

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



Monday, July 22, 2024
9:00am – 11:00am

In-person

Culver City Hall, Patacchia Conference Room
9770 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

Online

WebEx

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Augustine Han, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Art Castro, Los Angeles City Water and Power (Agency)
Susie Santilena, LA City Sanitation and Environment (Agency), Co-Chair
Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (Community)
*Gloria Medina, The Solutions Project/SCOPE (Community)
Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper (Community)
Zoe Cunliffe, Black Women for Wellness (Community)
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)
Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)
*Blayne Sutton-Wills, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica (Municipal)
Vanessa Boudreau, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Max Bracey, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Absent Committee Members

Cathie Santo Domingo, Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Rita Kampalath, LA County Chief Sustainability Office (Community), Co-Chair
Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Michelle Barton, Los Angeles (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Susie Santilena, Co-Chair of the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, shared housekeeping items, and called the meeting to order.

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Public Works staff and all Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2024

Member Josette Descalzo motioned to approve meeting minutes from June 4, 2024, seconded by Member Bruce Reznik. The Committee voted to approve the June 4, 2024 minutes, with 13 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, 0 votes in opposition (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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



3) Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Round 6 Call for Projects for the Regional Program will defer Infrastructure Program (IP) project submissions until Summer 2025. Scientific Studies (SS) and Technical Resource Program (TRP) applications can be submitted by the July 31 Call for Projects deadline. This deferral is in alignment with the recent report by the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) subsequent motion on Progress and Adaptive Management of the Safe, Clean Water Program. The deferral will enable the SCW Program to prioritize critical efforts informed by all recent reports, recommendations, and discussions with the ROC and key interested parties, while also allowing prospective applicants the opportunity to refine and enhance their project proposals, leverage additional funding, and engage more deeply with the community.
- An information session on the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) will be held on July 25. More information can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

4) Ex parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5) Discussion

b. Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

This item was moved up in the agenda before Item 5a.

The draft SOEP can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Co-Chair Santilena confirmed with Watershed Coordinators Vanessa Boudreau and Max Bracey that there were no updates or changes to the SOEP since the last WASC meeting. Committee Members decided during the June WASC meeting to postpone the approval of the SOEP until after the ROC meeting in June, in case the ROC discussed any topics that could be implemented in the SOEP. There were no topics identified, and no additional comments were provided to the Watershed Coordinators. Member Reznik suggested that outcomes from Watershed Planning discussions should be integrated into the SOEP.

a. Introduction to Watershed Planning

i. Watershed Planning Approach

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff within Public Works gave a presentation introducing Watershed Planning and their approach for development of Initial Watershed Plans. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

SCW Watershed Planning staff's presentation outlined key planning milestones and outputs, timelines for engagement and community input, and how Watershed Planning will be integrated within the SCW Program.

ii. WASC Feedback on existing plans and datasets for Watershed Planning

Prior to the meeting, SCW Program Watershed Planning staff provided committee members a list of key planning efforts, such as plans and datasets, that are being considered to assist in the development of Initial Watershed Plans. A simplified list was also presented on screen. SCW Watershed Planning staff requested recommendations from Committee Members on additional existing plans and datasets that should be investigated for the Watershed Planning effort.

. Member Reznik added that emerging plans should also be considered, such as the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program's Work Plans and other existing planning efforts related to Ballona Creek, such

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



as the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy. Additional recommendations included utilizing data from CalEnviroScreen, flood risk maps, heat map data, soil studies, and land use patterns.

Co-Chair Santilena noted that the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has an Urban Water Management Plan that focuses on water supply. Member Descalzo added that many of the smaller cities have Urban Water Management Plans, as well as Integrated Water Resources Master Plans and Stormwater Compliance Master Plans. Member Descalzo added that regional planning policies should be included as well, such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff added that additional input can be submitted following the meeting using the [Watershed Planning Post-Workshop Input Form](#).

Co-Chair Santilena confirmed with SCW Program Watershed Planning staff that the subset of Performance Measures (i.e., metrics) identified during the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS), which were discussed at a recent Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting, have been evaluated and related relevant data will be collected across all Watershed Areas.

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff shared that the Initial Watershed Plans will serve as a resource to assist the WASC during Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberations.

iii. SCWP Goals & Strategic Workshop

Committee Members participated in a facilitated workshop that revisited the 14 SCW Program Ordinance Goals and were asked to provide related recommended strategies important to the Watershed Area and achievement of the goals.

Goals highlighted included the goal to provide regional funds proportionate to the funds generated in that jurisdiction and the goal related to promoting green jobs and career pathways. Member Reznik also noted that there are many goals that overlap or affect one another, and that there needs to be creative funding strategies identified, such as local, state, federal cost-sharing or public-private partnerships.

