

# North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, May 11, 2023  
1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room  
4232 Las Virgenes Rd Calabasas, CA 91302  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

\*Mark Beltram, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair  
Chad Christensen, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)  
Madelyn Glickfeld, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability UCLA (Community), Vice-Chair  
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)  
Jessica Forte, Agoura Hills (Municipal)  
Tatiana Holden, Calabasas (Municipal)  
Joe Bellomo, Hidden Hills (Municipal)  
Aaron Ordower, Los Angeles County SD3 (Municipal)  
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Mark Johnson, Malibu (Municipal)  
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal)  
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## \*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Russ Bryden, LA County Waterworks Districts (Agency)  
Doug Marian, California Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association (Community)  
Kirsten James, Resident (Community)  
Elias Garcia, LA Area Chamber of Commerce (Community)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

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## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

David Pedersen, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. All Committee Members and LA County Flood Control District (District) staff made self-introductions and a quorum was established. District staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants joining online.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2023**

Chair Pedersen presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Jessica Forte motioned to approve, seconded by Member Roxanne Hughes. The WASC voted to approve the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

## **3. Committee Member and District Updates**

District staff provided an update, noting:

- The first term for WASC Community Stakeholder seats will end on June 30, 2023. Community Stakeholders interested in joining the WASC for the next 3-year term should submit the interest to

# North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



serve form. Current seat holders interested in reapplying do not need to submit another form. The link to the form is available at the bottom of the first page of this meeting agenda and [here](#).

- On April 20, 2023, the Regional Oversight Committee voted to advance all 9 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) to the Board of Supervisors for funding. The District is drafting the Board letter for final submission later in the summer.
- The District has released the Regional Program Funding Process Handbook. The handbook provides consolidated information on existing Regional Program requirements and guidance. The handbook is available under the Regional Program – Call for Projects tab on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.
- FY 22-23 Quarter 3 (Q3) quarterly reports (October through December 2022) are due May 15, 2023. Quarterly reports are still required even if there is no project activity or if the Transfer Agreement has not been executed for projects included in the FY22-23 SIP.
- A public workshop focusing on Municipal Program implementation and municipal benefits of the Regional Program will be held on May 23, 2023, 10:00am – 12:00pm. A Zoom link is available on the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) webpage. All are welcome to participate.
- Applicants to the Regional Program Round 5 Call for Projects are required to attend one of two information sessions coming up on May 24 and May 25, 2023, either virtually or in person. Recordings and slides will be made available and more information is posted on the website. The deadline to submit new applications is July 31, 2023.
- Applicants in all nine Watershed Areas will have the option to use the proposed pilot criteria to score the water supply category in Round 5, as an outcome of the MMS. Over 130 previous projects were used to calibrate the alternate criteria to historical examples. The pilot responds to stakeholder concerns around changes in the economy and the variable size of watershed opportunities, as some large projects diminish the opportunity for smaller projects. This pilot will allow projects with smaller drainage areas to gain more points in the water supply category. More information about this pilot will be provided in the information sessions. Additionally, a Memo will be issued in the coming weeks to inform the Scoring Committee on how to evaluate applications that use this alternative. Briefings will be provided to the Watershed Coordinators to better inform them about the alternative scoring rubric.
- E-Blasts will be sent by the District with a list of updates, including details about the MMS and the Call for Projects information sessions. Additionally, a targeted email about the Call for Projects will be sent to those that have previously applied, reminding them of the information sessions.

Member Forte asked whether the required letter of concept approval for projects, due on May 31, 2023, could be waived if final construction permits have been issued. District staff will follow up on this inquiry.

WASC Members discussed proceedings from the April 20, 2023 Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), particularly how the ROC is not authorized to revise SIPs. In the event that a SIP includes an element that the ROC does not agree with, the ROC may elect to not recommend the SIP for adoption by the Board of Supervisors, a decision which then allows a WASC to reconsider the SIP. The ROC cannot make direct changes to a SIP or to a project within any SIP. In response to a Committee Member suggestion, District staff explained that only one SIP may be submitted to the ROC for approval and as a practice all SIPs are submitted together in a single package for the Board's consideration. At a future meeting, District staff will share a presentation to remind the group of the overall process of the SCWP and the roles of the WASCs, ROC, and Scoring Committee.

Member Aaron Ordower shared that Los Angeles County Supervisor and Board President Lindsey Horvath presented a motion about climate resilient communities and infrastructure. The motion directs the LA County Department of Public Works to coordinate with other County agencies to identify planning strategies for more resilient physical and social infrastructure.

