

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, October 9, 2024

1:00pm – 3:30pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Courtyard) Conference Rooms C&D

900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803

Zoom Meeting

### Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian, Cordoba/Former LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair

Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles

Diana Tang, Long Beach Water Department, Vice-Chair

Kristine Guerrero, League of Cities

Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive, Chair

Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE

Charles Trevino, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Mark Gold, Natural Resources Defense Council

Carl Blum, LA County Flood Control District (non-voting member)

Norma Camacho, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair (non-voting member)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena

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### **Meeting Summary:**

At the October 9, 2024 Regional Oversight Committee meeting, Committee members participated in a facilitated discussion about the SCWP Municipal Program, including a summary to date, current and potential efforts to build upon the ROC Biennial Report, and integration with the Regional Program and Watershed Planning. Topics that were focused upon include the current status of Municipal Program Reporting, seeking further opportunities to align Regional Program and Municipal Program efforts, and the importance of routine periodic efforts to educate municipal staff and elected representatives about the SCW Program.

### **Key Action Items:**

- Public Works will continue ongoing efforts to update the Reporting Module to increase the value of reported information without increasing the reporting burden.
- Public Works will evaluate engaging with California League of Cities, Southern California Association of Government, and the many Councils of Government in the region for refresher education about the Safe, Clean Water Program.

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Belinda Faustinos, Chair of the Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

### 2. On-line and Spanish Language Participation Information

The Executive Clerk conducted a brief tutorial on Zoom and announced that the meeting was being broadcast live in Spanish.

### 3. Roll Call

The Executive Clerk conducted roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

### 4. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose

Chair Faustinos shared that the ROC will participate in a facilitated discussion about the SCW Program Municipal Program, including a summary to-date, current and potential efforts to build upon the ROC Biennial Report, and integration with the Regional Program and Watershed Planning.

### 5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

### 6. Approval of September 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The Executive Clerk noted that Member Diana Mahmud requested several amendments on the September 11, 2024, meeting minutes, which are redlined in the attached document.

Member Mark Gold motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the requested changes, seconded by Member Maria Mehranian. The Committee voted to approve the September 11, 2024, meeting minutes with 6 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 in abstention, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### 7. Public Comment Period

The Executive Clerk compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting. One comment card was received prior to the beginning of the meeting and can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Participants on the Spanish translation line and call-in users were also invited to provide public comment.

The Executive Clerk shared that the public comment received prior to the meeting was about a topic that falls outside the scope of the SCW Program. The comment has been forwarded to Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff, who are engaging the person who submitted the comment.

Mike Scaduto (Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment) provided a public comment highlighting the progress and successes of the City of Los Angeles through the use of Municipal Program funds. Scaduto noted that the funding has been instrumental in supporting over 70 internal positions within the City, 20 of which are Operations & Maintenance (O&M) positions. In the past five years, the City has allocated \$80 million of the City's municipal return as match funding to support regional SCW Program projects that have been approved. Scaduto commended the County and the ROC for their ongoing efforts and encouraged continued collaboration in the Watershed Planning process. Scaduto shared that the SCW Program serves as a model not only for capital projects but also for stormwater O&M financing.

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Maggie Gardner (LA Waterkeeper) expressed excitement about the focus on the Municipal Program, noting increased visibility and integration of municipal projects into the [SCW Project Portal dashboard](#) and [map](#) is promising. Gardner emphasized that the Municipal Program can often feel like a "black box," so transparent data analysis presented during today's meeting is helpful. Gardner inquired whether an assessment has been conducted to determine whether the municipal funding is augmenting pre-SCW Program expenditures or if it is replacing those funds, and recommended an analysis if one has not already been completed.

### 8. Discussion Items: SCW Program Municipal Program

Public Works staff presented on the Municipal Program. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Public Works staff introduced Mark Lombos (Public Works), who has been supporting Unincorporated Los Angeles County stormwater quality efforts. In addition to this work, Lombos will soon be leading the expansion support by Public Works for the Municipal Program.

Member Gold noted that the Municipal Program summary content was helpful and suggested improvements for the website interface, including: listing projects by overall costs, noting project completion status, and the funding breakdown (e.g., municipal versus other sources). Member Gold also recommended detailing O&M by project, staffing, monitoring project efficacy, and allocations of resources.

Member Mehranian underscored the need for O&M considerations and highlighted the importance of tracking whether SCW Program goals are being met. Mehranian asked how cities in one watershed work together towards watershed goals versus city-specific goals. Mehranian commented on a need for clear metrics and criteria to measure this alignment.

