

Post Event Summary

Event: El Rio and Nyland Acres Water Talks

IRWM Region	Ventura County	Date and Time	October 22, 2020 7:00 PM
Community Engagement Partner	The Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR)	Location	Online via Zoom Webinar
Event Facilitator Contact	Holly Wright	Community Member Attendance	Under 18 years old: (0) Over 18 years old: (15)
Event Facilitator Contact Email	hollyjessicawright@gmail.com	Water Service Provider Attendance	1 - Dina Ontiveras - Nyland Acres Mutual Water Company (Non presenting)

This event was originally scheduled as an in-person event March 2020 at Rio Mesa Elementary School. FSCR has a strong and consistent partnership with the Rio School District (RSD) and were looking forward to being able to bring the WaterTalks program to the families and neighbors of their schools. RSD has programs for migrant field worker families and Mixteco language translators who were ready to help us at the in-person events but it was not possible to do that in the virtual webinar format.

For logistical reasons it was decided that El Rio and Nyland Acres would integrate into one WaterTalks Webinar, as per the request of Lynn Rodriguez/County of Ventura.

Once we learned that we would not be able to hold the postponed event in person, we realized that we would struggle to have a wide attendance as a majority of the El Rio and Nyland Acres target community members may not have access to a computer, internet or Zoom access. RSD, which also serves Nyland Acres, is helping families with computer and internet access but it is not nearly at a stage where widespread zoom attendance would be possible.

The meeting was held within County of Ventura Supervisor John Zaragoza's monthly El Rio and Nyland Acres Municipal Advisory Meeting. This meant that there was high visibility from local government leaders and agency representatives.

There were residents in attendance and there were many questions and comments on water quality and affordability. Some of the attendees made comments sharing frustration with what they saw as frequent surveys but not solutions to problems they saw with water provision in the area.

Candice Meneghin gave the WaterTalks Toolkit presentation for The Friends of the Santa Clara River. Holly Wright monitored questions. There were two Spanish interpreters also working remotely.

Tony Emmert from the United Water Conservation District was a committed partner with us on all our Water Talks in Piru, Fillmore and El Rio. Tony also represented the Fillmore and Piru

Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency as their Executive Director (Candice Meneghin is a GSA board director and environmental representative).

Ewelina Mutkowska from VCSM gave a great talk on the technicalities of the permeable concrete that Ventura County is replacing on sidewalks and a demonstration of how that works. Ewelina described VCSM's work and implementations they are making to protect against wasteful storm water runoff and manage groundwater protection. She was able to demonstrate some of this with a video that her daughter made for a school project. Her daughter attends a Spanish immersion school and provided Spanish translation for Ewelina Mutkowska in the demonstration.

Angela Bonfiglio described potential flood zones in the local area and ways that the County prepares. She gave an update on the extensive SCR 1 Levee repairs. This levee runs through El Rio and there are plans supported by RSD and FSCR on incorporating multi-benefit components and active along this section of the flood control structure. This potential urban greening of the levee will include nature interpretation signage and a community amphitheater for outdoor events.

Jonathan Ulman from Sierra Club touched on local climate change concerns and what the effects will or can be on Ventura County. This includes sea level rise and larger flash flood events, which has direct implications on El Rio which is on the Oxnard Plain, and the purpose of the FEMA levee upgrade.

This WaterTalk covered a lot of ground in how these areas are benefiting from Urban Greening in particular. Tony Emmert gave insight into the geohydrology of Ventura County and infrastructure and how it contributes to water provision. Candice talked about the Santa Clara River natural resources and the importance of its restoration and conservation.

FSCR was able to inform the community about the DACIP and direct them to more information and how to take part in the WaterTalks community survey.

This WaterTalk also brought stakeholders together and reopened points of contact around the DACIP and its specific aims. This is a help in maintaining the DACIP goal of keeping opportunities going for direct community education and involvement in water issues.