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## 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Melina Sempill Watts shared a land acknowledgement and reminders of ongoing social challenges and the importance of biodiversity. Watershed Coordinator Watts then provided an update about recent and upcoming outreach efforts in facilitating community engagement, identifying and developing project concepts, working with technical assistants, facilitating identification and representation of community priorities, integrating priorities through partnerships and extensive networks, leveraging funding and cost-share partners, continuing educational efforts, and collaborating with other watershed coordinators. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Watershed Coordinator Watts reminded the WASC about the State of the Watershed 2023 event taking place Thursday, May 11, 2023, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. Future events include the DIY Cistern Day on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

Lastly, Watershed Coordinator Watts described a conversation with Terry Saucier (San Fernando Valley Chapter Climate Reality Project) who shared that the Las Virgenes Unified School District plans to install artificial turf at six schools with a cost between \$12.5 to \$15 million and may pose an obstacle for MS4 compliance. Watershed Coordinator Watts voiced concerns with the environmental and health implications of artificial turf. Watershed Coordinator Watts invited the Committee's thoughts, opinions, and insights on potential next steps:

- Member Forte expressed that it would be inappropriate for WASC members that represent municipal agencies to engage directly about the project without having the opportunity to first talk to city management.
- Vice-Chair Madelyn Glickfeld suggested the WASC's role should be to inform community members of the project, to ensure they get to express their thoughts with the appropriate entity.
- Chair Pedersen stated that the role of this WASC is not to judge the actions of other agencies, and that the WASC should protect their relationship with the Las Virgenes Unified School District.
- Chair Pedersen suggested ensuring the Las Virgenes Unified School District is aware of existing rebate programs that prioritize native and drought-tolerant ornamental vegetation, to lower project cost.
- Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared that the Scoring Committee has determined that installation of artificial turf will not qualify as a nature-based solution. Further, replacing an impervious surface with artificial turf will not qualify as removing an impervious surface.
- Watershed Coordinator Watts referenced California Assembly Bill 1423 and California Senate Bill 499 may limit the application of artificial turf.

Concluding the discussion, it was decided that the WASC can work towards finding out more information about the project. Members can also share information about the project with their respective agencies to gather their thoughts in case they want to revisit the topic.

Watershed Coordinator Watts provided an overview of the SCWP Regional Program call for projects, including mention of the Regional Program Funding Process Handbook, deadlines, mandatory workshops, eligibility, the WASC's role, and the Technical Resources Program (TRP). See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Member Forte inquired about the process to submit a TRP application, specifically its relationship with the SIP. District staff and Antos provided clarity that each year the July 31 deadline for call for projects includes proposals for the Infrastructure Program, Technical Resources Program, and Scientific Studies. The WASC evaluates TRP applications and can elect to program a TRP award in the SIP. A TRP award is a Technical Assistance Team that will prepare a feasibility study for a potential Infrastructure Program application in a future Call for Projects.

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Vice-Chair Glickfeld thanked and recognized Watershed Coordinator Watts for their work and continuous engagement.

## **5. Public Comment Period**

District staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting. No comment cards were received before the meeting. There were no public comments.

## **6. Discussion**

### **a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

Member Forte shared about continuous coordination across agencies in the WASC in preparation for the State of the Watershed event.

### **b) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY2022-23 Q1 and Q2**

District staff presented the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for Q1 and Q2 and FY22-23, noting that modifications have been made to the Viewridge Road Stormwater Investment Project. See slide available on the SCWP website and attached.

Alberto Grajeda (Los Angeles County Public Works) shared that there were minor additions to the project scope and increases to the design budget. The scope additions are related to the pre-treatment devices and efforts to facilitate maintenance access. Grajeda also noted changes in the schedule and shared that the team is currently completing the 90% design. The 100% design is expected to be completed by August 2023. It is anticipated that early phases of construction will start in early 2024.

### **c) Alternative Meeting Times for Future WASC Meetings**

District staff proposed the WASC consider alternative meeting times, since it has been difficult to ensure quorum recently. WASC members discussed alternatives but concluded that the existing time may still be the best option.

Members inquired about the possibility for returning to virtual meetings and District staff explained that this would not be possible unless the conditions of Assembly Bill 2449 are met. The WASC needs to comply with the Brown Act, which requires the meetings to be held in a public space.

