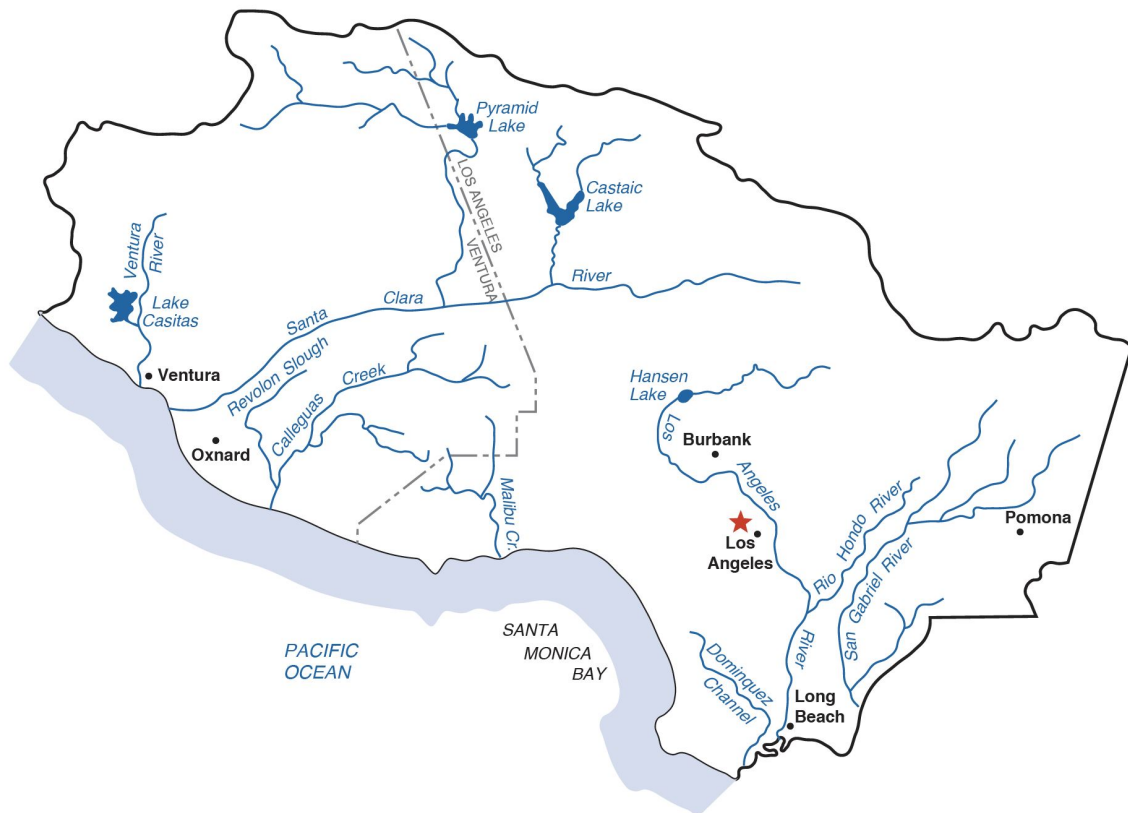




Los Angeles Community Water Justice Grants Program 2021 Project List Summaries



Prepared by

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment

201 4th Street, Suite 102

Oakland, CA 94612

www.rosefdn.org

Contact: Tim Little tlittle@rosefdn.org

(510) 658-0702

Overall Summary

The 2021 Project List proposes a total of 23 projects. 20 are proposals from the 2019 Project list which have been updated and rolled over from last year's list; the other three are new projects reflecting an additional round of community outreach encouraging participation in the program.

All the projects address at least one of the categories expressed in the State Water Board's SEP Policy. Reflecting the intersectional nature of community-based watershed stewardship approaches, many projects address multiple categories. The primary categories addressed are Environmental Restoration and Protection (12 projects), Pollution Reduction (10 projects), Pollution Prevention (9 projects), Public Health (7 projects), and Assessment and Audits (6 projects). Many of the projects are centered along the Los Angeles River. Additional watersheds include Compton Creek, Ballona Creek, Malibu Creek, San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo, Newhall Creek, Santa Clara River, and coastal waters of Santa Monica and San Pedro bays. In some instances, project location is flexible and could be adjusted to better fit the geographic nexus of a potential SEP.

Scalable Projects:

Each of the projects articulates a specific workplan, set of deliverables and budget. However, most of these projects are scalable and their scope could be adjusted to fit specific SEP opportunities as they are presented during the coming year. At the time a SEP becomes available, the project proponents are prepared to produce updated workplans, deliverables and budgets which are specifically tailored to meet available funding. Some project proponents have expressed budget ranges reflecting the minimum they need to conduct an initial project phase and a maximum request which would fund the entire project. However, even when a budget range has not been specified, project proponents are ready to make adjustments – for example: to expand a 12 month project to cover a 24-36 month period; to break a multi-year project into smaller phases to take advantage of partial funding; or to otherwise break-out or scale-up project elements into stand-alone projects which could be completed as a discrete SEP.

Project Summaries:

California Greenworks, Inc.

