



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

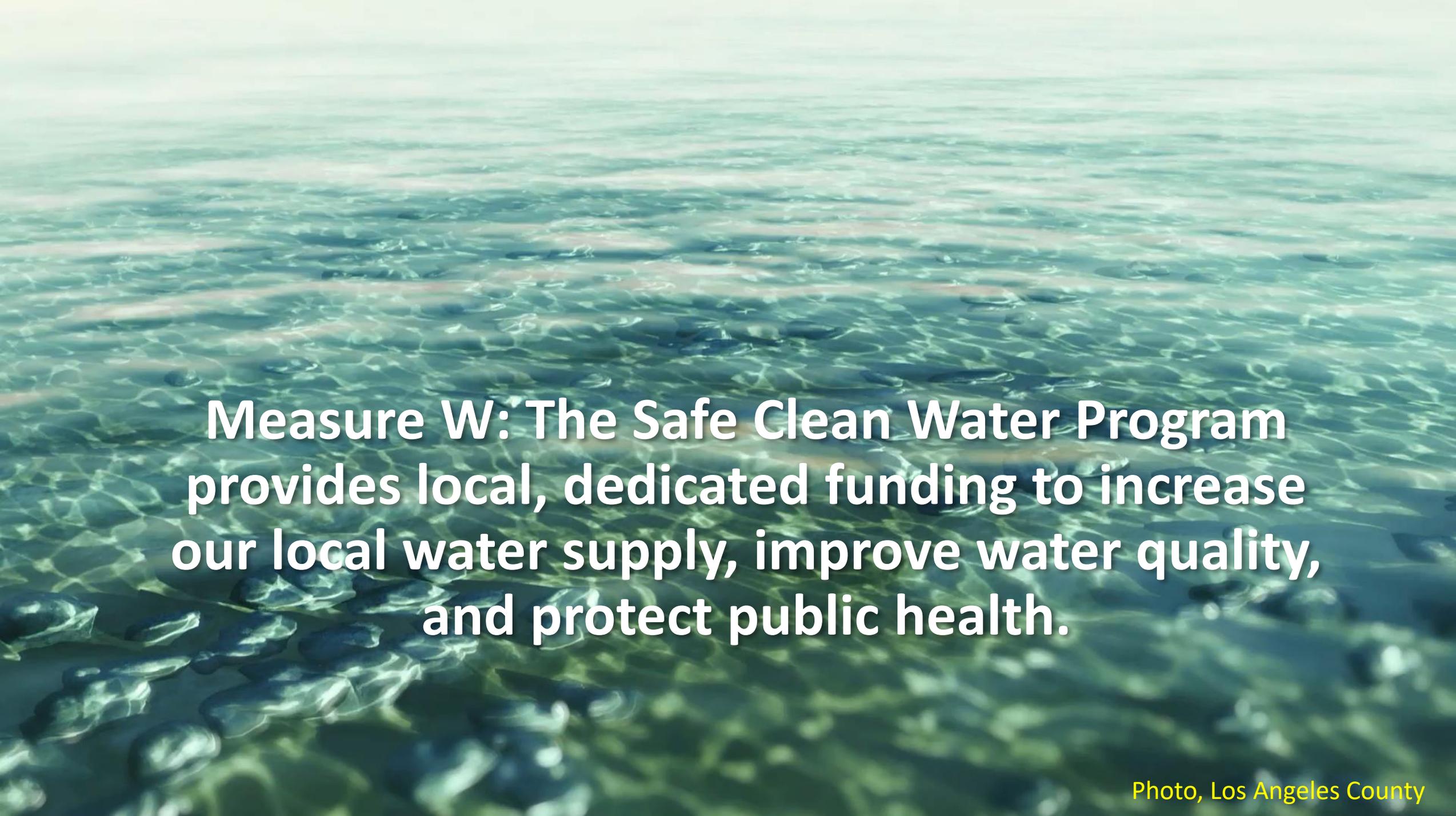
The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee Update

By Melina Sempill Watts

Watershed Coordinator, Safe Clean Water L.A.

May 11, 2023

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

An aerial photograph showing a vast expanse of water with a complex network of canals or ditches. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the canals create a grid-like pattern across the landscape. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a clear day. The overall scene is one of a large-scale water management system.