Chair Pedersen concluded that the meeting time would not change and asked the WASC members to do their best to attend and ensure they have identified an alternate who can be appointed and then who can make the meetings if needed. Chair Pederson called upon District staff to adhere to the absence policy more strictly. Antos added that it may be possible for an organization or agency that holds a seat to recommend a partner organization or agency to fill the alternate role, as a way to handle if an internal alternate isn't available. District staff will follow up with members of the Committee who have violated the attendance policy and provide an update to the WASC at their next meeting.

## **7. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **8. Voting Items**

### **a) Approve the Updated North Santa Monica Bay Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan**

# North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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Watershed Coordinator Watts shared about the addition of a new strategy to the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP): prioritizing First Nations peoples in the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area. Watershed Coordinator Watts also shared about four new community outreach events. Lastly, Watershed Coordinator Watts invited the WASC's review of the list of relevant elected officials to confirm it includes those based in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Members of the WASC provided recommended edits on the SOEP:

- Jessie Gabriel should be added to the list.
- Ted Lieu should be removed from the list.
- Page 12 should be updated to remove the struck text and change the "fully funded" wording to "partially funded for design only."

Member Forte motioned to approve the updated North Santa Monica Bay SOEP as amended, seconded by Vice-Chair Glickfeld. The WASC voted to approve the motion with 12 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

## **9. Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2023, 1:00pm – 3:00pm and will be held in person at the Las Virgenes Metropolitan Water District Conference Room. See SCWP website for meeting details.

Chair Pedersen invited Committee Members to suggest topics for the next meeting's agenda. None were provided.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chair Pedersen thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.



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# Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Area Steering Committee North Santa Monica Bay

**Date** Thursday, May 11, 2023  
**Time** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
**Location** Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference  
Room - 4232 Las Virgenes Rd Calabasas, CA 91302

WebEx Hybrid Meeting – See below or [SCW website](#)  
for WebEx Meeting details

## WebEx Meeting Details

Committee members are expected to attend in-person at the address listed above. Members of the public may participate by joining the WebEx Event Meeting below. Please refer to the [Video Conferencing Guidelines](#) available on the Safe, Clean Water Program website for additional information.

### Join via WebEx Events (recommended)

Event number: 2481 037 1549

Password: scwp (7297 from phones and video systems)

<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=m370ab6819e3f9d9bbb91d10588eac1fe>

### Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll or

+1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles)

Access Code: 2481 037 1549

## Public Comment

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to [SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov). All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete the [Comment Card Form](#) available on the Safe, Clean Water website and email to [SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov) by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting.

Para solicitudes de comentarios públicos en español, envíe un correo electrónico a [SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov) o lláme al (833) 275-7297 dos días antes de la reunión para asegurarse de que haya un traductor presente para transmitir el comentario para consideración del comité.

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Requests for accommodations may be made to [SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov) or by telephone to 833-ASK-SCWP at least three working days in advance of the meeting.

Supporting documentation will be available on the Safe, Clean Water website at [www.safecleanwaterla.org](http://www.safecleanwaterla.org).



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## Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2023
- 3) Committee Member and District Updates
  - a) Community Stakeholder Seat Reselection, 2023  
[Commission Service Division \(CSD\) – Interest to Serve Form](#)
- 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates
- 5) Public Comment Period
- 6) Discussion
  - a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure
  - b) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY2022-23 Q1 and Q2
  - c) Alternative Meeting Times for Future WASC Meetings
- 7) Public Comment Period
- 8) Voting Items
  - a) Approve the Updated North Santa Monica Bay Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
- 9) Items for Next Agenda
- 10) Adjournment

**Next Meeting: June 8, 2023**  
**1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room**  
4232 Las Virgenes Rd Calabasas, CA 91302

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**NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - May 11, 2023**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to Approve April 13, 2023 WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve the Updated North Santa Monica Bay Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan as ammended
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar		Mark Beltran	x	a	y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Russ Bryden					
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen	x			y	y
Agency	LVMWD	<b>David Pedersen</b>	x	Craig Jones		y	y
Agency	LVMWD	<b>David Pedersen</b>		Craig Jones		y	
Community Stakeholder	UCLA	<b>Madelyn Glickfeld</b>	x	Richard Ambrose		y	
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Doug Marian					
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Elias Garcia					
Community Stakeholder	Wishotoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Kirsten James					
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte	x	Kelly Fisher		y	y
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Joe Bellomo	x	Kerry Kallman		y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower	x			y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Allen Ma	x	a	y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Tracey Rossine		y	y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Phillipe Eskandar		y	y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x				
	Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	11	11
	Total Voting Members Present	12			Nay (N)	0	0
	Agency	3			Abstain (A)	2	0
	Community Stakeholder	2			Total	13	11
	Municipal Members	7				Approved	Approved

