



Board of Directors Workshop on Engineering, Operations, and Technology

Update on research and framework for a community benefits program for Pure Water Southern California

Item 5b

July 22, 2025

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Update on research and framework for a community benefits program for Pure Water

Subject

Development of a potential community benefits program for Pure Water Southern California (Pure Water)

Purpose

Share information on research findings and a potential approach framework to implement a community benefits program for Pure Water

Next Steps

Obtain feedback and determine next steps for advancing community benefits

Background

Development of a Potential Community Benefits Approach Framework



Key Findings Preview

Metropolitan Project Examples

- Diamond Valley Lake
- Rotational Fallowing w/ PVID

External Project Examples

- Gordie Howe International Bridge
- LA Metro's West Santa Ana Corridor
- DWR's Delta Conveyance Project

Metropolitan Programs

- Project Labor Agreement
- CAMP4W
- DEI Framework

Research Findings Key Findings

What are Community Benefits?

- Voluntary commitments
- Started in 1960s and evolved from parks & trees to address environmental justice and impacts to underserved communities
- Help address environmental justice requirements in NEPA, CEQA and grants
- No legal definition for “community benefits”

Diamond Valley Lake

Recreation Funding Program:

Recreational opportunities for local and regional communities

- On-water amenities
- Multi-purpose trails
- Multi-agency agreement

Internal
Context
Factors

Metropolitan
Precedent



Rotational Land Fallowing Partnership with Palo Verde Irrigation District

Internal
Context
Factors
Metropolitan
Precedent

Metropolitan's Investment in Local Community

2005 Community Improvement Fund:

- Economic and community development & workforce development

2025 Community Enhancement Collaborative:

- Business development, public health, schools & safety



2022 Project Labor Agreement

Internal Context Factors Metropolitan Precedent

- Ensures fair wages
- Builds diverse and qualified workforce
- Local hire goals
- Small business opportunities



Metropolitan's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework

Internal
Context
Factors
Metropolitan
Precedent

1. WORKPLACE
2. FUTURE WORKFORCE
3. INDUSTRY FAIRNESS
4. COMMUNITY INCLUSION



Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

Internal
Context
Factors

Metropolitan
Precedent

Equity is reflected and a component of CAMP4W's Policy and Climate Decision-Making Frameworks, and Evaluative Criteria.

Key considerations:

- Community engagement
- Community benefits
- Focus on underserved populations



CAMP4W
Climate Adaptation
Master Plan for Water

Research Findings Similar Projects

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority:

West Santa Ana Branch Corridor

Community Benefit Funding:

- Transit Oriented Development Strategic Implementation Plan
 - Framework guiding station-area investments
- Transit Oriented Communities Technical Assistance Program
- Grants & technical support for station-area projects

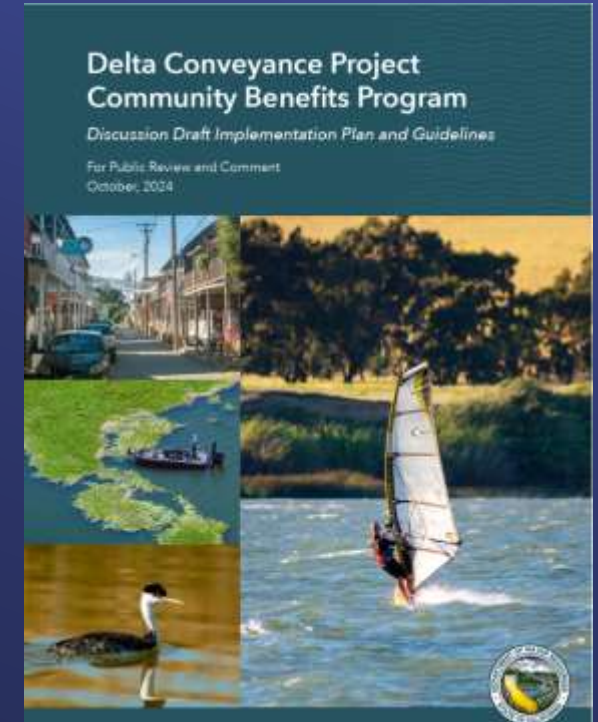


California Department of Water Resources: Delta Conveyance Project

Research Findings Similar Projects

Community Benefits Program Delta Community Fund

- Local improvement projects for infrastructure or recreational facilities
- Job training
- Local hiring targets



