



Training Event Summary

Event: Water Projects from the Community View

Intended Audience	Community organizations and leaders	Date and Time	2023.02.23 6:30-8pm
Producer / Facilitator	TreePeople	Event Format	Virtual
IRWM Region	Upper Santa Clara River	Number of Participants	12

Event Summary:

Learning objectives for participants for this online workshop included describing their local watershed — where water goes, list the different sources of water serving the area, groundwater vs imported, systems vs off-the-grid and recycled water. Presentations were made by staff from TreePeople and Santa Clarita Valley Water.

Also discussed were issues related to water such as drought, well water quality regulations, wildfire, and water needed for fire suppression. Finally, an overview of the WaterTalks Program was provided including local projects and programs being developed through technical assistance, and where they are in their process.

The workshop presentation slides and event flier continue on the following pages.

WaterTalks Education Series Upper Santa Clara River

**WATER
talks**

Water Projects from the Community View:

The Process from Need - to Concept - to Funding

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING TO HEAR ABOUT THE WATER-RELATED PROJECTS BEING DEVELOPED IN OUR REGION. LEARN HOW THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROCESS LEADS TO IDENTIFYING WATER ISSUES, DEVELOPING PROJECTS TO ALLEVIATE THOSE ISSUES, AS WELL AS HOW TO SEEK FURTHER FUNDING TO SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS IN THE FUTURE.

Hosted by: **TreePeople**

Date: Thursday, Feb 23, 2023

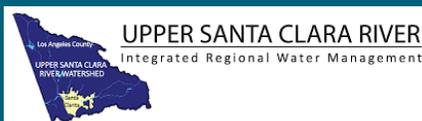
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Registration/Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/USCRWaterTalksSession1>

* Field trip to follow @ Canyon Country Community Center to see a completed water project and learn the process that made it happen - *Date and time TBD*

Virtual
Community
Meeting





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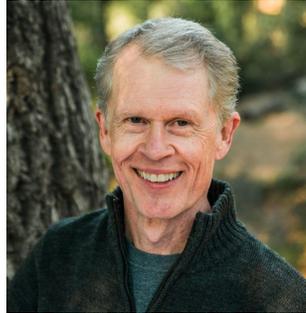
WaterTalks

