

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



Thursday, March 12, 2026
1:00pm – 4:00pm
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)
Brian Baldauf, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (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)
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:

David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

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 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 February 12, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from February 12, 2026. Member Andrew Nickerson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Curtis Castle. The North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) voted to approve the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes with 14 votes in favor, 1 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member & Program Updates

Member Bruce Hamamoto stated that Los Angeles County Public Works has decided to place the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project on indefinite hold after significant consideration. Member Hamamoto mentioned that the Project cannot be completed as originally planned due to increased costs

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caused by inflation, recent fire impacts, and the closure of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Member Hamamoto shared that Los Angeles County Public Works is looking into nonstructural approaches to assist mitigation of water quality pollutants, such as additional street sweeping, additional storm drain maintenance, and increased public outreach and education. Member Hamamoto also stated that continued water quality monitoring will occur to better understand conditions in the watershed and help right-size a potential future project. Member Susan Nissman asked whether the non-structural measures and monitoring efforts would occur within the same project area or across a broader watershed area. Member Hamamoto responded that the County is considering both approaches and will conduct additional monitoring in the former Project area while exploring other potential projects elsewhere in the NSMB Watershed Area.

Watershed Coordinator Melina Sempill Watts mentioned that a potential project similar to the Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project had previously been explored at Topanga Elementary Charter School in coordination with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Watershed Coordinator Watts stated that although there was general support for the potential project, the individual responsible for campus operations and maintenance did not give formal approval, without which the project could not move forward. The Committee noted that during the COVID-19 period, several oak trees were removed from the school site, and mitigation discussions around the removal had occurred. Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that the school district had also completed some water quality work, which added complexity to future project consideration. Member Nissman shared knowledge of potential contacts at the school with whom Watershed Coordinator Watts could coordinate to restart discussions on potential school site projects.

Member Castle shared that the City of Calabasas will receive approximately \$850,000 in federal funding for a green streets project, supporting green streets improvements in the city and areas along Calabasas Road. The congressional office will present a ceremonial check to the City of Calabasas March 13th, at 10:00 AM.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The deadline to submit Mid-Year Reports for Infrastructure Program (IP) Project and Scientific Study (SS) developers was February 15, 2026.
- All twelve Watershed Coordinator contracts are now fully executed and underway. The Watershed Coordinators are continuing to provide services under the new agreements.
- The Initial Watershed Plans and the Online Planning Tool have officially been released and are now available on the [Safe Clean Water \(SCW\) Program website](#).
- A virtual Watershed Planning Developer Information Session will be held on March 18th. The session will provide guidance and examples to help Project developers align their applications with the Watershed Planning Initiative, particularly in relation to the new 20th requirement in the Feasibility Study Guidelines. Since the launch of the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey, more than 1,300 responses have been collected. Within the NSMB Watershed Area, 36 responses have been received to date.

To stay informed about SCW Program updates, stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to email notifications on the [SCW Program website](#). The newsletter provides updates on Regional, Municipal, and District Programs. Implementation updates are also available on the News and Updates page of the [SCW Program website](#).

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Vice Chair Hughes disclosed discussing preparation for the NSMB WASC meeting with Chair Jessica Forte. Vice Chair Hughes stated that the discussion included preparation related to the Stormwater Investment Tool that would be considered during the meeting.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Watershed Coordinator Watts presented Watershed Coordinator updates. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Watts reported that Technical Resources Program (TRP) application discussions are underway with the City of Calabasas and the City of Malibu. Watershed Coordinator Watts added that alternative funding sources, such as grants from CAL FIRE, may be explored to support potential projects in the Topanga area.

Mike Antos (Regional Coordination) explained that the TRP is designed to provide technical assistance to applicants who do not have the capacity to complete feasibility studies required for IP applications. Applicants who already have the technical capability to prepare feasibility studies may instead apply directly to the IP.

6) 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 [SCW Program website](#).

Annelisa Moe, representing Our Water LA Coalition (OWLA), stated that the coalition reviewed all IP applications meeting the Scoring threshold to identify projects best aligned with SCW Program goals. Moe additionally noted that OWLA identified five Projects as exemplary this year, but none within in the NSMB Watershed.

Moe provided comments on the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project, noting that while not exemplary, the Project would provide multiple benefits. Moe highlighted areas for improvement:

- Community Engagement: Broader community involvement and meaningful engagement with local residents could be strengthened.
- Nature-Based Solutions: Project components for ecosystem support are limited and could be expanded.
- Design Clarifications: Assumptions regarding dry weather diversions and reliance on gravity-fed sewer infrastructure should be clarified to ensure expected water quality outcomes.

Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) commented on the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS. Cowger noted that a key strength of the SS is direct community engagement, particularly in disadvantaged communities which have noted trash as a high priority concern across Los Angeles County. Cowger also highlighted that the Study is positioned to evaluate non-structural best management practices (BMPs) for trash prevention, such as street sweeping, and assessing upstream strategies to prevent trash from entering the environment. Cowger emphasized that the Study would focus on prevention and community-informed solutions.

