

# SAN PABLO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024**  
**WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER (WCW)**  
**ANDREW CLOUGH, GENERAL MANAGER**  
**JUDY CHEN, PLANNING & SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER**  
**KATE GIBBS, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**



WEST COUNTY  
WASTEWATER



San Pablo | CA

# AGENDA



WCW & Our Community



Clean & Green Project



Coastal Resiliency



Capital Improvement Projects in San Pablo



Sewer Lateral Compliance Outreach Program



Community Engagement

# WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER

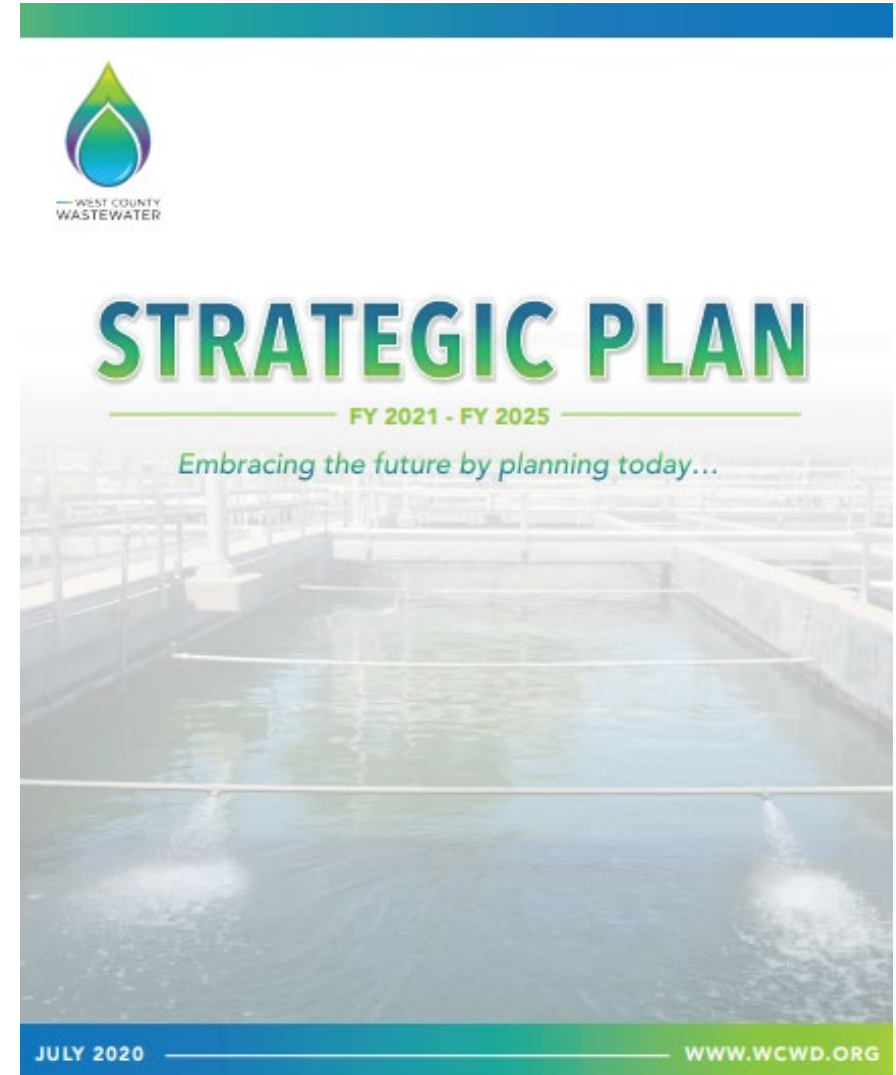


34,000 residences and 900 commercial/industrial businesses.

