

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



Thursday, November 13, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County (Agency)
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks (Agency)
Brian Baldauf, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
Madelyn Glickfeld, Institute of the Environmental and Sustainability UCLA (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
*Kelly Fisher, Agoura Hills (Municipal)
Curtis Castle, Calabasas (Municipal)
Kelsey Reed, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
*Emily Ellison, Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3 (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Ewelina Mutkowska, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introduction

Vice-Chair Roxanne Hughes welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants online.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from October 9, 2025. Member Andrew Nickerson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar. The WASC voted to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes with 12 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 2 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

4) Discussion Items

a) Watershed Planning Workshop #4 – Initial Plans

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Public Works' Watershed Planning team shared an update on Watershed Planning. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts clarified with Watershed Planning staff that the SIP tool could be used to evaluate proposed projects, and Chair Forte noted the NSMB WASC previously used the SIP tool to analyze benefits during SIP deliberations.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that prior to being sent to the Scoring Committee, all Project Applications are checked for completeness by Public Works staff. The WASC will now be able to discuss project alignment with Initial Watershed Plans during SIP deliberations. Member Madelyn Glickfeld commented that previous efforts were made to streamline the Project Application process and that ensuring project alignment with Initial Watershed Plans appears to complicate the process. Member Glickfeld expressed challenges accessing layers on the SIP tool and commented that Project Proponents may need assistance accessing this data.

Member Ewelina Mutkowska confirmed with Public Works staff that the Initial Watershed Plan is not a regulatory requirement like the Watershed Management Plans produced as part of the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits.

Member Glickfeld also highlighted that the NSMB WASC's SCW Program funds may only cover a few more design and construction projects before being mostly needed for the future operation and maintenance of future completed projects. Member Glickfeld highlighted that the SIP tool will need to help determine which projects can provide the maximum benefits given the remaining funds. Public Works staff clarified that the Watershed Planning Tool would also help the WASC determine which projects have the most benefit potential.

Chair Forte reminded the WASC of the previously approved NSMB Dry Weather Storm Drain Diversions Scientific Study (SS), which should help fill the hydrology and bacteria data gaps. Member Glickfeld clarified with Public Works staff that future Watershed Plans will be adaptively managed and the Watershed Planning Tool will be routinely updated as new project information becomes available.

Rebecca Kaliff (Paradigm, Watershed Planning Team) clarified that within the Initial Watershed Plan, the methods for how the opportunity maps were developed are listed in Appendix I, and the opportunity maps themselves are in Appendix J.

Member Curtis Castle clarified with Public Works staff that monitoring per MS4 permits and Watershed Management Plans were not included in the Initial Watershed Plan's monitoring requirements.

Vice-Chair Hughes summarized that the Initial Watershed Plans are no longer only related to regulatory requirements, but are meant to help fund projects that will accomplish SCW Program specific goals.

Member Kelsey Reed confirmed with Public Works staff that proving alignment with Initial Watershed Plans does not currently affect project scoring but that future scoring revisions are anticipated. Public Works staff added that alignment is part of the initial completeness check, and if alignment is not demonstrated, a project application would not be routed to the Scoring Committee for scoring.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion regarding the Initial Watershed Plans and anticipated effects on Fiscal Year 2027 – 2028 project applications.

Member Glickfeld hoped for partnerships with National and State Parks, given the amount of open space available in the Watershed Area. Member Benavides-Aguilar hoped that project proponents would use the Watershed Planning Tool to assist in aligning their projects with the Initial Watershed Plans.

Member Glickfeld confirmed with Antos that the Watershed Planning Tool highlights opportunities for project developers to modify their projects for better alignment with SCW Program goals. Antos suggested that

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during SIP deliberations, Committee Members can inquire whether the Watershed Planning Tool was utilized.

Antos noted that Watershed Coordinators will prioritize engaging and helping prompt project development in communities that have high opportunities or have not yet completed SCW Program projects.

Chair Forte commented that cities are already struggling to fund required compliance projects and that it would be unlikely that cities would be supportive of projects unrelated to meeting compliance regulations. Antos noted that a city may be working on a compliance project that is not multi-benefit. With the Watershed Planning tool, the city could determine if there are other benefits possible in the area and then augment the project to be eligible for SCW Program funding. Member Benavides-Aguilar noted that multi-benefit projects often have additional opportunities to obtain leveraged funding.

Upon inquiry, Antos clarified that projects proponents are now able to apply for design-only funding.

Member Glickfeld and Watershed Coordinator Watts clarified with Antos that the Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles database and the Watershed Planning Tool cannot be combined despite sharing similar data.

Chair Forte emphasized that if projects are proposed on school property, the school should be involved in discussions and planning, and, therefore, suggested not displaying schools as opportunities on the Watershed Planning Tool. Watershed Coordinator Watts recommended inviting school superintendents to meet with the WASC. Member Glickfeld highlighted Malibu High School District, which added comprehensive stormwater improvements to an existing project.

Member Mutkowska asked if projects are required to use the Watershed Planning Tool to justify a proposed project. Antos clarified that there are other ways for project developers to show alignment with SCW Program goals, noting that the Initial Watershed Plan is qualitative. Project developers are encouraged to work with the Watershed Coordinator to ensure alignment. Antos highlighted that the WASC understands the Watershed Area's needs well and should use that knowledge to best evaluate a project's alignment.

Vice-Chair Hughes confirmed with Public Works staff that leveraged funding is shown in the Watershed Planning Tool, which can be used to understand a project's cost effectiveness.