Member Gloria Medina highlighted the goal about providing a spectrum of project sizes and expressed interest in improving the application process to be more accessible to neighborhood groups. Member Medina expressed curiosity about what other obstacles smaller organizations face while developing the application or engaging with municipalities and agencies.

Committee Members participated in a workshop exercise to identify priority strategies that should be used by projects and studies in the CSMB Watershed Area to better achieve the SCW Program Goals in the next five years. Committee Members individually brainstormed strategies and then discussed as a group.

Committee Members grouped their proposed strategies based on the following common themes:

- a. Infiltrate whenever possible to expand water supply definition
- b. New green space with a focus on disadvantaged communities
- c. Collaboration with school applicants to increase school greening and offsite stormwater capture
- d. Invest in scientific research about water quality and pollution mitigation Best Management Practices and secondary benefits for cities
- e. Increase and strengthen technical resources and municipal partnerships for community groups to diversify project sizes in watershed area
- f. Wet weather compliance and prioritization in watershed area
- g. Operation and maintenance planning and strategies

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



The Committee's discussion on each grouping is captured below.

a. Infiltrate whenever possible to expand water supply definition

Strategies shared included: capturing all options for water supply; watershed assessment for groundwater recharge; increase drought preparedness; integrate proper development planning; encourage innovation in on-site reuse; capture and reuse for irrigation; and treatment of stormwater followed by infiltration.

Co-Chair Santilena noted that the WASC needs more information on existing groundwater basins and the feasibility of infiltration. Antos asked the Committee to consider whether capture for infiltration versus capture for reuse are of equal importance to the WASC. Member Descalzo noted that regional groundwater supply is the priority, speaking as an agency that provides water to residents. Member Descalzo noted that a complementary issue is educating residents to be aware of water usage, noting that regional and individual resilience are linked.

The Committee noted that there is more data available related to water infiltration. Capturing water for reuse, on the other hand, can be more difficult to accomplish due to numerous regulatory obstacles. Antos noted that many applicants utilize infiltration for water quality compliance, and asked the WASC if infiltration is a priority, regardless of whether the SCW Program awards Water Supply points. Committee Members agreed that Water Supply points would be an important factor, but that sometimes infiltration for water quality compliance is needed independent of water supply augmentation. Member Descalzo added that developers often find shallow groundwater after storm events but pump that water to a storm drain. Member Descalzo highlighted the need to spread awareness to developers that the infiltrated groundwater can be reused as a nonpotable source of water.

b. New green space with a focus on disadvantaged communities

Strategies included: approaches for public events to address engagement fatigue; find ways for non-disadvantaged community projects to still result in equity benefits (e.g., workforce development); prioritize projects that increase green space and provide other direct community benefits within disadvantaged communities, using a scoring matrix to prioritize funds towards historically disinvested communities; prioritize direct primary benefits and consider racial/economic equity and historical legacies; new green space in most impacted communities.

c. Collaboration with school applicants to increase school greening and offsite stormwater capture

Strategies included: explore cooperative efforts with schools to capture offsite stormwater; collaborate with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); green schools combined with adjacent green streets. The Committee discussed new green spaces with a focus on disadvantaged communities. Member Reznik noted that metric goals sometimes overlap and expressed a need to differentiate between the quantity of new versus rehabilitated green space. Co-Chair Santilena explained that a potential solution for areas that have strict compliance deadlines but no disadvantaged communities would be to find ways to award points to projects that are not located within a disadvantaged community, but still result in equity advancements, such as workforce development. The SCW Program could also create a mechanism to move away from "the all-or-nothing" scoring system regarding the Disadvantaged Community Benefit. Antos noted that currently, the existing performance measures use funds to quantify Community Investment Benefits and that quantifying how much money goes to a certain community is a complex issue.

Antos asked the Committee to discuss what should be prioritized as a Disadvantaged Community Benefit, and if greening is a priority or only part of a holistic set of benefits. Member Zoe Cunliffe noted that the

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



WASC should not be deciding what benefits are, but engaging with and listening to community members, both in disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged communities, for the WASC to better understand community priorities and needs. Other Committee Members agreed, but added that a lot of engagement has been done to date, and should also be taken into account.

Member Reznik noted that greening would benefit both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged communities and underlined the importance in deciding where green spaces are created.

Member Medina shared that communities such as South Los Angeles organized and voted for the passage of Measure W with an expectation that the SCW Program would provide direct benefits to those communities. Member Reznik shared that when Measure W was initially passed, two main priorities from community members were voiced: greening and cleaner drinking water. Member Reznik noted opportunities for greening schools, but recognized the challenges LAUSD has had with joint use agreements. Co-Chair Santilena noted that since the SCW Program defines disadvantaged communities based on household income, the SCW Program could have a greater emphasis on benefits stemming from the promotion of green jobs and career pathways.

