

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



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Wednesday, September 20, 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)  
\*Christopher Lapaz, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
\*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (Agency)  
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation (Community), Chair  
Hany Fangary, Fangary Law Group (Community)  
Bo Savage, Los Angeles Conservation Corps (Community)  
\*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)  
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)  
Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
\*Wilson Mendoza, Torrance (Municipal)  
Geraldine Trivedi, (Redondo Beach) EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair  
Carla Dillon, (Lomita) EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)  
Vanessa Hevener, (Rancho Palos Verdes) EWMP: Peninsula (Municipal)  
Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Rob Beste Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
Caryn Mandelbaum, Resident (Community)

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

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## **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Geraldine Trivedi, Vice-Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, facilitated introductions, conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff reviewed house-keeping items. The District welcomed new Municipal Member Vanessa Hevener who replaced Ron Dragoo as the primary seat member representing the Palos Verdes Peninsula Watershed Management Group.

## **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2023**

Vice-Chair Trivedi presented the minutes from the last SSMB WASC meeting held on August 16, 2023. Member Darryl Ford motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Carla Dillon. The WASC voted to approve the August 16, 2023 meeting minutes with 11 members in favor, 0 opposed, 2 in abstention, and 1 absent at time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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

District staff provided an update, noting:

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- The first term for the WASC Community Stakeholder seats ended with the last fiscal year. Community Stakeholders interested in joining the WASC for the next three-year term should submit an [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.
- The application deadline for Round 5 was July 31. Three Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, one Technical Resources Program (TRP) project, and three Scientific Studies (SS) were submitted to the SSMB WASC.
- On August 8, all nine Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board). The District is preparing the draft transfer agreement for those projects.
- Quarter 4 FY22-23 Reports were due on August 15. District staff has reviewed the reports. Quarterly reports are available on the reporting module.
- District staff led a discussion about the Draft Biennial Report with the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) on August 30. Additional ROC meetings will be held on October 26 to review the first draft and December 7 to review the second draft.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes provided an update on recent outreach and engagement efforts including:

- Interacted with 120 participants at the Nothin' But Sand event held on August 19 for Water Quality Awareness Month
- Distributed Fall Newsletter to the 217 people
- Canvased in West Athens and knocked on 93 doors, had conversations with seven residents

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared upcoming events including:

- SSMB's Coastal Cleanup Day site at Cabrillo Beach on September 23
- Canvassing at the Harbor Gateway Community event prior to the Harvest Festival on October 14

#### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

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

#### 6) Public Comment Period

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

Richard Watson (San Pedro Coastal Neighborhood Council, San Pedro Community Garden) asked if the WASC has produced a detailed map of smaller watershed areas along the coast, especially the area between Dominguez Channel and Cabrillo Beach. A clear delineation of these smaller watersheds would assist with stormwater infrastructure planning, in cooperation with the City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN).

#### 7) Discussion Items

##### a) FY22-23 Regional Quarterly Report Summary (Q3-Q4)

District staff presented the FY22-23 Regional Quarterly Report Summary (Q3-Q4). The project developers were invited to the meeting to clarify any questions that Committee Members had regarding the summary. Vice-Chair Trivedi requested that all project developers present updates on their projects.

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Lara Awad (Los Angeles County Public Works) presented on the Alondra Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project. The Project went out to bid in April and received four bids. The Project was awarded to the lowest bidder. The first notice to proceed (NTP) was issued to the contractor this week and the second is expected to be issued mid-December. Project proponents will have a pre-construction outreach meeting with the community in November.

Member Mendoza presented updates on the Torrance Airport Storm Water Basin Project, Phase 2. The project proponents received a preliminary design report (PDR) from the consultant, and it has been issued to the stakeholders. After review, the Project can proceed with the final design.

Carmen Andrade (LASAN) presented on Wilmington Q Street Local Urban Area Flow Management Project. There were two modifications noted in the Project's quarterly report. The first was a cost share modification as internal resources from the city's Measure W funds have been leveraged to cover city staff expenditures. The second change was an updated project schedule for the rest of the project, as the project just started the pre-design phase.

