA will begin upon completion of the first mural. The project will also explore water capture and water components. For additional information, visit or on Instagram at: @eastlacamp213 and @eycej

- City of South Gate
  - Urban Orchard (NO UPDATE)
- DPR Lower LA River Trail Restoration and Access Project

Michelle O'Connor and Sheela Mathai (DPR) provided an update on the Parks and Recreation LA River Trail Restoration and Access Project. The project involves improvements along 1.3 miles of the Lower LA River trail and the 72<sup>nd</sup> St. Equestrian Park in Northern Long Beach. Improvements include access enhancements at 72<sup>nd</sup> St Park, fencing and landscape improvements, enhanced wayfinding, reestablishment of 0.4 miles of existing trail, and underpass enhancements at Atlantic Ave. and Alondra Blvd. The project is funded with RMC LLAR Prop 68 Grant (\$297,000). Key milestones include Project kickoff in September 2023; Community Engagement beginning November 2023; Schematic Design beginning in January 2024; and Environmental in April 2024.

- Flood Control District

Michelle Loekman (District) provided the updates for the Flood Control District. Crews are currently preparing for the upcoming storm season by maintaining and making upgrades to our infrastructure. The current water year is coming to an end, with the next water year beginning October 1st. For this past water year, we received twice the annual rainfall and were able to conserve 606,600 AF which is enough water to provide for over 4.8M residents of LA county for one year. The District also effectively mobilized, expecting significant damage from tropical storm Hilary and coordinated very well with our emergency responders. For this upcoming storm season there is an increasing chance that indicates the forecast being an El Nino year.

### **III. Grant / Funding Opportunities**

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

Suely Saro (RMC) provided the update on the Lower LA River Grants and On-Going Call for Projects. Funding is still available and streamlined for project implementation.

- Safe Clean Water Program

Tara Dales (LLAR SCW Coordinator) provided the update on the Safe Clean Water Program. As a recap of FY23-24, two projects were selected from the LLAR, (Spane Park in the City of Paramount, and LB-MUST). Applications are under review for FY 24-25. Currently one LLAR under review: Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project. Additionally, SCW is planning upcoming green school tours in efforts to get

more projects focused on green school. There are two upcoming tours in LAUSD. Additional details can be found in the upcoming events section.

- Community Wetlands Grant Program

Maravilla Clemens (SCC) provided the update on the Community Wetlands Restoration Grant Program (CWGRP). The CWRGP aims to fund wetlands/habitat restoration projects that are rooted in and benefit communities that have been historically underserved. The next Request for Proposals will open in 2024. The goal is to form partnerships and find interested parties to apply for grant funding.

#### **IV. Lower LA River Events**

- SCW Green School Tours: <http://eventbrite.com/cc/scwp-school-tours-2619749>
  - Victory Blvd Elementary – 10/24/2023; 3pm-4:30pm
  - Northridge High School – 11/17/2023; 1:30pm-3:30pm
- The Puente Latino Association has a series of upcoming events. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.puentela.org/events-1>

#### **V. Open Forum / Public Comment**

- Lower LA River website changes: MIG Integration (No updates)

#### **VI. Next Steps**

Next IAG Meeting – Thursday, December 7, 2023, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

# LOWER LA RIVER TRAIL & 72<sup>ND</sup> STREET EQUESTRIAN PARK PROJECT







# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## OBJECTIVE

*Develop schematic designs to improve 1.3 miles of the Lower LA River Trail & 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Equestrian Park in a manner that welcomes the community to the river*

