



# **SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

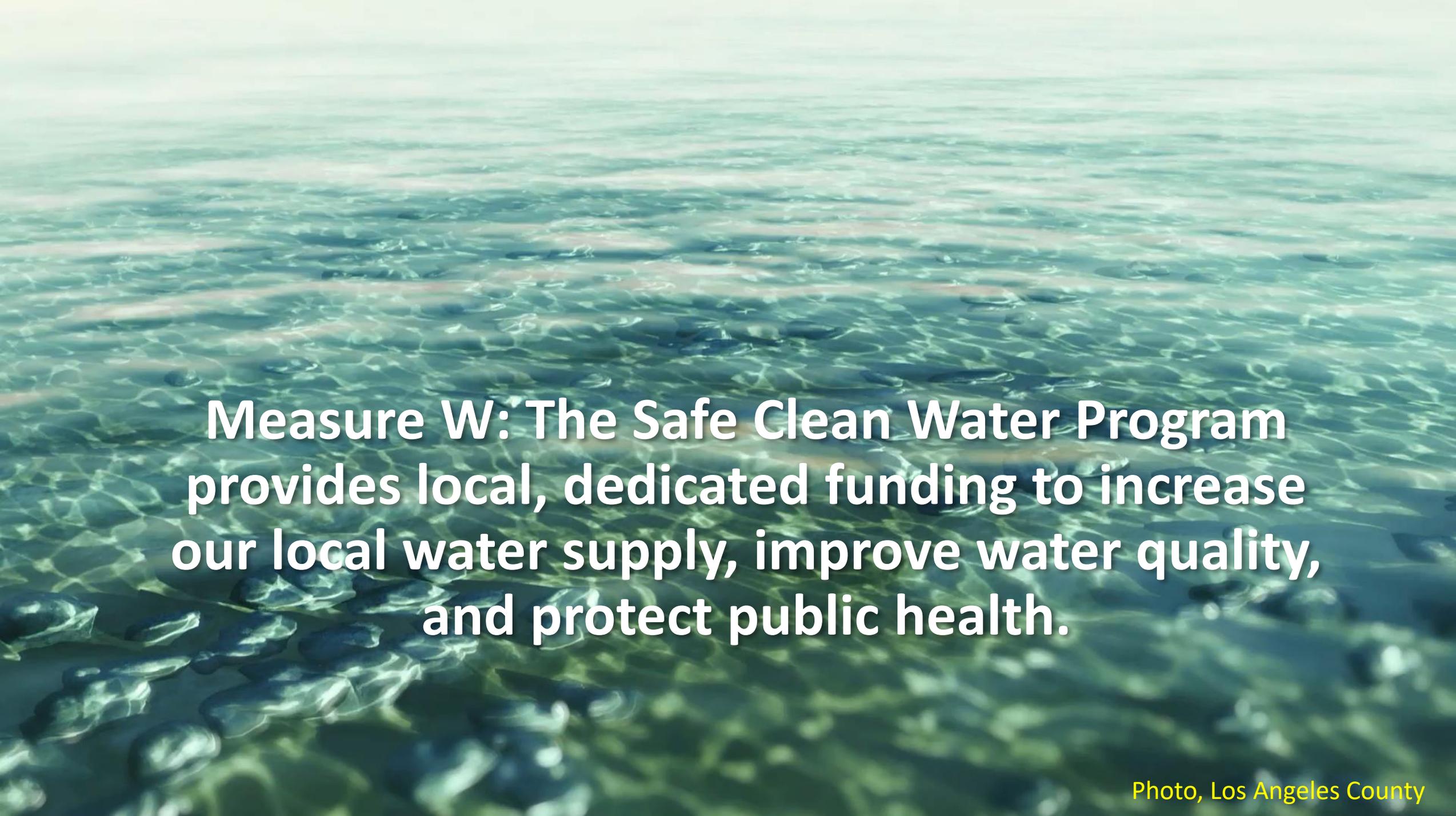
## **The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee Update**

By Melina Sempill Watts

Watershed Coordinator, Safe Clean Water L.A.

June 8, 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.**



# Minnesota-style Land Acknowledgement

What's our plan?

