

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



Tuesday, February 25, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Rd, Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks (Agency)
Brian Baldauf, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
*Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
*Richard Ambrose, Resident (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
*Kelly Fisher, Agoura Hills (Municipal)
Tatiana Holden, Calabasas (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Members Not Present:

Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)
Kelsey Reed, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Aaron Ordower, Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3 (Municipal)
Kiernan Brtalik, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Jessica Forte, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated the roll call of Members. Public Works staff and Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants joining online.

Due to the short turnaround from last meeting, approval of February 13 meeting minutes will be deferred to the March meeting.

2) Program Updates

Public Works Staff Provided an update:

- The Public Works Staff reported that the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (FY23-24) Annual Report (for July 2023-June 2024) was due by December 31, 2024. Project and Study Developers are asked to address comments and resubmit their reports as soon as possible.

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



- The Mid-Year Report (covering July-Dec 2024) was launched on January 17, 2025, with a previous due date of February 15, 2025. The deadline has been extended to February 28, 2025.
- A new "Metrics & Measures" section is now available in the Reporting Module for Project Developers approved in FY20-21 through FY23-24 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs), and it must be filled out by February 28, 2025. Project Developers received an email with instructions and a link to the Regional Program Performance Measures Guidelines.
- The 2025 Quarter 3 Quarterly Funding Report & Matrix is available on the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab. In support of Public Works, the Regional Coordination team prepares quarterly funding reports that include a high-level overview of recent funding policy highlights and a funding matrix that shares currently active and upcoming funding opportunities that may be relevant to SCW Program projects. The Regional Coordination team is monitoring ongoing activity related to Federal funding opportunities.
- FY24-25 Transfer Agreements/Addendum distribution began in December. An email blast was sent out to new and continuing project developers with instructions on how to use the Transfer Agreement functionality within the Reporting Module. Project Developers are advised to start uploading their supporting documents, such as the SOW, Authorization, and CEQA documents as applicable to execute their agreements. For questions about specific projects, Project Developers can email SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov.
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 1:00pm where the ROC will begin its first Biennial Report Session of the series. The meeting will gather public input, and public comment will be extended from two minutes to five minutes. Meeting details can be found on the SCW Program's [ROC events webpage](#).
- The FY23-24 Annual Reports were due by December 31, 2024. Public Works staff is processing and executing the 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements, with the first batch completed and the second batch in progress. The initial fifth disbursements were completed at the end of December 2024. Cities must comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement, and the Public Works staff is following up with municipalities that are pending.
- The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, in partnership with the Water Foundation, is now accepting applications for the Safe, Clean Water Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. This program will support education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture within the LA County Flood Control District. The final deadline to submit a grant proposal for evaluation during Round 3 is April 4, 2025. More information and the ability to apply can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).
- To keep up with Program Updates, Members and the public can subscribe to receive email notifications on the SCW Program website. This newsletter provides important updates on the Regional, Municipal, and District Programs. Implementation Updates can also be viewed in the News and Updates webpage on the SCW Program Website.

3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

4) Discussion Item

a) Scientific Study (SS) – North Santa Monica Bay Dry Weather Storm Drain Diversions

Rachel Williams & Robert Woodward (m6 Consulting) presented on the North Santa Monica Bay Dry Weather Storm Drain Diversions Scientific Study, which intends to study dry weather storm drain outfall water quality, water quantity, and develop a program for the implementation of dry weather diversions. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts clarified with Woodward that the Study's focus is on volumetric contributions and the impact of dry weather diversions. The aim is to preserve streamflow while

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



understanding how diversions might affect the creek's health. In response to Member Nissman's question about treating diverted water, Woodward stated that as Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) looks at sampling results, LVMWD would also be identifying candidate locations for water reuse. Woodward confirmed that the plan involves treating diverted water to Title 22 standards for reuse and increase the available water for recycling.