Measure W: The Safe Clean Water Program provides local, dedicated funding to increase our local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.

Land Acknowledgement

The North Santa Monica Bay was and is
cherished by First Nations people,
including the Chumash, the Gabrielño Tongva
and the Tataviam

Stock Photo by Microsoft

Black Lives Matter: The Ballard Family, Photo by NPS



Photo by NPS

Unhoused Members of Our Community

Unhoused people being fed by St. Aidan's Church in front of Malibu Courthouse

After stops and starts at Malibu United Methodist Church, which now has a guard on site during meals, MMUC also feeds unhoused members of our community.



Photo from *The Graphic*,
Pepperdine University, February 2019

Biodiversity First

Buddhists say we
are a part of the
community of all
living beings.

As does science.



Photo by Rosi Dagit, RCDSMM

1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP

**Two White Sage
donated by Growing Works
planted by Arc-en-ciel Orton at
the Wesley Welling Memorial Garden
at Westlake High School**



Photo by Watts

Pepperdine Earth Day April 4, 2023



Photo by Watts



Photos by Watts



Westlake Village Earth Day April 22, 2023

Calabasas Earth Day April 23, 2023



Photo by Watts



**North Santa Monica Bay Watershed
State of the Watershed 2023**

You're invited

**Join us for Safe, Clean Water,
Healthy People and Our Shared Ecosystem**

Join us to help plan and lead the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Steering Committee's inaugural State of the Watershed 2023.

Join the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District on May 11th, from 4:30-6:30 pm, to learn about the progress we're making good on commitments to improve local water quality, increase access to clean water supply, and cherish other species with whom we share our ecosystem.

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed includes Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village, unincorporated Los Angeles County in the Santa Monica Mountains, and the San Gabriel Mountains, all within 100 miles of Malibu.

Non-point stormwater runoff from our streets flows into our creeks and has led to water quality issues such as sediments, nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizers), PCB's and herbicides, and bacteria. Runoff from irrigation and rain travels through our communities and watersheds on the way into natural streams.

Key question is: how can we intercept this pollution and prevent it from damaging our natural resources?

Addressing this concern through the following speakers:

- Acknowledgment**
by Wolf, Agoura Hills City Councilmember (5 minutes)
- Introduction**
by Fran Pavley, a national leader in safe, clean water, climate change and biodiversity from Agoura Hills (5 minutes)
- Introduction to Safe Clean Water, Measure W and Our Community**
by Watts, Watershed Coordinator (5 minutes)
- Introduction**
by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, District 3, Aaron Ordower (2 minutes)
- Introduction to the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program**
by Ford, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (10 minutes)
- Wildfire Fire Response: Getting the Jump on Water Quality Monitoring**
by Therine Pease, Heal the Bay (10 minutes)
- Wildfire Fire Preparedness with California Friendly Gardening, Local Water Supply, Water Conservation + New Regulations**
by Stevens, Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains (10 minutes)
- Improving Water Quality, Increasing Local Water Supply and Meeting MS4 Compliance: A City-by-City Snapshot** (25 minutes)
 - by Forté, Agoura Hills
 - by Mark Johnson, Malibu
 - by Holdén, Calabasas
 - by Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village
 - by Bellomo, Hidden Hills
- Water-based Solutions: Sustaining Biodiversity and Improving Local Water Quality**
- Water is Love Made Visible: Projects at the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains**: Rosi Dagit (20 minutes)
- Western Steelhead Trout Survey**
- Years Later: Update on the Malibu Lagoon Restoration of 2013**
- Malibu Lagoon Restoration**
- Malibu Lagoon Restoration**
- The Dam and 9 Upstream Fish Migration Barrier Removals Let the Creek Flow**
- Introduction**
by Van Sant, Restoration Ecologist and Project Manager for the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project with California State Park

Speakers will be available for questions, and we'll round out the afternoon with a tour of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Trunfo Demonstration Facility, hosted by Riki Clark. Visitors will experience the advanced purification process that will create a new, local supply of drinking water beginning in 2028. Join us for a glass of pure water!

Event is free, seating is limited, so RSVP on the lvmwd.com community events page to join us. This will be a hybrid event, so you will have the option to join us online.