**Community-Driven Water Project
Development**

The process from need to concept to funding

February 23rd, 2023

TreePeople Water Equity Team



Peter Massey

Project Manager
Water Equity Programs



Amanda Begley

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Manager



Heather Turpin

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Upper Santa Clara River



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Kathie Martin

Communications Manager



Laura Gallegos

Public Affairs Specialist II

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

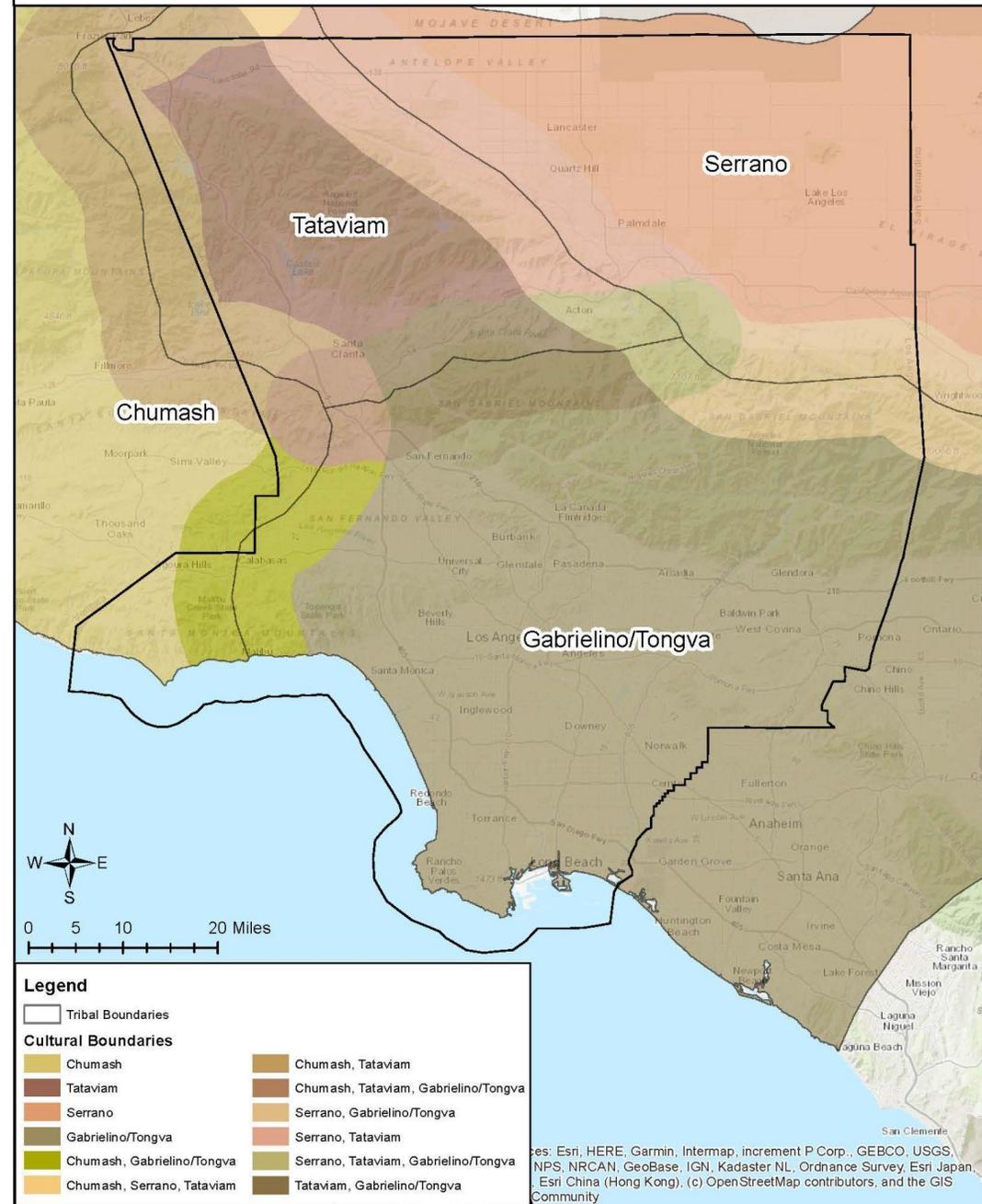
We acknowledge that the lands and waters in the Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Region are unceded ancestral homelands of the Tataviam, Chumash, Serrano, and Tongva people.

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose homelands we live and who are the ancestral stewards of the land and water. We make this acknowledgement out of respect for their long-standing connection to and protection of this area's watershed. We recognize that these Tribes are still present in the area along with a large number of displaced indigenous people.

We urge you to learn more about how to engage with tribal communities in your water work and to watch the recordings of the WaterTalks training “Water Training: Allyship with Tribal Communities Workshop” organized by Sacred Places Institute. You can scan this QR code with your phone to view that workshop. Link can also be found in the chat!



The Fluid Connection of Tribal Communities and Water





Tonight

USCR Watershed Overview

- Watershed, sources and issues

WaterTalks Program

- Why the needs assessment was conducted and the results
- The process from need to concept to funding
- Current projects developed as a result and where they are in their process