Member Richard Ambrose raised concerns about natural flows and how incorporating variability in future groundwater contributions will be considered in this SS. Woodward highlighted the Study's focus on urban runoff and how evolving groundwater flows may influence future patterns. Woodward commented that there is an expectation of increased groundwater flow, which could impact the area. Member Tatiana Holden asked whether strategies would be developed to communicate with commercial property owners whose storm drains contribute pollutants. Woodward emphasized the intention to make the data readily available, with dry weather diversion primarily aimed at complying with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) requirements. If certain locations are not suitable for diversion, other agencies may be referred for further action.

Member Andrew Nickerson clarified with Woodward that sampling is included in the Study to identify candidate locations; this would take place over two years with four rounds of sampling. Member Nissman inquired about whether sampling would continue after the Study, and Woodward confirmed that agencies would handle their individual sampling program, with the SS data available to those agencies for their use.

Member Ewelina Mutkowska raised a question regarding the alignment of dry weather discharge with bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance and how definitions for specific components of the Study will be presented. Woodward explained that project boundaries would be defined within the planned development of the Study and based on the LVMWD system's capacity.

Chair Forte asked for clarification on the difference between the SS and implementation, and Woodward explained that the SS involves gathering data on the quality and quantity of flows, with a focus on the bulk of MS4 outfalls. The sampling would help identify specific outfalls for implementation, and the SS can be used collaboratively by other agencies. When Member Nissman asked about recommendations for stormwater diversion locations and project considerations, Woodward explained that the SS would create a hierarchy of recommendations and highlight locations for individual agencies. A template for stormwater diversion, currently being tested in the City of Agoura Hills will guide the process. One part of the SS focuses on diversion, while another aspect focuses on the management of the diversion.

b) Scientific Study – NSMB Stream Ecological Stressors Assessment

Craig Doberstein and Jeff Parsons (Herrera) presented on the NSMB Stream Ecological Stressors Assessment SS, which aims to collect and analyze historic, recent, and projected future flow conditions to improve understanding of creek hydrologic regimes in NSMB Watershed Area. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Nissman inquired about the definition of hydrologic regimes, asking about the specific details of flow conditions in the creek. Parsons explained that hydrologic regimes refer to the quantity of flow through a creek and emphasized the importance of data to back up existing conditions, as these flows directly affect the plants and animals living along the streams. The SS will explore whether it is possible to restore the hydrologic conditions that previously existed, which were better suited for local species. Member Nissman also raised a concern about the variability of streams, referencing previous studies and asking how variability would be factored into the SS. Doberstein responded by explaining that hydrologic regimes have been defined and documented for a long time, and the current effort is to gather and document this information, with a focus on how historical hydrology supported plant and animal life.

Upon inquiry, Doberstein noted that the SS would review relevant background information, including past reports, permits, and land office surveys, but would focus on existing conditions. The SS aims to understand

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



what the current data reveals about the stream ecosystems. Watershed Coordinator Watts also expressed concern about the sediment levels in the Watershed Area, asking if the SS would consider this aspect. Doberstein acknowledged that sediment issues, which have worsened recently due to the conditions in Los Angeles, could be considered in future work.

Member Ambrose asked about the future projections in the SS, and Parsons explained that the approach would first focus on analyzing the historical data to see changes and how human impacts have affected hydrology. Future projections would rely more on suppositional analysis rather than being data-driven due to the lack of extensive future data. Member Ambrose stated uncertainty about modeling through existing data due to climate variability, to which Parsons acknowledged variability inherent to, but that the uncertainty can be combatted with knowledge of previous studies and modeling that has been already done. The SS team would work on new information within the available context of other existing studies. Watershed Coordinator Watts also inquired if well data would be included in the SS, to which the SS presenters confirmed that all available data will be used.

c) Scientific Study – Optimizing Safe, Clean Water Capture Opportunities in NSMB

Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) and Craig Doberstein (Herrera) presented on the Optimizing Safe, Clean Water Capture Opportunities in NSMB SS, which looks to investigate the potential benefits, cost, and Regional Program viability of alternative scales and types of stormwater capture projects. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Nissman asked about integrating diversionary projects and the potential infrastructure needed for stormwater capture. Member Nissman expressed concern about missing opportunities while constructing infrastructure and requested clarification on how stormwater capture would be incorporated into project recommendations. Doberstein explained that the SS does not approach this from a lens of creating infrastructure but rather focuses on advancing the goals of the SCW Program. The SS evaluates existing data and the monetary benefits of stormwater capture and how those benefits could be applied within the SCW framework.

