

Notice and Agenda

Regular Meeting of the La Cañada Flintridge Sustainability and Resilience Commission

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

**City Hall
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011**



**Francis Pollara, Chair
Julie Kane-Ritsch, Vice Chair
Ahee Han, Commissioner
Lauren Oakes, Commissioner**

How to View the Meeting Remotely

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City Website Live Streaming at <https://lcf.ca.gov/city-clerk/agenda-minutes/>.

Comments from the Public

The public is encouraged to address the Sustainability and Resilience Commission on any matter posted on the agenda or on any other matter within its jurisdiction. If you wish to address the Sustainability and Resilience Commission, you may do so during the **Comments from the Public** period noted on the agenda. Each person is allowed 3-minutes speaking time.

Pursuant to provisions of the Brown Act, no action may be taken on a matter unless it is listed on the agenda, or unless certain emergency or special circumstances exist. The Sustainability and Resilience Commission may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future Sustainability and Resilience Commission meeting.

Agenda Materials

Copies of staff reports and supporting documentation pertaining to agenda items are available for public viewing and inspection at City Hall, 2nd Floor Lobby Area, during regular business hours, and on the City's website <https://lcf.ca.gov>. For further information regarding agenda items, please contact the Community Development Department at (818) 790-8881.

SB 343 – Any writings relating to an agenda item distributed to a majority of the City Council less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public review in the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours and/or posted on the City's website.

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Reasonable Accommodations

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54953(g), the City Council has adopted a "reasonable accommodations" policy to expedite accommodation requests. The policy can also be found on the City's website. Please contact the City Clerk's Office, (818) 790-8880 to make an accommodation request, or to obtain an electronic or printed copy of the policy.

6:00 PM Sustainability and Resilience Commission Regular Meeting

Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Next Ordinance: XXX
Next Resolution: XX-XX

Roll Call

Francis Pollara, Chair
Julie Kane-Ritsch, Vice Chair
Ahee Han, Commissioner
Lauren Oakes, Commissioner

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from the Public - Public Comment cards are in the holder on the wall in the lobby.

Limited to 3 minutes per speaker for items on the Consent Calendar, items not on the Agenda, or any issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission. Public comment is limited to a maximum of 20 minutes. Speakers not able to speak due to the 20-minute time limit will be provided with the opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting.

If the matter on which you wish to speak is an Agenda item (other than a Consent Calendar item), you will be provided the opportunity to address the Sustainability and Resilience Commission when the matter is considered. Please provide your name and sign in at the podium when addressing the Sustainability and Resilience Commission.

Presentations

Reordering of and Additions to the Agenda

Consent Calendar

Items on the Consent Calendar will be enacted by one motion and roll call vote without individual discussion. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed and considered separately.

- 1) Approval of Minutes of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission Meetings
 - a) Regular meeting of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission - July 14, 2026

New or Continued Business

- 2) Consideration of recommendation of the Green Space Concept Planning Initiative to the City Council

Other Business

- 3) Discussion and prioritization of Transportation Demand Management policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
Receive and file
- 4) Discussion of additional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan recommendations for evaluation, study, and implementation
Receive and file

- 5) Discussion of topics and information for inclusion in the City's website
Receive and file

Concluding Business

- Commissioners' Comments
- Staff Comments

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

I certify under penalty of perjury that the agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board at One Civic Center Drive at least **72 hours** prior to the meeting, in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Antonio Gardea
Deputy Director of Community Development



REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Pollara called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chair Kane-Ritsch and Commissioners Ahmed, Oakes and Han were also present.

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Director Gardea and Senior Management Analyst II Brancheau were in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chair Pollara.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Han, seconded by Commissioner Ahmed and carried 5-0 to select Julie Kane-Ritsch to continue to act as Vice Chair of the Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Oakes, seconded by Vice Chair Kane-Ritsch and carried 5-0 to select Francis Pollara to continue to act as Chair of the Commission.

SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATION COMMITTEE

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ahmed, seconded by Commissioner Oakes and carried 5-0 to select Commissioner Han to continue to act as Emergency Preparedness Coordination Committee Representative.

PRESENTATIONS - Presentation from LA Compost – Speaker, Ryan Jackson and Ploua Reyes gave an overview of the organization.

REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1) Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission
 - A. Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission – April 1, 2026
 - B. Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission – May 12, 2026
 - C. Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission – June 9, 2026

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Kane-Ritsch, seconded by Commissioner Han, and carried 5-0 to approve April 1, 2026, May 12, 2026, and June 9, 2026 Commission Minutes.

Other Business

Discussion of establishment of an ad-hoc subcommittee to discuss process, objectives, focus, and development of webpage for sustainability information.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Oakes, seconded by Chair Pollara, and carried 5-0 to nominate Vice Chair Kane-Ritsch to act as ad-hoc subcommittee member for the development of a webpage for sustainability information as well as to review the Sustainability Analyst Request For Proposals (RFP).

