

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



Wednesday, August 16, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Matthew Veeh, West Basin MWD (Agency)
*Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Caryn Mandelbaum, Resident (Community)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation (Community), Chair
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Wilson Mendoza, Torrance (Municipal)
Geraldine Trivedi, EWMP (Beach Cities): Redondo Beach (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Carla Dillon, EWMP (Dominguez): Inglewood (Municipal)
Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Hany Fangary, Fangary Law Group (Community)
Bo Savage, Los Angeles Conservation Corps (Community)
Ron Dragoo, EWMP (Peninsula): Rancho Palos Verdes (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Craig Cadwallader, Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff reviewed house-keeping items, conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Committee Member Carla Dillon (Lomita) was introduced as the replacement for past Committee Municipal Primary Member Lauren Amimoto (Inglewood), representing Dominguez Channel EWMP. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2023

The District clarified that the previous meeting held on May 15, 2023 did not achieve quorum so there were no official minutes provided for the WASC to review and approve. Thus, Chair Cadwallader presented the minutes from the last official SSMB WASC meeting held on February 15, 2023. Chair Cadwallader motioned to approve the meeting minutes, and Committee Member Susie Santilena seconded the motion. The WASC voted to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes with 8 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- The first term for the WASC Community Stakeholder seats ended at the end of June. Community Stakeholders interested in joining the WASC for the next three-year term should submit the [interest to serve form](#), which will remain open throughout the year. Current seat holders do not need to submit another form to reapply, but those wishing to step down should inform District staff. Existing Stakeholders will continue to serve until reappointments have been completed.
- On August 8, 2023, all 9 Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board). The District is currently performing routine completeness checks before advancing applications to the Scoring Committee.
- Quarter 4 FY22-23 Reports were due on August 15, 2023. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if no activity was conducted for a project or the transfer agreement has not yet been executed, but expenditures have occurred. Projects from Round 4 that have not yet been approved by the Board will not have to submit quarterly reports.
- Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 reports will be summarized and presented to the WASC at the next meeting.
- The District introduced a new feature on the SCW Portal called “Bids and Schedule”. The tool shows new bid opportunities and schedules provided by SCW Program project developers and municipalities.
- The application deadline for Round 5 was July 31, 2023. Three Infrastructure Program (IP), one Technical Resources Program (TRP), and three Scientific Studies (SS) were submitted to the SSMB WASC. The District is currently conducting a completeness check before the applications are sent to the WASC. The Watershed Coordinator will present a summary of submitted projects to the WASC at the next meeting so the WASC can vote to send projects to the Scoring Committee. The District clarified that each WASC will make its own decision on how to fund the Scientific Studies.
- The District shared evacuation procedures for in-person WASC meetings at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes provided an update on the outreach and engagement efforts conducted recently, including:

- Meeting with the technical advisory teams for each of the TRPs
- Meeting with project applicants before the July 31, 2023 deadline to ensure they were prepared to submit applications
- Conducting outreach events in collaboration with diverse constituents, such as schools, local environmental groups, and community-based organizations,
- Hosting a showing of the film *Paya: The Water Story of the Paiute* and a panel afterwards with the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission and local tribal members
- Participating in a Stormwater Workshop Series by Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network
- Canvassing in West Athens on August 17, 2023
- Attending South Bay Plan Meeting on August 17, 2023
- Attending the Metrics and Monitoring Study stakeholder meeting
- Reviewing the LA County Water Plan
- Hosting a Heal the Bay Coastal Cleanup Day, scheduled for Saturday September 23, 2023

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Watershed Coordinator Shrodes noted that the Los Angeles Environmental Justice Action Network's Stormwater Workshop Series was attended by the Lower and Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Coordinators, with stipends aiding community-based organizations facing initial resource constraints in participating.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared that the Los Angeles Waterkeeper SCW Program Research Showcase highlighted Rosa González's "The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership" tool for engagement strategies.

Member Santilena clarified whether Committee members who are not otherwise compensated to participate may still qualify for a stipend of \$100 per SCW meeting attended., which the District confirmed. Member Santilena emphasized including Indigenous representation on decision-making committees such as the WASCs, suggesting deliberate distribution of the Community Stakeholder Interest Form to interested tribal groups, some of which have expressed their desire to propose projects and engage further in the SCW Program. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes will share the form and details with select panelists from the Paya film screening event.

