Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Safe, Clean Water Program

NATIONAL WATERWAYS CONFERENCE
Since 1960

October 2023

History

LA County has historically lacked a reliable funding source to address its many stormwater challenges.

2012 LA County considered a property fee, but it needed refinement.

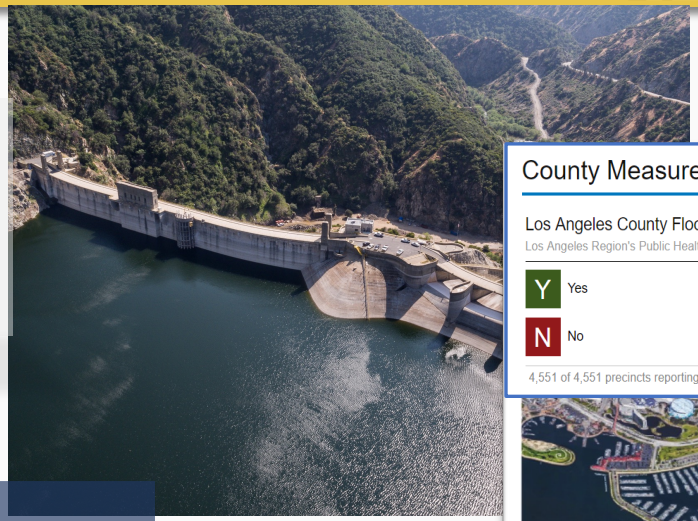
POLLUTION
CLIMATE CHANGE
WATER SUPPLY
DROUGHT
INFRASTRUCTURE
GOVERNANCE
HABITAT

Solution must be
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Regional Issues ➡ Regional Solution

CAPTURE
CLEAN
CONSERVE



1. Improve Water Quality
2. Increase Local Water Supply
3. Enhance Communities

County Measure

Los Angeles County Flood Control District - Measure W

Los Angeles Region's Public Health and Safe, Clean Water Program. Shall an ordinance improving/prote...

Y	Yes	69.45%	1,805,050
N	No	30.55%	793,890

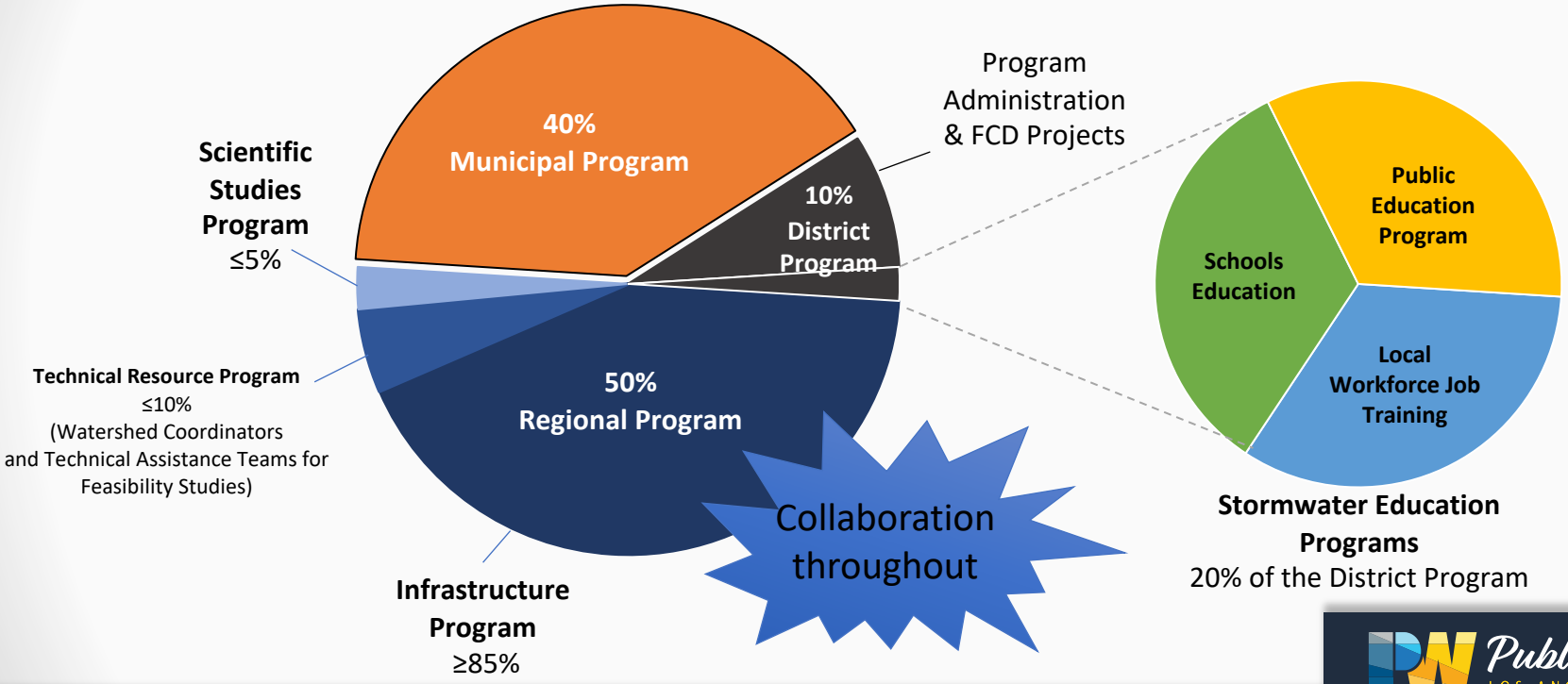
4,551 of 4,551 precincts reporting (100.0%) | 2/3 of votes cast