Wrap-up

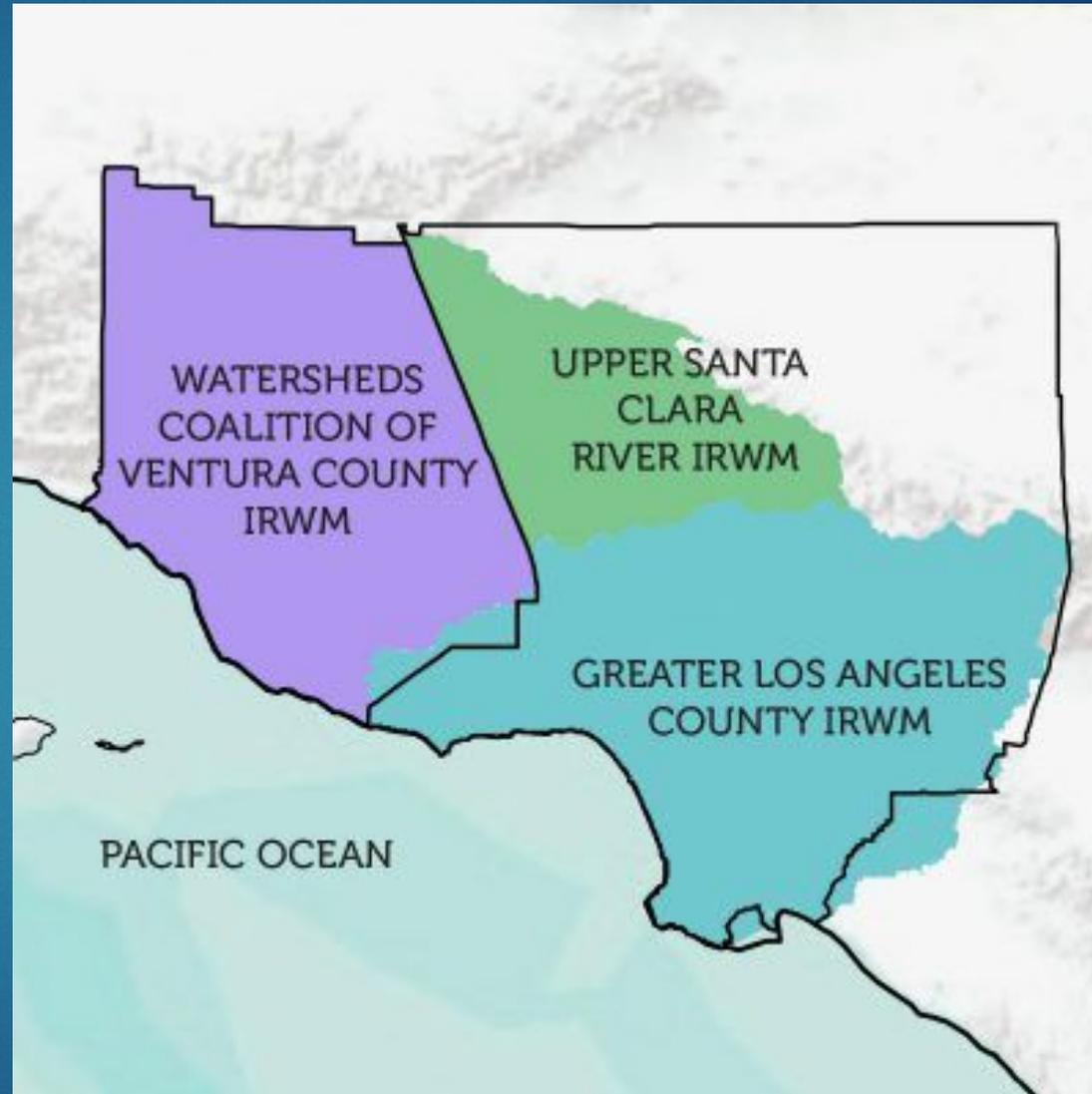
- Field Trip information - Canyon Country Community Center

What is
WaterTalks?



WaterTalks -

3 IRWM Regions
combined



Context for the WaterTalks Program:

- Engagement
- Strengths & Needs Assmnt
- Project Development
- Workshops
 - Tribal Allyship Trainings
 - **CBOs, Electeds & Agencies**
 - Community Members

<https://www.redesign.la/dacip>



Major Components



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Occurs throughout
all components.

