

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



Wednesday, January 17, 2024
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
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)
Doug Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal)
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:

Hany Fangary, Fangary Law Group (Community)

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 facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established. District staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and direction on submission of public comments to the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program website.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2023

Chair Cadwallader presented the minutes from the last SSMB WASC meeting held on December 20, 2023. Member Douglas Krauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Susie Santilena. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

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- Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Regional Program Annual Reports were due December 31, 2023. Progress reports must still be completed even if there was no activity on the project or if the Transfer Agreement has not been executed for projects.
- The next Quarterly Report is due on February 15.
- The ROC prepared a draft Biennial Report, also known as the SCW Program Progress Report, for the Board. The report includes a summary of the progress of the Regional Program, Municipal Program, and the District Program. The public comment period for the draft Biennial Progress Report was between December 7 to January 8, 2024. The ROC will review public comments received at the January 31 meeting and will potentially vote to send the Biennial Progress Report to the Board. The Committee is welcome to attend and provide input on the Draft Biennial Report, presentations, ROC meeting details, and more information can be found on the [SCW Program website](#), under the ROC webpage.
- The District reviewed Project Modification Request (PMR) Forms. SSMB received 4 PMR Forms , all of which were Infrastructure Program (IP) projects.
- The PMR discussion item is currently agendaized for the next meeting. An overview of PMR will be presented, findings of the PMR will be summarized, and project developers will be invited to attend.
- Municipal progress/expenditure Annual Reports were due December 31, 2023. Municipal Annual Plans are due in April before the FY and the Reports are due at the end of the year after the FY in December.
- Heal the Bay's contract for Watershed Coordination is approaching its fourth and final extension and is set to expire in early 2025. Heal the Bay will continue to serve as the Watershed Coordinator until a new Watershed Coordinator is selected through a Request for Statement of Qualifications process. The round 5 SIP will continue to include a budget for one Watershed Coordinator
- On November 27, 2023, the District presented the Report Back from Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's July 25, 2023 Board Motion. More details can be found on the [SCW Program website](#), under the "Resources" tab.
- Final review summaries for each Scientific Study (SS) application will be shared with the WASC and posted on the SCW Program website to inform SIP deliberation. SS reviews are projected to be completed by mid-February.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes provided an update on recent outreach and engagement efforts. Highlights include providing comments on the outreach plan for the Darby Park Multi-Benefit Project, continued outreach to SSMB municipalities as part of the Strategic Outreach and Engagement (SOEP) calendar, attending the Del Amo Action Committee Stormwater Workshops, and planning for the next watershed-wide event. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared an upcoming opportunity to join a tour of the Edward C. Little Recycling Facility on February 24th. Those interested in joining can sign up on [the registration page](#).

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items

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a) Scientific Studies (SS) Presentations

i) Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity

Presentation by Ali Sharbat and Mehrad Kamalzare. Evaluation of alternative well designs, existing pre-treatment practices, maintenance intervals for maintaining stormwater drywell capacity.

Ali Sharbat and Mehrad Kamalzare (Cal Poly Pomona) provided an overview of the SS, which identifies best practices for managing stormwater drywell capacity, including details about the purpose, timeline, and estimated budget. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). During the overview, Sharbat and Kamalzare highlighted details including the scope of work, schedule, funding requests, and a summary of benefits. The SS is requesting an average of \$80,000 for the next five years from the SSMB WASC.

Chair Cadwallader asked whether the applicant considered each WASC's available budget when determining funding requests per watershed area. The applicant clarified that the dollar amount was generated based on the number of drywells to be studied in each specific area. The larger watersheds would have five drywells and smaller watersheds would have two drywells.

Member Krauss asked about the project's scalability and adaptability if approval could not be obtained from each watershed. The project applicant noted that each watershed area budget is independent, and the study can adjust in size to achieve intended goals.

