

## **Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report**

### **A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.**

Watershed: North Santa Monica Bay  
Watershed Coordinator: Melina Watts  
WC Contact: [nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com)

### **Quarterly Report 3**

October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Date: May 29, 2022

#### **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*

In the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed, community outreach starts with teaching about water quality, water supply and nature-based solution for safe, clean water to our community members and moves to listening to what our community would like to see happen. The process includes staying engaged with social media, attending key local events such as the Viewpoint Alumni event in December and stepping in as a public speaker on request to targeted events such as the Calabasas Environmental Commission. Showing up at big annual events like the Pumpkin Festival and putting in the hours to talk to anyone and everyone who stops at the table is key to broadening the community's understanding of and support for the Safe, Clean, Water Program.

Additional strategies included,

- Connecting Malibu resident Naomi Warne with Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains staff to discuss /support creek restoration project on site at her home
  - Inviting Gus Meza WBMWD to join Terri Alex and Coordinator in doing an outreach project at Topanga Elementary School focusing on rainbarrels; we are awaiting connection to operations team at LAUSD
  - Staying connected with Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks and local leader Marie Lakin to consider cross / county partnerships
  - Connecting with a broad team at the Nature Conservancy
  - Attending UCLA Possible Worlds event with sci fi writer Stanley Robinson, focus of evening on his experiences attending COP 26 and potential opportunities for solving climate change / drought
  - Suggesting an outreach event with Los Angeles County Department of Flood Control / Waterworks District #29 / West Basin Municipal Water District at Viewridge Estates in Topanga
  - Setting the next NSMBW Community meeting set for January 27
  - Suggesting that Coordinator create an Earth Day outreach event in Westlake Village
- *Document the extent of partnerships and networks you have engaged.*
    - Partnerships and networks start with NSMB WASC members and other watershed coordinators and expand to include local city council members, elected officials and city / agency staff and extends to community activists, school parents and children. As an example, Topanga Elementary School parents, teachers, administration, and community members are all very interested in seeing cisterns on site at TES. Can we get there? Stay tuned. Other partnerships include The Nature Conservancy, ARLA, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts and more.
  - *Document your effort to engage a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders*
    - Engaging conventional stakeholders means such things as agreeing to do tabling event at the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival, prepping a talk for the Calabasas Environmental Council and the Calabasas Youth Council, while engaging with unconventional stakeholders included meeting up with charismatic Amos White who is building the 100K Tress for Humanity in Alameda and reconnecting to former California

Association of Resource Conservation District leader Kristen Murphy to talk potential USDA-NRCS funding. While not a part of work as a coordinator, as an invited speaker at the Chumash Indian Museum in Thousand Oaks, Coordinator had the opportunity to broaden competitiveness to local First Nations peoples. In partnership with Dave Pedersen, Coordinator co-submitted a candidate (who subsequently won) for annual Calabasas Environmental Prize, the Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award. Archeologist / historian Dr. Brian Fagan who writes about drought / water management over millennia, agreed to be featured speaker for NSMB W Community meeting in January, then canceled.