The public agreed
...passed with 69.5%.

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Detailed Revenue Distribution

Special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per SF of impermeable area ~ $280M annually



Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Themes

Collaboration

- Developed & implemented with diverse stakeholders
- Unique dedicated funding for multi-benefit stormwater projects
- Comprehensive and diverse governance committees

Asset Management

- Funding for operation and maintenance
- Investments for long-term sustainability and resiliency
- Emphasis on Nature-Based Solutions

Equity

- Dedicated investments into Disadvantaged Communities
- Watershed Coordinators build inclusion and connect communities with resources
- Technical Assistance

Good Stewardship of Public Funds

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Reporting & Auditing
- Comprehensive tax relief options

Education & Community Engagement

- Public & School Education
- Workforce Training
- Collaboration with other programs
- Community engagement throughout project stages
- Emphasis on benefiting disadvantaged communities

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Multi-Benefit Stormwater Investments To Date

126

new and continuing Infrastructure Program Projects representing over

$1.4 billion

in investments through FY27-28 ($821M of SCW Regional Program dollars)

Capture stormwater from over

265,649 acres

Provide an increase in total 24-hr storage

4,428 AF

Provide an increase in annual average

59,673 AF

Utilize leveraged funding

$624M

Invest in projects benefiting disadvantaged

over $661M

Implemented across

50 Municipalities

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Project Highlight
East Los Angeles Medians

Above-ground Improvements:

- 300 new trees
- Drought tolerant landscaping
- Walking paths
- Educational signage
- Picnic tables & benches

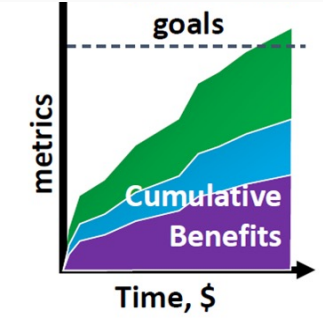
Stormwater Components:

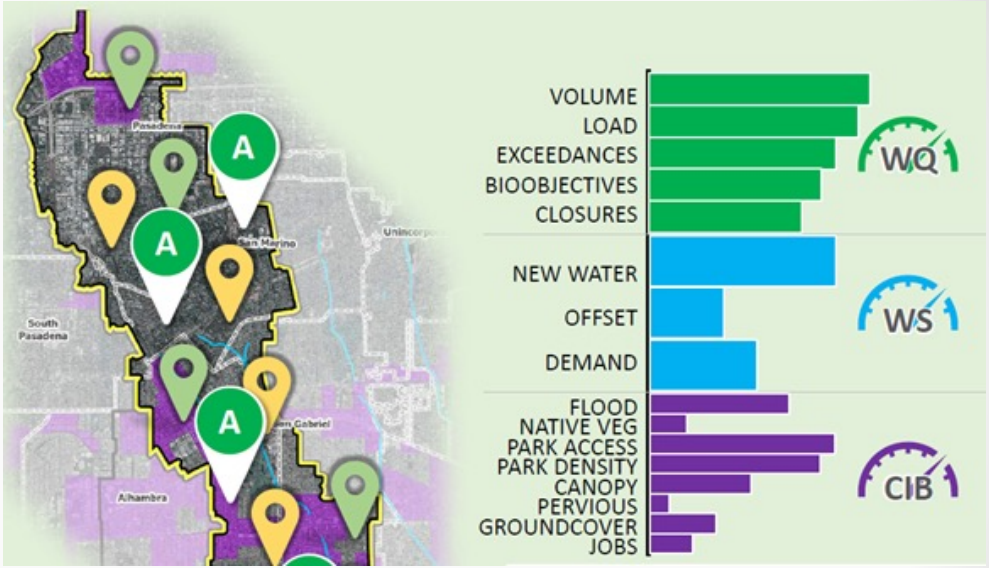
- 103 infiltration wells
- ~3,000 acres tributary area
  - Montebello
  - Monterey Park
- 22 acre-feet
- Pre-treatment systems
- Bioswales
- Captures both wet & dry weather

