

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



Thursday, February 12, 2026
12:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Daniel Bradbury, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks District (Agency)
*Rebecca Correa, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
*Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
Kelsey Reed, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Aaron Ordower, Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3 (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)
*Ewelina Mutkowska, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Charmaine Yambao, Agoura Hills (Municipal)

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Curtis Castle, Calabasas (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jessica Forte welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Committee Members introduced themselves, and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for online meeting participants.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from January 8, 2026. Member Aaron Ordower motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-chair Roxanne Hughes. The North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Steering Committee (WASC) voted to approve the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 4 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 3 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

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Member Daniel Bradbury disclosed conversations with Member Bruce Hamamoto on general projects related to the WASC.

4) Public Comment Period

Public Works staff received one public comment card by 5pm the day prior to the meeting. Public comment cards can be found on the [Safe, Clean Water \(SCW\) Program website](#).

Win Cowger, Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research, shared that a FAQ sheet for the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Scientific Study (SS) was developed and distributed to all nine WASCs in response to numerous constructive questions received during the review process. Cowger also stated that the Study received two letters of support, the first from a City of Long Beach Councilmember and the second letter from [Ezrach](#), a community-based organization located in Leimert Park that serves a predominantly Black community. Cowger stated Ezrach would serve as a fully funded collaborator if the WASC funded this Study.

5) Discussion

a) Workforce Development

Presentation by Jolene Guerrero, Deputy Director at Los Angeles County Public Works

Jolene Guerrero, Deputy Director for the Water Resources at Los Angeles County Public Works, gave a presentation on the Workforce Development Program. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Guerrero emphasized that the program seeks to match trained individuals with actual job vacancies and actively engages with municipalities and contractors to identify opportunities. Guerrero encouraged WASC Members and their own organizations to provide contact information for current or anticipated openings so the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) could follow up and connect trained individuals to available positions.

Guerrero stated that \$4 - 5 million is committed over the next two years to support these programs, and that the County is exploring additional investments and partnerships, including workforce development efforts at a new environmental justice center in the Point of Hills area.

Member Madelyn Glickfeld inquired about coordination with cities and how the program would connect trained individuals to available positions. Guerrero confirmed that the program is designed to match trained workers with vacancies, including opportunities with contractors and through County-assisted maintenance of municipal projects.

b) Regional Program FY24 – 25 Annual Report Summary

Elyssa Lawrence presented the Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Report Summary. Presentation slides and additional information can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Craig Jones noted that funding for the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project has been officially withdrawn from the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program due to impacts from the Palisades Fire. Member Jones explained that the subregion plans to solicit projects to utilize the withdrawn funding, which totals approximately \$715,114.

Vice Chair Hughes raised a question regarding IRWM funds previously leveraged for the Project and requested that the County follow up with WASC members on the implications for Stormwater Investment Plan programming.

Member Glickfeld suggested adding the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project to a future WASC agenda for review and potential action, noting that the Project was the first approved under the SCW Program but has not progressed in seven years.

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Member Kelsey Reed relayed from Member Kelly Fisher that the Agoura Hills Project is planning to advertise for construction bids at the end of the coming week and aims to have a four-week bidding period, award of contract in April, and completion before the wet season.

c) FY26-27 Scientific Studies (SS) Peer Review Summary
i) A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds
Moore Institute of Plastic Pollution Research

Win Cowger (Moore Institute of Plastic Pollution Research) responded to the Peer Review Summary on the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Scientific Study. The Peer Review Summary can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Cowger addressed reviewer feedback, existing trash management efforts, and the proposed SS's approach to modeling and data collection. Cowger explained that while current street sweeping and stormwater capture devices manage trash in some areas, they do not capture all trash, and research could identify more cost-effective and sustainable long-term solutions. The SS would develop a Technical Advisory Council to establish priorities for modeling and data collection based on community and management needs.