Member Wilson Mendoza asked about well pre-treatment methods before installation. Kamalzare clarified that the SS does not aim to install new drywells but would study drywells installed within the past six months to one year with varying pre-treatment methods to better understand capacity maintenance.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes inquired about previous drywell installations, with an emphasis on real time information updates. Project proponents noted that the SS would provide ongoing communication, quarterly and yearly and is focused on real-life situations rather than theoretical concepts.

District staff announced that Member Aimee Zhao joined the meeting virtually with just cause under AB-2449 and Member Daryl Ford joined the meeting in-person. District staff recorded Member Zhao and Member Ford's votes for approval of the meeting minutes.

ii) Pollutant Source Characterization Study

Presentation by Jon Ball (City of Los Angeles). Evaluation of alternative well design, existing pre-treatment practices, maintenance intervals for maintaining stormwater drywell capacity.

Jon Ball (City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)) provided an overview of the Pollutant Source Characterization Study. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). This SS is a five-year study that is being proposed in Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB), Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR), and SSMB watershed areas. The study will evaluate different land use types as modeled in Los Angeles County's Watershed Management Modeling System 2.0 (WMMS 2.0) modelling software. In addition to collecting pollutant source data, this study would also focus on workforce development. The total cost of this project is \$3,500,000, and \$623,000 is requested from CSMB.

Member Matthew Veeh inquired about the breakdown of the \$3,500,000 budget between data collection and workforce development. Ball acknowledged that most of the funds are dedicated to data collection, but there is not a specific breakdown for the workforce development program. The workforce development described would be integrated into existing programs rather than developing a new program.

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Upon inquiry, Ball noted that the SS has not yet sought leveraged funding. The initial focus was to request funds from the SCW Program, most of which would be requested from the ULAR WASC. The request from the SSMB WASC would aid in studying the area near the port. As the study progresses, additional opportunities for collaboration and funding may arise.

Member Caryn Mandelbaum asked about potential partnerships with community-based organizations and schools for workforce development. Ball expressed interest in exploring such partnerships, emphasizing the importance of not reinventing the wheel and leveraging existing successful programs, however, a commitment from the City for such partnerships has not been formalized.

Ball shared that the collected data would be publicly available, allowing all interest parties access to the study. Raw data of the collection samples could also be incorporated into various models, including the widely used WMMS 2.0 model.

Member Vanessa Hevener inquired about expanding the presentation to other watershed groups. Ball clarified that the SS's current focus is to present to watershed groups that have direct involvement with the City of Los Angeles. Future considerations could include expanding the presentation to other groups based on identified data needs.

**iii) Street Sweeping Study
Presentation by Jon Ball (City of Los Angeles). *Collect information in order to identify enhancements to the City's street sweeping program that would improve water quality.***

Ball provided an overview of the Street Sweeping Study. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). The project applicant mentioned that the two studies being submitted by LASAN are related to each other; both intend to support the reduction of stormwater pollutant loads in receiving waters. This SS would be conducted in the CSMB, ULAR, and SSMB watershed areas. The main purpose of this study would be to enhance the City of Los Angeles' existing street sweeping program. The timing is unique given that the City of Los Angeles is concurrently looking to electrify the street sweeping vehicle fleet and will soon be replacing street sweeping vehicles. The City of Los Angeles has already contributed funds to the first phase of this study, which was conducted in a simulated and controlled environment. The second phase of the study will include sharing results and will be conducted over a three-year period.

Member Mandelbaum inquired as to why the City of Los Angeles had not already conducted a research study on the effectiveness of street sweeping, particularly concerning pollutants from the streets. Ball shared that Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) is involved in a multi-phase optimization study that focuses on improving water quality benefits and watershed protection. Ball shared with the WASC that there was an information gap regarding specific loading rates and pollutant concentrations in Los Angeles, highlighting the need for this study. LASAN was approached by StreetsLA to get a better understanding of pollutants found in street dust.

Chair Cadwallader mentioned the impact of leaf blowers on street pollution and suggested legislative efforts as a potential option. Chair Cadwallader also asked if the study could provide information to better understand how leaf blowers contribute to pollutants and identify areas where landscaping waste contributes to street pollution. Ball acknowledged that such questions could emerge from the study, but that the study does not set out to explicitly explore this topic.

