



SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

SCIENTIFIC STUDY SUMMARY

Regional Program Projects Module

STUDY NAME	LAUSD Living Schoolyards Program Pilot Study
STUDY LEAD(S)	TreePeople
SCW WATERSHED AREA(S)	Upper Los Angeles River
TOTAL SCW FUNDING REQUESTED	\$ 943,379.00

Submitted On: Thursday, October 15, 2020

Created By: Blake Whittington, Principal Coordinator of Water Policy, TreePeople (Amy Holland)

OVERVIEW

The Scientific Studies Program is part of the Safe, Clean Water Regional Program to provide funding for activities such as scientific studies, technical studies, monitoring, and modeling. Watershed Area Steering Committees will determine how to appropriate funds for the Scientific Studies Program. The District will administer the Scientific Studies Program and will seek to utilize independent research institutions or academic institutions to carry out, help design, or peer review eligible activities. All activities to be funded by the Scientific Studies Program will be conducted in accordance with accepted scientific protocols.

This document summarizes a proposed Scientific Study, based upon inputs to and outputs from the web-based tool called the 'SCW Regional Program Projects Module' (<https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/projects-module/>).

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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This section provides general information on the proposed Scientific Study.

1.1 Overview

The following table provides an overview of the study and the Study Lead(s):

Study Name:	LAUSD Living Schoolyards Program Pilot Study
Study Description:	Research the particular needs of schools for capturing on- and off-site stormwater relative to nature-based and traditional solutions.
SCW Watershed Area:	Upper Los Angeles River
Latitude to Display On the SCW Portal Map:	34.16
Longitude to Display On the SCW Portal Map:	-118.28
Have There Been Other Similar or Related Studies?	Yes
If There are Similar or Related Studies Please Explain:	See Section 4.1 on Previous Studies
Call for Projects year:	FY21-22
Total SCW Funding Requested:	\$ 943,379.00
Study Lead(s):	TreePeople
Additional Study Collaborators:	Los Angeles Unified School District
Additional Study Collaborators:	Studio-MLA
Additional Study Collaborators:	N/A
Anticipated Study Developer:	TreePeople
Primary Contact (if differs from submitter):	Blake Whittington
Primary Contact Email (if differs from submitter):	bwhittington@treepeople.org
Secondary Contact (if differs from submitter):	Manny Gonez
Secondary Contact Email (if differs from submitter):	mgonez@treepeople.org

2 DETAILS

This section provides an overview of the study details including problem statement and objectives.

2.1 Statement

The following describes the Study problem statement:

This study addresses the region-wide need to provide more land for stormwater capture and infiltration by partnering with the Los Angeles Unified School District, the largest landowner in Southern California. In addition, the study prioritizes nature-based, multi-benefit stormwater capture project implementation that addresses the critical need to upgrade school campuses, replacing asphalt and concrete with bioswales, native plants, trees, and rain gardens.

A vast number of Los Angeles public schools are covered in asphalt, crowded with students, surrounded by freeways, landfills, dense industrial areas and commercial airports; areas notorious for lead emissions and other harmful environmental issues. With many school communities not having immediate access to parks, residents face tremendous barriers to accessing natural spaces in their neighborhoods. This lack of stormwater capture, green space, and canopy contributes to major flooding on school campuses, strong urban heat island effect - 6 degrees hotter, and poor air quality, making the community highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Such environmental conditions impact student welfare and performance. Nature-based, multi-benefit stormwater capture and infiltration implementation projects have the benefit of not only addressing our need for more clean water, but also serve to address other crucial needs in our communities. It is well documented that students respond better to natural surfaces such as grass over asphalt or concrete, to shade from trees over hot, barren playgrounds, and to the organic shapes and textures of planted gardens over rectilinear sidewalks and patios. For example, school greenness has positively predicted math scores (Kuo et al, 2018). In particular, the percentage of tree cover, as distinct from other types of “green space” such as grass, was found to be a significant positive predictor of student performance (Sivarajah et al., 2018). Trees are also essential to keeping campus temperatures down, which can help promote better test scores and long-term learning outcomes (Park et al., 2020).

What is less known is how current stormwater capture techniques need to be implemented or modified on school campuses to achieve water supply and quality improvement in locations where students spend time in the outdoors learning, playing, and moving about. This study aims to investigate these questions in the context of ten pilot schools within LAUSD.

Using TreePeople’s globally-replicated community-based model this study will meaningfully involve students and community members every step of the way, from finalizing design plans to planting and caring for the trees and plants on campus. By connecting the community, the teachers, the administration, and the students to the design and implementation of the new green space, our model ensures students understand the need for stormwater capture and infiltration and learn about methods they can implement at home with their parents such as installing a rain garden, rain chains, rain barrels, and planting trees. This project will also be leveraged by TreePeople’s 30-year award-winning, multilingual environmental education programs of which water education is a major component.

