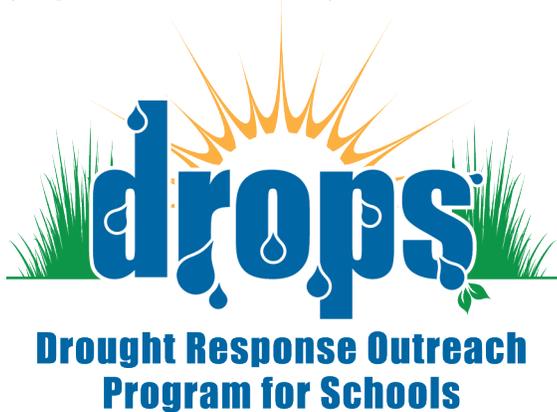


Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS)

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) DROPS Grant Program was developed in response to Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s declaration of a Drought State of Emergency on Jan 17, 2014. DROPS is providing funds to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to implement Low Impact Development (LID) strategies designed to maintain predevelopment hydrology on school campuses. The projects will: (1) reduce stormwater pollution; and (2) increase stormwater retention, and use or recharge of groundwater aquifers while creating multiple benefits, such as water conservation, water supply augmentation and reduced dry weather runoff.



Awarded Grants

The State Water Board received 49 eligible project applications by the Jan 15, 2015 submittal deadline. On May 22, 2015, State Water Board Executive Director Thomas Howard approved the DROPS funding list for projects statewide that will combine stormwater capture features with education and outreach at schools.

The DROPS grants include a \$5 million funding set-aside for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the largest amount distributed to a single applicant. The total proposed funding for the 29 recommended projects, including the \$5,000,000 LAUSD set-aside, is \$30,320,389. All projects must be completed by March 31, 2019.

The DROPS grants are funded through unallocated proposition funds:

- Proposition 13 Watershed Protection (Chapter 6, Article 2)
- Proposition 13 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (Chapter 7, Article 2)
- Proposition 40
- Proposition 50

Disadvantaged Schools (DAS)

Approximately \$12.5 million, more than 40 percent of the awarded grant funds, is going to qualified DAS sites. Under DROPS, a school is considered a DAS if at least 80 percent of the students are eligible for the California Department of Education's Free or Reduced Price Meals (FRPM) program, tribally subsidized meals, or the National School Lunch Program.

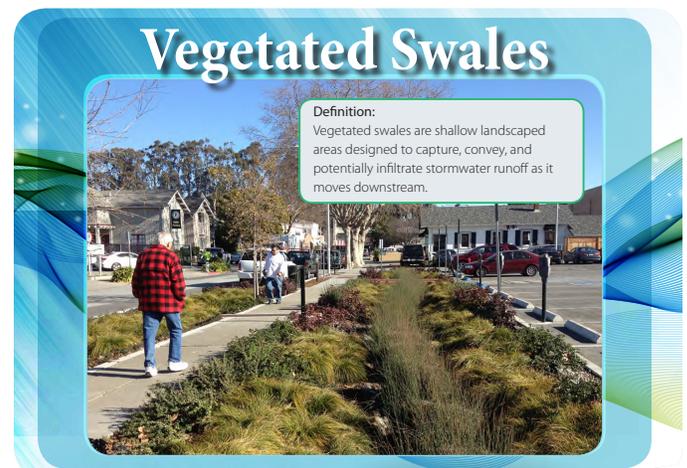
The following projects have been awarded funding through the DROPS grant program:

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

* The final amount awarded will be subject to each applicant providing a scope of work and budget that is acceptable to the Deputy Director of the Division.

Eligible Project Types

The projects will focus on stormwater pollution reduction, retention, and use or recharge of groundwater aquifers by implementing LID strategies and practices that seek to maintain predevelopment hydrology. The projects will reduce and prevent stormwater contamination and provide a greater understanding of the project's environmental benefits and the sustainability of California's water resources. The projects will include:

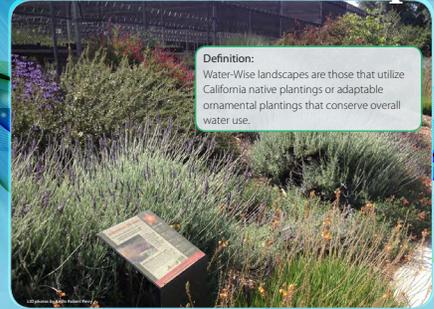


Rain Gardens



Definition:
Rain gardens are shallow landscape areas that can collect, slow, filter and absorb large volumes of water, delaying discharge into the watershed system.

Water-Wise Landscapes



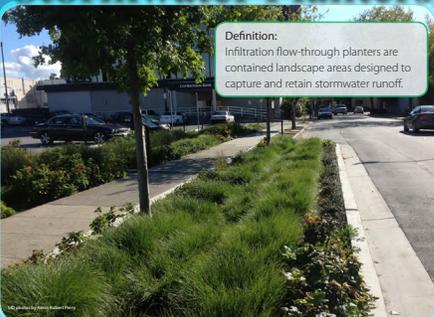
Definition:
Water-Wise landscapes are those that utilize California native plantings or adaptable ornamental plantings that conserve overall water use.

Permeable Pavement



Definition:
Pervious paving allows rainwater to either pass through the paving system itself or through joint openings between the pavers.

Stormwater Planters



Definition:
Infiltration flow-through planters are contained landscape areas designed to capture and retain stormwater runoff.

Education and Outreach

All projects include an education and outreach component that is designed to increase student and public understanding of the project's environmental benefits and the sustainability of California's water resources directly related to the project. The projects will include student involvement in the design process, water sustainability curriculum, and project site visits with students.

Additional Information

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/DROPS>

Robert Reeves, Program Manager

Robert.Reeves@waterboards.ca.gov
916-341-5877

Jeffrey Albrecht, Project Manager

Jeffrey.Albrecht@waterboards.ca.gov
916-341-5717

LID photos by Kevin Robert Perry