Member Krauss inquired about incorporating other agencies and practices into the study to deemphasize the focus specific to the City of Los Angeles. Ball shared that the first phase of the SS would involve comparing different technologies in a controlled environment, and the results would be applicable to any agency interested in improving street sweeping practices.

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8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next SSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Project Modification Requests
- b) Scientific Studies Peer Review Summaries

Chair Cadwallader requested presenters of the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity SS return to further elaborate on the requested funding budget across all nine watershed areas.

Member Mandelbaum requested LASAN provide more details about the efficiency of the agency's current street sweeping vehicle fleet to better understand the Street Sweeping Study.

11. Adjournment

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

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| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Items |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Member Type | Organization | Member | Voting? | Alternate | Voting? | Vote to approve December 20, 2023 meeting Minutes |
| Agency | LACFCD | Marcela Benevides-Aguilar | x | CJ Caluag | | y |
| Agency | West Basin MWD | E.J. Caldwell | | Matthew Veeh | x | y |
| Agency | Water Replenishment District | Robert Beste | | Aimee Zhao | x | y |
| Agency | LAC Sanitation District | Dave Pierce | x | Christopher Lapaz | | a |
| Agency | LA Recreation & Parks | Cathie Santo Domingo | | Darryl Ford | x | y |
| Community Stakeholder | Resident | Caryn Mandelbaum | x | | | a |
| Community Stakeholder | Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter | Craig Cadwallader | x | Mary Simun | | y |
| Community Stakeholder | (Vacant) | | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Fangary Law Group | Hany Fangary | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Los Angeles Conservation Corp | Bo Savage | x | Wendy Butts | | y |
| Municipal Members | Carson | Gilbert Marquez | | Roland Jen | x | y |
| Municipal Members | Los Angeles | Susie Santilena | x | Ryan Jackson | | y |
| Municipal Members | LAC Public Works | Thuan Nguyen | x | Jalaine Verdiner | | y |
| Municipal Members | Torrance | James Flannigan | | Wilson Mendoza | x | y |
| Municipal Members | EWMP: Beach Cities | Geraldine Trivedi | | Doug Krauss | x | y |
| Municipal Members | EWMP: Dominguez | Carla Dillon | x | Heecheol Kwon | | y |
| Municipal Members | EWMP: Peninsula | Vanessa Hevener | x | David Wahba | | y |
| Watershed Coordinator | Heal the Bay | Nancy Shrodes | x | | | N/A |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | | 16 | | | Yay (Y) | 13 |
| Total Voting Members Present | | 15 | | | Nay (N) | 0 |
| Agency | | 5 | | | Abstain (A) | 2 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 3 | | | Total | 15 |
| Municipal Members | | 7 | | | | Approved |

Other Attendees

- 390000
- Aimee Zhao
- Alexander Iglesias Rosales
- Austine Racelis
- Ava Farriday
- Chris Minton
- Eric Bonilla
- Hans Tremmel
- Jacqueline Mak
- James Flannigan
- Jenny Chau
- Kirsten Nubine
- M. Scaduto
- Mark Hall GLA Mosquito
- Mark Nguyen
- Melania Gaboyan - LACFCD
- Melanie Hu
- Michelle Staffield
- Paige Bistromowitz
- Ryan Parks LWA
- Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
- sean phan LASAN
- Susan Robinson
- Susana Vargas
- Yisak Kim
- Yoshi Andersen - Geosyntec

South Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



| First Name | Last Name | Municipality/Organization | Email Address |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Mehrad | Kamalzare | Cal Poly Pomona | mkamalzare@cpp.edu |
| Ali | Sharbat | Cal Poly Pomona | sharbata@cpp.edu |
| Ryanne | Fossum | Stantec Regional Coord. | |
| Robyn | Finley | Stantec | |
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*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public