Member Cunliffe noted that considering disadvantaged communities and historically disinvested groups should not be a separate strategy but integrated into every strategy within the SCW Program. Member Cunliffe suggested that educational outreach to these communities will be critical to ensure that those community members are engaged in the SCW Program, as water quality and water conservation are often posed by community members as distinct challenges rather than connected. Watershed Coordinator Boudreau shared that the Watershed Coordinators have been working to clarify terminology used by the SCW Program and by community members. Watershed Coordinator Boudreau also noted that community-based organizations typically have one to two specific goals, whereas the general public often shares a variety of concerns.

d. Invest in scientific research about water quality and pollution mitigation Best Management Practices and secondary benefits for cities

Member Bruce Hamamoto noted that Public Works is taking a multi-benefit approach in projects, addressing water quality and water supply needs while also including landscaping for the greening component. However, Member Hamamoto noted that Public Works does not have the expertise in land acquisition that is often required to develop new green space in the form of parks. Antos suggested that Public Works could work with the Department of Parks and Recreation within the County to leverage other funding measures.

Member Reznik expanded on an idea related to utilizing public-private partnerships in leveraging funds, which could augment the collaboration that might happen between Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

e. Increase and strengthen technical resources and municipal partnerships for community groups to diversify project sizes in watershed area

Strategies included: assess application questions to make them more accessible for local community groups; increased outreach efforts to educate neighborhood and local groups; additional resources for community-based organizations; provide technical assistance for applicants to consider green jobs and career pathway opportunities; garner community support; and identify benefits that best serve communities.

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



Committee Members noted that some strategies are related to streamlining the application process, which could result in the potential creation of small project grants within the SCW Program or improvements to the Technical Resources Program (TRP).

Antos shared a group of ideas related to having more community-led projects and shared one that noted how municipality partnerships with community-based organizations have been more successful than a community-based organization applying to the SCW Program on their own. Fossum noted that the SCW Program Education and Community Engagement Grants program will launch in September and could support some of these efforts.

f. Operation and maintenance planning and strategies

Strategies included: engaging the private sector through private-public-philanthropic efforts; allow municipalities to be more creative in leveraging funding (including O&M); and regional collaboration on costly O&M and share knowledge.

g. Wet weather compliance and prioritization in Watershed Area

The Committee formed another grouping, prioritizing wet weather projects instead of dry weather-only projects. Strategies included: projects that allow for future restoration, including greenways for floodplain reclamation and peak flow reduction upstream; green streets for stormwater reduction; consider certain regulatory watersheds in this area that have tight compliance deadlines but no disadvantaged communities.

Antos noted that this topic was mentioned during last round's SIP deliberation. Member Hamamoto agrees with prioritizing wet weather projects, given the wet weather bacteria TMDL deadline is in 2026. Co-Chair Santilena also brought up that the Ballona Creek TMDL Project funded by this WASC addresses a lot of dry weather water quality issues, and therefore the watershed needs to prioritize wet weather projects.

Fossum reminded Committee Members to submit additional comments using the [Watershed Planning Post-Workshop Input Form](#). SCW Program Watershed Planning staff shared that the next CSMB WASC Watershed Planning workshop will occur in October. Member Reznik noted that additional discussion could be agendized at future meetings before October, given the numerous priorities identified. Co-Chair Santilena requested that additional information related to groundwater feasibility and data on the demographics of communities with the most environmental burden be added as an agenda item at the next meeting.

6) Public Comment Period

Public Works staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting and uploaded them to the SCW Program website. There were no public comments received prior to the meeting.

Mike Scaduto (City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)) shared a comment expressing project implementation challenges. Scaduto shared difficulties in identifying viable projects in the City of Los Angeles Council Districts 4 and 5, where there is a lot of community support. Scaduto noted some community-based organizations successfully implementing projects in Council Districts 8 and 9. Scaduto commented that the Scoring Criteria has been an obstacle in generating viable projects given the inability to receive Water Supply points. Scaduto requested that the Committee prioritize Water Quality Benefits as a primary benefit and Community Investment Benefits as secondary, as opposed to the current Scoring Criteria which prioritizes Water Supply Benefits.

7) Voting Items

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



a) Approve FY24-25 SOEP

Member Reznik motioned to approve the FY24-25 SOEP with direction to verify the disadvantaged community percentage. The motion was seconded by Member Blayne Sutton-Wills. The Committee voted to approve the FY24-25 SOEP with direction to verify the disadvantaged community percentage, with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

8) Items for Next Agenda

Public Works staff noted that the next meeting date will be August 6, 2024. The meeting will be hybrid, held in person at Culver City Hall and online via WebEx. See SCW Program website for meeting details. Items on the next agenda may include:

- a) Additional information regarding watershed limitations
- b) Additional data on community demographics for communities with great environmental burden

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff noted that the next step in the Watershed Planning effort is to present the technical analysis in October, where map overlays would be shared.