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Han, seconded by Commissioner Oakes, and carried 5-0 to appoint Chair Pollara to act as ad-hoc subcommittee member for the development of a webpage for sustainability information as well as to review the Sustainability Analyst RFP as well.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS:

Commissioners' Comments

Vice Chair Kane-Ritsch acknowledged that the Public Works and Traffic Commission requested that a joint meeting take place with the SRC to discuss collaboration on goals and projects to implement the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Chair Pollara recognized outgoing Commissioner Ahmed and congratulated him on his new upcoming position on the City Council.

Both Chair Pollara and Vice Chair Kane-Ritsch discussed submittal of a grant application for a potential Greenspace Project that if awarded would provide technical support for Greenspace and safe clean water projects. The deadline for submittal of the grant was the end of July 2026.

Staff Comments

Assistant Director Gardea explained that the City Council approved retention of monies for a Sustainability Analyst Consultant. As a result, an RFP will be drafted soon for release and the subcommittee will have the opportunity to weigh in on the scope of work of the draft RFP before release.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pollara adjourned the Regular meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Antonio Gardea, Secretary to the Sustainability and Resilience Commission

Minutes approved by the Sustainability and Resilience Commission on _____



Sustainability and Resilience Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date:	August 11, 2026
Subject:	Consideration of recommendation of the Green Space Concept Planning Initiative to the City Council
Presenter:	Antonio Gardea, Assistant Director of Community Development
Proposed Action:	Consider a recommendation to City Council regarding the Green Space Concept Planning Initiative
Environmental Impact:	None
Fiscal Impact:	None

Background:

At the request of Chair Pollara and Vice-Chair Kane-Ritsch, the Sustainability and Resilience Commission is considering forwarding a recommendation to the City Council to support the Green Space project.

Discussion/Analysis:

As part of the annual budget review, the City Council considered but rejected the request for \$25,000 for professional services to establish a Greenways Coalition and for the Concept Planning Initiative (Council Consideration Item #CD-11). The proposed project furthers the goal of the Climate Action and Adaption Plan to acquire, enhance, and preserve greenspace and is supported by the following complementary strategies: GC 2.1 (Increase green space owned by the City by three acres by 2035); GC 2.2 (Implement programs to preserve existing green spaces); and GC 2.3 (Enhance biodiversity in existing green spaces). The request would have funded a feasibility study for a multi-benefit greenway along the Winery Canyon Channel and the 22-acre Southern California Edison easement parallel to the Loop Trail.

Recommendation:

Option No. 1 - It is recommended that the Sustainability and Resilience Commission discuss and provide direction

Attachments:

1. City Council Consideration Item CD-11: Green spaces & Coalition Establishment
2. Public Greenspace Presentation

**COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM
FY 2026-27 ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW**

Request Title	Professional Services for Greenways Coalition and Concept Planning Initiative
Department	Community Development
Requested Amount	\$25,000
Account Number(s)	1-25-6061
Background	The City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan identifies Green Community as a focus area, with goals to expand green space and improve resilience through nature-based solutions. Relevant strategies include T1.2, T1.4, GC2.1, GC2.2, and GC2.3. As part of the ongoing General Plan updates, including the Open Space and Recreation Element and Conservation Element, the Sustainability and Resilience Commission recommends advancing a Greenways and Resilient Infrastructure Concept Planning Initiative. This effort will evaluate opportunities to preserve and expand green space while integrating stormwater management, heat mitigation, and recreational access.
Justification	This request funds a focused preliminary planning effort to evaluate the feasibility of transforming existing stormwater infrastructure into multi-benefit greenways. Much of the City's drainage system was designed for rapid conveyance and does not reflect current best practices for stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, and heat mitigation. The 1934 infrastructure may be insufficient to manage peak flows associated with atmospheric rivers and more frequent storm events. Modern hydrological approaches favor living systems that attenuate flow, capture runoff, and support groundwater recharge, turning excess water into a resource that enhances resilience and reduces heat impacts. This initial phase will focus on the Winery Canyon Channel and a 22-acre utility easement site parallel to the Trail Loop to identify opportunities, constraints, and high-level design concepts for transitioning from single-use flood control to a multi-benefit greenway corridor. The effort will include preliminary technical review, site assessment, and identification of feasible approaches for further study. The outcome will be a high-level feasibility summary and concept framework outlining potential design directions, implementation considerations, and funding opportunities. This will provide the City Council with a clear basis to evaluate whether and how to proceed with more detailed planning before committing to capital expenditures. This phased approach is intended to position the City to pursue external funding for further study, feasibility, and design visioning, including approximately \$500,000 from the Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program (Measure W), \$250,000 from the Arroyo Verdugo Subregional Program (Measure M), and up to \$1,000,000 from State climate and infrastructure funding sources. These programs are designed to support development of shovel-ready plans and would enable the City to advance this concept without reliance on the General Fund for future phases. The effort will be led by a consultant with oversight from the Sustainability and Resilience Commission to ensure alignment with City priorities and CAAP goals. Consultant support will focus on targeted technical analysis, coordination with relevant stakeholders, and preparation of a concise deliverable to inform next steps and potential implementation phases. The consultant will also engage relevant agencies and utility partners to identify requirements and build early alignment, helping establish a viable pathway for future project development and funding.
Fiscal Impact	\$25,000
Recurring Annual Cost	None (\$1.7 million in External Feasibility Funding)

