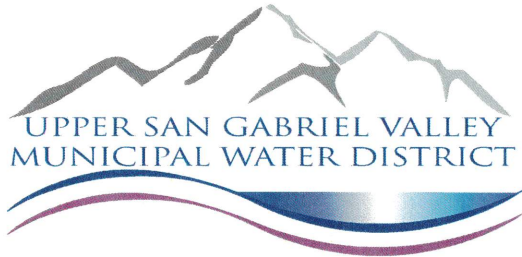


**WATER RESOURCES AND FACILITY
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, February 12, 2024
5:00 p.m.**

Committee Members:

Charles M. Treviño, Chair
Katarina Garcia, Vice-Chair



248 E. Foothill Blvd, Room 103
Monrovia, CA 91016

(626) 443-2297
www.upperdistrict.org

*The Water Resources and Facility Management Committee meeting is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to the Water Resources and Facility Management Committee may attend and participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to the Water Resources and Facility Management Committee will not vote on matters before the Committee.

Communications

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment

Discussion/Action

3. MWD Updates
 - Pure Water Southern California Update
 - CAMP4W Update
4. Safe Clean Water LA Update
5. LA County Water Plan
6. Building Update

Oral Reports

7. Water Supply Update

Other Matters

- 8.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

American Disabilities Act Compliance (*Government Code Section 54954.2(a)*)



To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Upper District office at (626) 443-2297 or venessa@usgvmwd.org at least 24 hours prior to meeting.



Introduction

In November 2018, the voters of Los Angeles County approved Measure W, known as the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP or Program). The Program funds stormwater initiatives that improve water quality, increase our local water supply, and provide community benefits, like green spaces and parks. The program cultivates regional and community partnerships and prioritizes historically underserved communities.

The SCWP receives approximately \$280 million per year and consists of three major programs which each receive a proportional share of the funds: the Regional Program (50%), Municipal Program (40%), and LA County Flood Control District (District) Program (10%).

This Draft biennial SCWP Progress Report (Report) by the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) provides an update on SCWP progress, assesses the extent to which SCWP Program Goals are being achieved, and provides findings and recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) for adaptive management of the program. This is the first Biennial Report since the establishment of the SCWP. It covers the substantial efforts of the Program's initial five years getting a very large and complex program underway (and includes data from the first two years of reports that are now available).

Some key accomplishments and metrics for the Program to date include:

- **Regional Program:** The Board of Supervisors has approved four annual Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs; 36 SIPs in total for 9 watersheds), programming \$513.5M for:
 - 126 Infrastructure Program Multi-benefit Projects that are anticipated to capture stormwater from over 265,000 acres spanning 50 different municipalities. These projects will provide an increase in local water supply of over 59,000 acre-feet per year and remove 47 acres of impervious area.
 - Of these, 12 projects are already completed and are capturing stormwater from 25,480 acres spanning 8 municipalities. These completed projects are able to provide an average increase in local water supply of over 2,550 acre-feet per year and removed 25 acres of impervious area.
 - 38 Scientific Studies to further understanding of local conditions and project potential¹
 - 37 Project Concepts via the Technical Resources Program (TRP)
 - 12 Watershed Coordinators who educate and build capacity in communities and facilitate community and stakeholder engagement, working with and participating on Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs).

¹ Note some special studies are counted more than once if funded in more than one watershed/SIP

- **Municipal Program:** \$446.2M (approximately \$111M annually) has been committed to 85 municipalities and the Unincorporated County for the first four years. In the first two years, disbursements were used to fund over 360 Projects and Programs that are not also funded by the Regional Program.
- **District Program:** \$111.5M has been allocated to the District over the first four years of the Program for administering the Program, technical assistance, regional coordination of the 12 Watershed Coordinators, and initial work related to District Education Programs that include investments in workforce development, K-12 education programs, and general outreach, education, and engagement.
- **Adaptive Management:** Many program elements have already been adapted through the development and implementation of guidelines, new programming and mapping tools, the online application Portal and data solicitation and tracking enhancements, and studies. Additional efforts are also underway, which are expected for further inform the adaptive management of the SCWP.

