

Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Coordinator: Melina Watts

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Quarterly Report 2

July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

Date: November 4, 2021

A. Summary of Activities

Provide a high-level summary of activities completed this quarter and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work. Provide a high-level summary of activities completed this quarter and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work.

Required elements of the Quarterly report to achieve in this summary are:

- *Strategies used to integrate priorities for the community, municipalities, the watershed area, and the region*
 - North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Strategic Outreach and Engagement Program Approved
In July, the primary focus was on multiple rewrites of the [North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan](#) (NSMB SOEP). Thanks to the intercession of Mike Antos, STANTEC, the draft that proved successful re-articulated the role of Coordinator by acknowledging that while community centered projects and programs will be co-created by Coordinator, stakeholders and community – projects and programs will be *implemented* by community partners, cities, agencies, non-profits, and other engaged watershed partners. Reframing NSMB SOEP project/program concepts in this manner paved the way for the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (NSMB WASC) to approve this document in August.
 - First Quarterly NSMB Watershed Area Community Meeting
Originally imagining this as an on-site event at the Mountain Mermaid Inn, a review of current COVID concerns transformed this into a Zoom event. Coordinator invited local leaders Bill Buerge, owner of Mountain Mermaid Inn, Susan Nissman and Jeremy Wolf, Chief of Staff to State Senator Henry Stern, to co-host the event. Their leadership helped draw in local viewership to the event; 70 people attended. In addition to watershed stakeholders, Coordinator invited intriguing guests like Bermuda architect / artist John Gardner to talk roofs/cisterns and Peruvian innovator Abel Cruz Gutierrez to talk about fog-catchers. This combination of local and international doers energized community members to feel like local water supply is an opportunity they can start to co-create. Coordinator would like to note that running the Zoom while running the meeting was a challenge. Special thanks to translator Javier Marrone from UCLA whose immediate connection to guest Abel Cruz Gutierrez made the event shine. In order to publicize the event, wrote an [article on John Gardner](#), promoted the event across social media and in such venues as Linked In, Facebook, and Twitter, and via [The Acorn](#) and [Malibu Times](#).
 - Online Native Plants Sale
Supported Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) in outreach for [online native plants sale](#) with California Native Plants Society. Coordinator asked both City of Malibu and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29 to consider joining in co-promoting this event, which they did.
 - Native Plants Kit Project
Dave Roberts, LVMWD, has connected with TreeTrust and TreePeople to try to create a local program, the Native Plants Kit, which would emulate the wildly successful [Garden in A Box](#) program out of Resource Central program in Colorado (selling 4,000 boxes a year). According to an analysis done by UCLA MBA student Ashleigh E. Seely, the program would require \$100K for the first year. Getting an online purchasing site set up is priority one, so Coordinator wrote a draft for a grant to Supervisorial District 3, submitted by TreePeople.

- Liberty Canyon Green Street Project
Facilitated community engagement in support of Los Angeles County Public Works' Liberty Canyon Green Street project for SCW Program application due on July 30 with the goal of eliciting community support letters. After conferring with Alberto Grajeda and Josafat Flores from Los Angeles County Public Works, set event for July 15, allowing a week to set up invitations, to issue press releases and to invite the public, to do the event and then to request letters of support for the project. Coordinator reached out to Liberty Canyon Facebook groups (there are two,) on the Next Door app, at the local [Patch](#), via the [Agoura Hills City website](#) (thanks to Kelly Fisher) and sent press releases to other venues. Received letters of support from community member Sally Bartel, Rudy C'Dealva, Liberty Canyon HOA president, Dennis Washburn, and Senator Fran Pavley.
- Seminole Springs Dam Repair Project
Met with Debbie Sharpton (consultant) and Jeremy Kerns (President of the HOA at the Seminole Springs Mobile Home Community). They want to restore the earthen dam, related wetland habitat and manmade lake at Seminole Springs which would provide water supply for fires, some irrigation, and recreation for residents. Project would address public safety (the unrestored earthen dam is unsafe in flood conditions) and would create bioswales to capture run-off from the mobile home park before stormwater hits the creek. Upon suggestion by Coordinator after seeing severe undercutting in creek below the historic lake site, Kerns and Sharpton are exploring developing a phase two creek restoration project to reduce sediment, create bioswale /riparian habitat, and improve safety for homeowners and downstream residents. Project would benefit a community, much of it low income, but it is unclear if a project on private land can qualify for Measure W funding.
- Reached out to the TED program to propose a partnership creating an event centering on a series of talks focusing on water supply / SCW Program goals, featuring leadership from the Los Angeles County water community; Coordinator is currently in correspondence with Nicholas Olivetti of TED to discuss.
- Calabasas Environmental Committee
Prepping talk for event.
- Calabasas Pumpkin Festival
Prepping outreach items.
- Pure Water Project Demonstration Project Outreach
Upon recognizing that many County staff have not had (and want!) an opportunity to see the Pure Water Project demonstration site at LVMWD, Coordinator suggested to David Pedersen that after our first in person NSMB WASC, LVMWD host a site tour for WASC members and attendees. Given COVID, idea in dream phase.
- Golden Shovel Film Festival Project
Upon suggestion of Jeremy West, California Department of State Parks, reached out to Hammer Sui, P.E., Clean California Program Coordinator, Caltrans District 7 Maintenance who loved the concept. Next step will be meeting with his colleagues.
- *Document the extent of partnerships and networks you have engaged*
 - California Watershed Network meetings
Suggested Erik Ringelberg, California Director of the Freshwater Trust, as a potential board member for California Watershed Network (CWN). Also suggested water rights lawyer Tom Hicks, who declined as he is too busy. CWN provides information about upcoming legislation, funding/grants, and other opportunities to support watersheds in California. CWN wants to better integrate DEI goals / values in their work.

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- Agoura Hills Animal Shelter
Pursued charismatic idea from Tevin Schmitt at Wishtoyo, to do an Adopt a Plant project at Agoura Hills Animal Shelter but AHAS staff did not pursue idea.
- Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments
Attended LVMCOG on July 20 to share Measure W goals and opportunities with attendees.
- Watershed Coordinator meeting
In partnership with Richard Watson, Julie Millet and Adi Liberman, prepared for July 29, Watershed Coordinator meeting. Coordinator's presentation focused on lessons learned via rewriting the NSMB SOEP and on suggesting potential collaborative opportunities.
 - Supported Adi Liberman's powerful list of opportunities for Watershed Coordinators to collaborate on cross-watershed- outreach, which should lower costs and lead to more cohesive outcomes.
- Garapito Creek/Topanga Creek
Discussed water quality / creek restoration project idea at Garapito Creek/Topanga Creek mainstem: parallel to Viewridge Estates water quality project currently being implemented by Los Angeles County Public Works with Chad Christensen and then with Clark Stevens. Project(s) would require a willing property owner(s) as an opening gambit. Clark envisions a related project at the place where Garapito Creek exits the former Topanga Corral site as it crosses under Topanga Canyon Boulevard in a culvert and enters Edelman Park.
- Liberty Canyon
Agoura Hills community members have expressed interest in a potential expansion of Los Angeles County Flood Control District Liberty Canyon Storm Drain multi-benefit water quality project into a cross-agency collaboration leading to a potential creek restoration project. This concept led to reaching out to stakeholders and setting a city / agency meeting for September 14, 2021 (rescheduled to 11/3/2021.)
- Bermuda Stepped Limestone Roof + Cistern Project
Emailed Darla Miller at Topanga Community House about roof / cistern idea and pitched concept to a friend who works with the Hilton Foundation, but her boss declined to allow her to forward the idea. Susan Nissman thinks this concept could get traction at Topanga Elementary School. Invited Amy Weisberg, Kindergarten teacher and chair of Topanga Elementary School Safety, Environment and Climate Committee to meet to discuss, also reached out to Dr. Alisa Land Hill, a parent who is working on the science program at TES about potential stepped roof / cistern project.
- Fog Catchers
Discussing fog catcher projects with multiple stakeholders; pitched to friend who works with Hilton Foundation, but her boss declined to allow her to forward idea. Currently looking for venues with abundant coastal fog. Multiple community members interested in building fog catchers on their own property including Ken Widen of Topanga and Kian and Joel Shulman of Malibu, as is Melissa Baffa, Executive Director for Ventura Land Trust (out of NSMB Watershed Area but a community leader nevertheless).
- Introduced Dave Roberts to Jenn Rodriguez, Growing Works and set up native plants nursery tour with Antonio Sanchez and Dave Roberts at NPS site.
- EV Charger Rebates
Because reducing climate change inputs will reduce probability of long-term drought, shared EV Charger rebates with agency leads.
- Interviewed Antonio Sanchez, NPS nursery manager to write article on water conservation via nativescaping.

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- Connected Malibu property owner Naomi Louise Warne to RCDSMM for potential creek restoration project in Ramirez Canyon.
- Setting up conversation with WCB staff and Danielle LeFer to see if Malibu Bluffs restoration / erosion project is a fit for Wildlife Conservation Board funding.
- Reached out Christos Chrysilio, Director of Architectural & Engineering Services for LAUSD to discuss possible Bermuda roof / cistern project at LAUSD Topanga Elementary School; he's interested.
- Exploring idea of bringing Abel Cruz Gutierrez to Los Angeles 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 of Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board who invited Dr. LB Nye to talk water quality to NSMBWC.
- Connected Tiffany Chung of Los Angeles County Flood Control District and Rosi Dagit of Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains to discuss Trancas Lagoon restoration.
- Met individually with Fran Diamond, Susan Nissman and Roxanne Hughes to discuss community priorities. Reached out to Gail McTune, Bill Buerge, Mountain Mermaid, Sue and Martin Schmitt of Trust Ranch in Topanga. Connected with Kian Shulman of Poison Free Malibu.
- *Document your effort to engage a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders*
 - Reached out to the TED program to propose a partnership creating an event centered on a series of talks focusing on SCW Program goals featuring leadership from the Los Angeles County water community.
 - Madelyn Glickfeld suggested connections at The Nature Conservancy; Coordinator has upcoming meeting.
 - Invited Mr. John Gardner, Bermuda, to talk roofs/cisterns and water supply at first NSMB Watershed Area community meeting.
 - Invited Mr. Abel Cruz Gutierrez, Peru, to talk fog catchers and water supply at the first NSMB Watershed Area community meeting.
 - Both Gardner and Gutierrez qualify as pathways towards "engaging a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders."
- *Required elements detailed below that you should mention here:*
 - *Any of the four required engagement meetings you held during the quarter*
 - Liberty Canyon Tour, July 15, 2021
 - North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Community Meeting, September 23, 2021
 - *Either of the two required educational events you held during the quarter*
 - North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Community Meeting, September 23, 2021
 - Inclusion of Gardner and Gutierrez helped qualify this event as educational; for community members, talks from key stakeholders, including Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board qualified this event as educational.
 - *Highlights or summary of types of meetings you attended held by others*
 - California Watershed Network board meetings
 - Watershed Coordinator monthly meetings
 - Began attending Watershed Coordinator school meeting
 - Began attending Watershed Coordinator funding meetings
 - Began attending weekly Native Plants meetings put together by LVMWD, TreePeople and TreeTrust

- *Summary of cost-share partner relationship development*
 - Reached out to Topanga Community Center staff to request invitation to discuss potential water supply projects; no response.
 - Met with Debbie Sharpton and Jeremy Kerns, the President of the HOA at the Seminole Springs Mobile Home Community. Exploring the possibility of seeing if this project would be eligible for Technical Assistance Team support. Asked Clark Stevens, RCDSMM for his take on this project.
 - Invited Waterworks district 29/LVMWD to participate in native plants collaboration including promoting online California Native Plants Sale.
 - City of Malibu / LVMWD to partner on CA Native plants' sale with LVMWD
 - Exploring WCB grant opportunities for Liberty Canyon Creek restoration project idea
 - Exploring Innovative conservation grant MWD for Native Kits Project
 - Exploring MWD grant for roof / cistern LAUSD project at TES
- *Summary of leverage funding pursuits*
 - Explored the possibility of the upcoming Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Proposition 50 grant program at the request of Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas; the opportunity is specifically for water quality centered scientific research. No projects in place currently that match the opportunity.
 - Connected with Laurie Montoya. California Funding Fair, to request more capacity the next time this event is hosted, as 11 out of 12 Watershed Coordinators were not able to register because events were at capacity and had no more room for would-be attendees.
 - Shared California Funders' Fair brochure with stakeholders and with other Coordinators.
 - Co-wrote grant for Supervisorial District 3 with LVMWD, TreePeople and Treetrust to help fund Native Plants Kit project to reduce water use / reduce fertilizer use / decrease erosion; note that the ask is about 5% of the need for the entire project, but is a start.