9) Adjournment

Co-Chair Santilena thanked WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - July 22, 2024									
		Quorum Present						Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Primary Member	Attendance: In-person ("x" for present)	Attendance: Virtual (Brown Act Telc Rqts, "Just Cause" - audio & video, room disclosure) ("x" for present)	Alternate Member	Attendance: In-person ("x" for present)	Attendance: Virtual (Brown Act Tel Rqts, "Just Cause" - audio & video, room disclosure) ("x" for present)	6/4/2024 Meeting Minutes	Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Marcela Benavides	x					Y	Y
Agency	West Basin Municipal Water District	Matthew Veeh			Augustine Han	x		Y	Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Delon Kwan			Art Castro	x		Y	Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	Susie Santilena	x		Hubertus Cox			Y	Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo			Darryl Ford				
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath			Rebecca Ferdman				
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu	x					Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	Gloria Walton			Gloria Medina	x		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x		Maggie Gardner			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe	x		Tianna Shaw-Wakeman			Y	Y
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Josette Descalzo	x		Matthew Magener			Y	Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Sean Singletary	x		Yanni Demitri			Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez							
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto			Blayne Sutton-Wills	x		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Michelle Barton			Ryan Jackson				
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Bruce Hamamoto	x		Geremew Amenu			A	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Joshua Cavalho	x		Selim Eren			Y	Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Max Bracey	x					N/A	N/A
Watershed Coordinator	SGA Marketing	Vanessa Boudreau	x					N/A	N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17				Yay (Y)		12	13
Total Voting Members Present		13				Nay (N)		0	0
Agency		4				Abstain (A)		1	0
Community Stakeholder		4				Total		13	13
Municipal Members		5						Approved	Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
July 22, 2024

390000	Guest	Nancy Shrodes she/her
Alexia Skrbic	Hayat Rasul	Omar Abdelhadi
Alynn Sun	Jenny Chau	Pablo Forni LACPW
Angineh Shahnazarian	Josafat Flores	Patacchia Conference Room
Anthony Barreras	Jose Castro - LACPW	Rafael
Armando Nunez-Fausto	Justin Jones LACPW	Ryanna Fossum
Brenda Ponton	M. Scaduto	Serena Zhu
Call-in User_2	Mark Nguyen	Tiffany Chang
Conor Mossavi	Matt Veeh	Tiffany Lai
Dee Corhiran SCWP	Michelle	Uriel Cobian
Geremew Amenu	Michelle Reed	johanna chang

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: JULY 22, 2024



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	<i>MB</i>
Agency		Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin Metropolitan Water District	P	
Agency	Augustine Han	West Basin Metropolitan Water District	A	<i>Augustine Han</i>
Agency	Delon Kwan	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	<i>Art Castro</i>
Agency	Susie Santilena	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	P	
Agency	Hubertus Cox	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	A	
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	P	
Agency	Darryl Ford	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	A	
Community Stakeholder	Rita Kampalath	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	P	
Community Stakeholder	Rebecca Ferdman	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	A	
Community Stakeholder	Ion Cretu	PSOMAS / Business Sector	P	<i>Ion Cretu</i>
Community Stakeholder	Cecilia Mokler	PSOMAS / Business Sector	A	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Walton	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	P	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	A	<i>Gloria Medina</i>
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	<i>Bruce Reznik</i>
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	
Community Stakeholder	Zoe Cunliffe	Black Women for Wellness	P	<i>Zoe Cunliffe</i>
Community Stakeholder	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman	Black Women for Wellness	A	
Municipal Member	Josette Descalzo	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	P	<i>Josette Descalzo</i>
Municipal Member	Matthew Magener	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	A	
Municipal Member	Sean Singletary	Culver City	P	<i>Sean Singletary</i>

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **JULY 22, 2024**

6



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Municipal Member	Yanni Demitri	Culver City	A	
Municipal Membe	Roberto Perez	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Rafael Prieto	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Blayne Sutton-Wells	Los Angeles	A	<i>Blayne Sutton-Wells</i>
Municipal Member	Michelle Barton	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	P	<i>Bruce Hamamoto</i>
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County	A	
Municipal Member	Joshua Carvalho	Santa Monica	P	<i>Joshua Carvalho</i>
Municipal Member	Selim Eren	Santa Monica	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Max Bracey	Heal the Bay	WC	<i>Max Bracey</i>
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	<i>Vanessa Boudreau</i>

Central Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN: July 22, 2024



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Maggie	Gardner	LA waterkeeper	maggie@la.waterkeeper.org