

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2021

CONTACTS:

Watershed coordinator: Melina Watts, nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com – 310-383-9978

**Take the Tour: Liberty Canyon Water Quality Project Concept
from Los Angeles County Department of Public Works**

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Event Time: 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Location: Liberty Canyon at the Agoura Road stoplight –Agoura Hills, California

(AGOURA HILLS, CA) –

Good water quality is foundational for public health – and for functional ecosystems – and in the Santa Monica Mountains, our community is committed to both. Urban and stormwater runoff from our streets flowing into our creeks has led to water quality impairments including sediments, nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizers,) PCB's and DDT's, trash and bacteria. Urban runoff, from irrigation and hoses, and stormwater from rain travels through our communities and picks up pollutants on the way into natural streams. The question is: how can we intercept this pollution and prevent it from damaging our natural resources?

Los Angeles County Public Works has been asking that question and developing a variety of potential solutions. At Liberty Canyon, there are two storm drains that capture flow from approximately 40 acres of unincorporated Agoura Hills (primarily from local streets, homes and some open space) that flow into Liberty Canyon channel then into Las Virgenes Creek which becomes Malibu Creek and flows into Malibu Lagoon and toward the beach and into the sea. The proposed project will redirect some flows from existing storm drains into a series of underground treatment units called water polishers which will address targeted pollutants before flowing into the Liberty Canyon Channel. Water polishers are manufactured filtration systems which will treat runoff before its return into the storm drain and creek. The water polishers are proposed to be located on Liberty Canyon Road, between Revere Way and Park Vista Road. Final locations will be determined upon completion of design plans.

In addition, the Liberty Canyon water quality project will also incorporate nature-based solutions by improving an existing greenway, located just east of Liberty Canyon Road. This includes the installation of approximately 3,480 square feet of bioswales which will include new drought tolerant landscaping. New curb cuts along the eastern portion of Liberty Canyon Road will allow urban runoff to enter and infiltrate into the bioswales, providing water quality benefits. Furthermore, the project proposes a permeable pavement walkway which will also allow infiltration to occur and mimic natural water quality processes.

The Liberty Canyon water quality project proposes drought tolerant plants and will consider feasibility of native species in the bioswale which supports local habitat restoration. Also, new trees will be proposed as part of the project which will provide shade and urban cooling. This project promotes passive recreational opportunities for the community as well as improving our watercourses, beaches, and ocean for all.

Interested in exploring the proposed project? The County will be hosting a walk and talk tour at the project location on Thursday evening, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. The tour will take approximately 45 minutes. The County would appreciate your support for this project. To make a reservation for the tour and learn more about the proposed project please email

nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com.