Additional efforts included,

- Continuing to participate in California Watershed Network monthly board meetings.
  - Reaching out via email to TED contact Nicholas Olevetti.
  - Per help of Susan Nissman, reaching out to Chief of Staff for Mr. Nick Melvoin, LAUSD board member to discuss access to RR funding.
  - Attending alumni event at Viewpoint School and talked watershed with alum Sarah Spano.
  - Reaching out to Jolene Walsh, Eastern Municipal Water District, to see if she could present about their very effective policy work on water conservation.
- *Required elements detailed below that you should mention here:*
    - *Any of the four required engagement meetings you held during the quarter*
      - Tabled at Calabasas Pumpkin Festival for the whole day.
      - Presented to Calabasas Environmental Commission.
      - Presented to Calabasas Youth Council
      - Attended/spoke to Topanga Elementary School Environmental and Sustainability Council.
      - Preparing for North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting in January 2022
    - *Either of the two required educational events you held during the quarter*
      - Tabled at Calabasas Pumpkin Festival for the whole day
      - Spoke to Calabasas Environmental Commission
    - *Highlights or summary of types of meetings you attended held by others*
      - Met with Amos White, founder /CEO of 100K Trees for Humanity
      - Attended Native Plants Kit meetings (LVMWD, TreePeople)
      - Attended School Stormwater Symposium planning events
      - Spoke to leadership at Topanga Environmental Sustainability Committee about waters supply opportunities and Measure W
    - *Summary of cost-share partner relationship development*
      - Reached out to members of ARLA/Dashboard Earth to suggest support/partnership for Native Plants Kit program.
      - Attended GLAC IRWM
      - Introduced Dave Roberts, LVMWD to Charlotte Parry/Antonio Sanchez to see if Santa Monica Mountains Funds Native Plants Nursery could be a source for plants for Native Plants Kit project (Sadly, unlikely.)
      - Met with Christos Chrysiliou, lead architect for LAUSD, to discuss Topanga Elementary School cisterns project idea, he's supportive.
      - Spent a day introducing Terri Alex, L.A. County Waterworks District 29, to leaders in Topanga and touring sites central to community function.
      - Connected with Hammer SUI, CALTRANS to pursue funding for trash outreach effort at suggestion of Jerry West, California Department of State Parks.
      - Connected with The Nature Conservancy to discuss collaborating on Nature Based Solutions success stories conference

- Connected with ARLA to discuss collaborating on Nature Based Solutions success stories conference; possibly to work on Native Plants Kit project; invited them to attend native plants nursery outreach event on January 11
- *Summary of leverage funding pursuits*
  - Wrote application for Supervisorial District 3 grant funding on behalf of TreePeople for Native Plants Kit project and succeeded; amount is \$8500.
  - Invited by Don Crocker Wildlife Conservation Board to submit Letter of Interest for funding for potential creek restoration project at Liberty Canyon but declined as project proponent unwilling.
  - Corresponded with Clean California Local Grant Program.
  - Reached out to Kim Jardine at Patagonia regarding potential for grant applications, she's gone, will follow up with her colleagues.
  - Explored DROPS program, sadly a one-time opportunity, no more funding is available.
  - Reached out to WaterSMART about drought resiliency funding for 2023; on list serve.
  - Looked for updates on availability of MWD Innovative Conservation Program which would be for the Native Plants Kit project. Second MWD grant would be for roofs /cistern idea.
  - Explored how to get RR money for school project at TES.
  - Attended LAR Urban Water grant brainstorm via Eileen Takata, USACE.
    - Watershed coordinator thinks amount is too small and grant too competitive to be a good use of coordinator's time
  - Attended Clean California grant webinar
  - Discussed potential fish survey idea for Measure W science funding with Dave Pedersen, could be RCDSMM / Rosi Dagit; discovered one is ongoing in Topanga but only a Redd survey via California DFW in Malibu
  - Discussed ideas for SCRWP water quality research with Dave Pedersen
  - Connected with Neal Shapiro, City of Santa Monica to discuss IRWM regranting idea based on his past work
  - Shared IRMWM regranting idea with TNC / ARLA
  - Discovered friend works at Ifund women, possible funding source; will set meeting

## 8. Local Stakeholder Education

Nov 2, 2021, Spoke to Calabasas Environmental Council

- Planning January 2022 North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting
- Discussing potential Nature Based Solutions success story conference

## 9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

- Attended Equity in Water Training
- Attended Watershed Coordinator Funding group
- Attended Watershed Coordinator School Group
- Shared epic Fallen fruit and endless orchard, with presenters at Equity in Water Training