South Los Angeles Urban Greening and Community Forestry Program

\$21,600 - 12 months

Watershed: Ballona Creek Watershed

Category: Pollution Prevention/Environmental Restoration and Protection

The proposed project will plant 40 trees in the public parkways of disadvantaged communities located in South Los Angeles. These communities have less than 10% tree canopy and suffer from the damaging effects of urban blight. At the request of the Los

Angeles Department of Public Works Urban Forestry Division, each tree will be maintained for 5 years until it is fully established. From then on, it will be incorporated into the city street trees inventory and maintained by the City of Los Angeles. To ensure authentic community engagement and participation, California Greenworks will host two neighborhood outreach events, to be coupled with a South Los Angeles Community Forestry Workshop advised by certified arborists. Furthermore, California Greenworks will recruit volunteers (students, community members, and concerned citizens) to assist with planting and tree maintenance. California Greenworks estimates that about 200 community members will be engaged through outreach and workshops, with flyers and pamphlets reaching more community members. California Greenworks will work closely with Council District offices, governmental agencies, neighborhood councils, local schools and businesses, private corporations, and other environmental/community organizations for this project. California Greenworks will contract the Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC) or similar groups for tree purchasing and maintenance. This project will improve surface water quality, reduce flood risk, increase groundwater recharge in the Ballona Creek watershed, raise awareness of water pollution, foster environmental stewardship amongst community members, youth, and students, and advocate for urban forestry as a multi-benefit nature-based solution to floods and water pollution. The goal of the proposed project is to build community resiliency against water pollution and climate change.

Center for Biological Diversity

Protect Southern California Watersheds

\$193,500 - 24 months

Watershed: Santa Clara River and other Ventura County Watersheds

Category: Other Projects

The Center for Biological Diversity, along with partner The Wishtoyo Foundation, and in close collaboration with disproportionately burdened local communities of color, proposes to improve water quality and health equity in Ventura County by implementing an integrated informational, communications, science, educational and community arts watershed protection campaign which combines indigenous cultural values, community organizing, policy development, and hands-on field activities. The project builds on current efforts to protect and revitalize the lower Santa Clara River and its tributaries, and will improve water quality and quality of life for environmentally impacted people and species in the Santa Clara River watershed by building a greater community awareness and engagement with biodiversity, endangered species and public health issues, and by building the connection between water conservation, pollution reduction, thriving wildlife, clean and abundant water, and cultural resources for all communities. Project activities will include leadership development and peer-to-peer trainings to build local watershed stewardship capacity in impacted communities; hands-on field experiences from headwaters to estuaries; the development and delivery of interpretive materials oriented around the intersectional nature of people, culture, watershed and wildlife; educational outreach including targeted creative and earned media which emphasizes the connections between watershed health, environmental justice and human health equity; and grassroots participation in watershed-related public planning processes. Together,

CBD and Wishtoyo will work to develop and mobilize a new generation of local organizers who prioritize and advocate for the intersectional protection of waterways, people, cultural values, and other natural and cultural resources.

Comite Pro 1

Maywood Water Education Project

\$129,000 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River, Los Angeles County Aquifer

Category: Public Health/Other Projects

The project will educate and train Maywood community residents about the quality of their water –which comes from Mutual Water companies – and develop community organizers among these residents in order to be able to assert their rights as water users in mutual and water agency meetings. Since the passage of AB-240 Act in 2013, tenants can now participate in the Mutual Water meetings, receive information on the rules and policies of the Mutual Water companies, attend monthly meetings and ask questions about water quality, and contribute ideas and suggestions. In conducting this project, Comite Pro 1 will integrate important knowledge, lessons, and practical experience obtained from a previous campaign. A community organizer will be hired to lead the outreach, education, training, and organizing of 50 residents from each of the three Mutual Water companies that also cover parts of Bell and Huntington Park. The community organizer will also schedule individual and group home visits to follow up on the educational materials passed out and explain more in detail about local water quality, AB-240 and the importance of being educated about the issue, organizing themselves, and participating to improve water quality. In addition, there will be general community meetings in each area and a larger community meeting of the three Mutual Water companies. Since most of the residents speak Spanish, their training would be bilingual, English and Spanish, with Comite Pro 1 requesting that the Mutual Water companies provide their monthly and annual reports and anything they publish to be in Spanish as well as English. Once the 150 community residents have completed their training and are ready to implement what they have learned, a plan of action will be implemented to educate, recruit, and organize their immediate families and community neighbors and to develop community Committee groups in each of the three Mutual Water areas. The goal is to established active permanent community committees to have community engagement and be part of the of the decision making by the mutual water companies for better quality and clean ground water.

