

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



Thursday, December 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:

*Mark Beltran, Los Angeles County Public Works (Agency)
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency),
Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community), Chair
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
Jessica Forte, Agoura Hills (Municipal), Vice-Chair
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:

Russ Bryden, LA County Waterworks District (Agency)
Chad Christensen, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
Joe Bellomo, Hidden Hills (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introduction

Madelyn Glickfeld, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Chair Glickfeld had little to report this month and turned the discussion over to the District staff. A roll call was held, and all present Committee Members, Regional Coordinators, and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff stated their presence. A quorum was established. District staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants joining online.

Chair Glickfeld noted that Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath now serves as Chair of the County Board of Supervisors (Board). The first document put on the Board's agenda was the Los Angeles County Water Plan, which was recommended for review. Chair Glickfeld commended Member Aaron Ordower's involvement in this achievement.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2023

Chair Glickfeld presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Ordower motioned to approve, seconded by Member David Pedersen. The WASC voted to approve the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes with twelve votes in favor and one in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3) Committee Member and District Updates

Member Mark Beltran shared that the Los Angeles County Water Plan was adopted by the County Supervisors on December 12. The Committee discussed the significance of the plan, highlighting the robust stakeholder engagement process which includes support from environmental groups and collaboration with nearly 200 local water agencies. Member Beltran noted that more information can be found by visiting www.LACountyWaterPlan.org.

Upon inquiry, Member Beltran replied that the Department of Public Works will now initiate watershed plans for each of the nine watershed areas, to include multi-benefit outcomes for the region.

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- On July 25, the Board approved a motion authored by Supervisor Horvath to Accelerate Implementation of the SCW Program. The motion called for three actions: 1) Watershed Planning, 2) Simplified Application Process, 3) Resources and Staffing for Dedicated Adaptive Management. The report back, dated November 27, is posted on the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) prepared a draft Biennial SCW Program progress report for the Board, which includes a summary of the progress of the Regional Program, Municipal Program, and the District Program. The ROC met on December 7 and voted to initiate public comment period. More information and the report can be found on the [SCW Program website](#) under the Committees tab.
- Project Modification Request (PMR) forms for the current Fiscal Year (FY) were due on November 30. These forms can be submitted at any time but the forms that had the most recent deadline was for projects in this FY. For modification requests that are consistent with the application and scope of work, PMR forms can be submitted after the deadline, like for projects that wish to reallocate funding during the FY24-25 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) program years without changing the overall SCW request as soon as able to review. District Staff is currently reviewing all the PMRs that have been received. Inconsistent project modifications may go back to the WASC for review. These review items may be brought up in the next meeting.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared information about the Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Funding Memo and the Quarterly Funding Memo. Antos mentioned that the District assigned the Regional Coordination team to support the Watershed Coordinators in leverage funding efforts, a core task of the Watershed Coordinators.

- All Round 5 IP projects that are deemed eligible by the Scoring Committee will receive a funding memo. Funding Memos were created in the hope that Committees could evaluate partial funding opportunities. The Memos also set Watershed Coordinators up to have better conversations with proponents about how they can help them find money elsewhere. These memos are designed to give more flexibility and knowledge to the proponent, and to the Committee and Coordinators in the best ways to invest. The funding memo for the NSMB WASC's IP project can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).
- The Quarterly Funding Memo will be another deliverable prepared by the Regional Coordination team, which will include a database of existing and upcoming opportunities relevant to the SCW Program. The first deliverable is scheduled for January 2024, and will then be released every quarter.

Chair Glickfeld asked District staff about the NSMB WASC letter which expressed concerns raised about the granting process. District staff clarified that the letter was included as part of the ROC work on the Biennial Report.

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Committee Members discussed the ROC Biennial Report public comment period and Members were encouraged to provide feedback. The Committee expressed desires for more advanced notices in the future.