B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Use the table below for high-level summary of all engagement events held or attended. Flag for events held and attach attendance records and materials provided. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	Attachments #
<i>Ex.</i>	<i>GLAC IRWM Leadership Meeting</i>	<i>7/4/21</i>	<i>Quarterly business meeting</i>	<i>GLAC Leadership</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>B-1</i>
1	Liberty Canyon Outreach Planning	07/06/201	Planned event to show proposed water quality project to community	Allen Ma, Josafat Flores + Watts	Attended	B-1A, B-1B, B-1C, B-1D
2	Watershed Coordinators	07/06/2021	Coordinator collaboration	Richard Watson, Julie Millet	Attended	
3	NSMB SOEP Revision	07/06/2021	Rethinking NSMB SOEP	Mike Antos, Tori Klug, others prior	Attended	
4	Liberty Canyon Outreach Planning	07/07/2021	Community outreach planning	Allen Ma, Josafat Flores + Watts	Attended	

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5	L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board	07/08/2021	Water quality	Stakeholders	Attended	
6	Native Plants Planning Meeting	07/13/2021	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
7	Debra Sharpton +?	07/01/21	Toured dam and creek at Seminole Springs	Seminole Springs	Held	B-7A, B-7A, B-7B, B-7C
8	NSMB WASC	07/14/2021	Provided update to NSMB WASC	Stakeholders	Attended	B-8A
9	Liberty Canyon Tour	07/15/2021	Showing coordinator site	Allen Ma, Josafat Flores, Watts	Attended	B-9
10	Malibu-Las Virgenes Council of Governments	07/20/2022	Listening to local leaders	Elected officials + city/agency staff	Attended	
11	Native Plants Collaboration	07/20/2022	Collaborating on distributed water conservation / Nature Based Solutions	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	B-11
12	L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board event	07/23/2022	Listening	LARWQB + stakeholders	Attended	
13	Melanie Winter	07/23/2022	Listening	Regional stakeholder	Attended	
14	GLAC IRWM	07/27/2022	Listening	Stakeholders	Attended	
15	EPA Infrastructure Funding		Seemed more rural oriented...		Started, then switched to GLAC IRWM	
16	Native Plants Collaboration	07/27/2021	Water conservation	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
17	WC Meeting	07/29/2021	Listening	Watershed Coordinators	Attended; spoke	
18	Mike Antos	08/03/2021	SOEP Revision		Attended	See final NSMB SOEP
19	Native Plants Collaboration	08/10/2021	Water conservation	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
20	TED Talk Meeting	08/12/2021	Possible event opportunity for SCWP partners	Nick Olivetti	Held	B-20
21	NSMB WASC	08/12/2021	NSMB WASC	Stakeholders	Held / Presented	B-21

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22	Antonio Sanchez Interview	08/13/2021	Native Plants outreach	Antonio Sanchez	Held	B-22
23	CA Dept State Parks	8/17/2021	Potential Restoration of Liberty Canyon	Jerry West, Kim LeFer	Held	
24	Dave Roberts	8/18/2021	Listening	Dave Roberts	Held	
25	Chad Christensen		Listening	Chad Christensen	Held	
26	Fran Diamond	8/20/2021	Listening	Fran Diamond	Held	
27	Nursery meeting	8/24/21	Water conservation	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
28	SCWP / WC Meeting	8/26/2021	Collaboration	Watershed Coordinators	Attended	
29	CA Watershed Network	8/26/2021	Collaboration	Board	Attended	
30	Roxanne Hughes	8/27/2021	Listening	Roxanne Hughes	Held	
31	Native Plants meeting	8/31/2021	Water Conservation	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
32	Malibu-Las Virgenes COG	09/01/2021	Listening	Leadership	Attended	
33	Carlos Moran	09/072/2021	Listening	Workforce Development	Held	
34	Amanda Begley / Pete Massey	09/072/2021	Native Plants Kit project	Begley, Massey, Watts	Held	
35	Native Plants meeting	09/072/2021	Water Conservation	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
36	Waterworks 29 + LVMWD	09/08/2021	Native Plants communication	Agency staff	Held	
37	Native Plants Kit Funding Ideas	09/08/2021	Native Plants Kit funding	TreePeople, TreeTrust, Watts	Attended	
38	Topanga Chamber of Commerce	09/09	Community communications	Leadership	Turned aside by restaurant staff	
39	Mike Antos	09/09/2021	NSMB SOEP revision	Antos, Watts	Attended	
40	John Gardner	09/09/2021	Roofs / cisterns	Gardner, Watts	Held	B-48
41	NSMB WASC	09/09/2021	NSMB WASC	Stakeholders	Attended	
42	Growing Works	09/10/2021	Native Plants / conservation	Staff, Watts	Attended	
43	Native Plants Kit funding	9/13/2021	Native Plants Kit funding	TreePeople, TreeTrust, Watts	Attended	
44	Susan Nissman	09/13/2021	Listening	Nissman, Watts	Held	

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45	Native plants meeting	09/14/2021	Listening	LVMWD, TreePeople< TreeTrust	Attended	
46	Carlos Moran workforce	09/15/2021	Listening	Moran, Watts	Held	
47	Wildfire Conference	09/16/2021	Learning	Speakers	Attended	
48	John Gardner Interview	09/16/2021	Roofs / cisterns	Gardner, Watts	Held	B-48
49	Karen Buhr, ED CARCD	09/20/2021	Listening	Buhr, Watts	Held	
50	Steven Baird, LVMWD	09/20/2021	Outreach	Baird, Watts	Held	
51	Native Plants meeting	09/21/2021	Native Plants kit	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
52	CA Watershed Network	09/23/2021	Collaborating	Board	Attended	
53	NSMBW Community Meeting	09/23/2021	Public outreach	Community, stakeholders, Watts	Held	B-54A, B-54B, B-54C, B-54D, B-54E
54	Josafat Flores, Bruce Hamamoto + Alberto Grajeda	09/23/2021	Prep for meeting	Public Works, Watts	Attended	
55	TreePeople Team	09/24/2021	Grant coordination	TreePeople, Watts	Held	
56	SCWP WC Funding Subcommittee	09/28/2021	Funding	Watershed Coordinators	Attended	
57	Native Plants Meeting	09/28/2021	Water conservation	LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust	Attended	
58	Wildlife Conference Meeting	09/30/2021	Education	Speakers, Watts, guests	Attended	
59	SCWP September WC Meeting	09/30/2021	Watershed Coordinators	Watershed Coordinators	Attended	

C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

Provide a list of potential cost-share partners contacted for projects within and adjacent to the Watershed Area. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	Attachments #
Ex	County of Ventura	7/4/21	Malibu Creek Watershed Awesomeness Project	MOU for project that crosses county boundary	C-1
1	L.A. County, District 3	Ongoing	Native Plants Kit	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, TreePeople, TreeTrust	See: B-11
2	TreePeople	08/31/2021	Native Plants Kit	Aiming to fund/ implement Native Plants Kid project	
3	TreeTrust	8/31/2021	Native Plants Kit	“	
4	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Ongoing	Native Plants Kit	“	

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5	CALTRANS	08/26/2021	Golden Shovel Film Festival	Aiming to fund/implement trash reduction outreach films	C-5
6	TED	07/30/2021	Looking to fund water supply TED event	Looking to implement water supply TED event	C-6
7	MWD/Tina Andry	09/14/2021	Native Plants Kit project	Funding search	C-7
8	MWD / Jessica Arm	09/15/2021	Topanga Elementary School roof / cistern project	Funding search	C-8
9	LA Unified School District	09/26/2021	Topanga Elementary School roof / cistern project	Building partnership	
10	Topanga Elementary School	09/04/2021	Topanga Elementary School roof / cistern project	Building partnership	
11	Wildlife Conservation Board	9/8/2-21	Possibly Las Virgenes Creek Restoration, Malibu Bluffs project, possible Liberty Canyon project	Funding searches	C-11

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

Share all outside funding opportunities pursued and the status or outcome of the pursuit. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	Attachments #
Ex	USEPA EJ Small Grants	Grant co-written with Pacoima Beautiful, submitted June 30, 2021, expect to hear by August 12, 2021.	D-1
1	Los Angeles County, District 3	Submitted by TreePeople; waiting.	See C-1.
2	CALTRANS	Waiting to set meeting.	See C-5
3	TED	Waiting to set meeting.	See C-6
4	MWD	Awaiting RFP, probably December.	
5	MWD	Awaiting RFP, probably January.	
6	Wildlife Conservation Board 1	Awaiting project concept status update on potential Liberty Canyon Creek idea from Los Angeles County Department of Flood Control.	
7.	Wildlife Conservation Board	Need to regroup and connect with another grant administrator and Danielle LeFer from California Department of State Parks.	
8	Patagonia	Reached out to Bridget Crocker, found out she is no longer working for Patagonia; tried Kim Jardine, no response.	
9	Watershed Network funding portal	Thanks to Watershed Coordinator Carlos Moran, discovered great resource: https://www.redesign.la/project-funding	

E. Detailed Progress Report

Provide an update on the amount of effort expended for each Task this quarter and note percentage complete:

Task #	Task	Total Task Level of Effort (from workplan)	LOE this quarter	Accumulated LOE to-date (from monthly reports)
<i>Ex.</i>				
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	20%	30%	30%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	10%	12%	12%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	10%	1%	1%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	10%	17%	17%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	10%	13%	13%
6	Cost-share Partners	10%	8%	8%
7	Leverage Funding	10%	6%	6%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	7%	7%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	8%	8%
	Overall	100%	100%	100%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

Summarize activities undertaken which have benefitted members of disadvantaged communities. Distinguish between targeted efforts and ones that could benefit all communities.

On the premise that disadvantaged communities could/should be best served by the Technical Advisory Teams, asked leadership at STANTEC for an event to educate Coordinators about how best to work with the Technical Advisory Teams.

In partnership with LVMWD, TreePeople and TreeTrust tried to collaborate with Santa Monica Mountains Fund to provide financial support for their BIPOC low-income interns who are learning from and working for nursery manager Antonio Sanchez at the native plants nursery at the National Parks Service facility at Satwiwa. Currently interns receive \$20.00 per day and often must leave the program for financial reasons. The plants these interns are growing would be a significant element to contribute to the native plants programming that LVMWD, TreePeople, TreeTrust and other Watershed Coordinators hope to establish. However, as the plants are grown on NPS property, finding a way to use them in these watershed programs looks improbable, thus helping interns looks difficult.