Francis Pollara
Chair, Sustainability and Resilience Commission

Strategic Alignment & Resilience Roadmap: March 2026

Prioritizing CAAP Implementation through Regional
Collaboration and Technical Innovation



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Reclaiming LCF's Washes & Basins

Transforming Single-Use Flood Infrastructure into Multi-Benefit Community Landscapes

La Cañada Flintridge is defined by concrete washes and debris basins that, for decades, have served the singular purpose of rapid water export. Inspired by the Verdugo Wash Master Plan, we can convert these drainage corridors into living infrastructure. By treating our washes as reclaimable public space, we can unlock competitive "planning-to-implementation" funds that are specifically earmarked for regional water and transit connectivity.

Strategy RC 4.2 & 4.3

Water Efficiency and Landscaping. Reimagining the washes as living infrastructure aligns with the goal to achieve a 50% reduction in City water usage by 2035.

Strategy CR 2.1

Consider Heat as a Primary Risk. Reclaiming "gray" concrete scars and converting them into "green" infrastructure serves as a primary adaptation measure to mitigate the urban heat island effect, a recognized climate vulnerability for LCF.



\$500,000

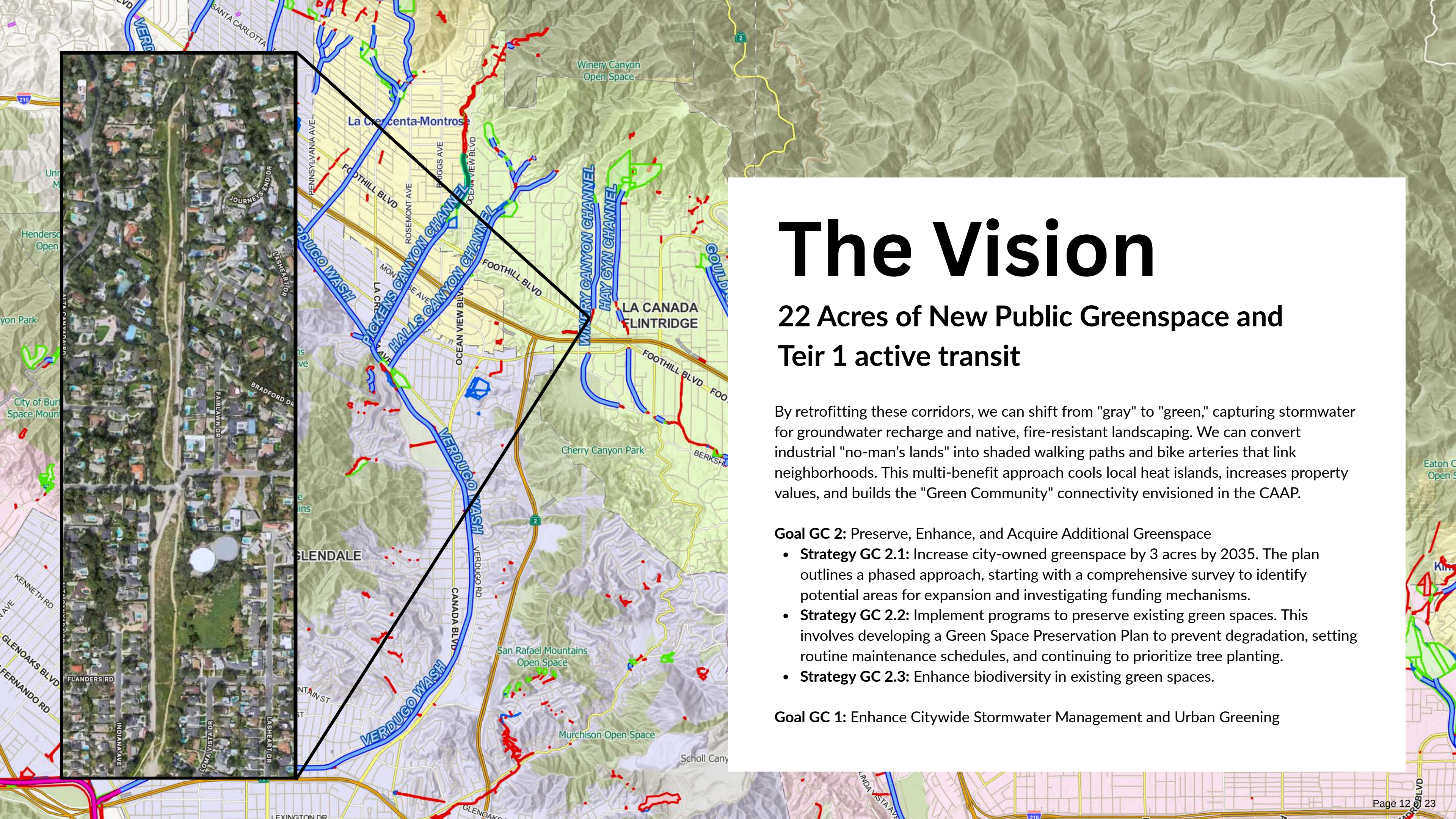
Measure W (Safe, Clean Water)