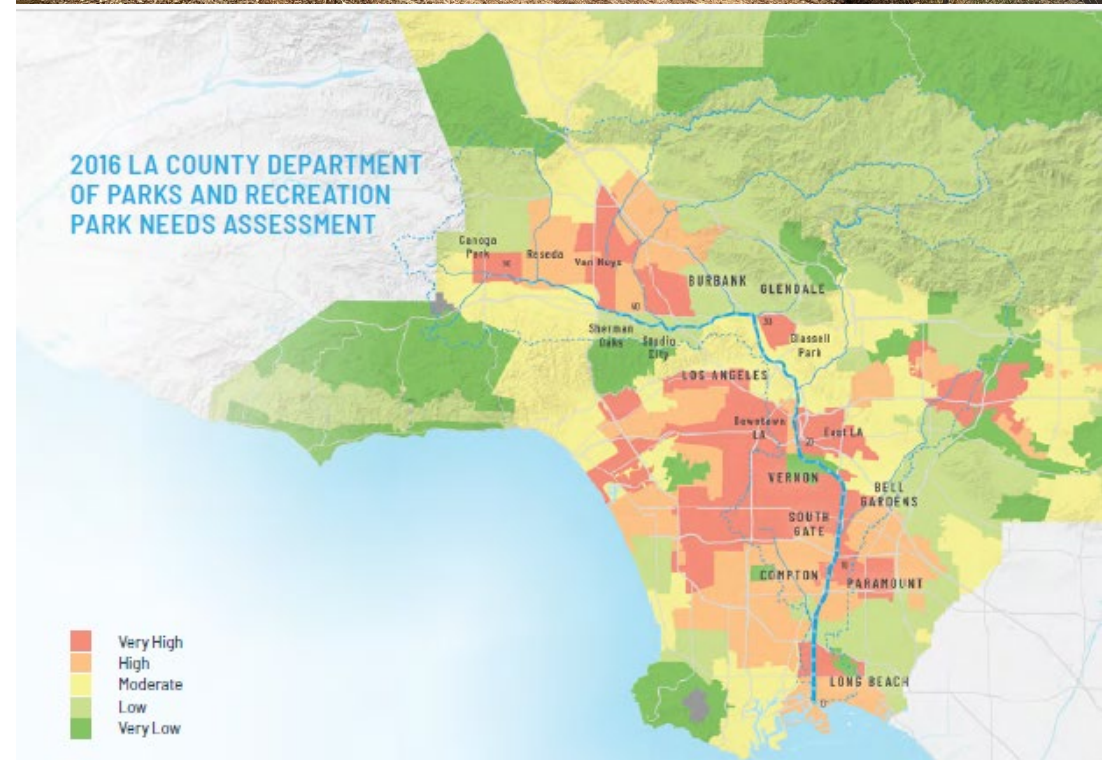
- Phase I Planning Project to lay the groundwork for implementation
- Robust community engagement will inform the design and future improvements, including but not limited to:
  - Improvements at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Equestrian Park including creating an access gateway to establish a stronger connection with the River
  - Fencing Upgrades & Landscape Improvements
  - Enhanced Wayfinding & Branding
  - Re-establishment of 0.4 miles of existing trail
  - Underpass enhancements at Atlantic Ave. & Alondra Blvd.  
*(potential collaboration opportunity with local artist/s)*





## RELEVANT INFO

- \$297,000 RMC LLAR Prop 68 Grant
- Opportunity to invest in existing facilities readily available for improvements and located within disadvantaged communities with high park need (SDAC, DAC, Very High-/High-Park Need):
  - **Lower LA River Trail** - 9.6 miles of existing natural surface multi-use trail for equestrians, hikers & bikers
  - **72<sup>nd</sup> Street Equestrian Park** – 3-acre facility with an equestrian arena, corral pen and trailer parking
- Enhances trail with blighted, dilapidated and unsafe conditions that are notably worse compared to southern segments located adjacent to Wrigley Greenbelt, Dominguez Gap Wetlands, Deforest Park & Wetlands, etc.
- Agency Stakeholders: Army Corps, FCD/DPW, and the cities of Long Beach, Paramount and Compton







# MASTER PLANS

## 2018 LOWER LA RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN

- Identified 155 multi-benefit project opportunities within 1-mile of the river
- 7 signature projects were identified to meet the goals of the Plan
- 4 project templates for multi-use path enhancements, complete streets, river channel enhancements and bridge crossing improvements

## 2022 LA RIVER MASTER PLAN

- Update to the 1996 LA River Master Plan
- Seeks to guide reimagined vision of the LA River over next 25 years
- Includes all 51 miles of the LA River
- Design Standards for park and trail improvements along the river (aka “Kit of Parts”)