Using Studio-MLA's vast experience designing nature-based solutions, working with schools, and building projects in the Upper Los Angeles River region, this study will accumulate the relevant socio-economic and pilot school site data to support the design of Best Management Practices (BMPs) applicable to school settings. Studio-MLA will use these designs to develop individual conceptual plans for each of the ten pilot schools. These plans may be the basis of future feasibility study proposals.

Using their combined years of experience in the area of stormwater and water quality in Los Angeles County, Craftwater Engineering will supply the engineering and technical data and expertise to underpin this study's research into appropriate stormwater capture solutions for schools in general and for the ten pilot schools in particular.

2.2 Objectives

The following describes the Study objectives:

The objectives of this study with respect to the ten pilot schools are to:

1. Determine for each school campus which school greening activities can best support the District's water quality requirements, student learning and health; and best increase community engagement and partnerships.
2. Determine how and the degree to which each school campus can improve water quality and contribute to the attainment of water-quality goals.
3. Determine how best to and by how much each school campus can infiltrate stormwater and thus increase regional drought preparedness and resilience.
4. Determine how and the degree to which each school campus and surrounding neighborhoods can help adapt to the effects of climate change through increasing tree canopy and green space.
5. Determine the best nature-based solutions for each school campus.
6. Determine how school greening efforts can result in multiple benefits.

2.3 Summary

The following provides additional details on the Study including location of study, date to be collected, study methodology, etc.:

In April of 2018 the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation completed a comprehensive One Water LA study. As a part of this study an analysis was performed on all LAUSD campuses to determine which showed most potential stormwater capture and water quality benefits. A final list of 21 schools was reached. Eleven of the schools are in the Ballona Creek watershed and ten are in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed.

In December of 2018 Studio-MLA and TreePeople completed the Living Schoolyard Program Proposal. This proposal described a three-step plan to implement a region-wide Living Schoolyards Pilot Program that engages students, teachers, principals, parents, nonprofits, and corporate partners while generating funding for ongoing maintenance. TreePeople has developed a deep relationship with LAUSD and gained the District's support for studying the use of their campuses for stormwater capture as a part of the Living Schoolyard Program.

This scientific study proposal is to complete Step 1 of the Living Schoolyard Program using SCW Scientific Study Summary

the set of ten schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed as pilot schools (See attached One Pager). Further, since schools exist in neighborhoods with streets, sidewalks, and other connective pathways, we propose to expand the Living Schoolyard concept into surrounding communities by looking at opportunities for green streets with additional tree canopy and stormwater capture features.

The ten pilot schools are (See attached map.):

1. Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies
2. Reseda High School
3. Hollenbeck Middle School
4. Sun Valley Bus Garage (adjacent to Celerity Cardinal Charter School)
5. Celerity Cardinal Charter School
6. Enadia Technology Enriched Charter
7. Nestle Avenue Charter Elementary School
8. Soto Early Education Center
9. Canoga Park High School
10. Soto Street Elementary School

In keeping with this, the original four phases in Step 1 of the Living Schoolyards Program proposal are here recast as three phases.

Phase 1: The initial phase consists of the technical studies necessary for the planning phase of this program and for the eventual implementation of the ensuing recommendations. We will review watershed programs, master plans, LAUSD green schoolyard efforts, and barriers to living schoolyards. We will analyze and document the current context for each pilot school, including environmental, social, and stormwater conditions in the neighborhoods surrounding the pilot schools.

- a. Identify and establish leadership team that regularly meets of partners: TreePeople, LAUSD, Studio-MLA
 - b. Collect and review LAUSD campus master plans for the pilot schools and review LAUSD schoolyard greening efforts to date.
 - c. Identify barriers and challenges to implementing living green schoolyards by reviewing LAUSD, city, state, and federal policies and regulations.
 - d. Collect and review data on public school use for stormwater capture and water quality improvements.
 - e. Identify synergies between Living Schoolyards and ongoing watershed plans and SCWP scientific studies (specifically the Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP), Upper Los Angeles River EWMP, Stormwater Capture Master Plan, and Upper Los Angeles River preSIP Scientific Study).
 - f. Research and confirm the case that green schoolyards provide stormwater capture and water quality benefits without risk to students, faculty, and staff.
 - g. Research and document the potential for the pilot schools to support regional stormwater capture and water quality projects. This research includes the regulatory, geotechnical, hydrologic, stormwater, and water quality context for each pilot school site.
 - h. Document environmental and social conditions around the pilot schools using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), GIS, U.S. Census Bureau and LAUSD data.
 - i. Work with principals to leverage educational mandates and understand unique educational, physical, and community contexts of each pilot school.
- (Note that activities a through f above will not need to be repeated for the roll out to all LAUSD schools.)

