

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



Wednesday, October 16, 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 Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Margie Hoyt, Resident (Community)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation (Community), Chair
Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Stephanie Holst, Torrance (Municipal)
Douglas Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Miller Zou, EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)
Vanessa Hevener EWMP: Peninsula (Municipal)
Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Douglass Krauss, Vice-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. Public Works staff made self-introductions.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2024

Vice-Chair Krauss presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from August 21, 2024. Member Dave Pierce motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Chair Craig Cadwallader. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Business Relations and Contracts Division released the Watershed Coordinators [Request for Statement of Qualifications](#) (RFSQ). The deadline to submit a [Statement of Qualifications](#) is on October 31 at 5:30pm.

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- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Quarterly Report covering April to June was due on August 15. The FY 2023-24 Annual Report, covering July 2023 to July 2024, is due December 31. The Mid-Year Report, covering July to December, previously known as Quarter 1 (Q1) and Quarter 2 (Q2) Reports will be due on February 15, 2025.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) discussed Municipal Program Reporting at its meeting on November 13 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. Meeting details and materials can be found on the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The Municipal Program Reporting Module has been updated to streamline the renewal process for the Municipal Transfer Agreements. SCW Program payments are generally available for disbursement by December 31, based on the timing of revenues collected by the Program. The Municipal Program will be transferred to another team within Public Works in the coming months.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program formally launched on September 24. For more information visit the [SCW Program website](#) to access the Water Foundation's application page.
- The SCW Program continues to work towards launching the Credit Trading Program. The Procedures and Guidelines document will be available for a 30-day Public Comment Period towards the end of 2024. An online stakeholder workshop is scheduled for October 30 at 10:00am.
- For regular updates, please subscribe to the SCWP newsletter on the [SCW Program website](#).

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff within Public Works provided an update on Watershed Planning efforts, noting:

- The Watershed Planning team has been engaging with interested parties to learn perspectives related to the Watershed Planning effort. Meetings with OurWaterLA, County Water Plan's Nature-Based Solutions Blue Ribbon Panel, the Los Angeles Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Group, ROC Water Quality Focus Group, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and Watershed Coordinators have already taken place. Meetings with Rebuild SoCal Partnership and the Community Investment Benefits Focus Group are upcoming.
- Analysis of relevant data and stakeholder feedback is being conducted to synthesize the opportunity areas, priorities, targets, and watershed area characteristics that will shape the initial Watershed Plans.
- The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment Survey is launching and will be used by the Watershed Coordinators to collect information about community needs and preferences for SCW Program projects. Data from the survey will be visible on an online dashboard and made accessible to the public.
- The second Watershed Planning Workshop is scheduled for the next SSMB WASC meeting to review the Initial Watershed Plans and tools that are being considered.
- Any questions regarding the ongoing Watershed Planning efforts may be directed towards the Watershed Planning Team via email at watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes shared recent outreach and engagement activities, including participation at the following events:

- Nature-Based Solutions Tour hosted by the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator
- County Water Plan Regional Water Reliability and the Nature-Based Solutions Task Force meetings
- Poppy Talks hosted by the South Bay Parkland Conservancy
- Watershed Coordinators' Tribal Allyship Working Group's goal setting meeting
- Climate Adaptation for Water Public Forum hosted by Metropolitan Water District
- Coastal Clean Up Day events hosted by Heal the Bay

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- Watershed Coordinators' Schools and Stormwater Working Group meeting, coordinating efforts for touring a stormwater project at Plymouth Elementary School in November. Amigos del los Rios, the primary project proponent, will be sharing an overview on the project. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes noted this event has limited capacity and to reach out if interested in attending.
- Water (R)evolution Symposium hosted by the Council for Watershed Health
- Watershed Planning workshop with other Watershed Coordinators.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also trained other Heal the Bay staff members on sharing information about the SCW Program, presented four community presentations on the SCW program, and sent out the Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Newsletter to over 300 recipients. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes highlighted that the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program has a rolling application deadline, but that the first round of proposals is due November 8, 2024.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared upcoming events:

- The fourth Ballona Creek Regional Watershed Coordination meeting will be held at Stoneview Nature Center on October 24. The first three meetings were hosted by the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC with the Baldwin Hills Urban Watershed Conservancy. The area of interest has been expanded to include portions of the Upper Dominguez watershed, which is why some Committee Members in the SSMB WASC received an invitation.
- The next watershed-wide event will be a Day of Service at Kuruvungna Springs in collaboration with the Gabrielino Tongva Foundation on November 17 from 9:00am – 1:00pm.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Discussion

a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q1 and Q2

Public Works staff shared a summary of the Regional Program Quarterly Reports for Q1 and Q2 onscreen, which can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff noted that full Quarterly Reports can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Wilson Mendoza (Project Developer, City of Torrance) provided an update for the Stormwater Basin Expansion Project and explained that the Q1 activity concern was resolved in Q2, with project construction completed in November 2023. More information can be found on the Quarterly Report.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes confirmed with Lara Awad (Project Developer, Los Angeles County) that the Alondra Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project reported zero expenditures because Caltrans funds were claimed before SCW Program funds. Awad confirmed that SCW Program funds are expected to be claimed in the upcoming Quarterly Report.

Member Elizabeth Sala confirmed with Haley Johnson (Project Developer, University of California Riverside) that the Microplastics in LA County Stormwater Scientific Study (SS) is a three-year study, with its first round of data collected in March 2024. The data is being processed and interim results should be available soon.

The Project Developers for the Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project provided an update. Jenn Howell (Project Developer, City of Lomita) noted that approximately 50 percent of the project's design is funded by the SCW Program and that, due to a change in project location, the City of Lomita will be submitting a Project Modification Request. Jennifer Corywell (Project Developer, Hazen and Sawyer)

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explained that the project plans to create a series of drywells and an infiltration gallery. The proposed location of the infiltration gallery was a gas station, prompting contamination concerns. Geotechnical investigations also determined unfavorable infiltration rates at the site. The Project Developers have chosen a nearby alternate location closer to Lomita City Hall on Narbonne Avenue. Upon inquiry, the Project Developers confirmed that the alternate location will still create a green downtown area as only the subsurface structures will be changing location.

The Project Developer explained that while infiltration testing has not yet occurred at the alternate location, the alternate location is more promising and additional borings to confirm infiltration rates is a priority. Upon inquiry, the Project Developers noted that the project is considering options to remove impermeable surfaces and replace grass lawn with drought tolerant vegetation.

b) Summary of Submitted Scientific Studies

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes presented a summary of Round 6 Project Applications. Two SS were submitted, Data-Drive Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County and DepaveLA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting.

Chair Cadwallader confirmed with Member Veeh and Watershed Coordinator Shrodes that the total funding request for DROPS for Los Angeles County is equally distributed amongst the nine WASCs. Member Caroline Orija inquired whether the DROPS tool would be publicly available, but Watershed Coordinator suggested asking the Project Applicant directly.

Member Benavides clarified with Public Works staff that the independent SS review will occur but that the SS review may not be completed before the Project Applicant comes to present at the WASC. However, the project applicant will also be invited back during SIP deliberation.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility. Items on the upcoming agenda include:

- a) Watershed Planning Workshop #2

9. 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 August 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCO	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		a
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh	x	Tammy Hierlihy		y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Robert Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	x	Christopher Lapaz		y
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	<u>Craig Cadwallader</u>	x	Mary Simun		y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	x			a
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ryan Jackson		y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Geremew Amenu	x			a
Municipal Members	Torrance	Stephanie Holst	x	Wilson Mendoza		a
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	x	Geraldine Trivedi		y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	x	Nick Petrevski		y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	x	David Wahba		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	
Alexander Iglesias Rosales	Mike Scaduto
Alexia Skrbic	Paige Bistromowitz
Ashwini Bhide	Ryanna Fossum
Brett Perry	Samantha Torres
CJ Caluag	Serena Zhu
Chris Lapaz	Stephanie Luu
Christopher Vong	Susana Vargas
Eric Bonilla	Uriel Cobian
Geraldine Trivedi	Vik Bapna
Haley Johnson	
Heecheol Kwon	
Jacqueline Mak	
Jasmin Mendoza	
Jenny Chau	
Lara Awad	
Larry Tran	
Luis Garcia	
Luis Perez	
Marisela Velasquez	
Mark Hall	
Mark Nguyen	
Mark Nguyen	
Michelle Staffield	

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Jenn	Howell	City of Lomita	j.howell@lomitacity.com
David	Estlund	city of Hawthorne	me.stlund@cityofhawthorne.org

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public