Details of progress made to date and ongoing efforts will be found in the various Appendices of this report.

- Appendix A: Safe, Clean Water Program Overview
- Appendix B: Regional Program Summary
- Appendix C: Municipal Program Summary
- Appendix D: District Program Summary
- Appendix E: Adaptive Management of the SCWP
- Appendix F: Project Highlights

Los Angeles County has nine major watershed areas that are delineated in this Program, each of which have their own opportunities and limitations. The Observations/Findings and the subsequent Recommendations herein must be explored both Program-wide and in the context of each watershed area.

Observations/Findings

The ROC began meeting in June 2023 to discuss and initiate this Report, and to hear from the District, stakeholders, and the public on Program progress and potential areas for improvement. Some of the ROC's key observations and findings include:

1. The Program has successfully launched. A significant amount of effort has gone into launching this large and complex program including numerous sub-programs, governance committees, guidance documents, tools, and processes.
2. The Program needs to transform into a forward-looking pro-active program. The program has largely been reactive to date, responding to proposals submitted for funding rather than pro-actively seeking projects that best meet specific goals (which have yet to be clearly defined).
3. The Program should consider watershed-specific needs and capabilities in planning. A one-size-fits-all approach is inadequate, and watershed specific considerations should be included in the Regional Program.
4. The Program needs precise metrics to better quantify program success and demonstrate progress towards established goals. Refinements are needed to clarify definitions, create more precise metrics, and establish scoring criteria that better align with all the SCWP goals – especially related to Community Investment Benefits, Disadvantaged Community Benefits, Equity, Community Engagement, and Nature Based Solutions.
5. The Program needs strategies to improve inclusive community engagement. The Program still faces lingering challenges in obtaining and effectively incorporating meaningful community input from certain groups and demographics.
6. The Program needs to streamline the project approval process. The Regional Program application process is complicated and should be simplified, if possible, for different types of projects and project phases.
7. The Program should revise the review and approval timelines to ensure adequate time for meaningful committee review. Refinements to governance processes and timelines are needed to provide sufficient time for decision making.
8. The Program should prioritize the District Education programs. These programs have been slow in getting off the ground.
9. The Program needs to improve transparency. Greater transparency is needed for spending and investments in the Municipal and District Programs.
10. Results of approved/funded Scientific Studies are not currently being broadly disseminated.

Recommendations

The ROC has developed recommendations that have been thoughtfully prioritized to reflect ROC discussion and deliberation, input from diverse stakeholders, as well as from subject-specific focus groups on the topics of water supply, community investment benefits, disadvantaged community benefits, and community engagement.

The ROC requests that these recommendations be considered by the Board of Supervisors and the District, and that the District establish an expedited timeline/pathway to implement these recommendations, pending any legal reviews and available resources, and regularly communicate any applicable progress and limitations.

The ROC's key recommendations are:

1. Expedite watershed planning efforts, including consideration of previous and concurrent studies, working with Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs), regional agencies, and community groups related to watershed-specific priorities (to also help inform Municipal Program planning and tracking) by doing the following:
 - a. Obtain additional dedicated resources to provide pro-active leadership and adaptive management of the SCWP and its numerous goals.
 - b. Conduct a strategic goal setting process to be completed with the Director of Public Works
 - c. Establish watershed specific goals, objectives, metrics, and timelines, that would allow project applicants to focus on projects that would meet goals and objectives of each watershed.
 - d. Establish Water Quality quantitative goals and develop a plan with timelines to accomplish these goals. Ensuring that these goals and planning efforts are developed to build upon established regional water quality programs and projects (e.g. Municipal Separation Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit) and include characterization of upstream and downstream program interactions.
 - e. Establish Community Investment Benefit quantitative goals, including the development of a plan with timelines to meet these goals.
 - f. Set a region wide water supply target of 300,000 acre-ft of additional storm water capture by 2045. This acre-ft target deadline should be temporarily aligned with the 80% local water by 2045 target in LA County's OurCounty Sustainability Plan and draft LA County Water Plan.

