

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



Tuesday, September 3, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm

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)
*Conor Mossavi, Los Angeles City Water and Power (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Susie Santilena, LA City Sanitation and Environment (Agency), Co-Chair
Rita Kampalath, LA County Chief Sustainability Office (Community), 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)
*Matthew Magener, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)
Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)
Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
*Ryan Jackson, Los Angeles (Municipal)
*Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica (Municipal)
Vanessa Boudreau, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Stephanie Gebhardt Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Absent Committee Members

Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Rita Kampalath, 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 July 22, 2024

Member Ion Cretu motioned to approve meeting minutes from July 22, 2024, seconded by Member Gloria Medina. The Committee voted to approve the July 22, 2024 minutes, with 10 votes in favor, 5 votes in abstention, 0 votes in opposition, and 1 Member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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3) Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Per the Levine Act (SB 1439), Project Developers and Watershed Coordinators receiving funds through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) should have received an email with a Campaign Contribution Declaration Form. The form should be completed today and requires disclosures of any contributions made to a County officer in the past 12 months. The form should be completed as soon as possible and will aid in the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval of the SIPs.
- The Business Relations and Contracts Division released the Watershed Coordinators [Request for Statement of Qualifications](#) on August 27. Proposers have the option to attend the Proposer's Conference on September 12 at 9:00 am and Monday September 16 at 10:00 am. The deadline to submit a [Statement of Qualifications](#) is on September 30 at 5:30 pm. More information will be provided in the upcoming SCW Program Implementation email for September.

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff within Public Works provided an update on Watershed Planning and shared that the first Watershed Planning workshops were held at all WASCs. The Watershed Planning Team, consisting of SCW Program Watershed Planning staff within Public Works and consultants, will return to WASCs in October or November for an additional engagement session.

Feedback has been received from Committee Members on existing data, including from previously funded projects and the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS), in addition to local and regional plans. This data will be compiled and synthesized to begin identifying Watershed Area Needs and Opportunity Areas. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff clarified that these Watershed Plans are not project-specific, and Watershed Plans are intended to guide applicants, WASCs, and other interested parties through Population Indicators and Opportunity Areas. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff shared that the Watershed Plans are being developed alongside the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment, which will gather feedback from the community-at-large across the SCW Program area. The Assessment builds off previous engagement efforts with the community, including surveys conducted by Watershed Coordinators and previous countywide efforts.

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff added that there will be engagement with other organizations, such as OurWaterLA (OWLA), Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Rebuild SoCal Partnership, and municipalities. The SCW Program Watershed Planning Team is also soliciting feedback from the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) and the Scoring Committee to refine definitions and common language used by the SCW Program.

Co-Chair Susie Santilena asked SCW Program Watershed Planning staff how existing projects are being considered in opportunity area identification. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff confirmed that previously funded projects, along with existing assessments, will be aggregated to create a heat map that will identify preferred areas for future projects. These preferred areas would theoretically generate the greatest impact based on a particular metric chosen.

Co-Chair Santilena confirmed with SCW Program Watershed Planning staff that existing plans will be used together to identify common themes or locations, rather than focusing on one specific plan.

Member Bruce Reznik expressed appreciation for receiving the discussion questions prior to the first Watershed Planning workshop. Member Reznik commented that entities not currently represented in the WASC could be invited to the next workshops to provide valuable, watershed-specific input.

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Co-Chair Santilena noted that Public Works staff had sent out a survey soliciting any topics Committee Members would like presented, which is not something that other WASCs have adopted. Public Works staff clarified that while the survey form is closed, Committee Members can reach out directly to Public Works staff about adding any topic to the agenda. The two presentations today are a result of Committee Member input.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Vanessa Boudreau introduced Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath as the new Watershed Coordinator representing Heal the Bay. The Watershed Coordinators presented on recent engagement events and applications submitted for FY2025-26. Presentation slides are can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

5) Ex parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Discussion

a. Spatial Data Library

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) conducted a live tutorial of the SCW Program's [Spatial Data Library](#) (SDL), available on the SCW Program website, under the Resources tab.

Antos noted that Public Works is working on updating the SDL within the next three months. Committee Members are welcome to suggest additional datasets to be added to the SDL.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that work is in progress to incorporate Round 1 and Round 2 project drainage area data onto the SDL. Co-Chair Kampalath added that these projects and associated catchment areas should be added to inform Watershed Planning.

Member Reznik suggested that completed projects should be added to the SDL. Antos noted that the Watershed Coordinators are working on a presentation summarizing locations to visit to see completed SCW Program projects.

Member Roberto Perez confirmed with Public Works staff that the SCW Program website has various areas that specify aggregate data on the benefits of the SCW Program to-date and projected. The Reporting Module is where Project Developers submit Quarterly Reports to keep track of benefits and the SIP tool shows projected benefits. Antos noted that through Watershed Planning and the MMS, the SCW Program is working on developing more numerical data that can be shared with the public.

Co-Chair Santilena recommended that information on legacy projects, such as those that were developed before the SCW Program, through the City of Los Angeles' Proposition O Clean Water Bond, or already existing, should be added to the SDL even if slightly out of scope of the SCW Program. Antos noted that Integrated Regional Water Management projects are included as a layer. Co-Chair Santilena is working on sharing the City of Los Angeles' Proposition O data.

b. Los Angeles County Water Plan

Public Works staff shared a presentation highlighting the Los Angeles County Water Plan. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

The County Water Plan articulates a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably and equitably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County. There are four key focal areas:

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regional water supply reliability, groundwater management and quality, small at-risk system resilience and drinking water equity, and watershed sediment management.

