



Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency S Wells PFAS Treatment Project Community Forum #1 Summary

Introduction

The first Community Forum for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Wells project was held on August 31, 2022, from 6 to 8 PM at Bridgeport Elementary in Santa Clarita, California. The forum was open to the public. There were 12 community members in attendance. Members of the project team included representatives from the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) and technical consultants undertaking preliminary landscape design and associated community engagement. Those present included:

SCV Water	MIG	Rincon	RMG
Stephen Cole	Melissa Butler	Annaliese Miller	Rachel McGuire, President
Courtney Mael	Esmeralda García		
Orlando Moreno	Evan Mather		Katlyn Phelps, Communications Coordinator
Brent Payne	Sasha Ragland		
Narisa Pipitharut			

The Community Forum began with a welcome and sign in period where attendees were given agendas and name tags. Orlando Moreno (SCV Water) welcomed community members and introduced himself and agency representatives in attendance. Esmeralda García, meeting facilitator, reviewed the meeting agenda and the format for the meeting. Esmeralda explained that the project team would make a brief presentation followed by a facilitated discussion. Orlando kicked off the presentation with an overview of the agency's role in managing and delivering water supply to its service area. The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency closely monitors its wells for the presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which are found in thousands of commonly used household and commercial products and can make their way into groundwater supplies. When PFAS levels exceed state-set guidelines the wells must be shut down to protect consumer health. Sixteen wells were shut down, including three wells within the Bridgeport community due to the presence of PFAS, necessitating the new S Wells Treatment Facility to purify the groundwater before delivery to consumers.

After explaining the importance of the S Wells Treatment Facility, Orlando reviewed the project area including existing site conditions, describing the reason that this site had been chosen over others (proximity to existing conveyance infrastructure, and limited environmental impact). Following this project overview, and with sensitivity to the neighborhood setting, Evan Mather introduced three approaches to the landscaping and other aesthetic treatments for the project site. He explained that each approach was influenced by the surrounding environment and the

function of the facility itself. The first, Community Courtyard reflects design elements from the surrounding Bridgeport community while the second approach, the River Garden is inspired by the natural elements of the Santa Clara River. The Art Park approach maximizes opportunities to integrate education about the treatment facility in the design.

Esmeralda led a facilitated discussion to address questions about the project and to gather input on the three approaches. Community members were asked to respond to the following questions for each approach:

- What elements of this approach do you like?
- Are there things you would change?
- Is there anything missing?

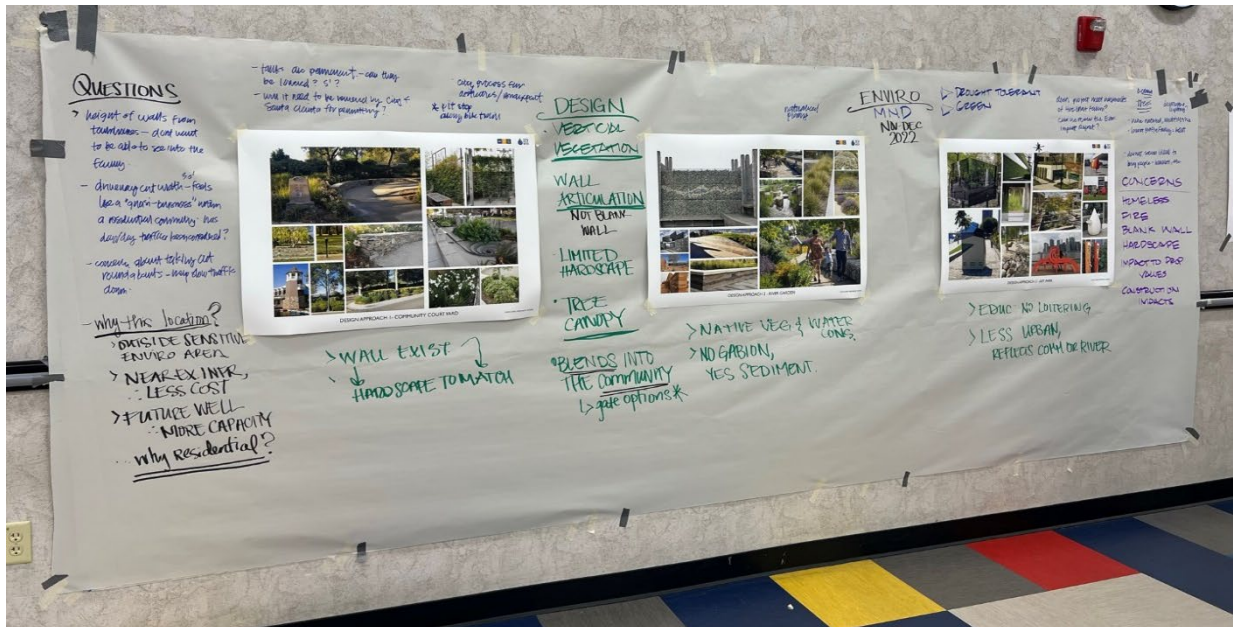
Team members from both SCV Water and the consultant team were available to address questions. Community members engaged with the project team during the presentation and the facilitated discussion period. Participant comments, ideas and questions were recorded on a large paper posted at the front of the room. The following is a summary of the discussion.

