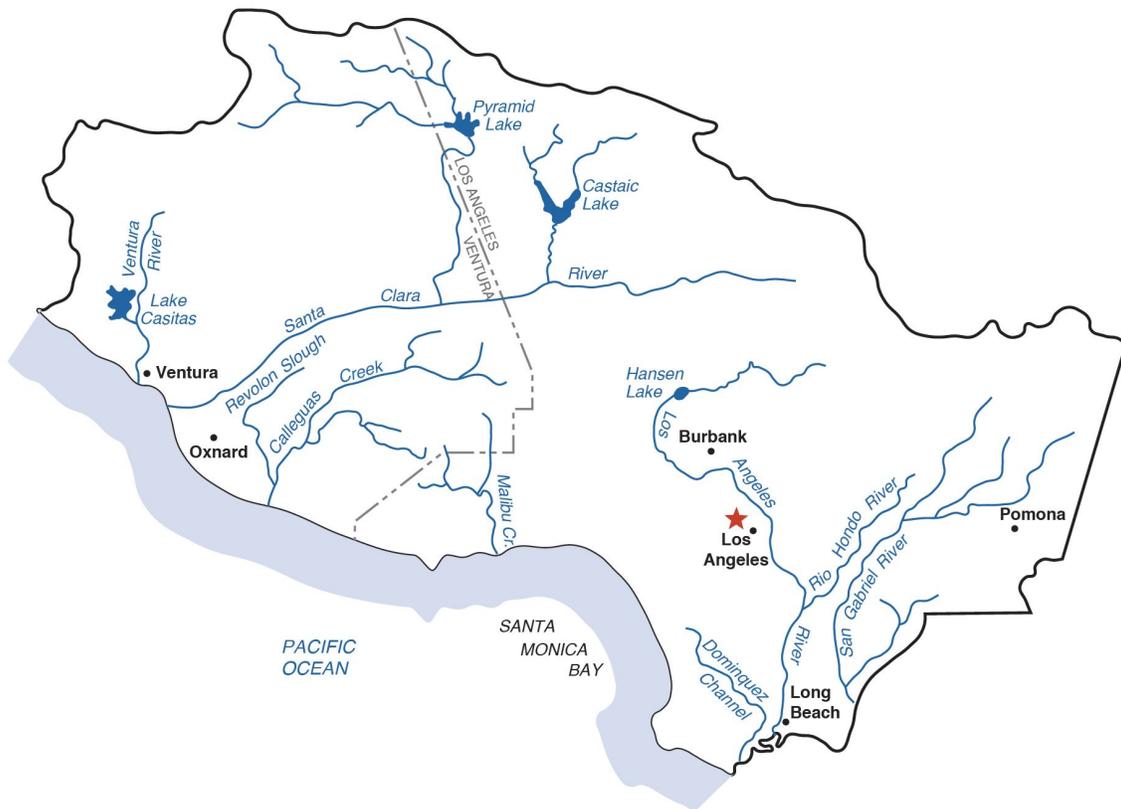




# Los Angeles Community Water Justice Grants Program 2019 Project List



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**California Greenworks, Inc.**

***South Los Angeles Urban Greening and Community Forestry Program***

\$500,000 – 60 months

**Watershed:** Ballona Creek Watershed

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention/ Other projects

The proposed project will plant 200 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 10 neighborhood outreach events, to be coupled with 5 South Los Angeles Community Forestry Workshops advised by certified arborists. Furthermore, California Greenworks will recruit 200 volunteers (students, community members, and concerned citizens) to assist with planting and tree maintenance. California Greenworks estimates that about 1,000 community members will be engaged through outreach and workshops, with flyers and pamphlets reaching another 10,000 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.