Community RePower Movement

Clean Up of Compton Creek

\$50,000 - 12 months

Watershed: Compton Creek

Category: Public Health/Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction

The purpose of this project is to support Community RePower Movement's (CRM) work in addressing community priorities and stewarding of a healthy watershed. This project will improve the quality of life for the underserved community living within walking distance

to Compton Creek. Through a community cleanup of the Compton Creek channel, Community RePower Movement will address flooding, water quality, water supply, ecological health, public health, community education, homeless services and neighborhood beautification. Compton Creek has a legacy of being an illegal dump site for hazardous waste, bulky items, construction debris, etc. It also serves as a refuge for those without homes, lending itself to encampments resulting in fecal bacteria pollution. This project is an initiative to improve human and watershed health, utilizing hyperlocal community engagement, education and action resulting in improved conditions for residents of the Compton Creek area. The cleanups by CRM will reconnect residents and various stakeholders to a movement of revitalizing Compton Creek by hiring local community members to support efforts and providing linkage to housing resources for those experiencing homelessness and living around the Creek. The project can also lend itself to existing water quality monitoring efforts and working closely with public health professionals to identify links between human health and water quality resulting in targeted interventions. The project will also significantly cut down on trash in the waterway and restore capacity for the water to flow in Compton Creek by removing two tons of bulky items, trash and hazardous materials obstructing downstream water mobility. Council for Watershed Health is acting as an advisor to the project.

Council for Watershed Health

CBO Capacity Building for Green Infrastructure Planning and Development

\$75,000 – 9 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River and Lower San Gabriel River

Category: Other Projects

Funding will enable the Council for Watershed Health (CWH) to provide technical assistance and capacity building amongst small municipalities, schools, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to help them develop and implement green infrastructure in underserved communities across the Los Angeles Region. CWH will provide technical assistance, facilitation and leadership to one or more local CBOs in communities which are ready to integrate nature-based solutions and climate resiliency into their existing efforts but need additional technical support to move forward on a green infrastructure project. CWH will help them to develop a “toolbox” of technical resources that includes: engagement strategy or plan to promote green infrastructure with defined target groups, educational tools to help them local issues with water quality, identified funding sources, and new partnerships with other CBOs and agencies who have successfully advanced local issues through green infrastructure funding. By looking at all aspects of design through the lens of climate resilience and adaptation, this technical assistance will position environmentally and economically stressed communities near pollution sources to be able to connect with technical and funding resources that can address hydrologic benefits, specifically in regard to infiltration and water quality.

The project will achieve two main objectives. First, the project will advance the knowledge base and assessment of relevant data, plans, and resources in order to help members from disadvantaged communities in Pomona, Alhambra, South East LA, South LA to integrate water quality solutions into their existing programmatic activities through a new

perspective that intersects water solutions with other pressing local issues of community concern. Second, the project will empower communities with knowledge and technical support in order to leverage resources and achieve multiple social impacts in health and safety through a more equitable distribution of local green infrastructure projects. To help achieve these objectives, \$25k of the \$75k requested would go toward CBO partners to defray staff and community leaders' time and related costs of participating in the CWH trainings and developing/implementing a green infrastructure project. The exact nature of the green infrastructure project and the participating CBO(s) will depend on the region that is selected at the time of full award. The trainings will teach community champions how to address local community concerns including blight, litter, lack of tree canopy, inadequate park space, flooding, pedestrian safety, transportation barriers, school greening and public health through a water quality framework. CBO partners will then conduct local community education and outreach with the local agency partners, school board, political officials, and the public-at-large that results in stakeholder support and public agency buy in for the chosen green infrastructure project(s). In addition to directly advancing a green infrastructure project through the SEP, this is a strategic investment towards leveraging future watershed stewardship activities long after the SEP dollars have been expended.

Del Amo Action Committee

Environmental Justice Educational Program: Protecting Our Water through Stormwater Management

\$45,000 – 12 months

Watershed: Los Angeles County Watersheds

Category: Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction

The Del Amo Action Committee (DAAC) will act as the fiscal sponsor for Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network (LAEJN), a coalition of environmental justice groups that represents overburdened low income communities of color from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County, East Los Angeles, Van Nuys and other areas of the South Bay - many with language barriers - working proactively and deliberately to seek out ways that the impacted communities they represent can engage on the intersectionality of stormwater runoff, groundwater (drinking water) protection and livable community planning. This project will bring about awareness on ways that Angelinos can directly impact stormwater runoff; beginning in people's own yards where they have the most authority. The project will start with a self-selection of five participating groups, the core group, which will co-create bilingual educational materials focused on explaining how rain events impact the current stormwater management practices of diversion into drains that lead to the ocean. Months three and four will be filled with educational workshops where LAEJN'S collective efforts will focus on several aspects of rain fall once it hits the ground; including stormwater runoff from toxic sites and yard applications, industrial process releases and vehicle fluids on roadways that affects Los Angeles River and Dominguez Channel. During the fifth and sixth months LAEJN will work with the core group a full day for reporting back on their lessons learned and ongoing efforts. Finally, with the goal of this project to lead to initiatives where community members and businesses work together to protect their

communal waterways, LAEJN will culminate the project with a Water Symposium, convening 120 attendees.

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Rundown the Runoff

\$225,000 – 36 months

Watershed: Lower Los Angeles River

Category: Pollution Prevention/Environmental Compliance Promotion/Assessment and Audits

Funds will allow the implementation of the Run Down the Runoff project, consisting of database research and community-based “ground-truthing” activities within municipalities along the Los Angeles River – with disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by toxins resulting from the heavy transportation of goods and nearby industry activities. There will be 5-10 trained EYCEJ members serving as participants that identify operations posing a danger to public health and the environment, specifically the potential for soil, ground water and stormwater runoff exposure to metal materials and insufficient containment. The Urban and Environmental Planning Institute at Occidental will provide technical expertise in conducting the research and analyzing results from the testing. The collected information will trigger and support correspondence between EYCEJ and local agencies to work together to bring transparency to the community and bring further information from findings to the Regional Water Board be able to hold them accountable. Through four data collection surveys, 16 potentially violating facilities will be identified in the along four major corridors. Participants will develop description of environmental concerns and map areas of each facility in order to share data with local agencies. As a result, EYCEJ will work in partnership with the Regional Water Board to find opportunities for reducing pollution from facilities.