Committee Members discussed local trash management efforts, noting that many areas already implement extensive street cleaning and abatement programs. Members asked about the applicability of the SS for regions with lower trash accumulation and how the Study would address open space and park areas. Cowger clarified that survey designs would prioritize underserved communities and known hotspots, including illegal dumping areas, to ensure comprehensive data collection.

Cowger emphasized that the SS could potentially offset requirements for existing daily generation rate (DGR) studies and extend the focus of current DGR efforts, aligning with community priorities. Committee Members noted that much of the trash in upland and County-managed areas remains a challenge and highlighted the need for the SS to target locations where trash is present. Cowger confirmed that the design of the SS could be refined based on known problem areas and Technical Advisory Council input.

ii) Assessment and Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern
Stillwater Sciences

Nate Butler and Rowan Roderick-Jones responded to the Peer Review Summary of the Assessment and Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concerns Scientific Study. The Peer Review Summary can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Butler noted that one comment claimed insufficient information to assess Study proponents' qualifications. Butler shared that the Study team has over 20 years of monitoring water quality and toxicity and involvement in Environmental Management Plan projects in Los Angeles County. The Study would employ third-party laboratories to conduct analyses. Butler confirmed that two laboratories were evaluated and meet EPA screening levels for most contaminants but not for the chronic invertebrate threshold.

Member Tevin Schmitt inquired whether the PFOS samples would include replicates. Butler confirmed that the Study would include replicates and blanks for quality assurance. Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts inquired whether specific pollutants of concern could contribute to steelhead trout declines. The Study proponents specified that chemicals such as 6PPD-quinone, bifenthrin, and fipronil could contribute to declines in aquatic life and reduce food availability for fish, making survival during stressful periods less likely.

Member Jones asked whether the Study would include flow monitoring through seasonal variations. Butler responded that continuous monitoring sensors would not be part of the SS due to concerns about cost, and unreliable data. The Study would focus on a cost-effective approach to identify hotspots and understand contaminant presence and risk.

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Butler expressed that the SS would evaluate existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed to determine their efficacy in reducing contaminant concentrations. Butler explained that concentrations will be measured at BMP inflows and outflows, and that alternative technologies may be considered if current BMPs are insufficient. Member Hamamoto inquired whether wastewater treatment plants address CECs, and Butler explained that PFOS is generally treated more effectively in water treatment plants than in stormwater. Reductions in water reclamation flows could result in higher PFOS concentrations in waterways due to decreased dilution. Butler noted that some older treatment plants may not target the Study's CECs of focus.

Upon inquiry, Butler stated that pre- and post-fire contaminant concentrations could potentially be assessed, such a study would be more expensive; while taking samples close to and far from fire-affected areas could provide gradient sampling, atmospheric deposition and other factors complicate interpretation.

Member Ewelina Mutkowska asked whether inflow and outflow measurements can determine BMP efficacy. Butler explained that high turbidity in stormwater and extremely low concentrations create challenges in detection. Butler also stated that watershed data from water reclamation plants could be considered, but the SS would focus on stormwater runoff. Exceeding screening levels indicates a potential concern, though for PFOS, no safe level is currently established.

d) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Deliberation Overview Presentation

Regional Coordinator Mike Antos presented an overview of the Stormwater Investment Plan Deliberation tools and Programming. Watershed Coordinator Watts presented on the Assessing Community Support for NSMB FY26-27 Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Application. Presentation slides and additional resources can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

e) North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY26-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)

Public Works staff provided a tutorial on accessing and using the SIP tool, including how to track available funds and allocations. Committee members raised concerns that no projects through the NSMB WASC are currently under construction. Member Glickfeld highlighted the need to address how to move stalled projects forward, specifically mentioning the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project, which has faced significant community opposition.

Member Susan Nissman emphasized the importance of ensuring that any contaminant study includes a Topanga Creek location to address water quality comprehensively. Member Hamamoto noted that further information on the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project will be provided at the March meeting to allow comprehensive review. Vice-chair Roxanne Hughes questioned whether IRWM funding could be leveraged; Member Hamamoto confirmed that unexpended funds were returned for reallocation. Public Works staff noted that defunding projects that have already received funds requires implementation of the default procedure, which could take longer than a month.