**Other Attendees**

- Alberto Grajeda
- Andrea Prado Iriarte
- Annelisa Moe
- Caitlin Gray
- Gabriela Gonzalez
- Hector J Bordas
- Jenny Chau
- Kelly Fisher
- Kelsey Reed
- Larry Tran
- Mayra Martinez
- Melania Gaboyan
- Yisak Kim

North Santa Monica Bay  
Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary

Watershed Area	North Santa Monica Bay
Report Year	FY22-23

Full reports are available at:

<https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/scw-reporting/map>

Row Labels	Project Developer	Report Period	Report Status	Active Phase List	Scope Modification	Exhibit Modification	Activity Concern	Activity Delay	Funding Projected	Funds Awarded to Date	Expenditures to Date
<b>FY21-22</b>											
<b>Infrastructure Project</b>											
Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project	<b>Los Angeles County Public Works</b>	Q1 (July - September)	<b>Submitted</b>	Design	<b>No</b>	No	<b>N/A</b>	No	\$800,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$0.00
		Q2 (October - December)	<b>Submitted</b>	Design	<b>No</b>	A-1 Budget Plan Modifications, A-10 Work Schedule and Completion Date Modifications, A-2 SCW Program Goals Modifications, A-3 Total Activity Cost Modifications, A-9 Tracking Benefits Modifications	<b>Yes</b>	No	\$800,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$0.00



# **SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

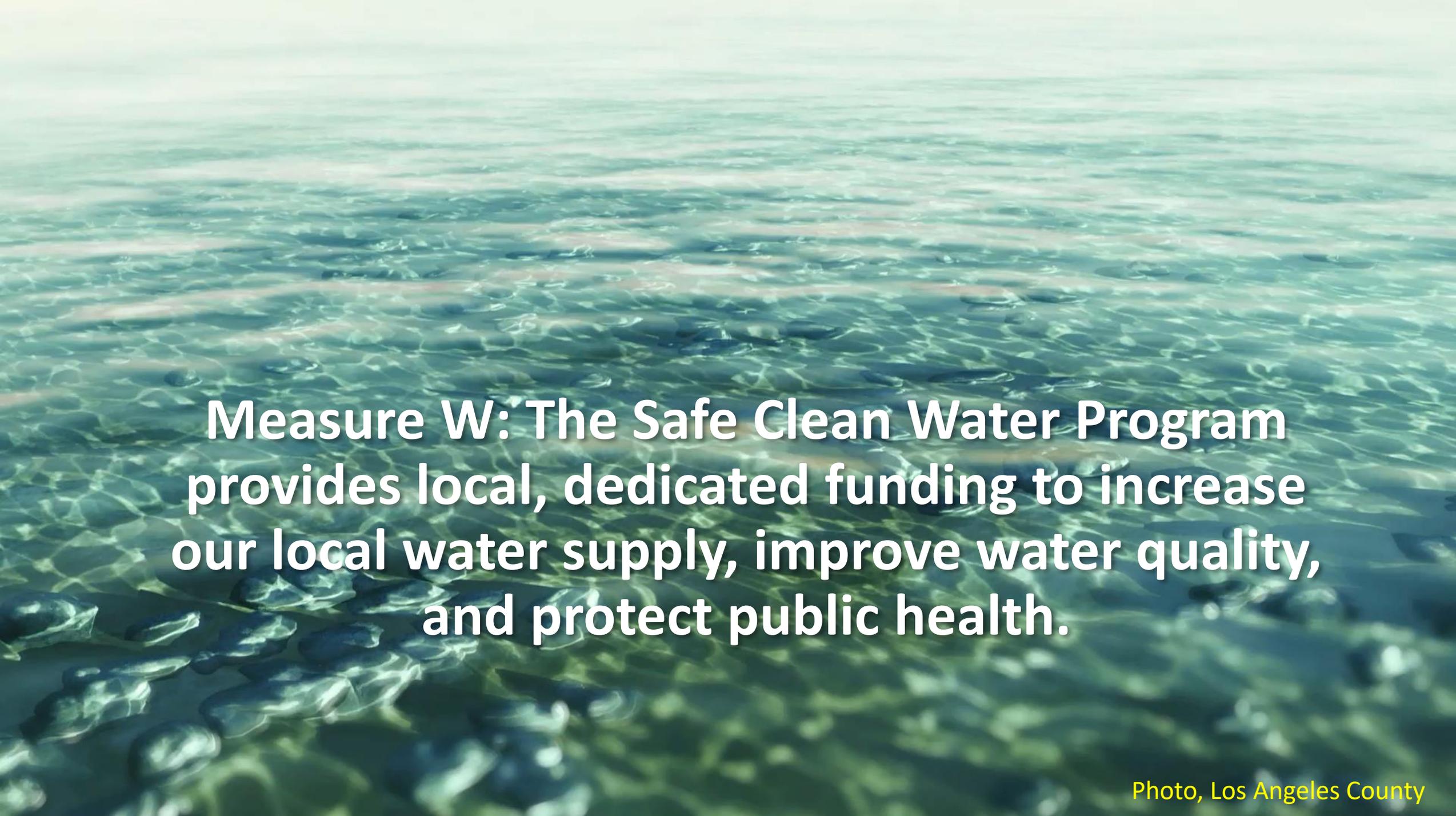
## **The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee Update**