\$250,000

Arroyo Verdugo Subregional Funds

\$1,000,000

Prop 4 - 2026 Cycle \$46 Million



The Vision

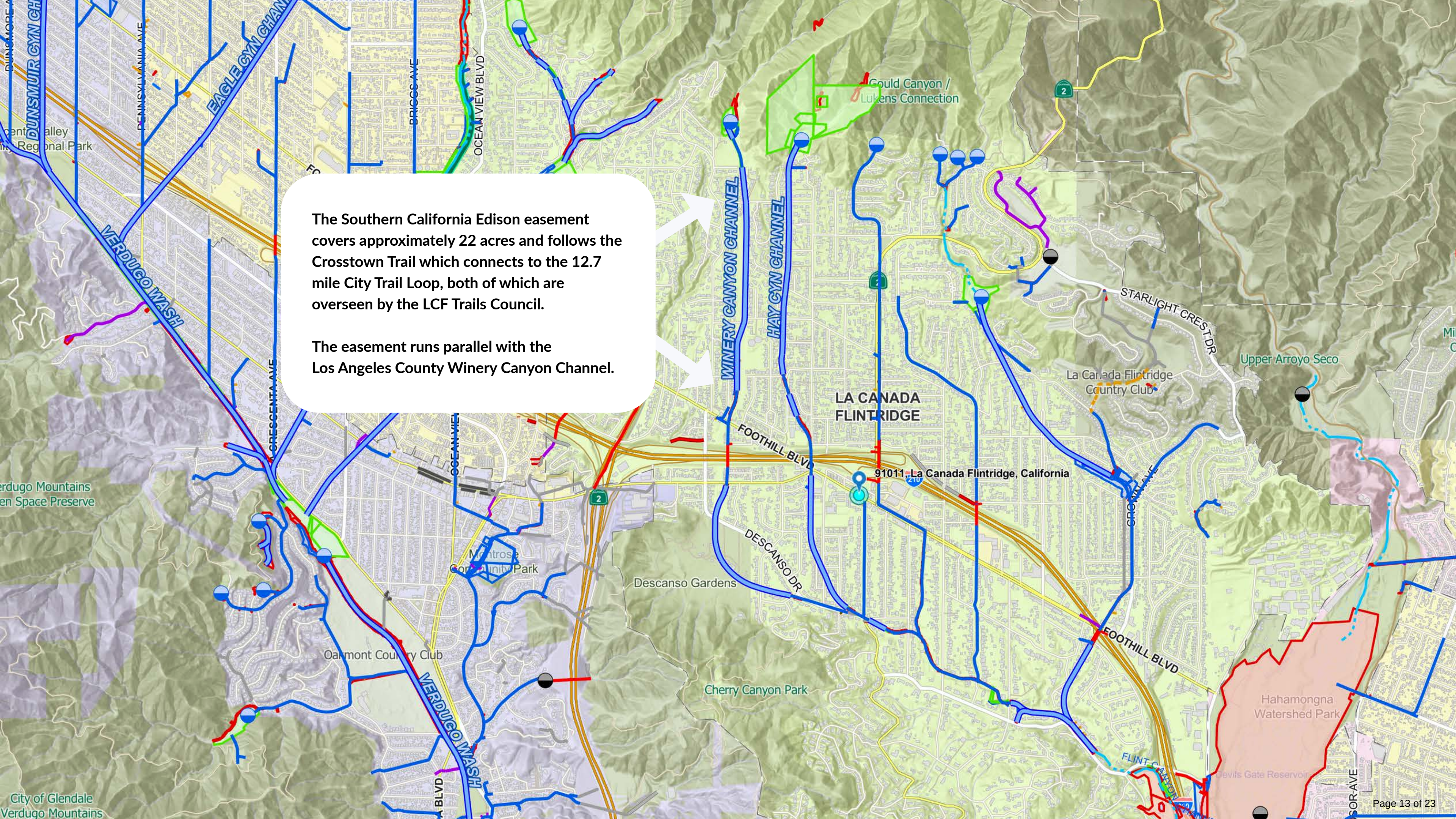
22 Acres of New Public Greenspace and Teir 1 active transit

By retrofitting these corridors, we can shift from "gray" to "green," capturing stormwater for groundwater recharge and native, fire-resistant landscaping. We can convert industrial "no-man's lands" into shaded walking paths and bike arteries that link neighborhoods. This multi-benefit approach cools local heat islands, increases property values, and builds the "Green Community" connectivity envisioned in the CAAP.