Art on Buses is by Marlena Myles Art & Design; photo is by Marlena Myles



# Free-range Watershed Reporting...



# OUTREACH, RECENT



2021 MS4 Permit - Ongoing Program

Minimum Control Measures

Public Information and Participation	Construction
Industrial/Commercial Facilities	Public Agency Activities
Planning and Land Development	Street Discharge Detection and Elimination

- Street sweeping
- Catch basin cleaning and labeling
- Staff training
- Onsite business inspection and education
- Integrated Pest Management
- Low Impact Development (LID) review
- Construction inspections
- Response to and abatement of illegal discharges
- Public involvement
- Enforcement
- Annual and semi-annual reports

North Santa Monica Bay  
State of the Watershed Event,  
May 11, 2023



A Holistic Snapshot of the State of the Watershed

# Rosy, the Steelhead Trout (Not Rosi Dagit the person!)



# Daily Valley News

## North Santa Monica Bay "State of the Watershed 2023" Will Address Sa

By Melina Watts

Safe, clean water sounds like cold water from a tap, like a stream running down to the sea, like children playing in the surf.

While the drinking water quality for residents in the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent areas is excellent, the runoff from irrigation and rain that travels through our communities picks up pollutants on the way into natural streams and the Pacific Ocean. This polluted run-off has led to water quality impairments such as sediments, nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizers), PCB's and DDT's, trash, and bacteria. How can our region get to safe, clean water both for the people in our community and the ecosystem as a whole?

The first inaugural North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed 2023 will explore what Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village and unincorporated Los Angeles County such as Topanga and the Santa Monica Mountains are doing to improve local water quality, increase local water supply and use nature-based solutions as a path to safe clean water for people and our shared ecosystem.

To be held in person at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District on Thursday, May 11, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, this event will be available online as well. While the event is free, seating is limited. RSVP to [lvmwd.com](http://lvmwd.com) on the community events page.

The State of the Watershed event will start with Agoura Hills Councilmember Jeremy Wolf. Keynote address is from former State Senator Fran Pavley, followed by Aaron Ordower, Environmental Deputy for the Office of Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. Dr. Katherine Peasey from Heal the Bay will detail research focusing on the impacts of the Woolsey Fire on water quality and Clark Stevens from the Resource Conservation

District of the Santa Monica Mountains will share the results of the long-running southern steelhead trout surveys in the Santa Monica Mountains, while considering the status of the Malibu Lagoon 10 years after its restoration. Richard Van Sant, Restoration Ecologist and Project Manager will give attendees a look at the proposed Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project with California State Parks which proposes to remove Rindge Dam (109 feet tall) and eight upstream fish migration barriers to provide vital habitat for endangered southern steelhead trout. Worth noting: southern steelhead trout can take more heat during breeding and early life stages, which will be of utmost importance as the climate heats up.



Water flows freely through Malibu Pool.

Never heard of Rindge Dam? Before 1929, Malibu Creek was prime habitat for southern steelhead trout – all 70+ miles of it. Then the Rindge Family built a 109-foot-tall dam for their dairy farm – which was promptly silted up by around 1950. Since then, the non-functional dam has blocked access to the rest of the creek for southern steelhead trout, who nevertheless used the remaining two miles of habitat in Malibu Creek for breeding for about 70 years. The proposed projects would provide 16 miles of additional habitat. All speakers will be available

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# The Malibu Times

SINCE 1946

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NEWS

## Watershed committee reminds region of Southern steelhead trout's critically endangered status

By **Samantha Bravo** May 19, 2023

1336 0



Agoura Hills City Councilmember Jeremy Wolf. Photo by Samantha Bravo/TMT.

### ***Inaugural State of the Watershed meeting provides updates on panel's efforts to conserve water***

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Steering Committee held an inaugural State of the Watershed 2023 meeting last Thursday to address its efforts in improving local water quality and the danger of Steelhead trout, also known as the *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*, becoming extinct.

In 1997, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed Southern steelhead as endangered. In 2012, NMFS designated Malibu Creek as a high-priority recovery river in the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan. Malibu

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## SAVE THE WATERSHED

Malibu Creek, Santa Monica Bay wildlife threatened  
May 14, 2023  
By John Loesing  
news@theacorn.com

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MESSAGE: Katherine Pines of Find the Bay discusses her agency's role in the protection of the Malibu Creek Watershed. Photos by JOHN LOESING/Acorn Newspaper

The Southern steelhead trout, a species of rainbow trout that swims back and forth from inland streams to the Pacific Ocean on its annual spawning mission, is now said to be extinct in Malibu Creek, but one expert speaking at a North Santa Monica Bay Watershed symposium last week in Calabasas isn't giving up hope that the fish will make a comeback.