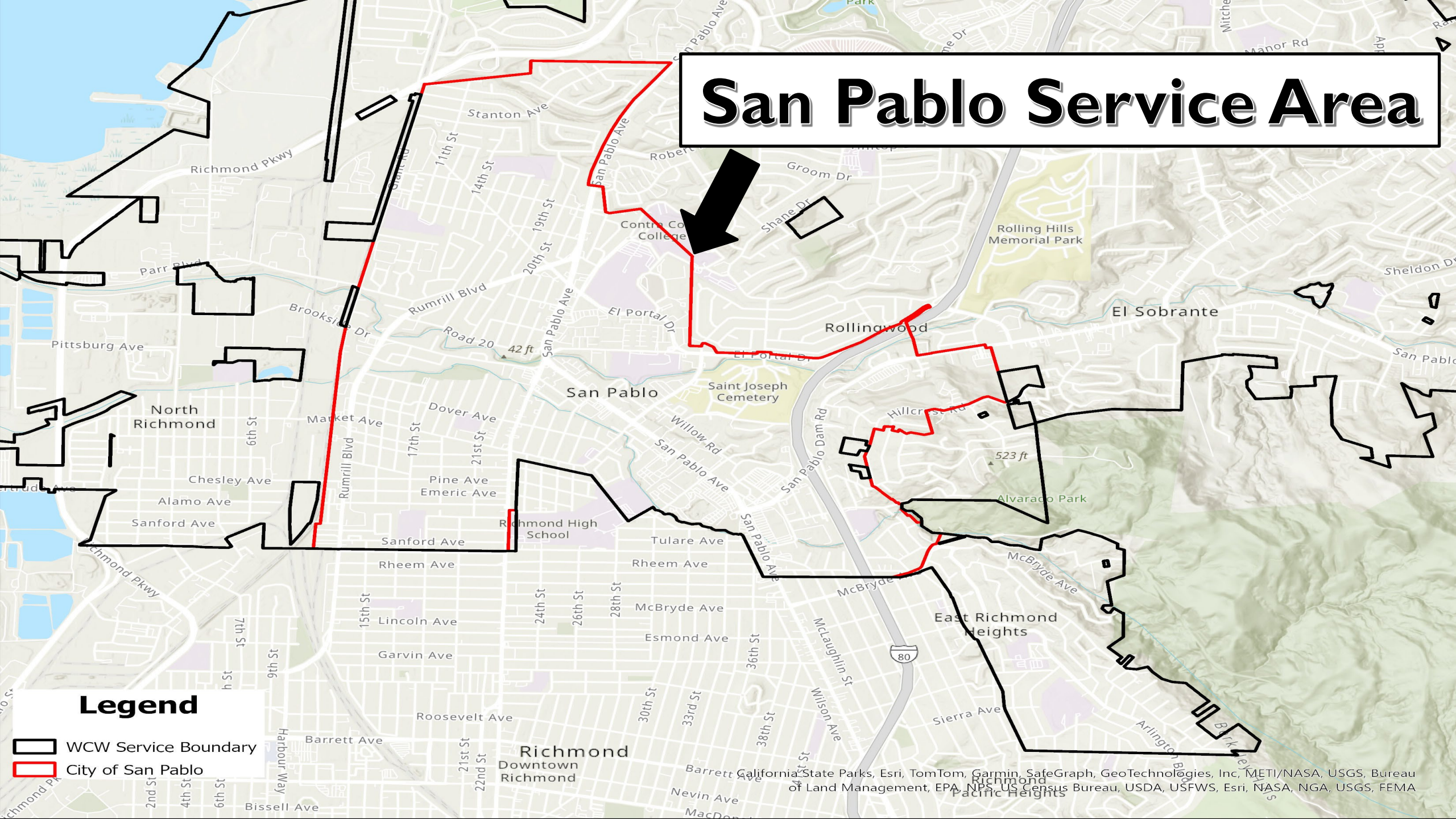
17 square miles, 250 miles of gravity sewers and 6 miles of force mains.