Phase 1 Deliverables:

- Report on major barriers and challenges, including those that pertain to regulations, health, maintenance, monitoring, and related costs.
- Report on current and planned use of public school sites for off-site stormwater capture.
- Report on synergies between this program and ongoing watershed plans and studies.
- Report on safety of off-site stormwater capture on school sites.
- Report on geotechnical, hydrologic, stormwater, and water quality context for each pilot school site.
- Report on the environmental and social conditions around each pilot school.

Phase 2: This phase will investigate typologies and sample designs suitable for school campuses. The investigation will engage community members as well as engineering and design professionals.

- a. Create a comprehensive engagement plan to gather community knowledge and ideas. Include methods to reach communities with varied languages, cultures, resources, schedules, and comfort in public meetings. Include engagement of California Native American Tribes.
- b. Initiate student and parent engagement to establish a vision for the Living Schoolyards Program and include opportunities for technical and vocational education that may feed into local hire programs.
- c. Assist teachers by creating age-appropriate lessons that support the SCWP educational goals and requirements, as well as California State Board of Education content standards.
- d. Define living schoolyard typologies to meet the program goals within differing elementary, middle, and high school environments. Modify for schoolyard settings, as necessary, existing BMPs; both nature-based solutions and traditional solutions.
- e. Prepare conceptual plans for each pilot school with design, implementation, and maintenance strategies that support physical health, mental health, community resilience, and academic success, along with regional stormwater capture and water quality goals. (Note that while the full program roll out will include community engagement the need will be to modify, rather than create, the typologies and toolkit.)

Phase 2 Deliverables:

- Community engagement Plan
- Report on community engagement
- Educational lessons
- Report on typologies appropriate for schoolyard settings
- Conceptual plans for each pilot school (Note: not all conceptual plans will be completed in the first year of the study.)

Phase 3: In this phase, the team will define the process, schedule, and budget to launch the Living Schoolyards Program in the pilot schools and to begin planning the expansion of the program to all LAUSD schools.

- a. Identify the range of maintenance costs of proposed BMPs. Analyze tangible cost reductions due to Living Schoolyards implementation.
- b. Develop budget estimates for the pilot program, and work with LAUSD to target and leverage potential funding sources including federal, state, and local grants, bonds, private, non-profit partners, and public-private partnerships.
- c. Develop an Implementation Plan and Schedule for the pilot program implementation. This activity will directly inform future SCWP Technical Resource and Infrastructure Program applications and adaptive management of existing EWMPs.
- d. The program team will draft a Final Study Report including summaries of the first three phases with recommendations and implementation strategies to expand the pilot project to

full implementation across all LAUSD schools. The LAUSD team will review and provide feedback for the team to refine and revise the program. A Final LAUSD Living Schoolyards Program Plan will not be completed under this program but will be completed as part of the pilot implementation project.

e. Confer with state and SCWP agencies, partners, and LAUSD superintendent and key staff to identify potential funding sources for implementation and maintenance of living schoolyards.

Phase 3 Deliverables:

- Plan for moving the ten pilot schools through a Feasibility Study. The plan will include estimated budgets and schedules.
- Report on potential funding sources for feasibility and implementation.
- Final Study Report.

2.4 Additional Information

Additional information regarding Study details is provided as the following attachments:

Attachments for this Section	
Attachment Name	Description
map.pdf	Map of Pilot Schools
Living Schoolyard One Pager smaller.pdf	One Page Study Description
2020 10 09 Living Schoolyards SCWP Scientific Studies Proposal - LOS_NET Signed.pdf	Letter of Support: North East Trees
CCKA LAUSD Scientific Studies Proposal_Support_10.13.2020.pdf	Letter of Support: California Coastkeeper Alliance
Climate Resolve_Living Schoolyards SCWP Scientific Studies_10122020.pdf	Letter of Support: Climate Resolve
COFEM- 2020 10 09 Living Schoolyards SCWP Scientific Studies Proposal - LOS (2).pdf	Letter of Support: Council of Mexican Federations
CWH LOS_Living Schoolyards SCWP Scientific Studies Proposal_Oct 2020.pdf	Letter of Support: Council for Watershed Health
LA Unified Letter of Support - Tree People Studio MLA SCWP Proposal 10.14.20.pdf	Letter of Support: Los Angeles Unified School District
Letter of support Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program .pdf	Letter of Support: Promesa Boyle Heights
MRT LAUSD Support.pdf	Letter of Support: Mountains Restoration Trust

3 Outcomes

This section provides an overview of the anticipated Study outcomes and the nexus to water supply and water quality.

3.1 Nexus

The following describes the Study’s nexus to stormwater, urban runoff and / or water supply:

Despite their extensive coverage throughout the urban landscape, schools have long been considered “off limits” for stormwater management by regional water quality plans; this study endeavors to unlock these sites as new opportunities to support watershed-wide water quality improvement, local water resiliency, and multi-generational community investments.

