

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, August 20, 2026
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Santa Clarita City Hall
Carl Boyer Room
23920 Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91355
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Alynn Sun, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Najwa Pitois, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)
*Sarfraz Alam, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
Sandra Cattell, Santa Clarita Sierra Club (Community), Vice-Chair
*Mitchell van Bekkum, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)
Darin Seegmiller, City of Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Mayor Laurene Weste, City of Santa Clarita Recreation/Open Space (Agency)
Hunt Braly, Poole and Shaffery (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation (Community)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff gave a brief WebEx tutorial. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members and established a quorum.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from May 21, 2026. Vice Chair Sandra Cattell motioned to approve the minutes. Member Bruce Hamamoto seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the May 21, 2026 meeting minutes, with 8 votes in favor, 6 votes in abstention, 0 votes opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Member Hamamoto reported that the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, which the SCR WASC funded several years ago, has officially kicked off with a first meeting held in mid-July. Member Hamamoto represented Santa Clara River Watershed at the stakeholder meeting and noted that a separate sponsor group also provides feedback to Study leads. This sponsor group, managed by Gateway Water Management Authority and run by Craftwater, draws its members from multiple WASCs. Member Hamamoto offered to share more information with anyone interested in participating in the sponsor group.

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Vice Chair Cattell, citing the SCR WASC's ongoing interest in invasive species, flagged a webinar hosted by Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary of Natural Resources, and encouraged WASC Members to view it on the Department of Fish and Wildlife's [website](#).

Member Alyn Sun announced recent internal staff changes with Los Angeles County Flood Control District and noted that a new alternate will be appointed to the SCR WASC, effective September 1.

Chair Seegmiller read an attendance reminder per Article 5, Section C of the WASC Operating Guidelines, noting that absence from more than three meetings in a year constitutes failure to attend and renders a Member eligible for removal. Hunt Braly was noted to have missed five meetings in the past twelve months and is therefore now subject to removal.

Public Works staff shared Regional Program updates, noting:

- Community Stakeholder terms expire December 31, with reappointments and vacancy appointments beginning December 2026 or early 2027. Interested members of the public can submit the online Interest to Serve form, available on WASC agendas and in the monthly Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program Implementation email.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) recommended approval of all nine Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Programs (SIPs) to the Board of Supervisors (Board), with Board review anticipated in Fall 2026.
- The SCW Program is updating the 2019 WASC Operating Guidelines to clarify procedures and improve consistency. Proposed amendments (shared July 28) include aligning primary/alternate members by geographic or subject-matter interest rather than organization; revising quorum to require one Member per category (Municipalities, Agencies, Community Stakeholders); and referencing Conflict of Interest (COI) Guidance. Adoption is targeted for this fall.
- The 2026 Call for Projects closed on July 31. Program-wide, 15 Infrastructure Projects (IPs), 11 Technical Resources Program Projects (TRPs), and 12 Scientific Studies (SS) applications were submitted; SCR received 1 IP, 0 TRPs, and 2 SS applications. Staff are conducting eligibility checks; a summary will be presented to WASCs at an upcoming meeting.
- The ROC met on August 12 to discuss the Call for Projects, Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summaries, Scoring Revision Process, and Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance.
- To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, WASC members and the public can subscribe to receive email notifications on the [SCW Program website](#).

Strategic Advancement Section (SAS) staff shared updates, noting:

- As part of the SCW Program's adaptive management efforts, revisions to the Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria for the 2027 Call for Projects are underway; the 2027 Scoring Revision Survey closed on July 19 and gathered input to evaluate and improve the guidelines and criteria.
- The 2026 Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance has been posted to the [SCW Program website](#) under the Adaptive Management and Program Guidance section. Updates to the Reporting Module are expected to reflect the new guidance and support sustained project performance and achievement of program goals.
- Regarding the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey, 2,100 new survey responses have been collected since launch, including 64 responses specific to the Santa Clara River Watershed Area.
- Additional questions can be directed to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

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Vice Chair Cattell asked whether community stakeholders currently on the Committee are expected to resubmit an application. Public Works staff agreed to follow up on whether resubmission of the Interest to Serve form is required.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5) Discussion Items

a) Review of Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination, Stantec) presented the Review of Committee Roles and Responsibilities. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

i) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

b) Regional Program FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Summary Presentation

Nicole Wong (HDR) presented the Regional Program FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Summary. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Seegmiller commented that it was positive to see expenditures beginning to appear on reports, such as those reported by the Via Princessa Park and the Regional Best Management Practice (BMP) Project.

i) Public Comment Period

Manuel Gonzalez (LA County Public Works) asked why the Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project was pulled from SCR WASC funding.

Member Hamamoto responded that the infiltration and groundwater testing conducted in 2018, which followed approximately seven years of drought, had shown favorable results at the time. Subsequent testing, conducted after design plans were completed, found high groundwater above the Project's invert, and a review of historic groundwater levels revealed other instances of high groundwater at the site. The resulting redesign represented such a significant scope change that the Project could not proceed as designed. Member Hamamoto noted that the second round of testing occurred after roughly two years of above-average rainfall, and that the Project team did not want to move forward with a design that could be affected by high groundwater recurring every ten to twenty years.

c) Summary of Submitted Infrastructure Program Projects

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley presented the Summary of Submitted IP Projects; slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Vice Chair Cattell requested that, going forward, notice of upcoming outreach and public events be shared with the WASC. Watershed Coordinator Begley confirmed and noted that events are also advertised in the quarterly SCR Watershed Coordinator newsletter. Fossum added that Committee Members planning to attend a watershed event should notify the organizer in advance so that WASC Member attendance can be tracked in case quorum becomes a concern under the Brown Act.

i) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

d) Discussion to send the completed feasibility study to the Scoring Committee

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Chair Seegmiller expressed the opinion that it would be appropriate to send the one IP application under consideration at SCR WASC to the Scoring Committee, noting that the Project was a previously-approved TRP and therefore familiar to the WASC. Chair Seegmiller expressed interest in seeing how the score compares to expectations, to help inform future SIP deliberations.

i) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

e) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-chairs

Public Works staff reported that notice was sent to all Committee Members regarding the vote on Chair, Vice-Chair, and Co-Chair selection. Current Chair Seegmiller and current Vice-Chair Cattell both expressed interest in continuing to serve in their respective roles; no other nominations were put forward.

Chair Seegmiller commented that serving in the role has been enjoyable and expressed a desire to continue, citing good momentum in the WASC.

i) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

6) General Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Voting Items

a) Vote to send the completed feasibility study to the Scoring Committee for consideration

Member Mary Johnson motioned to send the completed feasibility study to the Scoring Committee for consideration. Vice-Chair Cattell seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes opposed, and 0 abstentions (approved, see attached vote tracking sheet).

a. Selection of Chair, Vice-chair, or Co-Chairs for the Santa Clara River Watershed Area

Member Hamamoto motioned to approve Darin Seegmiller as Chair and Sandra Cattell as Vice-Chair for FY27-28. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes opposed, and 0 abstentions (approved, see attached vote tracking sheet).

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 17, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

9) Adjournment

Chair Seegmiller thanked the SCR WASC and members of the public and adjourned the meeting.

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve the May 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes	Approve Darin Seegmiller as Chair and Sandra Cattell as Vice- Chair for the FY27-28 Cycle	Send completed feasibility study to the Scoring Committee for consideration
Agency	District	Julian Juarez		Alynn Sun	x	y	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan		Najwa Pitois	x	a	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Rick Viergutz		Sarfaraz Alam	x	a	y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero		Christopher Lapaz	x	a	y	y
Agency	City of Santa Clarita Recreation/Open Space	Laurene Weste, Mayor		Michael Villegas				
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly						
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell**	x	Diane Trautman		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk		Mitchell van Bekkum	x	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel		Heidi Webber				
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Alberto Grajeda		a	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Alberto Grajeda		a	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Alberto Grajeda		a	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Oliver Cramer		y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Oliver Cramer		y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Haley Lawton		y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Haley Lawton		y	y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Amanda Begley	x	Eric Wilson				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	8	14	14
Total Voting Members Present		14			No (N)	0	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	6	0	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14	14	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved	Approved

Webex Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
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Alberto Grajeda LACPW	Jacqueline Stone (LACPW)	Mehrad Kamalzare (CPP)	SCWP Staff - Alexander Iglesias
Alexis Wrzesien, Craftwater	James Carpenter - SCWP	Melanie Rivera	SCWP Staff - Anthony Barreras
Call-in User_1	Jason Jade Pepito	Meliya Soller	SCWP Staff - Timothy Lim
Claire Barr (LACPW)	Jenny Chau	Nicole Wong	Sandra Cattell
Diego C LACPW	Julian Juarez	Ryanna Fossum	
Eric Wilson, TreePeople	Linet Khechatoorian	SCR AV	
Erum Razzak (LARWQCB)	Manuel Gonzalez	kmoreno	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Carolina Hernandez ALYNN SUN	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Steve Cole	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	scole@scvwa.org	P	
Rick Viergutz SARFARAZ AMIN	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	rviergutz@scvwa.org	A	
Janine Prado	City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	JPRADO@santa-clarita.com	P	
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita	tpledger@santa-clarita.com	A	
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsds.org	P	
Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts	mtremblay@lacsds.org	A	
Dirk Marks	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	dmarks@scvwa.org	P	
Mike Alvord	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	malvord@scvwa.org	A	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery	hbraly@pooleshaffery.com	P	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council	maryjohnson767@gmail.com	P	
Jason Gibbs	GP Strategies	jgibbs@gpstrategies.com	P	
Frederick Andre Hollings	CA Department of Tax and Fee Administration	fahollings1@gmail.com	A	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	zuliebear@aol.com	P	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Heidi Webber	Community Hiking Club	hwebber50@gmail.com	A	
Sandra Cattell	Sierra Club	sumcatt@yahoo.com	P	<i>S. Cattell</i>
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	BHAMAMO@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	<i>B. Hamamoto</i>
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	AMA@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Darren Hernandez	Santa Clarita	dhernandez@santa-clarita.com	P	
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita	Dseegmiller@santa-clarita.com	A	<i>Darin Seegmiller</i>
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita	HMERENDA@santa-clarita.com	P	
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A	<i>Oliver Cramer</i>
Robert Newman	Santa Clarita	rnewman@santa-clarita.com	P	
Mike Hennawy	Santa Clarita	mhennawy@santa-clarita.com	A	
Tom Cole	Santa Clarita	tcole@santa-clarita.com	P	
David Peterson	Santa Clarita	Dpeterson@santa-clarita.com	A	
<i>Mitchell van Buren</i>			A	<i>MvB</i>
<i>CARIS LAPAZ</i>	<i>LAUSD</i>		A	<i>CL</i>

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Najwa P. Torres	SCV Waters	npitaisa@scvwa.org	A	

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**

First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Hailey Lawton		City of SC	