# VISION

*Create a holistic plan for environmental stewardship through efficient wastewater management, extensive community engagement, inspirational leadership, and integrated partnerships*



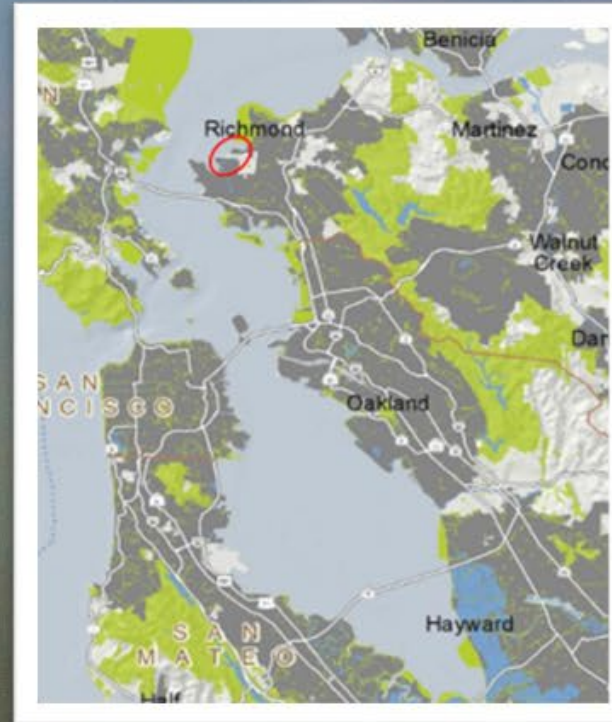
# San Pablo Service Area



**Legend**

-  WCW Service Boundary
-  City of San Pablo

# NORTH RICHMOND SHORELINE



# 2022 U.S. EPA TOUR



# “WE ARE A DISINVESTED, BUT NOT A DISINTERESTED COMMUNITY”





# CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



WEST COUNTY  
WASTEWATER



MITHŪN



CONTRA COSTA  
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA





**CLEAN & GREEN  
PROJECT**

# CLEAN & GREEN PROJECT

- Creating Green power resiliency and reliability
- \$83 million in net program savings
- 4.2 million kWh of energy reduction per year
- 93% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Internship Program
- Class A biosolids