Esperanza Community Housing

Building Community Capacity to Improve Water Quality in South Los Angeles

\$450,000 – 36 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River

Category: Public Health/Assessment and Audits/Other Projects

Esperanza Community Housing proposes to build community capacity to improve water quality in South Los Angeles, home to numerous oil drilling sites. The group’s environmental justice programs focus on the environmental impacts of oil drilling because of the dense clusters of residential, industrial and urban activities, and the threat these activities pose to the Los Angeles River and its watershed. By working with several strategic partners such as Urban & Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) at Occidental College and Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), they will conduct research on water quality in this area; engage and train Promotorxs de Salud (Community Health Advocates) on water issues and health risks; and inform, empower and mobilize community residents to ensure access to safe and potable water. UEPI will play a key role as the experts who will educate and advise Esperanza staff and Promotorxs on the complexities of water access including infrastructure, distribution,

access points, and the regulatory environment. SCOPE will provide power analysis training to the Promotorxs. With the new knowledge from these various trainings along with research and data collected in surveys, Esperanza will develop educational material for the community. A report on the quality of drinking water in South Los Angeles will also be developed. The report will consolidate existing data and information produced by a variety of agencies that have expertise in water quality, public health, and toxicology. The report will identify the gaps in existing data and research, which will narrow the scope for a more comprehensive assessment in the future. Although the report will be technical in nature and will help to set the foundation for a more definitive study of drinking water in South Los Angeles, it will be an important tool to engage the community partners in the larger water debate, informing and promoting access to clean water. Based on prior experience and their unwavering belief that information and education is power, Esperanza hopes that these efforts will empower and mobilize South Los Angeles residents to use this information to promote the importance of water quality and its impact on people's health and to work for change as necessary.

Friends of the Los Angeles River

Improving Water Quality and Quality of Life in Disadvantaged Communities on the LA River

\$50,000 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River

Category: Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection/ Other Projects

Los Angeles River runs through some of the most densely populated and ethnically diverse communities in the county where access to nature and open space is virtually non-existent. For the first time in history there is an opportunity to undo ecological damage along an 11 mile stretch from Griffith Park to downtown. The crown jewel of this plan is an abandoned rail yard where a study shows that concrete can be removed, and wetland habitat restored without compromising flood protection. The predominantly Spanish-speaking residents, many of whom fought to prevent warehouses from covering this parcel, expressed their dismay at a community planning meeting held by the city about the lack of community participation in the restoration planning. Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) will provide outreach and education on river literacy, and empower local community members to become civically engaged advocates in current and emerging public initiatives on the River. In year one of this Project FoLAR will focus on watershed education by working in partnership with Community Nature Connection to deliver bi-lingual materials and services to recruit, train, and engage community members and students in Elysian Valley, Glassell, Cypress and Highland Parks. FoLAR will integrate water quality monitoring and information on stormwater capture and habitat enhancement (developed by The Nature Conservancy) at the Bowtie Parcel and will collaborate with the The 5 Gyres Institute in clean-up activities (Trash Blitz) and data collection (Trash Sort). Year two of the project is for community engagement activities. These include updates to communities on the Taylor Yard Riverfront Park and interim use status and quarterly meetings with the impacted residents, and creation of content on the results of the Trash Blitz and Trash Sort actions that can be shared with the public and decision-

makers.

Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay's Recreational Water Quality Monitoring and Outreach Project

\$150,075 – 24 months

Watershed: Malibu Creek, Los Angeles River

Category: Public Health/Assessments and Audits

Heal the Bay will expand its freshwater recreational water quality monitoring project by including new sites in the lower Los Angeles River from south of downtown LA to the mouth at Long Beach, partnering with new colleges to provide job training and paid monitoring positions for youth, and conducting outreach to communities that recreate in popular freshwater areas. Funds will enable Heal the Bay to expand public notification process and secure additional partnerships with LA Valley College and California State University, Channel Islands to reach more diverse populations. The lower Los Angeles River does not include any official recreation zones; however, it is well known that communities utilize part of the river for recreation and with planned restoration and park projects in the area, water quality information is lacking and much needed. The proposed work will impact both Malibu Creek and Los Angeles River watersheds and will focus on surface water and public health improvements. In the Malibu Creek Watershed, Heal the Bay will focus on two sites in Malibu Creek State Park where recreation and swimming occur: Rock Pool (Malibu Creek) and Las Virgenes Creek at Crag's Road. In the Los Angeles River Watershed, they will focus on the two established recreation zones: Sepulveda Basin and Elysian Valley. Outreach work will take place in cities surrounding these waterbodies, where communities are heavily burdened by both environmental pollutants and socioeconomic factors. Giving people the information to make informed choices helps protect public health and improve water quality through awareness, stewardship, and advocacy.

Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Clean Safe Water for the LA Region

\$100,000 - \$487,500 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, Dominguez Channel, Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Category: Other Projects

Los Angeles County's Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) passed in 2018 and the over \$300 million that will be generated from the tax annually will be allocated to green infrastructure water projects that can reduce storm water pollution and improve our local water resilience, while also creating thousands of good construction and permanent maintenance jobs that benefit disadvantaged workers and their communities. Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) will advocate for the jobs program, equitable community benefits, and assurance that the county dedicates sufficient resources for these purposes. In addition to the direct water quality benefits to Los Angeles area waterbodies, this investment in water infrastructure presents enormous opportunities to create good union jobs building and maintaining projects, training workers

for these jobs, and providing equitable benefits and a stakeholder voice for disadvantaged communities. In 2016, LAANE released a major report on green infrastructure (GI) solutions, job creation potential of GI projects, benefits for disadvantaged communities, and access to jobs for disadvantaged workers. The report will help guide next steps on how to ensure an effective pipeline into these new jobs for communities most impacted by the climate and inequality crises. LAANE will work to guarantee that SCWP implementation supports projects, programs and planning to strengthen and realize watershed management plans that outline how to comply with state and federal clean water requirements. This includes engaging in the documents guiding SCWP implementation, strong oversight and community participation (training 25 community leaders each year) and working with cities and communities to support project implementation. LAANE would approach the timeline for these activities in two ways: ongoing activities with established activity schedules and deliverables as they relate to Measure W implementation and community engagement and workforce issues and a flexible start date for longer-term research related to small water system issues.

Los Angeles Food Policy Council

Scaling Waterwise Urban Agriculture in LA's Disadvantaged Communities

\$100,000 – 18 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River Watershed

Category: Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection

Los Angeles is home to over 1,000 urban agriculture sites - many of which are in low income communities and communities of color – which provide a range of benefits such as access to fresh produce and green space, as well as benefits to the environment, such as improved water retention and filtration, and soil quality. The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) proposes to implement a water quality and stewardship education and action project targeted toward urban farms and community gardens in low-income and disadvantaged communities that include South Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Inglewood, Panorama City, and nearby neighborhoods. The Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones (UAIZ) program - the City and County of Los Angeles' first official urban agriculture program - offers incentives to transform vacant lots into urban farms, agricultural education and community compost hubs. LAFPC identified water cost as a key issue in preserving existing and enabling establishment of new urban agriculture projects. Adding water saving infrastructure is a great way to encourage more gardens and ensure they are less water intensive and employ water-wise practices. Through the proposed project, LAFPC will leverage recent success and momentum to build capacity and infrastructure among 10 urban agriculture projects to implement water conservation and quality improvement. The projects at each of the selected sites will focus on: (1) surface water quality and retention, as several of the projects were transformed from impermeable parking lots to permeable surfaces that capture water run-off and prevent pollution from contaminating our water sources; and (2) groundwater quality improvements, as regenerative agriculture practices eliminate toxins in the soil, preventing groundwater contamination and help to recharge the aquifer.

Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Marine Program Outreach and Education

\$50,000 – 12 months

Watershed: Santa Monica and San Pedro Bay

Category: Environmental Restoration and Protection/Environmental Compliance Promotion/Other Projects

Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW), the County's on-the-water, in-the-water, and in-the-community advocate for local waters, has been a staunch defender of coastal waters for more than 25 years. Their team was part of an integral coalition responsible for instituting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) enacted by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 2013. MPAs are special places in the ocean where consumptive human activities (such as fishing) are limited and/or prohibited so our most precious native marine ecosystems can replenish themselves. Los Angeles County has three such MPAs: Point Vicente/Abalone Cove, Point Dume, and Santa Catalina Island. LAW's Marine team combines education, community outreach, and volunteer-driven data collection to raise awareness about these "underwater parks" and help local agencies enforce their regulations. Funds allocated through this opportunity will enable one full year of activities of their MPA Watch Boat-Based Survey Program, which takes an integrated outreach and educational approach to promote greater understanding about and improved management of LA's MPAs. The SEP funding will enable LAW to conduct 55-60 annual boat-based survey trips, with 4-5 volunteers per trip, engaging approximately 50-100 community members. The community volunteers will learn survey protocols and collect written, photo, and GPS documentation of human activity in and around LA's MPAs, witnessing sea life interactions with oil tankers and cargo barges, observing industrial discharge and urban waste, and reporting illegal fishing. Data collected will be supplied to the Department of Fish and Wildlife on a quarterly basis. If required for COVID-related public health reasons, the number of volunteers per trip may be reduced and/or volunteers may participate virtually. SEP funding will also support LAW's attendance at 6 LA MPA Collaborative meetings, and 2-4 MPA Watch Network meetings.