Andrade also presented updates on Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project. The City submitted a cost share modification as internal resources from the city's Measure W funds have been leveraged to cover city staff expenditures. The Project has completed its pre-design phase as of June, and the team provided a modified work schedule, total cost estimate, and funded activity description. While some project elements have changed, the project scope of work, goals, and metrics have not changed.

Jon Ball (LASAN) presented updates on the Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc Criterion SS. The Project is nearing completion of three out of four deliverables and the proponent has received all their allotted SCW Program funding.

Member Mendoza presented updates on the Stormwater Basin Expansion Project. The Henrietta and Entradero Basins are completed, however the Amie Basin pump recently stopped working and the float still needs to be installed. There is about a month delay.

Member Roland Jen presented updates on the Carson Stormwater and Runoff Capture Project at Carriage Crest Park. The Project experienced construction delays but has since been completed. Because of the delays, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding has not been utilized yet.

Katie Harrel (CWE, on behalf of City of Manhattan Beach) presented updates on the South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project. Harrell shared there was a schedule modification to extend the design phase, however the Project is still on track to complete design and CEQA by the end of the year. The City of Manhattan Beach was also able to obtain additional funding from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Member Dillon presented updates on the Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project. Project proponents sought federal funding to support construction and are now working with the Army Corps of Engineers to determine details required for a request for proposal (RFP) for the detailed design.

Vice-Chair Trivedi presented updates on the Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project. The Project needs the County's approval for the design of the drainage storage units. The Project is on track per submitted schedule.

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Doug Krauss (City of Hermosa Beach) presented on the Hermosa Beach Multi-Benefit Parking Lot Greening Project (Lot D). The City of Hermosa Beach is reviewing final plans and engineering estimates and preparing for bid documents.

Kara Plourde (Los Angeles County Public Works) presented on the West Rancho Dominguez – San Pedro Street Green Improvement Project. Plourde shared that design will begin in 2024 and is on schedule. The Project team had technical issues with quarterly report submittal and is working with the District to resolve the issue.

Dr. Andrew Gray (University of California, Riverside (UCR)) presented updates on the Microplastics in LA County Stormwater SS. The Project has been approved and received funding in April of this year (did not receive funding in time for the 2023 water year). The SS is focusing on the 2024 storm/flood season, which will begin in October 2023. A new graduate student was recruited and has been trained over the past year with leveraged funding from UCR. The Project Team anticipates adding a new post-doctorate in the Fall. Gray has been training undergraduate research assistants (12-13 students) and conducted site visits with LA County Public Works. The proponents are expanding and standardizing their field monitoring capabilities and are increasing laboratory analytical capacity. The study has received additional funding from UCR.

Member Susie Santilena informed the WASC that the City of Los Angeles submitted comments to the ROC about the Biennial Report process, regarding the frequency of these quarterly reports. The City suggested that a robust report once or twice a year may be more beneficial. Member Santilena suggested either a compiled version of the reports or a shorter version of each report. Distilled versions of these reports would also be more transparent for the public. District staff thanked Member Santilena for the feedback and then presented a new feature on the SCW Portal to see the quarterly reports for the Regional and Municipal Programs.

#### **b) Summary of submitted feasibility studies, project concepts submitted for SSMB WASC**

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes presented an overview of the Round 5 projects submitted to the SSMB WASC. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes reminded the WASC that 79% of funding for the year is projected to be allocated to existing projects, leaving about \$3.6 million for FY24-25.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes then presented project summaries of the three IP projects that were submitted to the SSMB WASC for FY24-25. The Projects include: the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project, Stevenson Park Stormwater Capture Project, and the Dominguez Channel Parkway BMPs Prioritization Project. The presentation and more information on these projects can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Shrodes clarified that the “total amount requested” on the presentation represents funding requests over the 5 years. The full breakdown of funding requested per year can be found in the project applications on the Reports section of the SCW Program Portal.