WEST COUNTY  
WASTEWATER  
CLEAN & GREEN PROJECT





**COASTAL  
RESILIENCY**

# Resilient by Design

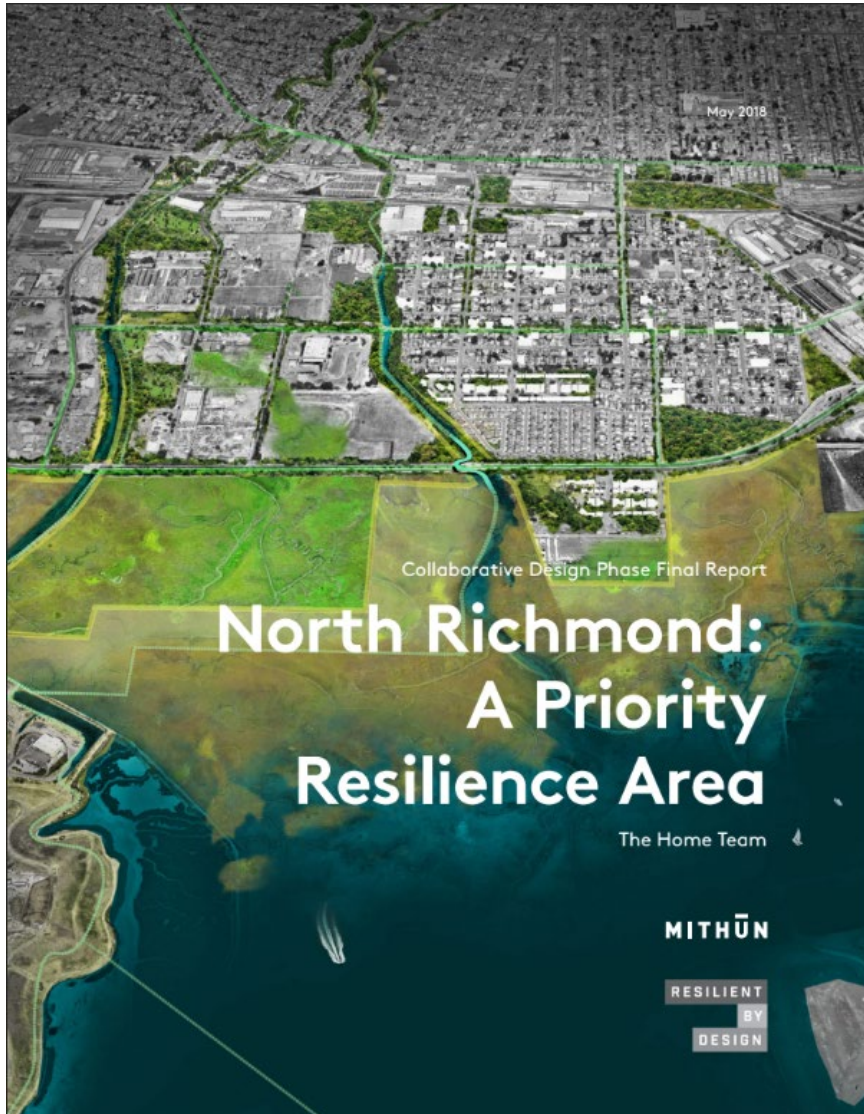


**Goal:** *connect international expertise with local communities to inspire innovative designs and collaboration*

**Process (2017-2018):**

- Public call for vulnerable sites
- Design Team selection
- Collaborative Research Phase
- Assign Teams to sites
- Collaborative Design Phase
- Final Designs