For more information, please email nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com.



SAFE CLEAN WATER L.A.



**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

**RSVP ON THE LVMWD.COM
COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE**

LOCATION, IN PERSON:
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
4232 Las Virgenes Rd., #1994
Calabasas, CA 91302

LOCATION, ONLINE:
An access link will be made
available 24 hours before event for
registered guests

North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed 2023 – TODAY

A special thank you to Safe, Clean Water L.A. and to Dave Pedersen and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for envisioning this event and all the NSMB WASC members and our community partners, including Wishtoyo, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Heal the Bay, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, California Department of State Parks, Los Angeles County District 3, LA County Public Works, LA County Flood Control, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu and the Cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu and Westlake Village.

Invitation Design by Nikki OConnor



2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts

UNDERWAY

- Helped Agoura Hills to resurrect the watershed education program in the schools that they had with the RCDSMM by setting up a meeting; Calabasas may wish to duplicate this effort, Westlake Village may layer in a school.
- Met with Beaches and Harbor staff yesterday.

IN THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE

- Met with Rob Houston and Rob DuBoux, City of Malibu, to suggest working with other agencies to implement projects suggested in the new Malibu City EWMP, they are cautiously interested
- Connected with Tom Ford, Director of the Santa Monica Bay National *Estuary* Program to talk about potential collaboration on Zuma Beach project
- Connected with Bruce Hamamoto L.A. County Flood Control and others at LA County to discuss possibilities at Zuma Beach, learned about past work such as bathroom upgrades

3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

- Stayed in touch with Westlake Village about their upcoming TRP application
- Suggested TRP application to City of Malibu