Terry Dipple and Coordinator have been discussing how supporting work to address homelessness and water quality interrelate, including intriguing art / housing funding partnerships.

Coordinator spoke with Tevin Schmitt at Wishtoyo about the possibility of installing one or more fog-catchers at Wishtoyo Village atop the cliffs in Malibu. Abel Cruz Gutierrez from Peruanas Sin Agua explained that the fog-catcher technology is originally Incan.

Considering multiple projects that may require Technical Assistance Teams, none pinpointed yet. Seminole Springs certainly has community interest but may or may not be eligible as the HOA is part of a for-profit business.

Coordinator continues to advocate for swimming literacy for BIPOC students in Los Angeles County; swimming literacy is integral to students' future ability to work with – and in – and for – water.

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

Discuss any scheduling concerns and issues encountered that may delay completion of the program or project. Describe any anticipated schedule or budget modifications.

Once the NSMB SOEP was approved by the NSMB WASC on August 12, 2021, this completely opened up time for implementing the SOEP.

Coordinator would like to observe that some stakeholders have asked for support in getting letters of support with a very tight time frame (it happens, don't worry) whereas Alex Farassati of City of Calabasas, asked coordinator to attend the Pumpkin Festival in October in ... March ... and invited Coordinator to present at the Calabasas Environmental Committee months in advance. Note to self: be like Alex.

On the other hand, getting the first NSMB Watershed Area Community Meeting agenda set happened under a tremendously tight time schedule. Coordinator would like to thank every participant for showing up despite this quick ask. Because it took four months to get up and running with the NSMB SOEP and plan requires multiple outreach events a year, Coordinator and many stakeholders felt that getting a public outreach event to happen in September (recalling that day 1 of the NSMB Watershed Coordinator was March 31) was a priority, event had 70 participants. Community support for creating a roof / cistern project at Topanga Elementary School became an organic outgrowth of putting on this event.

H. Expected activities next quarter

Summarize expected activities in the next quarter, include dates if know for outreach or education events being held.

Coordinator hopes to apply for funding from Metropolitan Water District for the Native Plants Kit project that Dave Roberts of LVMWD envisioned that would be managed by TreePeople; grant should be open in December or January.

Coordinator hopes to apply to funding from Metropolitan Water District for planning / design for a proposed roof / cistern project with a demonstration fog-catcher at Topanga Elementary School; grant should be open in December or January. Discussions will be underway soon with both TreePeople and Clark Stevens, RCDSMM about which entity would best serve this project. Coordinator notes that LAUSD staff expressed strong enthusiasm for working with TreePeople, it appeared that this non-profit is their first choice.

Coordinator will reach out to Nick Olivetti, TED, to see if the opportunity to create a water supply TED event can come to pass.

Coordinator and Hammer Sui, CALTRANS, will set an appointment to talk trash with CALTRANS leadership to discuss the Golden Shovel Film Competition.

Coordinator worked to see if there would be a possibility of a creek restoration project at Liberty Canyon, coordinated an agency / city site tour on November 3, 2021.

Coordinator will connect with Zachary Rosoff who is on the Calabasas Mayor's Youth Council Board and runs the Calabasas High School Roots and Shoots program to talk cistern/ roof ideas and to see if students want to visit / work with native plants at Santa Monica Mountains Fund NPS Nursery run by Antonio Sanchez.

Coordinator will spend a day in Topanga with Terri Alex, Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29, to help her connect with the community so as to best support water conservation outreach in Topanga.

Coordinator will persist in setting a meeting with Clark Stevens and Seminole Springs dam repair advocates Debra Sharpton and Jeremy Kerns.

[Ecosia](#) is a new alternative to Google that funds forest growth; Coordinator will explore if this a source for funding for work in NSMB watershed.

Next NSMB Watershed Area Community meeting is set for January. Coordinator will explore the idea of doing a pre-filmed tour of the Pure Water Project demonstration site, will reach out to [Eastern Municipal Water](#) District to hear from them about their proactive water conservation / legislation work and will reach out to Dr. Brian Fagan, [Climate Chaos: Lessons on Survival from our Ancestors](#) to learn about effective (and ineffective) drought management techniques throughout history.

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Attachments:

- Q2-2021, North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report 2
- B-1A, Press Release for Liberty Canyon Tour
- B-1B, Letter of support for Liberty Canyon project
- B-1BA, Letter of support for Liberty Canyon project
- B-1C, Liberty Canyon Tour, Patch,
- B-1D, Liberty Canyon Tour, All Events
- B-7A, B-7B, B-7C, Photos of Tour of Seminole Spring site,
- B-8A. Change Analysis document focusing on evolution of North Santa Monica Bay Strategic Outreach Engagement Plan
- B-9, Liberty Canyon Sign in sheet,
- B-11, Draft grant for Native Plants Kit Project
- B-20, Proposal to TED
- B-21, Approved North Santa Monica Bay Strategic Outreach Engagement Plan
- B-22, Sanchez Teaching Native plants
- B-48, Article on John Gardner,
- B-54A. North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting Agenda
- B-54B, North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community, Malibu Times
- B-54C. North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community, Hidden Hills City
- B-54D, North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community, The Acorn,
- B-54E, North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community attendees per Zoom
- C-5, Golden Shovel outreach email
- C-6, TED email
- C-7, MWD email
- C-8, MWD email
- C-11, Wildlife Conservation Board

Attachment

B-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2021

CONTACTS:

Watershed coordinator: Melina Watts, nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com – 310-383-9978

**Take the Tour: Liberty Canyon Water Quality Project Concept
from Los Angeles County Department of Public Works**

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Event Time: 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Location: Liberty Canyon at the Agoura Road stoplight – Agoura Hills, California

(AGOURA HILLS, CA) –

Good water quality is foundational for public health – and for functional ecosystems – and in the Santa Monica Mountains, our community is committed to both. Urban and stormwater runoff from our streets flowing into our creeks has led to water quality impairments including sediments, nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizers,) PCB's and DDT's, trash and bacteria. Urban runoff, from irrigation and hoses, and stormwater from rain travels through our communities and picks up pollutants on the way into natural streams. The question is: how can we intercept this pollution and prevent it from damaging our natural resources?

Los Angeles County Public Works has been asking that question and developing a variety of potential solutions. At Liberty Canyon, there are two storm drains that capture flow from approximately 40 acres of unincorporated Agoura Hills (primarily from local streets, homes and some open space) that flow into Liberty Canyon channel then into Las Virgenes Creek which becomes Malibu Creek and flows into Malibu Lagoon and toward the beach and into the sea. The proposed project will redirect some flows from existing storm drains into a series of underground treatment units called water polishers which will address targeted pollutants before flowing into the Liberty Canyon Channel. Water polishers are manufactured filtration systems which will treat runoff before its return into the storm drain and creek. The water polishers are proposed to be located on Liberty Canyon Road, between Revere Way and Park Vista Road. Final locations will be determined upon completion of design plans.

In addition, the Liberty Canyon water quality project will also incorporate nature-based solutions by improving an existing greenway, located just east of Liberty Canyon Road. This includes the installation of approximately 3,480 square feet of bioswales which will include new drought tolerant landscaping. New curb cuts along the eastern portion of Liberty Canyon Road will allow urban runoff to enter and infiltrate into the bioswales, providing water quality benefits. Furthermore, the project proposes a permeable pavement walkway which will also allow infiltration to occur and mimic natural water quality processes.

The Liberty Canyon water quality project proposes drought tolerant plants and will consider feasibility of native species in the bioswale which supports local habitat restoration. Also, new trees will be proposed as part of the project which will provide shade and urban cooling. This project promotes passive recreational opportunities for the community as well as improving our watercourses, beaches, and ocean for all.

Interested in exploring the proposed project? The County will be hosting a walk and talk tour at the project location on Thursday evening, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. The tour will take approximately 45 minutes. The County would appreciate your support for this project. To make a reservation for the tour and learn more about the proposed project please email

nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com.

###





Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project

Fran Pavley [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 1:03 PM

Reply-To: Fran Pavley [REDACTED]

To: Melina Watts <nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com>

Cc: Illece Buckley Weber <ibuckleyweber@agourahillscity.org>, Tessa Charnofsky <tcharnofsky@bos.lacounty.gov>, Timothy Lippman <tlippman@bos.lacounty.gov>

July 28, 2021

Measure W Scoring Committee
LA County Dept of Public Works

RE: Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project

Dear Members of the Measure W Committee,

I am writing in favor of funding the installation of water filtration systems in the Agoura Hills/LA County neighborhood of Liberty Canyon in the greater Las Virgenes/Malibu Creek Watershed. I am a long time resident of the Liberty Canyon neighborhood where the filtration and urban greening project of the adjacent parkway next to the LA County Flood Control Channel is located. In addition to being a strong advocate of Measure W, I served as the first Mayor of Agoura Hills in 1982, a member of the Coastal Commission, RCD, Santa Monica Monicas Conservancy, and a State Senator for the region. I chaired the Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee for 8 years.

This Measure W proposal could become a model project for creeks and rivers to protect and improve the downstream water quality. In addition, the local benefit of restoring natural vegetation to an underused County property along the flood control channel will benefit the neighborhood and visitors and provide a welcoming path into Malibu Creek State Park. Nature based improvements to capture, retain and clean water will also complement the State's 30/30 climate related goals. This part of Liberty Canyon Road extends south from Revere Way to the southern terminus of the road at MCSP. This underused wide parkway adjacent to the County Flood Control channel is an unused remnant of the County's original designs for 4 lane road right of way.

I was able to attend, along with several other neighbors, the tour arranged by County Public Works Staff and Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts. The project should be relatively easy to install due to limited traffic in the area. I would suggest that, in the future, this project be extended north towards the 101 and place infiltration screens near the intersection with Country Glen Road. Ideally the cement flood control channel could become a more natural system. There will be no new development north of the 101 freeway. Storm drains east and west of the intersection at Country Glen Road collect urban run off, fertilizers, trash, etc from approximately 200 homes and condos in the neighborhood that joins the water in the flood control channel before it meets the water run off from the relatively smaller Revere Way homes.

This water filtration project, as proposed, will enhance downstream water quality for wildlife, fish, MCSP, Malibu Creek and lagoon, and also Santa Monica Bay. It will also be important to the nearby wildlife crossing that will be constructed over the 101 freeway near Liberty Canyon Rd.

Please let me know how I can assist you in completing this worthwhile Measure W project.

Best regards,

Fran Pavley
Agoura Hills



Sally Bartel
4034 Jim Bowie Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Mr. Paul Alva, P.E.
Los Angeles County Public Works - Stormwater Quality Division
900 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803

July 26, 2021

Re: Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern,

As a long-term community member of Agoura Hills who lives adjacent to Liberty Canyon, I am writing to express my support of the proposed Liberty Canyon Water Quality Project that will be located in the vicinity of Liberty Canyon between Revere Way and Park Vista Road.

Community members know that good water quality is foundational for public health – and for functional ecosystems – and in the Santa Monica Mountains, our community is committed to both. We are concerned that urban and stormwater runoff from our streets flowing into our creeks has led to water quality impairments including sediments, nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizers,) PCB's and DDT's, trash, and bacteria.

We are pleased that Los Angeles County Public Works has been designing a project that will start to solve these problems.

At Liberty Canyon, there are two storm drains that capture flow from approximately 40 acres of unincorporated Agoura Hills (primarily from local streets, homes, and some open space) that flow into Liberty Canyon channel then into Las Virgenes Creek which becomes Malibu Creek and flows into Malibu Lagoon and toward the beach and into the sea.