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 and ditches. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the canals create a grid-like pattern across the landscape. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down at the water.

**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



# 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*

**Joining for safe, clean water,  
people and our shared ecosystem**

Invited to join the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Steering Committee  
inaugural State of the Watershed 2023.

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

Santa Monica Bay Watershed includes Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills,  
Westlake Village, unincorporated Los Angeles County in the Santa Monica Mountains,  
miles of Malibu.

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

**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**  
of Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, District 3, Aaron Ordower (2 minutes)
- Introduction to the Santa Monica Bay**  
by Ford, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (10 minutes)
- Introduction to Fire Response: Getting the Jump on Water Quality Monitoring**  
by Therine Pease, Heal the Bay (10 minutes)
- Introduction to Fire Preparedness with California Friendly Gardening, Local Water Supply, Water Conservation + New Regulations**  
by Stevens, Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains (10 minutes)
- Introduction to Living 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 ana Holden, Calabasas
  - by Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village
  - by Bellomo, Hidden Hills
- Introduction to Nature-based Solutions: Sustaining Biodiversity and Improving Local Water Quality**
- Introduction to Love Made Visible: Projects at the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains: Rosi Dagit** (20 minutes)
- Introduction to Northern Steelhead Trout Survey**
- Introduction to Years Later: Update on the Malibu Lagoon Restoration of 2013**
- Introduction to Malibu Lagoon Restoration**
- Introduction to The Dam and 9 Upstream Fish Migration Barrier Removals Let the Creek Flow**
- Introduction to Van Sant, Restoration Ecologist and Project Manager for the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project with California State Park**