Goal GC 2: Preserve, Enhance, and Acquire Additional Greenspace

- **Strategy GC 2.1:** Increase city-owned greenspace by 3 acres by 2035. The plan outlines a phased approach, starting with a comprehensive survey to identify potential areas for expansion and investigating funding mechanisms.
- **Strategy GC 2.2:** Implement programs to preserve existing green spaces. This involves developing a Green Space Preservation Plan to prevent degradation, setting routine maintenance schedules, and continuing to prioritize tree planting.
- **Strategy GC 2.3:** Enhance biodiversity in existing green spaces.

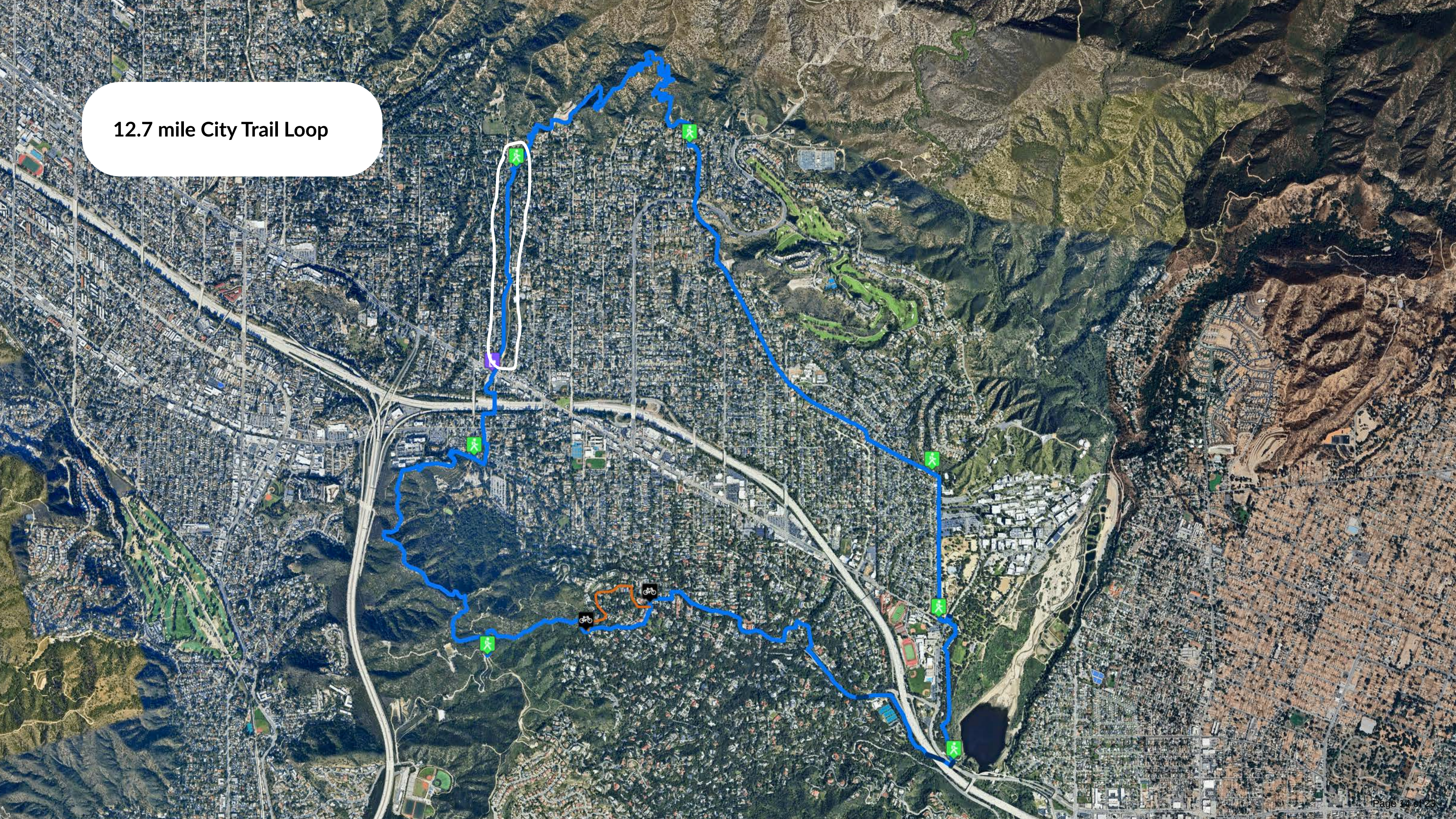
Goal GC 1: Enhance Citywide Stormwater Management and Urban Greening

A detailed topographic map of the Los Angeles County Winery Canyon Channel area. The map shows the channel's path through a residential and semi-rural landscape. Key features include the Verdugo Wash, Eagle Cyn Channel, and various local roads like Foothill Blvd and Descanso Dr. A callout box with two arrows points to a specific section of the channel. The map also shows surrounding areas like the City of Glendale and the Hahamonga Watershed Park.

