PLANTING STORMWATER SOLUTIONS NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHIER AND GREENER CITIES Co-authors: Brian Cohen¹, Kelsey Jessup¹, Dr. Sophie Parker¹, Dr. John Randall¹, Jill Sourial¹ ¹The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy's spatial analyses can help prioritize where to site stormwater management projects to increase biodiversity, habitat, and human well-being.

The maps below show priority areas for siting stormwater infrastructure using nature-based solutions (in dark blue) depending on desired benefits.







The dark blue census blocks on this map have the highest proportion of land that could readily be converted to nature-based solutions <u>and</u> does not adjoin any existing habitat. Nature-based solutions sited in these blocks would be most likely to <u>add new</u> <u>"islands" of habitat</u>. The light yellow census blocks have the lowest proportion of such land. Map 2: Where to site stormwater infrastructure that benefits biodiversity by EXPANDING habitat.

The dark blue census blocks on this map have the highest proportion of land that could readily be converted to nature-based solutions <u>and</u> adjoins existing habitat areas. Nature-based solutions sited in these blocks would be most likely to <u>expand existing</u> <u>habitat areas</u>. The light yellow census blocks have the lowest proportion of such land. Map 3: Optimal locations for siting naturebased solutions that could yield multiple potential public health benefits. The dark blue census tracts on this map have the highest scores for potential to provide multiple public health benefits based on environmental and socioeconomic factors (e.g. air quality, urban heat, race, density, and economic hardship). Nature-based solutions sited in these tracts are most likely to produce multiple public health benefits . The light yellow census tracts have the lowest scores for this metric.



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN CALIFORNIA:

To ensure California's cities become more sustainable, climate resilient, and support greater human well-being and biodiversity, TNC is driving change in four major areas:

- 1. Policy
- 2. Market solutions
- 3. Science
- 4. On-the-ground projects

THE CHALLENGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY:

Cities across Southern California are investing in new infrastructure to address the challenges of stormwater management. We promote the use **of nature-based solutions** to ensure projects both treat stormwater <u>and</u> yield multiple additional benefits, such as improved air quality, reduced urban heat, enhanced wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S SOLUTION:

Limited resources mean municipalities have to prioritize where they site projects. So TNC developed these analyses help determine the best places to site nature-based solutions to manage stormwater and provide a variety of additional benefits to nature and people. TNC is offering results from our analyses to help guide siting and implementation of projects across the region through the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP). We are now developing guidance for the assessment of specific stormwater project proposals and their potential to enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity. We will offer this for use in evaluating proposals submitted for SCWP funds.

Contact us for more information on how to use our analyses to:
Site projects in areas that will most benefit from decreases in urban heat, improvements in air quality, and increases in

biodiversity.

 Determine project attributes that will create the most benefits for people and nature. The Nature Conservancy

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