Participants 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

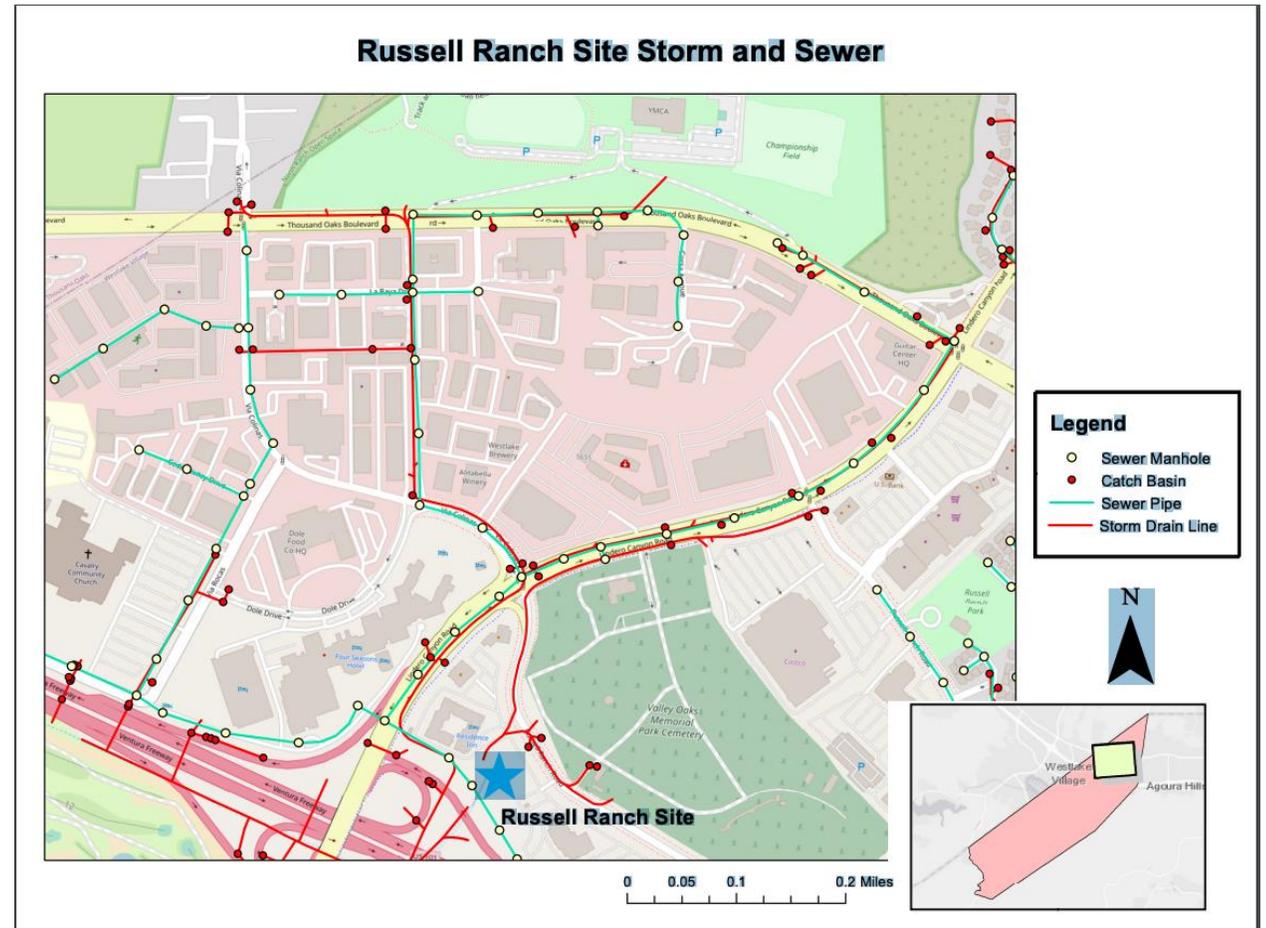


Image from City of Agoura Hills



## 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

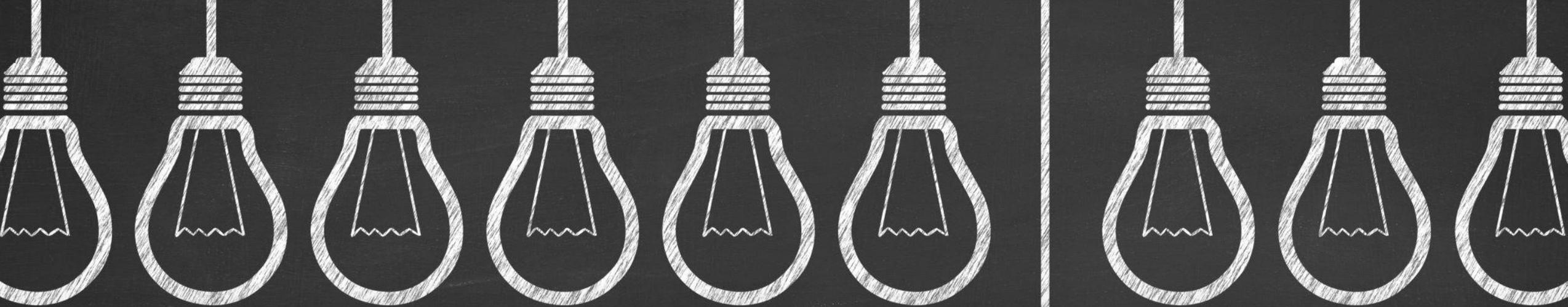


## 6. Cost-Share Partners

- 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

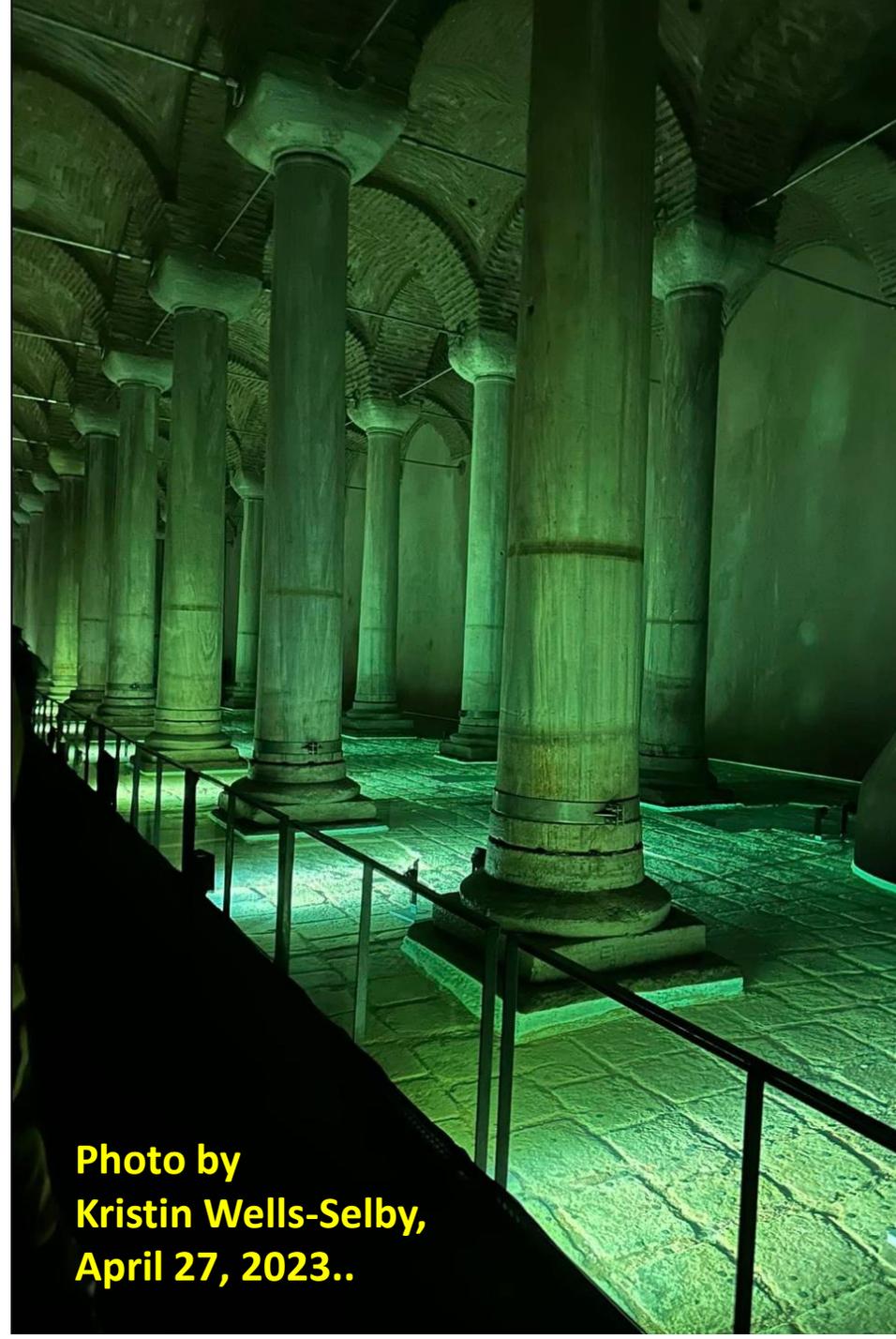
# 10. SAVE THE DATES

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

**TODAY:** Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 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?**

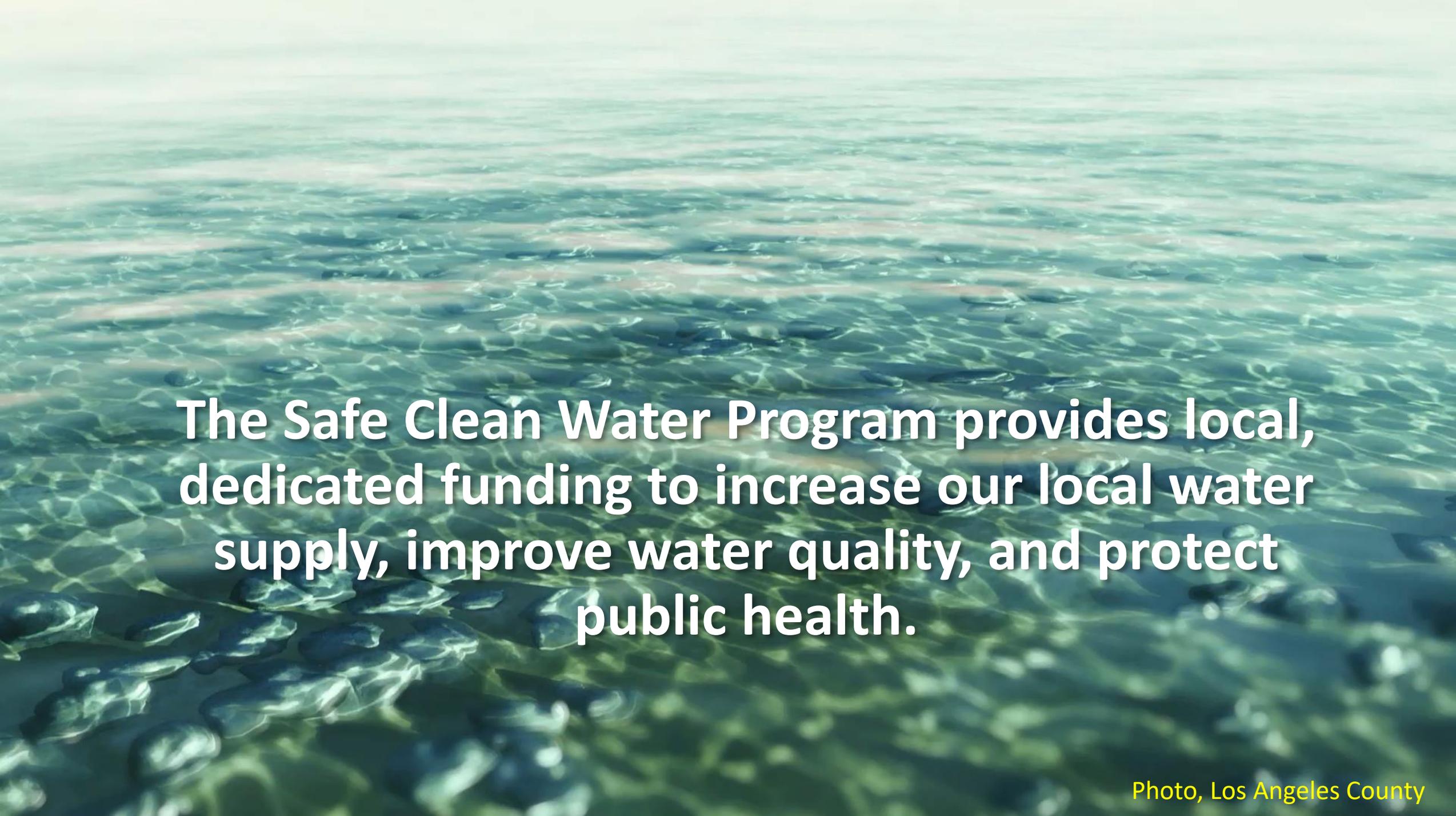


# **SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

## **Overview of Regional Program Call-for-Projects**

By Melina Sempill Watts  
Watershed Coordinator, Safe Clean Water L.A.  
