

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



Thursday, July 11, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Rd, Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks (Agency)
Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community), Chair
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
*Kelly Fisher, Agoura Hills (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Tatiana Holden, Calabasas (Municipal)
Joe Bellomo, Hidden Hills (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 Members Not Present:

David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) (Agency)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

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. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Public Works staff and all Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants joining online.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2024

Chair Glickfeld presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Susan Nissman motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Aaron Ordower. The WASC voted to approve the June 13, 2024, meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 4 in abstention, and 1 Member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Member Roxanne Hughes joined the meeting after the approval of the meeting minutes.

3) Committee Member Updates

Chair Glickfeld shared that the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met on July 10 and approved the NSMB Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) recommendation to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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(Board). The SIP included the Infrastructure Program (IP) project, the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project. Chair Glickfeld highlighted that the Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot helped NSMB's IP pass through the Scoring Committee and enables projects with less Water Supply Benefit to pass the threshold score, which benefited the NSMB watershed as it is smaller with less opportunities to capture water.

Chair Glickfeld commented that there is a lack of water quality information, which will pose a challenge for watershed planning. Chair Glickfeld requested copies of watershed monitoring data to improve modeling.

Member Hughes shared that the City of Westlake Village has identified a consultant to lead their Technical Resources Program (TRP) project, the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project. Public Works staff will be issuing a notice to proceed (NTP) within the next few weeks.

Member Jacy Shillan shared the County Water Plan with City of Calabasas staff and Curtis Castle (Director of Public Works, City of Calabasas), who will review the plan. Public Work staff has a sample ordinance that Committee Members can use to inform city representatives about the County Water Plan.

4) Program Updates

Public Works Staff provided an update, noting:

- Round 6 Call for Projects will defer IP project submissions until Summer 2025. SS and TRP applications can be submitted by the July 31 Call for Projects deadline. This deferral is in alignment with the recent report by the ROC and Board's subsequent motion on Progress and Adaptive Management of the SCW Program. The deferral will enable Public Works to prioritize critical efforts informed by all recent reports, recommendations, and discussions with the ROC and key interested parties, while also allowing prospective applicants the opportunity to refine and enhance their project proposals, leverage additional funding, and engage more deeply with the community.
- In alignment with Board Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's July 25, 2023, motion, "Accelerating Implementation of the SCW Program," the SCW Program has initiated watershed planning efforts to facilitate regional and watershed-based planning that identifies project opportunity areas and refines population indicators that will support strategic investment. This effort will build upon past and ongoing work, incorporate meaningful community input, and leverage available data and best practices to create useful, transparent, and accessible tools.
- On August 8, the SCW Program Team will kick off facilitated engagement workshops. At subsequent meetings, the SCW Program team and WASCs will continue watershed planning discussions. In November, the SCW Program team will share the Initial Watershed Plans Framework, and mid next year will conclude with development of the final Initial Watershed Area Plans for each Watershed Area. Following that, specific and more detailed Adaptive Plans will be developed. A new SCW Program Watershed Planning Section has been created to lead the work.
 - Member Ordower requested a list of questions be distributed to WASC Members prior to the workshops to adequately prepare for discussions.
- The focus of the Brown Act is transparency in the decision-making process of local governmental agencies. If official business is discussed, any gathering of a quorum, no matter how informal, is a "meeting" subject to the requirements of the Brown Act. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of WASC Member seats provided at least two Members from each of the member categories (Municipalities, Agencies, and Community Stakeholders) are in attendance.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts shared updates on recent engagement activities, general goals, potential TRPs, and potential SSs. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Watts attended a public input session for the SCW Program Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, administered by the Water Foundation. More information can be

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found on the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). The second public input workshop will be held July 24. Individuals can register to attend on the [SCW Program Website](#).

6) Public Comment Period

No public comment cards were received by Public Works staff prior to this meeting. In person and virtual attendees were invited to provide comment. No comments were made.

7) Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Member Joe Bellomo disclosed a meeting with Member Hughes, Member Kelly Fisher, and Member Bruce Hamamoto regarding SS applications.

b) WASC Roles and Responsibilities Presentation

Presented by Ryanna Fossum, Stantec (Regional Coordination)

Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Fossum presented an overview of the SCW Program structure, timeline, and WASC roles and responsibilities.

Member Ordower noted that including municipal projects in the totals presented on SCW Program stormwater investments across the county would almost double the funding figures.

Chair Glickfeld clarified that while the slides show four IPs, only two of the IPs received construction funding, the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project and the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project (pending final approval from the Board). The other two IP projects, Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement and Cornell – Mulholland Highway Green Improvement Project, only received funding for Design phase.

Member Nissman requested clarification regarding TRPs. Watershed Coordinator Watts clarified that the TRP gives applicants access to a Technical Assistance Team (TAT), which is an assigned consultant team from a list of eligible consultants. The TAT develops the Feasibility Study that is required for a project to apply to the SCW Program IP..

Chair Glickfeld noted that the timeline for a TRP to become an IP is about two years and expressed a desire to expedite the timeline. Member Hughes noted that Public Works staff is responsive, but that the team awarding TRP funding must be proactive.

Chair Glickfeld requested clarification regarding the approval or denial of Project Modification Requests (PMRs). Fossum clarified that the WASC can approve PMRs with additional funding requests, approve PMRs but decline to provide additional funding, or decline PMRs and remove earmarked funding from the SIP. Member Marcella Benavides-Aguilar asked whether a project that is deemed to no longer meet the goals of the SCW Program is required to pay back the funding received if a PMR is declined. Fossum noted that details on whether the project owes the money back to the SCW Program would need to be disputed between Public Works staff and the project developer, however, earmarked funding would return to the WASC.

