

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

**DATE:** February 3, 2025

**TO:** Honorable Adrin Nazarian, Chair  
Honorale Katy Yaroslavsky, Vice Chair  
Honorale Ysabel Jurado, Member  
Honorale Nithya Raman, Member  
Honorale Imelda Padilla, Member  
Energy and Environment Committee

**FROM:** Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager  
LA Sanitation and Environment



**SUBJECT: SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM CITYWIDE DEPARTMENT  
COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOS ANGELES UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
(CF# 23-0656)**

**Recommendations:**

1. Note and File this Report.
2. Direct LASAN to continue to collaborate with other departments, Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Watershed Coordinators, and community partners to engage with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to support school greening efforts and overcome barriers to project partnership in the development of greening projects in areas with park needs. Incorporate any identified partnership opportunities into annual Watershed Investment Strategic Plans (WISP).

**Background**

On August 29, 2023, the City Council approved Council Motion (Council File #23-0656) instructing the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) and the Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in conjunction with the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA), the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), to report to the Council on methods and approaches to partner, co-develop, and recommend strategic regional projects for inclusion in the 2024 Watershed Investment Strategic Plan (WISP) annual update for the SCWP that maximize water quality and water supply objectives in a substantial way, including opportunities to leverage additional funding sources. In addition, the Council Motion instructed the LASAN and LADWP, and the above specified departments, to report on the feasibility of initiating partnerships with the Los Angeles Unified School District, and non-governmental organizations, to implement green space projects using SCWP funding and other sources of funding in the schools and communities lacking park space.

## Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Stormwater Greening Opportunities

LASAN built off the potential projects identified in the City's Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) and further assessed which projects may be feasible and should be further investigated to move the City towards compliance. These initial sets of projects contain the short-listed priority projects that resulted in identifying twenty (20) potential LAUSD school sites that have the potential to take surrounding area stormwater runoff and mitigate it onsite and assist in moving the City and LAUSD closer to meeting their respective stormwater mandates. Attachment 1 provides a list of the top 20 potential LAUSD sites.

As LAUSD potential sites are evaluated for stormwater capture they should also be evaluated to determine if they are good candidates to include into RAP and LAUSD's Community School Parks (CSP) Program which was developed to provide access to school yards during the weekends in park deficient areas of the City. Under the CSP Program a community school park is a designated area on a school campus made available for public use for recreation and play during non-school hours, at no cost to the public.

In May 2024 LASAN met with LAUSD Board member Jackie Goldberg's Office (Steven Simon, Policy Director) to discuss the potential school greening opportunities LASAN has identified and the challenges we have experienced in finding ways to utilize LAUSD land to maximize stormwater capture while greening schools. In addition LASAN is proactively working to establish partnerships with the LAUSD and has met with their Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer to better understand where LAUSD's priority areas of stormwater capture and greening projects are located, as well to discuss initiating a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a future joint project at Rosa Parks Learning Center.

Unresolved challenges that have limited establishing a Memorandum of Agreement between City of LA and LAUSD:

- LAUSD's refusal to accept offsite runoff onto school campuses over concerns of liability and safety concerns.
- LAUSD's concern for the future fate of schools.
- LAUSD's concern of future development restrictions having to work around stormwater infrastructure.
- LAUSD's concerns over operation and maintenance (access and liability).

LASAN will continue to collaborate with other departments, Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Watershed Coordinators, and community partners to engage with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to support school greening efforts and overcome barriers to project partnership in the development of greening projects in areas with park needs.

### Non-Governmental Organizations in Stormwater Greening Opportunities

The City adopted its inaugural Community Outreach and Engagement Strategic Plan on July 2, 2024 (CF 18-0384-S11). This plan details the City's approach for community partnership on SCWP Projects. Building off the recent success of the South LA Green Alleys Project (CD 9) where LASAN partnered with the Trust for Public Lands on delivering the Project, LASAN has several ongoing projects with NGOs and community based organizations (CBOs) that are being supported by the City's Safe Clean Water Program utilizing our municipal returns. In addition, County Public Works partnered with the Water Foundation to launch a Safe Clean Water Grant Program to fund community-based organizations focused on community outreach and engagement for SCWP projects. LASAN is working to assist multiple NGOs and CBOs applying for these funds. Table 2 provides a summary of active partnership projects with NGOs and CBOs that are supported by LASAN and the municipal program. Table 3 represents NGO / CBO Projects within the City of Los Angeles in which the City has supported the NGO / CBO in submission of a Regional SCW application.

Table 2 - Active partnership projects with NGOs & CBOs.

| # | Project                                          | CD | NGO / CBO Lead         | Total Project Cost | Estimated Completion Date |
|---|--------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Inell Woods Park                                 | 9  | Heal the Bay           | \$1.3M             | July 2024                 |
| 2 | Caballero Creek Park Project                     | 3  | MRCA                   | \$5.5M             | Oct 2025                  |
| 3 | Reseda River Loop Phase II                       | 3  | TPL                    | \$5.6M             | Dec 2025                  |
| 4 | El Dorado Park                                   | 7  | MRCA                   | \$2.5M             | Dec 2025                  |
| 5 | Slauson Connect Clean Water Project              | 9  | Corvias                | \$4.9M             | Jun 2026                  |
| 6 | Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway             | 15 | East Side Riders       | \$2.7M             | Jan 2026                  |
| 7 | Water Wheel Project (aka Bending Back the River) | 1  | Metabolic Studios      | \$9.0M             | Sep 2024                  |
| 8 | Bowtie Wetland Demonstration Project             | 1  | The Nature Conservancy | \$11.3M            | Dec 2025                  |

Table 3- NGO / CBO Projects within the City of Los Angeles in which the City has supported the NGO / CBO in submission of a Regional SCW application.