**California Product Stewardship Council**

***Sustainable Medication Take Back for Los Angeles, Kern, and Ventura Watersheds***

\$375,000 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles County Watersheds, Guyama River, Santa Clara River, Ventura River, Calleguas, Malibu Creek, Kern River

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) will aid in the expansion of access to safe pharmaceutical disposal for the citizens of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern counties. The proposed project will expand safe disposal and continue education and outreach to the public to inform them of safe disposal options, which in turn help to protect the people and watersheds within impacted counties. Studies have recently noted the pathways taken by improperly disposed medicines; the dissolved medicines flow from the sewer system to the treatment facility and are then discharged into the watershed. Treatment facilities are not able to remove dissolved medicines from the water supply, so all dissolved medicines are released into the natural water sources that our cities and towns use for fresh water. Further, these dissolved medicines are being taken up by aquatic life in these waterways, increasing the exposure of these chemicals to humans through consumption. By proactively removing contaminants from the water systems and disallowing them to reach the watershed of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern counties community members that depend on them for sources of water will benefit from greater health and well-being.

This project is under the award-winning campaign “Don’t Rush to Flush!” (DRTF) that uses a dedicated website ([www.dontrushtoflush.org](http://www.dontrushtoflush.org)) and various media platforms to teach the public about the program. DRTF is a campaign involving partnerships with local government, law enforcement and health providers that has resulted in the placement of take-back bins around the state for the purpose of disposal of unwanted medicines including over-the-counter medicines, ointments, lotions, and pet medicines. The project will

assist community and local partners in Los Angeles, Kern, and Ventura Counties to establish new medication collection bin locations, site the bins, pay for medicine disposal for the new bins, and promote the program to the community while focusing on disadvantaged communities. Currently, there are approximately 15 safe disposal bins located in Los Angeles County, serving an estimated population of over 10.2 million. There are 4 bins located serving over 905 thousand people in Kern County, and only 2 bins in Ventura County, serving over 859 thousand. The recently enacted statewide legislation, Senate Bill 212 (Jackson, 2018), has a requirement of one bin per 50,000 people. Under this requirement, Los Angeles County needs at least 204 active bins, 17 in Ventura County, and 18 in Kern County. The implementation of SB 212 is unlikely to start until March of 2022. Until that time, these counties will continue to be underserved without an effort to add additional bins.

### **Center for Biological Diversity**

#### ***Protect Southern California Watersheds***

\$500,000 – 60 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River, Santa Clara River, San Gabriel River, Compton Creek, Ballona Creek

**Theme:** Other Projects

In the face of increasingly unreliable water supplies and a changing climate, there is a compelling and urgent need for transformative solutions that will secure a resilient water future for Los Angeles and all its residents. That is the goal of the Protect Southern California Watersheds campaign. Through this project, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) will focus on improving ground and surface water quality by increasing awareness, involvement and engagement in Los Angeles with biodiversity, endangered species issues, and by building the connection between pollution reduction, water conservation, thriving wildlife, clean and abundant water resources, and people. CBD, along with partners The City Project and Anahuak Youth Sports Association, and in close collaboration with local underserved communities of color, proposes to improve water quality and health equity in Los Angeles and Ventura counties by implementing a fun, informational, science, advocacy, community arts and grassroots campaign, supporting and building on current efforts to protect and revitalize Los Angeles region watersheds.

This project will focus on improving ground and surface water quality, environmental justice and health equity in the target watersheds by increasing awareness, involvement and engagement in Los Angeles with biodiversity, endangered species issues and communities, and by building the connection between pollution reduction, water conservation, thriving wildlife, clean and abundant water resources, and people. The project prioritizes developing youth leaders and mobilizing new generations of advocates and activists who will prioritize protection of our waterways and other natural and community resources now, and into the future. With requested grant funding, we will hire a dedicated campaigner—preferably someone who reflects the linguistic and cultural diversity of the population to be served—who will lead educational nature walks for youth and other community participants attracted through the collaboration’s community connections. The walks, conducted in Spanish as appropriate, will take place alongside parks, rivers and creeks, and identify and discuss unique biodiversity and species of ecological significance to the watershed, as well as the cultural and historical significance of those places. Youth will increase their knowledge of their local watershed, biodiversity, and history so they can most effectively advocate on behalf of issues that affect them, including clean water, water conservation, watershed species protection, pollution reduction, drought preparedness, public lands, and equitable green space. They will receive field training and learn how to take water samples and monitor watershed habitat, with the purpose of further engaging their interest in conservation and science. The campaigner will also develop bilingual, multicultural planning and educational materials with information on river wildlife, plant life and culture for diverse audiences including parks, schools, community organizations, government agencies and neighborhood groups.