Chair Craig Cadwallader recently reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Portuguese Bend Landslide Mediation Project in Palos Verdes. The Project compared the storm to a 100-year storm. Chair Cadwallader noted that, after additional research, it seems like the current 100-year storm occurs more frequently (e.g. 30-year storm or 11-year storm). Chair Cadwallader asked the Members if the standards for storms should be adjusted so the analysis is more realistic and accounts for climate change.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar requested clarification regarding the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project’s construction and O&M breakdown. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the Project requested \$9.2 million for construction in the first year. O&M would begin in year 3 and

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continue through years 4 and 5 with a \$256,000 annual request. District staff noted that specific details and costs can be given to Committee Members after the meeting regarding other projects.

Upon inquiry, District staff clarified that the WASCs are responsible for deciding whether a Project provides a “direct benefit” to a disadvantaged community on a project-by-project basis, considering the goals of the SCWP, the benefits provided to the community by each Project, and the area within which those benefits will be felt. Utilizing Census Blocks and CalEnviroScreen can help the WASC make these determinations. For instance, The Stevenson Park Stormwater Capture Project used CalEnviroScreen to show this designation in the project application. Fossum noted that each WASC must reinvest 110% of the funding received from disadvantaged communities back into projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Member Matthew Veeh asked if Stevenson Park Stormwater Capture Project or Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project had any turf removal. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes answered yes and no, respectively.

Member Dillon asked for clarification regarding the advantage of sending versus not sending a project to the Scoring Committee. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes explained the process, noting that it is possible to hold back projects from the Scoring Committee. All projects must be scored by the Scoring Committee to be eligible for funding. Fossum noted that WASCs can choose to hold back projects if they duplicate efforts, if they need to ask proponent clarifying question, or if there are other flags to consider, for example, if a WASC member is concerned that an agency does not have authority to build where they plan to build. District staff added that if a project does not pass the Scoring Committee, it can be moved to the TRP program and then be submitted as an IP project the next year.

Member Thuan Nguyen asked for clarification regarding the lead applicant and the collaboration on Dominguez Channel Parkway BMPs Prioritization Project. The lead is noted as Torrance, but LA County Public Works is also listed as a project collaborator. District staff clarified that that LA County Public Works is not a collaborator on this project and that the information was input by the applicant. District staff noted this revision, and the presentation is to be updated to reflect Member Nguyen’s comment.

## **c) Discussion to send none, some or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

Vice-Chair Trivedi noted it would be beneficial to send all projects to the Scoring Committee as this watershed does not receive as many applications.

District staff shared that all applications are reviewed for a completeness check. There will be a condition in the motion that the projects must pass the completeness check before being sent to the Scoring Committee. The Dominguez Channel Parkway BMPs Prioritization Project and Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project application completeness checks are complete. District staff is still reviewing Stevenson Park Stormwater Capture Project for completeness.

## **8) Public Comment Period**

Kathleen McGowan (McGowan Consultants) added that Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project provided water supply benefits because of the diversion to the sanitary sewer that will go to the Pure Water Project, operated by Metropolitan Water District.

## **9) Voting Items**

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**a) Vote to send some, none, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

District staff clarified that the conditional approval would not delay the projects from being scored by the Scoring Committee.

Vice-Chair Trivedi motioned to approve sending all IP projects to the Scoring Committee, with the condition of finishing the District's completeness check, and was seconded by Member Nguyen. The motion was approved, with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

## **10) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023. See the SCW Program website for meeting details, including timing and length.

The District noted that TRP projects may be presented at the next meeting. The IP projects will not be presented until after the projects having been scored by the Scoring Committee. Scoring is expected to occur from November to January. The SS must wait until the peer reviews are completed before it is presented.