7) Discussion

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

Public Works staff provided updates, including a reminder of the Committee's inclusion of the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project in the FY26-27 NSMB recommended SIP during February 12 NSMB WASC meeting. Public Works Staff also mentioned that the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study's Transfer Agreement and Addenda 1 through 3 for all nine Watershed Areas were fully executed on February 18, 2026, and that work is expected to commence soon.

Public Works staff noted that they had contacted SS applicants regarding potential funding reductions, emphasizing that current-year funding was insufficient to support either of the two SS applications. Public Works also shared that the Assessment and Treatment of CECs SS reduced their request from \$511,000

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to \$369,000; the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS could not reduce its \$366,000 request. Both amounts still exceeded the available funding for Scientific Studies in the watershed area this year.

Public Works demonstrated several potential funding scenarios. Public Works staff also shared that they had contacted the developer for the North Santa Monica Bay Dry Weather Storm Drain Diversions (NSMB Dry Weather) SS; the developer confirmed that they are able to bring forward their funding requests from Years three and four to the current year.

Upon inquiry, Public Works explained the Transfer Agreement process, noting that for any Transfer Agreement or Addendum, disbursements are made according to the amount of allocated funds for that specific year. Transfer Agreements include a lapsed funds provision, which allows a Project developer five years to expend allocated funds, after which funds are eligible to be reclaimed by the District. The five-year period begins at the end of the Fiscal Year in which the funds are disbursed after the Transfer Agreement or Addendum is fully executed.

Member Madelyn Glickfeld inquired about the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Public Works staff clarified that the Study had recently executed the initial Transfer Agreement and first three Addenda; funds are expected to be disbursed shortly. Staff reiterated that the Study will have five years from execution of the agreement to expend the allocated funds. Antos explained that the delay in execution was due to the need to secure participation and agreement from all nine watersheds and clarified that the Gateway Water Management Authority is both the recipient of the funds and the entity responsible for conducting the Study.

Member Susan Nissman asked about the unused funds from Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project. Public Works explained that the funds were not disbursed and will be returned to the WASC for use in the IP.

Antos emphasized that the SCW Program's designated funding percentages - at least 85% for IP Projects, no more than 10% for the TRP, and no more than 5% for the SS Program - govern the WASCs' annual budget allocations. Current planning strategies leverage these rules to maximize funding for SS in the short term, while recognizing that over-investment in SS is not sustainable long-term and infrastructure priorities must also be maintained.

Member Aaron Ordower suggested that the WASC review the current project pipeline, determine what funds are available for TRP Project Concepts and SS, and explore whether reprogramming SS allocations could create additional capacity. Member Nissman shared interest to see the two SS applicants reapply next year and expressed interest in prioritizing the Assessment and Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern SS. Member Hamamoto emphasized that future SS proposers should engage the Watershed Coordinator for help connecting budget limits and watershed priorities.

Upon inquiry, Vice Chair Hughes confirmed that community outreach for the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project had been conducted with homeowners' associations and commercial property stakeholders. Vice Chair Hughes noted that broader community engagement will occur as design details are finalized.

Member Daniel Bradbury stated that the idea of a budget forecast was previously discussed with Public Works and could be added to the application process so that applicants could better anticipate funding levels for the following year. The Committee expressed greater interest in the Assessment and Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern SS than in the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS, noting that there are already many trash-related initiatives under the SCW Program and other local funding sources, and that trash is already a priority in the watershed area, and additional investments in trash mitigation is not a priority for the NSMB WASC.

Antos emphasized that the SCW Program prioritizes improvement of water quality generally, rather than focusing only on impaired water quality currently subject to regulatory oversight. Watershed Coordinator

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Watts recommended prior strategic work by the WASC, and prior SS submittals to clarify what studies may be most needed in watershed area.

Member Hamamoto asked how much funding the WASC has cumulatively allocated to SS; Public Works staff confirmed that previous allocations have consistently remained below the 5% ceiling.

Public Works staff reviewed continued funding requests, noting that \$313,678 is earmarked for the NSMB Dry Weather SS, and \$10,829 for the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Member Bradbury highlighted the opportunity to increase the Watershed Coordinator allocation. The WASC reviewed TRP allocations, noting that historical annual funding totaled around \$900,000 for the SCW Program; after Watershed Coordinator funding among the WASCs, approximately \$400,000 remained. It was proposed to increase the Watershed Coordinator allocation to a maximum of \$150,000 for the next contract year reflecting the Watershed Coordinator's effort and contribution to the increasing demand of the watershed area, with future increases requiring annual review. Public Works staff clarified that Watershed Coordinator contracts are awarded for one year with up to four one-year extensions.