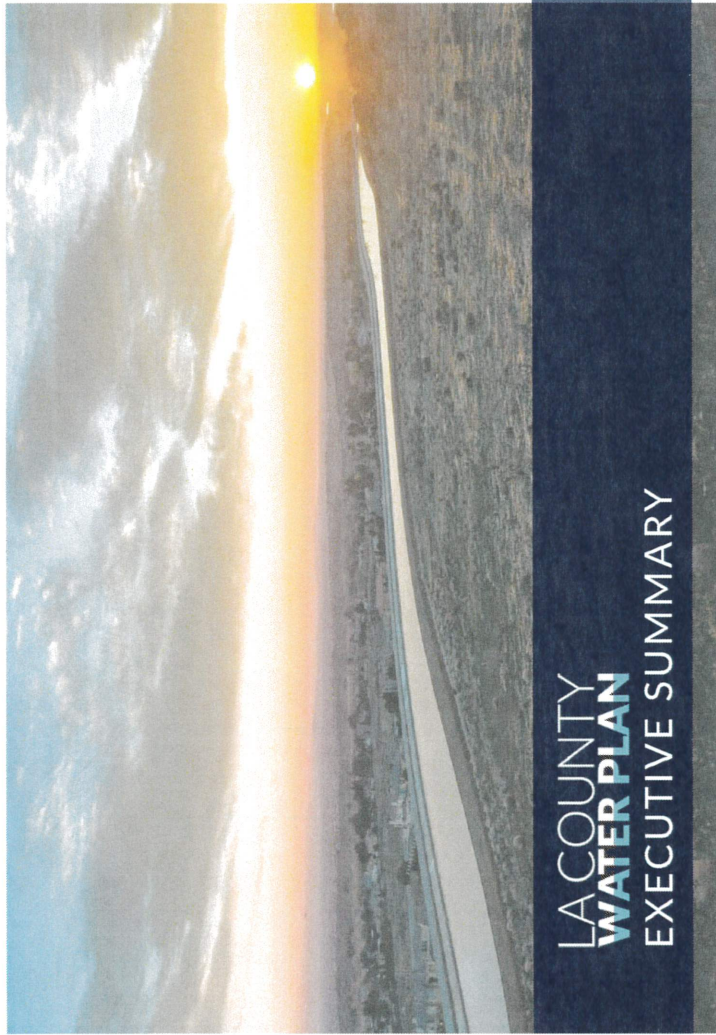
- g. Clarify that claiming Water Supply Benefits requires an applicant to demonstrate that the storm water capture is “new” water and will be available for regional water supply.
 - h. Develop guidelines/criteria to incentivize large infrastructure projects and investments.
 - i. Develop guidelines/criteria to streamline applications for various sized projects and various stages of development.
 - j. Create/strengthen collaborative planning and co-funding with other agencies/organizations to maximize the benefits to LA County.
 - k. Coordinate between the Regional and Municipal programs to better meet established goals.
2. Establish Disadvantaged Community investment quantitative goals and develop a plan with timelines to meet these goals.
 3. Make strategic investments in workforce development programs for skills related to SCWP programs and projects in the short and long term, and ensure workforce-related elements are reflected in procedures, guidelines, and reports as appropriate.
 4. Revise Regional Program quarterly reporting to twice yearly in conjunction with Project Modification Reports (Ordinance change, Board Approval)
 5. Revise the process and timeline for the ROC to evaluate whether Program Goals are being accomplished at the Program and watershed levels per the Ordinance, including bringing Storm Water Investment Plans (SIPs) to the ROC as they are approved by the WASC's to allow for a more timely review and deliberation, and developing a dashboard to assess Program-wide benefits (Regional, Municipal, and District) over time.
 6. Evaluate recommendations that will result from the in-process Metrics and Monitoring Study and recommend changes, if and when appropriate, to the procedures, guidelines, and scoring criteria currently used to manage the various goals/programs of the SCWP.