## **11) Adjournment**

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

**SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY MEETING - September 20, 2023**

Member Type	Organization	Quorum Present				Voting Items	
		Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to approve August 16, 2023 meeting Minutes	Vote to approved sending each IP Projects to the Scoring Committee with condition of finishing the completeness check
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		y	y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell		Matthew Veeh	x	y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Robert Beste		Aimee Zhao			
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Dave Pierce		Christopher Lapaz	x	a	y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Caryn Mandelbaum					
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	<u>Craig Cadwallader</u>	x	Mary Simun			y
Community Stakeholder	(Vacant)						
Community Stakeholder	Fangary Law Group	Hany Fangary	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Conservation Corp	<i>Bo Savage</i>	x	<i>Wendy Butts</i>		y	y
Municipal Members	Carson	<i>Gilbert Marquez</i>		Roland Jen	x	y	a
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ryan Jackson		y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Thuan Nguyen	x	Jalaine Verdiner		y	y
Municipal Members	Torrance	Steve Finton		Wilson Mendoza	x	y	y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	<b>Geraldine Trivedi</b>	x	Doug Krauss		y	y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Carla Dillon	x	Heecheol Kwon		y	y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	x	David Wahba		a	y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	x			N/A	N/A
	Total Non-Vacant Seats	16				Yay (Y) 11	13
	Total Voting Members Present	14				Nay (N) 0	0
	Agency	4				Abstain (A) 2	1
	Community Stakeholder	3				Total 13	14
	Municipal Members	7				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees

- 390000
- Adriana Ortega
- Ana Rivera
- Andrew Gray UCR
- Angel Alay
- Anh Ta
- Beatrice
- Ben O'Neal
- Brenda Ponton
- C.J. Caluag
- Call-in User\_2
- Call-in User\_3
- Call-in User\_4
- Call-in User\_5
- Carmen Andrade - LASAN
- Christine McLeod
- Curtis Fang
- Douglas Krauss
- Elizabeth Sala
- Giselle Ramirez
- Gus Orozco
- Haley Johnson
- Hans Tremmel - Michael Baker
- Jacqueline Mak
- Jeff Fijalka
- Jenna Clark
- Jenny Chau
- Jim Montgomery - South Bay Parkland Conservancy
- Jon Ball
- jqv
- Kara Plourde
- Kathleen McGowan
- Katie Harrel CWE
- Lara Awad
- Mark Hall GLAmosquito
- Mark Nguyen
- Melania Gaboyan - LACFCD
- Melanie Hu
- Michael Scaduto
- Michelle Staffield
- Miller Zou
- Nick Hayes
- Paige Bistromowitz
- Richard Watson
- Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN *9/20/2023*



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	mbenavid@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
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	
Dave Pierce	Sanitation Districts	DPierce@ lacsd.org	P	
Christopher Lapaz	Sanitation Districts	christopherlapaz@ lacsd.org	A	<i>Christopher Lapaz</i>
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	
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	entamoebatrex@hotmail.com	A	
Hany Fangary	Fangary Law Group	hany@fangaryl原因.com	P	<i>Hany Fangary</i>
Bo Savage	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	bsavage@ lacorps.org	P	<i>Bo Savage</i>



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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	
Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	susie.santilena@lacity.org	P	
Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	ryan.jackson@lacity.org	A	
Thuan Nguyen	Los Angeles County	THUNGUYEN@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Jalaine Verdiner	Los Angeles County	jquintr@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Steve Finton	Torrance	sfinton@torranceca.gov	P	
Wilson Mendoza	Torrance	Wmendoza@TorranceCA.Gov	A	
Geraldine Trivedi	EWMP: Beach Cities (Redondo Beach)	geraldine.trivedi@redondo.org	P	
Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities (Hermosa Beach)	dkrauss@hermosabeach.gov	A	
Carla Dillon	EWMP: Dominguez (Hawthorne)	c.dillon@lomitacity.com	P	
Heecheol Kwon	EWMP: Dominguez (Hawthorne)	HKwon@cityofhawthorne.org	A	
Vanessa Hevener	EWMP: Peninsula (Rancho Palos Verdes)	vhevener@rpvca.gov	P	
David Wahba	EWMP: Peninsula (Palos Verdes Estates)	davidw@rollinghillsestates.gov	A	