The proposed project will redirect some flows from existing storm drains into a series of underground manufactured treatment units which will address targeted pollutants before flowing into the Liberty Canyon Channel. These underground treatment units are proposed to be located on Liberty Canyon Road, between Revere Way and Park Vista Road. Final locations will be determined upon completion of design plans.

I am pleased to observe that the Liberty Canyon water quality project will also incorporate nature-based solutions by improving an existing greenway, located just east of Liberty Canyon Road. New trees will be proposed as part of the project which will provide shade and urban cooling and this project will promote passive recreational opportunities for the community as well as improving our watercourses, beaches, and ocean for all.

I urge you to fund design of this project.

Sincerely,
Sally Bartel

This post was contributed by a community member. The views expressed here are the author's own.

Agoura Hills | Local Event

Take the Tour: Liberty Canyon Water Quality Project Concept

Melina Watts, Neighbor

JUL 15



Event Details

- Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM
- Agoura Road & Liberty Canyon Road, Agoura Hills, CA, 91301

Like 5 Share

Add to calendar

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2021

CONTACTS:

Join The Fun!
This Jackpot Grows Fast.

SEE JACKPOT

New Jersey Lottery

Must be 18 or older to buy a lottery ticket. Please play responsibly. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-GAMBLER. For details and current estimated jackpot visit NJLottery.com/Espresso.

Featured Events

Nov 9, 2021
Cigna + Oscar California Q1 2022 Updates

Nov 9, 2021
Celebrate A Week Of Self-Care With 15 Percent Off Flowers

Proposed Liberty Canyon Greenway Project

Thu Jul 15, 2021

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Proposed Liberty Canyon Greenway Project

The proposed Liberty Canyon Greenway Project would improve water quality in Las Virgenes Creek, Malibu Creek, the Malibu Lagoon and the Santa Monica Bay, while providing passive recreation, shade and urban cooling.

Want to see what this project will look like?

Join us for a walk and talk tour.

Date & Time

Thu Jul 15 2021 at 11:00 am
(Pacific Daylight Time)

[Add to Calendar](#)

Location

Agoura Rd and Liberty Canyon, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, United States

Spread the word



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Attachment

B-7







Attachment

B-8

Attachment

B-9

Attachment

B-11

Description of Program/Project for Grant Request (Max 750 words)

Seventy percent of the precious imported drinking water in the Santa Monica Mountains goes to landscaping. In an era of increasing drought and the unpredictable effects of climate change, innovative approaches for conserving water will be required. We see climate appropriate landscaping as a vital tool for water conservation and ecosystem resiliency. To help address these challenges, TreePeople Land Trust, TreePeople, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District are co-creating The Native Garden Kit project which will conserve imported water by helping water users transition to nativescaping. The project is based on the popular Garden in a Box program out of Colorado which currently sells 4,000 predesigned native plant gardens, each of which supply plants for 100 square feet of native garden landscaping. Ultimately, the Native Garden Kit program will become self-sustaining as each box will be sold to homeowners, with the revenue used to sustain the ongoing costs of the program. We anticipate holding online pre-sales two times a year, having native plants nurseries grow out the orders and having boxes available for pick up about four months after the initial order.

Native Garden Kit participants will be able to select from a number of pre-designed gardens such as a pollinator garden, oak woodland, a native meadow, or a beach dune box. We will invite local cities and agencies to participate by donating cash to the program that is then passed to residents as discounts on garden purchases. Additionally, We will diversify our plant propagation needs to benefit a number of nonprofits and local small businesses.

Our first step will be to create a functional, public-facing website to sell the boxes, in addition to affiliated printed materials to help solicit additional funding for startup costs needed to achieve a self-sustaining program. Funding received under this grant will generate this essential marketing, communications and point of sales infrastructure.

Kuehl Budget.xlsx

Open with



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Native Garden Kit						
2	Itemized Budget						
3							
4	ID No.	Description	Amount				
5	1	Website and storefront design	\$ 5,000				
6	2	Flyer - Public	\$ 500				
7	3	Flyer - Sponsors	\$ 500				
8	4	Education Brochure	\$ 1,400				
9	5	Social Media	\$ 1,130				
10							
11		Total	\$ 8,530				
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Attachment

B-20

TED Proposal: Water Supply in an Era of Drought: Solving Water Problems

By Melina Sempill Watts

Watershed Coordinator

A Project of the Safe, Clean Water Program Los Angeles, Funded by Measure W

Contact information:

Melina Sempill Watts

310-383-9978

melinawatts@gmail.com

TED's commitment to teaching sustainability is a phenomenal asset in helping the world community to co-create a path towards our long-term survival.

This proposal focuses on defining current water supply concerns and sharing meaningful opportunities to solve water problems. Each of the speakers suggested is an expert nonpareil in their own subject area.

I am picturing a water supply conference – or a series of talks that grow from one subject into the next, like a good book. These nested talks will provide an opportunity for viewers to learn how our culture can, and will, carry on – if we all choose to work together.

I will list subject area, suggest a speaker or speakers and describe the basic concept of each talk.

I envision that the talks could flow from the subject of current water supply to potential water supply to water quality and thence to how water is foundational to ecosystem functionality. Planners have to start to include all living beings in our decision process when we think about largescale watershed work.

I anticipate that TED staff would explore each of these ideas and decide which subjects and which speakers resonate with TED's sustainability vision. I'd be happy to help coordinate this effort and can provide intellectual framing to explain how each of these elements are helping us to maintain and grow local water supply, clean up our water and provide potential sustainability for local ecosystems.

I want to underline that every drop of water on earth is as important as every other drop. We have to care for the whole.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

1. Water Supply in Southern California

[Glen Petersen](#), Director, Metropolitan Water District and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

The reality of urban / suburban water supply in Southern California is a fractal for parallel problems throughout the West, the United States, indeed the world. In short, the megalopolis of Los Angeles and San Diego counties receive imported water from the Colorado River, from the Bay Delta area (inland from San Francisco,) from Mono Lake (if you've seen *Chinatown*, that is about the building of the aqueduct from this source and how farm people were forcibly bought out) and, to a smaller extent, groundwater in Los Angeles City and some parts of rural San Diego. How's this mosaic of aqueducts traversing hundreds of miles work?

Glen Peterson is on the Board of Directors of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and has been on the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Water District for decades. No one explains it better.

2. Recycled Water for Drinking: the Pure Water Project

Dan Pedersen, Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

The [Pure Water Project](#) takes wastewater (which combines wastewater from all sources,

dishwashers, laundry machines, showers, lawns, pools and ... toilets) and runs it through a series of increasingly more fine-scale cleaning processes until the resulting water is drinking water quality. This is the highest grade of water treatment in the country. How good is it? They're able to remove estrogen (often seen as impossible to remove from treated urban water.) Right now, this is a demonstration project, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves about 100,000 people and is on the path to build a full-scale facility at Ladyface in Agoura Hills.

3.

4. **Innovative Water Supply: [Fog Catchers](#)
Abel Cruz, Fog Catcher Designer + Builder**

Fog catchers look like enormous volleyball nets that capture drops of water then funnel them into barrels or cisterns. In low-income rural communities, they've been nearly magical in creating new local water supplies in places like Peru, Argentina and Columbia. This approach might work well in Southern California. The talk may or may not need to be in Spanish as Abel Cruz is Peruvian.

5. **Groundwater Recharge: The Way Forward**

Erik Ringelberg, [California Freshwater Trust](#)

Every farm and every home with water supply from a well is dependent on groundwater – but most rivers, creeks, springs and lakes also depend on groundwater to sustain them throughout the year. Groundwater is recharged by rain that is filtered through plants into the soil, so if people destroy the ecosystem, we ruin the groundwater supply. In California, groundwater has been declining at an alarming rate that exceeds recharge. The Freshwater Trust has created [BasinScout](#), a stunning mapping system that looks at overlays of historic hydrology, soil types, current land use including crop types, current groundwater use and an array of interrelated other items and then assesses *where* simple land use changes would most swiftly recharge groundwater. Paying – or asking -- farmers to swap crop types in a few select fields, supporting meadows restoration and riparian (river-adjacent) habitat restoration in targeted areas has the potential to completely restore groundwater. Farmers in many counties in California are facing the immediate loss of their farms due to failing wells. Is this an approach to consider now?

6. **Stream Restoration and Habitat Rebirth**

[Jessica Hall](#), Wildling Design Studio

A landscape architect with an historian's eye, Hall created a map of the "lost streams" of Los Angeles County, looking at where creeks and rivers flowed in the 19th century and then considering where these streams and rivers had been placed into concrete channels and run into underground pipes in order to manage stormflow events, along the way, destroying natural hydrological systems and thus crashing local ecosystems. Another approach to managing urban streams would be to buy back lowlands and recreate historic floodplains, creating greenspace in urban communities and making stream restoration safe. Streams with naturalized hydrology support native species, beautify communities and clean stormwater naturally. Is this the way forward?

7. **Urban Agriculture: Making Every Drop Count**

[Ron Finley](#), Gangsta Gardener

Finley is a charismatic activist /urban gardener who envisions low-income communities growing their way out of poverty, using safe clean water to grow locally sourced foods – and he's got the gardens to prove it. A local leader who teaches gardening to everyone who's open to the message, he's transforming food deserts into Edenic urban mini-farms.

8. **Conserve Water or Restore Habitat? Native Plants are the Answer**

Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator, North Santa Monica Bay Watershed and novelist, author of [Tree](#)

In the Santa Monica Mountains and other suburban areas, 70% of all precious imported water goes to ... gardening. Meanwhile, earth is facing the 6th extinction. Planting locally sourced native plants creates habitat and gives local species a fighting chance to survive and thrive – while reducing human water use by half or more. Nativscaping is the single greatest solution to excessive water use in our time – and a gift to the other beings with whom we share our planet.

9. **Water Quality Problems in Los Angeles and Solutions Underway**
Kirk Allen, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Allen is running the new watershed coordinator program in support of Measure W goals to address water quality throughout the region and can give a stunning look at how each watershed is focusing on improving water via a billion dollar project-by-project look at the how and why of these steps forward.

10. **Why Care About Water Quality? The Story of the [Restoration of the Malibu Lagoon](#)**

Dr. Shelley Luce, Heal the Bay

The Santa Monica Mountains are home to southern steelhead trout, an endangered species that have a greater capacity to withstand heat than do northern steelhead trout. Improving water quality in the Santa Monica Mountains – and restoring the Malibu Lagoon is the first step in saving these ocean-going fish. Water quality is central to the story of the the restoration of the Malibu lagoon restoration. Dr. Luce managed the Malibu Lagoon restoration project.

11. **[Raise the River](#)**

Speaker could be Jennifer Pitt, Raise the River, or Osvel Hinojosa, Pro Noreste, Hilary Clinton or filmmaker [Pete McBride](#)

The Colorado River used to end in a glorious massive delta that was the cradle of birds, fish and other species throughout the West – now, because of oversubscription (multiple states have water rights that exceed the actual average annual carrying capacity of the river) it is a blistered desert and the communities on the Mexican border are devastated by this manmade drought. Non-profit Raise the River has reached out to landowners in Mexico and arranged to purchase water rights that would rewater the Colorado River Delta. We can restore what we have destroyed. How do we know? Thanks to the binational agreement, Minute 319, championed by then Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, the US released a major pulse of water into the Colorado River Delta to see if river restoration could be possible. The immediate surge of plant life, birds and fish was both beautiful and heart-breaking. Can we still Raise the River in an era of drought?/

12. **Measure W and [Safe, Clean Water Los Angeles](#)**

Katy Young Yaroslavsky, Candidate for Los Angeles City Council, currently on staff for Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

Creating new water supply opportunities and improving water quality is expensive, but in 2018, 67.48 percent of Los Angeles County signed up for a parcel tax of 2.5¢ per square foot of impermeable area, exempting low-income seniors, raising approximately \$300,000,000 annually until ended by vote, Katy was seminal to creating the structures that are supporting the move towards safe clean water in Los Angeles. Who better to tell us how it works?