The Southern California Edison easement covers approximately 22 acres and follows the Crosstown Trail which connects to the 12.7 mile City Trail Loop, both of which are overseen by the LCF Trails Council.

The easement runs parallel with the Los Angeles County Winery Canyon Channel.

12.7 mile City Trail Loop



Utility Easements & Wildfire Risk

Resilience Through Reclamation: The SCE Relocation or Undergrounding Opportunity to Harden Infrastructure

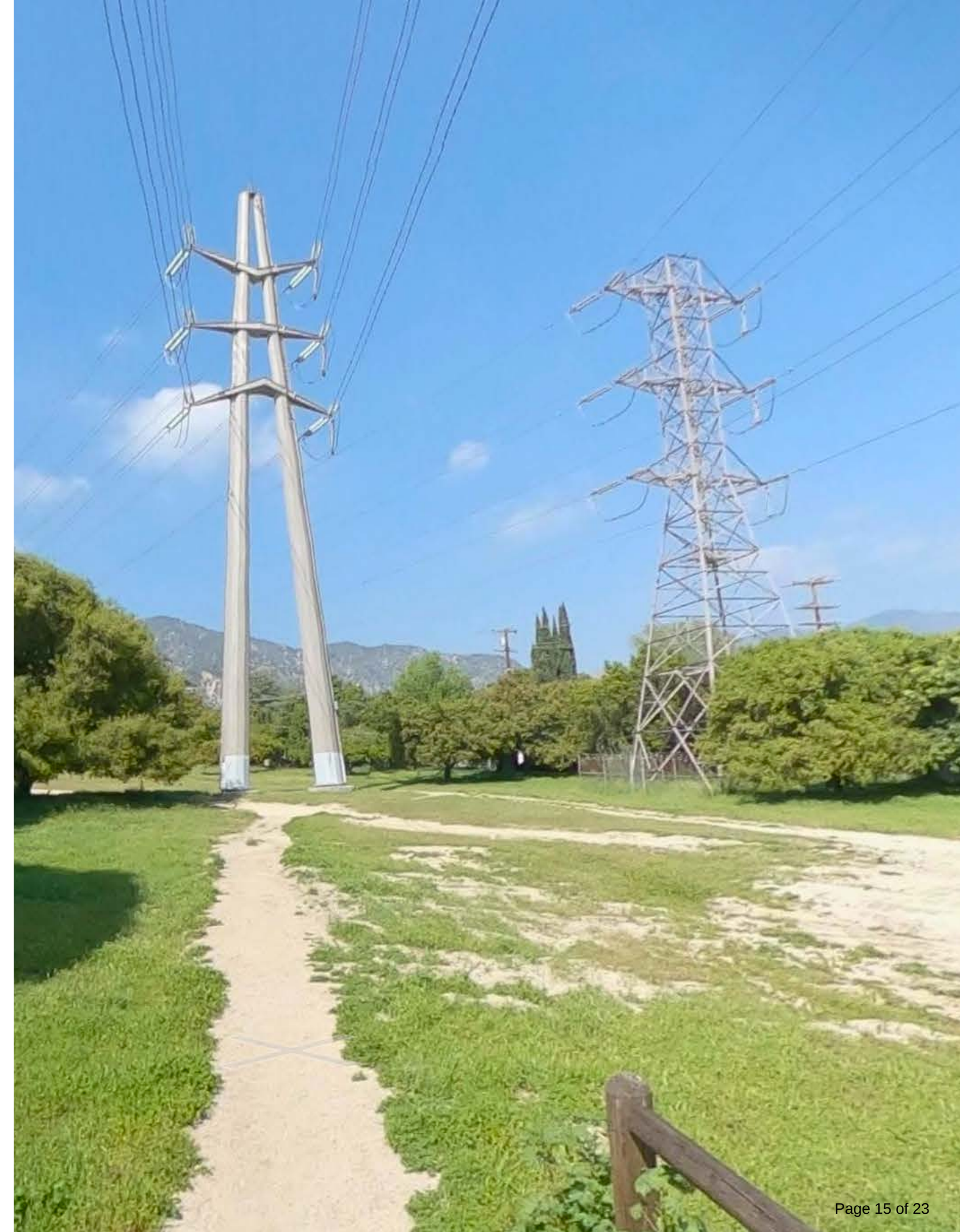
The project core involves a barren 22-acre SCE easement where power lines parallel a historic bridle path and the 12.7-mile city loop. To maximize this land for water storage and park use, we propose relocating these lines. Simple undergrounding in place creates hydrological conflicts with water spreading; shifting these assets to the ACH corridor frees the land for total reclamation while modernizing the grid.

