

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



Thursday, September 14, 2023
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Rd Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
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)
*Kelly Fisher, Agoura Hills (Municipal)
Tatiana Holden, Calabasas (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:

David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
Russ Bryden, LA County Waterworks District (Agency)

Elias Garcia, LA Area Chamber of Commerce (Community)
Joe Bellomo, Hidden Hills (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

Madelyn Glickfeld, Vice-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 Los Angeles 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 August 10, 2023

Vice-Chair Glickfeld presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Mark Johnson motioned to approve, seconded by Member Roxanne Hughes. The WASC voted to approve the August 10, 2023 meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Member Craig Jones shared that a firescaping workshop will be held on September 16 at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters. Member Jones also urged Committee Members to follow and engage with the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) ruling currently being developed for outdoor water use. Member Jones noted that Las Virgenes Municipal Water District will be sending comments. The Committee had a discussion on the unintended consequences of a stringent ruling, that

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



agencies already on the forefront of water conservation may not be able to meet those goals and consumers could end up replacing all green space with gravel to comply. The recent ban on nonfunctional turf was mentioned but is a separate ruling than the one discussed. The SWRCB will be meeting on October 4 to discuss the proposed ruling.

Member Johnson announced that the City of Malibu, in partnership with Heal the Bay, will be hosting a Coastal Cleanup Day on September 23 at Westward Beach from 9:00am – 12:00pm. The City of Malibu is also hosting a smart gardening workshop on September 30 at Malibu City Hall and will be offering discounted composting kits at the event.

Member Aaron Ordower provided updates from the County Board of Supervisors' (Board) Office related to the Board motion for Accelerating Implementation of the Safe Clean Water Program, which can be found on the SCW Program website. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will report back to the Board with recommendations on streamlining the SCW Program, including recommendations from the Regional Oversight Committee's (ROC) Biennial Review. The Biennial Review will inform the Board on future potential policy action items.

Committee Members noted that the WASC should draft a letter to the ROC to be more involved in the recommendation process. Watershed Coordinator Melina Sempill Watts also noted that organizations such as Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA) and the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy should also share their experiences navigating the SCW Program. Member Chad Christensen noted that the SCW Program does not apply to many of the open space projects that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) propose.

Member Ordower also noted that a Board motion related to managing trash and other pollutants entering stormwater infrastructure from a wholesale, upstream perspective was approved on September 12. The draft Los Angeles County Water Plan is also publicly available. District staff will circulate the plan to Committee Members. Member Ordower additionally shared that the Board is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors, various cities, and non-profit organizations to pursue a National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant for coastal habitat restoration and resilience. Letters of support can be sent to Member Ordower.

District staff provided an update, noting:

- The first term for WASC Community Stakeholder seats ended on June 30, 2023. Community Stakeholders interested in joining the WASC for the next three-year term should submit the [Interest to Serve Form](#). Current seat holders interested in reapplying do not need to submit another form. Current seat holders wishing to step down should inform District staff. There are currently three seats vacant. The candidates will be selected in late fall. Existing members will continue to serve until reappointments have been completed. There are currently three candidates at this point.
- The Board recently approved all nine Stormwater Infrastructure Plans (SIPs) on August 8, 2023. District staff is working on executing the transfer agreements.
- The application deadline for Round 5 Call for Projects closed on July 31, 2023. The NSMB WASC received one Infrastructure Program (IP) project.

Member Ordower shared that the Board has recommendations for Community Stakeholder seat candidates and that the appointment is slated to occur sometime this fall.

Vice-Chair Glickfeld clarified with Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) that while the full application for the IP project was not sent out to Committee Members, Committee Members are able to review executive summaries on the SCW Program Project Portal.

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Vice-Chair Glickfeld mentioned the City of Calabasas' Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III Technical Resources Program Project (hereafter referred to as the "City of Calabasas TRP") was determined by the technical assistance team to be incapable of receiving a passing score within the SCW Program. Vice-Chair Glickfeld requested that District staff invite the project consultant to a future meeting, along with representatives from the City of Calabasas, to present the conclusions of the TRP. District staff will include an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss the City of Calabasas TRP.

Several Committee Members expressed concern with the high cost associated with Technical Resources Program (TRP) projects that do not produce a viable SCW Program project, such as the City of Calabasas TRP project. The Committee added that this WASC already struggles with soliciting cities to apply for the SCW Program.