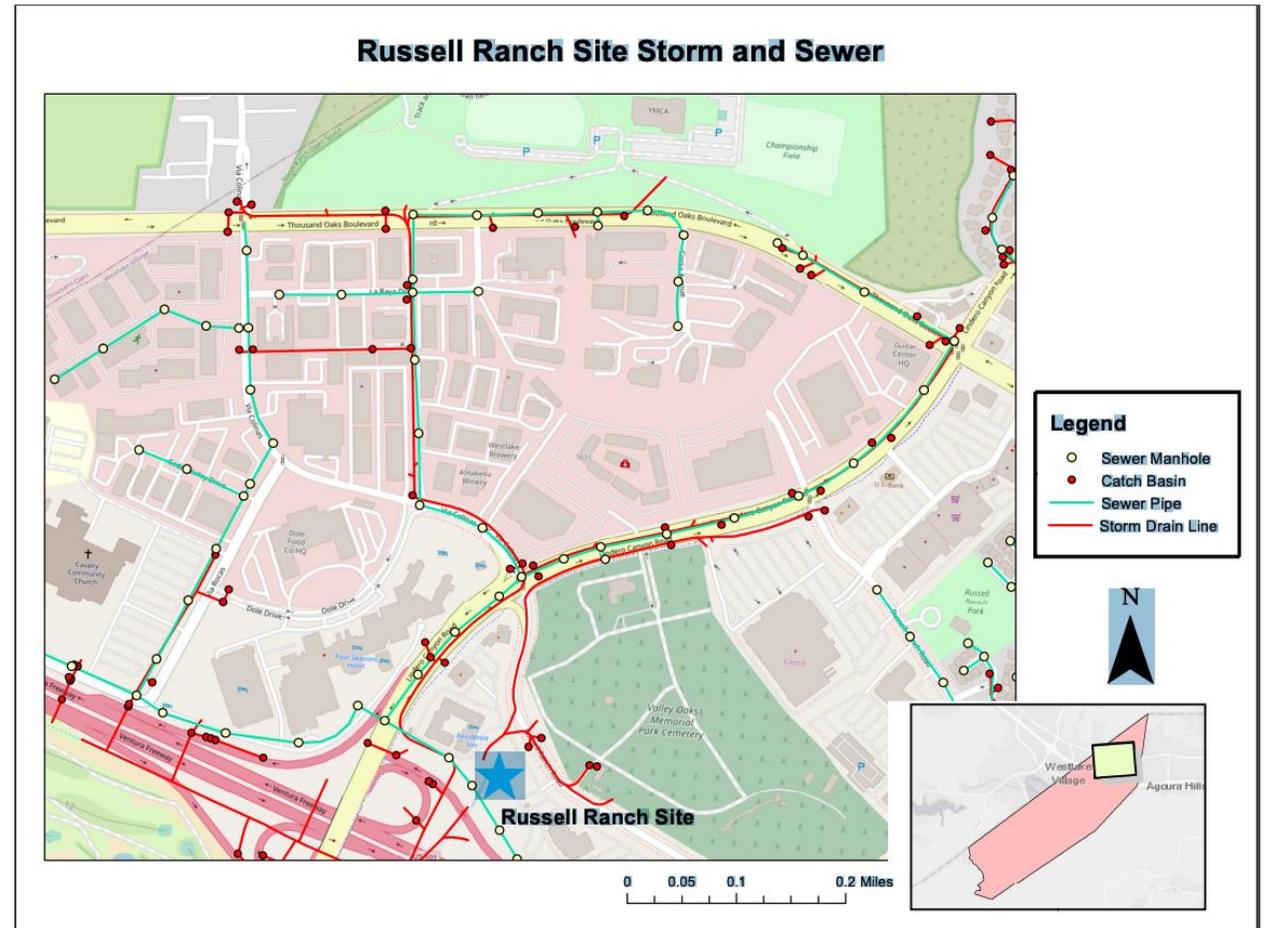


Image from City of Agoura Hills



4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

Photo by Watts

- Meeting with Warren Ontiveros and Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors to talk Zuma Beach project in early May
- Created and shared assessment of North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Cities' Proposed / Actual Utilization of Measure W Funds at NSMB WASC meeting
- Obtained over 129 (100 viable) email addresses from attending 3 Earth Day events, invited all of them to upcoming NSMB State of the Watershed 2023.
- Meeting with Tatiana Holden and Tra'a Bezdecny to start doing outreach to connect with Calabasas residents about Las Virgenes Creek Restoration projects past and future
- Created/presented DRAFT NSMB Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan 2023; revising presently.
- Tried to wrangle invites for coordinator to have a table at Topanga Days and Butterfly Day in Topanga, not possible
- Reaching out to new leadership at Surfrider
- Met with Austin Ordower, new environmental lead for Supervisor Horvath at Los Angeles County District 3
- Asked City Malibu to share updated EWMP at NSMB WASC; read updated EWMP
- Attended part of MAC meeting (scheduling conflict)

Photo by

5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- Invited speaker (as novelist) at Philanthropic Educational Organization meeting in Westwood; major fundraiser for college tuition for women; but then was asked to speak about watershed issues, many Malibu residents in attendance
- Planning to meet with Dr. Richard Ambrose + Mike Antos for insights on local water quality
- Reached out to Crystal Snow, Tataviam, Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo and online forms to Gabrielño-Tongva to invite them to lead the NSMB SOW event, no one is available at this time
- Declined invitation to UCSB salmonid event (sadly)



