



# Media Release

## **State Water Board DROPS Program Awards \$30 Million to Schools to Promote Stormwater Capture**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOS ANGELES** - Today the State Water Resources Control Board announced 30 school districts and institutions throughout California will receive more than \$30 million in funds to educate students and create on-campus projects relating to stormwater capture and water conservation.

State Water Board Vice Chair Frances Spivy-Weber presented the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) with its grant award of \$5 million Friday morning at Victory Boulevard Elementary School in North Hollywood. In front of school and district administrators, as well as students and parents groups, Spivy-Weber praised the [Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools'](#) (DROPS) focus and the 30 educational institutions who were awarded the grants.

"With a fourth year of record-setting drought, programs such as DROPS play an important role in educating our young folks about the different ways we can conserve water, especially with our current drought conditions," Spivy-Weber said. "Students will get to see first-hand how stormwater capture systems work right on their campuses. They'll also be taught the importance of conservation and how they can be good stewards of one of our most precious resources. Our goal with this effort is for students to take this information home and share it with their families, creating entire water-wise households. As we continue to deal with the current drought and the growing effects of climate change, educating our youth about conservation now is a high priority."

"The district is extremely grateful for these grants and the opportunity to lead in the development of stormwater capture features for schools and to begin the implementation and development of an effective water resource sustainability curriculum," LAUSD Director of Maintenance and Operations Roger Finstad said.

DROPS was [developed](#) in response to Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s Drought State of Emergency issued on Jan. 17, 2014 to provide funds to schools and school districts for projects that are designed to reduce stormwater pollution and provide multiple benefits, including water conservation, water supply augmentation, energy savings, increased awareness of water resource sustainability and reduced dry-weather runoff. Project examples

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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include: vegetated swales; stormwater planters; pervious paving; rainwater harvesting and water-wise landscaping to name a few.

The State Water Board received 49 applications by the Jan. 15, 2015, submittal deadline with the total funding for the 30 approved projects coming in at \$30,320,389. All projects are required to be completed by March 31, 2019.

The DROPS grants are funded through unallocated funds from Propositions [13](#), [40](#) and [50](#).

The following projects have been awarded funding through the DROPS grant program:

<b>DROPS Grantee</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>DROPS Grantee</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
Anaheim Union High School District	\$2,000,000	Northern Humboldt Union High School District	\$999,461
Anderson Valley Unified School District	\$124,432	Paso Robles Joint Unified School District	\$999,305
Atascadero Unified School District	\$999,999	Perris Elementary School District	\$982,138
Butte County Office of Education	\$350,590	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District	\$852,200
Chico Unified School District	\$445,220	Romoland School District	\$765,235
Newport-Mesa Unified School District	\$209,027	San Diego Unified School District	\$1,243,445
Downtown College Preparatory	\$164,280	San Luis Obispo County Office of Education	\$628,566
Elk Grove Unified School District	\$1,000,000	Santa Cruz City Schools	\$486,200
Encinitas Union School District	\$585,005	Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District	\$621,256
Fontana Unified School District	\$2,000,000	Santee School District	\$1,000,000
Fresno Unified School District	\$1,946,418	StopWaste	\$1,491,503
Garden Grove Unified School District	\$1,990,092	Temecula Valley Unified School District	\$568,150
Los Angeles Unified School District	\$5,000,000	Twin Ridges Elementary School District	\$121,657
Los Nietos School District	\$124,999	Twin Rivers Unified School District	\$725,703
Lucia Mar Unified School District	\$903,933	Northern Humboldt Union High School District	\$999,461
Montebello Unified School District	\$991,575	Paso Robles Joint Unified School District	\$999,305
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$30,320,389</b>

To learn more about DROPS, view the program's [fact sheet](#).

Visit [Drought.ca.gov](http://Drought.ca.gov) to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought, and for more water conservation ideas visit [SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com)

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