

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: NOVEMBER 6, 2018

(Must have been fully implemented for a minimum of at least one year - on or before July 1, 2020)

CHECK HERE IF THIS PROJECT IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR THE COVID-19 IMPACT AWARD ONLY. (Projects must be implemented on or before December 31, 2020. **Note:** Projects implemented less than one year ago will not be eligible for any other PQA awards. In addition, once a project is submitted, you cannot submit the same project for awards consideration in subsequent years).

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing One-time only

HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT? Yes No

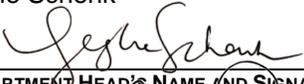
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 The Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program is one of the largest stormwater infrastructure
 2 implementation programs in the world, generating nearly \$280M in revenue annually for
 3 multi-benefit investments across the Los Angeles region. Previously, the region was
 4 vastly underfunded to meet basic water quality regulatory provisions (needs exceeded
 5 \$10B), seeking solutions to ensure a resilient water supply, and in need of creative
 6 community enhancements. The Program was developed through extensive
 7 engagement with politicians, stakeholders, and the public. It initiated a sea change,
 8 utilizing both new collaborations and new funding to address significant needs through
 9 meaningful projects and programs vetted through extensive public engagement and a
 10 robust governance structure. The Program addresses multiple benefits (spanning water
 11 quality, water supply, and community enhancements) with an emphasis on
 12 disadvantaged communities and nature-based solutions. The SCW Program fostered a
 13 paradigm shift that brought unprecedented regional collaboration with undisputable
 14 results. For more information, please visit the SCW websites at
 15 www.safecleanwaterla.org and <https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/scw-reporting/map>.

BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$ 278,074,144	\$ 278,074,144	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS Public Works 900 S. Fremont Ave Alhambra CA 91803		TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-458-5100
PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME Matthew Frary		TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-458-6503
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE (PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME) Leslie Schenk 		DATE 6/21/21 TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-458-5946 EMAIL lschenk@pw.lacounty.gov
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE Mark Pestrella 		DATE 6/24/21 TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-458-4001

****ELECTRONIC, WET, OR SCANNED SIGNATURES ARE ACCEPTABLE****

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

1st FACT SHEET – LIMITED UP TO 3 PAGES ONLY: Describe the **challenge(s), solution(s), and benefit(s)** of the project **to the County**. What quality and/or productivity-related outcome(s) has the project achieved? Provide measures of success **and specify assessment time frame**. Use Arial 12 point font.

Challenge

In 2016, California was enduring its worst drought in recorded history. During the prolonged drought, the residents of the County of Los Angeles learned that while improved conservation practices were essential, simply using less water was only a part of the solution. To ensure a resilient and sustainable supply of local water resources, Los Angeles County would also have to adopt innovative water management practices, employ a comprehensive and collaborative governance structure, and generate new funds.

Capturing and maximizing the County’s limited rainfall has been an ongoing effort. However, existing infrastructure typically only captured some of that water. On average, 162 billion gallons (enough to supply over 1 million families’ annual need) rushed off of our houses, roads, and other paved surfaces and flowed out to the ocean. The inability to fully utilize this substantial amount of local water led the region to become increasingly dependent on imported water.

Los Angeles County, along with each of its 88 cities, is also required to build green infrastructure projects to clean up our stormwater as part of the region’s compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. Los Angeles County water agencies developed a list of key projects to capture and clean up rainwater but did not have the revenue to build and maintain them. The State has authority to assess significant financial penalties if these projects are not built. Additionally, there was a clear need for a variety of community enhancements that could be coupled with water quality and water supply benefits to strengthen our communities and advance equity within the LA region.

The urgency and the need were crystal clear: the drought underscored the necessity of increasing local water supplies; policy makers understood the need for equity and new investments into both large- and small-scale community enhancements; and there were Federal and State mandates to clean up our waterways. The time to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for Los Angeles was now.

Solution

In April 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) to lead the Water Resilience Initiative (Initiative). The Initiative aimed to increase drought preparedness and local water self-reliance, improve water quality to protect public health, and advance our communities’ ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

In July 2018, Public Works finalized the Initiative, now named the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program. The Program applies a parcel tax to properties within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) Boundary to generate \$278M in revenue annually to fund multi-benefit stormwater capture projects and programs. The revenue is applied to the municipality and watershed from which funds were generated, with a small portion of the funds used for District-wide programs and administration of the SCW Program. Robust tax relief programs were incorporated for qualifying parties as well.