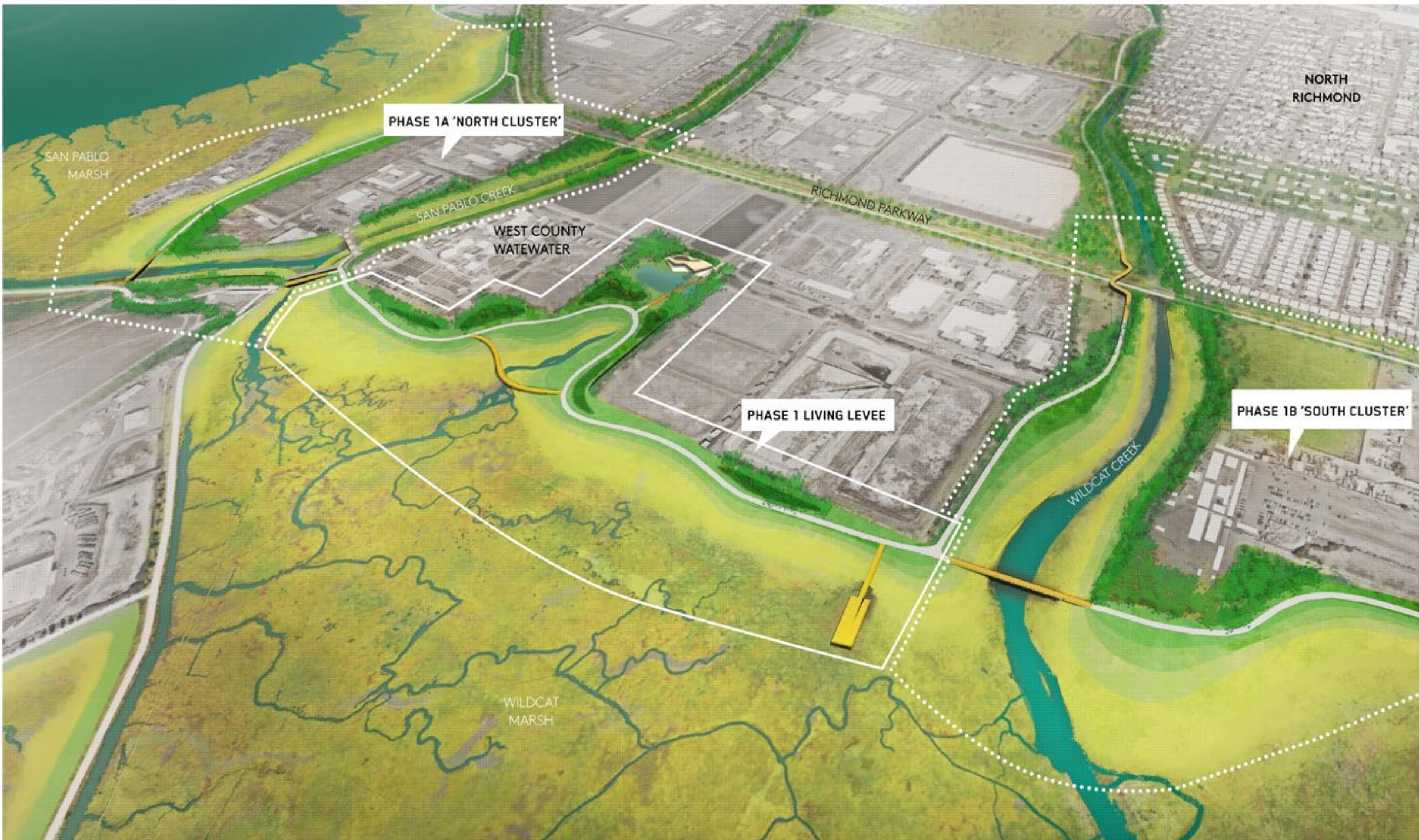




May 2018



November 2023



NORTH RICHMOND

PHASE 1A 'NORTH CLUSTER'

SAN PABLO MARSH

SAN PABLO CREEK

WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER

RICHMOND PARKWAY

PHASE 1 LIVING LEVEE

PHASE 1B 'SOUTH CLUSTER'

WILDCAT CREEK

WILDCAT MARSH

# Education and Interpretation

## The Past



In front of you is the North Richmond shoreline, on the San Francisco Bay. This tidal wetland evolved over thousands of years and is well-adapted to changing water levels, the daily high and low tides, and the seasonal surge flows from Wildcat Creek that flows from the Berkeley hills into the Bay at this location.

We have been this ecosystem how to cope with current risks such as sea level rise and pollution. For example, the dense vegetation that this habitat supports enriches the soil with organic matter, and that increases water infiltration, moderating floods. The gently sloping topography reduces wave energy that can be damaging to the shoreline. Wetland vegetation such as marsh grasses and reeds have deep root systems that anchor the soil, so it is less erodible even under constantly moving water. These plants extract toxins from the soil and the air, making the ecosystem even habitable for us.



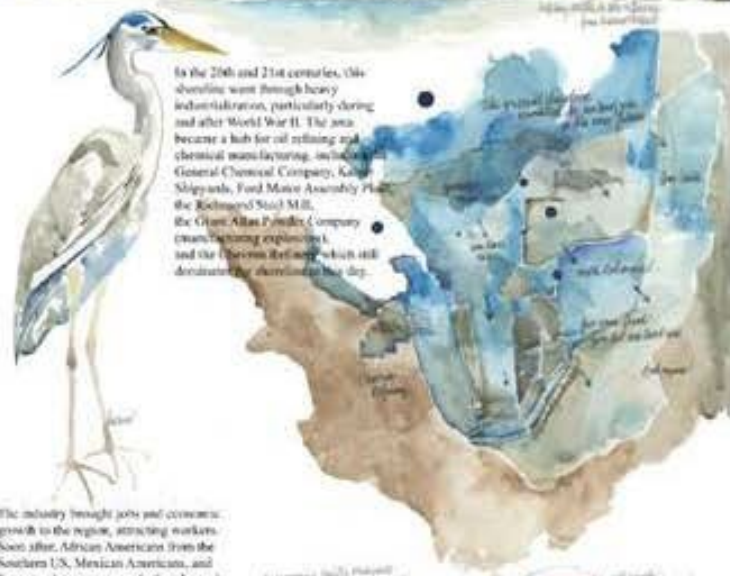
The tidal marshes are an important feeding and nesting area for birds such as the elegant oyst, salt marsh harvest mouse, and the California gull. The eelgrass beds underneath the water provided habitat for species such as Dungeness crab, shrimp penae, and anchovy.