Committee Member Caryn Mandelbaum requested more information regarding the Los Angeles County Water Plan and its review. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes plans to provide more information after the review.

5. Public Comment Period

District staff received no public comment cards by 5:00pm the day before the meeting.

Call-in user David Wahba representing Peninsula EWMP and a municipal member of Rancho Palos Verdes noted that they are typically the alternate for Member Ron Dragoo and are listening to the WASC meeting as a member of the public.

6. Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Vice-Chair Geraldine Trivedi disclosed that SCW Program projects were discussed at the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group meeting. Member Wilson Mendoza and Alternate Member Doug Krauss were in attendance as well.

The District disclosed that an unofficial WASC meeting on May 15, 2023 (where the quorum was not met) occurred. The WASC members in attendance discussed the Regional Quarterly Report for FY22-23 Quarters 1 and 2 and the Watershed Coordinator presented an update on FY23-24 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP). There were no voting items.

a) Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities Presentation

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented an overview of the program and WASC members' roles and responsibilities. The presentation can be found on the SCW Program website. Fossum summarized the SCW Program funded projects to date, current and future timelines, and guidelines for SIP development and continuous evaluation of funded projects.

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Fossum presented various resources available for WASC members, both inside and outside of meetings, to use as reference for deliberation. Funding memos will be a new resource this year that will be generated for each SCW Program IP project application to identify leveraged funding sources and aid the WASC in funding priorities, such as partial funding.

Member Carla Dillion requested details regarding the Scoring Committee. Fossum clarified that the Scoring Committee is a governing body independent from the 9 WASCs and the ROC.

Vice-Chair Trivedi asked about the WASC's continuing role in approving annual funding for existing projects and how it occurs. Fossum explained that there are quarterly reviews throughout the SIP cycle where the WASC can get updates about existing project progress. When the new SIP is approved, the approval of the projected annual funding for existing projects also occurs. The WASC has the authority to hold or shift funding from existing projects during each SIP cycle. District staff added that the SIP tool shows previously approved projects at the bottom with their projected funds.

Member Darryl Ford mentioned that it would be beneficial to make a mobile device view of the SCW Portal.

b) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Chair Cadwallader noted a willingness to continue as chair. Vice-Chair Trivedi clarified that in the future, they would transition to an alternate member and Member Krauss would step in as the primary committee member. EWMP (Beach Cities) would like to maintain the Vice-Chair position. The WASC agreed that for the time being, they will vote to continue with Vice-Chair Trivedi.

c) South Santa Monica Bay, Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report Draft Overview

The District presented the SSMB WARPP Report Draft to the WASC. The report shows progress made towards SCW Program's goals through the projects approved by the SSMB WASC.

The report will be sent to the WASC and uploaded on SCW Program website by August 17, 2023. The District will take the feedback from all the WASCs and incorporate it into the WARPP drafting process in subsequent years. This year, there will not be opportunity to make significant changes as the reports must be presented to the ROC on August 31, 2023. The ROC will take information from WARPPs to develop the Biannual Report.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

a) Vote to select/reselect Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs for next SIP cycle

Member Matthew Veeh motioned to approve Craig Cadwallader as Chair and Geraldine Trivedi as Vice-Chair. Member Wilson Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

b) Approve FY23-24 Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Member Santilena motioned to approve the FY23-24 Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan and was seconded by Vice-Chair Trivedi. The motion was approved, with 12 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1

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in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 20, 2023. See the SCW Program website for meeting details, including timing and length. Items on the Agenda include:

- a) Vote to send some or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee

The District requested that the WASC Members review the submitted projects before the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