May 11, 2023

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County



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

# SCWP Calls-for-projects: The Cliff Notes

Website	<a href="https://safecleanwaterla.org">safecleanwaterla.org</a> - Go to PROJECT PORTAL then to APPLY FOR FUNDING
A how-to-guide is on the website:	<a href="#">Regional Program Funding Process Handbook</a>
Deadlines	Call for projects closes July 31, 2023
SCWP Pre-Proposal Workshops	The District team walks through the application process.  <u>MUST attend presentations for project proponents on May 24 or 25</u> or MUST verify a watch of taped zoom.
Letters of Approval	Projects that impact Flood Control District infrastructure, propose diversion of stormwater to sewer, propose infiltrating to a managed aquifer, or are in a city but not proposed by a city have letters of concurrence of support required – see the Handbook for more details
Eligible Projects	Infrastructure projects are evaluated for eligibility using a scoring system. See the website for more information. Of 110 points available, a project must achieve 60 points.
NSMB WASC's role	NSMB WASC votes on funding for accepted applications.

# SCWP: Technical Resources Program

An application can be made to the Technical Resources Program

- If the application is included in a Stormwater Investment Plan
- A Technical Assistance Team (TAT) will be assigned.
- The TAT is scoped to support the development of a feasibility study that serves as a future implementation proposal to the SCWP.