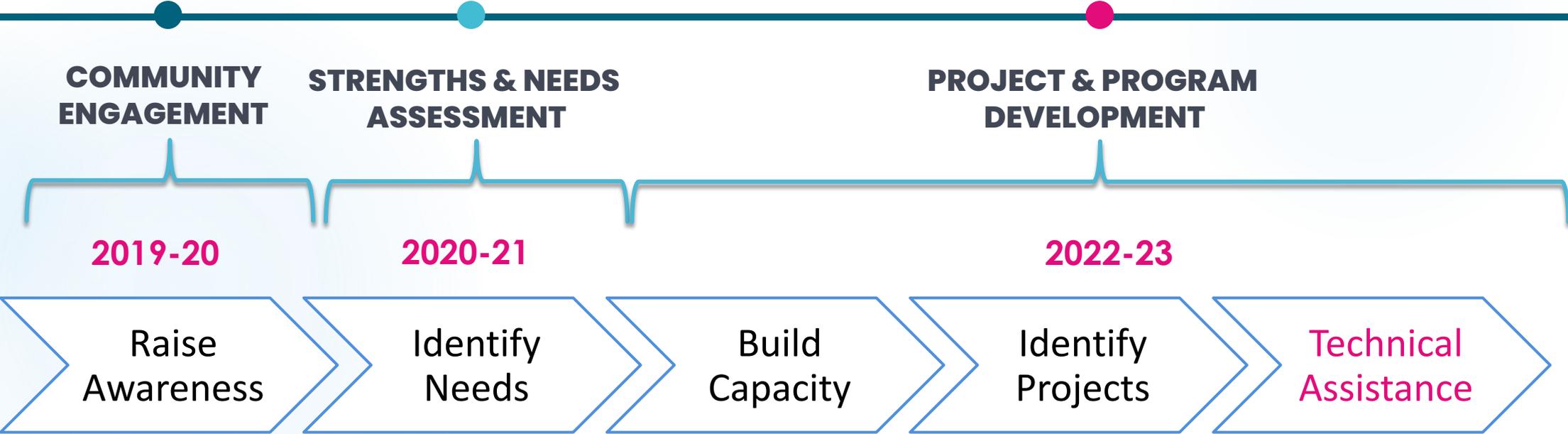
**STRENGTHS & NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

Institutions and
community

**PROJECT & PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT**

Based on community
needs and strengths

Major Components





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Part 1

Needs Assessment



Approaches - Assessment

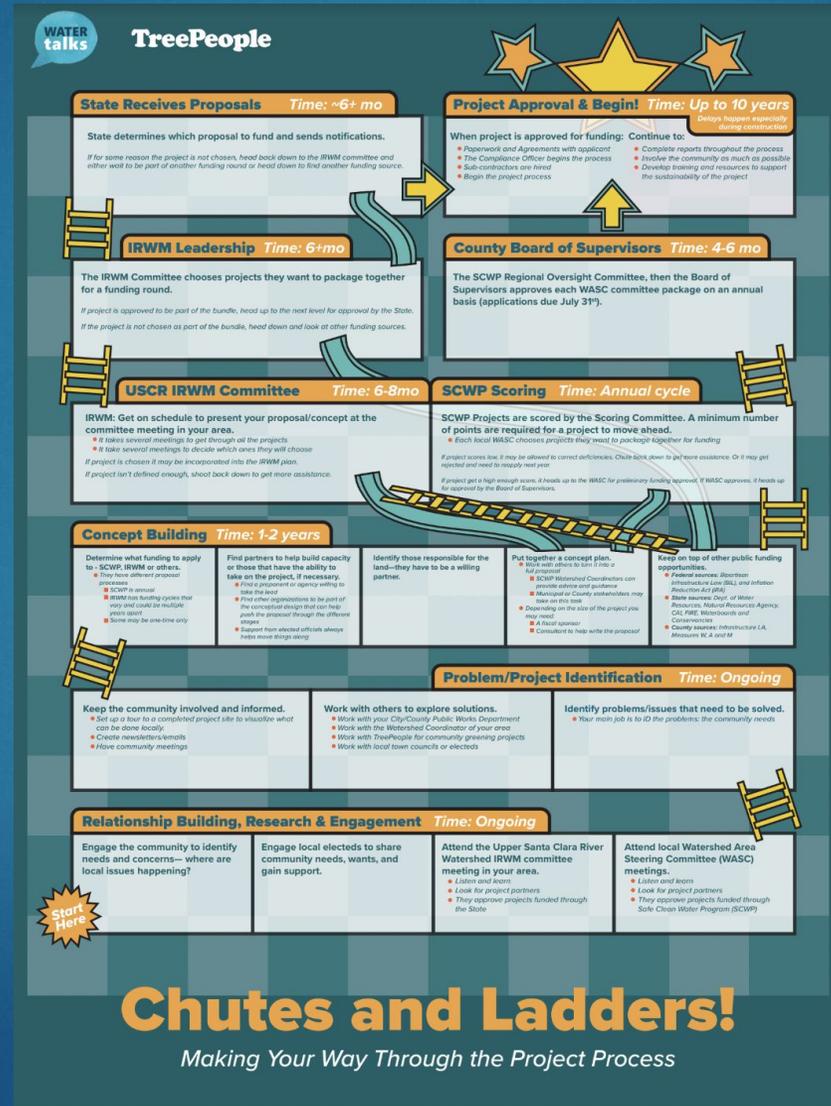
- Anonymous – safe spaces
- Community strengths and needs
- Framed around two questions:
 - *What do we love about our community?*
 - *What are our top concerns?*