3.2 Outcomes

The following describes the expected outcomes of the Study in terms of implementation of BMPs or development of tools or applications:

The outcomes of this study will provide both site-scale recommendations for each of the ten schools as well a specific implementation plan to retrofit other schools throughout the region using the typologies and templates customized to different site conditions and needs. This will result in a roster of potential infrastructure projects that can be proposed for SCWP funding in future years by proponents, which will inform the Upper LA River WASC’s, Watershed Coordinator’s, and EWMP Group’s long-term planning.

3.3 Benefits

The following describes how the Study is anticipated to improve water quality, increase water supply, or enhance community investments:

This study will directly address the following stated goals of the SCWP, which are paraphrased below:

- A. Improve water quality
- B. Increase drought preparedness
- C. Improve public health
- E. Invest in multi-benefit infrastructure
- F. Prioritize nature-based solutions
- G. Provide a spectrum of project scales
- H. Encourage innovation and new technologies
- I. Invest in independent scientific research
- J. Provide benefits to disadvantaged communities
- L. Implement a process for adaptive management
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance

3.4 Additional Information

Additional information regarding Study outcomes and its nexus to water quality and supply is provided as the following attachments:

4 Background

This section provides additional background on the Study.

4.1 Previous

The following describes previous / similar studies conducted and how previous efforts will be leveraged for the Study:

This study is in direct lineage to the following two studies.

Unlocking Collaborative Solutions to Water Challenges in the Los Angeles Region: THE POWER OF SCHOOLS Discovery Phase: The Multi-Agency Collaborative (2015), TreePeople. This report documented TreePeople's engagement with a spectrum of LAUSD staff to elicit concerns about collecting stormwater on campuses. These concerns were researched and resolutions documented.

One Water LA 2040 Plan (2018), Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). This massive study of water in the City of Los Angeles included an analysis of LAUSD school sites most amenable to stormwater capture. Our proposed study starts with a set of the school sites identified in this study and uses the recorded analysis.

Guidance for Stormwater and Dry Weather Runoff Capture at Schools; California Practices to Use Runoff Effectively (2018), California Water Boards, Office of Water Programs at California State University, Sacramento. This report contains material supporting the research portion of our proposed study.

Storm Smart Schools: A Guide to Integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure to Meet Regulatory Compliance and Promote Environmental Literacy (2017), United States Environmental Protection Agency. This report contains material supporting the research portion of our proposed study.

Living Schoolyard Program Proposal: LAUSD (2018), Studio-MLA, TreePeople. This is the precursor proposal on which this one is based.

The study proponents are also aware of, and ready to coordinate with, concurrent watershed planning and scientific studies that are complementary to this effort. Specifically the Upper LA River EWMP will be updated before July 2021 to incorporate new watershed data; and the preSIP scientific study (funded by the SCWP) will be identifying new, watershed-wide project opportunities throughout 2021 and then building them into an exploratory platform starting in 2022. The school site opportunities delineated in this study's implementation plan can directly feed into both of these efforts to strengthen the certainty of recommended projects. The study proponents have also been informed of the prospective SCWP Collaborative Adaptive Management Scientific Study, which would be complemented by the site-scale results of this LAUSD study.

4.2 Regulations

The following describes state and federal regulations in the study area that will be considered by the Study:

This scientific study works within the bounds of all known local, state, and federal regulations, and in fact supports regional efforts to comply with the Clean Water Act and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits. Results would also help the LAUSD develop a compliance plan to address impending changes to the Phase II Small MS4 Permit, which is expected to mandate additional stormwater management requirements for institutional land uses (i.e., K-12 schools).

4.3 Additional Information

Additional information regarding the Study background is provided as the following attachments:

5 Cost & Schedule

This section provides an overview of the estimated cost and schedule for the Study.

5.1 Cost of Study

The following details the Study cost and breakdown of its cost by SCW Watershed Area.

Total funding requested: \$ 943,379.00

The following is justification of the total funding requested amount:

This study is anticipated to take 18 months. It will involve:

- General research on school greening and stormwater capture questions. It will include geotechnical, hydrologic, stormwater, utility, and water quality conditions for 10 pilot school sites.
 - Developing conceptual plans for each of the 10 pilot school sites.
 - Next step planning for implementation at the 10 pilot school sites and roll out to additional schools.
- The project applicants are TreePeople, LAUSD, and Studio-MLA. Craftwater Engineering will provide the engineering and technical services. Each organization contributes to the total funding request.

The following table details the funding requested per year per watershed:

Funding Requested Per Year Per Watershed		
Funding Request Year	Watershed Area	Amount for Year
Year 1	Upper Los Angeles River	\$ 651,958.00
Total Year 1		\$ 651,958.00
Year 2	Upper Los Angeles River	\$ 291,421.00
Total Year 2		\$ 291,421.00
Total Funding		\$ 943,379.00

5.2 Funding Sources

The following is a summary of other sources of funding the have been or will be explored for the Study:

There is no additional funding for this study.

