

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



Thursday, September 10, 2026
1:00pm - 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
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
*Kelly Fisher, Agoura Hills (Municipal)
*Melanis Stepanian, Calabasas (Municipal)
Kelsey Reed, Hidden Hills (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)
*Vivian De Anda, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Chair
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members attending virtually:

Brian Baldauf, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)

Committee Members Absent:

William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks District (Agency)
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura (Community)
Aaron Ordower, LA County Supervisorial District 3 (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Roxanne Hughes welcomed Committee Members of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) and called the meeting to order. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members and established a quorum. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for online meeting participants.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from August 13, 2026. Member Andrew Nickerson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Jessica Forte. The WASC voted to approve the August 13, 2026 meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 4 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member & Program Updates

Public Works shared Regional Program updates, noting:

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- The Q1 2027 Funding Report has been posted to 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. Los Angeles County Public Works staff and the Regional Coordination team are actively tracking activity to better understand impacts to future funding.
- Project Modification Requests (PMRs) are accepted year-round. Inconsistent PMRs must be submitted on or before October 31 in order to be considered for approval during the 2026 Call for Projects. Guidelines, forms, and FAQs can be found on the [Adaptive Management website](#).
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting was held on September 9, where the ROC received updates on the District Program Report Summaries, 2026 Biennial Progress Report Interagency Task Force, and Workforce Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report of Fundings and Recommendations.
- To receive Program updates as they are shared, users can subscribe to receive email notifications on the [SCW Program website](#). Implementation Updates can also be viewed on the News and Updates webpage on the [SCW Program website](#).

The Strategic Advancement Section shared updates, noting:

- As part of the Safe, Clean Water Program Adaptive Management efforts, revisions to the Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria for the 2027 Call for Projects are underway.
- Update on the Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey: Since the CSNA's launch, 2,200 survey responses have been collected. For NSMB, 47 responses have been collected.
- Questions should be directed to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Chair Hughes disclosed meeting with Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts and Vice-Chair Kelsey Reed to discuss planning for the State of the Watershed film and event, as well as strategic planning for future NSMB proposed projects.

Member Susan Nissman disclosed meeting with Watershed Coordinator Watts and discussing future engagement efforts regarding Nature-based Solutions.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented updates on recent outreach. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Key highlights included priority project ideas, MS4 compliance, Caltrans coordination, required education events, cost-sharing and funding opportunities, and secondary priorities.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the Regional Oversight Committee received an update the previous day indicating Public Works is working on an RFP to procure an administrator for the next iteration of the District Grants Program. Unlike the pilot program, the goal is for the upcoming grants program to be sustained on an ongoing basis.

Member Brian Baldauf shared that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) fully supports school greening initiatives and would like to be involved in those efforts; Member Baldauf clarified that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is more comparable to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy than to MRCA. Member Baldauf specified that while MRCA does not hold funding to distribute as grants unless the agency receives funding from an external source, MRCA is interested in pursuing relevant grants.

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Member Nissman asked about coordination and updates on the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project. Watershed Coordinator Watts reported attending a recent Resources Conservation District (RCD) Board of Directors meeting where a presentation was given on the project's status, noting the RCD is pursuing funding.

6) Public Comment Period

Senator Fran Pavley (USC Schwarzenegger Institute) made introductions to the Committee. Senator Pavley was involved with Measure W in the early stages of its development, currently serves as Vice Chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board as an LA County Supervisor appointee, and serves on the state Wildlife Conservation Board as a gubernatorial appointee. Senator Pavley referenced a recent workshop at King Gillette Ranch featuring the California Secretary of Natural Resources and noted its relevance to the NSMB WASC.

Senator Pavley asked whether open space protection could be more explicitly recognized in SCW Program evaluation criteria. Senator Pavley suggested that making open space a more visible or explicit Program strategy would encourage more multi-benefit applications and convene partners around shared goals, benefiting not only water outcomes but also public recreation and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Senator Pavley noted that funding tied to Proposition 4 and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund demonstrated similar impacts and emphasized the SCW Program's potential to benefit Disadvantaged Communities. Senator Pavley cited the Topanga Canyon bridge and evacuation issue as an example of a politically prominent, multi-benefit opportunity. Senator Pavley noted that the primary challenge with incorporating open space is determining long-term operations and maintenance responsibility. Senator Pavley offered to brainstorm further with the Committee on how current work might align with the SCW Program's priorities.