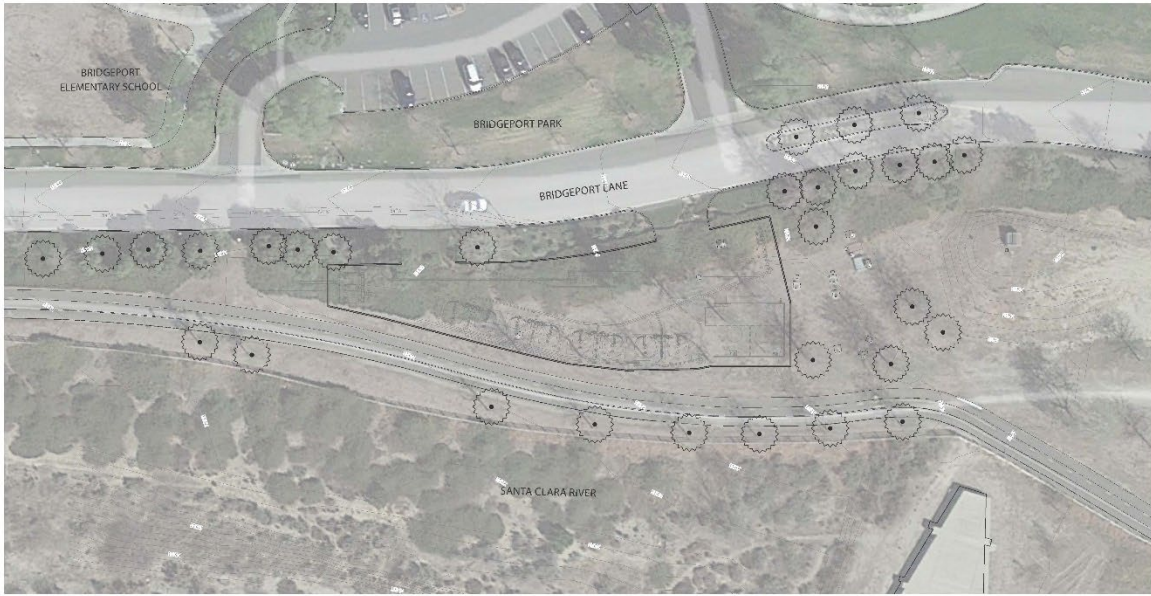
Community Feedback

- There is concern that the project could impact residential property values, especially the homes immediately adjacent to the site.
- Consider studying or using case studies of other, similar projects and how they may have impacted home values.
- There is concern that trucks coming in and out of the facility on Bridgeport Lane will have an impact on the neighborhood.
- The proposed 30' driveway width is not consistent with the scale of the residential character. Consider ways that landscape can be used to mitigate and/or minimize this effect.
- The site selection in a residential neighborhood raises concerns about environmental impacts (though this is not a hazmat facility i.e. no hazardous chemicals).
- Consider conducting a full Environmental Impact Report rather than a Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- Removing the roundabouts along the road could result in increased vehicle speed of passing traffic.
- Putting the facility tanks underground could reduce the need for high walls and make the site less obvious.
- Ensure that this project is coordinated with the City of Santa Clarita. It can be challenging to work with the City and meet their standards.
- Town homes look directly at the facility and don't want to see over the facility walls. This should be considered when designing the wall and heights.
- Break up the facility walls and limit hardscaping with vegetation and trees.
- Surround the facility with trees to camouflage it and make it low profile.
- There are concerns about people experiencing homelessness with all three design approaches.
- Any design option selected should be unobtrusive and blend into the environment.
- The art park approach could disturb people who live in the neighborhood by increasing foot traffic and encouraging loitering.