For projects leading from this study there is potential to leverage some of the remaining Measure Q dollars, LAUSD's last facilities bond passed by voters twelve years ago. Additional opportunities to leverage funding may arise, if in November voters pass Measure RR, LAUSD's \$7 billion dollar facilities bond. TreePeople regularly engages individual and foundation donors to supplement our school greening efforts.

Is additional funding anticipated to be leveraged as a Cost Share for this Project?

No

The following table details the additional funding already attained for the Study:

Additional Study Funding Sources		
Funding Type	Description	Funding Amount
None provided	N/A	N/A

5.3 Schedule

The following table details is a preliminary schedule required to design, permit, construct, operate, and maintain the Project:

Schedule Milestone Table	
Milestone Name	Completion Date
Phase 2 Completion	11/01/2022
Phase 3 Completion	03/01/2023
Phase 1 Completion (assume start 9/1/2021)	11/01/2021

5.4 Additional Information

Additional information regarding Study cost and schedule is provided as the following attachments:

6 ATTACHMENTS

Attachments are bundled and organized in the following pages, with cover pages between each subsection.



ATTACHMENTS FOR SECTION 2.3:

Illustrative Overview



ATTACHMENTS FOR SECTION 2.4:

Details

LAUSD Living Schoolyards Pilot Study

Potential School Sites for Off-Site Stormwater Capture for export.xlsx



Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies



Reseda High School1



Hollenbeck Middle School1



Sun Valley Bus Garage



Celerity Cardinal Charter School1



Enadia Technology Enriched Charter



Nestle Avenue Charter Elementary School



Soto Early Education Center



Canoga Park High School



Soto Street Elementary School

Safe_Clean_Water_Program



Central Santa Monica Bay



Lower Los Angeles River



Lower San Gabriel River



North Santa Monica Bay



Rio Hondo



Santa Clara River