# MAJOR PROJECT ZONES





# LA RIVER MASTER PLAN KIT OF PARTS



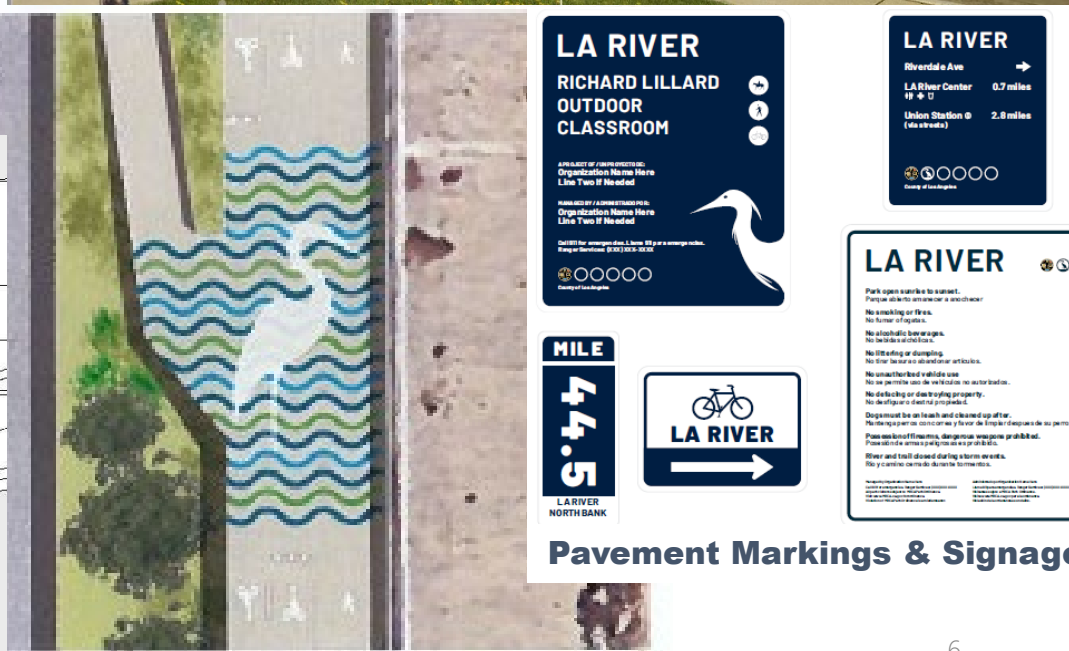
Access Gateway



"XS" Project



Underpass Enhancement/Branding



Pavement Markings & Signage



Fencing





# 72<sup>nd</sup> STREET PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS







**72<sup>nd</sup> STREET PARK**

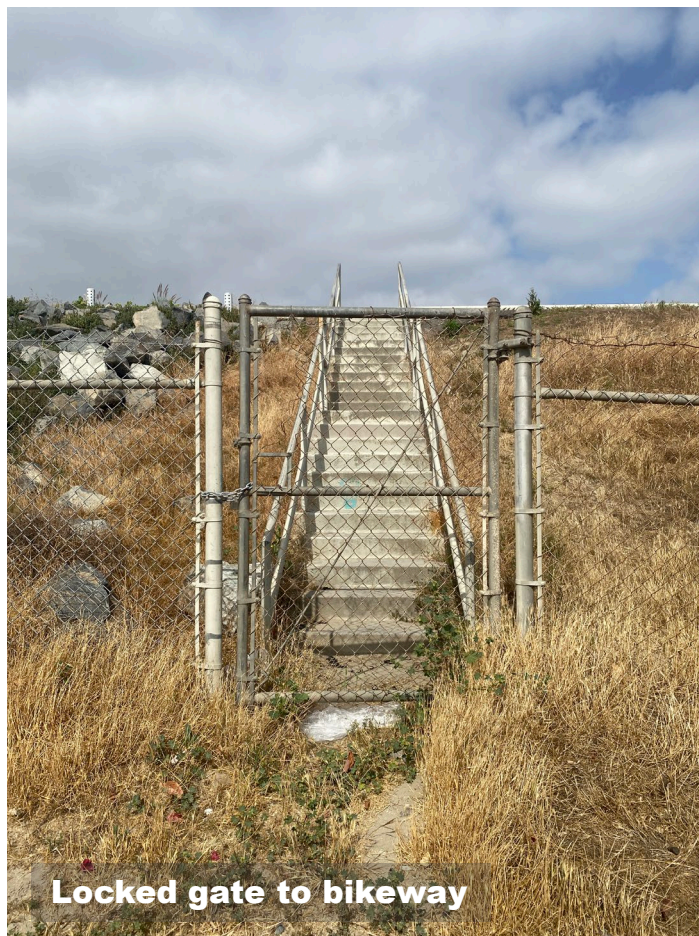
# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**



