



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Co-Coordination Updates

By Melina Sempill Watts

October 14, 2021

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

1. Facilitate Community Engagement

Co-hosted first North Santa
Monica Bay Watershed
Community Meeting on
September 23, 2021

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Malibu Times website. At the top, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, along with 'Sign Up' and 'Log In' buttons. The main headline is 'Residents Invited to Attend Virtual Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting', dated Sep 22, 2021. Below the headline is a large image for the 'Safe Clean Water Program' with the URL safecleanwaterla.org. To the right of the main article are two smaller featured articles: 'Pitched-roof Realtors' and 'Guidance'. At the bottom right, there is a weather widget showing '66° Cloudy' and a thumbnail for the 'Newstand Edition' of the newspaper.

Land Acknowledgement:
Thank you to the
Chumash
and
Tongva Peoples

Past,
Present
and Future

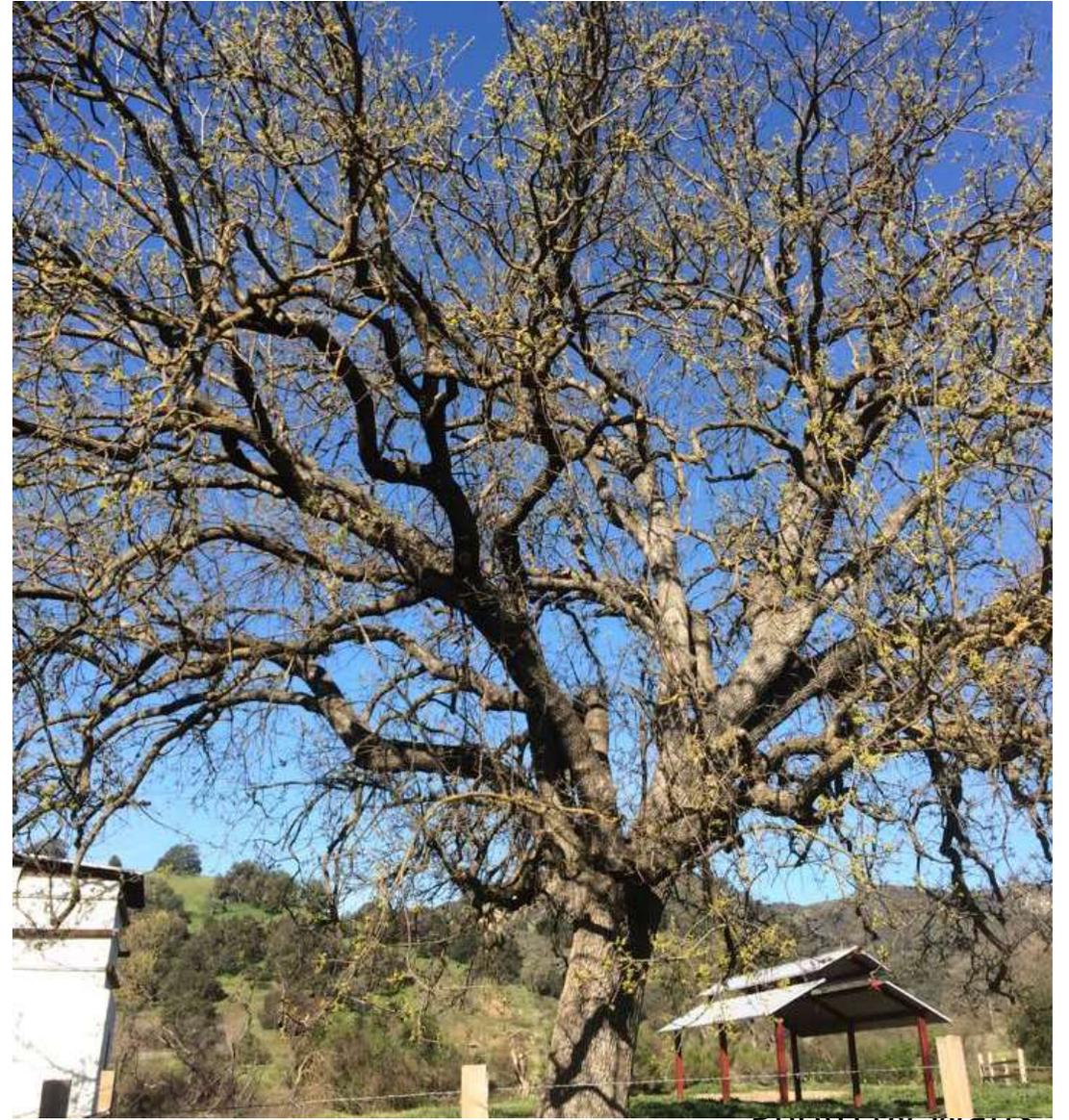


PHOTO by watts

Community Members Who Co- Hosted...Thank You

- Bill Buerge, Owner Mountain Mermaid, Topanga Resident
- Jeremy Wolf, Chief of Staff, Senator Stern's Office
- Susan Nissman, Topanga Resident



