Using Watershed Science to Build Consensus and Maximize Benefits of L.A. County’s Safe Clean Water Program

Recommendations from ARLA’s SCWP Working Group

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The Promise of the Safe Clean Water Program

- Voter approved
- Significant long-term regional investment: $250-300M investment per year
- Work to date: 2 rounds, 115 projects funded, 9 scientific studies funded
- Realizing a vision for a Multi-Benefit Approach
  - Water Quality
  - Drought Preparedness
  - Nature Based Solutions
  - DAC Benefits
  - Green Jobs

Safe Clean Water Program Goals

A. Water Quality
B. Water Supply/Drought
C. Improve Public Health (Community Investment Benefits)
D. Leverage Funding
E. Invest in Multi-benefit Infrastructure
F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions
G. Spectrum of Project Sizes
H. Adoption of New Technologies
I. Invest in Scientific Research
J. DAC Benefits
K. Regional Program Funds Benefiting Each Jurisdiction
L. Implement an Iterative Planning and Evaluation Process to Ensure Adaptive Management
M. Promote Green Jobs/Career Pathways
N. Ensure Ongoing Operations and Maintenance for Projects
Purpose & Objectives

- Accelerate Resilience L.A. (ARLA) convened a Working Group to:
  - Utilize science, modeling, and consensus
  - Maximize investments & project benefits
  - Achieve 14 SCWP Goals
  - Address key questions
  - Inform County Metrics & Monitoring Study
Working Group Composition

- 3 OWLA Representatives
- 3 Municipal Representatives
  - ⅓ of the region’s MS4 permittees
- L.A. County Flood Control District
- Technical Experts
The Working Group Process

1. GOALS
   OUTCOMES:
   • Articulate stakeholder goals
   • Agree on priority SCWP Goals for analysis

2. METRICS
   OUTCOMES:
   • Recommend quantitative metrics for measuring project and Program success

3. STRATEGIES
   OUTCOMES:
   • Discuss where and how benefits can and should be achieved
   • Define menu of project types

4. PILOT ANALYSIS
   OUTCOMES:
   • Survey landscape for potential project opportunities and simulate their performance
   • Analyze metrics and goals at project-scale and watershed-scale for range of strategies

5. RECOMMENDATIONS
   OUTCOMES:
   • Consensus-based discussions around tradeoffs and benefits
   • Included experts to help inform programmatic recommendations
The Pilot Watershed and Modeling

- Alhambra Wash selected as pilot watershed
  - Representative of existing physical and social characteristics throughout the region
- Modeling included:
  - 28,000 project opportunities
  - 50 years of implementation
  - Geographic connection of projects modeled (upstream, downstream, etc.)
  - Estimation of benefits from different project scenarios across SCWP Goals
- Monetization of all benefits to provide comparable scenarios
Building Blocks for Recommendations

Maximize and achieve benefits through diversity of project types, sizes, and locations

Watershed Approach
- Stormwater is defined by watersheds
- Each watershed has its own signature
- Stormwater project implementation is nested and cumulative

Identifying Needs & Benefits
- Benefits should be predictable, measurable, and monitorable
- Benefits should be assessed by needs and conditions
- Benefits accrue to beneficiaries by scale and access
1. Develop Local Metrics
2. Refine NBS/Nature-Mimicking
3. Expand Water Supply Benefits
4. Create Watershed Area Signatures
5. Create Community Engagement Program
6. Conduct Needs Assessments
7. Connect Community Engagement to Technical Resources Program
8. Clarify Scoring for Engagement
9. Prioritize NBS
10. Create Clear Equity Standards
11. Determine, Test, and Select Supplemental DAC Indicators
12. Quantify Benefits at Appropriate Spatial Scales
13. Calculate DAC Benefits with Population
14. Include DAC Benefits in Scoring
15. Set Watershed Area Targets
16. Model Project Interactions
17. Build Potential Project Portfolio
18. Incentivize WHAM Coordination
19. Create a Private Property Incentive Program
20. Create and Implement A Robust Workforce Development Program
21. Test Alternative Scoring Criteria
22. Develop a Monitoring Program
Define Clear Metrics & Set Watershed Targets

• Develop localized metrics for each Watershed Area via the Metrics and Monitoring Study

• Set long-term Watershed Area-specific targets based on local needs, local conditions, and local benchmarks
Recommendation #4:
Create Watershed Area Signatures

- 10% 50% NBS
- 50% Nature Mimicking
- 50% Nature
- 100% NBS
- 100% Nature Mimicking
- 100% Gray
- 100% Nature Mimicking
- 50% Gray
- 50% Nature Mimicking
- 100% NBS

Alhambra Wash Watershed Signature

Community Investment Benefits (CHANGE IN MONETIZED CIB)
Water Supply (MAGNITUDE OF NEW WATER CAPTURED)
Water Quality (WET DAY LONG-TERM POLLUTANT LOAD CAPTURED)
Determine What’s Technically Possible

- Create Watershed Area Signatures
- Model Project Interactions
- Test Alternative Scoring Criteria
- Develop a Monitoring Program
Recommendation #17: Build Potential Project Portfolio

Example Watershed Project Portfolio

- Gray Infrastructure
- Nature Based Solution
- Nature Mimicking Project

Compounded project benefits over time
Identify Community Needs & Benefits

• Conduct Needs Assessments
• Clarify Scoring for Engagement
• Create Clear Equity Standards
• Quantify Benefits at Appropriate Spatial Scales
• Calculate DAC Benefits with Population
Example: Clarify Scoring for Engagement

Levels of Community Engagement

Ignore
- Closed-Door Meetings
- Misinformation
- Systematic Disenfranchisement
- Voter Suppression

Inform
- Fact Sheets
- Open Houses
- Presentations
- Billboards
- Videos

Consult
- Public Comment
- Focus Groups
- Community Forums
- Surveys

Involve
- Community Organizing & Advocacy
- House Meetings
- Interactive Workshops
- Polling
- Community Forums

Collaborate
- MOUs with Community-Based Organizations
- Community Organizing
- Citizen Advisory Committees
- Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling

Defer To
- Community-Driven Planning
- Consensus Building
- Participatory Action Research
- Participatory Budgeting Cooperatives

Adopted from original graphic by Rosa González of Facilitating Power in partnership with Movement Strategy Center
Example: Quantify Benefits at Appropriate Spatial Scales
Example: Calculate Disadvantaged Community Benefits Using Population

Project Outside of a DAC

- 100 people in DAC with park access

Project Inside of a DAC

- 100 people in DAC with park access

Same Number of DAC Beneficiaries
Expand Opportunities for Collaboration

- Incentivize WHAM Coordination
- Create a Private Property Incentive Program
- Create and Implement A Robust Workforce Development Program
Visualizing Multi-Benefit Projects in the Pilot Watershed

Complete report and recommendations available at acceleratela.org/scwp
What’s next?

● Incorporate Recommendations into the Metrics & Monitoring Study

● Embed Recommendations at the Biennial Review

● Expand & leverage local, state & federal resources
Thank you!

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- Please visit [acceleratela.org/scwp](http://acceleratela.org/scwp) for:
  - ARLA’s SCWP Working Group Report and Recommendations
  - Videos
    - A New Vision for Water Management
    - Visualizing Multi-Benefit Projects in the Pilot Watershed

- Questions regarding ARLA or the Working Group?
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