Data Collection

- Sept 2020 – July 2022
- 278 surveys reflect 9 communities
- 2 institutional interviews

From Concept to Funding



Chutes & Ladders



Relationship Building, Research & Engagement *Time: Ongoing*

Engage the community to identify needs and concerns— where are local issues happening?

Engage local electeds to share community needs, wants, and gain support.

Attend the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed IRWM committee meeting in your area.

- Listen and learn
- Look for project partners
- They approve projects funded through the State

Attend local Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) meetings.

- Listen and learn
- Look for project partners
- They approve projects funded through Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP)



Chutes & Ladders



Problem/Project Identification *Time: Ongoing*

Keep the community involved and informed.

- Set up a tour to a completed project site to visualize what can be done locally.
- Create newsletters/emails
- Have community meetings

Work with others to explore solutions.

- Work with your City/County Public Works Department
- Work with the Watershed Coordinator of your area
- Work with TreePeople for community greening projects
- Work with local town councils or electeds

Identify problems/issues that need to be solved.

- Your main job is to ID the problems: the community needs



Chutes & Ladders



Concept Building Time: 1-2 years

Determine what funding to apply to - SCWP, IRWM or others.

- They have different proposal processes
 - SCWP is annual
 - IRWM has funding cycles that vary and could be multiple years apart
 - Some may be one-time only

Find partners to help build capacity or those that have the ability to take on the project, if necessary.

- Find a proponent or agency willing to take the lead
- Find other organizations to be part of the conceptual design that can help push the proposal through the different stages
- Support from elected officials always helps move things along

Identify those responsible for the land—they have to be a willing partner.

Put together a concept plan.

- Work with others to turn it into a full proposal
 - SCWP Watershed Coordinators can provide advice and guidance
 - Municipal or County stakeholders may take on this task
- Depending on the size of the project you may need:
 - A fiscal sponsor
 - Consultant to help write the proposal

Keep on top of other public funding opportunities.

- **Federal sources:** Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- **State sources:** Dept. of Water Resources, Natural Resources Agency, CAL FIRE, Waterboards and Conservancies
- **County sources:** Infrastructure LA, Measures W, A and M

Chutes & Ladders



USCR IRWM Committee

Time: 6-8mo

IRWM: Get on schedule to present your proposal/concept at the committee meeting in your area.

- It takes several meetings to get through all the projects
- It takes several meetings to decide which ones they will choose

If project is chosen it may be incorporated into the IRWM plan.

If project isn't defined enough, shoot back down to get more assistance.

SCWP Scoring

Time: Annual cycle

SCWP Projects are scored by the Scoring Committee. A minimum number of points are required for a project to move ahead.

- Each local WASC chooses projects they want to package together for funding

If project scores low, it may be allowed to correct deficiencies. Chute back down to get more assistance. Or it may get rejected and need to reapply next year.

If project get a high enough score, it heads up to the WASC for preliminary funding approval. If WASC approves, it heads up for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Chutes & Ladders



IRWM Leadership *Time: 6+mo*

The IRWM Committee chooses projects they want to package together for a funding round.

If project is approved to be part of the bundle, head up to the next level for approval by the State.

If the project is not chosen as part of the bundle, head down and look at other funding sources.

County Board of Supervisors *Time: 4-6 mo*

The SCWP Regional Oversight Committee, then the Board of Supervisors approves each WASC committee package on an annual basis (applications due July 31st).

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State Receives Proposals *Time: ~6+ mo*

State determines which proposal to fund and sends notifications.

If for some reason the project is not chosen, head back down to the IRWM committee and either wait to be part of another funding round or head down to find another funding source.