**Adjacent Multi-Use Trail**



**Adjacent Multi-Use Trail**



**Locked gate to bikeway**



**Access between Park + Multi-Use Trail**





**TRAIL AT LEVEE BASE / FENCING**

# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**







## TRAIL + BIKEWAY INTERFACE

# EXISTING CONDITIONS







**TRAIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT AREA**

# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**



**Overgrown trail south of Somerset Blvd.**



**Trail Adjacent to Bikeway**







**STREET + FWY UNDERPASSES**

# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**



**91 Fwy Underpass (south facing view)**



**Atlantic Underpass (north facing view)**





## DPR MULTI-USE TRAIL SIGNAGE

# EXISTING CONDITIONS







**TRAILS ADJACENT TO PARKS**

# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**



**Bikeway + Trail @ Ralph C. Dills Park**



**Trail @ DeForest Park**

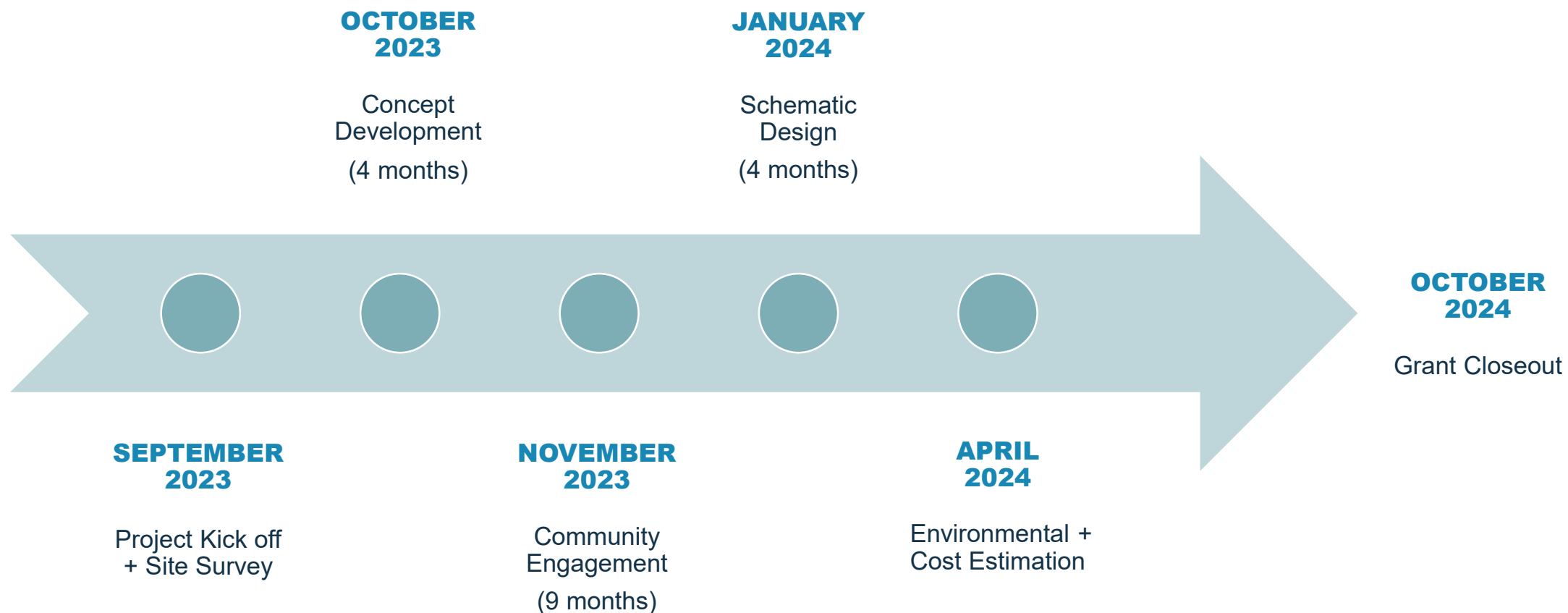


**Trail @ Dominguez Gap Wetlands**





# PROJECT TIMELINE







# LOWER LA RIVER WATERSHED COORDINATOR

## LLAR IAG Meeting - September 2023



# FY 23-24 APPLICATION APPROVED

On August 8, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors awarded **\$130 million in Safe, Clean Water funding for 25 new infrastructure projects**, 6 new scientific studies, 5 new feasibility studies