Photo by Watts

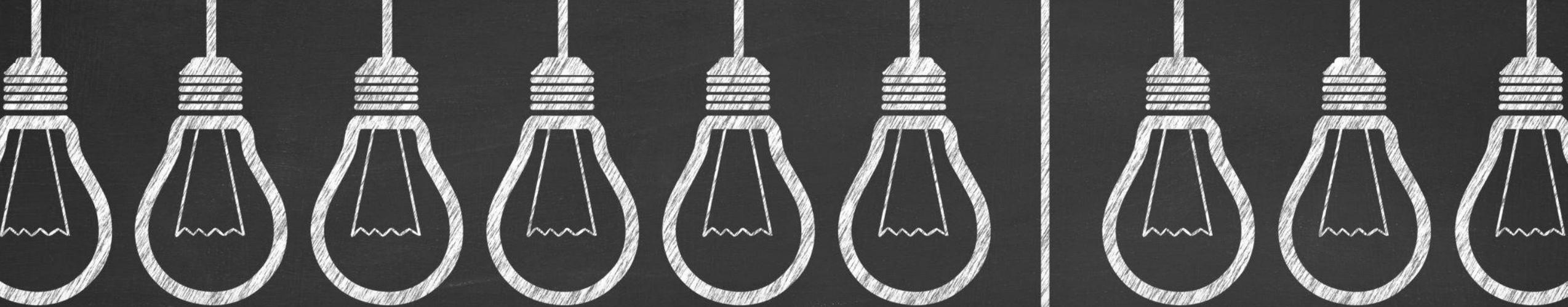


6. Cost-Share Partners

- Discussing a collaboration with Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbor, Malibu and possibly Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program.
- 200 white sage plants donated by Growing Works for Calabasas Earth Day and Westlake Village Earth Day; 2 went into Wesley Welling
- Will complete first draft of Wildlife Conservation Board application for City of Calabasas project.
- Helped Agoura Hills and Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains resurrect the watershed education program

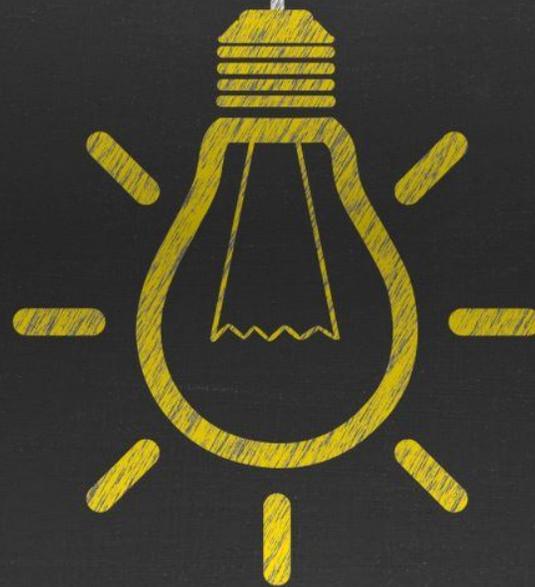


Photos by Watts



7. Leverage Funding

See item 6.





8. Local Stakeholder Education

- See item 1.

And...

- Thanks to donation from Growing Works, repotted and gave away over 150 California native white sage plants, returning about 50 unused plants.
- Facilitated invitation of Eric Wilson, who runs the Native Plants Kit program at TreePeople, to speak at Malibu-Las Virgenes Council of Government meeting
- Planning NSMB State of the Watershed 2023 for May 11th to be hosted by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District; wrote draft press release, found speakers, set agenda, hired Nikki O'Connor for invite design, encouraged cities and local papers to post on their calendars; reached out to Topanga newspaper editors Flavia Potenza and Bonnie Morgan , wrote piece for Kathleen Sterling
- Jessica Forte's marvelous presentation on the history of water quality in the United States and what we're doing locally to address it became a jumping off point for a collaborative multi-city talk that will be offered at NSMB SOW event

9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

- Attended monthly meeting; shared idea for tracking flooding by social media suggested by Melanie Winter
- Invited ULAR watershed coordinator to join me at Earth Day in Calabasas
- Explored possibility of a drone for all watershed coordinators to share for filming, not possible
- Shared invite from Extinction Rebellion to downtown L.A./ event “The Water Crisis: A Drought of Climate Justice!”