Research Findings Similar Projects

Michigan Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority:

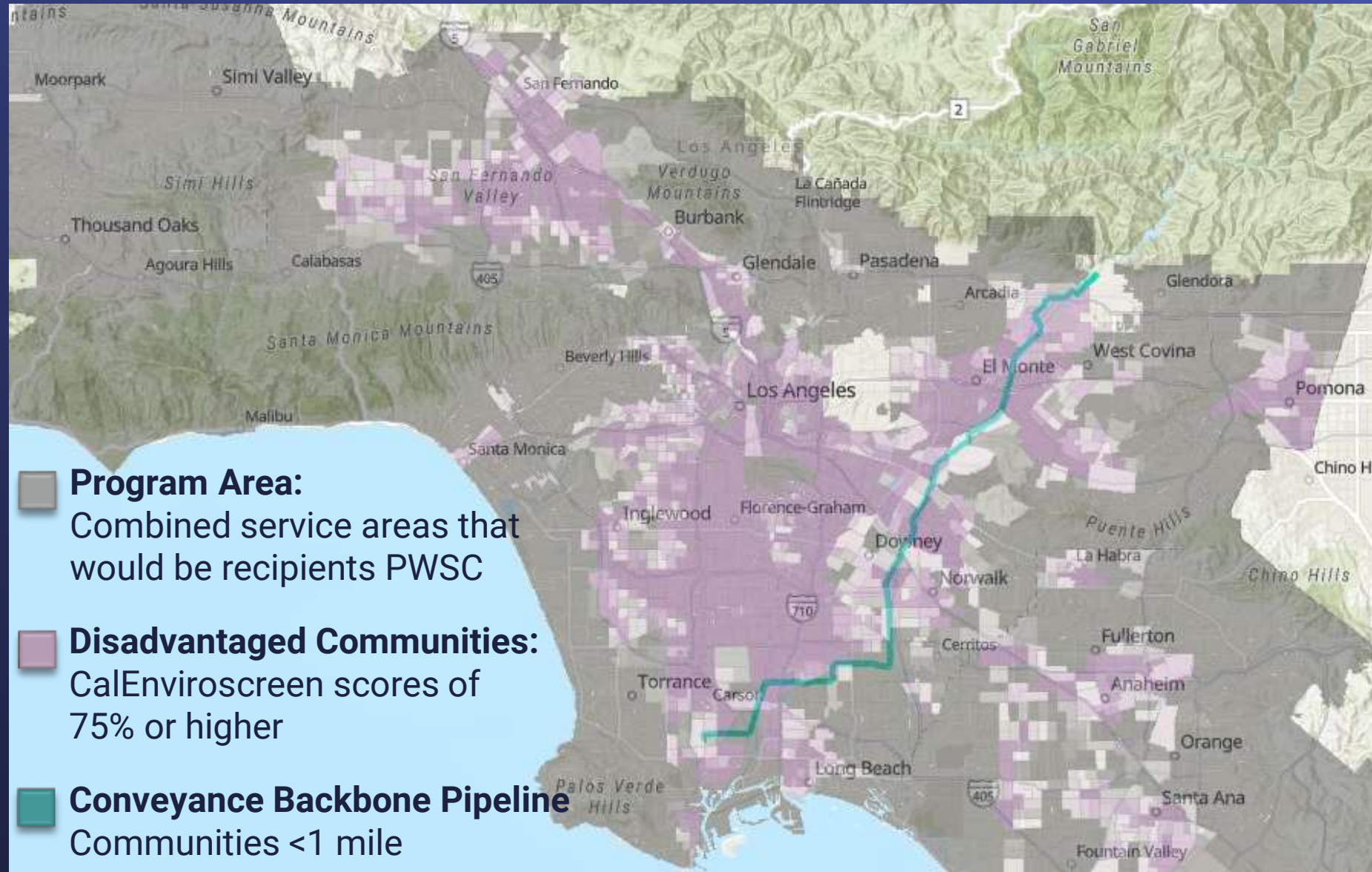
Gordie Howe International Bridge Project Community Benefits Funding:

- Workforce Development and Participation Strategy
- Neighborhood Infrastructure Strategy



Pure Water Southern California Underserved Areas

- 40 Percent of Program Area
- 71 Percent of Communities <1 mile of Pipeline



Developing a Potential Community Benefits Approach Framework

Objectives:

- Balance region-wide water benefits with local impacts to nearby communities during construction
- Solicit and consider community input
- Context Factors:
 - Internal precedents
 - Policy drivers
 - Equity data
- Development of a community benefits program to address residual impacts

Five-Part Approach Framework Overview

Pure Water Southern California Approach for Community Benefits

Informed by Community Input

Regional Water
Supply, Quality,
and Resiliency
Benefits

Community
Focused Program
Design

Environmental
Mitigation, Permit
and Agreement
Conditions, and
Regulatory
Compliance

Workforce
Development
and Local Business
Opportunities

Additional
Community
Benefits

Framework Components

Pure Water Southern California Approach Framework for Community Benefits

#1

Regional Water Supply,
Quality & Resiliency
Benefits

- Increases water resiliency
- Replenishes groundwater basins
- Provides a sustainable supply of water
- Creates local supply of water

#2

Community Focused
Design

- Integrates community input in design
- Prioritizes alignment with least impact
- Embeds equity & culture

Framework Components

Pure Water Southern California Approach Framework for Community Benefits

#3

Environmental Mitigation, Permit
Agreement Conditions, and
Regulatory Compliance

- CEQA/NEPA Mitigation Measures – avoid, reduce, or monitor construction impacts such as dust, noise, traffic, and habitat disturbance
- Local Permit Conditions – restore streets, parks, and utilities to equal or better condition and protect public safety during work in rights-of-way
- Regulatory Compliance (state & federal) – meet all water-quality, air-quality, and worker-safety standards throughout construction and long-term operations
- Net Result for Underserved Areas – cleaner air and water, safer streets, and restored community spaces where construction occurs

Framework Components

Pure Water Southern California Approach Framework for Community Benefits

#4

Workforce Development and Local Business Opportunities

- Project Labor Agreement (PLA) – 60% local-hire and 15% transitional-worker goals on every Pure Water construction contract
- Carson Workforce Training Center – hands-on programs leading to careers in treatment, conveyance, and water-sector trades
- Equitable Procurement – Business Outreach Program sets targets and coaching for small, local, and diverse firms to bid on Pure Water work
- Career Pathway Outreach – continuous efforts to promote engagement with schools, at job fairs, and community events to showcase Metropolitan employment and apprenticeships

Pure Water Southern California Approach Framework for Community Benefits

#5

Additional Community Benefits

Framework Components

- Target residual impacts – address construction & operational effects that remain after required mitigation
- Prioritize underserved corridors – focus funds on Carson, Long Beach, and San Gabriel River communities most affected by the pipeline
- Align with Envision Well-being & community standards – enhance comfort, safety, and cohesion while respecting local culture and equity
- **Direct Actions** – Metropolitan-funded projects (e.g., park upgrades, traffic-calming, noise buffers) selected with local input
- **Community Benefits Funds** – grant pools guided by community advisory committees to advance health, jobs, and resilience goals

Additional Community Benefits Program Components



	Direct Actions	Community Benefits Fund
	Examples: Workforce Training Center, EV Stations, Plugging Oil Wells, Green Space	
Projects that Metropolitan Would Directly Fund and Implement	✓	
Informed by Community Input	✓	✓
Focused on Reducing Residual Environmental Effects from the Program’s Construction	✓	✓
Investment in Community Benefits	✓	✓
Guided by Community Members to Distribute Funds in Ways that Achieves Positive Impact and Meetings Community Needs and Goals		✓
Establishment of a Community Advisory Committee		✓

Summary of Takeaways

- Pure Water Southern California Regional Benefits: a community benefits program can enhance water supply benefits
- Metropolitan's Precedent: history of projects and programs demonstrate the Board's stewardship
- Draft Framework: a research-based five-part structure is ready for Board review and guidance

Next Steps

- Obtain and implement board feedback
- Update community benefits program cost allocation
- Determine next steps for advancing community benefits