Vice-Chair Forte claimed this was the first time that that the City of Agoura Hills had seen the IP project funding memo for Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project. The Committee discussed recommendations to improve the process in the future.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Melina Sempill Watts shared about recent outreach and engagement efforts, including an event with the Red Dress Movement at Cal Lutheran University. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Watts also highlighted upcoming events, including:

- Pepperdine University Earth Day 2024 in early April 2024
- North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area State of the Watershed 2024 on January 11, 2024
- Agoura Hills Arbor Day Sumac Elementary event on April 26, 2023

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.

There were no public comments.

6) Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Vice-Chair Forte and Chair Glickfeld disclosed conversations with Member Roxanne Hughes, Watershed Coordinator Watts, and Antos about the appropriateness of Committee Members presenting to the WASC about projects that are seeking to be included in the upcoming Stormwater Investment Plan, especially for projects from smaller agencies with resource constraints. Vice-Chair Forte suggested the WASC discuss this topic in an upcoming meeting in February or March.

Watershed Coordinator Watts mentioned engagement with the City of Calabasas and Westlake Village for Technical Resource Program (TRP) project presentations. Watershed Coordinator Watts disclosed that Member Hughes also attended the event.

a) Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project by City of Agoura Hills

Vice-Chair Forte presented The Agoura Hills Stormwater Project on behalf of the City of Agoura Hills. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Tevin Schmitt expressed support for project, as well as concerns related to wastewater treatment plants and the ability to treat for stormwater pollutants. Member Schmitt requested more information to better understand the types of technologies being used to treat the water.

Member Bruce Hamamoto mentioned previous stormwater studies, which found that water quality was generally good and run-off in residential areas is primarily contaminated with bacteria. Member Hamamoto noted that the treatment plant would be effective in treating the water, in addition to a rigorous monitoring plan. Member Hamamoto also mentioned that there is also a rigorous monitoring plan for everyone's benefit, to be sure that the water produced is not harmful in any way.

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Member Schmitt requested more information on how the project will measure the volume of water diverted and expressed interest in contributing expertise about sensors for measuring flow. Vice-Chair Forte shared that the project intends to use a sensor that floats, as required by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District because the treatment costs charged to Agoura Hills will be related to the amount of flow diverted.

Member Susan Nissman asked if the diverted water would have impacts on the streams that otherwise would receive the flow. Vice-Chair Forte shared that the project will be diverting flow from the underground pipes primarily in dry weather where the runoff is from human uses, and during wet weather a small fraction of the stormwater runoff will be diverted. Vice-Chair Forte noted that the project was determined to be exempt from CEQA. No permits are needed from Fish and Wildlife but there are permits needed from Los Angeles County.

Member Ordower commented that the water supply component of this project allows the applicant to score high enough to qualify for funding, and shared interest in learning more about other ideas to help projects achieve eligibility.

b) Land Resilience Partnership Framework: Scaling a Multiple Benefit Approach to Healthy Watershed Communities *by Regina Hirsch*

The Committee agreed to table this presentation to the next WASC meeting. Chair Glickfeld apologized and thanked the speaker who was virtually present in the meeting.

8) Voting Items

a) Vote to support the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project for consideration in the FY24-25 Stormwater Investment Plan (Not final inclusion into the SIP)

This agenda item was moved up above Item 7.

Committee Members discussed the implications of the voting item. The Committee clarified that support and consideration expressed does not necessarily mean the project will be included in the SIP.

Member Pedersen motioned to approve, seconded by Member Hughes. The WASC voted to support the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project for consideration in the FY24-25 Stormwater Investment Plan, with twelve in favor and one in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

7) Public Comment Period

Dennis Washburn provided a public comment, claiming that there are many people each year that visit the North Santa Monica Bay watershed area for its natural amenities. Washburn suggested the program recognize the broader community benefits from the program's infrastructure projects and urged the program to factor in how many members of disadvantaged communities are being served by the investments being made in the watershed area.