Committee Members discussed the limited funds available for Scientific Studies. Member Ordower highlighted that while infrastructure funding is abundant, there are few projects in the NSMB Watershed Area to allocate it to. Current SS allocations total 3.2% of the five-year budget, under the 5% cap, leaving approximately \$180,000 available over the next five years. Technical Resource Program (TRP) funding for Watershed Coordinator compensation remains unchanged. Public Works staff clarified that while percentages remain fixed, the actual dollar amount for the SIP can vary year to year based on tax collections and allocations.

The Committee reviewed previously approved Scientific Studies. These Studies are still in the early stages and work has not yet launched. Antos explained that the 5% cap for Scientific Studies applies across the current and next four years.

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The Committee discussed partial funding options for proposed Scientific Studies. It was specified that the Committee cannot vote to partially fund a SS until proponents confirm they can deliver the full proposed scope at the reduced funding level.

Given budget limitations, the Committee agreed to ask both current SS applicants whether their Studies could proceed with reduced funding and revisit the decision at the next meeting.

Member Glickfeld noted that, after the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project, there are few remaining IP projects in the pipeline. The Committee discussed the possibility of funding allocation methods.

6) Committee Member and Program Updates

This item was deferred.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Voting Item

- a) **Approve the Final Fiscal Year 26-27 Stormwater Investment Plan recommendations for the NSMB Watershed Area and submission to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review**

A scoring rubric for the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Ordower motioned to approve the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project for inclusion in the recommended FY26 – 27 NSMB Stormwater Investment Plan; Member Nissman seconded the motion. The NSMB WASC voted to approve the motion with 15 votes approval and 0 in opposition.

9) Watershed Coordinator Updates

This item was deferred.

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the FY26-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)

11) Adjournment

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

NSMB WASC - February 12, 2026

Member Type	Organization	Member	Quorum Present			Voting Items	
			Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the January 8, 2026 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project for inclusion in the recommended FY26-27 North Santa Monica Bay Stormwater Investment Plan
Agency	LACFCD	Daniel Bradbury	x	CJ Caluag		a	y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			y	y
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf		Rebecca Correa	x	y	y
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones	x	y	y
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	x	Jeremy Wolf		y	absent at vote
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y	y
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x	Ion Cretu		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			absent at vote	y
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x	Natalia Cuellar		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher			
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Curtis Castle	a	Melanis Stepanian		absent at vote	y
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed	x	Mayra Martinez		y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower	x	Emily Ellison		y	y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Paul Choy		absent at vote	y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik		Ewelina Mutkowska	x	a	y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y	y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	9	15
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	13	15
Municipal Members		5				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees

- Alexander Iglesias Rosales
- Call-in User_1
- Calvin Tran
- Cherise Thompson (PACE)
- Curtis Castle
- Daniel A.
- Elyssa Lawrence
- Eric Bonilla
- Eric Wilson, TreePeople
- Grey Crisanto
- HG
- Henry Lopez
- Ingrid Camacho
- Jolene
- Jose Guzman-Wug (Heal the Bay)
- Kevin Keegan
- Kristina
- Lisa Kim - Los Angeles County Public Works
- Luis Perez
- Mayra Martinez
- NSMB AV
- Rich Ambrose
- Tleger
- Win Cowger

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>D. Bradbury</i>
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	<i>Rebecca Correa</i>
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	<i>W. Johnson</i>
David Pedersen	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Craig Jones	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	<i>C. Jones</i>
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	<i>Susan Nissman</i>
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	<i>Tevin Schmitt</i>

North Santa Monica Bay
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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Natalia Cuellar	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Alternate	
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	
Curtis Castle	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	
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	
Paul Choy	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Ewelina Mutkowska	Malibu	Alternate	
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	

North Santa Monica Bay
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator	Primary	