**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 #
Ex.	GLAC IRWM Leadership Meeting	7/4/21	Quarterly business meeting	GLAC Leadership	Attended	
1	Native Plants Nursery, Santa Monica Mountains Fund	10/1/2021	Introducing Dave Roberts to Antonio Sanchez	LVMWD, SMF	Held	
2	Christos Chrysiliou, LAUSD re Topanga Elementary School cisterns	10/4/2021	Discussed potential cistern / stormwater project	Christos Chrysiliou, LAUSD	Held	
3	Native Plants Program Planning	10/5/2021	Seeking funds / implementation	LVMWD, TreePeople	Attended	
4	Kristen Murphy, query re NRCS Funding	10/6/2021	Seeking funds / implementation	Formerly CARCD	Held	
5	ROC meeting SCWP	10/7/2021	SCWP	SCWP	Attended	
6	Amos White, 100K Trees for Humanity	10/11/2021	Partnerships	100K Trees for Humanity	Attended	
7	Amy Weisberg, cisterns for Topanga Elementary	10/11/2021	Seeking community input	TES	Held	
8	IRWM	10/13/2021	Funding	GLAC IRWM	Attended	
9	SCWP   WC Schools Committee	10/14/2021	Event planning	Watershed coordinators	Attended	
10	North Santa Monica Bay WASC	10/15/2021	WASC	NSMB WASC	Attended	B-1, NSMB WASC October 2021
11	Dave Roberts + Terri Alex re Native Plants Kit	10/15/2021	Native Plants Kit partnership	LVMWD, Waterworks District #29	Held	
12	SMMF + LVMWD	10/15/2021	Looking to source native plants from SMMF	LVMWD, SMMF	Held	
13	Call Dr. Alisa Land, TES	10/15/2021	Cisterns at TES	Parent at TES	Held	
14	Chumash Indian Museum	10/16/2021	Partnerships	Invited as speaker	Attended	
15	In person with Amy Weisberg, TES	10/16/2021	Cisterns at TES	TES leadership	Held	

Safe, Clean Water Program  
Watershed Coordinator Program  
North Santa Monica Bay Watershed  
Quarterly Report 2  
November 1, 2021

16	Pumpkin Festival	10/17/2021	Public Outreach	Calabasas Enviro council, youth council, public	Attended	B-2, Photo of Banner
17	LVMWD COG	10/19/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
18	Topanga Environmental Sustainability Committee	10/19/2021	Partnerships	Spoke at request of leadership	Attended	
19	LA River Urban Waters Federal Partnership Meeting	10/21/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
20	SCWP   WC Funding Subcommittee	10/26/2021	Funding / Partnerships		Attended	
21	Terri, Melina, and Daniel Talk Topanga	10/27/2021	Partnerships		Held	
22	California Watershed Network Call	10/28/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
23	Meeting Janet Turner, office of Congressman Ted Lieu	10/27/2021	Changing NRCS funding standards to serve L.A. needs		Held	
24	Presentation at Calabasas Environmental Council	11/2/2021	Invited to give talk		Attended	B-3, Presentation to CEC November 2021
25	Liberty Canyon Agency Conversation	11/3/2021			Attended	B-4, Photo of Liberty Canyon Tour
26	Conversation with Tiffany Chang about Liberty Canyon	11/9/2021			Held	
27	Introductions / Tour Topanga	11/8/2021	Terri Alex, Kevin Kassebaum, Amy Weisberg, Bill Buerge etc.		Held	B-5, Photo of Terri Alex in Topanga

Safe, Clean Water Program  
Watershed Coordinator Program  
North Santa Monica Bay Watershed  
Quarterly Report 2  
November 1, 2021