Project Approval & Begin! *Time: Up to 10 years*

Delays happen especially during construction

When project is approved for funding: Continue to:

- Paperwork and Agreements with applicant
- The Compliance Officer begins the process
- Sub-contractors are hired
- Begin the project process
- Complete reports throughout the process
- Involve the community as much as possible
- Develop training and resources to support the sustainability of the project





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**WATERSHED
HEALTH**



Stantec

**Technical
Assistance**

**Upper Santa
Clara River
IRWM Region**



Background

- **Nov-Dec 2021:** Sketch Workshop & Development
- **Jan-May 2022:** Drought Funding opportunity
 - ▶ Arundo Mapping and Removal
 - ▶ Rural Water Supply Reliability
- **2022 - 23:**
 - ▶ 5 projects under development
 - ▶ Initial planning / design

Background



Acton Flooding Multi-benefit Solution

Tataviam Land Conservancy Project

Septic Evaluation and Repair Support Program

Regional Tap Water Quality Testing Program

Water System Partnerships

Urban Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program

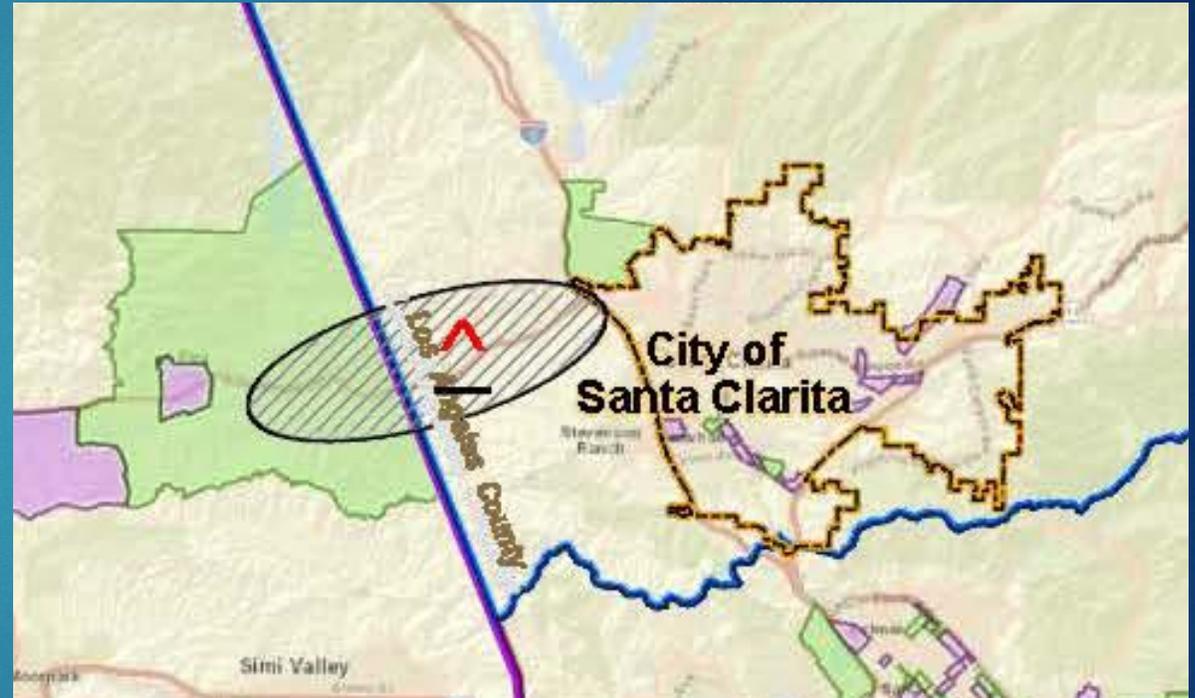
***Arundo Mapping and Removal**

***Rural Water Supply Reliability Program**

Arundo Mapping & Removal



- **Project Overview:** Santa Clara River restoration
- **Lead:** Santa Clara River Conservancy
- **Partners:** Supports multiple partners in identifying, prioritizing and restoring the river. A major effort is removal of Arundo donax and replacement with native habitat at the LA/Ventura County line.



Source: Santa Clara River Conservancy

Rural Water Supply Reliability



- **Project Overview:** short and long term relief from drought for private wells in Acton/Agua Dulce.
- **Lead:** TreePeople
- **Status:** Surveys and Community Meeting to help design program; program launches spring 2023 and runs through end of 2024.