Member Norma Camacho suggested that the level of detail required for reporting could be scaled depending on the amount of SCW Program funding a municipality receives. Cities with larger funding allocations should provide five-year plans with concrete deadlines. Member Camacho commented on the difficulty of monitoring the SCW Program efficacy from current reports and emphasized the need for a framework to easily track efficacy over time.

Chair Faustinos emphasized the need for consistent progress reporting and recommended a streamlined approach to ensure municipalities use uniform language when demonstrating achievements. Chair Faustinos cited discrepancies in terminology used throughout submitted reports, including referencing Community Investment Benefits, and noted how consistent language would support clarity and consistency. Chair Faustinos raised concerns about rollover funds, suggesting that cities submit five-year plans to clarify whether municipalities are saving funds for capital improvement projects or merely delaying efforts. Chair Faustinos also inquired about procedures for municipalities managing interest from carryover balances and whether Public Works had any guidance on investing these funds.

Chair Faustinos also highlighted opportunities for workforce development, noting that smaller cities are increasingly contracting with Los Angeles County for services, such as for catch-basin cleanouts. Member Gold expressed a desire to see cities invest in community outreach beyond permit requirements.

Member Carl Blum recommended that municipal reports be more concise and requested more detail about how 'roll-over' funds are accounted for by cities. Member Blum emphasized the need to focus on measuring project efficacy, through metrics such as water capture and cleanup, rather than just measuring spending. Member Blum highlighted the importance of O&M planning to ensure projects remain functional in the long term.

Member Kristine Guerrero expressed support for the focus on O&M, noting feedback from cities often highlights the need to project future O&M needs. Member Guerrero expressed interest in learning more about cities' needs to address challenges, especially those that are smaller or under-resourced. Member

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Guerrero also supported the idea of implementing a five-year plan, which could reduce the administrative burdens related to transfer agreements. Member Barbara Romero agreed, suggesting that a five-year plan would streamline reporting processes and that metrics should be more digestible, aligning with regional goals and watershed-specific objectives.

Member Lauren Ahkiam expressed appreciation for the presentation and suggested that smaller cities could partner with larger cities, such as the City of Los Angeles, to develop maintenance expertise and connect with workforce development opportunities.

Member Gold inquired about the number of cities that the County contracts with to provide stormwater services. Public Works staff noted that there are 24 contracts related to catch-basin cleanouts. Member Ahkiam also emphasized the potential to connect workforce development through the County's Department of Economic Opportunity.

The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring that reporting demonstrates how cities meet watershed-specific and regional goals. Chair Faustinos suggested integrating metrics with other programs to better align goals and facilitate collaboration. Member Blum emphasized the importance of coordination between Watershed Plans and Municipal Program efforts.

Lombos spoke on behalf of County Unincorporated Areas, highlighting the importance of collaboration across those jurisdictions. Lombos emphasized a focus on leveraging funding and expertise for regional projects, and cited success with the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project.

Member Guerrero stressed the importance of conducting outreach to city councilmembers, particularly those of smaller cities, to foster understanding of how municipal programs overlap with regional efforts. Member Blum agreed and highlighted the nature of staff and elected representative turnover in smaller cities. Chair Faustinos asked if there were other avenues to engage with city members aside from Council of Governments (COGs). Member Blum recommended hosting sessions at conferences such as the League of Cities and the California Contract Cities Association Conferences to engage local government officials in SCW Program education. Member Ahkiam expressed agreement with increased capacity-building efforts for municipalities and emphasized the value of Watershed Coordinators in outreach and coordination.

The Committee highlighted the need for more robust collaboration and compliance efforts across regions and municipalities, stressing that success in these areas requires ongoing education and outreach efforts. Public Works staff confirmed that regular meetings with city entities will continue and that staff will explore recommendations shared during the meeting. Chair Faustinos recommended using outreach strategies to engage newer members of municipalities, suggesting that presentations be added to city council agendas to increase awareness of the program's importance.

Member Romero and Member Blum reiterated the importance of showing City Managers and City Councilmembers what neighboring cities are doing, as this is often considered in decision-making. Public Works staff noted that the SCW Program's new Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program is intended to fund education efforts like those recommended during the meeting.

### **9. Voting Items**

There were no voting items.

### **10. ROC Member Updates**

Member Gold and Member Camacho shared about involvement in the Watershed Planning ROC Water Quality Working Group.



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Member Gold commented on the difficulties related to stormwater capture projects and water reuse for irrigation. Member Gold shared that, without guidance from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the LA County Department Public Health is implementing very restrictive guidance and regulations. Member Gold shared plans to work with University of California, Los Angeles students to provide recommendations to the SWRCB on stormwater reuse.