Chair Glickfeld noted that this point could be brought up to the Board and mentioned that it is not within the WASC's authority to consider disadvantaged community benefits for those that are not from the project's surrounding project area. Chair Glickfeld suggested that the conversation could start off by identifying the legal authorities and tax assessments and what is stated on their residences.

Annalisa Moe (Heal the Bay) provided a comment and noted that one of the goals of the SCW Program is to invest in historically underinvested communities. Moe commented that it is important that the program uphold the promise to ensure that money is going into disadvantaged communities.

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8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2023 (TBD), 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:

- a) Land Resilience Partnership Framework: Scaling a Multiple Benefit Approach to Healthy Watershed Communities By Regina Hirsch

Upon request, Chair Glickfeld re-opened Agenda Item 3 to allow additional Committee Member Updates.

Member Ordower reminded the Committee about the Biennial Report's public comment period and expressed that it is a great opportunity to speak to the topics raised during the meeting regarding disadvantaged communities and scoring criteria. Member Ordower noted that much of the feedback received so far has been from large environmental nonprofits, and encouraged Committee Members and individuals from cities and water districts to provide feedback by January 8, 2024.

Chair Glickfeld expressed that the deadline for public comments is short and requested that the timeline be revised in the future to allow for adequate time for agencies and WASC Members to review the report.

Member Ordower continued by reminding that Supervisor Horvath's first act as Chair of the Board of Supervisors was the adoption of the Los Angeles Water Plan, representing this as a value in leadership. The motion that accompanied this was to have a water resiliency summit to kick off the implementation of the Water Plan hopefully within the first quarter of the new year, where a broad spread of voices such as those within public sector, water agencies, and other stakeholders to discuss implementation. Member Ordower welcomes recommendations and participation for this event and will continue to provide WASC with updates as it gets closer to this event.

Member Ordower additionally stated that a Blue-Ribbon Panel is being created by the Department of Public Works for nature-based solutions, as related to the Supervisor's motion.

Member Nissman mentioned that often "blue-ribbon committees" fail to include community involvement and inquired if there was any consideration of the public at-large in the Supervisor's motion. WASC Members expressed the importance of including technical experts on the blue-ribbon committee. WASC Members additionally discussed the importance of equitable representation.

9) Adjournment

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, December 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: 2483 121 8782

Password: scwp (7297 from phones and video systems)

<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=m8e47fc52230dd9ef5d9248f5e9b94ee1>

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 October 12, 2023
- 3) Committee Member and District Updates
 - a) [The Board Motion Report Back](#)
 - b) [Regional Oversight Committee – Biennial Report](#)
- 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates
- 5) Public Comment Period
- 6) Discussion
 - a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure
 - b) Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project
by City of Agoura Hills
 - c) Land Resilience Partnership Framework: Scaling a Multiple Benefit Approach to Healthy Watershed Communities
by Regina Hirsch
- 7) Public Comment Period
- 8) Voting Items
 - a) Vote to support the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project for consideration in the FY24-25 Stormwater Investment Plan (Not final inclusion into the SIP)
- 9) Items for Next Agenda
- 10) Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 11, 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 - December 14, 2023

		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to Approve October 12, 2023 WASC Meeting Minutes	Vote to support the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project for consideration in the FY24-25 SIP	
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar		Mark Beltran	x	y	y	
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Russ Bryden						
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen						
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>	x	Craig Jones		y	y	
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Craig Jones	x	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Vacant						
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Community	Jacy Shillan	x			y	y	
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte	x	Kelly Fisher		a	a	
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x			y	y	
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Joe Bellomo		Kerry Kallman				
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower	x	Rachel Fox		y	y	
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y	
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Solishia Andico		y	y	
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y	y	
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts						
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	12	12	0
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	1	1	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	13	0
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees

Amanda Nidelian
 Brad Milner
 Curtis Castle
 Dennis Washburn