

Executive Summary: Stormwater Capture – Ballona/Venice Tidal Canals Project

The **Venice Canals Association** proposes a **feasibility study** for a stormwater capture and treatment infrastructure project aimed at revitalizing the **Ballona Lagoon** and **North Venice Canals**, two historically significant and ecologically sensitive tidal zones in Los Angeles.

These interconnected waterways currently receive **unfiltered urban runoff**, introducing high levels of **pollutants**—including heavy metals, nitrates, and harmful bacteria—into the Pacific Ocean and damaging local habitats.

The study seeks to determine optimal **locations, engineering approaches, and nature-based solutions** for new infrastructure that would clean stormwater before it enters the canals.

Objectives include **water quality improvement, public health protection, flood control, water supply augmentation, and community engagement.**

The proposed project will utilize **Best Management Practices (BMP)** such as permeable surfaces, subsurface filtration systems, vegetated pathways, and potential enhancements to key community assets like the **Lighthouse Street Bridge** and the **public boat launch.**

Key environmental and community benefits anticipated include:

- Enhanced **biodiversity** and restored wetland habitat;
- Improved **stormwater management** and **resilience** to climate-related flooding;
- Increased **public access** and educational programming;
- Support for **environmental justice** and underserved communities;
- Mitigating the introduction of nutrients that feed harmful algae blooms (HABs);
- Alignment with the **Safe, Clean Water Program** and the **Venice Community Plan**

The study builds on historical data, recent water quality testing (Wallace Laboratories, 2021; [and others](#)), and successful models like the **Culver City Urban Runoff Project**. Ultimately, the findings will guide future infrastructure development to transform a polluted urban waterway into a **regional model for regenerative design**, benefitting the local ecology, residents, and millions of visitors to Venice Beach.