Member Ambrose inquired about considering fire-related focuses in the next phase of the SS, especially when working with individual parcels. Doberstein acknowledged the importance of fire-related issues and expressed interest in reaching out to fire experts to better understand the best options for integrating fire considerations into the SS. Chair Forte asked if the Malibu Creek or Santa Monica Bay Coastal Communities Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs) could possibly be leveraged into the SS, noting that some plans already outline locations for stormwater capture that fit the criteria discussed in this SS. Doberstein stated that some data from the Metrics and Monitoring Study, especially in GIS form, can be integrated into the watershed model. The data from the EWMPs, while part of the inventory, was originally analyzed with a focus on the entire watershed. It would be necessary to review the data to determine if the data is spatially explicit, though much of the information has already been inventoried. A key next step is to expand the distributed analyses, particularly in the coastal watersheds. The previous analysis was limited to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District service area, and now the analysis needs to be extended to other areas, with a primary focus on the coastal regions.

Member Nissman asked whether flood data could be integrated into the SS. Doberstein confirmed that a calibrated watershed model, managed by Los Angeles County Public Works, is being used in the SS to analyze and manage flood data effectively. Doberstein commented that this model is crucial for understanding regional hydrology and supporting the development of stormwater capture strategies.

d) Technical Resources Project – Prioritization and Development of Parking Lot Retrofit Opportunities in NSMB

Craig Doberstein (Herrera) presented on Prioritization and Development of Parking Lot Retrofit Opportunities in NSMB TRP, which looks to identify, prioritize, and begin designing multiple parking lot

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



retrofits in NSMB for greening, water quality, and/or water supply benefits. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry of how specific sites would be identified, Doberstein explained that parking lots are considered potential sites with multiple benefits. Member Nickerson suggested targeting schools and public properties but also acknowledged the challenges of working with private property owners, noting that while private properties are less common and more complex, should be considered given the potential benefits. Doberstein explained that the TRP focus would be on prioritizing different types of properties to ensure diverse options before making decisions. Public Works staff also added that if the WASC finds the TRP feasible, a Technical Assistance Team would be assigned to the project, and the scope of work would be prepared to assess feasibility.

Member Ambrose confirmed with Public Works staff that WASC Members could make recommendations about retrofitting parking lots. Watershed Coordinator Watts asked whether public members who had commented about retrofitting their property's parking lots would be able to be incorporated into the project, and Doberstein noted that every project scope could be considered during the scoping phase of the project.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) clarified if the TRP costs were to exceed the allocated budget, then there would be resources to outsource a funds outside from what the program has set. It was also mentioned that this extra amount of funds received would not count against the project budget. Public Works Staff added that TRP funding was set at \$300,000 in prior years. Starting in 2025, TRP funding has been increased to \$400,000 to accommodate the rising costs associated with geotechnical and hydrologic studies, among other factors. Doberstein mentioned that consultants would aim to stay within the set budget.

Member Brian Baldauf asked whether the typologies for stormwater solutions would also apply to new parking lots, including whether conversations with Los Angeles County for design permitting would be included. Doberstein explained that new developments are subject to new development standards.

Chair Forte suggested that plans already developed, such as the Malibu Creek or Santa Monica Bay Coastal Communities EWMP, has identified some potential stormwater capture locations and asked if the project would evaluate these sites, especially if Las Virgenes Unified School District sites could be secured. Doberstein indicated that various options would be considered.

Member Nissman also asked how green building standards could be integrated into the project. Doberstein explained that focusing on redeveloping an older parking lot might offer greater opportunities compared to building a new one with strong green building characteristics. Member Mutikowska raised concerns about the maintenance of retrofitted parking lots and what authority would be given to property owners. Doberstein acknowledged that this would be an important consideration in the planning process. Member Bruce Hamamoto pointed out that municipalities have had ordinances in place for new development since 2012, as required by the MS4 permit, and asked if this project would go beyond minimum standards. Doberstein agreed that some of these larger questions could be addressed in the feasibility study.