Chair Forte expressed a personal focus on the importance of ensuring that SCW Program funding is used on water quality projects with respect to multi-benefit projects. Chair Forte noted that within California there is much more funding for transportation and parks, while there is very limited funding for stormwater. For example, Member Kelly was involved with a park project that has a water quality component that was funded by Measure M, rather than the SCW Program.

5) Committee Member & Program Updates

The Committee had a discussion about a construction project at Topanga State Park and concerns over stormwater prevention efforts being followed.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP was July 31. Program wide. 29 Infrastructure Program Projects, 7 Technical Resources Program Project concepts, and 9 unique Scientific Study applications were received. The NSMB received 1 IP Project and 2 SS applications for FY26-27.
- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the FY2026-27 SIP is October 31, 2025. The SCW Program has transitioned PMRs to an online, direct submittal through the [Reporting Module webpage](#). This change will streamline integration with the SIP tool and other modules. To access the PMR form for a project, navigate to the Reporting Module, select the appropriate project, and then click on the new title labeled "Project Modification Request". More

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information can be found on the Guidelines for Project Modifications section on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).

- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for December 10 at 1:00pm where the ROC will discuss the Draft Biennial Progress Report, open the 30-day Public Comment Period, and discuss next steps for the Initial Watershed Plans.
- The Scientific Symposium was held on November 12 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters. More information can be found on the [Science Symposium webpage](#). The symposium showcased the latest regional science that is both improving stormwater quality and advancing treatment technologies. It also featured a panel of renowned experts discussing the future of stormwater sciences.
- The annual disbursements for FY24-25 (local return for Year 5) have been completed for municipalities that met all eligibility requirements. A total of 77 cities received over \$95 million collectively in local return.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program received an overwhelming response, with a high volume of strong and competitive applications. A total of \$8.5 million of grant funding has been allocated across 52 approved projects, and proposed grant activities have begun. Detailed information about funded projects from all three rounds is available on the Water Foundation's website.
- The SCW Program's Landcover Survey was updated for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. This Landcover Survey provides the aerial imagery used to calculate parcels' Safe Clean Water Tax. Although the tax rate (2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable area) has not changed, a parcel's impermeable area may have changed. Each parcel's new impermeable area is anticipated to remain in effect until the next Landcover Survey update, approximately once every three years (or until revised per appeal).

To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, subscribe to receive email notifications on the SCW website. This newsletter provides important updates on the Regional, Municipal, and District Programs, designed to help our community stay informed and engaged. Implementation Updates are also available in the News and Updates webpage on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Forte clarified with Public Works staff that the cities not included in the 77 cities that received funding will still receive funds once requirements are completed.

6) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Watts provided an update on ongoing activities within the NSMB Watershed Area. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Antos clarified that unincorporated communities are still eligible for SCW Program funds.

Member Glickfeld commented that capturing water from dewatered buildings is related to permitting by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and would require coordination.

Member Glickfeld recommended presenting TreePeople's report "Untapped Potential: Leveraging Schoolyards for Stormwater Management and Climate Resilience" to school district staff and bring findings before the WASC.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Items for Next Agenda

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The next meeting will be on December 11, 2025 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm, held in person and online via WebEx. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details. Items on the next agenda may include:

- a) Regional Program Application Presentations

9) Adjournment

Vice-Chair Hughes thanked the WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

NSMB WASC - November 13, 2025							
		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the October 9, 2025 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Daniel Bradbury		y	
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			y	
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf	x	Rebecca Correa		absent at vote	
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen	x	Craig Jones		y	
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	x	Jeremy Wolf		absent at vote	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y	
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x	Ion Cretu		y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman					
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x	Natalia Cuellar		y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			y	
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher	x	y	
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Curtis Castle	x	Melanis Stepanian		a	
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed	x	Mayra Martinez		y	
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower		Emily Ellison	x	a	
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Paul Choy		y	
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik		Ewelina Mutkowska	x	y	
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y	
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	12	0
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14	0
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees
Rich Ambrose
Jason Jade Pepito
Jian Peng
Alexander Iglesias R
cthompson@pacew
James Carpenter
Kayla Urbina
HG
Lisa (Jin) Kim - Los A
Eric Bonilla
Rebecca Kaliff
Anna Philipp
NSMB AV
Mike Antos (Region
Josephine Wilson
Daniel A.
Ruby Cornejo
Ryanna Fossum (Reg

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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>
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	<i>B. Baldauf</i>
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	Alternate	
Andrew Nickerson	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Ion Cretu	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	<i>Tevin Schmitt</i>

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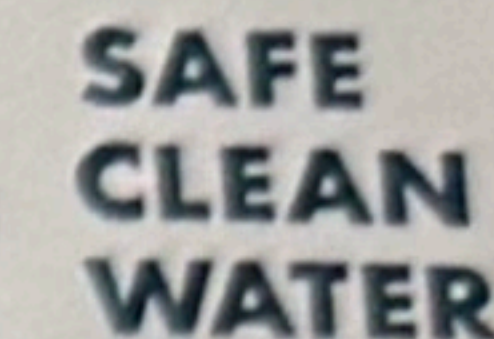
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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Natalia Cuellar	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Alternate	
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	<i>[Red Signature]</i>
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	<i>Kelly Fisher</i>
Curtis Castle	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	<i>[Red Signature]</i>
Mayra Martinez	Hidden Hills	Alternate	
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Emily Ellison	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Primary	<i>[Red Signature]</i>
Paul Choy	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Ewelina Mutkowska	Malibu	Alternate	
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

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