**Comite Pro 1*****Maywood Water Education Project***

\$129,000 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River, Los Angeles County Aquifer

**Theme:** 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. Comite Pro 1 is a small community based organization that has been dedicated to finding solutions to the high pollution problems in the Maywood city and vicinity. The water companies do not engage with the community, they are very closed off and there is a need for an open source process to inform all the residents and water users of the quality of the water and what can be done to improve the drinking water. Comite Pro 1 seeks to integrate the very 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. 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 make the Mutual Water companies accountable and have community engagement and be part of the of the decision making for better quality and clean ground water.

**Del Amo Action Committee*****Environmental Justice Educational Program: Protecting Our Water through Stormwater Management***

\$45,000 – 12 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles County Watershed

**Theme:** Public Health/Pollution Prevention

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 broader issues such as 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. LAEJN will become educated on water sample collection and how to use the data to bring areas into stormwater compliance. The neighborhood projects, include "Rain Garden Concepts", which will help to reduce toxic runoff into the stormwater system and eventually into the ocean. Our education will include researched information about "green streets", many of our groups are involved with "ground truthing" and land use planning and it will be great to incorporate some or all these concepts into our community planning efforts, including Measure A green spaces. This education is important to share with other communities and the efforts of this project will increase rain filtration sites which will help recharge our groundwater basins. 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**

#### ***Run Down the Run Off***

\$225,000 – 36 months

**Watershed:** Lower Los Angeles River

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention/Environmental Compliance Promotion/Assessment and Audits

Funds will allow the implementation of the Run Down the Run Off project, consisting of data base 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 be providing a lot of the technical expertise in research and 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

**Theme:** 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 Promotores 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 Promotores

on the complexities of water access including infrastructure, distribution, access points, and the regulatory environment. SCOPE will provide power analysis training to the Promotores. 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***

\$500,000 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River

**Theme:** 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, recently expressed their dismay at a community planning meeting held by the city about the lack of community participation in the restoration planning. Concern included, why weren't they consulted before planning began, and why didn't they know about soil sampling efforts that could expose them and their children to toxins? Returning the River to a more natural state is one of Friends of the LA River's (FoLAR) guiding principles. For 30 years, FoLAR has demonstrated that meaningful community engagement starts with awareness.

FoLAR outreach and education programs provide River literacy, empowering local community members to become civically engaged advocates in current and emerging public initiatives on the River. Through this project, FoLAR will bring their watershed education program to the schools surrounding this region (Elysian Valley, Glassell, Cypress and Highland Parks) to promote awareness and River stewardship. They will work with Community Nature Connection, a leader in developing and implementing culturally relevant programming, to stage family-friendly event where students can share what they've learned. FoLAR will also train community members, in both English and Spanish, to create a team of docents to provide local perspectives and foster communication. Activities that are prominent in FoLAR's education programs for this project include water quality-testing and stream health assessment. These provide excellent ways to talk about storm water runoff and highly treated wastewater that is discharged daily into the River. Helping everyone know that wetlands clean water naturally, provide a place where humans and wildlife can co-exist, and that access to green spaces benefit both physical.

### **Heal the Bay**

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

\$150,075 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Malibu Creek, Los Angeles River

**Theme:** Assessments and Audits/ Other Projects

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***

\$200,000 – 24 months

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

**Theme:** 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 is working with allies to ensure SCWP's goals and principles are fully realized in implementation, including project type, location, and maintenance. 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, making certain of strong oversight and community participation, and working with cities and communities to support project implementation.

