

White House Federal Partnerships
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Lower Rio Grande Valley 16th Annual
Storm Water Management Planning
Conference

Today's Discussion

- ▶ American's Great Outdoors(AGO)
- ▶ Strong Cities Strong Communities (SC2)
- ▶ Promise Zone
- ▶ Urban Waters Program (UW)
- ▶ Progress to Date
 - Urban Waters Small Grants
 - Federal Partnership & Projects
- ▶ Emerging Opportunities



Why Federal Partnerships?

- ▶ America's Urban Waters...
 - Are among the most polluted in the nation
 - Require long-term, multi-pronged efforts
 - Negatively impact large populations, including underserved communities
- ▶ Urban Waters also...
 - Can attract sustained local support over the long time frame required for restoration
 - Are gaining value as community assets
 - Provide visible settings for innovative water quality restoration and local stewardship



America's Great Outdoors

- ▶ AGO Initiative provides:
 - Advancing Local Conservation Priorities
 - Expanding Access to Lands and Waters for Recreation
 - Restoring Critical Landscapes
 - Creating Great Urban Parks and Water Trails in American Communities

Strong Cities Strong Communities

- ▶ SC2 was created through conversations with Mayors, Members of Congress, Foundations, Non-Profits, and other Key stakeholders working in Economically distressed Communities
- ▶ Launched in 2011, between 19 federal partners working with local communities—especially those facing chronic distress—strengthen their foundations for economic growth.

Strong Cities Strong Communities

- ▶ This Initiative takes Innovation
- ▶ Determination to cut through Red-Tape
- ▶ Ensure that Tax Dollars are Used Wisely
- ▶ Supports Bottom-Up Solutions that break Silos within Federal, Local governments and partnerships with NGO's to solve challenging Issues

Strong Cities Strong Communities

Criteria for Communities Selected:

- Economic Need
- Strong Local Leadership and Collaboration
- Potential for Economic Growth
- Geographic Diversity
- Ability to Test the SC2 Model across a range of environments.
- Federal Assessment teams spend time on the ground working directly with mayors and other local officials to determine needs, opportunities and input.

Phase I – SC2 Communities

- ▶ SC2 Teams Partnering w/Communities:
- ▶ Chester, PA
- ▶ Cleveland, OH
- ▶ Detroit, MI
- ▶ Fresno, CA
- ▶ Memphis, TN
- ▶ New Orleans, LA
- ▶ Youngstown, OH

Phase II – SC2 Communities

- ▶ January 2014 Announced Communities:
 - ▶ Brownsville, TX
 - ▶ Flint, MI
 - ▶ Gary, IN
 - ▶ Macon, GA
 - ▶ St. Louis, MO
 - ▶ Rockford, IL
 - ▶ Rocky Mount, NC

Brownsville, Texas SC2

- ▶ The City of Brownsville has requested the following from SC2 Team to Advance their goals:
 - Infrastructure Development
 - Improve Public Health Outcomes
 - Education and Human Capital

Brownsville, Texas SC2

- ▶ SC2 will deploy at least one full time federal staff person(Team Lead) who will work alongside the Mayor and City Manager in City Hall.
- ▶ SC2 will also assign a group of part-time/advisory staff with expertise in the aforementioned areas. The Team Lead will coordinate and maintain their efforts.
- ▶ The SC2 engagement is one year with the possibility to renew for a second year.

Brownsville, TX SC2

▶ Additional Benefits:

- AmeriCorps VISTA will provide two VISTA volunteers in each SC2 city in the first year of the engagement. These subject matter experts can work in City Hall or in local non-profit organizations to boost local capacity.
- SC2 provides a forum for peer exchanges between cities to increase technical knowledge and learning on subjects of interest to Mayors.
- In addition to the deployment of these inter-agency teams, the initiative is taking this model to scale by launching the SC2 National Resource Network in partnership with an outside consortium of experts who will reach 80–100 economically distressed communities over the next 3 years.

Promise Zones Initiative

- ▶ A Plan to create a Better Bargain for Middle Class by partnering with Local Communities and Businesses to Create Jobs;
- ▶ Increase Economic Security;
- ▶ Expand Educational Opportunities;
- ▶ Increase Access to Quality, Affordable Housing;
- ▶ Improve Public Safety
- ▶ 5 Designees announced: San Antonio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Kentucky, Choctaw Nation

Promise Zones Initiatives

- ▶ Accountability for Clear Goals
- ▶ Intensive Federal Partnership
- ▶ Help Accessing Resources
- ▶ National Service;
- ▶ Investing in What Works

- ▶ Administration has Requested:
 - Cutting Taxes for Businesses – Congress to Act , cut taxes on hiring and investment in areas designated as Promise Zones tax credits.

Urban Waters Goal

Based on:

- *Administrator's Charge*
- *"Urban Waters Conversations" with Stakeholders*

To restore and protect urban water bodies by engaging communities – ***particularly underserved communities*** – in activities that foster increased connection, understanding and ownership of their waters.