The Nature Conservancy

Los Angeles River Stormwater Capture and Habitat Enhancement Project

\$200,000 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River

Category: Public Health/Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) proposes to develop a stormwater demonstration project, located on a former railyard, which sits within the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. TNC previously completed a feasibility study and identified the 0.6-acre portion in the northern end of the Bowtie Parcel for the purposes of transforming a brownfield into publicly accessible open space that also addresses water quality and habitat enhancement. Because the Project impacts water flowing into the River, it impacts water that eventually flows out to the Pacific Ocean. TNC is in the process of hiring a consulting firm to complete construction documents which will include a detailed site design and permit/regulation compliance information. The funding will support project implementation

which will include daylighting a storm drain (i.e., removing obstructions that are covering the drainage way and restoring the waterway to previous conditions), and creating a natural arroyo and spreading basin to enhance native habitat, manage wet and dry weather runoff, and increase public access at the River. TNC would use the awarded funding to hire a contractor to complete the implementation work. TNC is working with the Prevention Institute (PI), a local public health-focused nonprofit organization, on extensive community engagement and outreach in the Bowtie Parcel neighborhood of Galsell Park and Adjacent Cypress Park community. The partnership between TNC and PI, which is already funded, will incorporate public health as a lens to build meaningful, long-term community engagement for this project and serve as a model to support an inclusive paradigm shift from gray to green infrastructure in Los Angeles. TNC and PI will work together to develop an Advisory Committee and involve additional grassroots community organizers from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Nature for All

Water Education Program

\$100,000 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo

Category: Pollution Reduction

Funds will support Nature for All's Water Resiliency Education Program, which educates and engages Los Angeles County residents in underserved communities about water resiliency and the need to improve water resources. The Program has two areas of focus: water resiliency and the protection of the East Fork at the San Gabriel River. To increase the development of multi-benefit projects that capture stormwater, reduce pollution loads on watersheds and groundwater, and increase the availability of local water sources, residents need to understand how these projects work and why they are needed. In Nature for All's water resiliency-related work, they will educate 3,000 residents on how stormwater capture and filtration projects function and illustrate the wide range of benefits such projects can provide local communities. They also outline household-level strategies for stormwater filtration, capture, and re-use that also allow residents to save on their water bills. A total of 30 community members will be deeply involved both as leaders and as participants through Nature for All coalition member organizations, which will help to conduct outreach in communities in Southeast Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. The recreational use of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River at Cattle Canyon generates so much pollution that the river received an F rating at the site by the Los Angeles-Area Regional Water Quality Control Board. A lack of recreational infrastructure combined with a high visitor count has led to high levels of littering, bacterial pollution, and habitat disruption. Nature for All will intervene by developing and implementing a direct visitor engagement program to educate site users regarding best management practices for the river. With most visitors to the site being low income people of color, it is imperative that the staff and 10 volunteers engaging visitors be multi-lingual and culturally sensitive to the needs and rights of those visitors. Nature for All will measure program impacts through water quality monitoring in partnership with the Council for Watershed Health, an organization with extensive experience in water quality monitoring. In addition to education, the Program provides the opportunity for leadership training to residents

interested in becoming more involved in multi-benefit stormwater projects or water quality/habitat improvement.

Proyecto Pastoral

Storm water Infrastructure in Boyle Heights - Community Health and Revitalization Project

\$100,000 - \$415,350 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River Watershed

Category: Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection

Proyecto Pastoral serves as the backbone organization for Promesa Boyle Heights (Promesa), a community-driven, cross-sector collaborative. Promesa has two project goals to impact water quality and public health in two locations - Salazar Park in East Los Angeles and a park in west Boyle Heights, which are part of the Los Angeles River Watershed. Since 2016, Promesa has been training resident leaders and convening a Parks and Open Spaces Committee (POSC) of community members in East Los Angeles to advocate for safe parks with quality programs. East Los Angeles ranks highest within the region as it pertains to levels of pollution and opportunities for infiltration and water quality improvements, given the underlying soils. With support from the Water Foundation, and in partnership with the Council for Watershed Health, the POSC developed concepts for a multi-benefit project to capture stormwater at Ruben F. Salazar Park. The park used to be Laguna Park (“lake” park) due to its flooding during rainfalls. The park’s design is impermeable and has lack best management practices to address stormwater capture. The concepts address stormwater infrastructure, health, flooding, green infrastructure and regional water interdependence. With project concepts complete, Promesa is now seeking funding to garner input from the broader community on the concepts, and to convene a project team to carry the concepts through the Pre-Design research phase. By the end of the two years, the POSC at Salazar Park will have convened the project team to bring the concepts to the point where they are ready to be fully designed and blueprints produced. In addition, Promesa proposes to convene community members from East L.A engaged in the Salazar Park project with community members through four meetings from west Boyle Heights, so that they can cross-learn and provide a model for how such a project could be replicated in a park in Boyle Heights. Thus, in the long-term the project will benefit groundwater capture at multiple parks.