## **Lower LA Projects:**

- Spane Park in Paramount (\$18, 913,128)
- Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Phase 2 (\$10,387,527)



# FY 24-25 INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

## LYNWOOD CITY PARK STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT

**Total request: \$22,200,000 over five years  
(Construction only\*)**

*\*Design completed under prior funding award of  
\$1,691,629 (FY 21-22)*

**Timeline:** Completion date - 06/2029

### Community Benefits include

- Located within a census tract designated disadvantaged
- Upgraded park utility and recreational facilities: improved soccer field with new turf grass, addition of native vegetation throughout the park
- Biofiltration creek replicating natural waterways formerly found in the region

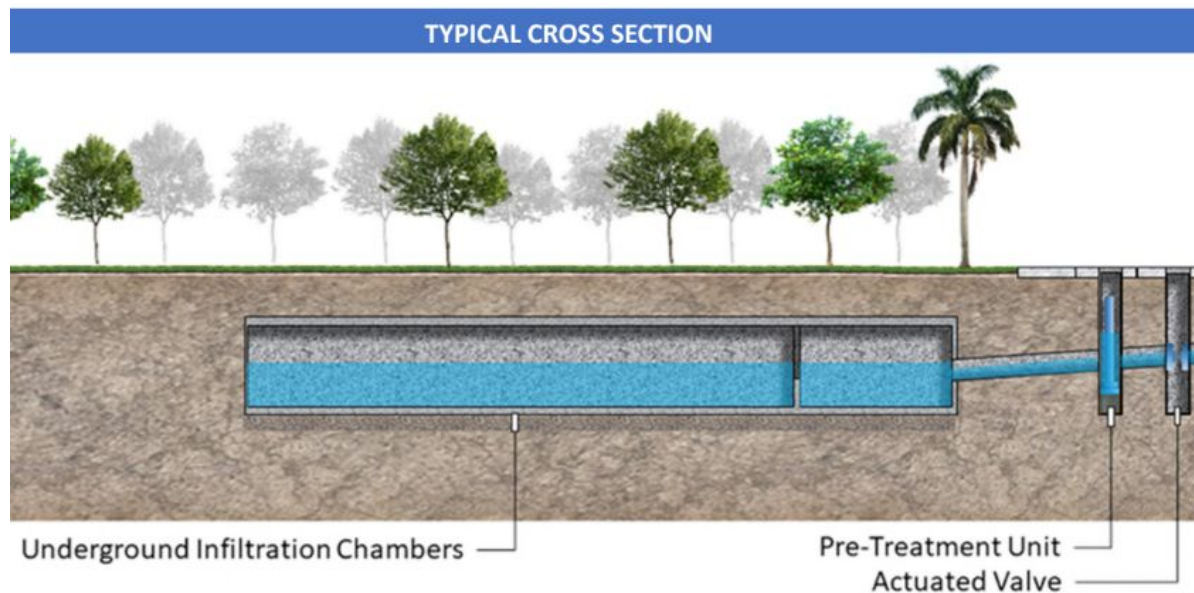


# FY 24-25 INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

## LYNWOOD CITY PARK STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT

### Water Benefits include:

- Underground infiltration vault & diversion structures
- Expected to capture 100% of zinc and other pollutants during dry weather and 231 pounds of zinc on an annual average basis



# UPCOMING GREEN SCHOOL TOUR

## JOIN US FOR A TOUR! **LIVING SCHOOLYARDS** CAPTURING STORMWATER



### VICTORY BLVD. ELEMENTARY



6315 Radford Ave  
North Hollywood, CA 91606

**Tuesday October 24, 2023**  
**3 PM - 4:30 PM**

Come tour an example of a living, water-capturing schoolyard in the **Upper LA River Watershed** with the Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Coordinators. Hear from LAUSD staff and partners about how the project came to be and lessons learned. Please note: Due to limited space, tours are invite-only and require an RSVP.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

