

Post Event Summary

Event: Trust South LA - South LA Equipo Verde General Meeting

IRWM Region	Greater Los Angeles County	Date and Time	February 26, 2021 10:30 AM
Community Engagement Partner	TRUST South LA	Location	Online via Zoom Meeting for South Los Angeles area
Event Facilitator Contact	Gabriela Nunez	Community Member Attendance	Under 18 years old: (0) Over 18 years old: (21-30)
Event Facilitator Contact Email	gabriela@trustsouthla.org	Water Service Provider Attendance	The city of Los Angeles was not able to attend.

South LA's Equipo Verde is a grassroots effort comprised of mostly monolingual, Spanish-speaking Latina women from South Los Angeles. Equipo Verde participates in environmental and social justice advocacy, and they've spearheaded a South LA "Green Alleys" campaign. We were able to meet with 23 members, and ask select questions. Many of the women brought up the shaky quality of the water in their homes and their landlord's shirked responsibility in updating and maintaining water pipes. They felt unable to trust their tap water, even though they'd been educated about the quality and treatment of LA's water before. Drainage openings in their community are constantly trashed, causing a health risk. When it rains, these drainages cause flooding, especially around schools where they endanger children. There is a need for more park space, including dog and running parks. They wanted to see community gardens grow food and involve youth. As part of their Green Alleys work, they've seen flooded, trashed alleys that would benefit from being turned into green space. They were also frustrated about the stalled green space "Rail to River" project, which would have brought a lot more green space to South LA. One solution that was brought up frequently was new policies meant to address these problems, requiring regular water pipe updates and rent control. They were also very adamant about continuing to grow and organize within their own communities to think of new solutions to these problems. Most of the participants readily shared their experiences and opinions during our presentation. They would answer a question and relate it to other issues, expanding the breadth of our conversation. The group also drew from their previous knowledge of the environment, green space, water quality, and South LA to answer our questions thoughtfully. We were able to share the WaterTalks survey and recorded interest in a follow-up meeting with the group and individual follow-ups with many of the members.