



# **SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

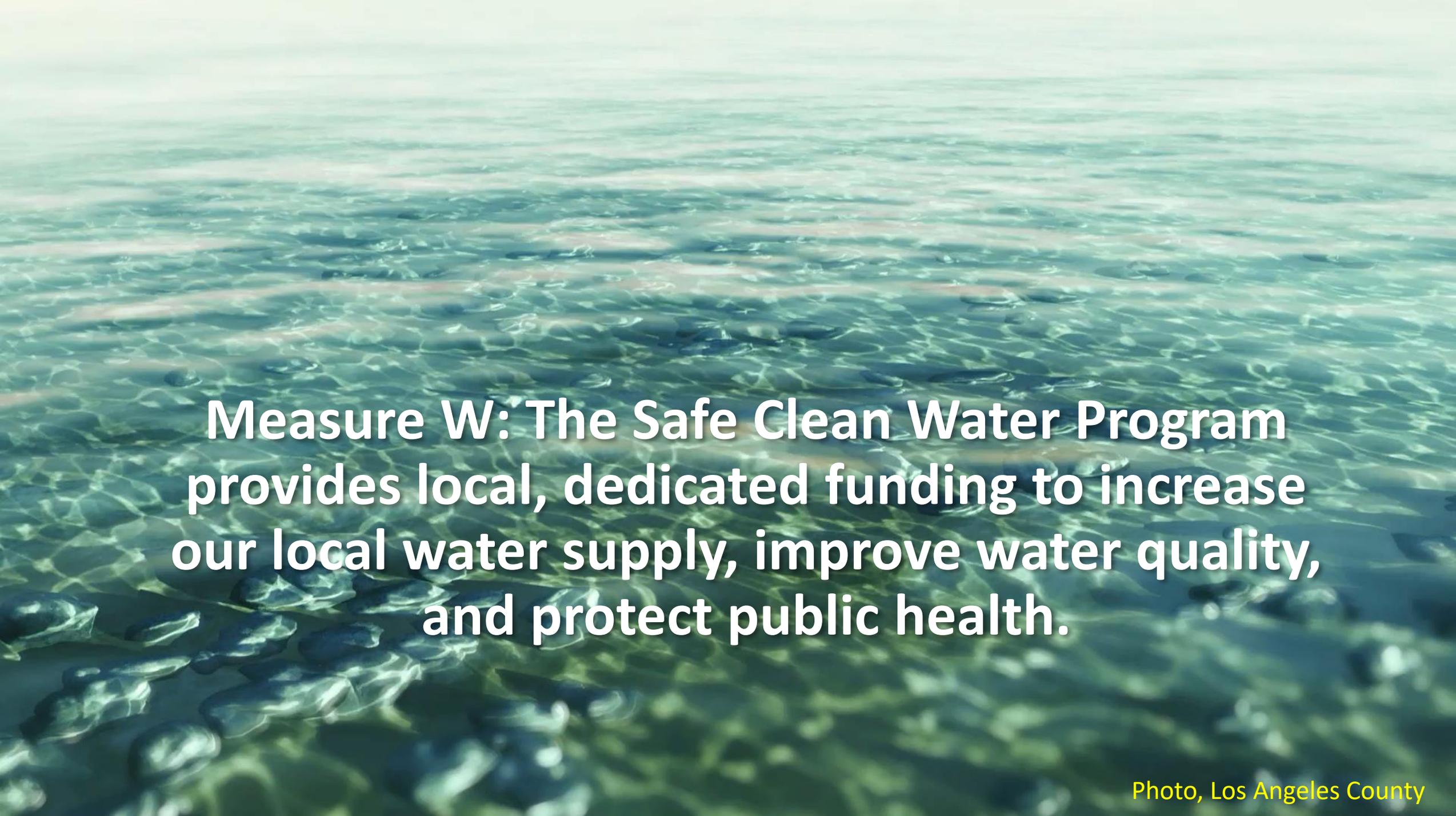
## **The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee Update**

By Melina Sempill Watts

Watershed Coordinator, Safe Clean Water L.A.

September 14, 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 BACK



Photo by Watts

What's our plan?

# Land Back *Where?*

Academy Museum of Motion Pictures?

La Brea Tar Pits?

Regional, State or National Parks?

City or Agency Venues?

Tax Defaulted Properties, L.A. County?