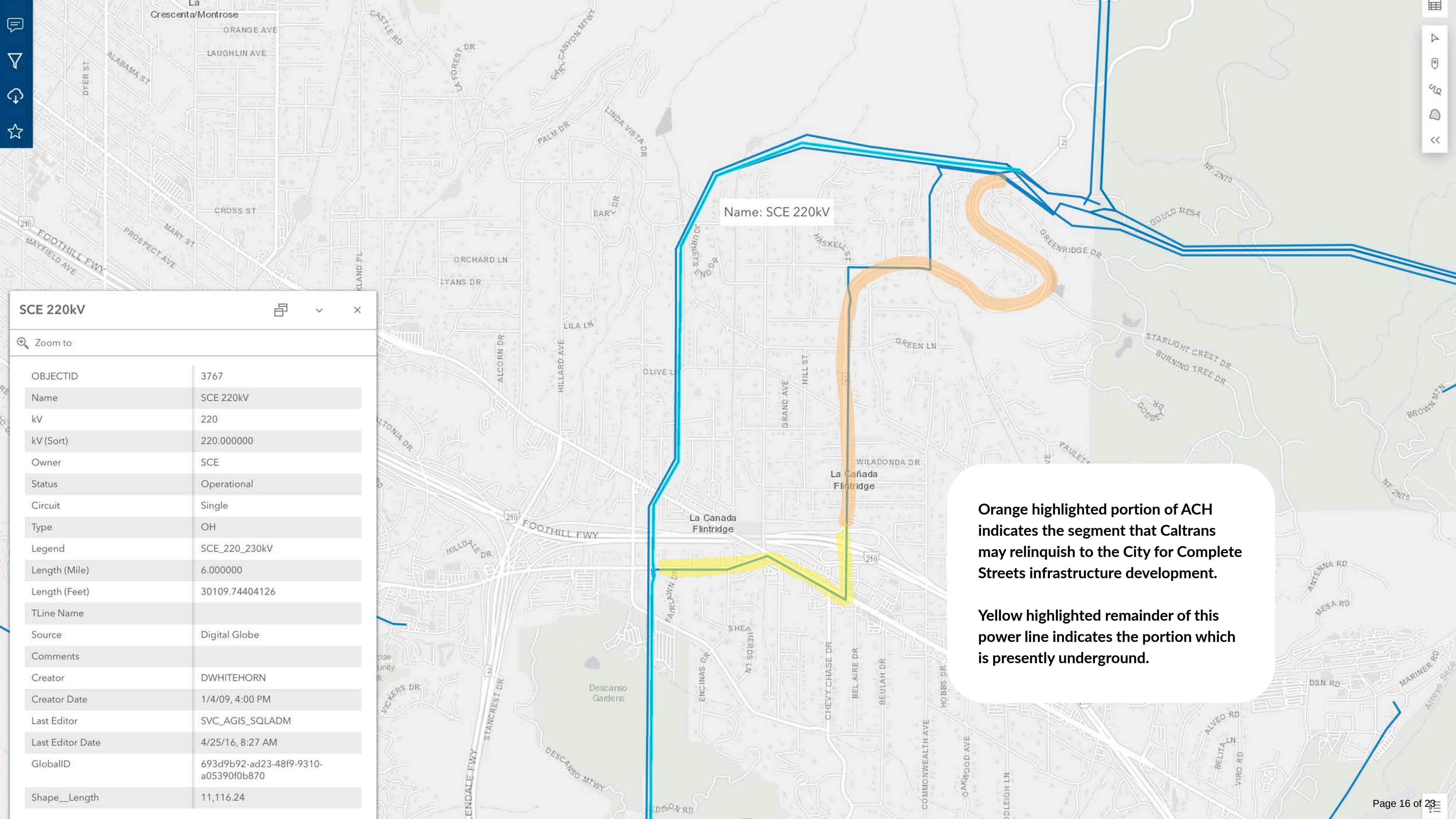
Strategy CR 1.1

Update Local Hazard Mitigation. Relocating power lines to a controlled highway corridor significantly reduces wildfire ignition risk—a core resilience priority mandated by the Council during the Commission's formation.

Strategy T 1.2

Improve Connectivity of Transportation Network. The 22-acre reclamation bridges the gap between fragmented trails and the commercial heart of the city, creating the "interconnected grid" envisioned in the CAAP.





Name: SCE 220kV

SCE 220kV

Zoom to

OBJECTID	3767
Name	SCE 220kV
kV	220
kV (Sort)	220.000000
Owner	SCE
Status	Operational
Circuit	Single
Type	OH
Legend	SCE_220_230kV
Length (Mile)	6.000000
Length (Feet)	30109.74404126
TLine Name	
Source	Digital Globe
Comments	
Creator	DWHITEHORN
Creator Date	1/4/09, 4:00 PM
Last Editor	SVC_AGIS_SQLADM
Last Editor Date	4/25/16, 8:27 AM
GlobalID	693d9b92-ad23-48f9-9310-a05390f0b870
Shape_Length	11,116.24

Orange highlighted portion of ACH indicates the segment that Caltrans may relinquish to the City for Complete Streets infrastructure development.