**Los Angeles Food Policy Council**

***Scaling Waterwise Urban Agriculture in LA's Disadvantaged Communities***

\$100,000 – 18 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River Watershed

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention/ Pollution Reduction/Other Projects

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**

#### ***Watershed Program Outreach and Education***

\$100,000 – 12 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River

**Theme:** Environmental Restoration and Protection/Other Projects

Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW), the County's on-the-water, in-the-water, and in-the-community advocate for local waters leads several different initiatives to achieve swimmable, fishable, and drinkable water for all Angelinos. LAW's small-scale projects prioritize providing opportunities for community members to learn first-hand about the state of waterways' health, and to raise their voices in protecting LA County's inland and coastal waters from pollution, in restoring waters' ecological integrity, and in ensuring public access and enjoyment of those waters.

Los Angeles experiences massive pollution in its coastal and inland waterways, and more than 85% of all assessed waterways in the region fail to meet federal standards for at least one pollutant. Many rivers and creeks are merely concrete flood protection channels rather than healthy riparian ecosystems. LAW established its River Assessment Fieldwork Team (RAFT) to connect community members with the Los Angeles River through hands-on scientific fieldwork as well as to advocate for improved watershed policies within the region. LAW has been training 120-140 community members annually to collect water quality samples, conduct ecological health assessments, and collect human use data throughout the Los Angeles River watershed. Although their volunteers come from communities across Los Angeles, most of them live in river-adjacent cities, especially those with high pollution burdens such as Maywood and Long Beach. LAW also uses their connections with local community groups such as Pacoima Beautiful and Communities for a Better Environment to engage their members. The RAFT team leads fieldwork days all along the river and its tributaries to learn about the health of the entire watershed. The range of their sites include more natural locations (Arroyo Seco headwaters), partially concretized (Glendale Narrows), and fully concretized places (Maywood, South Gate, and Long Beach). Following fieldwork days, they reconvene to discuss data as a group, working to mobilize their findings in a call for a healthier river for all. In collaboration with Heal the Bay and Council for Watershed Health, LAW will further integrate the collected data in addition to inviting volunteers to express concerns that LAW staff can take to LA River planning

meetings. Finally, findings will be shared and published through an official report release. The River Assessment Fieldwork Team is an ongoing project with a scalable budget.

### **Los Angeles Waterkeeper**

#### ***Marine Program Outreach and Education***

\$500,000 – 12 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek, Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay

**Theme:** Environmental Restoration and Protection/ 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 support their ongoing 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. LAW conducts 60-65 annual boat-based survey trips that offer more than 300 volunteers on-the-water learning opportunities while helping staff better understand and safeguard MPAs. Volunteers learn survey protocols and collect written, photo, and GPS documentation of human activity in and around LA's MPAs. This experience often includes witnessing sea life interactions with oil tankers and cargo barges, observing industrial discharge and urban waste, and reporting illegal fishing. These interactions serve as reminders of how dramatically human behavior, both on and offshore, influences the planet while simultaneously emphasizing the need to improve water management practices. This is an ongoing project with a scalable budget.

### **The Nature Conservancy**

#### ***Los Angeles River Stormwater Capture and Habitat Enhancement Project***

\$200,000 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River

**Theme:** 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 Galssell Park and Adjacent Cypres 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***

\$160,000 – 24 months

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

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention/Environmental Restoration and Protection/Other Projects

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 educate 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. Community members will be deeply involved both as leaders and as participants through Nature for All coalition member organizations COFEM (Council of Mexican Federations in North America), ActiveSGV, and API Forward Movement, 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 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***

\$252,950 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River Watershed

**Theme:** Other Projects

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 is proposing to convene community members from East L.A engaged in the Salazar Park project with community members 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***