**Experience the Tar Pits**

Photo  
by La Brea Tar Pits



Photo by Watts

**Measure W states that the SCWP will,**

Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, **increasing access to open space**, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through **activities such as increasing shade and green space.**

**WHAT DOES EQUITY LOOK LIKE?**

**DO WE HAVE A *BUDGET* FOR WORKING WITH  
FIRST NATIONS LEADERS?**

What's our plan?



# Budget Equity

Stipends for NSMB WASC Stakeholders:  
\$150

The Melina Sempill Watts Consulting LLC  
Safe, Clean Water Program Stipend Budget  
for Invited Speakers:  
\$250 - \$300

Annual Budget for 50% Watershed  
Coordinator Program Run by Businesses and  
Non-Profits:  
\$100,000

Technical Advisory Teams:  
\$300,000



# OUTREACH, RECENT

# Flood Reporting Advice Via Mark Pestrella

- Want to report #LAflood?
- Email [County\\_flooding@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:County_flooding@pw.lacounty.gov)
- Share a photo if you can, time and date of flooding and address and description of the flood
- Help L.A. get to safe, clean water by letting us know where to go to see the flow



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# Intern Imaan Deen writes (soon to be published) article on Eric Wilson and Native Plants Kit Program for *Daily Valley News*

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## Valley News Group

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Valley Vantage

LAS VIRGENES AND  
CALABASAS ENTERPRISE

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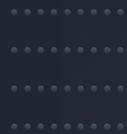


**Kathleen Sterling**



# Las Virgenes Creek Restoration + Fish Passage Project

- Calabasas Mayor's Youth Council
- Calabasas Environmental Commission

A large, faint, dark gray silhouette of a person holding a megaphone, centered in the background. The person's head is a circle, and the megaphone is a trapezoidal shape with a handle. The overall image is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

# OUTREACH, UPCOMING



## **Malibu Watershed Day October 1, 2023**

- **Rindge Dam Removal Outreach + Watershed Issues**
- **City of Calabasas to Join – Thank you Tra’a Bezdecny!**

Photos by Watts

# OAKTOBER: Taft Gardens, Ojai, California October 21, 2023

Host, Jaide Whitman

Featured Guests,

- Dr. David White
- Elena Rios, Chumash Teacher
- Melina Watts



# Calabasas Pumpkin Festival 2023

October 22, 2023



Photo by Watts

**Topanga  
Community  
Conservation  
Day?  
October 27  
at Viewridge  
Estates *on*  
Viewridge**

**OR**

**November 4  
at Topanga  
Chili Cook-Off**



Photo by Watts

# Agoura Hills Arbor Day April 26, 2024



Both photos from California State University Channel Islands



Laurel Sumac ... for Sumac Elementary

Current plan: Ask Santa Monica  
Mountains Fund Nursery for Staff to  
Teach + Help Plant a Tree

City of Agoura Hills will become  
a Tree City

# North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed 2024

- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District wants to pass the crown onto another agency or city.
- Pepperdine University says ... maybe 2025.
- Agoura Hills says ... eventually.
- Other options brewing. Stay tuned.
- Do we want to aim for Earth Day 2024 or May 2024?