Photo by Watts

NSMB WASC Stakeholders at the NSMB Watershed Community Meeting...*Thank You*

- ***County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bruce Hamamoto, Alberto Grajeda and Josafat Flores Measure W and Safe, Clean Water L.A.***
 - ***Viewridge Estates Water Quality Project***
 - ***Liberty Canyon Water Quality Project***
- ***County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Flood Control, Tiffany Chung***
- ***Los Angeles County Waterworks, District 29, Terri Alex***
- ***Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Dave Roberts***
- ***California Department of State Parks, Danielle LeFer***
- ***National Parks, Danika Giobokar***
- ***Wishtoyo Foundation, Tevin Schmitt***
- ***Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Dr. LB Nye***
- ***Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Bay, Water Quality Projects, Rosi Dagit***
- ***Restoration Projects (Big Sycamore, Trancas, Topanga)***
- ***Water Quality Research, Past and present***
- ***Southern Steelhead Trout in the Santa Monica Mountains, Status Report***



John Gardner, Architect / Artist: Bermuda's White Stepped Roofs + Cisterns



Bermuda Stepped Roofs and Cisterns: John Gardner and the Possibility of Architectural Transformation as a Tool for Water Supply

Guest post by: [Meilina Sempill Watts](#)

In Bermuda, the islands are sprinkled by buildings that look like cakes topped by white frosting. The aesthetic enchantment is incidental because at heart, these stepped white limestone roofs and cistern pairings are built to capture rainwater for domestic use. Consider

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Abel Cruz Gutierrez, Peruanas Sin Agua: Fog Catchers

Presentation made possible thanks to interpretation by Javier Marrone, UCLA, as recommended by watershed coordinator Carlos Moran.



Photo by Peruanas Sin Agua



Ideas for the Next North Santa Monica Watershed Community Meeting + Date

Ideas

- Joseph Rendo and Team Trash Warriors, as suggested per Jeremy Wolf
- Carrie Carrier, President, Topanga Town Council, Presentation on Topanga Canyon Road Boulevard Committee and CALTRANS Focusing on Agreement Not to Use Pesticides
- Pure Water Project, LVMWD

Date

- Next quarter: suggestion, move from December to Thursday, January 27, 2021

Time

- 5:30-7:30 or 5:30 – 8:00 or as NSMB WASC suggests.



2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts

- **Liberty Canyon Creek Restoration concept discussion with cities and agencies moved to November 3, 2021**
- Reached out to **Dr. Alisa Land Hill**, a parent who runs science program at **Topanga Elementary School** about potential **stepped roof / cistern project** at Topanga elementary School; teaching out to **Christos Chrysilio** at LAUSD about same idea
- **Multiple community members interested in building fog catchers on their own property including Ken Widen, Topanga and Kian and Joel Shulman, Malibu**, as are members of Ventura land Trust (out of watershed but community leaders nevertheless)
- **Introduced Dave Roberts to Jenn Rodriguez and Growing works and set up native plants nursery tour with Antonio Sanchez and Dave Roberts at NPS site.**
- Reconnected Malibu property owner **Naomi Louise Warne** to **RCDSMM** for **potential creek restoration project in Ramirez Canyon**
- Setting up conversation with **Danielle Lefer, California Department of State Parks** about **Bluffs Restoration with Wildlife Conservation Board**



SLENDER
SUNFLOWER

3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

**Waiting for a suitable community
project to rise to the fore.**

4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

See item 2.



Photo by Watts

A scenic sunset over a body of water, likely a lagoon or bay. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of palm trees and a white building with a distinctive tower or chimney. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and tropical.

5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- Reached out Christos Chrysilio, Director of Architectural & Engineering Services, LAUSD to discuss possible Bermuda roof / cistern project at LAUSD
- Exploring idea of bringing Abel Cruz Gutierrez to L.A. County to select sites for fog catchers
- Invited Loni Yost, SCE to participate in potential Liberty Canyon Creek conversation event
- Thanks to Madelyn Glickfeld connected with Renee Purdy, regional board who invited Dr. LB Nye to talk water quality to NSMBWC
- Connected Tiffany Chung + Rosi Dagit to discuss Trancas Lagoon restoration



6. Cost-Share Partners

- Co-wrote Grant for Supervisorial District 3 with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, TreePeople and Treetrust to fund Native Plants Kit project to reduce water use / reduce fertilizer use / decrease erosion
- Invited Waterworks district 29/LVMWD to participate in native plants collaboration including California Native Plants Sale
- City of Malibu / LVMWD to partner on CA Native plants' sale with LVMWD

7. Leverage Funding

- Exploring Wildlife Conservation Board grant opportunities for Liberty Canyon Creek restoration project idea
- Exploring Innovative Conservation Grant from Metropolitan Water District for Native Kits Project
- Exploring Local Resources Program Metropolitan Water District grant for LAUSD project at Topanga Elementary School

Photo by Watts



8. Local Stakeholder Education

- Held North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting on 9/23/2021 invited Susan Nissman, Jeremy Wolf and Bill Buerge to co-host. Special guests: Los Sin Agua / guest for NSMWC meeting Abel Cruz Gutierrez and John Gardner, Bermuda architect
- Published article on Gardner
- Promoted event via media / social media
- Received coverage after event
- Promoted California Native Plants Society online sale hosted by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District





9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

- Joined funding group put together watershed coordinators
- Will join public school group
- Will be exploring watershed coordinator group's interest in collaborating on Las Virgenes Muncipal Water District / TreePeople / TreeTrust's Native Plants Kit project

Clean water vs consumer culture

Exhibit A: a truck getting on the 101.

For all of you doing the work to design, build and manage clean water processes that improve water quality, I just wanted to observe that we are all up against an entrenched consumer culture that does not understand what our culture's lack of concern for water quality is doing.

And you do.

So, thank you.



Photo by Watts