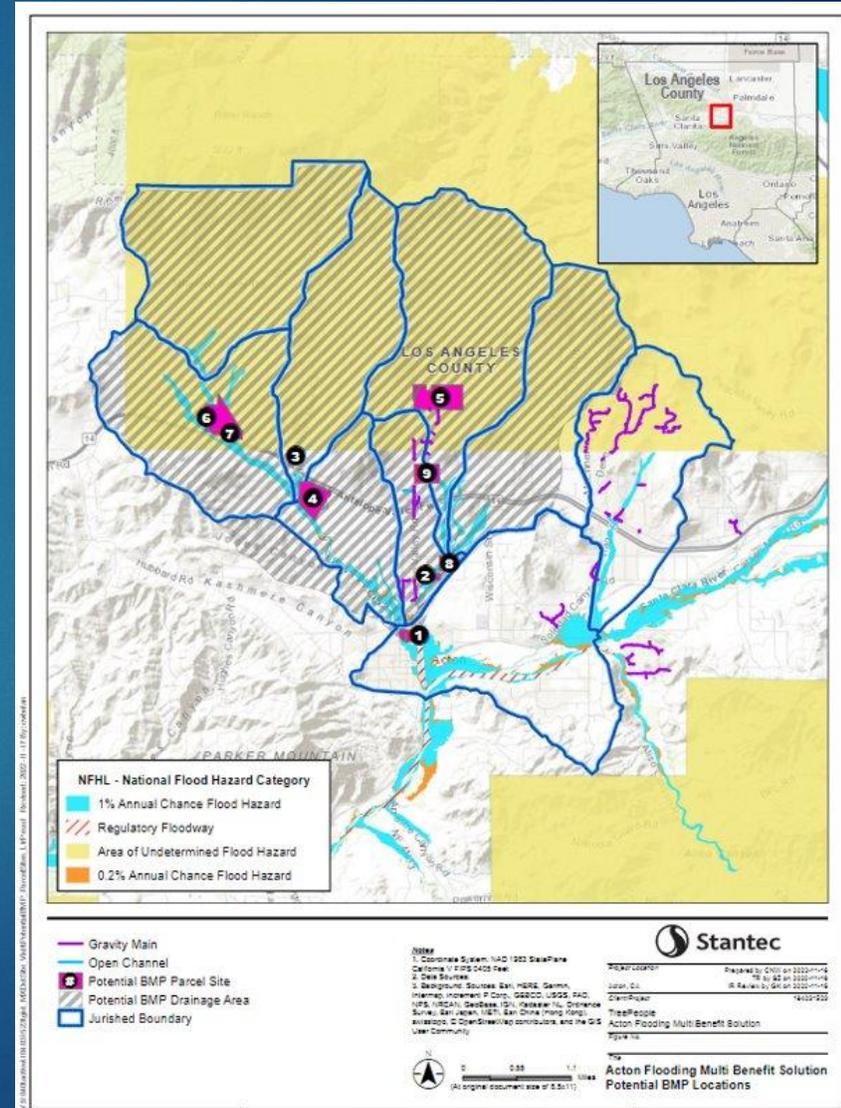


Source: CA Department of Water Resources

Acton Flooding Multi-benefit Solution



- **Project Overview:**
 - Identify stormwater capture and infiltration features to address local flooding concerns
- **Activities:**
 - Desktop analysis of potential sites
 - Modeling and analysis of watershed
 - Prioritize BMPs with County
 - Community input
- **Completed project:**
 - Alternatives Analysis Report