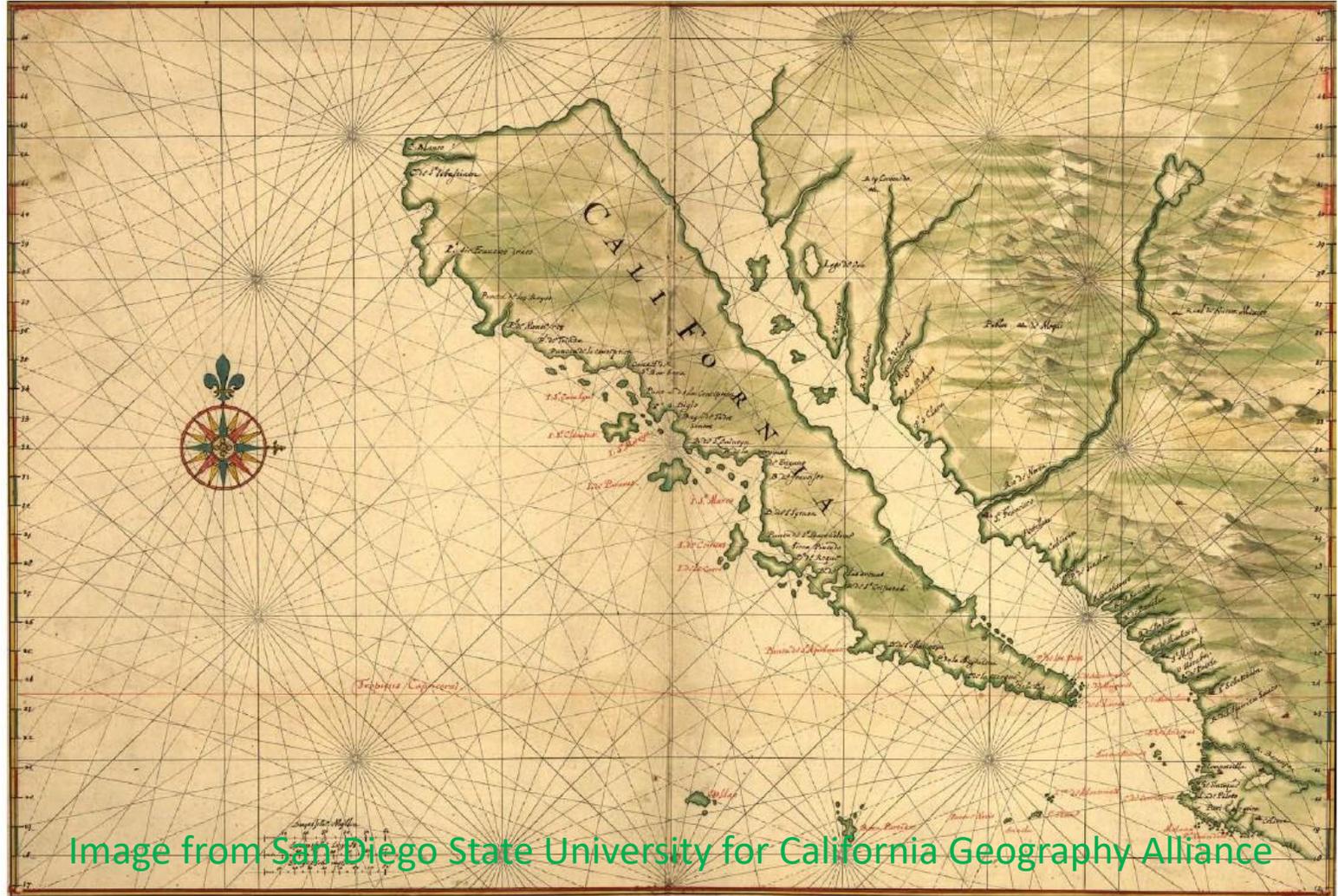


Image from San Diego State University for California Geography Alliance

## Naming California

This map, published in the year 1650, shows California as an island. This is because European explorers once thought that a long sliver of the Pacific Ocean separated California from the mainland of North America. In 1510, Spaniard Garcia Ordoñez de Montalvo wrote a

romantic novel that described the people who lived in this mythical land. He wrote: "Know that to the right hand of the Indies exists an island called California, very near the Terrestrial Paradise. It was populated by black women... who were brave and very strong... their arms were all of gold... without there being any men among them. Their island was the strongest of the World, with its cliffs and rocky shores. And

there ruled over that island a queen of majestic proportions, who accomplished great deeds. She was valiant and courageous and ardent with a brave heart — Queen Califa." In 1539, explorer Hernándo Cortés sent navigator Francisco de Ulloa north up what is today called the Gulf of California (Also the Sea of Cortez). This expedition reached the mouth

of the Colorado River, proving that California was not an island. Despite this finding, the error continued to appear on maps until the 1800s. And while there are no records of anyone actually meeting Queen Califa, the paradise of Spanish imagination is today named after her — California, the Golden State.

# Working to Get Report on WQ in Malibu Lagoon

NSMB WASC Stakeholders want to know what's going on as regards water quality in the Malibu Lagoon...aiming to have a report in October or November.

Photo by Watts





**Suggesting that  
Scott Vineberg + Darius Fisher,  
Topanga Film Festival,  
Bring in SYRCL and Partner on a  
Wild and Scenic Festival Event**

...with a water-centered theme.

Stay tuned.



**SAFE CLEAN WATER  
PROJECT  
CONCEPTS**

**Technical  
Advisory Team  
Outcome  
for City of  
Calabasas  
Project:**

**No.**

## **Larry Walker and Associates**

119 page report essentially says, for wet weather, Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III will not score high enough to win a SCWP grant. Fair enough.

Total cost to SCWP Program?

\$270K

For a no.

Can we ask consultants to wrap it up for \$10K or something if they *know* they are going to have a no?