River LA (Los Angeles Revitalization Corporation)

South Gate LA River Pilot Project

\$100,000 – 12 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River

Category: Assessment and Audits/Other Projects

The proposed LA River Water Quality Community Assessment Project will design and implement a robust quantitative assessment of LA River-adjacent communities to assess water pollution mitigation strategies. The community's significant participation will inform project leaders in communal perspectives, needs, and interests. Phase one of the project

includes planning, strategies, and creation of a Digital Public Engagement Tool (DPET) along with respondent recruitment parameters. Phase two include activities of recruitment and execution of tools leading to an initial key finding report. In phase three, data analysis will be conducted and final report and presentation of data and finding will be shared. These efforts aim to complement LA County's developed comprehensive corridor plan that seeks to reimagine Los Angeles River as a regional asset beyond its function as flood risk management infrastructure to meet other hydrological, ecological, and community needs. Importantly, this Project will demonstrate how to address and incorporate substantive public feedback to ameliorate water pollution issues within the region. By focusing on selected mitigation site areas, the quantitative data will support current potential project developments, paving the way for investments in water pollution mitigation strategies. Three communities along Los Angeles River will be targeted beginning with a site in Southeast Los Angeles, in addition to two future, identified mitigation-related sites, as selected. Within each site-adjacent community, River LA will engage a statistically and demographically representative sample of 400 residents (living within up to a 5-mile radius of the site). These water quality community assessments would explore community needs and concerns regarding water quality, healthy ecosystems, and flood risk reduction. The project will also seek public input on residents' water use habits, recreational opportunities, and activities that may affect water quality mitigation measures for groundwater or surface water pollution.

San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps

Watershed and Forest Revitalization Project

\$100,000 – 18 months

Watershed: San Gabriel River

Category: Public Health/Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection

San Gabriel Valley Conservation and Service Corps will address the needs and priorities of the San Gabriel River and focus on reducing trash in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. The focus is on surface water by removing trash and helping provide safe recreational access. The project will improve trail conditions and address some associated environmental health concerns, while enhancing the general recreational experience for the community. The San Gabriel River and mountains are visited by thousands annually and provide 33% of the water for Los Angeles County. By removing trash and educating visitors, this project will improve water quality for fish and wildlife, make trail conditions safer and more enjoyable for users, and benefit the drinking water of the populations downstream. The overall goals are to reduce the amount of trash that reaches the lower basin and subsequently merges into Long Beach, and secure water health at its source.

Santa Clara River Conservancy

Santa Clara River Invasive Weed Task Force - Mapping and Removal Program

\$100,000 - \$500,000 – 36 months

Watershed: Upper and Lower Santa Clara River

Category: Environmental Restoration and Protection/Assessment and Audits

The Santa Clara River is the largest river system in Southern California remaining in a relatively natural state. The watershed struggles with an infestation of invasive plants, the most destructive being arundo donax (arundo), which can reach 30 feet tall, tolerate both drought and flooding, even surviving saline conditions, and is extremely flammable and highly adapted to fire. The rhizomes (underground stems) send up new shoots immediately after fires, which then quickly outgrow native species that are much less tolerant to fires and don't have time to re-populate burned sites. Arundo also reproduces from rhizomes that are carried to new sites by high river flows, spreading rapidly to out-compete native riparian vegetation. One acre of arundo can consume 11.75-acre feet of water annually. This results in reduced groundwater recharge, erosion and sedimentation, and habitat degradation for many species. The Santa Clara River requires human intervention to remove arundo. This project will create an accurate and up-to-date geo-spatial database that would be valuable for developing management strategies and financing to control Arundo, as well as other weeds that are not well-recorded in the watershed. The proposed comprehensive mapping effort would develop a strategic and systematic process to prioritize removal and management programs to reduce these threats. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data were recently acquired (October 2015) for the full Santa Clara River floodplain and provides a cost-effective platform for assessing non-native and native vegetation distributions. The raw data need to be processed, with ground-truthing field surveys, to map current vegetation status and prioritize locations for weed management. This project will also provide a key step in developing a natural resource monitoring system to detect trends, both positive and negative, related to watershed management and climate modification. Once prioritized and mapped, this project would implement arundo removal in areas most beneficial to human and natural at-risk communities. The Santa Clara River Conservancy is the primary applicant for this project. Several partners with extensive knowledge, skills and experience with removing and managing arundo in the Santa Clara River, including the City of Santa Clarita, are included in the project.

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment

Newhall Creek Community Watershed Education and Restoration Project

\$90,000 – 36 months

Watershed: Newhall Creek, Santa Clara River

Category: Environmental Restoration and Protection/Assessment and Audits

Newhall Creek, a tributary of the Santa Clara River, runs through the community of Newhall, and past the McGrath Elementary School in the largely Spanish speaking area and disadvantaged community of Santa Clarita. The Creek, still natural in some areas, and rip-rapped or soft-bottom hardscaped in others, is often called "the Wash". It is littered with trash and the native flora is sometimes dominated by the invasive arundo donax.

Several drinking water wells are located downstream from this section of the Creek. Partnering with two elementary schools, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE) will provide a three-school year creek education and restoration program that integrates into the McGrath Elementary School after school enrichment program and will expand to local children of essential workers. Activities in the watershed curriculum include 1) lessons on watershed issues and its connection to water supply and water quality through hands on demos and project; 2) supervised watershed related field trips; 3) creek clean ups to improve the water quality, involving both parents and students; 4) student-lead water quality testing; and 5) inclusion and growth of native riparian plants in the school's garden project for re-vegetation. The clean-ups and water quality testing projects will be documented on video, students will develop and produce public service announcements on water quality issues, and share these videos with the entire school, PTA, and to the local community center. Student activities during the 3-year project will be adjusted as-needed to comply with COVID-related public health requirements. An overall goal will be to have this program serve as a pilot program that can be incorporated in schools throughout the Santa Clarita Valley as a part of the local elementary school curriculum. Through this watershed program grant SCOPE aims to develop in these students a "sense of place" and of stewardship for Newhall Creek and the Santa Clara River watershed that will be retained throughout their lives, and conveyed to their parents and their peers, thus benefiting the whole community.