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN

2023 Edition | Water Supply Resilience

equity
sustainability
opportunity
local
water
resources
collaboration
relationships
regional
resilience



LACOUNTY WATER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OUR ROUTE TO RESILIENCE, TOGETHER

Climate change is establishing a “new normal” of more frequent and intense droughts, as well as less frequent and more torrential rains. Recognizing a new climate reality and the need to be thoughtful stewards of future water supplies, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors envisioned the development of a countywide water plan focused on collaborative management of Los Angeles County’s water resources. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) developed this Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP), together with water resources organizations, and an array of diverse stakeholders, to secure Los Angeles County’s water future and achieve our collective vision of equitable and sustainable water resources for everyone. The CWP builds upon the 2019 OurCounty Sustainability Plan, establishing the path to realizing our vision that is rooted in cross-sector collaboration and coalition building.

VISION

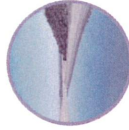
The CWP articulates a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably and equitably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County.

SHARED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER RESILIENCE

THE CWP FOCUSES ON ACHIEVING REGIONAL WATER RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES. Over 200 agencies in Los Angeles County manage a complex network of water systems to meet the needs of our communities and environment. To achieve sustainability, resilience, and equity, cross-sector teamwork and a holistic approach to best leverage natural systems and infrastructure are essential. This plan is a living document. The targets, strategies, and actions are a starting point in this effort.

The CWP is not intended to address every water-related issue in Los Angeles County. Instead, it builds upon and complements the many existing local and regional water planning efforts by focusing on four key focal areas where new or additional regional collaboration can add value. These four key focal areas were established through a gaps analysis, which included a review of local and regional planning documents, along with initial stakeholder discussions encompassing a variety of perspectives. For each of the four key focal areas, the CWP describes shared desired outcomes, identified by Public Works through discussions with numerous groups and individuals. During our gaps analysis, Public Works evaluated disparities in water resilience throughout the County and specifically selected a focal area to address a pressing need. The CWP provides an approach for achieving these desired outcomes through collaboration and a platform for measuring progress.

CWP Four Key Focal Areas



REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

Improving regional water supply reliability by better leveraging our collective local and imported water resources and infrastructure.



GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY

Realizing our shared groundwater management opportunities by sharing expertise and resources to overcome challenges.



SMALL, AT-RISK SYSTEM RESILIENCE AND DRINKING WATER EQUITY

Ensuring a consistently high standard of water service for everyone in Los Angeles County by providing regional support for small systems, with focused attention to under-resourced communities.