Photo by Watts

# **SMMUSD: Possible TRP Project**

Aaron Ordower from SD3 set up a meeting with SMMUSD and the Watershed Coordinators for South Santa Monica, Central Santa Monica And North Santa Monica. Yours truly is doubling back to ask if they would like for me to help them get a TAT for our Malibu Schools. Stay tuned.

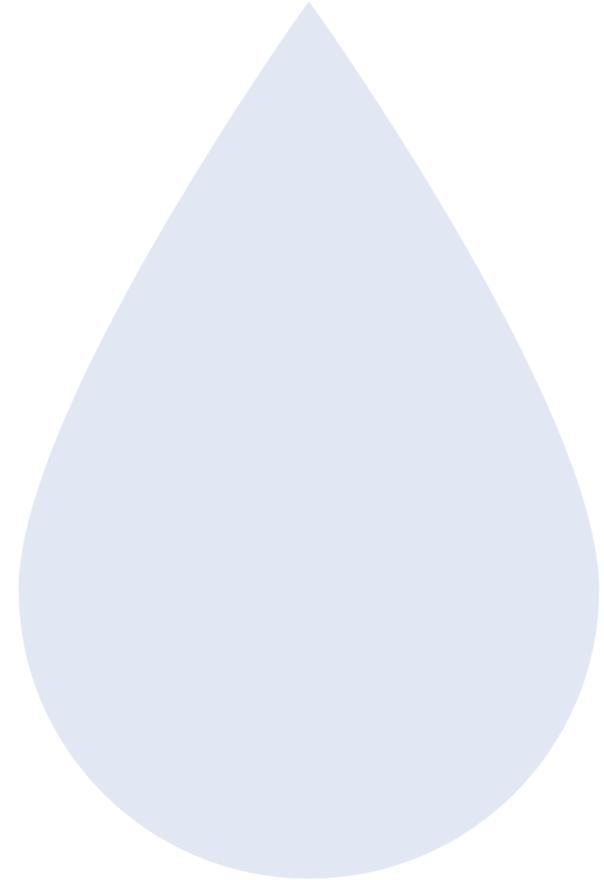


# COMMUNITY PROJECT CONCEPTS



# Calabasas Green Streets Program

- Calabasas needs more money for this project
- Due to water supply requirements of SCWP, looks like this is not a plausible revenue stream for this worthy project.
- Keeping eyes open for other options.



# Calabasas: Las Virgenes Creek Restoration and Fish Passage Project

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

Photo by Watts



An aerial photograph of a lagoon, likely Malibu Lagoon, showing a grid of blue and red buoys laid out in the water. The shoreline is visible in the foreground, and the water extends to the horizon under a clear sky.

# 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

- Still pending. Phew.

Photo By California Department of State Parks



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

## Partial List of Events Attended...



Photo by Paula Stein

- Friends of the Fest fundraiser for Topanga Film Festival at the home of Scott Vineberg
- MWD / Center for Watershed Health, "From the Ground Up" project
- CB2 Furniture shop opening in Malibu
- New bookstore in Malibu
- Credit Trading Program Stakeholder Overview Meeting #3
- Las Virgenes Creek Project + Crayfish Removal: A WCB Conversation
- Santa Monica Bay Foundation
- Discussed potential garden event with Alexa, LVNMWD and Eric Wilson, TreePeople
- Home of Scott Vineberg for talk on Citizens' Assembly
- Viewridge Estates Event planning

# The Dirt

Potential inadvertent side effect of water conservation work?

## Desertification.

### MWD Turf Rebate

- Remove 100 square feet grass and put in 3 plants.
- Layer in chipped wood or rocks.
- Helps with weed suppression then...
- eRduces biodiversity in the ecosystem and the soil community.

**Can MWD integrate soil health values into the turf rebate program?**

**Talking to Tracy Quinn, HTB / MWD Board *and* Martha Davis about the TreePeople / LVMWD Native Plants Kit Program.**



Photo by Watts

The background is a dark blue-grey color with several abstract geometric elements. There are large, semi-transparent circles and a large, semi-transparent trapezoidal shape. In the top right corner, there are four horizontal rows of small white dots. In the bottom left corner, there are three vertical lines of small white dots. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**RAINMAKING:  
CO-CREATING  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

# Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, District 3: Invited Staff to Consider Recommending Funding or Co-funding

1. Santa Monica Mountains Fund Native Plants Nursery at Satwiwa, Specifically, modest salaries for BIPOC Internship Program
2. Native Plants Kit Program at TreePeople



Photo by Watts

# NOAA Grant

Suggested partnership opportunities for an upcoming grant submission. Stay tuned.