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Metrics and Monitoring Study

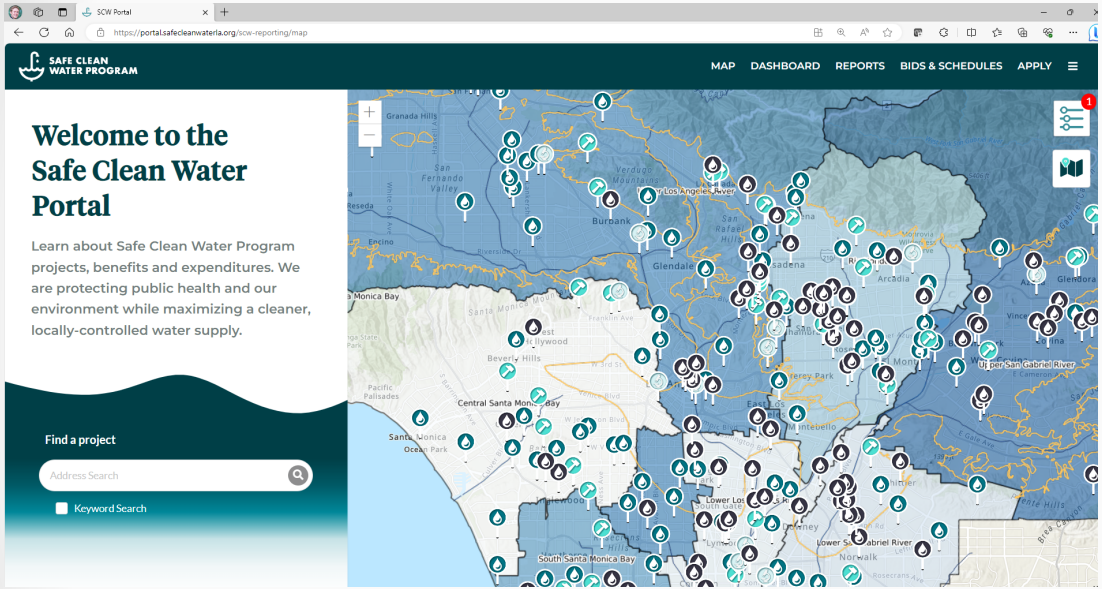
- Informs adaptive management
- Enhances planning and tracking of multi-benefit projects
- Maps regional conditions and identifies multi-benefit opportunities





Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Questions?



www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org

For questions or more information, contact us at:

SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov
1-833-ASK-SCWP
1-833-275-7297

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Background for Implementation

27-member Stakeholder Advisory Committee

1,000+ Stakeholder discussions

100+ Letters

2500+ Surveys

150+ Presentations

Program and Tax Ordinance (LACFCD Code Ch 16)

- 5/30/17 – Resilience Board Motion to develop funding measure
- 10/9/17 – AB1180 (Holden) signed into law to amend LACFCD Act and create authorization
- 7/17/18 – Board action to place Measure W (tax methodology and program basics) on ballot
- 11/6/18 – Passed by voters

4 Open Houses

Routine Public Review periods

200+ external meetings and presentations

Annual info sessions

Nearly 200 public Brown Act Committee Meetings in 2020 and 2021

Program Implementation Ordinance (LACFCD Code Ch 18)

- 7/30/19 – Introduced (along with 107 Board committee appointments)
- 8/06/19 – Adopted (codification of the Program Elements)