Member Camacho shared that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is hosting a meeting on October 24, which will provide updates and share progress on Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. Member Camacho invited ROC Members and municipalities to provide feedback at the meeting.

Chair Faustinos noted that the Community Investment Benefits and Benefit Ratios Working Group is scheduling a date to convene.

### 11. Program Administration & Biennial Report Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Public Works staff is making progress on recommendations outlined in the Biennial Progress Report, including progress on adaptive management and Watershed Planning efforts.
- The second round of Watershed Planning workshops with the WASCs will begin next week. The Watershed Planning team is also engaging other interested parties such as OurWaterLA, the County Water Plan's Nature-Based Solutions Blue Ribbon Panel, Los Angeles MS4 Permit Group, Rebuild SoCal Partnership, and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. More information can be found in the presentation slides on the [SCW Program website](#).
- The deadline for Project Modification Requests (PMRs) to be incorporated into the Round 6 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) is October 31.
- Round 6 submissions included 12 unique Scientific Studies and 11 new Technical Resource Program (TRP) applications.
- The Business Relations and Contracts Division released the Watershed Coordinators [Request for Statement of Qualifications](#) on August 27. The deadline to submit a [Statement of Qualifications](#) has been extended to October 31 at 5:30 pm.

### 12. Items for the Next Agenda / 6-month look-ahead

- a) Regional Program Reporting
- b) Scientific Studies Review and Discussion

Public Works staff shared that the next ROC meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024, at the City of Long Beach and will include a review and discussion of Regional Program Reporting and Scientific Studies.

Public Works staff shared a six-month look-ahead which can be found in the presentation slides on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff additionally noted potential opportunities to discuss PMRs at the December meeting

Deputy Director Ariki encouraged Committee Members to share any topics the ROC would like to discuss at future meetings. Member Gold and Member Camacho expressed interest in a discussion on creative long-term financing for projects, including discussions on bonding and leveraging funds.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that municipal funds are required to be deposited into interest-bearing accounts. Public Works can provide more information at a future meeting.

### 13. Meeting Adjourned

Chair Faustinos thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

## Regional Oversight Committee - October 09, 2024

	Quorum Present		
Member Type	Member	Present?	Approve the September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Voting Member	Maria Mehranian	X	Y
Voting Member	Barbara Romero	X	A
Voting Member	Diana Tang	X	Y
Voting Member	Kristine Guerrero	X	Y
Voting Member	Belinda Faustinos	X	Y
Voting Member	Lauren Ahkiam	X	NOT PRESENT
Voting Member	Charles Trevino	X	Y
Voting Member	Mark Gold	X	Y
Voting Member	Diana Mahmud		NOT PRESENT
Non-Voting Member	Carl Blum	X	
Non-Voting Member	Norma Camacho	X	
Total Non-Vacant Seats	9	Yay (Y)	6
Total Voting Members Present	8	Nay (N)	0
		Abstain (A)	1
		Total	7
			Approved



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## COMMITTEE MEMBER SIGN-IN

**DO NOT REMOVE.**



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
<b>Voting Members</b>			
Barbara Romero	City of Los Angeles	barbara.romero@lacity.org; riki.esquer@lacity.org	<i>Barbara Romero</i>
Belinda Faustinos	Nature For All	belinda@lanatureforall.org	<i>Belinda Faustinos</i>
Charles Trevino	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	cmtwater@yahoo.com	<i>Charles Trevino</i>
Diana Tang	City of Long Beach	Diana.Tang@longbeach.gov	<i>Diana Tang</i>
Mark Gold	NRDC	mgold@nrdc.org	<i>Mark Gold</i>
Diana Mahmud	Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena	diana.mahmud@gmail.com	
Kristine Guerrero	League of Cities	kguerrero@cacities.org	<i>Kristine Guerrero</i>
Lauren Ahkiam	LAANE	lahkiam@laane.org	<i>Lauren Ahkiam</i>
Maria Mehranian	Cordoba / Former RWQCB Chair	mmehranian@cordobacorp.com	<i>Maria Mehranian</i>
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>			
Carl Blum	Flood Control District	clblum@pacbell.net	<i>Carl Blum</i>
Norma Camacho	LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair	Norma.Camacho@Waterboards.ca.gov	<i>Norma Camacho</i>



## PUBLIC SIGN-IN



**SAFE  
CLEAN  
WATER**

[illegible]

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





# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Michael Seduto

Organization\*: City of LA - LASAN!

