

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Date: May 20, 2024

To: Measure W: Safe, Clean Water Program Administrative Oversight Committee  
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer  
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Ryan Jackson, Office of the Mayor

From: Michael Scaduto, PE, ENV SP  
Principal Engineer  
Safe, Clean Water Implementation Division  
LA Sanitation & Environment

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Date: 2024.05.21 12:06:27-07'00'

**Subject: Round 6 (FY 25/26) Safe, Clean Water Community Proposed Project Proposal Evaluation for a Letter of Non-Objection from the City of Los Angeles - Western Gage Green Alleys Feasibility Study by Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (CD 8)**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the recommendation by LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) for the Measure W: Safe, Clean Water Program Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) to issue a Letter of Non-Objection to Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative's submission of the Western Gage Green Alleys Feasibility Study to the Safe, Clean Water Regional Technical Resources Program (TRP) for Round 6 (FY 25/26).
2. Authorize LASAN and the City Administrative Officer, with the concurrence of the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Mayor's Office, to draft and issue a Letter of Non-Objection for the Project.

### BACKGROUND

The Safe, Clean Water Regional TRP application process urges community proposed project applicants, such as Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, to include a Letter of Non-Objection (Letter) from the municipality in which the project is proposed. The Letter issued by the City of Los Angeles (City) summarizes the identified need for the project, the project's benefits to the City, and emphasizes the future need for detailed technical information and operation and maintenance plans.

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (Project Proponent) is requesting funding from the Safe Clean Water Regional TRP for the proposed Western Green Gage Alleys Feasibility Study (Project) located in the south-eastern portion of the Central Santa Monica Bay watershed. The Project Proponent is a non-profit organization that seeks to revive local neighborhoods through the beautification and construction of open public spaces.

This application will be submitted as part of the Round 6 (FY 25/26) Regional Safe, Clean Water TRP to the Central Santa Monica Bay watershed area through the SCWP application module. The Project Proponent hopes to develop the remaining technical details of the Project using Regional TRP funds and potentially apply for future Regional Infrastructure Program funding in future Safe, Clean Water regional funding rounds.

The project is located in Council District 8 and is identified to be within the boundaries of the South L.A. Green Alley Master Plan (AMP) network, which identifies networks of alleys that have the greatest

potential to promote community multi-modal opportunities, add green open space, and capture and treat stormwater runoff. The specific design guidelines and policy recommendations in this plan will play a significant role in shaping the Project's contribution to community improvements in water quality and water supply.

At this time, the Project Proponent has not provided detailed information for total cost estimation, specific BMP implementation, or the hydrology pertaining to the proposed amount of stormwater captured, treated, and retained by the Project. The requested details for the Project will be developed in the feasibility study development using TRP funds.

## CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

LASAN leads City efforts to review requests for Letters of Support and Non-Objection for the Safe Clean Water Regional Program. As part of the review process, LASAN coordinated and received feedback from various stakeholders, including the Project Proponents, SCWP Watershed Coordinators, other City departments, and the City's Safe, Clean Water Program Working Group (Working Group), to make final recommendations for the AOC to consider. In the review of this specific request, and in alignment with the City's Policies and Procedures for Review of Non-City Safe Clean Water Program projects, it was determined that:

- The Project generally aligns with Safe Clean Water Program guidelines and potentially provides benefits of water quality, water supply, and community investment benefits.
- The Project has strong community support from various stakeholders.
- The Project will need to establish clear plans for operation and maintenance, permitting and right of way ownerships, detailed cost estimates, BMP implementation, and other technical details during the feasibility study development process, if approved for TRP funding.

Therefore, LASAN recommends that the AOC supports a Letter of Non-Objection to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative's submission of the Project to the Central Santa Monica Bay's Safe, Clean Water Regional Round 6 (FY 24/25) Technical Resources Program. LASAN will continue to coordinate with and provide input to the Project Proponent to ensure that the scope continues to support the goals of the City and Safe, Clean Water Program both before application and after potential funding is received. This Letter should not be interpreted as a letter of support for a future infrastructure application that might result from this TRP. The City will carefully consider the updated information provided for any potential future funding requests to the Safe, Clean Water Program for project design, construction, and delivery to make a separate recommendation for any future applications, if needed.

### Attachment 1: Project Summary

cc: Virginia Wei, Mayor's Office  
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## **ATTACHMENT 1: Project Summary**

### **Brief Description:**

The Western Gage Green Alleys (Project), located in Council District 8 which is within the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) watershed area, proposes improving pedestrian access between the park at the triangle median of Western & Gage Avenues and Harvard Park via green alley improvements and neighborhood beautification. Technical Resources Program (TRP) funding would assist in developing the feasibility study of a multi-benefit stormwater project that includes implementing green infrastructure in the alleyways of the project area that will reduce flooding, provide stormwater diversion, capture, reuse, and revitalize the project area. The implementation of local vegetation and murals will also serve as beautification aspects of the Project. The project area is within the boundaries of the South L.A. Green Alley Master Plan (AMP) network. Proposed components of this project potentially include narrow bioswales planted with native vegetation, stormwater infiltration infrastructure, connection of four proposed alleys, and murals from local artists (Refer to Figure 1).

### **Surrounding Site Conditions:**

- Land Ownership: The project site is located largely within the City right of way.
- Project site located within a disadvantaged community area.
- Land use primarily consists of low to medium density residential and commercial.
- Area prone to illegal debris dumping:
  - Flooding along the alleyways contributes to impaired stormwater runoff quality.

### **Preliminary Hydrology (Information to be confirmed in TRP):**

- Total Capture Area:
  - Pervious Area: TBD, Impervious Area: TBD
- 85th Percentile, 24-Hour Storm rainfall depth: TBD
- Estimated Runoff from 85th Percentile, 24-Hour Storm: TBD

### **Cost Breakdown:**

- Estimated Construction Cost: \$ TBD
- Estimated Annual Operation and Maintenance Cost: \$ TBD

### **Technical Factors that a TRP Feasibility Study Should Consider:**

- Green alley maintenance responsibilities (project proponent anticipates potential City responsibility, e.g., StreetsLA, LASAN, DOT, etc.)
- Stormwater BMP locations
- Quantifying potential water quality and water supply benefits
- Potential leveraged funding sources



Figure 1: Site Map of Potential Project Alleys