Photo by Watts

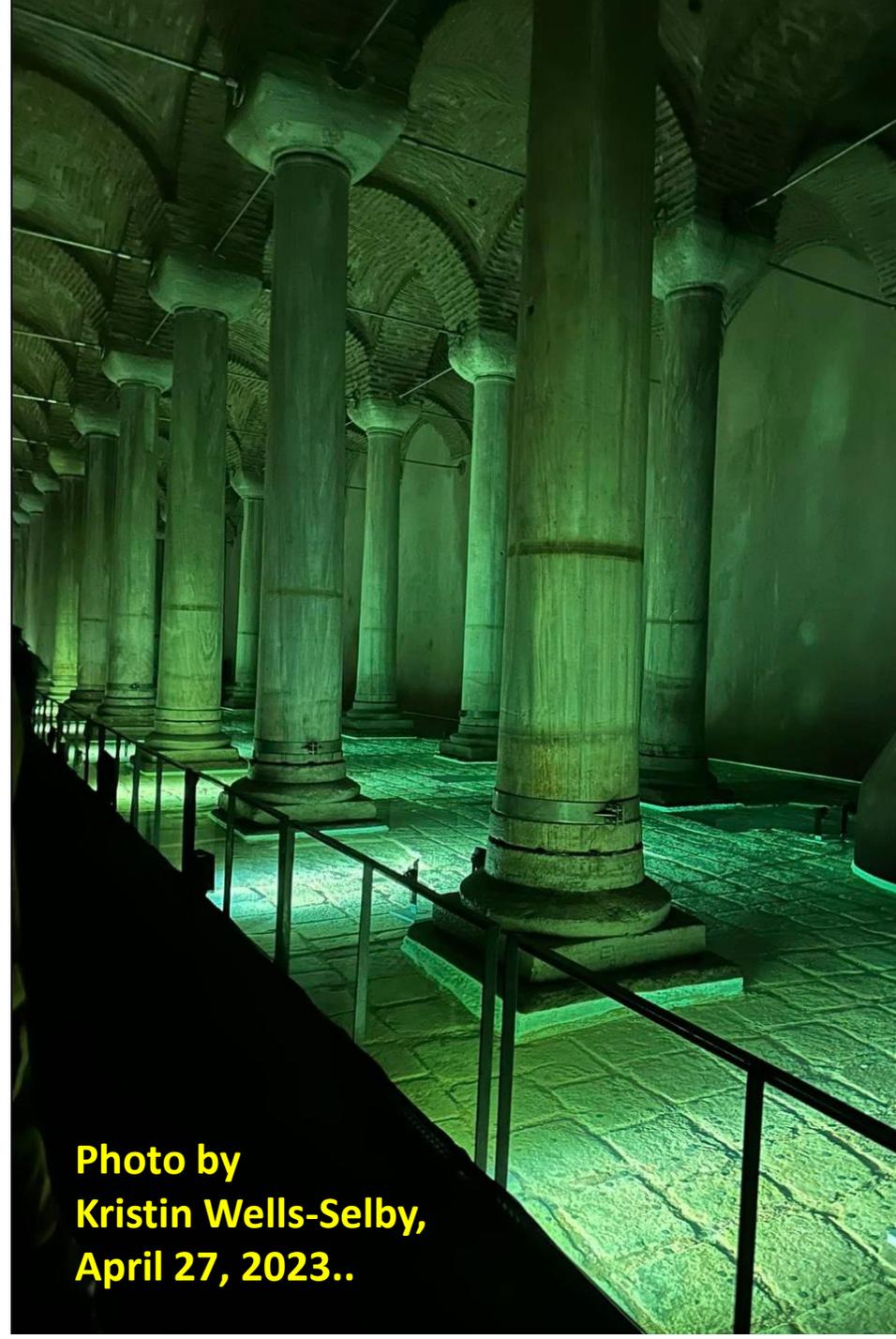
10. SAVE THE DATES

**FIRST ANNUAL NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY STATE OF
THE WATERSHED 2023**

TODAY: Thursday May 11th, 4:30 – 6:30
At Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

DIY CISTERN DAY

Saturday September 23, 2023
At Las Virgenes Municipal Water District



**Photo by
Kristin Wells-Selby,
April 27, 2023..**

Regional Projects that Undermine MS4 Compliance: What Can Be Done?

Terry Saucier, a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter Climate Reality Project shares that,

Las Virgenes Unified School District is about to install multiple large-scale plastic grass.

“LVUSD has made the decision to install artificial turf at six (6) schools – Chaparral Elem., Bay Laurel Elem., Round Meadow Elem., A.C. Stelle Middle School, A.E. Wright Middle School and a new field at Agoura High School as well as replace the infill at Agoura and Calabasas High Schools that have existing A.T. fields. This \$12.5-15M expenditure can cause harm to students and the environment. Additionally, it is not a fiscally sound investment. The answer is nature-based solutions – grasses that are drought tolerant, thrive in our local climate, and safe for children and the environment .”

Community push-back has not stopped the project.

Multiple pieces of legislation is brewing in Sacramento to ban plastic grass for all school use.

This enormous project will result in plastics in the watershed.

Is it appropriate for the Safe, Clean Water Program to speak to LVUSD about MS4 Compliance? How can we collaborate best and support LVUSD?