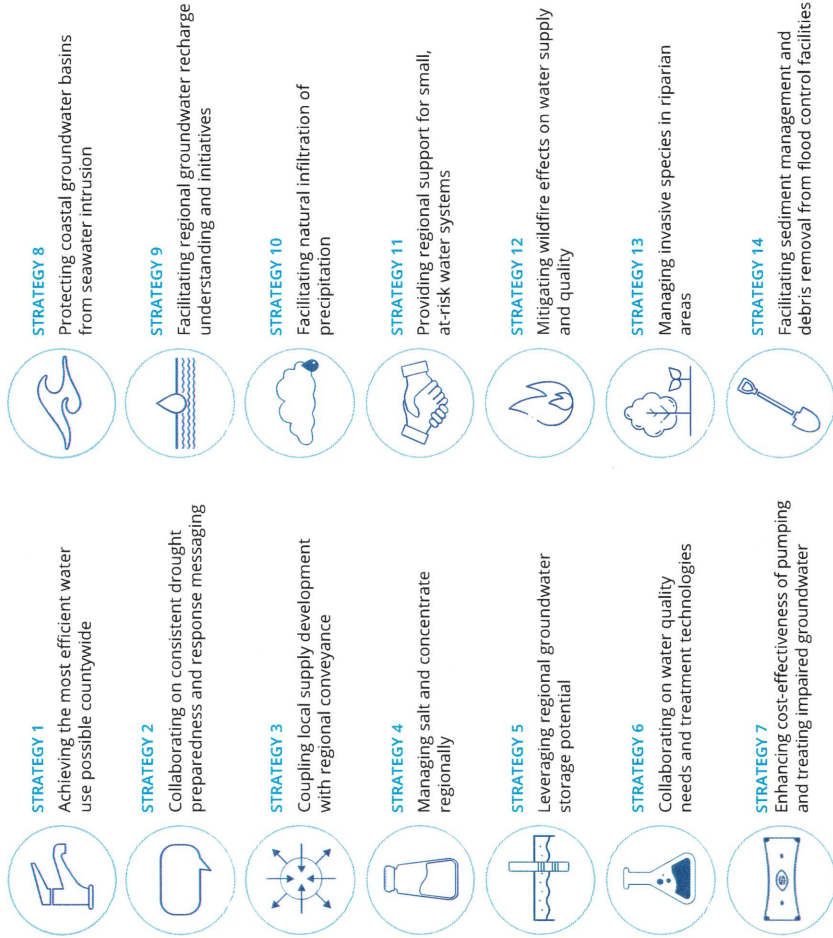
WATERSHED SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

Mitigating the impacts of wildfire on our water supplies through coordinated efforts between land and water managers.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES, REGIONAL BENEFITS

The CWP is organized around a framework of targets and strategies, which are supported by specific actions. Targets measure collective progress toward the shared desired outcomes for the key focal areas of the CWP. These targets are intended to help Los Angeles County achieve regional water resilience by 2045. See Chapter 2 for more on targets. Public Works will publish an interactive dashboard to track progress toward these targets. Strategies provide the overarching approaches to achieving the targets. Actions support the strategies and include specific steps to drive results, along with timing, responsible agencies, and potential participants.

Strategies for a Resilient Water Future



VALUES GUIDING FUTURE ACTION

At the onset of CWP development, Public Works proactively reached out to a diverse group of stakeholders to understand what matters to them. We identified several broad, overarching values for the CWP through these conversations. Some of these values provided core tenets to our overall process for preparing the CWP. Others guided us in establishing targets, strategies, and actions. Other values, while not directly addressed through the actions in the CWP, will continue to inform how water resource management is approached to achieve sustainable and equitable outcomes. Each of these values will guide future iterations of the plan, as well as steps taken throughout CWP implementation.

These values are aligned with LA County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, which aims to guide the County by offering training and capacity building; technical assistance and planning; policy analysis and development; data collection; analysis and reporting; community, tribal, and other stakeholder engagement; and equity-infused resourcing and programming to help reach its goals.

CWP VALUES

- Strive for equitable benefits and impacts of water resource management decisions
- Ensure inclusive, diverse, multigenerational, and sustained tribal and community engagement
- Use data to inform policies, priorities, and practices
- Encourage multi-benefit projects and green infrastructure
- Promote capacity building of a local, skilled workforce
- Incorporate tribal knowledge into water management
- Integrate the knowledge and experiences of local communities in water planning
- Ensure CWP is actionable and adaptable
- Address climate resiliency
- Establish clear communications (outline priorities, listen, incorporate feedback, maintain dialogue)
- Implement vegetated/nature-based solutions



The CWP outlines a path to achieve a resilient water future for all Los Angeles County residents. Everyone has a role in successfully realizing the CWP. By working across County departments and with other partners, actively engaging Tribes and other stakeholders, seeking funding to support CWP implementation, and tracking and reporting on progress, we are committed to facilitating the ongoing collaboration that is core to making the CWP successful.