Environmental Justice

- ▶ **EJ is central to Urban Waters**
 - Goals and program
 - How we do business
 - Work on the ground
- ▶ **Urban Waters Federal Partnership**
 - ▶ Focus on underserved communities
 - ▶ Criterion for pilot selection
 - ▶ Collaboration with EJ IWG
 - ▶ EJ lens on a federal partnership
 - ▶ Engage regional IWGs



Community Grantees & Learning Network

- ▶ Initial Recipients of "grant awards" and "technical assistance awards" from EPA announced at National River Rally (June 2011)
- ▶ Continued Support from River Network for all Urban Water Small Grant Recipients and Communities interested in Networking Opportunities
- ▶ NFWF award recipients also receive support if requested from the Learning Network
- ▶ River Rally in Philadelphia, PA – May 30–June 2, 2014



Urban Waters Small Grants

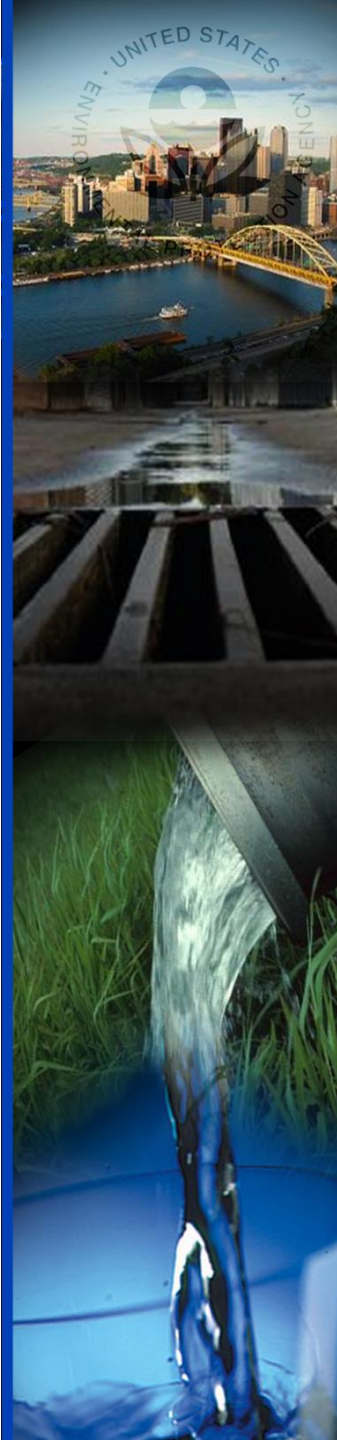
A response to stakeholder input re: high impact of small investments

- ▶ Grants to entities within or implementing within a UW
Geographical location noted
- ▶ 2013 RFP opened September to December 2013
- ▶ Approximately 250 applicants for 14–18 grants of \$40K–\$60K
- ▶ Regional selection panels and awards by Summer 2014



Why an Urban Waters Federal Partnership?

- ▶ EPA “Urban Waters Conversations” with communities and local leaders
 - Call for stronger federal coordination
- ▶ To respond, EPA led the formation of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership
 - Broadening the resources available to support local community action
- ▶ To identify and demonstrate approaches for effective federal collaboration in working with communities on urban water issues



Urban Waters Federal Partnership

▶ Vision

- “Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.”

▶ Mission & Principles focus on:

- Underserved and distressed communities
- Integrating natural resource and community & economic development agencies

▶ Advances:

- Administration EJ Goals
- President’s Urban Agenda
- AGO, SC2, Promise Zone, etc.

Agencies

EPA

USDA

DOI

HUD

DOT

USACE

NOAA

EDA

CDC

NIEHS

CNCS

Education

Energy

FEMA

with

WH-DPC

Guiding Principles

- ▶ Promote clean urban waters
- ▶ Reconnect people to their waterways
- ▶ Conserve water
- ▶ Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity
- ▶ Encourage community improvements through active partnerships
- ▶ Be open and honest. Listening to communities is the best way to engage them
- ▶ Focus on measuring results and evaluation to fuel future success



Federal Partnership Program

- ▶ Provide coordinated federal support to communities with existing resources
- ▶ Learn by working together on the ground; inform programs & policies
- ▶ Project Selection Process
 - Nominated by agencies' field offices
 - Criteria included:
 - *Agency willing to lead*
 - *Multiple federal agencies already engaged*
 - *Underserved and distressed communities*
 - *Active state, local and community partners*
 - Also considered: *Geographic diversity*