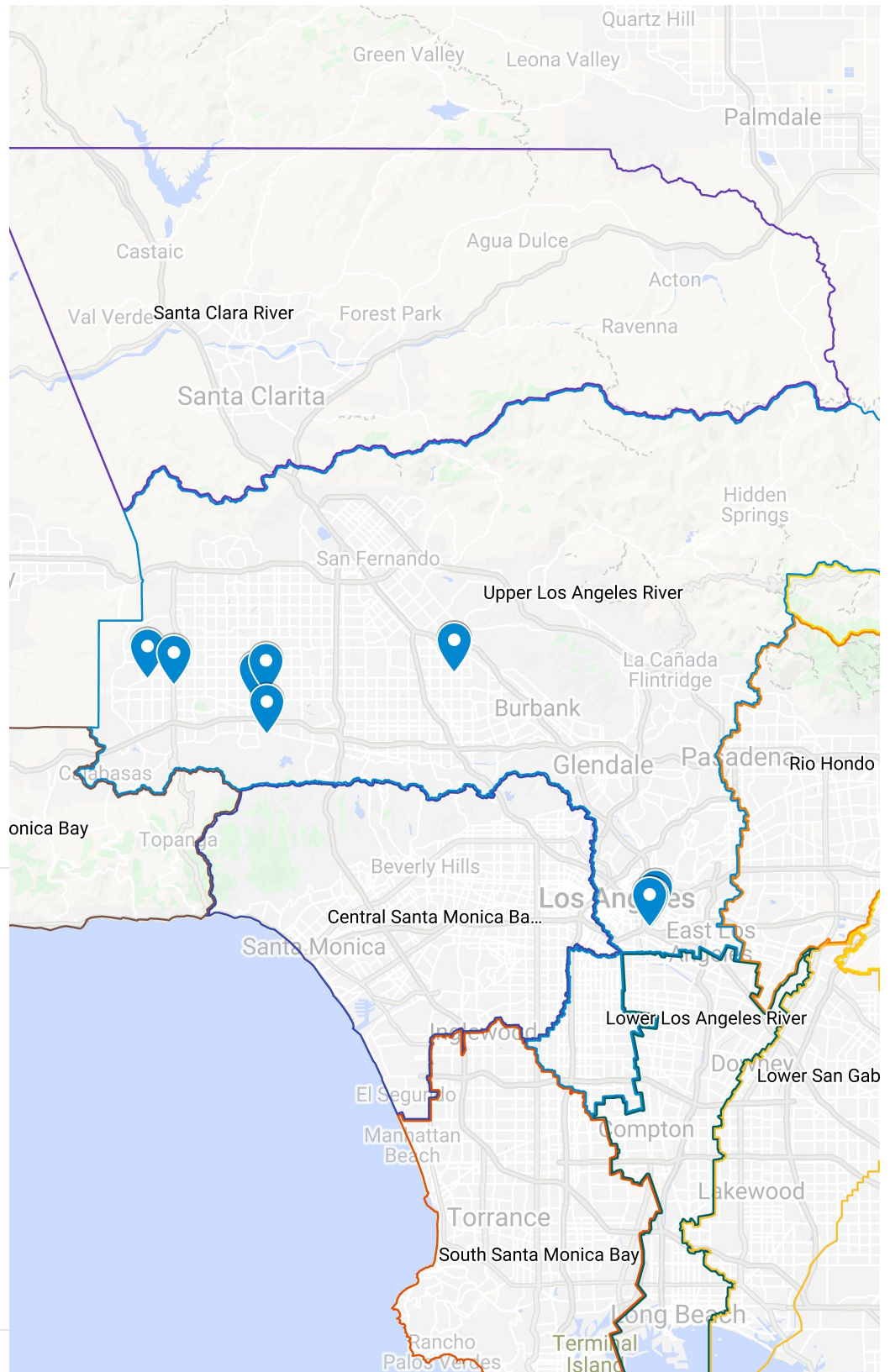
South Santa Monica Bay



Upper Los Angeles River



Upper San Gabriel River





LAUSD: Living Schoolyards Study

A Safe Clean Water Program Scientific Study Proposal for the Upper Los Angeles River WASC from TreePeople and Studio-MLA

Three Phases

Addressing the unique requirements and concerns of schools when considering on- and off-site stormwater capture as components of overall school greening enhancements.

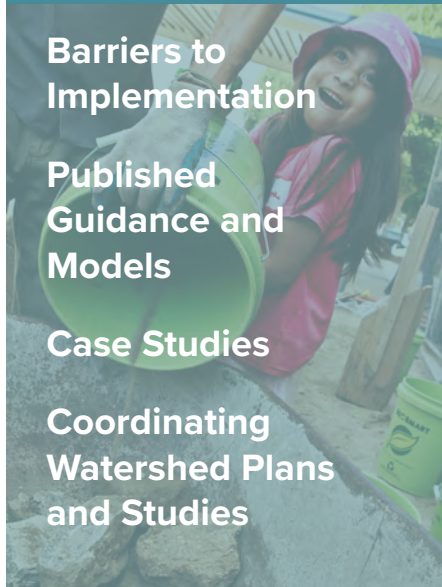
Background Research

Barriers to Implementation

Published Guidance and Models

Case Studies

Coordinating Watershed Plans and Studies



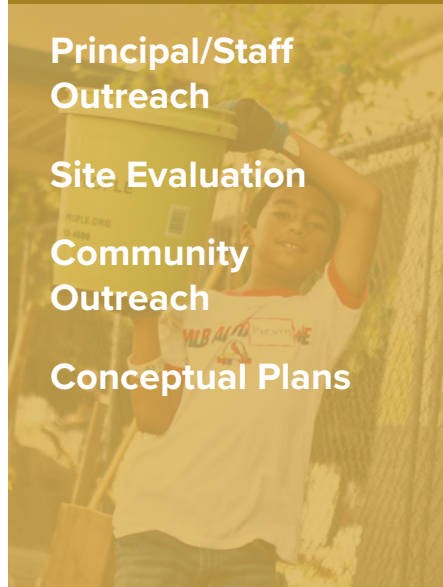
10 Pilot Schools

Principal/Staff Outreach

Site Evaluation

Community Outreach

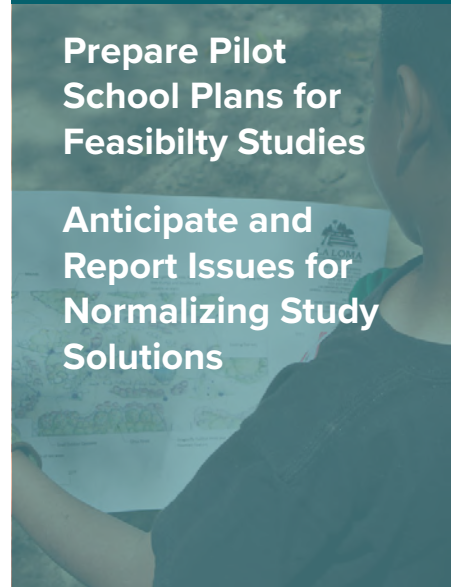
Conceptual Plans



Planning

Prepare Pilot School Plans for Feasibility Studies

Anticipate and Report Issues for Normalizing Study Solutions





North East Trees

Bringing Nature Back

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

To Whom It May Concern,

North East Trees, Inc. enthusiastically supports the LAUSD Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by LAUSD, TreePeople, and Studio-MLA.

As the nation's second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on LAUSD campuses is crucial. LAUSD is the largest landowner in Southern California. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites.

Projects on LAUSD campuses will not only further LA County's water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing and overall health of LAUSD students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation--One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all LAUSD campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. The proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine most impactful nature-based solutions, considering the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses.