### REGISTER NOW:



[victory-schooltour-scwp.  
eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/scwp-school-tours-2619749)

To stay tuned on the next school tours, visit:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/scwp-school-tours-2619749>

# UPCOMING GREEN SCHOOL TOUR

## JOIN US FOR A TOUR! **LIVING SCHOOLYARDS** CAPTURING STORMWATER



### NORTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



17960 Chase St  
Northridge, CA 91325

**Friday November 17, 2023**  
**1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

Come tour an example of a living, water-capturing schoolyard in the **Upper LA River Watershed** with the Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Coordinators. Hear from LAUSD staff and partners about how the project came to be and lessons learned. Please note: Due to limited space, tours are invite-only and require an RSVP.



### REGISTER NOW:



[northridgems-schooltour-  
scwp.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/scwp-school-tours-2619749)

To stay tuned on the next school tours, visit:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/scwp-school-tours-2619749>



# Bid and Project Schedules

## Potential Future Bid Opportunities ▼

Developers and Municipalities have provided the following information on upcoming bid opportunities for SCW Regional and Municipal Program Projects and Studies.

SCW Program	Watershed Area	Project Name	Project Lead	Bid Type	Bid Description	Est. Bid/Award Start	Est. Bid/Award End	Bid Amount	Link
Regional	Upper San Gabriel River	Barnes Park	Romany Basilyous, rbasilyous@baldwinpark.com	Other	Construction services for Barnes Park. The request for bid is expected to be posted on September 21, 2023. Additional information will be provided once the request is posted.	09/21/2023	10/26/2023	\$15.3M	<a href="#">Link</a>

## Project Schedules ▼

Developers and Municipalities have provided the following information on Project construction schedules for SCW Regional and Municipal Program Projects.

SCW Program	Watershed Area	Project Name	Project Lead	Current Phase	Est. Construction Start	Est. Construction End	Capital Cost
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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT (WRP)

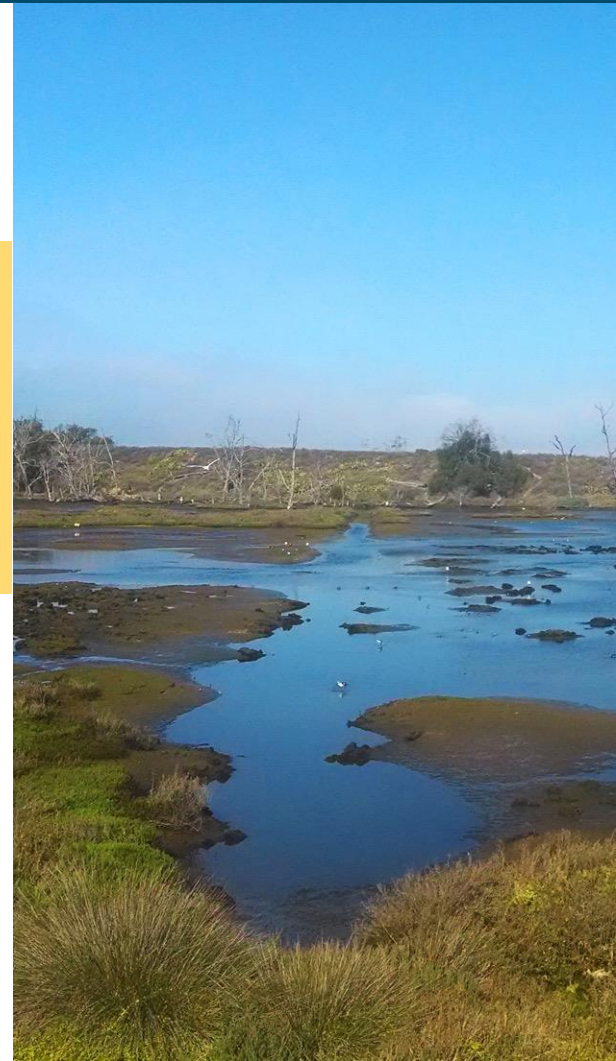


## COMMUNITY WETLAND RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

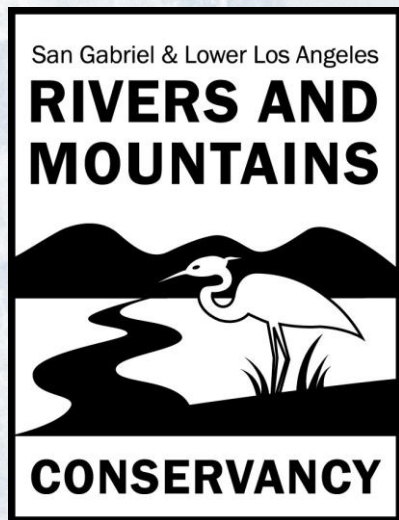
**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER  
IAG COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**