| <b>Project</b>                                                                 | <b>CD</b> | <b>NGO / CBO Lead</b>               | <b>Total Project Cost</b> | <b>Estimated Completion Date</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fern Dell Restoration and Stormwater Capture Project (Round 3)                 | 4         | Friends of Griffith Park            | \$300k                    | TBD                              |
| Blackwelder Tract Community Greenbelt BMPs and Landscape Improvement (Round 4) | 10        | California Greenworks               | \$300k                    | TBD                              |
| Bowtie Demonstration Project O&M Request (Round 5)                             | 1         | Nature Conservancy                  | \$11.3M                   | Jan 2024                         |
| Elephant Hill Open Space and Stormwater Infrastructure Project (Round 5)       | 14        | Save Elephant Hill                  | \$300k                    | TBD                              |
| Western Gage Green Alleys (Round 6)                                            | 8         | Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative | \$300k                    | TBD                              |

LASAN will continue to coordinate and engage with the regional watershed coordinators and various NGOs and CBOs in an effort to explore future partnership opportunities and to update its Community Outreach and Engagement Strategic Plan on an annual basis.

cc:      Randall Winston, Mayor's Office      Ted Allen, BOE  
          Andrea Greene, Mayor's Office      Alfred Mata, BOE  
          Ryan Jackson, Mayor's Office      Shirley Lau, BSS  
          Patty Huber, CAO      Al Bazzi, BSS  
          Jacqueline Wagner, CAO      Gina Liang, BSS  
          Janice Chang Yu, CAO      Jimmy Kim, Rec & Parks  
          Jessica Quach, CAO      Cathie Santo Domingo, Rec & Parks  
          Rafael Prieto, CLA      Darryl Ford, Rec & Parks  
          Blayne Sutton-Wills, CLA      Art Castro, DWP  
          Julie Allen, LASAN  
          Adena Hopenstand, City Attorney  
          Virginia Choi, City Attorney  
          Thomas Costello-Vega, City Attorney

**Attachment 1**  
**Top 20 Potential LAUSD for Stormwater Capture**

| Project                                                    | Watershed         | Safe Clean Water (SCW) Watershed | Status | Storm Event Capture Volume (acre-feet) | Benefits a Disadvantaged Community | City Council District | Project Summary Available | Latitude   | Longitude    | Site San Score |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Rosa Parks Learning Center                                 | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 1.5                                    | Yes                                | 6                     | Yes                       | 34.2308146 | -118.46176   | -*             |
| Griffin Ave Elementary School                              | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 18.7                                   | Yes                                | 1                     | No                        | 34.0686757 | -118.2127652 | 96             |
| California Children's Academy                              | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 3.1                                    | Yes                                | 1                     | No                        | 34.078693  | -118.215703  | 96             |
| Animo Locke Charter High School #2                         | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 4.9                                    | Yes                                | 8                     | No                        | 33.9345153 | -118.2689987 | 90             |
| West Adams Preparatory High School                         | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 8.3                                    | Yes                                | 1                     | No                        | 34.0391209 | -118.2899353 | 85             |
| Belmont Community Adult School                             | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 3.9                                    | Yes                                | 1                     | No                        | 34.052334  | -118.270585  | 85             |
| Berendo Middle School                                      | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 10.7                                   | Yes                                | 1                     | No                        | 34.050136  | -118.294582  | 84             |
| Robert F. Kennedy Community School                         | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 36.1                                   | Yes                                | 10                    | No                        | 34.0601129 | -118.2966047 | 84             |
| Ascot Avenue Elementary School                             | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 9.5                                    | Yes                                | 9                     | No                        | 34.003204  | -118.249112  | 84             |
| Nevin Ave Elementary School                                | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 8.9                                    | Yes                                | 9                     | No                        | 34.012786  | -118.246533  | 84             |
| Samuel Gompers Middle School                               | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 7.4                                    | Yes                                | 8                     | No                        | 33.932778  | -118.270432  | 83             |
| Clover Ave Elementary School                               | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 81.8                                   | No                                 | 5                     | Yes                       | 34.026351  | -118.424576  | 70             |
| Gardena Elementary School                                  | Dominguez Channel | SSMB                             | Future | 39.6                                   | Yes                                | 15                    | Yes                       | 33.882288  | -118.286561  | 70             |
| Johnnie L. Cochran and Arlington Heights Elementary School | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 5.4                                    | Yes                                | 10                    | Yes                       | 34.0431983 | -118.3279983 | 70             |
| Normont Elementary School                                  | Dominguez Channel | SSMB                             | Future | 13.1                                   | Yes                                | 15                    | Yes                       | 33.796085  | -118.293245  | 70             |
| Wilton Place Elementary School                             | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 18                                     | Yes                                | 5                     | Yes                       | 34.058564  | -118.315186  | 69             |
| Ramona Elementary School                                   | Ballona Creek     | CSMB                             | Future | 11.8                                   | Yes                                | 13                    | Yes                       | 34.091524  | -118.299987  | 65             |
| Gulf Avenue STEAM Elementary School and Magnet Center      | Dominguez Channel | SSMB                             | Future | 16.4                                   | Yes                                | 15                    | Yes                       | 33.78533   | -118.272744  | 50             |
| Verdugo Hills High School                                  | Upper LA River    | ULAR                             | Future | 13.4                                   | Yes                                | 7                     | Yes                       | 34.2615932 | -118.2984759 | 48             |
| Mark Twain Middle School                                   | Marina del Rey    | CSMB                             | Future | 4.7                                    | No                                 | 11                    | Yes                       | 33.9998229 | -118.4480037 | 20             |

\* Partial funding secured, \$1.5M Prop O