Surfrider Foundation

Clean Camp Coalition - Santa Clara River

\$41,018 – 12 months

Watershed: Lower Santa Clara River

Category: Public Health/Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection

Currently, the Santa Clara River has no trash monitoring and collection program and a large homeless population whose trash and waste production have stayed in the watershed, unless carried downstream into the ocean during heavy rains. Watersheds in general are susceptible to bacterial contamination from animal and human pollution sources. The Clean Camp Coalition Program project will implement trash collection and removal strategies to individuals experiencing homelessness in the river. The Coalition will improve the quality of the river, the health of the environment and those living in this stretch of the Santa Clara by reducing pollution and the impact on human health. Surfrider will work to build a coalition of partners in the Santa Clara River Watershed including landowners, government entities, local non-profits, and homeless service providers. The overall goal of this public, private, and government partnership is aimed at truly alleviating the impact of homelessness on our waterways, and it has the potential to become a model which could be replicated in regions across the country.

The 5 Gyres Institute

TrashBlitz LA: citizen science and water pollution prevention

\$50,000 – 16 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River

Category: Pollution Prevention/Environmental Restoration and Protection/Assessment and Audits

TrashBlitz is a collaborative project that engages local communities and stakeholders in collecting data on plastic pollution throughout Los Angeles, leveraging data to drive local solutions. From inland communities to shoreline, TrashBlitz connects stakeholders across the Los Angeles River Watershed to the issue of plastic pollution, which has primarily focused on the coasts and oceans. Modeled after the successful “BioBlitz” program – developed by USGS and National Park Service in 1996 and then later on National Geographic – that measures biodiversity, TrashBlitz measures the amount and type of plastic pollution in different geographical areas (coastal, beach, riverside, and streets) of a particular region in order to provide a snapshot of the city’s plastic footprint to help inform a mitigation strategy. The 5 Gyres Institute will survey the most common compartments where plastic pollution resides and identify the type of and brands of such pollution, where possible. The focus area is the Los Angeles River watershed and its associated riverbanks, roads/streets, beaches and coastlines, as well as the near-shore ocean. Brand identification and other plastic sampling data will be collected and uploaded using the mobile TrashBlitz App. The App will help capture real-time data for quick visualization of results on a digital online platform and support immediate actions and recommendations of solutions to the municipal stakeholders and decision makers in the region. The project has over 20 partnering organizations that encompass a vast diversity of social and economic demographics since target areas range from coastal communities to more inland communities within the Los Angeles River Watershed. Examples of partners that work in underserved communities include the Multicultural Learning Center, El Nido, and Padres Pioneros. Through a broad spectrum of partnerships, TrashBlitz will train and mobilize volunteers using simple, UN-aligned protocols to collect data through nearshore sampling, along beaches, riverbanks, residential streets, and industrial areas. Mobile data collection tools will allow participants to crowdsource the amounts, types, and brands of plastic pollution and packaging. With this data, the 5 Gyres Institute will engage stakeholders in generating solutions for the City of Los Angeles, to curb reliance on single use plastics and reduce plastic pollution in already impacted waterways.

TreePeople

Calles Verdes

\$330,000 – 24 months

Watershed: Los Angeles River Watershed

Category: Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection

Calles Verdes is a green streets multi-benefit project in the City of San Fernando with a primary emphasis on stormwater capture and water quality. Nestled in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed, the project will address the upper and lower LA River, and, ultimately, the Pacific Ocean. Heavily steeped in community engagement and partnering

with the City, the project will capture and cleanse stormwater, diverting it from storm drains that lead to the Los Angeles River and then the ocean, with a series of LID elements including bioretention swales along streets and in a parking lot, vegetated curb extensions, permeable paving, and 750 trees. The City of San Fernando is ranked in the highest percentile by Cal EPA as a disadvantaged community with the highest pollution burden. Unlike its surrounding areas, the City has its own water supply, greatly enhanced by highly permeable soil. San Fernando is also one of the worst areas in Los Angeles for flooding and, therefore, stormwater capture, and flood reduction is much needed. The project was strategically designed in partnership with the City of San Fernando and based on a long history in the area, with a deep understanding of the community. With its planning phase, which was done in conjunction with San Fernando's Public Works Department, and community engagement already happening, Calles Verdes is ready to launch. Funds are sought to add a specific water quality layer focused on water quality analysis and diversion of runoff via bioretention swales and permeable pavement. Specific project activities include community events, door-to-door canvassing, targeted outreach, partnering with schools, churches, and CBOs. Project installation will be done through water sampling and analysis, bioretention swales, curb cuts, vegetated curb extensions, parking lot retrofit, permeable pavement, and engaging of residents in planting and caring for 750 trees in residential parkways, in town and in a park. The overall aim is to improve public health and increase climate resilience through water and air quality improvements, urban cooling, healthy, active transportation, stormwater capture, community engagement and public education.