\$500,000 – 12 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River

**Theme:** Other Projects

River LA's Southeast LA River Pilot Project will demonstrate how to transform the LA River into a 51-mile civic asset that runs through the heart of Los Angeles. The project will design and develop a 1-3-acre platform park over the Los Angeles River in a critical-need area of Southeast Los Angeles, tackling complex issues around Los Angeles's water infrastructure, social and environmental equity, climate resilience, and the building of healthier communities. The City of South Gate, which has been identified as the site for the proposed park, is within the State's top 10% of disadvantaged communities, and has been identified as a high need area by LA County's Parks Needs Assessment and the Lower LA River Working Group. The innovative platform park will connect communities east and west of the River with new open space, recreation facilities, ecological corridors, and active transportation connections, bringing much needed public health, wellness opportunities, and programming to the region. As part of a robust engagement process, the project will further innovative approaches to community engagement, using new community tools including augmented reality technology and quantitative tools for expanding public participation. Bringing multilingual and culturally appropriate communication to all project work will be key in engaging the vast majority of the population, as 95.3% of residents identify as Latino. The project will utilize existing publicly owned land in South Gate – a concrete river channel at one of its widest spans – for public benefit, avoiding costly, time consuming, and unlikely land acquisition, while overcoming the constraint of flood control that has stymied progress for decades. As a prototype for the innovative implementation of this type of intervention at a larger scale for the LA River, the project will explore how in-channel platforms can significantly help the region increase local supply and reliability in a changing climate. By studying how they can capture outfalls from surrounding neighborhoods, the project can help communities meet water obligations and create a test case for future proposed, and much larger, recharge and treatment projects in the region.

**San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps**

***Watershed and Forest Revitalization Project***

\$150,000 – 18 months

**Watershed:** San Gabriel River

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention/Pollution Reduction/Other Projects

This project will support the engagement, development and employment of local underserved young men and women. Through San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC) young adults are trained and employed in helping conservation and active environmental clean-up activities. The ultimate goal of the proposed

project is to identify trail and watershed health, and to address specific threats to it. SGVCC will address the needs and priorities of the San Gabriel River and focus on reducing the trash Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for 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. This will be achieved through the employment of local under-served young adults in Pomona and surrounding areas, providing them with new opportunities to experience the local natural ecosystem, and providing valuable exposure and outdoor resource management training to enhance their future employment options. Community involvement is a key component of the proposed project. SGVCC's Corps members are residents of the immediate area and community and at minimum 90% reside in Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) and the remaining 10% from Disadvantaged Communities (DAC). 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 ultimate goal is to mitigate the TMD of trash that reaches the lower basin and subsequently merges into Long Beach. The project's objective is to secure water health at its source.

### **Santa Clara River Conservancy**

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

\$500,000 – 60 months

**Watershed:** Upper and Lower Santa Clara River

**Theme:** 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***

\$100,000 – 36 months

**Watershed:** Newhall Creek, Santa Clara River

**Theme:** Environmental Restoration and Protection/Assessment and Audits/Other Projects

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 the Newhall Elementary school after school program. 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 at the local community center. 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.

**The 5 Gyres Institute**

***TrashBlitz LA: citizen science and water pollution prevention***

\$50,000 – 12 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River

**Theme:** Pollution Reduction/Environmental Restoration and Protection/Assessments 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. This project was 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. In 2019, 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 developed 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.

### **Tree People**

#### ***Calles Verdes***

\$330,000 – 24 months

**Watershed:** Los Angeles River Watershed

**Theme:** Pollution Prevention/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. Calles Verdes, first conceived in 2016, was designed to produce multiple benefits for San Fernando and surrounding areas. 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. Funding from the California Coastal Conservancy's Prop 1 grant program is funding the majority of the project and additional 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. The project was designed to complement the City's Active Transportation plan, which promotes public health via walking, biking, and other means of active transportation. 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. The project is organized into two parts, a planning phase and 3-year implementation phase. The planning phase is complete and consisted of identifying implementation sites, obtaining permits, ensuring CEQA exemption, developing project designs, establishing MOAs and doing baseline measurements for water filtration and quality, tree canopy, and GHG reduction levels.