The distinction between design-only applications under the IP and TRP was discussed. Member Brian Baldauf noted that design-only IP applications require completion of a feasibility study, while the TRP provides technical assistance for developing feasibility studies. Vice Chair Hughes reviewed recent TRP project concepts and noted that the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project TRP was completed, City of Calabasas's Las Virgenes Creek Restoration - Phase III TRP was removed once the concept was deemed infeasible, and Prioritization and Development of Parking Lot Retrofit Opportunities in NSMB TRP Project has just begun. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that proposals for Prioritization and Development of Parking Lot Retrofit Opportunities in NSMB TRP are being currently reviewed.

Member Ordowner and Member Nickerson emphasized the importance of contingency planning to address potential cost escalations or delays. Member Castle noted that other Watershed Areas have established reserve amounts. Antos highlighted that the WASC has historically included contingencies by default and should commit no more than 80% of future-year funding in a single year. Public Works confirmed that the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) recommends that WASCs incorporate forecasting contingencies into funding requests.

Member Ordowner asked about annual bidding for Watershed Coordinator contracts. Public Works staff explained that a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) generates a list of eligible candidates for the Watershed Coordinator positions, after which Committees make recommendations and award contracts for one-year terms with up to four one-year extensions.

The WASC noted that the proposed inclusions utilize only 3.2% of the 5% available for SS. The Committee acknowledged that the remaining 1.8% would be insufficient to support a meaningful SS.

8) Public Comment Period

Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) acknowledged the Committee's funding constraints and noted general interest in trash-related studies but clarified that the current roadside monitoring Study does not fully align with the Watershed Area's priorities. Cowger suggested adapting the Study to focus on data most useful to the NSMB Watershed Area and indicated that costs could be reduced by approximately 50% to fit within the budget. Additionally, Cowger emphasized the importance of connecting existing trash data to enhance overall utility and offered to submit a revised proposal for consideration during the WASC's prioritization of SS in April.

9) Voting Item

- a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan recommendations for the NSMB Watershed Area including \$150k in FY26- 27 for Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "Final – 3/12/26")**

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Member Tevin Schmitt motioned to approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for the NSMB Watershed Area including \$150k in FY26-27 for Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario “Final – 3/12/26”), seconded by Member Madelyn Glickfeld. The NSMB WASC voted to approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for NSMB Watershed Area including \$150k in FY26- 27 for Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review with 15 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) Presentation

Other items expressed by Committee Members for future WASC meetings included:

- a) Brainstorming Session: SS Needs – Discussion of watershed-specific science requirements to support SCW Program goals.
- b) Review and Prioritization of Past SS Applications - consider both recent and historical applications to guide future funding decisions.
- c) Strategic Planning Across Program Categories - Align Committee guidance for future project proponents, including Scientific Studies, Technical Resources Program Projects, and Infrastructure Projects.
- d) Long-Term Program Planning and Cash Flow - Review projected timelines, O&M requirements, and funding for upcoming Infrastructure Program Projects.
- e) External Program Learnings – Presentation on San Luis Obispo rainwater capture program for irrigation/ firefighting, and potential applicability to local watershed projects.
- f) LAUSD Stormwater Capture Coordination – Early discussion on potential school-based stormwater capture projects, including feasibility and next steps.

11) Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2026

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

See [SCW website](#) for meeting details

NSMB WASC - March 12, 2026

		Quorum Present				Voting Items			
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the February 12, 2026 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for NSMB Watershed Area including \$150k in FY26-27 for Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "Final - 3/12/26")		
Agency	LACFCD	Daniel Bradbury	X	CJ Caluag		y	y		
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	X			y	y		
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf	X	Rebecca Correa		y	y		
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones					
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte		Jeremy Wolf					
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	X	Richard Ambrose		y	y		
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	X	Ion Cretu		y	y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	X			y	y		
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	X	Natalia Cuellar		y	y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	X			y	y		
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher	X	a	y		
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Curtis Castle	X	Melanis Stepanian		y	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			y	y		
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik		Ewelina Mutkowska	X	y	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)	14	15	0
Total Voting Members Present		15				Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		3				Abstain (A)	1	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5				Total	15	15	0
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved	Not Approved	

Other Attendees

ALBERTO A GRAJED,
 Annelisa Moe
 Bob Woodward
 Craig Doberstein
 Daniel A.
 Eric Bonilla
 Grey Crisanto
 HG
 Ingrid Camacho Avil
 Jenny Chau
 John Mendoza
 Kevin Keegan
 Kristina
 Linet Khechatoorian
 Lisa Kim
 Luis Perez
 Mayra Martinez
 NSMB AV
 Rachel Williams
 Ruby Cornejo
 Sam Ward
 Sneha Suresh
 Stacy Luell

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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>[Signature]</i>
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
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	<i>[Signature]</i>
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>

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



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Natalia Cuellar	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Alternate	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	<i>Kelly Fisher</i>
Curtis Castle	Calabasas	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	<i>[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	Pimary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Ewelina Mutkowska	Malibu	Alternate	<i>[Signature]</i>
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator		