Phase I Pilot Locations 2011

Anacostia River (DOI) – DC/MD

Baltimore (USDA) – MD

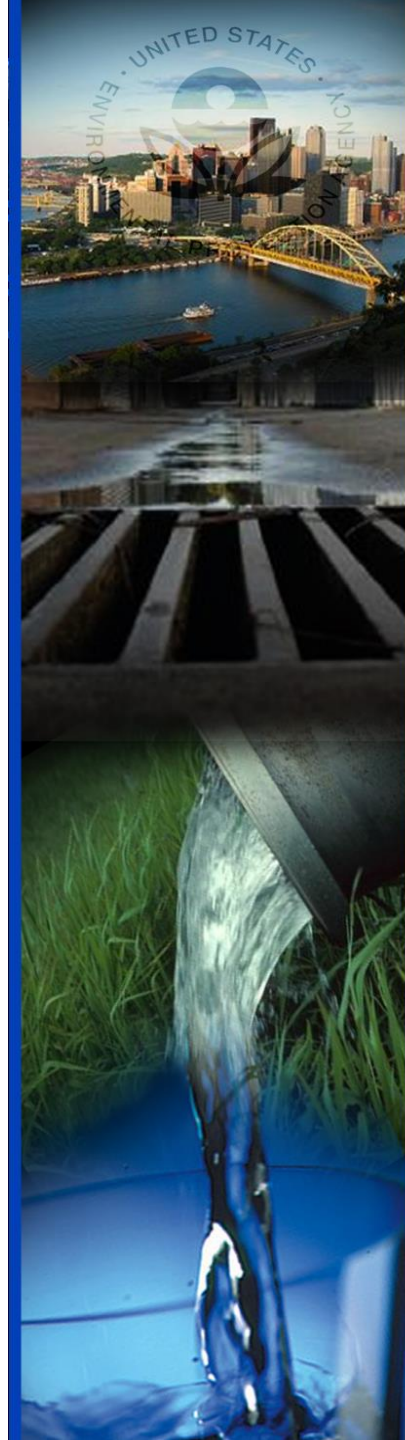
Bronx/Harlem (DOI) – NY

Denver (USDA/EPA) – CO

Los Angeles (EPA) – CA

New Orleans (EPA) – LA

NW Indiana (USDA) – IN



Phase II of Urban Waters 2013

▶ 11 New Project Locations:

- ▶ Middle Rio Grande, Albuquerque, NM
- ▶ Proctor Creek Watershed, Atlanta, GA
- ▶ Mystic River Watershed, Boston, MA
- ▶ Grand River, Grand Rapids, MI
- ▶ Blue River, Kansas, MO
- ▶ Passaic River, New Jersey
- ▶ Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA
- ▶ Martin Pena, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- ▶ Green Duwamish Watershed, Seattle, WA
- ▶ Meramec/Big River Watershed, St. Louis, MO
- ▶ Western Lake Erie Basin, Toledo, OH

Region 6 UW Project Locations

- ▶ UW New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Project:
 - ▶ Federal Partnership – HUD/FWS/NPS /USGS/NOAA/USACE/USDA/EDA/FEMA
 - ▶ 5 Project areas incorporated into Pilot
 - ▶ State/local and NGO stakeholder support
 - ▶ Ambassador Support – Urban Waters Pilot– continue to maintain momentum and provide on-going support to keep all projects in motion – Pending announcement/Fed Partners support

Urban Waters Project – R6

▶ Accomplishments to date in NOLA

- Reconstruction of New Canal Lighthouse
- FEMA funding rebuilding of two fishing piers
- Lafitte Greenway design work (HUD/NPS)/Phase I Construction in Progress
- NOAA funding Bayou St. John improvements
- West End Pier/Yacht Club Rebuild from Katrina – Coordinating FEMA activities from 30+ applications to a streamlined process and discuss innovative Floating dock aspects for reconstruction and reduce rebuild again.
- East End Pier – MOU drafted City/FWS & Design of Pier/facilities

Urban Waters Project – R6

- ▶ UW Middle Rio Grande Project:
 - 4 Focus Areas Identified; additional projects incorporated from Partners meetings, now 7 projects identified for incorporation into work plan
 - Linkage to AGO with Valle De Oro Refuge
 - Stormwater Linkage with pending MS4 Watershed permit – Enhanced Stormwater Management
 - Economic Development and Health Impacts incorporated with linkage to Sustainability project (HUD/DOT), Bridge Boulevard Redevelopment
 - Restoration activities along the Rio Grande, USACE

Pending UW Application...

- ▶ Urban Waters San Antonio/Bexar County application submitted to National Federal Partnership February 2014– Review
- ▶ 6 Focus Areas Identified for consideration
- ▶ Linkage to Promise Zone
- ▶ Linkage to America's Great Outdoors/San Antonio Missions
- ▶ Desalinization Project
- ▶ Water Reuse project with San Antonio Zoo

Emerging Opportunities

- ▶ New Urban Waters Small Grant recipients to be announced Summer 2014
- ▶ Continued Community Linkages with Federal Partners interest in expanding the UW Federal Partnership/White House
- ▶ NFWF Proposal for Federal Urban Waters Grants Program
 - Match with least \$1.5M (private funds)



Opportunities for More Expansion of Project Sites

- ▶ Continuation of Discussion with Federal Partners on existing partnerships
- ▶ All White House Initiatives/Programs Expanding : How will Community nomination process for inclusion of Urban Waters partnership work?
- ▶ How can your community participate
- ▶ White House Messaging
 - ▶ Tie-ins with EJ, GI, Sustainable Communities, etc.



Questions and Answers?

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