TreePeople will lead community engagement efforts as part of the study, so that the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input, feedback,

570 W. Ave. 26, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90065 Phone: (323)441-8634 Fax: (323)441-8618

North East Trees is a 501c-3 non-profit: "Bringing Nature Back"

and buy-in. The proposed project team will define the process, schedule, and budget to launch the Living Schoolyards Program in the pilot schools and begin planning the expansion of the program to all LAUSD schools.

North East Trees, Inc. strongly supports the proposal and the consideration of funding for this important study.

Sincerely,

Mark Kenyon
Executive Director

570 W. Ave. 26, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90065 Phone: (323)441-8634 Fax: (323)441-8618

North East Trees is a 501c-3 non-profit: "Bringing Nature Back"



October 13, 2020

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

To whom this may concern:

The California Coastkeeper Alliance (CCKA) represents local California Waterkeeper organizations working to protect and enhance clean and abundant waters throughout the state. On behalf of local California Waterkeepers, we write in strong support of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by LAUSD, TreePeople, and Studio-MLA, given the statewide implications of this study to improve multi-benefit stormwater projects.

As the nation’s second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and has potential to influence similar projects statewide. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). LAUSD is the largest landowner in Southern California, with significant potential to improve stormwater management and water quality in the area. To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on LAUSD campuses is crucial. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites – and improve the overall health of nearby waterways and beaches downstream.

Projects on LAUSD campuses informed by this study will not only further LA County’s water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing and overall health of LAUSD students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change by increasing local water supply through stormwater capture.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation – One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all LAUSD campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. This proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine the most impactful nature-based solutions, given the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses. Finally, we support TreePeople’s community engagement efforts as part of the study, to ensure the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input, feedback, and buy-in.

For these reasons, California Coastkeeper Alliance strong supports this project proposal to inform future multi-benefit stormwater projects, and we urge your consideration of funding this important study.

Sincerely,

Sean Bothwell
Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance



Innovate. Advocate. Achieve. Together.

October 12, 2020

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Pestrella,

Climate Resolve enthusiastically supports LAUSD Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by LAUSD, TreePeople and Studio-MLA.

As the nation's second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on LAUSD campuses is crucial. LAUSD is the largest landowner in Southern California. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites.

Projects on LAUSD campuses will not only further LA County's water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing and overall health of LAUSD students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation—One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all LAUSD campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. The proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine most impactful nature-based solutions, considering the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses.

TreePeople will lead community engagement efforts as part of the study, so that the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input, feedback, and buy-in. The proposed project team will define the process, schedule, and budget to launch the Living Schoolyards Program in the pilot schools and begin planning the expansion of the program to all LAUSD schools.

Again, Climate Resolve strongly supports the proposal and the consideration of funding for this important study.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

warm regards ~



Jonathan Parfrey
Executive Director



COFEM
Council of Mexican Federations

Educating today's Latino Families to be Tomorrow's Leaders

Affiliated Federations

ANÁHUAK Youth
Soccer Association

Federación de Clubes y
Asociaciones de
Michoacán
(FEDECAMIN)

Federaciones Colima USA
(FEDECOL)

Federación
Duranguense USA

Federación de
Guanajuatenses

Federación de
Hidalguenses en California

Federación de Nayaritas
en Estados Unidos
(FENAY-USA)

Federación Sonora USA

Fraternidad Sinaloense de
California, INC (FSC)

Mujeres Unidas Sirviendo
Activamente (MUSA)

Organización Regional de
Oaxaca (ORO)

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T: 213.417.8390

Coachella Office

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Coachella, CA 92236
T: 760.501.8150

www.cofem.org

October 9, 2020

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

To Whom It May Concern,

COFEM is enthusiastic to write this strong letter of support for the LAUSD Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by LAUSD, TreePeople, and Studio-MLA.

As the nation's second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on LAUSD campuses is crucial. LAUSD is the largest landowner in Southern California. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites.

Projects on LAUSD campuses will not only further LA County's water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing and overall health of LAUSD students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation--One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all LAUSD campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. The proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine most impactful nature-based solutions, considering the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses.

TreePeople will lead community engagement efforts as part of the study, so that the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input, feedback, and buy-in. The proposed project team will define the process, schedule, and budget to launch the Living Schoolyards Program in the pilot schools and begin planning the expansion of the program to all LAUSD schools.

COFEM strongly supports the proposal and the consideration of funding for this important study.

Sincerely,

Francisco Moreno

COFEM Interim Director

October 13, 2020

Safe Clean Water Program
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: LAUSD Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies

Dear Safe Clean Water Program:

The Council for Watershed Health (CWH) is pleased to support the LAUSD Living Schoolyards (Study) proposal to the Safe Clean Water Program Scientific Studies submitted by LAUSD, TreePeople, and Studio-MLA.

This Study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and LASAN & Environment's One Water LA study, which evaluated LAUSD campuses for the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. This Study will prioritize 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed and determine the best school greening opportunities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and includes TreePeople leading community engagement efforts that will be included in the recommendations.

