

# Post Event Summary

## Event: Chesterfield Square Community Block Club

IRWM Region	Greater Los Angeles County	Date and Time	February 8, 2020 9:00 AM
Community Engagement Partner	Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC)	Location	Immanuel Baptist Church 4726 Arlington Ave Los Angeles, CA 90043
Event Facilitator Contact	Carolyn Kwak	Community Member Attendance	Under 18 years old: (0) Over 18 years old: (6-10)
Event Facilitator Contact Email	ckwak@kyccla.org	Water Service Provider Attendance	The city of Los Angeles was not able to attend.

Attendees were mostly older African-Americans maybe in their 60-70s, employed in white-collar job fields. The main points of the conversation focused on strategic water projects, local water contamination levels, drinking water, and funding. Participants were curious about how they can combat land use pollution so they were very interested in how they can implement strategic water projects such as rain gardens and storm water capture. As for water contamination, although they knew that annual reports with water contamination levels were available, they were reluctant to go online and wanted WaterTalks to include accurate numbers specific to their area. Essentially, they asked for a Sparknotes version of the pertinent numbers from the annual reports to be included in our PowerPoint. As for drinking water, one participant asked why certain drinking water brands were more expensive than others were and why plastic water bottles are considered dangerous. Participants were also keen on more information on funding- Prop 1 and Measure W. They wanted to know how the 98 million is used and what projects are in motion. They asked if it would be possible to visit any water projects that are constructed from this funding to see what the process is and how the money can and is being used.

This group seemed very engaged in this conversation and were actively participating and asking questions. They knew more than other groups we have presented this information to and wanted more details on the subjects we have touched on. It felt very much like a conversation as we were learning from them as well, such as the history of their neighborhood so we can have some context with what kind of environment we are working with.

Some challenges we noted was that, although they were active in this conversation, a few of them were reluctant on filling out the post-event form because they thought the information we presented was not new. They also wanted to test their neighborhood water quality but unlike other community groups who wanted to practice citizen science, wanted the city to provide those results directly. It felt like they saw the city as responsible for collecting this data and implementing strategic water projects and wanted a liaison of some sorts to directly serve their community because they know that the annual reports exist but expected someone to follow through.

Overall, this WaterTalk was successful because the conversations went beyond the information on the slides. Participants were on the same page about bringing smart water practices into the community and wanted to make community events out of it, such as a volunteer event where community members come together to build a rain garden.