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Long Beach Water

“DIG”ging to a More Inclusive & Sustainable Long Beach

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Meet the Long Beach Water Department

Located 25 miles south of Los Angeles

500,000 customers in a 50 square mile service area

90,000 water accounts

- 2/3 water used by residential
- 1/3 water used by commercial, industrial, and institutional

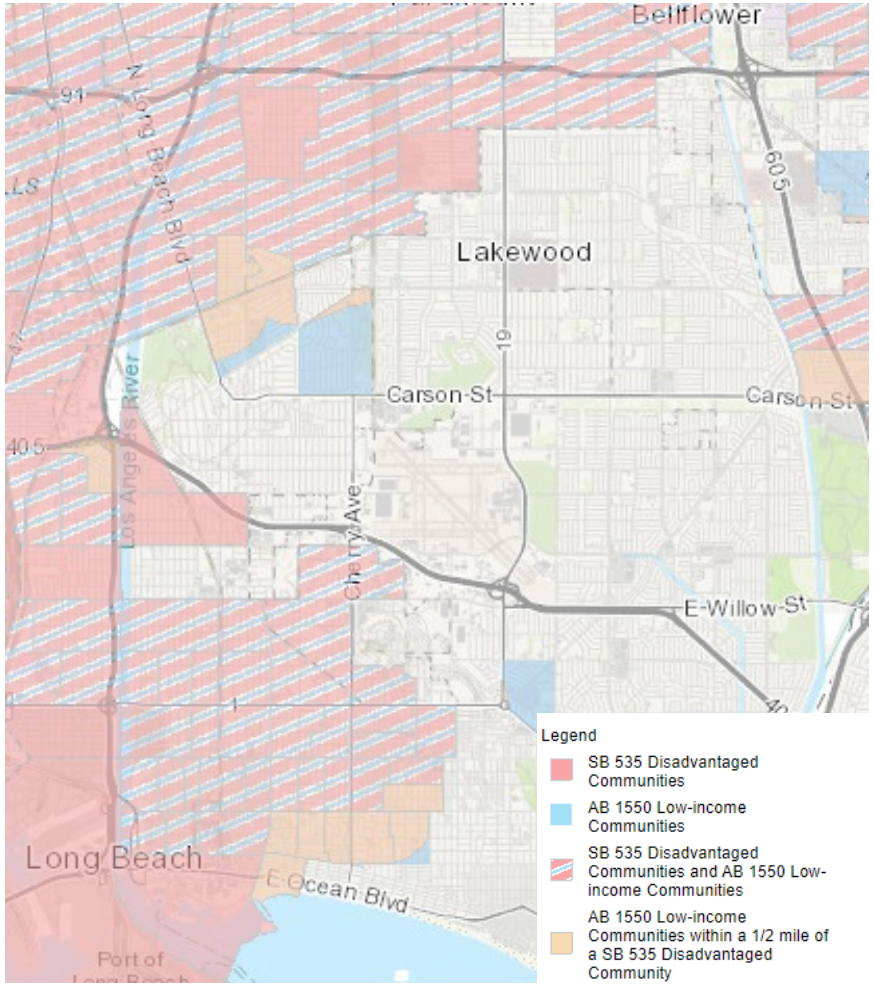
Operate and maintain 1,600 miles of water and sewer pipelines

“DIG”ging to a More Inclusive & Sustainable Long Beach

1. DAC & LI in Long Beach
2. Lawn to Garden Participation within DAC & LI
3. DIG Program and Process
4. Pilot Installations

DAC & LI in Long Beach

- DACs- Typically communities are burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution. Identified by (CalEPA)* as the top 25% most impacted census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 3.0.
- Low Income- area at or below 80% of statewide median income or below the threshold established by the CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development
- Approximately 50% of the population of Long Beach resides in DAC & Low Income areas



Participation in TR Program – DAC & LI

- Disadvantaged Communities and Low Income Communities (DACs & LIs) have historically been underrepresented in incentive program
- Landscape projects require a large upfront investment.
- Lawn-to-Garden provides a dollar amount per square foot of turf lawn transformed into drought-tolerant landscaping after the project is completed.
- DAC & LI are an integral and large portion of the population whose participation in conservation programs is essential in making sustainability the Long Beach way of life.

DIG Goals


Urban Watershed Health
Increase resiliency to climate change expanding the urban forest
Provide jobs, job training, education, and community beautification in DACs

DIG Overview

- DIG installs drought tolerant gardens and plants trees in those DAC & LI neighborhoods identified to be severely affected by environmental pollution.
- The DIG Program is sustainably and inclusively modeled with community capacity building at its core.
- Landscape installation and maintenance education would be completed by CCLB, an organization that provides job training and education to at-risk youth in the community.
- Each garden includes a storm water retention feature which mitigates flooding and ocean contamination by preventing storm water runoff.
- The program will install trees to promote carbon sequestration and contribute to the urban forest.
- DIG will increase DAC & LI participation in LBWD's L2G program though multi-lingual outreach, local garden examples and the multiplier effect.

Process

1. Customer Applies
   - Income Verification
     - CA H&CD
   - Homeowner occupied

2. Pre-Assessment
   - Lawn & Irrigation

3. Design Selection
   - Template
   - Mediterranean, Groundcover, Native, Succulents
   - Modifications for scaling

4. Site Prep & Installation
   - By CCLB
   - Overseen by Designer

5. Periodic Maintenance
   - 6 month, 12 months and 24 months
   - Balance of support for homeowner and self sufficiency with maintenance

Funding & Partners

- Climate Ready Grant
- $236,388
  - Replace 25+ lawns in DAC homes qualified as Low Income by CA H&CD
  - Work with Conservation Corps of Long Beach
  - Plant 24 Coast Live Oak Trees *Quercus agrifolia*
  - DAC track 06037570602
  - To be completed by Spring 2022

Coastal Conservancy

LONG BEACH SUSTAINABILITY

CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH · CCLB ·

Target Tract

- Located in North Long Beach
- Within the Coastal Los Angeles River Watershed and the Los Angeles River riparian corridor
- Total population: 6,695
- Approximately: 1,000 homes
- Average Front Lawn Size
  - 750 sq. ft. Non Corner Lots
  - 1800 sq. ft. Corner Lots

DIG vs L2G

Lawn-to-Garden	Cost
$3 per sq. ft. Front Yard: Average 1245 sq. ft.	$3735
$2 per sq. ft. Back Yard: Average 925 sq. ft.	$1850
Design Reimbursement	$1500
Average Total	$7,035

DIG	Cost
Design: Altered from Template	$500
Installation: Average 1000 sq. ft.	$3915
Materials: Equipment, Plants, Hardscape & Irrigation	$3000
Estimated Total	$7,415
Estimated Cost to LBWD	$3,707.50

HOPE Projects

- Between 2018 and 2019, LBWD conducted an initial pilot for the DIG program, and directly installed three drought tolerant landscapes at HOPE homes.
- Given the success of these installations, staff pursued grant opportunities to expand the pilot program.
- In December 2018, California Coastal Conservancy approved the LBWD DIG program for the Climate Ready Grant Round 5 awarding the program $236,388 if matched by LBWD.

First DIG installation

Cameron Property

Before

During

Cameron Property

After

Baltic Property

Before

After

Daisy Property

Before

After

Long Beach Water

Exceptional Water · Exceptional Service

Thank You

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