On July 17, 2018 a public hearing was called to receive comments on the SCW Program. With over 100 speakers and hundreds more in attendance in favor of the SCW Program, the Board voted to approve sending the Program to the voters as Measure W, requiring a two-thirds voter majority. On November 6, 2018 the voters of Los Angeles County voted to approve adoption of the SCW Program and Tax.

Benefits

Since November 2018, the Program has successfully established over 150 regional governance committee members overseeing the nine Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), a Regional Oversight Committee, and a Scoring Committee to review regional projects. By July 2021, the District will be closing its third annual SCW Regional Program call-for-projects.

To date, 41 multi-benefit infrastructure projects (improving water quality while also improving water supply and/or providing community enhancements such as parks and open space), 16 project concepts, 4 scientific studies, and 12 Watershed Coordinators have been approved for funding through the SCW Regional Program in the first Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP), approved by the Board in October 2020. This first SIP represents \$380M in investments over 5 years (capturing water from over 61,000 acres), with \$320M in projects benefiting disadvantaged communities, and \$340M of other funding sources leveraged to maximize SCW Program Goals. The second annual SIP is anticipated to be approved late summer 2021.

In the SCW Municipal Program, \$111M is annually being distributed to the 85 municipalities within the SCW Boundary. This funding is helping cities develop their own multi-benefit stormwater capture projects and programs and/or being leveraged for regional-scale projects within the SCW Regional Program.

The SCW Program is also a part of the Board’s “WHAM” Task Force and Workforce Subcommittee, which facilitate the pathway for revenue and programs under County Measures W, H, A, and M to be leveraged across sectors. Combining efforts from all these programs expands the benefits of existing SCW Program revenue even further.

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Linkage to the County Strategic Plan – 1 page only. Which County Strategic Plan goal(s) does this project address? Explain how. Use Arial 12-point font.

In meeting the mission of the County Strategic Plan, the Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program exemplifies strong inter-Departmental and cross-sector collaboration, and improves the quality of life for the people and communities of Los Angeles County. The SCW Program achieves the mission of the County Strategic Plan through the development of multi-benefit stormwater capture projects and programs that utilize a comprehensive stakeholder-driven process, involving over 150 regional governance committee members from cities, agencies, County departments, environmental groups, academia, nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations (NGO), Business Leaders, and members of the public.

The SCW Program has addressed all three of the primary goals of the County Strategic Plan:

GOAL I: Make Investments That Transform Lives

Each year, \$278M is raised and reinvested in the communities of Los Angeles County, transforming the lives of the residents in and around these multi-benefit stormwater projects through improved water supply, improved water quality, community enhancements, and improved public health. With strong oversight on the projects developed through the SCW Program, agencies, NGOs, environmental groups, the public and others can ensure projects and their benefits are equitable, address gentrification, and ensure social justice for our most vulnerable communities.

GOAL II: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities

In requiring more than just the age-old grey stormwater infrastructure, the SCW Program ensures that projects provide communities with green investment benefits and nature-based solutions. Special attention has been built into the SCW Program to focus on developing these projects in our most disadvantaged communities. These benefits will provide environmental sustainability and support the wellness of our communities.

GOAL III: Realize Tomorrow’s Government Today

The extensive and transparent governing committee process models a new type of collaboration and governance. Additionally, SCW District Program funds are being used to pursue investments in public education, school curriculum, and local workforce job training in the field of stormwater.

Quality and Productivity Commission
34th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
“Leading with Excellence”

2021 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12-point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY): If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. Please indicate whether these benefits apply in total or on a per unit basis, e.g., per capita, per transaction, per case, etc. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12-point font

Cost Avoidance: Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these are costs to the County or to other entities.

Cost Savings: A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these were expenditures by the County or by other entities.

Revenue: Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$ 278,074,144	\$ 278,074,144	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL= 12 MONTHS ONLY

2019-20 Safe Clean Water Tax Collection Totals
As of August 20, 2020

Tax Collections by Program or Watershed Area

Program / Watershed Area	Tax Collected
District Program	\$27,807,414.40
Municipal Program	\$111,229,657.69
Central Santa Monica Bay	\$17,354,514.98
Lower Los Angeles River	\$12,493,939.80
Lower San Gabriel River	\$16,401,960.92
North Santa Monica Bay	\$1,786,899.88
Rio Hondo	\$11,361,648.78
Santa Clara River	\$5,790,032.45
South Santa Monica Bay	\$17,663,581.79
Upper Los Angeles River	\$37,646,782.72
Upper San Gabriel River	\$18,537,710.82
Total:	\$278,074,144.23