A Water Resiliency Summit was held on April 29 and four task forces were launched, focused on the key focal areas. The kickoff meeting for the Nature-Based Solutions task force is scheduled for September 4. More information on how to join a task force can be found in the presentation slides. Eight partner agencies, including the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, have formally adopted the County Water Plan.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comment cards received prior to 5:00pm the day before the meeting.

Marcia Hanscom (Defend Ballona Wetlands) expressed interest in hearing more about the SCW Program and recommend the Program conduct outreach to a diverse range of groups beyond public agencies. Hanscom confirmed with Public Works staff that members of the public are allowed to join the County Water Plan task forces. Hanscom commented that Public Works understands the nexus of nature and clean water and expressed hope in seeing more integration through the SCW Program, noting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers has had challenges supporting the growth of native vegetation along rivers. Hanscom commented that native plants in waterways help clean water and hopes that SCW Program projects support integration with nature.

Robert Van de Hoek (retired federal wildlife biologist/hydrologist) expressed interest in attending the County Water Plan's nature-based solutions taskforce kickoff meeting and in seeing the heat map results from the Watershed Planning effort. Van de Hoek additionally expressed interest in regularly attending WASC meetings to learn more about the watersheds, particularly the Ballona Creek Watershed, the Pacoima Watershed, and the San Gabriel Mountains.

8) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

Public Works staff noted that the next meeting date will be October 1, 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) Quarterly Reports
- b) Scientific Study (SS) and Technical Resource Program (TRP) presentations
- c) Watershed Planning

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that SS and TRP applications are available in the SCW Portal for all Committee Members to review. All SS and TRP applications are available, even those that were not ultimately submitted.

Member Reznik requested Public Works staff create a broader schedule showing the intended topic for WASC meetings, such as whether the meeting is part of a series of meetings for SIP deliberation, Watershed Planning, quarterly reporting, etc. Member Reznik expressed concern that meetings may be canceled when the WASC could be taking advantage of those opportunities to proactively discuss the SCW Program.

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Member Geremew Amenu announced that Bruce Hamamoto has stepped down from the CSMB WASC and that Member Amenu will continue as the municipal representative of Los Angeles County. An alternate Committee Member has yet to be identified. Member Amenu shared Hamamoto's message of appreciation to the WASC and commitment to remain involved in the North Santa Monica Bay and Santa Clara River WASCs.

10) Adjournment

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

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - September 3, 2024							
		Quorum Present					Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Primary Member	Attendance: In-person ("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)	9/3/2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Marcela Benavides	x				Y
Agency	West Basin Municipal Water District	Matthew Veeh		Augustine Han	x		Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Art Castro		Conor Mossavi	x		A
Agency	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	<u>Susie Santilena</u>	x	Hubertus Cox			Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x		A
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	<u>Rita Kampalath</u>	x	Rebecca Ferdman			A
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu	x				Y
Community Stakeholder	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	Gloria Walton		Gloria Medina	x		Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x	Maggie Gardner			Y
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe	x	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman			Y
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Josette Descalzo		Matthew Magener	x		Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Sean Singletary	x	Yanni Demitri			Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez	x				Not Present
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto		Blayne Sutton-Wills			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Michelle Barton		Ryan Jackson	x		A
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Bruce Hamamoto		Geremew Amenu	x		A
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Joshua Cavalho	x	Selim Eren			Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	x				N/A
Watershed Coordinator	SGA Marketing	Vanessa Boudreau	x				N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)		10
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)		0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)		5
Community Stakeholder		5			Total		15
Municipal Members		6					Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
September 3, 2024

390000	John Bodenchak	Mike Antos Regional Coord
Alexia	JonPaul Sarro SCWP WP	Nancy Shrodes she/her
Alexia Skrbic	Josafat Flores	Pablo Forni - LACPW
Angineh Shahnazarian	Jose Castro - LACPW	Paige Bistromowitz
Call-in User_2	Justin Jones - LACPW	Patacchia Conference Room
Carlos Rodriguez	Luke Ginger	Pearl Azizian
Castro, Art	Maggie Gardner	Robert van de Hoek
Daniel Bradbury LAC Public Works	Marcela Benavides	Serena Zhu
Dee Corhiran SCWP	Marcia Hanscom	Tiffany
Haris Harouny	Mark Nguyen	Yao Kouwonou
Jackie Ly	Melanie Hu	sara mcgaugh
Jenny Chau	Michelle	
Johanna Chang	Michelle Reed	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: September 3, 2024



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	Marcela Benavides
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	
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	
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	
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	
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	
Community Stakeholder	Zoe Cunliffe	Black Women for Wellness	P	
Community Stakeholder	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman	Black Women for Wellness	A	
Municipal Member	Josette Descalzo	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	P	
Municipal Member	Matthew Magener	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	A	
Municipal Member	Sean Singletary	Culver City	P	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **September 3, 2024**



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	
Municipal Member	Michelle Barton	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	A	<i>Ryan Jackson</i>
Municipal Member	Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	P	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County	A	<i>Geremew Amenu</i>
Municipal Member	Joshua Carvalho	Santa Monica	P	<i>Joshua Carvalho</i>
Municipal Member	Selim Eren	Santa Monica	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Max Bracey ^{Stephanie Schmidt} Kath	Heal the Bay	WC	<i>Stephanie Schmidt</i>
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	<i>Vanessa Boudreau</i>

[illegible]

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

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