Supplemental Guidance Documents – late 2019 through present

Ongoing Adaptive Management

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Context Reminder

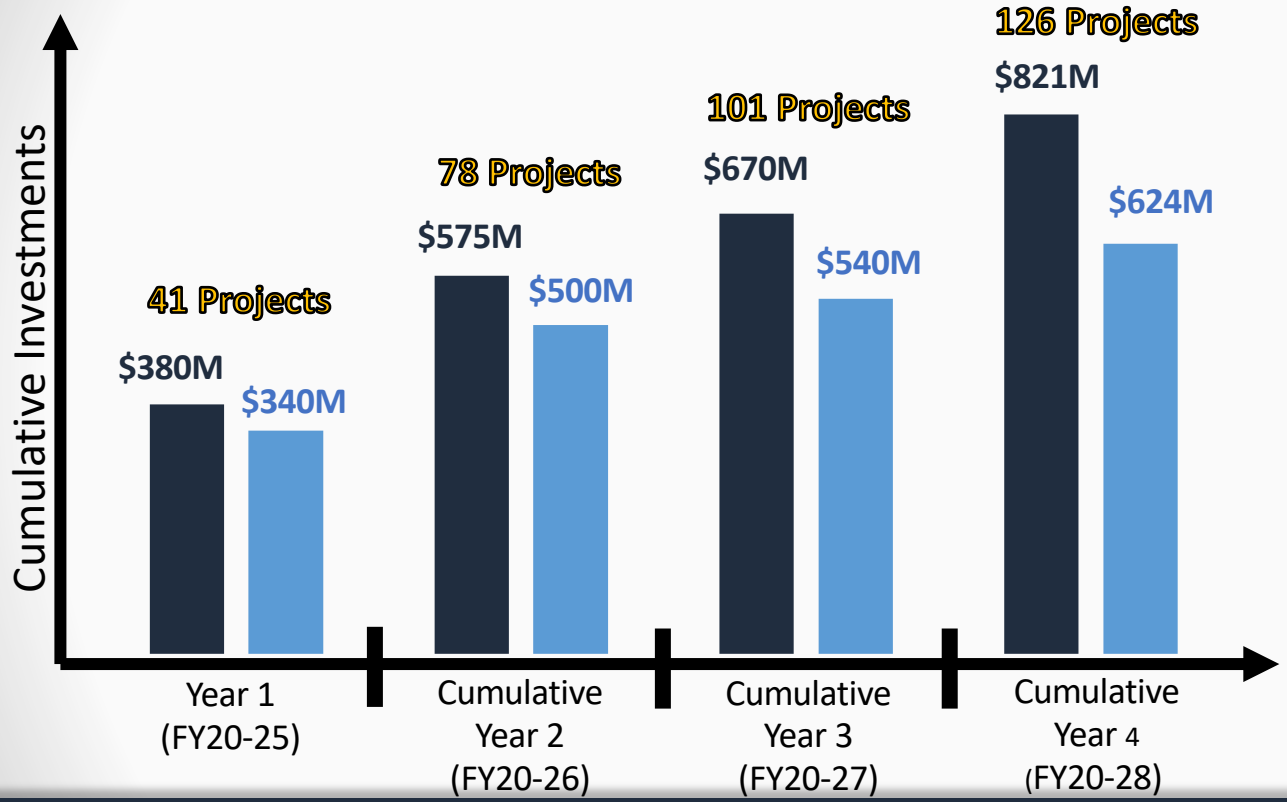
Capitalizing on Timing

- New vision for Water Supply resilience
  - Public awareness from 2012-2017 Drought
  - Industry interest in regional water resilience collaboration
- Water Quality needs / impaired water ways
  - Unfunded mandates under Clean Water Act ($20B)
  - Some cities planning their own efforts
- Broad desire/need for community enhancements in support of public health
- Growing awareness and concern about equity

Conditions For Success Then & Now

1. Elected official leadership
2. Regional entity with taxation authority / processes
3. Commitment of resources (funding, personnel)
4. Proof of concept
5. Research-based / Regular communication
6. Extensive / transparent stakeholder engagement
7. Broad coalition of support / collaboration
8. Public education

Regional SIP Infrastructure Investments (Years 1 - 4)



Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Components of the Flood Control District

Sediment Placement Sites

When sediment builds up in reservoirs and debris basins, it must be removed periodically to ensure proper functioning of the flood control system. Historically sediment has been transported to sediment placement sites which are typically located in canyons close to the debris basins and reservoirs. Sediment is also taken to landfills and gravel pits for placement.