7) Discussion

a) Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Annual Report Presentation

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented on the CSNA Annual Report Presentation. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Antos explained the value of viewing the Initial Watershed Plan opportunity areas in conjunction with the community identified opportunities represents, noting that this combination creates strong candidate locations for stormwater management project development.

Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that CSNA survey participation has an influence on the Watershed Plans and encouraged Members to promote survey participation broadly.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Watts shared that the CSNA Promotion Toolkit was designed to give municipalities and other agencies ready-made graphics and messaging for use on social media, flyers, or websites. Watershed Coordinator Watts noted that some cities have used the survey for purposes beyond the SCW Program, and that the dashboard allows anyone to view submitted survey responses for their area, which are typically populated two to four weeks after submission.

Chair Hughes commented that city agencies should be using the promotional toolkit across websites, newsletters, and social media, and suggested exploring the possibility of hosting a council committee or study session where city council members could complete the survey themselves. Chair Hughes also highlighted that individuals under 18 are eligible to complete the survey and that community members can submit multiple survey responses over time, particularly if their priorities or locations change.

Member Stepanian requested that the promotional toolkit be emailed directly to WASC Members in addition to being available on the website.

b) FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

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Watershed Coordinator Watts presented on the updated Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Strategic Outreach Engagement Plan (SOEP). The current SOEP can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Watts highlighted the target of securing three Technical Resources Program Projects (TRPs) and an IP application. Watershed Coordinator Watts noted for newer members that while the WASC holds approximately \$7 million in unspent funds, only 5% of the annual return can be invested in scientific studies, and 10% to technical resources program per the Ordinance. Watershed Coordinator Watts suggested that accelerating the pace at which the NSMB WASC can spend down its funds will require exploring different strategies.

Antos noted that some cities have the capacity to assemble an IP application on their own, while others rely on the TRP process to develop a feasibility study first. Antos noted that a TRP should not be treated as a mandatory on-ramp to the Program. Antos described the Watershed Coordinators' work as helping match strong applications to realistic funding capacity. Antos cautioned that funding multiple TRPs risks several feasibility studies returning simultaneously for more funding than the NSMB WASC could provide. Member Nissman commented that the WASC does not receive enough funding to stand up a large-scale project and can only serve as a funding partner at the tail end of a project. Member Nissman noted significant hesitation among potential applicants because SCW Program funding remains uncertain until a SIP is approved; applicants are reluctant to commit resources to an application without assurance of eventual funding.

Member Forte suggested that TRPs could help advance infrastructure projects by reaching at least the design report stage, even if not all resulting projects can ultimately be funded by the SCW Program. Public Works staff suggested it would be more effective for project proponents to develop feasibility work independently and then apply directly for IP design funding, which offers a faster path to SCW funding.

Member Glickfeld noted that there have been years when the WASC received no applications because the required work was too costly and complex for cities to complete independently; the TRP pathway serves to help address this challenge.

Member Nissman asked whether individual cities, as well as county departments responsible for unincorporated areas, have internal programs to identify potential projects, and whether a standardized process now exists for matching those projects to SCW Program funding criteria. Antos responded that such efforts align directly with the intent of the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, noting that Watershed Coordinator Watts and the Regional Coordination team will be reaching out to cities this year to assess their regulatory priorities, identify which cities feel they are already in good standing, and determine where the SCW Program's assistance would be most needed.

Watershed Coordinator Watts stated the intention to review partially funded projects for cost-share opportunities, referenced Senator Pavley's suggestion regarding Wildlife Conservation Board funding as a possible partner source, and reaffirmed a commitment to sharing grant opportunities with the broader watershed group and matching appropriate grants to appropriate projects.

Member Jacy Shillan asked whether the WASC would support a form of strategic budget reconciliation as the projected TRPs move forward, to help determine whether pursuing all of them would be viable in the long run, and to avoid committing applicants to efforts that the SCW Program might not be able to reward. Vice-Chair Reed proposed developing a vetting process ahead of the formal July Regional Program application deadline, allowing interested applicants to receive early review and feedback. Member Stepanian expressed support for the idea, suggesting that a project summary shared with the WASC for feedback may be valuable. Member Stepanian commented that this would benefit applicants, who are required to prepare this as part of the application, as well as the Committee, which could use the summary review project ideas at an earlier stage and provide applicants more confidence heading into the full application process.