Chair Glickfeld asked if the 5/10/85 percent rule regarding TRP/SS/IP funding is per year or averaged and accrued over time. Fossum clarified that the 5 percent is across the five years projected. Watershed Coordinator Watts added that that there has been \$450,000 accrued for SSs over the course of the SCW Program.

Public Works staff demonstrated the resources available to the WASC Members on the SCW Program website, including the [Project Portal](#) and [SIP Tool](#).

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Chair Glickfeld requested that Public Works staff present the quarterly/semi-annual progress reports for ongoing projects at an upcoming meeting. Public Works staff added that project proponents will be invited to a future meeting to answer any questions Members may have. Previous summaries that have been presented to the WASC are posted on the SCW Program website.

Chair Glickfeld asked to be notified if and when the Alternative Water Supply Scoring Pilot is finalized. Public Works staff shared that the Scoring Committee will not meet this term as there will be no IPs in Round 6.

c) FY24-25 Strategic Outreach and Engagement (SOEP) Presentation

Presented by Melina Watts, Watershed Coordinator

Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that all input provided by WASC Members has been incorporated into the SOEP, and presented the changes made to the existing SOEP.

Member Ordower requested clarification regarding the SCW Program Survey. Upon clarification, Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that the survey would be developed to solicit feedback about community needs and priorities for the SCW Program.

Watershed Coordinator Watts highlighted that a strategy was added that focuses on educating the community about the water quality impacts of fireworks, and shared observations of an increase in fireworks this Fourth of July. Chair Glickfeld noted that the City of Agoura Hills replaced their firework show with a drone show.

Watershed Coordinator Watts gathered feedback from Members on the creation of a working group called the "North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Strategic Outreach Management Committee." The subcommittee would focus on engagement, outreach, fundraising, and planning. Watershed Coordinator Watts emphasized that the subcommittee should be inclusive, but still comply with the Brown Act. There is currently a city staff group for Malibu Creek Watershed Management Plan Committee that works across the entire watershed.

The WASC decided not to include the new working group in the SOEP as it will require approval from Public Works staff, but to revisit it later with the potential of amending it to the SOEP.

d) Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Glickfeld will not be renewing their role as Chair and noted that one Member has expressed interest in serving as Chair.

Member Hughes nominated Vice-Chair Jessica Forte as Chair. Member Bellomo nominated Member Hughes as Vice-Chair. Member Hughes accepted the nomination but will not be able to attend the upcoming August 8 meeting.

The Committee decided that voting will be tabled to the next meeting.

8) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9) Voting Items

a) Approve the FY24-25 SOEP

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Watts confirmed that comments and feedback from nearly all WASC Members were incorporated into the SOEP.

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Multiple Committee Members shared interest in establishing the new working group and expressed hope that the WASC will work with Public Works staff to gain approval and add this working group to the SOEP at a later time. Public Works staff will follow up with County Counsel to receive more information on Brown Act compliance in relation to the working group.

Member Hughes motioned to approve the FY24-25 NSMB SOEP with suggested changes presented to the WASC, seconded by Member Nissman. The WASC voted to approve the motion with 13 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, and 1 Member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b) Vote to select Chair and Vice Chair

This item was skipped and tabled to the next meeting.

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 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:

- Initial Watershed Planning Discussion
- Vote on Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair (as needed)

11) Adjournment

Chair Glickfeld thanked the 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 the June 13, 2024 WASC Meeting Minutes	Vote to Approved the FY 24-25 NSMB SOEP with suggested changes presented to the WASC.
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Mark Beltran		y	y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			y	y
Agency	Vacant	Vacant					
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Craig Jones	x	y	y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Craig Jones	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		a	a
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt					
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte		Kelly Fisher	x	a	y
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x			y	a
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Joe Bellomo	x			a	y
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		a	y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	4	2
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees

- Alex Aguirre
- Allen Ma
- Anna Phillipp
- Brian Baldauf
- Craig Doberstein
- Enrique Perez
- Jason Pepito
- Kelsey Reed
- Mayra Martinez
- Rich Ambrose
- Ruby Cornejo
- Veronica Carrillo



Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Area Steering Committee North Santa Monica Bay

Date Thursday, July 11, 2024
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: 2489 085 1759

Password: scwp (7297 from phones and video systems)

<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=mec1f26c250b5ebb7350d986771458c65>

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 June 13, 2024
- 3) Committee Member Updates
- 4) Program Updates
 - a) [Call for Projects for the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan - Safe Clean Water LA](#)
- 5) Watershed Coordinator Updates
- 6) Public Comment Period
- 7) Discussion
 - a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure
 - b) WASC Roles & Responsibilities Presentation
by Ryanna Fossum, Stantec
 - c) FY24-25 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) Presentation
Presented by Melina Watts (Watershed Coordinator)
 - d) Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair
- 8) Public Comment Period
- 9) Voting Items
 - a) Approve the FY24-25 SOEP (as needed)
 - b) Vote to select Chair and Vice Chair (as needed)
- 10) Items for Next Agenda
 - a) Initial Watershed Planning Workshop
- 11) Adjournment

Next Meeting: August 8, 2024 (TBD)
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Rd Calabasas, CA 91302

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