Vice-Chair Glickfeld requested that District staff ensure that robust agendas are prepared to allow Watershed Coordinator Watts the ability to invite speakers with knowledge about Malibu Lagoon.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented on recent events and Watershed Coordinator activities. The presentation can be found on the SCW Program website.

The Committee discussed different entities' ability to compensate tribal groups for technical assistance or knowledge sharing. Vice-Chair Glickfeld shared that the State has to compensate tribal groups. Member Christensen noted that the MRCA provides various grants to local tribal groups for these initiatives and that there are means to support tribal entities in various municipal, local, or special districts. Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that the SCW Program does not currently have a framework set and will reach out to Member Christensen regarding available grants for tribal initiatives. Member Ordower also acknowledged the Committee's request to see if the Board has tribal compensation funds available.

Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that the City of Calabasas' Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project was adjusted to include a fish passage, making the project eligible for State Parks funding.

Regarding the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project, Member Bruce Hamamoto agreed that an outreach event could be conducted on the shoulder of the street, given that appropriate traffic control measures are conducted. Watershed Coordinator Watts will coordinate with Member Hamamoto regarding the event.

Member Johnson will follow up to see if Malibu City Hall could be a viable venue for the State of the Watershed event.

The Committee discussed responsible entities for monitoring water quality in Malibu Lagoon. Members Hamamoto and Johnson explained that the cities are all part of a watershed management group that coordinate a monitoring program that includes all beaches and Malibu Lagoon. While there are no continuous monitoring devices in Malibu Lagoon, bacteria is sampled four times a week, trash is sampled every other week, and municipal storm sewer system (MS4) compliance monitoring occurs for at least three wet-weather events and includes a large constituent list. Watershed Coordinator Watts mentioned that algae is an emerging issue in Malibu Lagoon and noted that speakers can be invited to share about Malibu Lagoon.

Committee Members clarified with Antos that Technical Assistance Teams (TATs) can help SCW Program applicants determine preferable site selection, in addition to feasibility. An applicant that has adequate property and managerial ability to support a project can apply for to the TRP and the WASC can evaluate that application. The Committee noted that the City of Calabasas' Las Virgenes Creek Restoration project

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



was an existing, specific project that was trying to evaluate how well it could suit the SCW Program; applicants with less clear idea of a project concept might even have an advantage when being evaluated as part of the TRP. Antos noted that a project applicant should be ready to commit to moving forward with an IP project in the event that the TRP finds a project to be feasible. Watershed Coordinator Watts will continue these conversations with project applicants who are interested in applying for a TRP. Member Ordower noted that watershed management planning that identifies regions with the biggest project needs could help Watershed Coordinators narrow their search for potential applicants. Vice-Chair Glickfeld also noted that many watershed management plans (WMPs) already conducted a lot of site selection research and should be used as a starting point. Those projects are geared towards MS4 compliance, but those projects can be built upon to include multi-benefit components.

An additional presentation slide was shared that listed potential speakers regarding Malibu Lagoon that can be invited to future meetings.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comment cards were received by 5:00 pm the day before the meeting. In person, virtual, and call-in users were invited to provide public comment.

Jenny Newman, Acting Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB), shared a reaffirmation of the Water Board's commitment to the SCWP. Newman reminded the WASC to keep in mind the underlying water quality impetus of the SCW Program. Many total maximum daily load (TMDL) deadlines are approaching, and Newman urged the WASC to maximize funding to help cities and the County comply with the MS4 permit. The WMPs list of projects is a great source for project ideas. Newman noted that specific staff will be assigned to each WASC to solicit questions related to the MS4 program. Vice-Chair noted that any best management practices that the Board can recommend would be useful for the WASC to use in evaluating projects, especially given that this WASC represents many rural areas that have very few options to meet various TMDLs.

Susan Nissman (Community Member) provided a public comment noting that the WASC should consider including a member of West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD), who oversees a majority of the water distribution in Malibu and Topanga. Nissman noted that Committee Members should collaborate with WBMWD to discuss landscape grant programs; Member Jones noted that LWMD is starting a landscaping program that will be available to Topanga. Nissman highlighted the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy Resource Conservation District's study on bacteria and nutrient levels as a resource for TMDL compliance.

6. Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

No ex parte communications were disclosed.

b) Regional Quarterly Reporting Summary FY22-23 Q3 & Q4 by the District

Alberto Grajeda (Los Angeles County Public Works) provided updates on the two projects funded by the NSMB WASC currently subject to quarterly reports.

Regarding the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project, Grajeda noted that 100% design plans are nearly ready. The delay was due to a potential opportunity identified to upgrade existing infrastructure. Collaboration with the Waterworks Division to upgrade water infrastructure during this construction phase was explored. Renderings can be shared with District staff to distribute to the WASC. Grajeda noted that the renderings include the actual plant and tree palette proposed. Member Hughes inquired whether either

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



County divisions has a “dig once” policy related to including blank conduits during trenching for future use. Grajeda will look into this policy and respond to Member Hughes in writing.

Regarding the Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project, Grajeda noted that the project is in the planning phase; the project manager is finalizing plans before handing it off to County’s Design Division.

c) Summary of submitted FY24-25 feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies by Melina Watts

The Agoura Hills City Wide Low Flow Diversion Project is the only IP project submitted to the WASC. A summary presentation of the project was shared by Watershed Coordinator Watts and can also be found on the SCW Program website.

d) Discuss selection of new Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Vice-Chair Glickfeld is available to step up as Chair and noted that future succession should be planned. Ideally, future Vice-Chairs should be ready to commit as Chair the following year. Member Hughes noted that Member Jessica Forte had expressed willingness in serving as Vice-Chair.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

a) Vote to select new Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Member Tevin Schmidt made a motion to select Madelyn Glickfeld as Chair and Jessica Forte as Vice-Chair, seconded by Member Mark Johnson. The WASC voted to approve the motion, with 11 votes in favor (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b) Vote to send none, some, or all completed Infrastructure Program applications to the Scoring Committee for consideration.

Member Hughes made a motion to send the one IP application to the Scoring Committee, seconded by Member Tatiana Holden. The WASC voted to approve the motion, with 10 votes in favor and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm and will be held in person at the Las Virgenes Metropolitan Water District Conference Room. Items on the next agenda include:

- City of Calabasas’ TRP Discussion with the Technical Assistance Team and members from the City of Calabasas
- Malibu Lagoon speakers

District staff will coordinate with Watershed Coordinator Watts and Members Johnson and Tevin Schmitt on speakers about Malibu Lagoon.

Member Schmitt will not be available for the next meeting and inquired about the timeline in confirming the two candidates for the Community Stakeholder seats for the sake of quorum. Member Ordower noted that the Board is aware of quorum needs and will try to make the selection before the next meeting.

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



10. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Glickfeld thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.



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

Date Thursday, September 14, 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: 2488 432 5376

Password: scwp (7297 from phones and video systems)

<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=m8bcb73cc11db5f2851a944df27db1698>

Join by phone

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

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

Access Code: 2481 037 5685

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. 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 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 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.

Requests for accommodations may be made to 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.



Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2023
- 3) Committee Member and District Updates
 - a) [Community Stakeholder Seat Interest Form](#)
- 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates
- 5) Public Comment Period
- 6) Discussion
 - a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure
 - b) Regional Quarterly Reporting Summary FY22-23 Q3 & Q4
by the District
 - c) Summary of submitted FY24-25 feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies
by Melina Watts
 - d) Discuss selection of new Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs
- 7) Public Comment Period
- 8) Voting Items
 - a) Vote to select new Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs
 - b) Vote to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration
- 9) Items for Next Agenda
- 10) Adjournment

Next Meeting: October 12, 2023 (TBD)
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 - September 14, 2023

		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to Approve August 10, 2023 WASC Meeting Minutes	Vote to select Madelyn Glickfeld as Chair and Jessica Forte as Vice Chair for the NSMB WASC	Vote to send the one received completed Infrastructure Program Application to Scoring Committee
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Mark Beltran		y	y	y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Russ Bryden						
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen	x			y	y	y
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones	x	y	y	y
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones				
Community Stakeholder	UCLA	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Vacant						
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Elias Garcia						
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder (Vacant)	Vacant						
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte		Kelly Fisher	x	y	y	a
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x			a	y	y
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Joe Bellomo		Kerry Kallman				
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower	x	Rachel Fox		a	y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Solishia Andico		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y	y	y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	9	11	10
Total Voting Members Present		11			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	2	0	1
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	11	11	11
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Approved

Other Attendees