Maravilla Clemens  
NOAA Coastal Management Fellow  
State Coastal Conservancy



# Program Partners



# Program Priorities

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

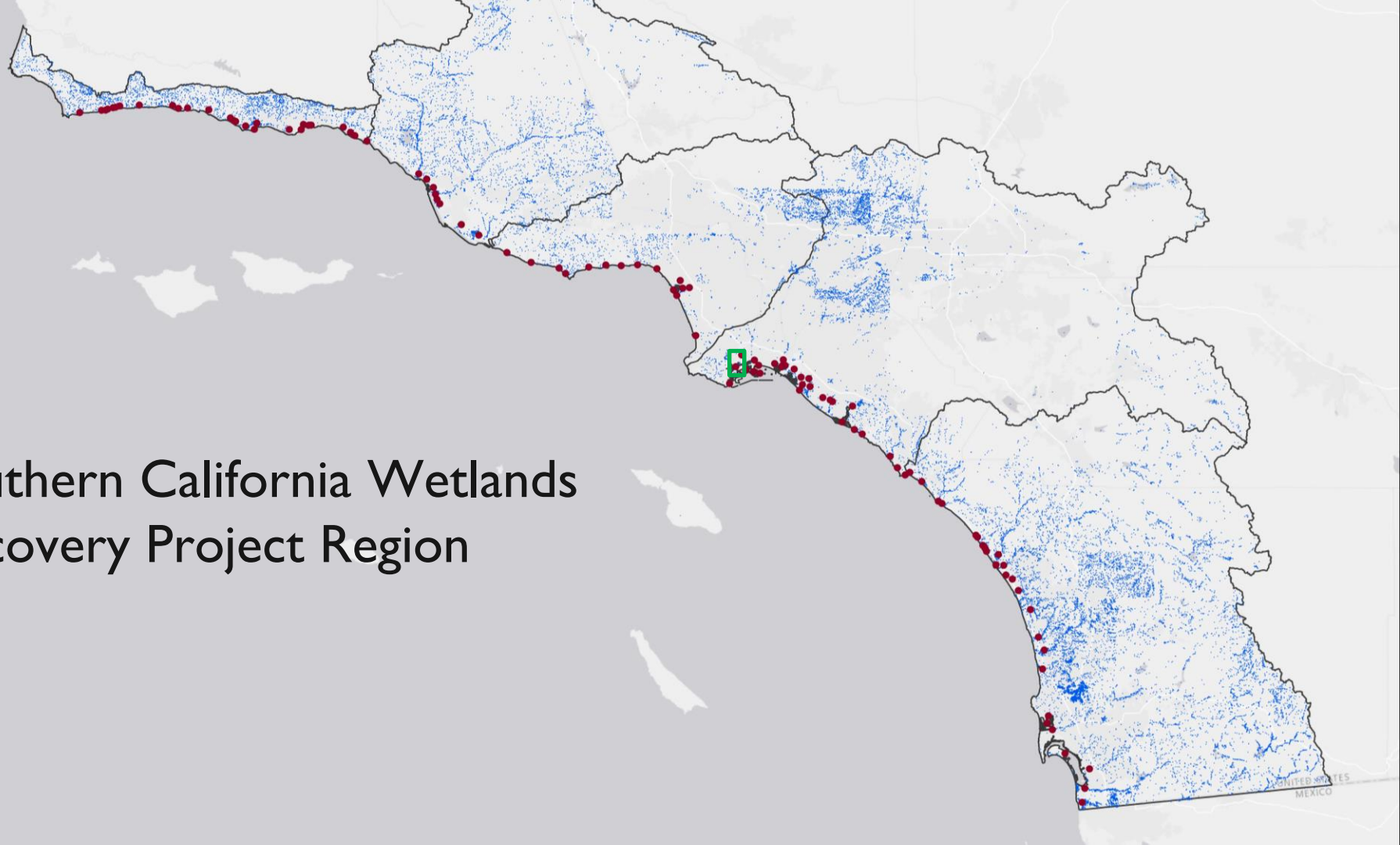
Implement  
restoration projects  
that have strong  
community benefits