Channels

Water from storm drains, dam releases, and imported and recycled water releases is collected by channels which convey the stormwater to the ocean.

Dams & Reservoirs

Dams are built across rivers to limit the amount of water and sediment moving downstream, reducing the risk of flooding. Reservoirs store water for groundwater recharge.

Debris Basins

Debris basins capture sediment and debris that is washed out of the canyons, allowing stormwater to flow downstream.

Spreading Grounds

Water released from reservoirs is directed to spreading grounds where it percolates into the ground and recharges groundwater supplies.

Storm Drains

Storm drains are underground facilities that are designed to convey stormwater and drain streets, parking lots, and sidewalks.

Rubber Dams

A rubber dam is a structure that can be inflated across a river to hold back water for in-river groundwater recharge or divert flows to an adjacent spreading grounds. During flood flow conditions, the rubber dam is deflated, allowing stormwater to be conveyed downstream.

BMPs

BMP stands for Best Management Practices, which are practices or devices that reduce water pollution. Catch basins can be configured with screen BMPs to reduce trash from entering the storm drain system.

Development

Development within floodplains created the need for the Flood Control System, which provides flood risk management from severe floods during storms.

Catch Basins

Catch basins are inlets located adjacent to the curb that capture stormwater and direct it to the storm drain.

Seawater Barriers

A seawater barrier is a series of injection wells that is positioned like a dam between the ocean and groundwater aquifer. The barriers inject water into the ground to prevent seawater from seeping into the aquifer.

Pump Stations

Pump stations are facilities that pump water from a low-lying area to channels at a higher elevation.

Low Flow Diversions

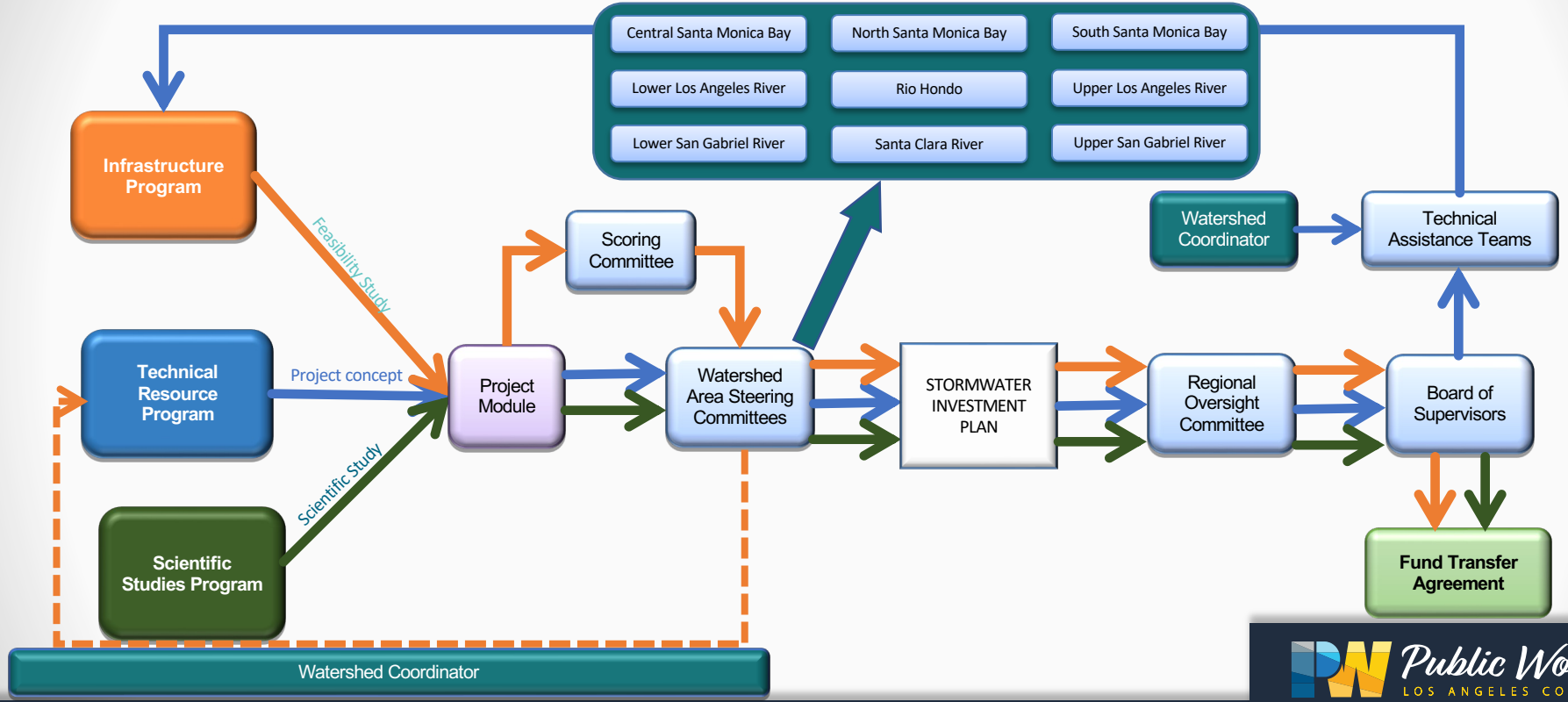
A low flow diversion is a structural system that diverts potentially polluted water to be treated, usually at a sewage treatment plant, before being discharged into the ocean.