Antos commented that this WASC is mostly focused on large-scale, big idea projects and noted that the Prioritization and Development of Parking Lot Retrofit Opportunities SS is an opportunity to focus on smaller projects. Doberstein emphasized that this initiative is an experiment, testing small retrofitting projects in the NSMB Watershed Area. Public Works staff stated that a scientific peer review and deliberations in April would provide the next opportunity to ask questions, and if necessary, another meeting could be arranged for further discussion.

5) Public Comment Period

Devon Provo (Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles) expressed support on the Prioritization and Development of Parking Lot Retrofit Opportunities in NSMB TRP. Provo shared the personal experience of being

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



displaced by recent fires and emphasized the importance of ensuring recovery efforts lead to lasting resilience. Provo highlighted past research on the benefits of small, distributed stormwater projects and pavement removal, which have the potential to improve human and ecological resilience to climate threats. However, the current Regional Program process makes it difficult for such projects to succeed. Provo also expressed support for the Optimizing Safe, Clean Water Capture Opportunities in NSMB SS, which builds on past research and assesses the feasibility of funding these projects. Provo noted that Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles also expressed eagerness to collaborate by sharing data.

2) Program Updates

Committee Members decided to reopen this Agenda Item.

Member Craig Jones announced that a Firescaping Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 28, from 9:00am to 10:30am at the LVMWD Conference Room. The workshop will be led by Doug Ken, a seasoned expert with over 40 years of experience in horticulture and landscaping. The session will cover firescaping, which is a set of landscaping techniques designed to reduce the risk of fire damage.

Member Holden announced that the City of Calabasas will hold a workshop for the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase Three project at the Calabasas Community Center from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 27.

6) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for details. Items on the next agenda include:

- Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q3 and Q4
- Project Modification Request (PMR) Overview for WASC Presentation
- FY25-26 Scientific Studies (SS) Peer Review Summary

7) Adjournment


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

NSMB WASC - February 25, 2025						
		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Daniel Bradbury		
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf	x	Rebecca Correa		
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones	x	
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	x	Jeremy Wolf		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld		Richard Ambrose	x	
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x			
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt		Natalia Cuellar		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher	x	
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x	Melanis Stepanian		
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed		Mayra Martinez		
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower		Rachel Fox		
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik		Ewelina Mutkowska		
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes		Josephine Wilson		
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	0
Total Voting Members Present		12			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	0
Municipal Members		3				Not Approved

Other Attendees
Allen Ma - LACo Pub
Carlos Preciado
Carlos Rodriguez
Clara Dahl
Daniel
Daniel A
Devon Provo
Eric Bonilla - LACPW
Hunter Raskin
Jenny Chau
Marisela Velasquez -
NSMB WASC 1
NSMB WASC 2
Nathaly
Rachel Williams
Ruby Cornejo
Safe Clean Water LA
Stacy Luell

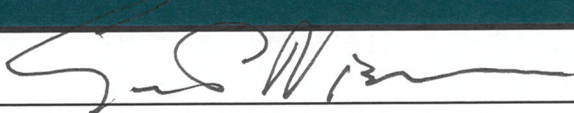


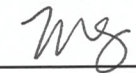
North Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	
David Pedersen	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Craig Jones	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Jessica Forte	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Jeremy Wolf	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Madelyn Glickfeld	Resident	Primary	
Richard Ambrose	Resident	Primary	
Andrew Nickerson	Community Stakeholder	Primary	

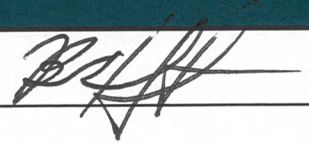
North Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	
Natalia Cuellar	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Alternate	
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	
Tatiana Holden	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	
Mayra Martinez	Hidden Hills	Alternate	
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Rachel Fox	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	

North Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Pimary	
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Ewelina Mutkowska	Malibu	Alternate	
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator	Primary	

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



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Craig	Dobersheim	Herrera	
Jeff	Parsons	Herrera	
John	Nisum	Community	
Kelly	FISHER	AGOURA HILLS	