Wetlands slow down river flow. Sediments carried by the creek are released in this flat area, and over time, accumulations of creek sediments and the wetland's organic material (dead plant material) increases the height of the wetland. This way, the wetland can keep pace with rising sea levels to stay above the water. As sea level rises, wetlands can also require landward, converting dry inland areas to marshes.



## The Present

People lived and used this shoreline for thousands of years. In the Chochevito language of the Lujaan-Ojibwa people, this area is named "Tachuan" land. Tribal members that live around on share stories of how their ancestors lived/liked to fish and seafood from the Bay, and made, roots and berries from the surrounding hills and valleys. They used tule reed boats to travel along the Bay's waterways. They had a deep spiritual connection to the land and lived in harmony with the environment. Today, the Lujaan-Ojibwa communities are working to reinvigorate the land and revitalize their culture, knowledge, and native languages.



In the 20th and 21st centuries, this shoreline went through heavy industrialization, particularly during and after World War II. The area became a hub for oil refining and chemical manufacturing, including General Chemical Company, Kaiser Shipyards, Ford Motor Assembly Plant, the Richmond Steel Mill, the Great Alton Portland Cement Company (manufacturing explosives), and the Chevron Refinery which still dominates the shoreline today.

The industry brought jobs and economic growth to the region, attracting workers. Soon after, African Americans from the Southern US, Mexican Americans, and European immigrants made their home in the nearby North Richmond neighborhood. The community became a hub for music, with world-famous nightclubs and music venues, including the legendary Club Savoy, attracting top musicians from across the country. After this period of economic growth, residents faced challenges from pollution and environmental degradation and declining industry that led to social and economic instability. Despite these challenges, the community has remained resilient and continued to thrive, with a rich



## The Future

This low-lying wetland is expected to be significantly impacted by sea level rise in the coming decades. As sea level rises, some infrastructure will be at risk from coastal floods. This includes the West County Wastewater Facility, the Richmond Parkway, some North Richmond homes, and the natural environment - the wetland and all its plants and animals.



Motivated by over two decades of environmental and community activism, plans are taking shape for a solution to sea level rise for the North Richmond Shoreline. By constructing a Living Levee - a low-lying, broad structure built parallel to the shoreline, the shoreline will be more protected from coastal flooding and wave erosion.


The structure is designed to blend with the surrounding landscape and mimic the natural processes of coastal protection, creating a "Nature-based Solution" that uses the benefits and services provided by the natural ecosystem and processes.



The North Richmond Shoreline Adaptation project will provide opportunities for the neighborhood communities to connect with nature - creating walking and biking trails, building small parks and play structures, and improving access to this beautiful area. The design of this project was heavily influenced by the work with community partners that identified community needs and wants.

Our adaptation project

This project is currently in its planning stages, and if ground breaking, implementation will start in 2025.



**CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECTS IN SAN  
PABLO**



# PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

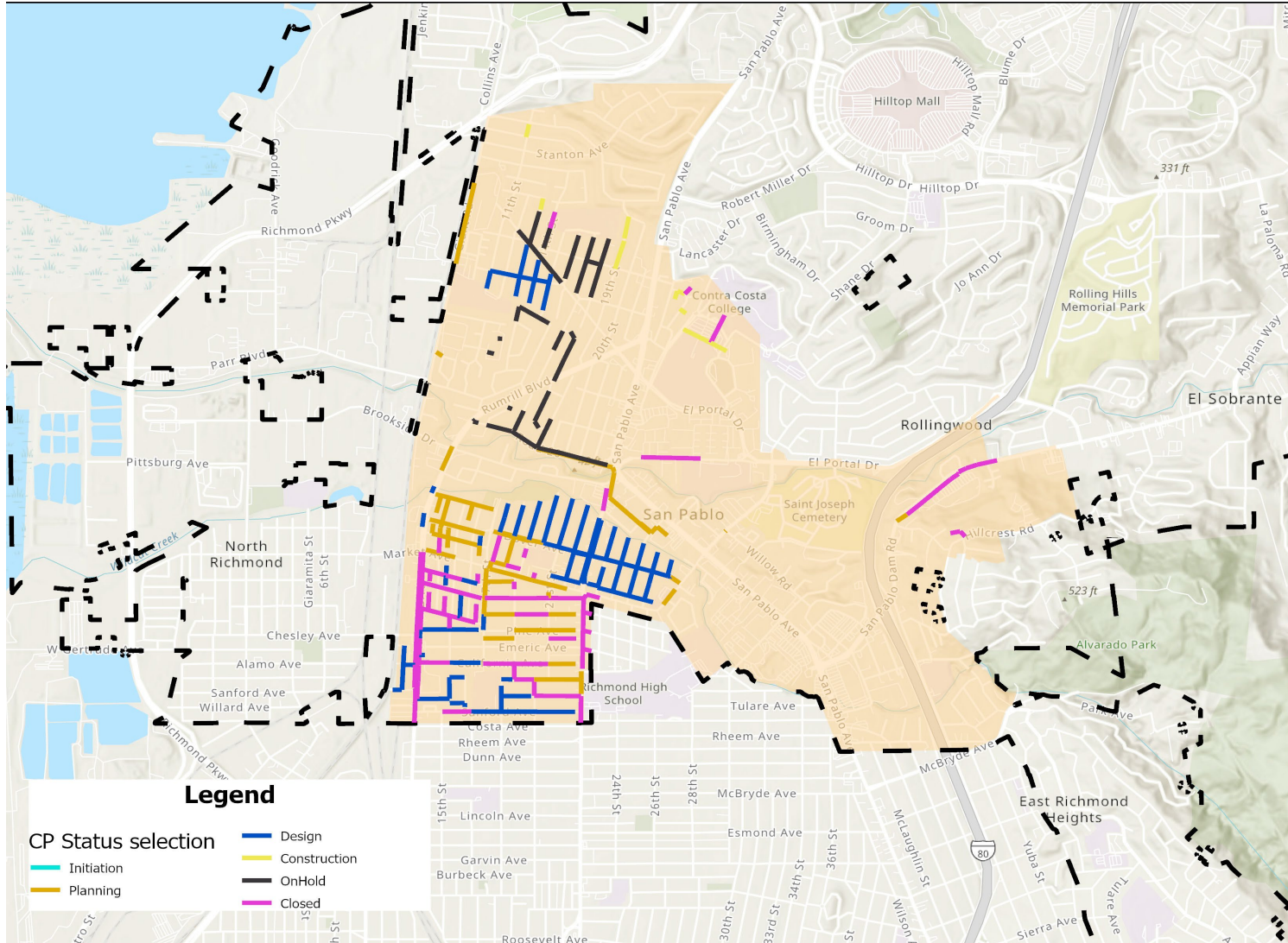


Paving Moratorium



Project Coordination

# CAPITAL PROJECTS IN SAN PABLO



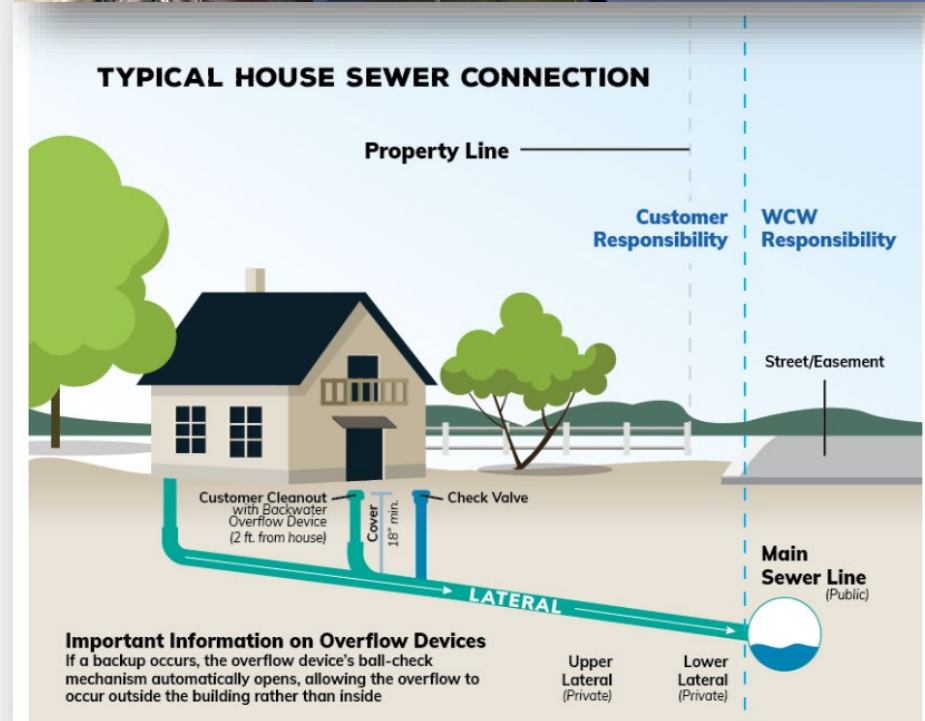
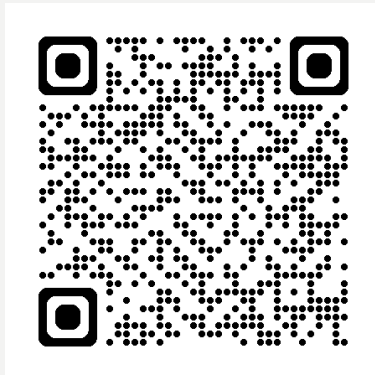
- San Pablo Sewer Replacement
- Lower San Pablo Sewer Replacement
- Road 20 and Standard Avenue
- Giant Road Sewer Replacement
- San Pablo South of Broadway
- Central San Pablo
- San Pablo South of Sanford Sewer Replacement



**SEWER LATERAL  
COMPLIANCE  
OUTREACH  
PROGRAM**