- The Community Courtyard and River Garden approaches seem interchangeable and could both work.
- The river garden approach may stand out since it looks different than other City landscaping and aesthetics.
- Prioritize drought tolerant plantings in all the design approaches.
- Evergreen plant palette preferred, at least along Bridgeport Lane, to match existing conditions in community
- Consider alternative entrance (proposed 30' W access gates) lessening visual impact from Bridgeport Lane
- Consider vegetation screening from inside the facility to minimize visual impact from Bridgeport Lane and surrounding community
- Seating and educational components should be considered in design







EXISTING SITE + PROJECT CONTEXT



S WELLS PFAS TREATMENT SYSTEM



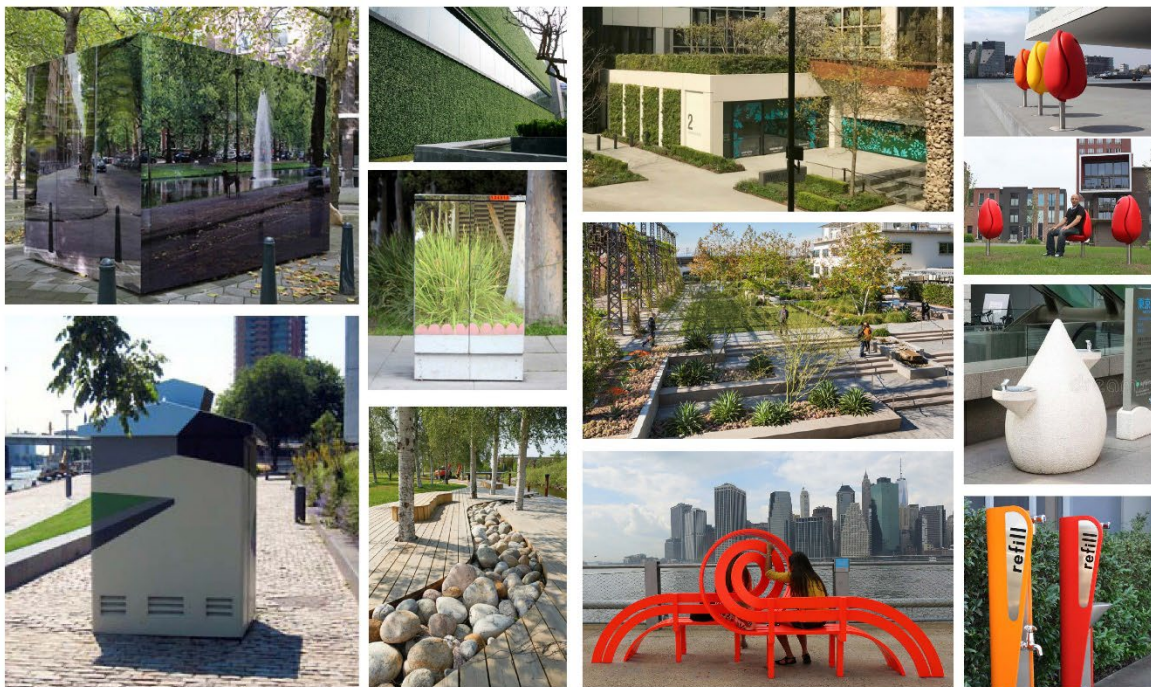
DESIGN APPROACH I- COMMUNITY COURTYARD

S WELLS PFAS TREATMENT SYSTEM



DESIGN APPROACH 2 - RIVER GARDEN

S WELLS PFAS TREATMENT SYSTEM



DESIGN APPROACH 3 - ART PARK

S WELLS PFAS TREATMENT SYSTEM