13. **Safe Clean Water Los Angeles**

Mark Pestrella, Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Keeping all of our drinking water safe, cleaning all of our wastewater and making sure nothing breaks or kills anyone is an engineering challenge and requires the mindset of a surgeon. Planning for drought magnifies that: Measure W is funding a successful path forward and Pestrella can best tell us how that is happening.

Attachment

B-21

Safe, Clean Water Program North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Strategic Outreach Engagement Plan

August 2021

Prepared by Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator
Prepared for: North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee

Strategy 18. Support local NGO engagement with public education about trash reduction
18

Strategy 19. Support dialog and development of innovative projects and technology
raised by stakeholders 18

Strategy 20. Watershed Coordinator collaboration 19

Strategies crosswalk to SCWP Goals and watershed coordination tasks..... 20

INTRODUCTION

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed community would like to acknowledge that we all co-exist on Chumash and Tongva lands.

Our drinking water is sourced from many venues throughout California including the Bay-Delta, the Colorado River, Mono Lake, groundwater and locally recycled waters.

These source watersheds are our watersheds for which we share responsibility and care.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed is made up of local residents, people who work in our community, adjacent residents of Los Angeles County and Ventura County, First Nations peoples, immigrants, unhoused community members, visitors from California and around the world, students and, as a biodiversity hotspot, all of the many living beings with whom we co-exist. *The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community includes the whole of all these living beings; our ecosystem is our shared home.*

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed stakeholders aim to provide safe, clean water for the whole of this living community.

Every drop of water is important.

WATERSHED AREA DESCRIPTION

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed is a series of mountain watersheds that originate in the Santa Monica Mountains and unwind into the Pacific Ocean.

From the border of Ventura and Los Angeles County along 27 miles of coastline in Malibu to Topanga Canyon, including the mountains inland through the 101 corridor on Ventura Freeway, these watersheds include Trancas Creek, Arroyo Sequit, Big Sycamore, Las Flores, Zuma Creek, Solstice Creek, Marie Canyon, Malibu Creek, Tuna Canyon Creek, Topanga Creek additional smaller creeks and all the tributaries to these creeks, as well as the origin of Los Angeles River in Calabasas.

On a political level, these watersheds are home to the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, a small bit of Los Angeles City, Malibu, Westlake Village and part of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

To quote Mr. Cung Nguyen, P.E. Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works, “The North Santa Monica Bay includes the Malibu Creek Watershed, Topanga Creek Watershed, and other rural Santa Monica Mountains Watersheds. Portions of these watersheds are very rural and undeveloped, and other portions are very urbanized... The Santa Monica Bay Section is tasked primarily with enhancing the water quality in the bay while still providing adequate flood protection.”

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed is over 70% open space, preserved by National Park Service, California Department of State Parks and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which work in a close partnership to continue to preserve and restore open space to natural conditions via the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Most of the geography is mountainous, from Sandstone Peak at 3111 feet to sea level along the coast. Miles of the coastline are within a Marine Protected Area or qualify as an Area of Special Biological Significance, while the coast and some adjacent terrain are additionally protected by the Malibu Local Coastal Plan. The mountainous terrain often allows gravity to support design in stormwater management projects and in moving drinking water, recycled water and untreated water through the watershed. All of our watersheds drain into the Santa Monica Bay, providing water and sediment to the beaches and near-shore habitat of the Pacific Ocean along the luminous coastline of Malibu. The majority of the soils in the Santa Monica Mountains have low permeability, making groundwater recharge problematic. Because many soils are high in arsenic, drinking groundwater can be unsafe over the long run. The arsenic issue was the primary driver in the creation of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District/Triunfo back in the 1950s. All potable drinking water is imported; the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed sources its potable water from both Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Water District 29; some of the irrigation water is supplied by recycled water. Members of the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee have voiced concern that the creeks and rivers of the North Santa Monica Bay face uncertain futures in an era of climate change. *Maintaining healthy creeks is our priority, both for the use of people who live here and for the other species with whom we share the Santa Monica Mountains.* Given these realities, we are interested in demonstration projects that show how creek restoration improves water quality, in projects that capture stormwater for human use, in projects that treat wastewater and urban runoff and in projects that bring down the cost of cisterns.

Population centers in the towns along the Ventura Freeway, including Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and portions of the city of L.A. There are also significant residential enclaves in Topanga, along the coast in Malibu and in communities scattered throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. Nested in open space, these communities are vulnerable to anthropogenic wildlands fires, such as the 2018 Woolsey Fire per the [Los Angeles Times](#), there have been up to 30 major fires in Malibu over the past 90 years.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The social characteristics of the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed center around an emotional connectivity to the landscape shared by community members, there's an underlying sense that the living open space in which our cities and homes are nested are what make the North Santa Monica Bay special. The rest of Los Angeles County concurs.

An NPS press release from 2017 states, "Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the national park that stretches from the city of Los Angeles west into Ventura County, recorded 906,606 visits in 2016."

In 2016, Malibu Magazine, quoted Jefferson “Zuma Jay” Wagner, Malibu City Councilmember, “Malibu is a community of approximately 13,000 people that, by even a conservative estimate, receives 13 million visitors each year.”

There are over 110,000 people living in the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

Housing prices in the watershed represent significant wealth, for example on [June 5, 2021](#), [Zillow](#) stated that, “*The typical home value of homes in Malibu is \$3,559,066.*” However, there is more complexity to the community’s socioeconomic make up than this statistic implies. Despite an iconic list of the rich and famous who reside throughout the Santa Monica Mountains, the 2019 US census stated that the average income for a household in Malibu is \$150,747, whereas the median income for an American in 2019 was \$31,133 per [United States Census Bureau](#). To compare, the median in Calabasas is \$51,466, in Agoura Hills, \$52,236 and In Westlake Village, \$60,288. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles County the median income is \$29,985. With all these numbers it is important to understand that median means half the households earn *less* than that.

An average income hides both extremes of wealth and poverty; for example, throughout the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed, some older residents are struggling on a fixed income, while many people who come to work in the Santa Monica Mountains are working class or earn minimum wage. The Malibu Boys and Girls Club notes that it,

“...represents and provides services to the most diverse populations in the community, an underrepresented infrastructure of low-income domestic laborers and their children who commute to Malibu for work and to attend the Malibu public schools.”

On a parallel note, the Malibu Community Labor Exchange has been “connecting Malibu through work” giving immigrants, students, and some homeless workers access to day labor opportunities, along with food, a place to get of the rain and access to some social services since 1993. Inland, Thousand Oaks has been providing food for the underemployed, unemployed, and homeless via the Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank since 1971.

Lower income people manage to live in the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed by co-housing, renting granny flats or taking on multiple jobs. Restaurant workers, maids, gardeners, daycare providers, teachers, nannies, students, hikers and surfers all come into the watershed every day – and feel emotional ownership of the space in which they live their lives. Finding ways to support all of our community in addressing safe, clean water is the right thing to do.

Finally, the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed community wants to underline that the beautiful lands upon which we stand, work, play, sleep and dream are the historic homelands of Chumash and Tongva peoples. We acknowledge our land debt to the First Nation communities of the Chumash and Tongva and appreciate that leadership at [Wishtoyo Foundation](#) have made the commitment to join the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee to collaborate on safe, clean water projects.

Committing to integrating Chumash and Tongva cultural knowledge and TEK insights into our shared watershed, when invited to collaborate by First Nations peoples, will help the North

Santa Monica Bay Watershed community gain cultural grounding to better co-exist with the living landscape and cherish safe, clean water.

The Safe Clean Water Program in Los Angeles County is funded as a result of Measure W, which was passed by the voters in 2017.

Per the Safe Clean Water LA website safecleanwaterla.org, The Safe, Clean Water Program will provide local, dedicated funding to increase our local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM GOALS

Developed in collaboration with public health, environmental groups, cities, business, labor, and community-based organizations, the Safe Clean Water Program is ambitious.

The Los Angeles Region Safe, Clean Water Program shall be implemented consistent with the following goals:

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee is composed of representatives of our local cities, agencies, non-profits and community members and is committed to implementing the Safe, Clean Water Program goals as defined above.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Advisory Steering Committee is acutely aware of the unique aspects of our watershed, which includes 70% open space throughout the North Santa Monica Bay watershed and aligns with 27 miles of beaches in the City of Malibu.

Our love for our watershed inspires our work.

INTERESTED PARTY MAPPING

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed includes all the watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains, with the two largest being Malibu Creek Watershed and Topanga Creek Watershed. This map, sourced from the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains website, livinglightlyguide.org, is particularly helpful in that the smaller creeks that flow through the mountains are listed and the cities and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County are also clearly visible.

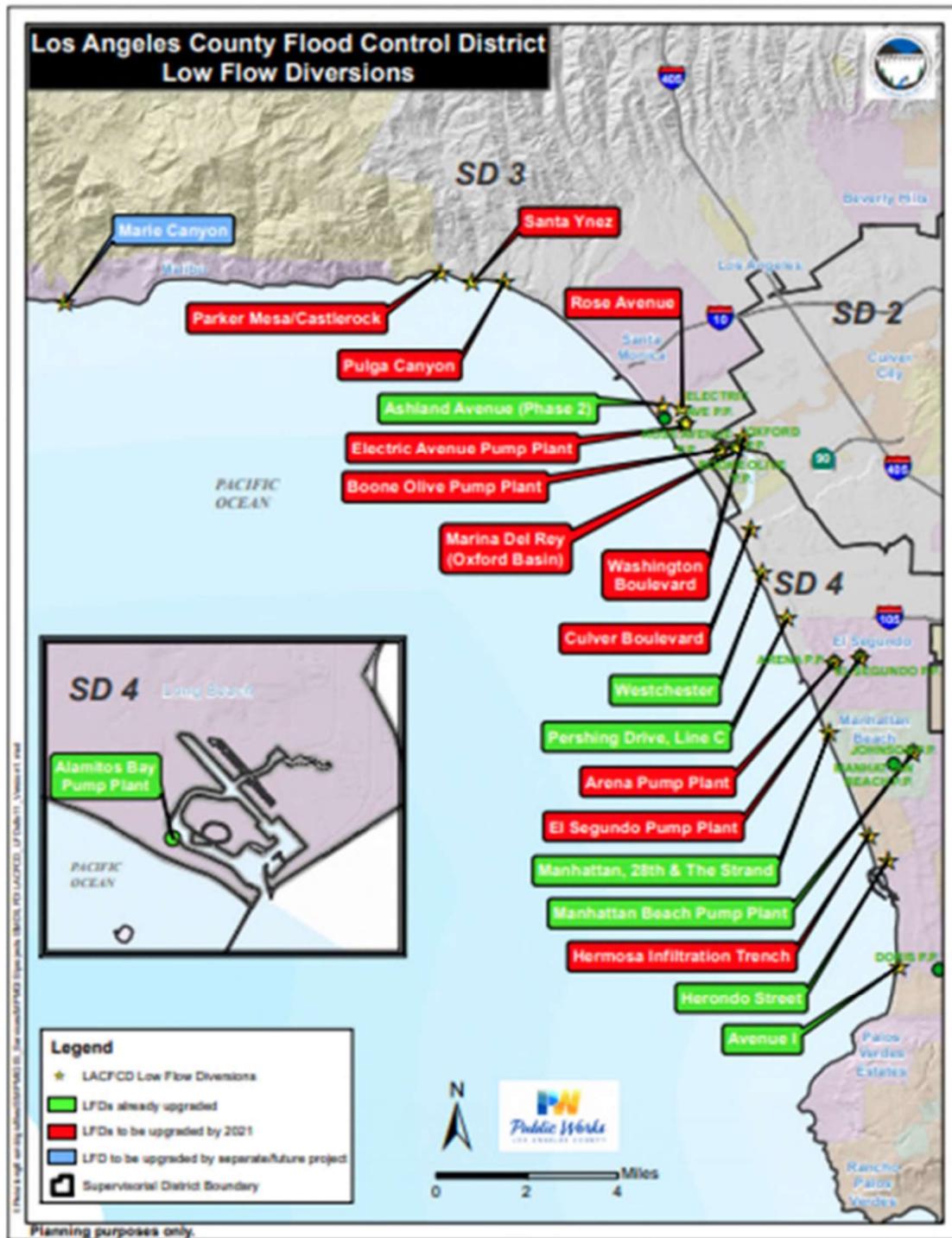
The interested parties, from a community point of view, includes ... everyone. From a municipal perspective it includes:

- Agoura Hills
- Calabasas
- Hidden Hills
- A small part of Los Angeles City
- Los Angeles County
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Los Angeles County Department of Flood Control
- Malibu
- Unincorporated Los Angeles County
- Topanga
- Westlake Village

Many other land and water management agencies have responsibilities within the watershed area, including water wholesalers, open space managers with local, regional, state, or federal responsibilities, transportation managers, and others.

The map from the Resource Conservation District is a great jumping off point for understanding how geographic watershed boundaries and creek systems intertwine with political boundaries.

LOCATION MAP



Provided by Cung Nguyen, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

VISION FOR SUCCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Success will mean addressing Measure W goals and documenting success in quarterly reports and an annual report available to stakeholders, project management at Los Angeles County and the general public.

Goals can include conserving imported water, recycling wastewater and pursuing potential opportunities to co-create locally sourced potable drinkable water,

Improving water quality in the Santa Monica Mountains will happen as we **begin to meet total maximum daily loads** set by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, **meet MS4 permits** and **work collaboratively to maintain and restore water quality and creeks that run through our watersheds.**

Success can be evaluated by a list of North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Measure W projects and programs conceived, funded and implemented, by measurable water supply increases, water conservation and water quality improvement.

The value of outreach and engagement can be evaluated by assessing how community members have engaged with engagement / outreach efforts, by looking at participation in events and conferences, articles published, films produced and trying to consider that elusive rubric – minds and hearts moved.

Success can be evaluated by funding applications created and funds achieved. Quarterly reports and annual reports become an ongoing opportunity to articulate success and provide evaluation criteria. Success can be evaluated by looking at our work through a DEI lens. Are we embracing the diversity of our community? Is our work focused on equity? Are we inclusive? *Ultimately that's for the community to tell us.* But we have to open the conversation first --

Given that the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee and community function as a collaborative entity, we will invite stakeholders and community members to help us co-create a regionally meaningful vision for success and evaluation criteria, which will reflect our needs to maintain water supply, to meet a variety of permits and to support ecosystem function in the lands we share with homes, businesses, visitors, traffic and a stunning array of wildlife.

Ultimately, success will be judged by our ability to maintain both human needs for safe clean water and to sustain the biodiversity of the Santa Monica Mountains.

STRATEGIES

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator has nine tasks, seen at right. Strategies for achieving the strategic outreach and engagement necessary to achieve these tasks during the year are listed below:

Strategy 1. Four community outreach events

Set a time and venues for 4 community outreach events to allow meaningful and productive dialogue with community members and the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee leadership.

- Suggestion: Thursday afternoons or early evenings, quarterly
- Set venues for four events in 2021-2022
- Request NSMB WASC participation
- Set meetings for October 2021, December 2021, March 2022 and June 2022

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A-N

The 9 Tasks assigned to the Watershed Coordinator are:

1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP
2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts
3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams
4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities
5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks
6. Cost-Share Partners
7. Leverage Funding
8. Local Stakeholder Education
9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

Strategy 2. Educate stakeholders about water quality challenges in the watershed area.

In partnership with the City of Calabasas, create a water quality video or video series addressing testing outfall sites in the Santa Monica Mountains, Alex Farassati suggests that City of Calabasas media staff will be the lead on this. Per Roxanne Hughes, consider setting up video project as individual TikToks starring local kids, reach out to local schools and universities as potential project partners.

Explore implementation including students, both K-12 and college, to explain about pollution at every single testing site in the Santa Monica Mountains via very short snippets that are layered into the YouTube video and/or are stand-alone Tok-toks with great music that could drop on Friday for multiple weeks in a row.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, C, D, H

Strategy 3. Facilitate dialog about water supply sources in the watershed area.

Working with Dave Pedersen/Las Virgenes Municipal Water District as the lead develop an event and/or potentially a film. Work to include during public events materials or presentations about where water supplies come from for the communities of the watershed.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: B, D, G, H, M

Strategy 4. Collaborate with partners to encourage the use of native plants on public and private land.

Per Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo, native plants are the ultimate Nature Based Solutions; partnering with Wishtoyo, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Mountains Restorations Trust, TreePeople, Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains and other venues to communicate the availability of and desirability of planting locally sourced native plants.

Per Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo, explore partnership with Agoura Hills Animal Shelter selling native plants on site.

LVMWD has extensive focus in this area, including proposed Native Plants nursery in partnership with TreePeople, use of California Native Plants graphics/language, and implementation of Garden in a Box program.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, B, F, G, H, M

Strategy 5. Ensure SCWP is part of special events like Coastal Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Calabasas Pumpkin Day, Arts Festivals

Make targeted efforts to attend or provide materials to events to educate the community about the program. Alex Farassati points out that many of our stakeholders have Earth Day and other outreach events' Coordinator will support / collaborate / appear at these as requested; this may include other public events.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, B, F, G, H, M

Strategy 6. Identify opportunities to reach youth at schools, Girl Scout Troops, YMCA, etc.

County participates in Environmental Defenders program, does an assembly; Watershed Coordinator to connect with Environmental Defender. Ventura County uses EcoHero; Watershed Coordinator to connect with EcoHero.

The City of Malibu is working on providing watershed education to K-12 and states that it has "a contract with EcoHero to provide recycling assemblies at S Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and Los Angeles County Water Works District 29." Malibu is in discussion with Discovery Cube regarding resuming water assemblies and will connect with the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Sustainability coordinator and the Malibu Boys & Girls Club. Potentially no additional funding.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, B, C, D, F, H

Strategy 7. Focus on engaging with homeowners associations.

Per Kelsey Reed, if we connect with HOAs, they can help address local issues. Many important private parcels are managed by HOA, who can have influence over private parcel management, and neighborhood decision-making.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: G

Strategy 8. Develop, host, maintain a North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area website

This strategy may focus instead on a program wide website under consideration by the Watershed Coordinators. Coordinator will use WordPress to create a website that will include a blog. Members of the public, the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee, of the press and others can subscribe to the blog. Will include a calendar of public events.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: D, G, H, M

Strategy 9. Develop and maintain social media presence for watershed area

Working to make NSMB watershed area events and news available to the widest audience will increase engagement with the program.

- Twitter: [@NSMBWatershed](https://twitter.com/NSMBWatershed). twitter.com/NSMBWatershed
- Facebook: [facebook.com/NSMBWatershed/](https://www.facebook.com/NSMBWatershed/)
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/watershedcoordinator/>
- YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UColzVFY4jZyhyFYM4kseSCA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UColzVFY4jZyhyFYM4kseSCA)
- Linked In: [linkedin.com/groups/9059904/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9059904/)
- Gmail account: nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, B, C, D, F, G, H, M

Strategy 10. Connect with media

Several local media outlets are monitored by stakeholders in the watershed area and will be an important opportunity to educate and inform. Media connections includes but is not limited to interviews, meeting invitations, site visits, op/ed writing.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, B, C, F, H, M

Strategy 11. Identify and facilitate project concepts from North Santa Monica Bay stakeholders

- Develop and continually maintain a list of project concepts shared by stakeholders. Ensure list is publicly viewable online.
- Connect community to potential pilot projects for design and implementation support and buy-in
- Connect projects to each other when one or more proposed projects have topical or geographic overlap.
- Continually scan outside funding opportunities to support project proponents with outside funding opportunities.

Project Concepts as of August 2021	Proponent	Tentative SCWP Project Type	Notes
Citywide Low Flow Diversion Project	Agoura Hills	Infrastructure Program (IP)	
Malibu Creek Watershed (MCW) Nutrients Special Study	Agoura Hills	Scientific Study (SS)	
Four Green Street Projects	Calabasas		
Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project Phase III	Calabasas		
Permeable parking lot/ bathroom / biofiltration strip at mouth of Las Virgenes Canyon on NPS property or on SMMC property	Calabasas	IP	May require outside funding to support elements not fundable by SCWP.
Retrofitting Debris Basin to be Retention Basin	Hidden Hills	IP	
Exploring using Horse Manure as Compost Opportunities	Hidden Hills	SS	
Native Plants Nursery	Las Virgenes MWD	IP	
Garden In a Box	Las Virgenes MWD		
Pure Water Program at Ladyface Mountain: Water Reclamation Project	Las Virgenes MWD	IP	
Viewridge Project	Los Angeles County Public Works	IP	
Trancas Canyon Feasibility Study	Los Angeles County Public Works	Technical Resources Program (TRP)	
Liberty Canyon Channel Greenway Project Concept Report	Los Angeles County Public Works	TRP	
Marie Canyon Low Flow Diversion Project Design Concept	Los Angeles County Public Works	TRP	
Marie Canyon Greenstreets	Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29: Malibu		

Project Concepts as of August 2021	Proponent	Tentative SCWP Project Type	Notes
Maintenance at Legacy Park (Civic Center Stormwater Treatment Facility) and Paradise Cove Stormwater Treatment Facility	Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29: Malibu	IP	
Focusing on Woolsey Fire Recovery	Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29: Malibu	TRP	
Ridgeford Stormwater Project Feasibility Study	Westlake Village	TRP	
Canyon Oaks Passive Park Project Concept	Westlake Village	TRP	

Strategy 12. Support a convening of experts about impacts of creek restoration on water quality

Work with stakeholder cities and agencies to create a convening that explores work of multiple Resource Conservation Districts, other water districts and academic venues about the impacts of creek restoration on water quality. Develop next step or summary document.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, H, I, M

Strategy 13. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

As technical assistance teams (TAT) are selected by the SCWP, engage through the scoping and production of the Feasibility Study. Work to support community and stakeholder engagement with the TAT as they complete their work.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: Potentially, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N

Strategy 14. Facilitate identification and representation of community priorities

In the short term, one-on-one outreach by the Watershed Coordinator is foundational. Over the next year, we anticipate that the **4 community outreach events (Strategy 1)** as tent poles in this ongoing process.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: Potentially A -N, depending on community priorities

Strategy 15. Integrate priorities through partnerships and extensive networks

Building partnerships and an extensive network is a long process, but it starts with reaching out to obvious partners and creating new partnerships.