Yellow highlighted remainder of this power line indicates the portion which is presently underground.

Unified Corridor Strategy (ACH)

Strategic Realignment: Consolidating onto the ACH and relocating crosstown lines for safety and open space recovery

City Council is actively evaluating the relinquishment of ACH from Caltrans to develop "Complete Streets" infrastructure. This jurisdictional shift provides the perfect window to relocate and/or potentially underground the relocated 220kV lines beneath the new roadway. Coordinating utility relocation with street redesign minimizes costs, and creates a unified, resilient transit corridor through the heart of the city that will eliminate a longstanding untraversable barrier for active modes.

Strategy T 1.4

Decarbonizing Local Transit through Active Connectivity. By converting underutilized easements into a Tier 1 active transportation spine, we provide a high-comfort, safe alternative to short car trips. This "Green Artery" links residential neighborhoods directly to our commercial core, and connected with the 12.7-mile city loop.

Strategy T 2.1

Accelerate the Transition to EVs. Integrating utility relocation with the ACH redesign provides the necessary grid infrastructure to support the "Foundational" goal of increasing community-wide EV charging capacity.



Groundbreaking Underground Transmission Line

The Chino Hills (Tehachapi) project is the "gold standard" because it proved that even the highest-voltage lines in the country (500kV) could be successfully buried to save a community's character and safety. This project was funded by SCE and ultimately that expense was transferred to area ratepayers over time.

~\$64M

Per-Mile Cost*

100%

Reliability Record

10-18%

Property Tax Uplift

10x

Ignition Risk Reduction

*Chino undergrounded 500kV, however, 220kV is significantly less complex



Concepting & Coalition

The path to implementation requires a two-track strategy.

First, we propose immediately evaluating the **Winery Canyon Channel** to serve as a multi-dimensional connection that links the region physically, hydrologically, and ecologically, while ensuring that the channel continues to serve its primary function as flood control infrastructure. We will conduct a **Concept Planning Initiative (CPI)** to ensure the wash continues to protect against flooding while examining opportunities for more open spaces and parks, improved connectivity for walking and cycling, and a return to natural habitat for wildlife.

Second, we will formalize the **Greenway Coalition**. This multi-benefit alliance will unify stakeholders—including LCF Trails and the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, Cycling & Pedestrian Advocates, and Community Partners—to speak with one voice to Caltrans and Metro. This coalition turns a local trail into a "Regional Impact" corridor, doubling our scoring potential for competitive state grants and ensuring the project has the long-term community momentum to succeed.



Thank You





Sustainability and Resilience Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date:	August 11, 2026
Subject:	Discussion and prioritization of Transportation Demand Management policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
Presenter:	Antonio Gardea, Assistant Director of Community Development
Proposed Action:	Receive and file
Environmental Impact:	None
Fiscal Impact:	None. Possible funding sources are South Coast Air Quality Management District and California Department of Transportation programs.

Discussion/Analysis:

A supportive strategy to further the goal of reducing city-wide vehicle miles traveled by 1.22 percent by 2040 is to work with La Canada Flintridge schools and Jet Propulsion Laboratory to develop Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs for students and employees. The two actions listed are: Encourage partnerships with private schools to develop and implement school bus programs that reduce school-related single occupancy vehicle commutes; and Work with schools to encourage EV shuttle service for students living within a mile from their neighborhood schools.

Recommendation:

Receive and file

Attachments:

None



Sustainability and Resilience Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date:	August 11, 2026
Subject:	Discussion of additional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan recommendations for evaluation, study, and implementation
Presenter:	Antonio Gardea, Assistant Director of Community Development
Proposed Action:	Receive and file
Environmental Impact:	None
Fiscal Impact:	None

Discussion/Analysis:

On August 4, 2026, the City Council considered the draft update to the Circulation Element of the General Plan together with the updates to the Conservation Element and the Open Space & Recreation Element. In response to public comments and edits recommended by staff, the public hearing was continued to September 1, 2026 to incorporate changes into the various Elements. Staff highlighted that state law mandates that an active transportation plan be approved within two years after the adoption of the updated Circulation Element. The Public Works and Traffic Commission requested a joint meeting with the Sustainability and Resilience Commission to discuss policy recommendations.

Recommendation:

Receive and file

Attachments:

None



Sustainability and Resilience Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Subject: Discussion of topics and information for inclusion in the City's website

Presenter: Antonio Gardea, Assistant Director of Community Development

Proposed Action: Receive and file

Environmental Impact: None

Fiscal Impact: None

Discussion/Analysis:

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission expressed an interest in having additional information included in the webpage related to the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan strategies. Because an entire update to the City's website is anticipated, individual webpage changes are limited. Topics and information to be included in the website can be discussed and recommendations forwarded to staff.

Recommendation:

Receive and file

Attachments:

None