

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, October 15, 2025
1:00pm – 3:30pm
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Tammy Hierlihy, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Margie Hoyt, Resident (Community)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair
Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Shin Furukawa, Torrance (Municipal)
Douglas Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Vanessa Hevener, EWMP: Peninsula (Municipal)
Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Miller Zou, EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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 Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and instructions on public comment submissions.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2025

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from August 20, 2025. Member Jenn Swart motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair Doug Krauss. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 4 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Call for Projects was July 31, 2025. 29 Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects, 7 Technical Resources

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Program (TRP) Project Concepts, and 12 unique Scientific Study (SS) applications were submitted Program wide. SSMB received 3 IP Projects, 3 TRP Project Concepts, and 4 SS.

- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP is October 31, 2025. To access the PMR form for a project, navigate to the Reporting Module, select the appropriate project, and then click on the new tile labeled "Project Modification Request." More information can be found in the Guidelines for Project Modifications section on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024–June 2025) was due August 15, 2025 for all projects and studies approved in FY20–25 SIPs, regardless of funding or activity.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting took place on October 8, 2025, at 1:00pm. During the meeting, the ROC discussed the 2025 Draft SCW Program Biennial Progress Report and reviewed the Initial Watershed Planning public comments.
- The Quarter 1 (Q1) 2025 Funding Report is posted on the [SCW Program website](#). The Report includes policy highlights and a funding matrix of current and upcoming opportunities.
- To stay informed about SCW Program updates, community members can subscribe to the SCW Program newsletter or view updates on the [News and Updates webpage](#).

4) Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes highlighted recent activities, including two email communications, the August quarterly newsletter, and an October end-of-quarter update. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes organized a tour of the Bowtie Demonstration Project with The Nature Conservancy, which showcased habitat design using on-site materials and upcoming community tree planting efforts. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also supported Los Angeles Waterkeeper's watershed-planning workshop and participated in breakout sessions featuring the Living Infrastructure Toolkit. Community engagement efforts included partnering with Culture Club South Bay for weekend beach programming and a Coastal Cleanup Day at Bruce's Beach with over 120 youth engaged. The county-wide effort removed over 19,000 pounds of trash. Educational outreach reached 285 participants through three presentations, along with a microplastics learning lab in partnership with the University of California, Riverside that engaged 30 students. In addition, a SCW Program 101 Workshop was held for Community Education and Engagement Program grantees with 22 participants and was recorded for future use.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also reviewed the SSMB Initial Watershed Plan and submitted joint comments with other Watershed Coordinators focused on tribal allyship and school-related stormwater issues.

Upcoming events include the Clear Waters LA Summit on October 23, the Water Harvest Festival on October 25, and the Equity through Engagement Workshop hosted through the Urban Watershed Working Group on October 30 at Stoneview Nature Center. Additional November events include a Day of Service at Kuruvungna Springs on November 8 and participation in the Clean & Green Festival on November 15.

6) Discussion

a) Watershed Planning Workshop #4 – Initial Plans

Public Works' SCW Watershed Planning team provided an update on the Watershed Planning effort. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion regarding the Initial Watershed Plans and their expected impact on FY27-28 Project Applications. Member Susie Santilena commented that project alignment should extend beyond shared benefits to include how projects interact and complement

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each other within the watershed. Member Santilena noted that demonstrating additive benefits, rather than duplicative efforts, ensures that resources are effectively utilized and that projects collectively contribute to regional watershed goals. Member Santilena cited the Watershed Planning Targets as an example of beneficial project coordination and recommended stronger coordination between overlapping initiatives to prevent redundancy. Member Santilena suggested that Los Angeles County could assist Project Applicants by providing additional guidance on how proposed projects interact with other ongoing efforts.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff confirmed that the Watershed Planning tool currently shows Strategies & Actions and Opportunities, with additional modules under development and anticipated for release in early 2026. Watershed Planning staff stated that the forthcoming tools will enhance the ability to develop planning scenarios and integrate data for decision-making and reporting.

Antos asked how future projects might better integrate and benefit from the Watershed Strategies and expressed optimism that the upcoming tools will improve collaboration, data access, and project coordination across the Watershed Area.

Member Santilena commented that prior projects tended to be reactive, often driven by compliance or funding timelines, and expects that future projects will demonstrate greater coordination and proactive alignment with shared Watershed Area goals.

Chair Cadwallader confirmed with Public Works staff that the upcoming Project Application Module update will include measurable targets drawn from the Watershed Planning goals and will request additional information from Project Applicants to demonstrate alignment with the updated Watershed Plan framework. Public Works staff explained that the new planning interface will enable Project Applicants to build and compare project scenarios using the SIP and Watershed Planning tools.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar commented that alignment with the Watershed Plans would become a requirement for all project submissions and that Project Applicants would need to clearly describe how each proposed project supports Watershed Plan objectives and show that the project's design reflects those strategic priorities. Member Benavides-Aguilar acknowledged that the alignment process will require time and that not all projects will be immediately adaptable but encouraged continued progress toward full consistency with the Watershed Plans.