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

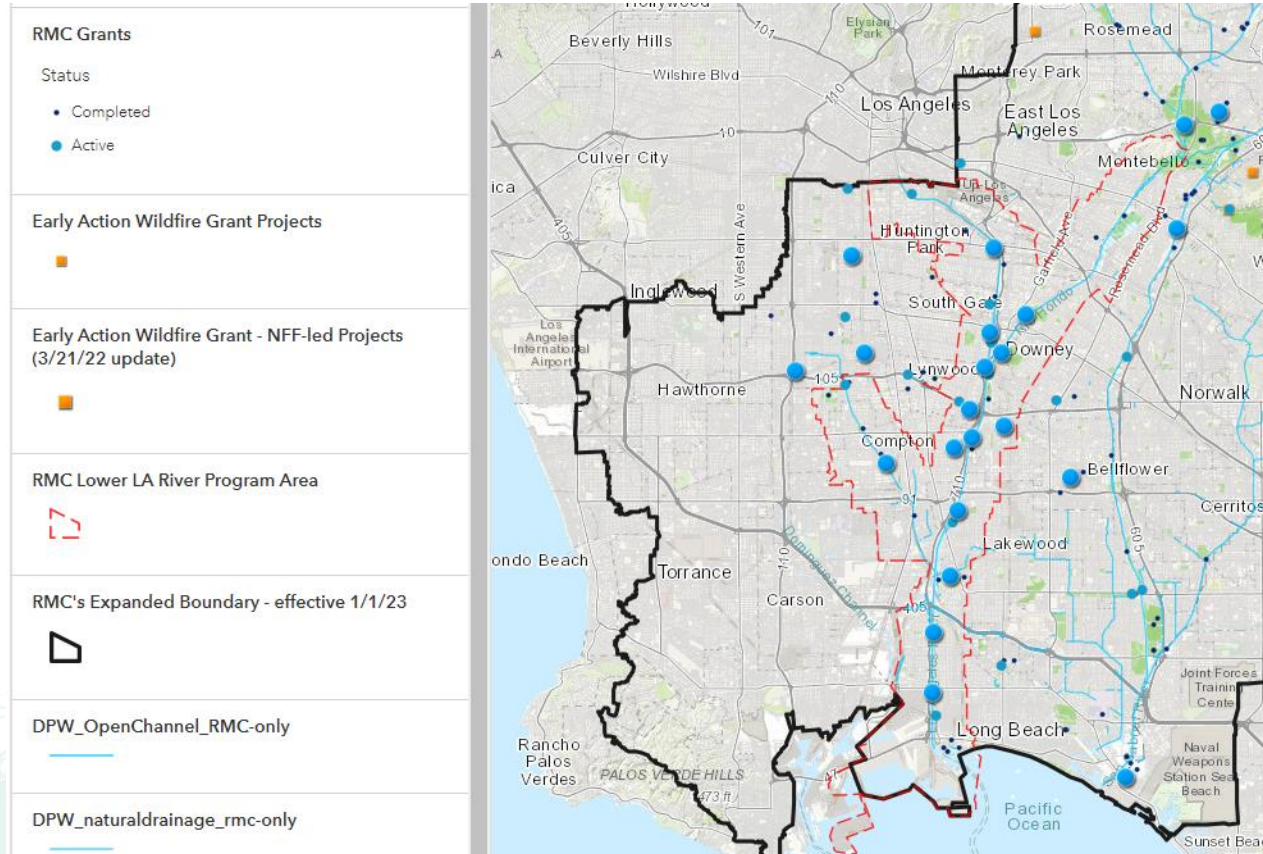
Increase  
organizational  
capacity to plan  
and implement  
habitat restoration  
projects



# Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Region



# PRIORITY AREA: LOWER LA RIVER BASIN



# CONTACT

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