28	Conversation with CDFA about TES programming needs	11/10/2021			Held	
29	Calabasas Mayor's Youth Council	11/15/2021	Spoke	Outreach	Attended	
30	EQUITY IN WATER TRAINING - By Urban Waters Learning Academy (& LA River Partnership)	11/16/2021	Watershed Coordinators		Attended	
31	Weekly Nursery Planning	11/16/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
32	LAR Urban Waters Grants Brainstorm with Watershed Coordinators	11/17/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
33	School groups WC	11/18/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
34	Meeting John Moynier	11/18/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
35	UW "Open Space" - Equity In Water: Post-Training Reflections	11/19/2021	Partnerships		Attended	
36	Melina Watts x Dashboard Earth Discussion	11/20/2021	Funding / partnership opportunities	Team created by Andy Lipkis	Held	
37	Potential Porewater project video for NSMBWC	11/23/2021	Outreach	Inviting Calabasas youth council to connect with Dave Pedersen	Held	B-6. Link to Pure Water Project Video
38	Possible Worlds/ Optopia: Kim Stanley Robinson at UCLA	11/?3002021	Partnerships		Attended	
39	GLAC IRWM leadership meeting	12/1/2021				

Safe, Clean Water Program  
 Watershed Coordinator Program  
 North Santa Monica Bay Watershed  
 Quarterly Report 2  
 November 1, 2021

40	Water Equity and Anti-racism Trainings for the LA Basin	12/2/2021				
41	Native Plants Kit	12/07/2021				
42	WASC: North Santa Monica Bay	12/09/2021				
43	SCWP Schools Working Group   December Meeting	12/16/2021				
44	Viewpoint Alumni Event	2/16/2021			Partnerships	

**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	ARLA	11/3/2021	Native Plants Kit	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, TreePeople, TreeTrust, ARLA	
2	WCB	5/17/2021	Creek Restoration project	Invited to apply but did not.	
3	MWD	9/14/2021	Corresponded with MWD staff about upcoming grant opportunities	Awaiting RFPs that might fit cisterns or native plants kit project.	

**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	CALTRANS	Sent email proposal to Hammer Sui at his reest	D-1
2	Office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	Applied for and won Applied for Supervisorial District 3 grant funding on behalf of TreePeople for Native Plants Kit project and succeeded; amount is \$8500.	

**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	15%	15%	28%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	15%	15%	12%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	5%	0%	1%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	10%	10%	15%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	10%	10%	12%
6	Cost-share Partners	10%	10%	8%
7	Leverage Funding	15%	15%	7%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	15%	8%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	10%	8%
	<b>Overall</b>	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.

Amos White, founder of 100K Trees for Humanity located in Alameda reached out to invite Coordinator to invite her to join his Board of Directors. Though declined due to time constraints, was able to offer advice and funding input to support his work – and to learn a great deal about his work to build a TreePeople equivalent centering on BIPOC community in Alameda. As a novelist, Watts was invited to speak at the annual Chumash Indian Museum Native American Family day – and learned a great deal about local First Nations peoples.

**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.

Coordinator prioritized public meetings, public talks, grant /funding submissions and planning for public events in order to stay on schedule for these elements.

**H. Expected activities next quarter**

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

**Upcoming Events:**

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community meeting set for January 26, 2022.  
 School Stormwater Symposium meeting set for May 24, 2022.



Safe, Clean Water Program  
Watershed Coordinator Program  
North Santa Monica Bay Watershed  
Quarterly Report 2  
November 1, 2021

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community meeting set for June 29, 2022.

Nature Based Solutions Success Stories: Exploring Water Quality Impacts of Creek Restoration set for November 10, 2022.

**Funding Applications:**

Coordinator will partner / draft application to ARLA for TreePeople c. \$120K for Native Plants Kit program.

Coordinator will draft application for SEP fund from Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for TreePeople for Native Plants Kits program.

Coordinator will work to get needed budget information for SEP funds for cisterns in multiple NSMBW sites.

**Attachments:**

**B-1**, NSMB WASC Presentation October 2021

**B-2**, Photo of Banner

**B-3**, Presentation to CEC November 2021

**B-4**, Photo of Liberty Canyon Tour

**B-5**, Photo of Terri Alex in Topanga

**B-6**, Link to Pure Water Project Video

**D-1**, Request to Hammer Sui, CALTRANS