Email\*: michael.seduto@laip.org

Phone\*: (323) 441

Meeting: SCM Proc

Date: 10-9-24

☐ LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

\*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov). All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov) by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

## Comments

Safe Clean Water Municipal Program - City of LA Highlights.





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**Re: Regional Oversight Committee: October 9 Meeting Information**

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**From** Justin Ciampaglia <justin.ciampa@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 10/7/2024 6:50 AM

**To** DPW-SafeCleanWaterLA <SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov>

 1 attachments (155 KB)

2024 10 9 LAC my Comments on PFAS.pdf;

**CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.**

Dear SCWL staff,

Can you please elaborate on what measures the local governments are taking to measure and prevent harm from contaminants like PFAS? The USGS has stated at least 50% of drinking water in the USA is contaminated by forever chemicals. How effective are distillers, using carbon filters etc by residents in reducing harm from contaminants such as heavy metals and PFAS?

Thank you,

Justin Ciampaglia

On Fri, Oct 4, 2024 at 10:42 AM The Safe Clean Water Program <[SafeCleanWaterLA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov)> wrote:

 [SCWP Logo Horizontal](#)

## Attendee Report

Report Ger #####

Topic Webinar ID

Regional O 958 1669 3605

### Host Details

Attended User Name (Original Name)

Yes ROC Meeting Room

### Panelist Details

Attended User Name (Original Name)

Yes SP Interpreter Javier Morrone (Javier)

Yes Executive Clerk (Mike Antos (Stantec))

Yes Spanish interpreter- Gabriela M. (Gabriela)

### Attendee Details

Attended User Name (Original Name)

Yes Marisela Velasquez - LACPW

Yes Robyn F.

Yes Stephanie, Heal the Bay

Yes Rochelle P. Wilson

Yes Rochelle P. Wilson

Yes Rochelle P. Wilson

Yes Brenda Ponton

Yes Samantha Torres

Yes Kristina Kreter

Yes Adi Liberman (he/him)

Yes Jose Luis Escajeda-County

Yes Alonso Garcia

Yes Joyce Amaro

Yes David Dolphin

Yes 1.21E+10

Yes Richard Watson

Yes Sean

Yes Jalaine Q. Verdiner - LA County PW

Yes Jalaine Verdiner

Yes Nancy Shrodes (she/her)

Yes	Ryanna Fossum
Yes	Fred Gonzalez - LACFCD
Yes	Ghina Yamout
Yes	Thuan Nguyen
Yes	Melanie Hu
Yes	James- Day One
Yes	Maggie Gardner
Yes	Javier
Yes	Melanie Rivera
Yes	Haley Lawton
Yes	Jeremy McGranahan
Yes	Display
Yes	Amanda Begley
Yes	Emily Ng (she/her)
Yes	Eric Bonilla
Yes	Kerry Quinlan
Yes	Lauren Ahkiam
Yes	Alexander Iglesias
Yes	Wilfred Hsu
Yes	Genevieve Osmena
Yes	Craig Cadwallader-Chair SSMB WASC
Yes	John_Bodenchak
Yes	Conor Mossavi
Yes	Conor Mossavi
Yes	Mark N
Yes	Larry Tran - LACPW
Yes	Sara_McGaugh
Yes	Leslie FJ
Yes	Haris Harouny
Yes	Mike Antos (Stantec)
Yes	Gabriela
Yes	Gabriela
Yes	Johanna Chang
Yes	Melissa Turcotte

Yes	Mei-Lin Hanna (JLHA)
Yes	Susie Santilena - LASAN, SCWID
Yes	Sarah Followill
Yes	Jack Mikesell
Yes	Christopher Vong
Yes	Christopher Vong
Yes	Christopher Vong
Yes	Kathleen McGowan
Yes	Fernando Villaluna
Yes	RainaDwivedi
Yes	Stephanie Luu
Yes	Luke Ginger (He/Him SMBRC)
Yes	Bruce Hamamoto
Yes	Jason Casanova, Council for Watershed Health
Yes	Jason Casanova, Council for Watershed Health
Yes	Rafael Piamonte
Yes	1.95E+10
Yes	UserDon Lindgren
Yes	Don Lindgren
Yes	Joe Venzon - LA County
Yes	Mayra Cabrera - LACPW
Yes	Julie Carver, Pomona
Yes	Alexia Skrbic
Yes	Jenny Newman
Yes	Paige Bistromowitz - LASAN
Yes	Jenny Chau
Yes	Brett Perry
Yes	Devon Provo