Safe, Clean Water Program

- **First of its kind program** that provides dedicated stormwater funding towards **integrated outcomes**
- **Regional/watershed approach**
- **Paradigm shift** to implementation of multi-benefit **projects**
- **Equitable Investments** through funding disadvantaged communities, ever-improving engagement at all levels, Watershed Coordinators, and upcoming Educational Programs.

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Regional Program



Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Diverse WASC Membership

- Central Santa Monica Bay
- Lower Los Angeles River
- Lower San Gabriel River
- North Santa Monica Bay
- Rio Hondo
- Santa Clara River
- South Santa Monica Bay
- Upper Los Angeles River
- Upper San Gabriel River

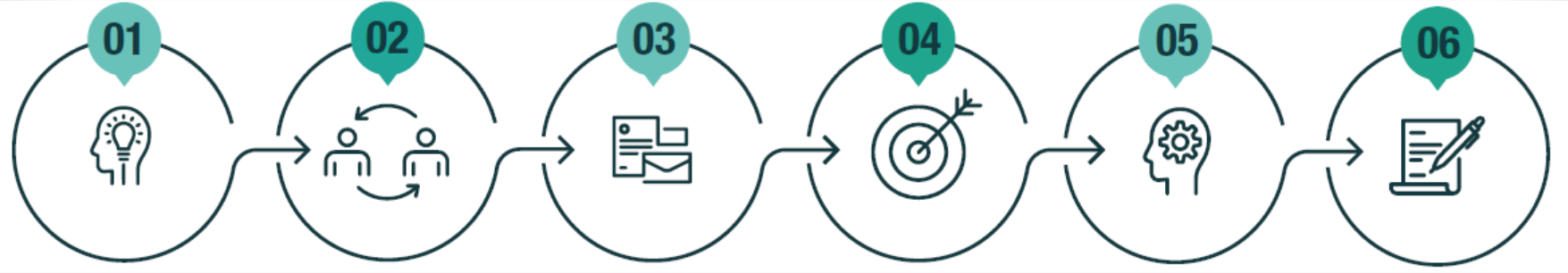
	Member	Appointed By
1	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
2	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
3	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
4	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
5	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
6	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
7	Municipality	Varies for Each Watershed Area
8	District	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
9	Largest Service Provider-Water Agency	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
10	Largest Service Provider-Groundwater/Water Agency #2	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
11	Largest Service Provider- Sanitation	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
12	Largest Municipality Agency-Municipal Parks/Open Space/Recreation	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
13	Business	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
14	Environmental Justice	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
15	Environment	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
16	At large	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
17	At large	Appointed by Board of Supervisors
	Watershed Coordinator	Non-voting

Pre-determined based on amount of Impermeable Area with remainders self-selected by municipalities (most recently in 2022)

Appointed by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (community seats to be reappointed in 2023)

Selected by WASC

Technical Resources Program



01	02	03	04	05	06
Project idea!	Engage with **Watershed Coordinator** and communities	Submit Project Concept	Review and approval by governance committees and	**Technical Assistance Teams** develop feasibility study	Feasibility study used to apply for Infrastructure Program

- Feasibility Studies address, at a minimum, the 19 Feasibility Study requirements of an Infrastructure Program application and are expected to be completed within 1-2 years.
- The District committed to complete feasibility studies for a typical rate of **$300,000** to be approved and budgeted in the SIP.
- TRP program does not guarantee approval for IP funding by the WASC.