CENTRAL THEMES FOR A PATH AHEAD

To lead the way on regional initiatives, the CWP was developed with resilience, equity, sustainability, and engagement as central themes. These themes will guide CWP implementation and its future iterations to create reliable water resources for all communities in Los Angeles County.

RESILIENCE

Water resilience refers to the capacity of communities and the environment to adapt to changes in the availability of water resources resulting from extreme and shifting weather patterns, as well as other stressors.

EQUITY

Water equity entails ensuring that all people and communities can depend on water management institutions and infrastructure to provide equal access to clean, safe, high-quality, and affordable water.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable water management involves using water resources in a manner that fulfills current ecological, social, and economic needs without compromising the ability to meet those needs in the future.

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement means actively reaching out to and collaborating with a diverse and representative range of stakeholders to develop and implement water management policies and programs.

A FORWARD-LOOKING LIVING DOCUMENT

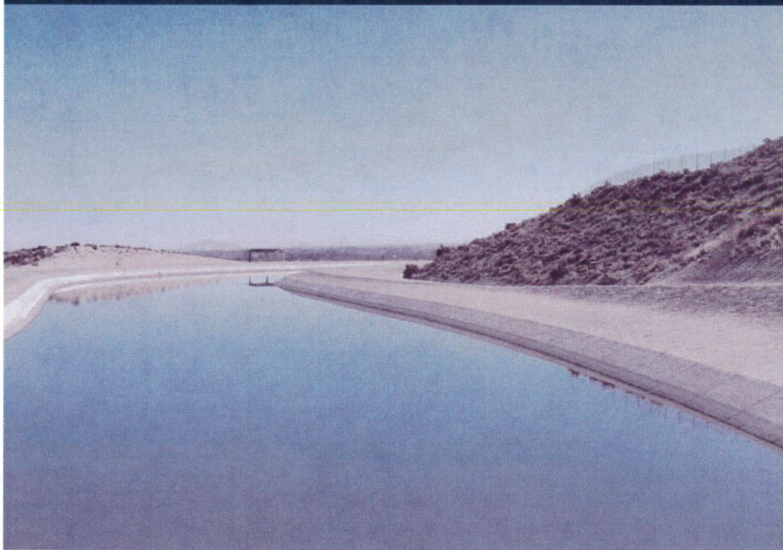
THE CWP IS A LIVING DOCUMENT. This inaugural 2023 Edition of the CWP marks the first iteration for this regional planning effort and focuses on water supply resilience. As a living document, future iterations of the CWP are intended to evolve and adapt to meet Los Angeles County's changing water resources needs.

WHAT IS IT? The CWP is a forward-looking strategic plan that crafts a vision for the region's water resources management. The CWP articulates strategies to align efforts both small and large in order to launch Los Angeles County on a successful path towards water supply resilience.

WHO IS IT FOR? Water knows no city or county boundaries. The CWP is a plan for the County region as a whole, not a single locality or governing body. The CWP was developed to serve – collaboratively with local agencies and stakeholders – the people and communities of Los Angeles County.

THE CWP FILLS CURRENT GAPS TO ENHANCE THE REGION'S WATER RESILIENCE. Recognizing that there are so many ambitious efforts already underway in Los Angeles County, the CWP takes a bird's-eye view on what else can be done to optimize, leverage, and align programs and processes. While the CWP does not attempt to reinvent the wheel or address every water-related issue, it complements existing efforts and fills in the gaps for matters not currently being addressed at a regional level. The CWP does not address activities best managed at the Federal, State, or local levels, nor does it recommend specific projects subject to environmental analysis or duplicate other ongoing efforts. As a strategic plan, the CWP does not supersede land use plans that have been adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN



equity
local
resilience

sustainability
opportunity

water
resources
collaboration
relationships
regional

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

LACountyWaterPlan.org

Prepared by LA County Public Works with support from Woodard & Curran | December 2023