Antos observed that most Project Applications have been driven by compliance requirements and recommended that consultants be directed to utilize the Watershed Planning tool to improve project integration and alignment. Antos explained that the WASC may find that some projects have great value but may not align with the SCW Program goals, requiring careful consideration.

Member Dave Pierce inquired about potential connections between the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey and the Watershed Planning tool. Antos explained that community-identified opportunities collected through the CSNA can provide valuable input for municipalities and Watershed Coordinators.

Public Works staff reported that projects currently under review have undergone completeness checks and that the Scoring Committee will review IP projects using the current scoring criteria. Public Works staff confirmed that projects will not appear on the Project Portal until scoring is complete.

Chair Cadwallader suggested that meetings prior to the scoring phase could help Project Applicants clarify expectations and strengthen submissions. Public Works staff agreed that early engagement with Watershed Coordinators is encouraged before formal submission. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes provided an overview of projects submitted in July and stated that the Scoring Committee is scheduled to score SSMB IP Projects in October. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes encouraged the WASC to engage with Project Applicants and to shift from a reactive to a forward-planning approach.

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Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff clarified that the current Watershed Planning Tool primarily reflects information from the Reporting Module and acknowledged that available monitoring data remains limited. Public Works staff stated that new guidelines are being developed to improve monitoring data consistency and that several new components are under construction to support Project Developers with reporting and data management.

The Committee discussed the need for scoring to evolve as the new Watershed Plans are implemented and acknowledged that alignment with Watershed Plans will depend on the expertise and priorities of the Project Applicants, the Scoring Committee, and the WASC.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff described areas within the tool that are being refined, such as redefining key terms and better communication of performance targets. Watershed Planning staff also reported that outreach has begun to establish a technical taskforce to address areas of improvement and that discussions are underway regarding establishing baselines for existing conditions prior to 2018, as well as baselines for projects funded to date.

Chair Cadwallader thanked Public Works staff and the Watershed Planning team for the presentation and acknowledged the effort involved in developing the Watershed Planning tools.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Regional Program Applications

9) Adjournment

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

SSMB WASC - October 15, 2025						
		Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve August 20, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		y
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	x	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	x	Asha Kreiling		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	x	Christopher Lapaz		a
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	x	Mary Simun		y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija	x			a
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	x			y
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	x	a
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Virginia Wei		y
Municipal Members	Unincorporated County	Geremew Amenu	x	Lara Awad		y
Municipal Members	Torrance	Shin Furukawa	x			a
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	x	Geraldine Trivedi		y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou		Nick Petrevski		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	x	Jeannie Naughton		y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Other Attendees	
Alexia	Kathleen McGowan
Ali Rahmani LA Water Board	Kenny Khov
Anthony Vidal LACPW	Lara Awad
Aric M	Lauren Amimoto
Brenda Ponton	Lisa (Jin) Kim - Los Angeles County Public Works
Brian Andersen	Lisa Skutecki
Bryan Igboke	Iuis
CJ	MARISOL IBARRA
Carlos Rodriguez	Michelle Staffield
Chris Lapaz	Ryan Beste
Deanna Fraley	Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
Eric Bonilla	SCWP Host
Farzad Kasmaei	SSMB AV
Jian Peng	

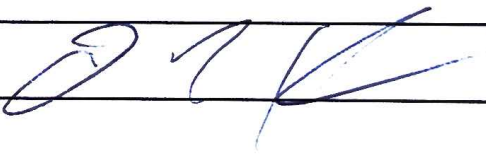
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>Marcela Benavides</i>
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	Primary	
Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	Alternate	
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	Primary	<i>Jenn Swart</i>
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	Alternate	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Cathie Santo Domingo	LA Recreation & Parks	Primary	
Darryl Ford	LA Recreation & Parks	Alternate	
Margie Hoyt	Resident	Primary	<i>Margie G. Hoyt</i>
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Primary	
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Alternate	
Caroline Orija	LA County Public Health	Primary	<i>NO</i>
Elizabeth Sala	Resident	Primary	<i>E Sala</i>

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Gilbert Marquez	Carson	Primary	
Roland Jen	Carson	Alternate	
Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	Primary	
Virginia Wei	Los Angeles	Alternate	
Geremew Amenu	Unincorporated County	Primary	
Lara Awad	Unincorporated County	Alternate	
Shin Furukawa	Torrance	Primary	
Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	Primary	
Geraldine Trivedi	EWMP: Beach Cities	Alternate	
Miller Zou	EWMP: Dominguez	Primary	
Nick Petrevski	EWMP: Dominguez	Alternate	
Vanessa Hevener	EWMP: Peninsula	Primary	
Jeannie Naughton	EWMP: Peninsula	Alternate	
Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay	Primary	