As the nation's second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. LAUSD is also the largest landowner in Southern California. LAUSD covers 710 square miles including Los Angeles, 31 smaller municipalities, and several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County. Improvements to managing stormwater runoff on LAUSD campuses will both further LA County's water capture goals and provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing, and overall health of LAUSD students and families.

The LAUSD Living Schoolyards Study aligns with CWH's mission to advance the health and sustainability of our region's watersheds, rivers, streams and habitat - both in natural areas and urban neighborhoods. CWH sees this Study as an important contribution to ensuring investments on school campuses lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and climate resilient communities and strongly supports the Study.

Thank you for your consideration of CWH's support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Eileen Alduenda
Executive Director
eileen@watershedhealth.org



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Facilities Services Division

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Pestrella:

As the Chief Facilities Executive for the Los Angeles Unified School District, I am very pleased to offer this letter of support for the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by TreePeople and Studio-MLA.

As the nation's second largest school district, Los Angeles Unified enrolls approximately 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade at more than 1,000 schools. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on District campuses is crucial. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites.

Projects on District campuses will not only further Los Angeles County's water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing and overall health of students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation--One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all Los Angeles Unified campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. The proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine most impactful nature-based solutions, considering the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses.

TreePeople will lead community engagement efforts as part of the study, so that the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input and feedback. The District understands that it will not be providing any funding to the pilot study and that there is no implementation commitment on the District's end.

The District strongly supports the efforts of TreePeople and Studio-MLA and appreciates your consideration of funding for this important study. Please accept my wholehearted endorsement; I look forward to hearing about the grant proposal's success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hovatter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Hovatter
Chief Facilities Executive
Los Angeles Unified School District

Cc: Robert Laughton, Director of Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Christos Chrysiliou, Director of Architectural & Engineering Services

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

October 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of *Promesa Boyle Heights*, we enthusiastically write this strong letter of support for the LAUSD Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by LAUSD, Tree People, and Studio-MLA.

As the nation's second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on LAUSD campuses is crucial. LAUSD is the largest landowner in Southern California. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites.

Projects on LAUSD campuses will not only further LA County's water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing, and overall health of LAUSD students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation--One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all LAUSD campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits.

The proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine most impactful nature-based solutions, considering the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses.

Tree People will lead community engagement efforts as part of the study, so that the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input, feedback, and buy-in. The proposed project team will define the process, schedule, and budget to launch the Living Schoolyards Program in the pilot schools and begin planning the expansion of the program to all LAUSD schools. Promesa Boyle Heights strongly supports the proposal and the consideration of funding for this important study.

Sincerely,



Azucena Hernandez
Co-Director for Community Transformation
Promesa Boyle Heights



*A California Public
Benefit Corporation
To Preserve the Natural
Resources of the
Santa Monica Mountains*

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www.mountainstrust.org

Mark Pestrella, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

To Whom It May Concern,

Mountains Restoration Trust is enthusiastic to write this strong letter of support for the LAUSD Living Schoolyards Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Scientific Studies proposal submitted by LAUSD, TreePeople, and Studio-MLA.

As the nation's second largest school district, LAUSD enrolls more than 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The District covers 710 square miles, and includes Los Angeles, as well as 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County (County). To meet the goals and intention of the SCWP, the inclusion of water infrastructure upgrades on LAUSD campuses is crucial. LAUSD is the largest landowner in Southern California. SCWP will provide approximately \$280 million per year for multi-benefit stormwater projects in perpetuity to support transformative projects on these sites.

Projects on LAUSD campuses will not only further LA County's water capture goals, but also provide much needed and continued investment in the safety, wellbeing and overall health of LAUSD students and families. Ultimately, these investments will lead to resilient, sustainable school campuses and communities in the face of climate change.

This study will build upon previous research conducted in April 2018 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation--One Water LA study. As a part of that study, all LAUSD campuses were evaluated to determine which showed the most potential for stormwater capture and water quality benefits. The proposed scientific study will further this previous research by prioritizing 10 schools in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and determine the best school greening activities, water quality improvements, and stormwater infiltration approaches for these campuses. Additionally, the project will analyze the most effective ways each school campus and surrounding neighborhood can adapt to the effects of climate change, and determine most impactful nature-based solutions, considering the unique requirements and constraints posed by school campuses.

TreePeople will lead community engagement efforts as part of the study, so that the final report and recommendations include much-needed community input, feedback, and buy-in. The proposed project team will define the process, schedule, and budget to launch the Living Schoolyards Program in the pilot schools and begin planning the expansion of the program to all LAUSD schools.

Mountains Restoration Trust strongly supports the proposal and the consideration of funding for this important study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Gaston', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Gaston
Deputy Director



ATTACHMENTS FOR SECTION 3:

Outcomes



ATTACHMENTS FOR SECTION 4:

Background



ATTACHMENTS FOR SECTION 5:

Cost & Schedule