# SEWER LATERAL COMPLIANCE, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- Public and Private Sector
- Governance Body
- Vulnerable Community



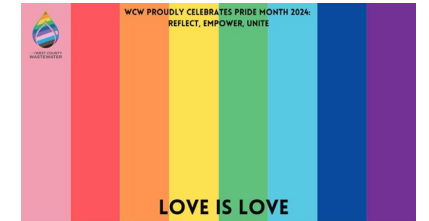
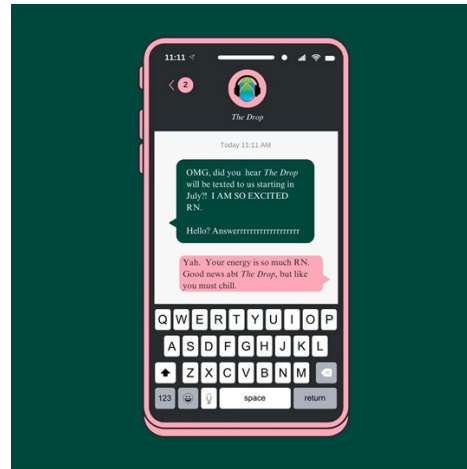
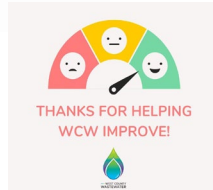


The graphic features a dark blue background with a network of white lines and dots. A white, scalloped-edged shape is centered, containing the text 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT' in a bold, teal, sans-serif font. A solid teal vertical bar is on the left side.

**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER



**THANK YOU!**