Currently, coordinator is working to connect with:

- USDA-NRCS
- Santa Barbara Creeks Division
- OneCause (fundraising site online)
- Pepperdine University
- UCLA-IOES

And has connected with:

- Members of the Viewridge Estates
- Jeremy Wolf, Chief of Staff, Office of State Senator Henry Stern
- Tim Pershing, Chief of Staff, Office of Assemblymember Richard Bloom
- Janet Turner, Office of Congressman Ted Lieu
- TreePeople
- Heal the Bay
- California Watershed Network (recently invited to serve on their board)
- California Department of State Parks
- National Park Service
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, staff level
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM)
- The Freshwater Trust
- TED

And aims to connect with...

- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Santa Monica Mountains Fund

Meets the following SCWP Goals: Potentially A -N, depending on partnership opportunities

Strategy 16. Attend and distribute materials from 'funding fairs' conducted by Federal, State, regional, and philanthropic organizations

This strategy will provide materials to stakeholders generally from any events that are held, and allow the coordinator to specifically connect project concepts on the list to matching funding opportunities.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: D, E, G, H, I, L, M, N

Strategy 17. Share success stories: nature-based solutions educational event

This first of two educational events will share about the prioritization of NBS in the SCWP, and the value of using green infrastructure on public and private parcels to achieve multiple benefits. Native plants for landscaping will also be shared. If possible, include site visits in the North Santa Monica Bay *and* across Los Angeles County to see successful implementation of Nature Based Solutions. The City of Calabasas has offered to serve as initial primary host and can be open to the whole of Los Angeles County for attendance. Other Watershed Coordinators will be invited to participate in planning process.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, B, D, F, H

Strategy 18. Support local NGO engagement with public education about trash reduction

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee Vice Chair Madelyn Glickfeld recommended focusing on addressing how to meet the trash TMDL by inviting the public to make some films about trash to compete in the first annual clean sweep film competition. Winning filmmakers and performers to receive Golden Shovels, cash prizes, press and access to Hollywood agencies at annual Clean Sweep Award Ceremony.

Concept is that students and professional filmmakers would create Public Service Announcements encouraging Los Angeles residents to treat our streets, schools, parks and beaches with love by eliminating littering. PSAs to be shown one per month over 12 months on as many venues as possible and via YouTube. "Treat the outside like the inside."

Coordinator would work with stakeholders, philanthropic, and non-profit partners to coordinate their provision of cash prizes for winners, "golden shovels" and an award ceremony which will constitute the second educational event.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: A, C, D, H, M

Strategy 19. Support dialog and development of innovative projects and technology raised by stakeholders

Helping stakeholders advance innovative ideas about safe, clean water will improve their engagement with the program, even if the ideas are not directly leading to fundable SCWP projects. The two examples below have been shared by stakeholders:

Fog Harvesting - In multiple low-water countries in South America and elsewhere, innovative projects that look like giant spiderwebs or like tarps capture low-cloud (fog) condensation and run the captured water into cisterns. Picture this as a charismatic demonstration with an unproven potential to help grow local water supply.

Limestone Roof / Cisterns - In Bermuda, there is no on island natural water source, 100% of water supply is gained via stormwater capture and storage. By using all limestone roofs and cisterns, the water quality is excellent. We would be interested in creating a demonstration project in Topanga at a public venue or at one of our local schools or universities. Some

stakeholders see this as a charismatic demonstration with an unproven potential to help grow local water supply.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: B, E, H

Strategy 20. Watershed Coordinator collaboration

The watershed coordinator will connect with the other coordinators throughout the year to explore opportunities that straddle watershed area boundaries, for shared learning, and to develop region-wide materials or events.

Meets the following SCWP Goals: Potentially A- N, depending on collaboration opportunities.

STRATEGIES CROSSWALK TO SCWP GOALS AND WATERSHED COORDINATION TASKS

The table below summarizes the links between the 14 SCWP Goals, the nine Watershed Coordinator Tasks, and the 20 strategies described in this Plan.

		Goal A	Goal B	Goal C	Goal D	Goal E	Goal F	Goal G	Goal H	Goal I	Goal J	Goal K	Goal L	Goal M	Goal N	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7	Task 8	Task 9
		Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.	Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse,	Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing	Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCWP Program Goals.	Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.	Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.	Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.	Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.	Invest in independent scientific research.	Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than	Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to	Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.	Promote green jobs and career pathways.	Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Partnerships	Cost-Share Partners	Leverage Funding	Local Stakeholder Education	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration
Strategy 1	4 Community Outreach Events	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Strategy 2	Educate stakeholders about water quality challenges in the watershed area.	X		X	X				X					X	X	X					X	X		
Strategy 3	Faciliate dialog about water supply sources in the watershed area		X		X		X	X	X				X			X			X	X	X		X	
Strategy 4	Native Plants Sales	X	X		X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Strategy 5	Ensure SCWP is part of special event like Coastal Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Calabaasas Pumpkin Day, Arts Festivals	X	X		X		X	X	X		X			X		X					X	X		
Strategy 6	Identify opportunities to reach youth at schools, Girl Scout Troops, YMCA etc.	X	X	X	X		X		X		X					X					X	X		
Strategy 7	Focus on engaging with Homeowners' Associations							X					X			X					X	X		

		Goal A	Goal B	Goal C	Goal D	Goal E	Goal F	Goal G	Goal H	Goal I	Goal J	Goal K	Goal L	Goal M	Goal N	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7	Task 8	Task 9
		Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.	Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse,	Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing	Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.	Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.	Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.	Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.	Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.	Invest in independent scientific research.	Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than	Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to	Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.	Promote green jobs and career pathways.	Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Partnerships	Cost-Share Partners	Leverage Funding	Local Stakeholder Education	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration
Strategy 8	Develop host, maintain a North Santa Monica Bay Area Watershed website				X			X	X					X		X							X	
Strategy 9	Develop and maintain social media presence for watershed area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	
Strategy 10	Connect with the Media	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	
Strategy 11	Identify and Facilitate Project Concepts from North Santa Monica Bay Stakeholders	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Strategy 12	Support a convening of experts about Impacts of Creek Restoration on Water Quality	X							X	X				X		X			X	X	X	X	X	
Strategy 13	Work with Technical Assistance Teams		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X						
Strategy 14	Strategy 14: Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Strategy 15	Strategy 15: Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	

		Goal A	Goal B	Goal C	Goal D	Goal E	Goal F	Goal G	Goal H	Goal I	Goal J	Goal K	Goal L	Goal M	Goal N	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7	Task 8	Task 9
		Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.	Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse,	Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing	Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.	Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.	Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.	Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.	Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.	Invest in independent scientific research.	Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than	Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to	Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.	Promote green jobs and career pathways.	Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.	Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Partnerships	Cost-Share Partners	Leverage Funding	Local Stakeholder Education	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration
Strategy 16	Attend and distribute materials from 'funding fairs' conducted by Federal, State, regional and philanthropic organizations		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	X				
Strategy 17	Share Success Stories: Nature Based Solutions Educational Event	X	X	X	X		X		X		Z			X		X					X	X	X	
Strategy 18	Support local NGO engagement with public education about trash reduction	X		X	X				X		X		X	X	X	X					X	X	X	
Strategy 19	Support dialog and development of innovative projects and technology raised by stakeholders	X			X			X							X	X		X						
Strategy 20	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Attachment

B-22

Attachment

B-48

Attachment

B-54

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting

A Program of the Safe, Clean Water Act

Funded by Measure W and the Citizens of Los Angeles County



SAFE CLEAN WATER L.A.

AGENDA 1

Date: *Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Time: *5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.*

Location: *Via Zoom, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86718557195>, host will admit guests.*

Co-Hosts: *Melina Sempill Watts, Bill Buerge, Jeremy Wolf and Susan Nissman*

Purpose: *To explore how the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community, including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, a small piece of Los Angeles City and unincorporated Los Angeles County, Malibu, Topanga and Westlake Village are working and can work towards safe, clean water.*

Contact Information: *Melina Watts, Watershed Coordinator, North Santa Monica Bay Watershed*
nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com -- 310-383-9978

Safe Clean Water Program: *<https://www.safecleanwaterla.org/>*

1. **Introduction to the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community, Melina Sempill Watts and Co-hosts Bill Buerge, Nicholas Gaines and Susan Nissman (10 minutes)**
2. **What is Measure W and How Can It Best Serve the Greater Good? Melina Watts (5 minutes)**
3. **County / Agency Updates**
 - **County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bruce Hamamoto, Alberto Grajeda and Josafat Flores (10 minutes)**
 - *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, Cung Nguyen (3 minutes)**
 - **Los Angeles County Waterworks, District 29, Terri Alex (3 minutes)**
 - **Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Dave Roberts (3 minutes)**
 - **California Department of State Parks, Danielle LeFer (3 minutes)**
 - **National Parks, Danika Giobokar (3 minutes)**
 - **Wishtoyo Foundation, Tevin Schmitt (2 minutes)**
 - **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Dr. LB Nye (3 minutes)**
4. **Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Bay, Water Quality Projects, Rosi Dagit (15 minutes)**
 - **Restoration Projects (Big Sycamore, Trancas, Topanga)**
 - **Water Quality Research, Past and present**
 - **Southern Steelhead Trout in the Santa Monica Mountains, Status Report**
5. **Topanga Canyon Roadside Committee, Carrie Carrier, President, Topanga Town Council (10 minutes)**
6. **Water Supply in the Santa Monica Mountains, New Opportunities**
 - **Fog Catchers, Abel Cruz in Peru, [The fog catcher who brings water to the poor - BBC News](#), [Desert Fog Nets Catch 10,000 Liters Of Water Daily](#) (20 minutes)**
 - **Limestone Roof and Cisterns, [Bermuda's Water Catchment](#) John Gardner, Architect / Artist**
7. **What are you thinking? Public Comment (10 minutes)**

Zoom Details:

Melina Watts is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting

Time: Sep 23, 2021 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86718557195>

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86718557195>

Meeting ID: 867 1855 7195

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Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 867 1855 7195

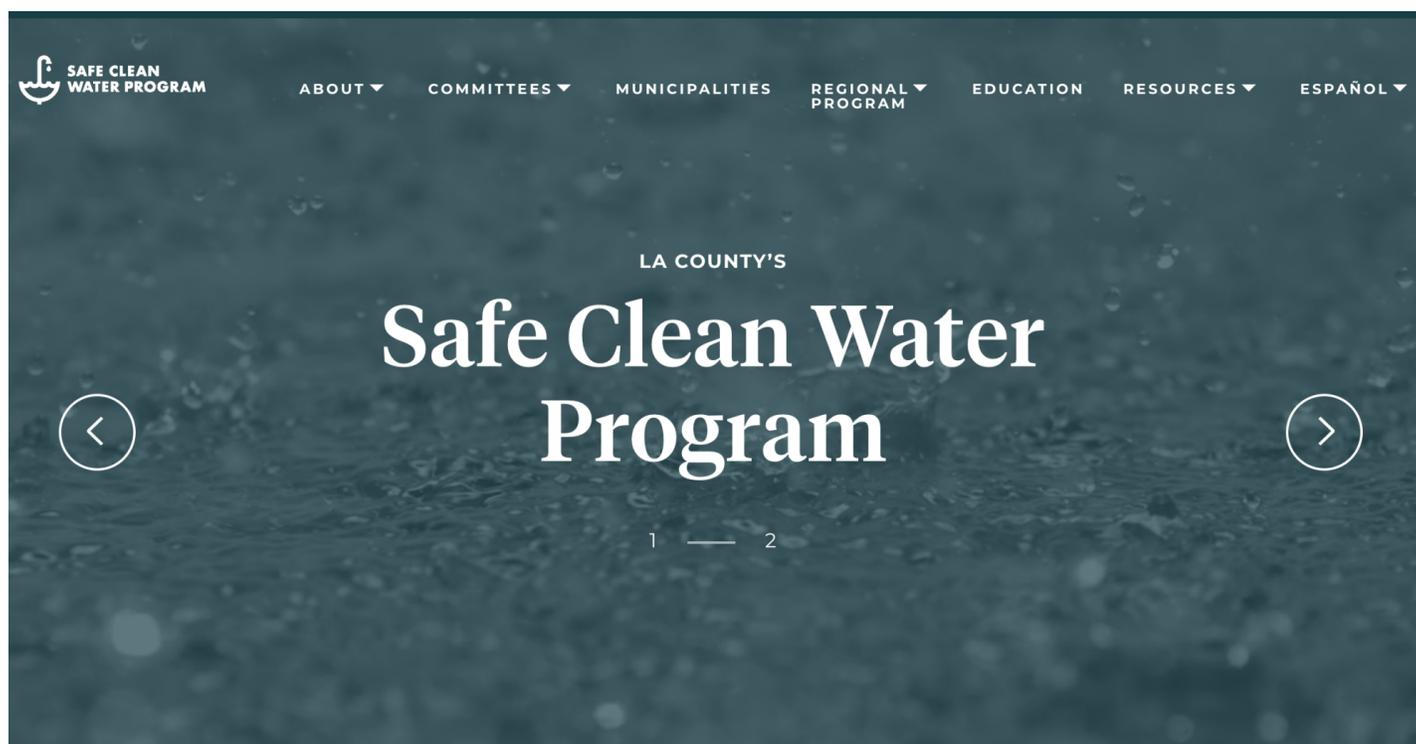
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86718557195>