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Member Glickfeld emphasized that the NSMB WASC has the lowest funding allocation of all the WASCs; as a result, the Committee's strategy has been to contribute either the final piece of funding to complete a project or a starting amount to help launch one. Member Shillan clarified that the original question was meant to help the WASC understand how much budget remains available to support projects if TRPs return with funding requests.

Chair Hughes noted that because projects are evaluated in part on how much outside funding they leverage, and because total project costs and other funding sources are often unknown in advance, the WASC cannot commit to fully funding any project and must require applicants to bring partial outside funding to the table. Chair Hughes also noted that TRPs sometimes fail to move forward during the process itself, so even with three TRPs underway, only one may ultimately proceed to implementation, which can then take another five to six years.

Public Works staff noted that financial forecasting is available and factored into the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) cycle; if multiple TRPs were ever competing for funding, that forecasting information would be available to help the WASC evaluate which to fund.

Upon inquiry, Chair Hughes clarified that a pre-application process would support existing goals already outlined in the SOEP and suggested the topic be considered for a future agenda item rather than folded into the current motion.

Watershed Coordinator Watts added that applicants are typically informed that the WASC currently has approximately \$8 million available; applicants are encouraged to apply for amounts in the range of \$1-3 million as a practical strategy, while noting that the WASC could fund larger applications depending on the project.

8) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9) Voting item

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

Member Forte agreed that Watershed Coordinator Watts had done excellent work creating the SOEP.

Member Forte motioned to approve the FY26-27 North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP), seconded by Member Nissman. The WASC voted to approve the FY26-27 North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) with 13 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

a) FY27-28 Application Presentations

11) Adjournment

Chair Hughes thanked WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting. The next NSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th, 2026. See the [SCW Program website](#) for more information.

NSMB WASC - September 10, 2026								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the August 13, 2026 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve the FY26-27 North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)	
Agency	LACFCD	Seta Marjanian		Daniel Bradbury	X	A	y	
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson						
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf	X	Rebecca Correa		Y	y	
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones				
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	X	Jeremy Wolf		Y	y	
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		Natalia Cuellar				
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	X			Y	y	
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher	X	A	y	
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Curtis Castle		Melanis Stepanian	X	A	y	
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed	X	Kayla Urbina		A	y	
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower		Emily Ellison				
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	X	Alberto Grajeda		Y	y	
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik		Vivian de Anda	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)	9	13	0
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	4	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	13	0
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees

Alexander Iglesias R
 Brian Baldauf
 Call-in User_1
 Eric Bonilla
 HG
 Hannah Daum
 James Carpenter - S
 Jason Jade Pepito
 Jenny Chau
 Lisa Kim
 NSMB AV
 Omar Abdelhadi
 Sneha Suresh
 Tim Brown (Herrera
 kmoreno

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

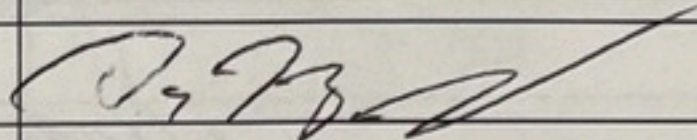
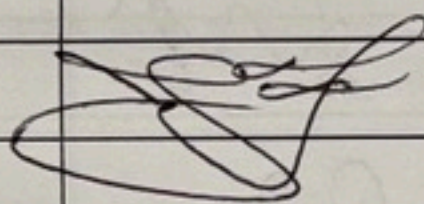
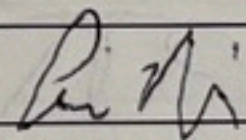


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Natalia Cuellar	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Alternate	
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	
Curtis Castle	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	
Kayla Urbina	Hidden Hills	Alternate	
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Emily Ellison	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Primary	
Alberto Grajeda	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Vivian de Anda	Malibu	Alternate	
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Seta Marjanian	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	Alternate	
Andrew Nickerson	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Ion Cretu	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator		<i>Melina Watts</i>

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Fran	Pavley		