Water Resources Inventory

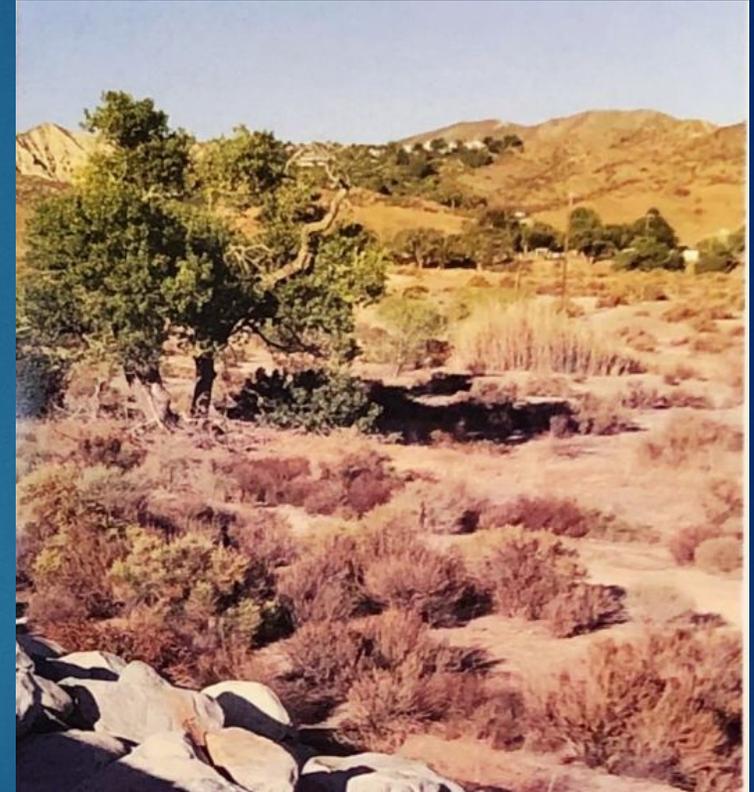


- **Overview:**

- Create a Water Resources Inventory Report for land acquired by the Tataviam Land Conservancy

- **Activities:**

- Identify and assess water sources, rights, stormwater capture potential and related issues
- Provide a resource to aid the Tribe in deciding site uses, planning, design and implementation



Septic Education



- **Project Overview:**
 - Education for community members with septic systems
- **Activities:**
 - Surveys to communities to determine level of engagement
 - Discussions with workshop sources
 - Hosting one or more live events (Spring 2023)

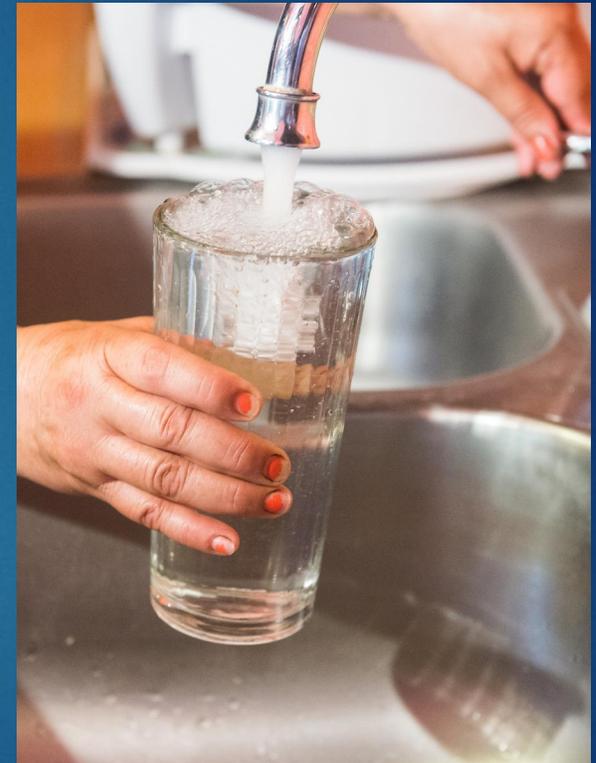


Source: US EPA

Tap Water Quality Testing



- **Project Overview:**
 - Increase community awareness and understanding of tap water quality
- **Activities:**
 - Coordinate with Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
 - Identify leading partner
 - Design testing program process and funding sources



Source: CA Department of Water Resources

Water System Partnerships



- **Project Overview:**
 - Invite education and collaboration among small water systems in the region
- **Activities:**
 - Research & engagement with water systems
 - Workshops as needed to identify shared challenges and opportunities



Source: CA Department of Water Resources



Coming Soon!

- **Field Trip** - Canyon Country Community Center
- **Module #2** - Indoor drinking water quality (Virtual)
 - **Field Trip** - Groundwater Treatment Plant Tour
- **Module #3** - Green Infrastructure (Virtual)
 - **Field Trip** - TBD!





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THANK YOU!