https://www.malibutimes.com/news/article_7ecf6d3c-1c03-11ec-bd8a-5b7d73471d1d.html

Residents Invited to Attend Virtual Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting

Sep 22, 2021



safecleanwaterla.org

Hosts Melina Sempill Watts, Bill Buerge, Jeremy Wolf and Susan Nissman are inviting all residents of the Santa Monica Mountains including Malibu and nearby areas (such as Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Westlake Village and Topanga) to attend the first North Santa Monica Bay Watershed community meeting on Thursday evening, Sept. 23.

The meeting is designed to educate the public about ongoing water quality improvement projects, introduce residents to city and agency staff as well as nonprofits and other notable community leaders, and provide opportunities to weigh in on local water quality improvements.

"Does the idea of water supply in the Santa Monica Mountains sound [like] a pipe dream?" organizers wrote in a press release about the upcoming meeting. "Learn about fog catchers, which use nets to capture water droplets from fog and gravity to capture water and look at how Bermuda's famous white roofs capture rain and store them in pristine limestone cisterns. Can we build it? Yes, we can."

Visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86718557195> to join the Zoom meeting, with Meeting ID: 867 1855 7195, or contact Watts at nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com or by calling 310.383.9978. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs two hours.



Calendar of Events

« All Events

This event has passed.

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting

Thursday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m.

John Gardner, an artist / architect from Bermuda will be joining us. He will explain about how Bermuda limestone stepped roofs and cisterns capture rainwater that is drinking water quality water supply.

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Los Angeles County West Vector Control District

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September Newsletter Now Available



Exploring safe, clean water

September 09, 2021

Local water issues will be examined in depth at a North Santa Monica Bay Watershed community meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 23 on Zoom.

Meeting co-hosts are Melina Sempill Watts, Bill Buerge, Jeremy Wolf and Susan Nissman.

The discussion will cover opportunities to source water locally and to improve water quality. Attendees can connect with city and agency staff, local nonprofits, First Nations people and local leadership to envision safe, clean water in Los Angeles County.

The watershed community comprises Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Topanga, Westlake Village Water, a small piece of Los Angeles City and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The meeting will include a look at a water quality improvement project being created by Los Angeles County in Viewridge Estates, Topanga Canyon; a presentation about how the Topanga Trash Warriors are cleaning up Topanga Canyon; a look at two water quality projects at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills; and a review of the restoration projects being created by the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Watershed coordinator Sempill Watts will discuss how the county's Measure W is working to provide clean water for western L.A. County residents.

The event will also cover fog catchers, which use nets to capture water droplets from fog and gravity to capture water, and how Bermuda's white roofs capture rain and store it in limestone cisterns as possibilities for local water storage.

For more information, go to safecleanwaterla.org. The Zoom meeting link is <https://us06web.>

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/66710557105>

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86718557195 - Attendee Report

Attendee Report			
Report Generated:	Sep 28, 2021 5:18 PM		
Topic	Webinar ID	Actual Start Time	Actual Duration (minutes)
North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting	867 1855 7195	Sep 23, 2021 5:10 PM	144
Host Details			
Attended	User Name (Original Name)	Email	
Yes	Melina Watts	melinawatts@gmail.com	
Panelist Details			
Attended	User Name (Original Name)	Email	
Yes	Abel Cruz Gutierrez	lossinaqua@yahoo.es	
Yes	Alberto Grajeda - LA County Public Works	algrajeda@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Yes	Javier - Interpreter	javiermorrone@hotmail.com	
Yes	Javier - Interpreter	javiermorrone@hotmail.com	
Yes	billbuerge	bill@themermaid.com	
Yes	billbuerge	bill@themermaid.com	
Yes	Cung Nguyen	cunguyen@pw.lacounty.gov	
Yes	John Gardner	johngardnerdesign@gmail.com	
Yes	LB Nye	LB.Nye@waterboards.ca.gov	
Yes	Bruce Hamamoto	bhamamo@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Yes	Josafat Flores	josafatflores32@gmail.com	
Yes	talex	talex@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Yes	Rosi Dagit	rosidagit@gmail.com	
Attendee Details			
Attended	User Name (Original Name)	First Name	Last Name
Yes	Murtaza Mogri	Murtaza	Mogri
Yes	randijohnson	randijohnson	
Yes	elena eger	elena	eger
Yes	susan Petrus nissman	susan	Petrus nissman
Yes	Sherry	Sherry	
Yes	Danika Globokar	Danika	Globokar
Yes	Dave Pedersen# LVMWD	Dave	Pedersen, LVMWD
Yes	Kelsey Reed (Westlake village)	Kelsey	Reed (Westlake village)
Yes	Abel Cruz Gutierrez	Abel	Cruz Gutierrez
Yes	cfoxworthy	cfoxworthy	
Yes	Alberto Grajeda - LACo Public Works	Alberto	Grajeda - LA County Public Works
Yes	Alberto Grajeda - LA County Public Works	Alberto	Grajeda - LA County Public Works
Yes	Alberto Grajeda - LA County Public Works	Alberto	Grajeda - LA County Public Works
Yes	Shannon Watts	Shannon	Watts
Yes	Maria Pecci	Maria	Pecci
Yes	Javier - Interpreter	Javier	'- Interpreter
Yes	Ken Widen	Ken	Widen
Yes	Mike Antos (he/him)	Mike	Antos (he/him)
Yes	Mark Johnson	Mark	Johnson
Yes	billbuerge	billbuerge	
Yes	Cung Nguyen	Cung	Nguyen
Yes	Cung Nguyen	Cung	Nguyen
Yes	John Gardner	John	Gardner
Yes	Sidra L.	Sidra	L.
Yes	Dave Roberts	Dave	Roberts
Yes	LB Nye	LB	Nye
Yes	Bruce Hamamoto	Bruce	Hamamoto
Yes	Joel Schulman	Joel	Schulman
Yes	kian	Joel	Schulman
Yes	Joel Schulman	Joel	Schulman
Yes	Danika Globokar	Danika	Globokar
Yes	MADELYN GLICKFELD	MADELYN	GLICKFELD
Yes	Tevin Schmitt	Tevin	Schmitt
Yes	columbine culberg	columbine	culberg
Yes	Josafat Flores	Josafat	Flores
Yes	Gus Meza	Gus	Meza
Yes	Annemarie Donkin	Annemarie	Donkin
Yes	Illece Buckley Weber	Illece	Buckley Weber
Yes	talex	talex	
Yes	Chris Levinson	Chris	Levinson
Yes	Blake Whittington# TreePeople	Blake	Whittington, TreePeople
Yes	Dave	Dave	
Yes	Dave	Dave	
Yes	Rosi Dagit	Rosi	Dagit
Yes	Naomi Louise Warne	Naomi	Louise Warne
Yes	Tiffany Chang	Tiffany	Chang
Yes	Joe Bellomo (Hidden Hills)	Joe	Bellomo (Hidden Hills)
Yes	Nick Gaines	Nick	Gaines
Other Attended			
User Name			
	1805668xxxx		
	1202320xxxx		
	1818564xxxx		

Attachment

C-5

Attachment

C-6

Attachment

C-7

Innovative Conservation Program and the TreePeople, TreeTrust and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Native Plants Kit project

Inbox

Melina Watts <melinawatts@gmail.com>

Sep 14, 2021,
9:59 AM

to candry, Melina

Good morning Ms. Andry,

I would love to find out the status of the Innovative Conservation Program applications in 2021 and 2022.

Is the Metropolitan Water District accepting applications?

For what amounts may applicants apply?

The Native Plants Kit project addresses water conservation by focusing on local gardens.

As you know, in the Santa Monica Mountains, 70% of our precious imported water goes to ... gardening.

While xeriscaping is critical for water conservation, our community regards nativescaping as the best case scenario water conservation because this allows us to restore local ecosystems and save water at the same time.

I am working with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, TreePeople and TreeTrust on The Native Plants Kit project which will conserve water by helping water users move over to nativescaping.

The idea is based on the popular Garden in a Box program out of Colorado which currently sells 4000 native plants gardens, each of which supply plants for 100' feet of garden a year. We note that the Garden in a Box program is now self-sustaining as each box is sold for \$140, and half the cost goes to the wholesale cost of the plants, whereas the rest goes to support the program.

We anticipate holding online pre-sales two times a year, having native plants nurseries grow out the orders and having boxes available for pick up about four months after the initial order.

Our first step will be to create a functional charismatic website to sell teh boxes and affiliated printed materials to help native plants newbies raise successful garden to maturity.

We are applying for partial funding from the Office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District. We would love to combine this effort with an application to Metropolitan Water District.

I'd be happy to chat on the phone if you like.

Sincerely,
Melina Watts
Watershed Coordinator
North Santa Monica Bay Watershed

[Safe, Clean Water L.A.](#)

[Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC](#)

(310) 383-9978

Via twitter: @melinaswatts

Andry,Christina <CAndry@mwdh2o.com>

Sep 14, 2021,
12:54 PM

to me, Melina

Hi Melina,

This sounds like a great project. We will be accepting applications for the ICP again in early 2022 and I encourage you to apply. Projects can be funded up to \$50,000.

I do not know exactly when we will open the application period, but it should be in the first few months of 2022. I will add you to our email list so you can be notified when we are getting close to resuming the program.

Let me know if you have any other questions!

Tina Andry
Water Efficiency Team
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
candry@mwdh2o.com

Melina Watts <melinawatts@gmail.com>

Sep 14, 2021,
12:58 PM

to Christina, Melina

Hello everyone,

If TreePeople /TreeTrust/ LVMWD this is \$50K from MWD that would be perfect for this program.

I would love to apply for this in early 2022 if we are all amenable.

Sincerely,
Melina Watts
Watershed Coordinator
North Santa Monica Bay Watershed

[Safe, Clean Water L.A.](#)

[Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC](#)

(310) 383-9978

Via twitter: @melinaswatts

Attachment

C-8

Attachment

C-11