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

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Member Type	Organization	Quorum Present				Voting Items			Other Attendees
		Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to approve February 15, 2023 meeting Minutes	Select Craig Cadwallader as chair and Geraldine Trivedi	Approve FY23-24 Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan (SOEP)	
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		a	y	y	390000
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell		Matthew Veeh	x	a	y	y	24893527544
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Robert Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	a	y	y	Alexander Iglesias - LACFCD
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	x	Christopher Lapaz		a	y	a	Austine Racelis - LACFCD
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	y	y	y	Ava Farriday
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Caryn Mandelbaum	x			y	y	y	Billy Berler
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	x	Mary Simun		y	y	y	Brenda Ponton
Community Stakeholder	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission								Call-in User_2
Community Stakeholder	Fangary Law Group	Hany Fangary							Christine McLeod
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Conservation Corp	Bo Savage		Wendy Butts					Christopher Vong
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	x	y	y	a	Curtis F
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ryan Jackson		y	y	y	gabriela gonzalez
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Thuan Nguyen	x	Jalaine Verdiner		y	y	y	Haley
Municipal Members	Torrance	Steve Finton		Wilson Mendoza	x	y	y	y	Haley
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Geraldine Trivedi	x	Doug Krauss		y	y	y	Jacqueline Mak
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Carla Dillon	x	Heecheol Kwon		a	y	y	Jenny Chau
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Ron Drago		David Wahba					Joyce Amaro
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	x			N/A	N/A	N/A	Kathleen McGowan
	Total Non-Vacant Seats	16			Yay (Y)	8	13	11	Lara Awad
	Total Voting Members Present	13			Nay (N)	0	0	0	M. Scaduto
	Agency	5			Abstain (A)	5	0	2	Mark Nguyen
	Community Stakeholder	2			Total	13	13	13	Melanie Hu - LACFCD
	Municipal Members	6			Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Michael Scaduto
									Michelle Staffield
									Paige Bistromowitz
									Richard
									Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
									Thomas Lee
									Veronica Carrillo

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	mbenavid@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	<i>Marcela Benavides</i>
CJ Caluag	LACFCD	mbeltran@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
E.J. Caldwell	West Basin	edwardc@westbasin.org	P	
Matthew Veeh	West Basin	MatthewV@westbasin.org	A	<i>Matthew Veeh</i>
Robert Beste	Water Replenishment District	rbeste@ wrd.org	P	
Aimee Zhao	Water Replenishment District	azhao@ wrd.org	A	<i>Aimee Zhao</i>
Dave Pierce	Sanitation Districts	DPierce@lacsds.org	P	<i>Dave Pierce</i>
Christopher Lapaz	Sanitation Districts	christopherlapaz@lacsds.org	A	
Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org	P	
Darryl Ford	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Darryl.Ford@lacity.org	A	<i>Darryl Ford</i>
Caryn Mandelbaum	Resident	carynmandelbaum@gmail.com	P	<i>Caryn Mandelbaum</i>
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	craigc@surfrider-southbay.org	P	<i>Craig Cadwallader</i>
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	entamoebatrex@hotmail.com	A	
Hany Fangary	Fangary Law Group	hany@fangarylalaw.com	P	
Bo Savage	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	bsavage@lacorps.org	P	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Wendy Butts	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	wbutts@lacorps.org	A	
Gilbert Marquez	Carson	gmarquez@carsonca.gov	P	
Roland Jen	Carson	rjen@carsonca.gov	A	<i>RJ</i>
Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	susie.santilena@lacity.org	P	<i>Susie Santilena</i>
Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	ryan.jackson@lacity.org	A	
Thuan Nguyen	Los Angeles County	THUNGUYEN@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	<i>Thuan</i>
Jalaine Verdiner	Los Angeles County	jquintr@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Steve Finton	Torrance	sfinton@torranceca.gov	P	
Wilson Mendoza	Torrance	Wmendoza@TorranceCA.Gov	A	<i>Wilson Mendoza</i>
Geraldine Trivedi	EWMP: Beach Cities (Redondo Beach)	geraldine.trivedi@redondo.org	P	<i>G. Trivedi</i>
Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities (Hermosa Beach)	dkrauss@hermosabeach.gov	A	<i>Doug Krauss</i>
Carla Dillon	EWMP: Dominguez (Hawthorne)	c.dillon@lomitacity.com	P	
Heecheol Kwon	EWMP: Dominguez (Hawthorne)	HKwon@cityofhawthorne.org	A	
Ron Drogo	EWMP: Dominguez (Inglewood)	rond@rpvca.gov	A	
David Wahba	EWMP: Peninsula (Palos Verdes Estates)	davidw@rollinghillsestates.gov	P	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay	nshrodes@healthebay.org		

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