Biologists, environmentalists and resource conservation managers who attended the state of the watershed conference May 11 at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters expressed confidence that the now 40-year-old movement to protect local streams and beaches is producing positive results.

Rosie Dagli, senior conservation biologist for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, told the more than 100 in-person and virtual attendees of the conference that the hearty steelhead is down but not out.

"These are the fish that we want to have into the future, and support, because they're the ones that can handle the climate change and the temperature differences that are coming our way," said Dagli, a key expert in the Southern California pro-ecology movement.



Rosie Dagli from the Resource Conservation District with a catch of the endangered steelhead trout.

But the past hasn't been kind.

The impact of upstream development and pollution from the 2 million people who live in the 200-square-mile North Santa Monica

## READ THE PRINT EDITION



2023-06-02 E-Edition



**Kurt And Goldie's Beach House Is Worthless**

## MOST READ ARTICLES

- 1 [Course planning major changes to the Calabasas Commons](#)
- 2 [We're not going to turn this into a](#)



# NSMB Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

- Will be (or is) posted on Safe, Clean Water L.A. website.
- Will be shared via North Santa Monica Bay Watershed newsletter.

Photo by Watts



# OUTREACH, UPCOMING

Photo by Watts



## Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III

- **Community-led community outreach**
- **Tatiana Holden, Tra'a Bezdecny and I are inviting members of the Calabasas Mayor's Youth Council AND the Calabasas Environmental Commission to be docents for creek restoration tours at the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival 2023**

# DIY Cistern Day 1: Calabasas Pumpkin Festival 2023



Photo by Watts



# DIY Cistern Day 2: Topanga Days 2024

**I give us a 50% chance of success  
to get vendors access to this  
(popular!) event. Stay tuned.**

Photo by @TopangaDays Instagram



Photo by Watts

# North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed 2024

- Per request of Adam Carnes, The Center for Sustainability and Business Services, Pepperdine University ... Invited them to host the event in 2024.
- Stay tuned.



# COMMUNITY PROJECT CONCEPTS

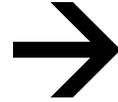
# Exploring Setting Up Tour for L.A. County Beaches and Harbors, Leslie Friedman Johnson, Mike Antos, Any Interested Parties of Parking Lot at Malibu Lagoon

- Capture of stormwater from adjacent PCH and from whole parking lot
- Removal of all impermeable pavement in parking lot
- Addition of showers for surfers and unhoused individuals with soapy water captured via rainwater gardens
- Capture of all run-off from cars and treatment via...
- Rainwater gardens with beach-specific native plants
- Graceful integration of view of ocean from parking lot
- Use of gentle hill between parking lot and lagoon to stop direct stormwater flow into lagoon
- Seats for picnics and visiting classes between parking lot and lagoon

# Accelerated Resilience L.A. Project Proposal

Safe, Clean Water L.A. is designed to *reflect* community goals and values as we improve water quality and increase local water supply.

# Agoura Hills: MS4 Compliance Project



- Soon to break ground.
- Stay tuned!

# Calabasas: Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III

Wildlife Life Conservation Board awaiting a full grant application.  
Stay tuned.



A large, semi-transparent graphic of a person holding a megaphone is centered in the background. The person is facing right, and the megaphone is held up to their mouth. The graphic is composed of dark grey shapes.

**MEET AND GREET:  
INCREASING WATERSHED  
COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY**



- **Attended Zuma Blue Flag Award Ceremony**
- **Attended Agoura Hills Community Clean Up Day**
- **Continued to help support Westlake High School Garden Club**



Photo by Watts

# Remember Earth Day at Westlake Village, Calabasas and Pepperdine University?

- Over 100 people signed up for the North Santa Monica Bay Newsletter



**RAINMAKING:  
CO-CREATING  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

# A Beautiful Maybe...

Connected with,

- Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program
- Warren Ontiveros, Maral Tashjian and Team, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbor
- Are there project partnerships possible?
- Can we use the Malibu Lagoon permeable parking lot as a model?
- Is the Wildlife Conservation Board the answer to beach replenishment via dune restoration projects?

