

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



Tuesday, November 12, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Veteran's Memorial Building, Rotunda Room
4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides, Los Angeles 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)
Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office (Community), Co-Chair
Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (Community)
Gloria Medina, The Solutions Project/SCOPE (Community)
Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Community)
Zoe Cunliffe, Black Women for Wellness (Community)
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)
Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica (Municipal)
Stephanie Gebhardt Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Vanessa Boudreau, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Virtual Committee Members:

Susie Santilena, LA City Sanitation and Environment (Agency), Co-Chair

Committee Members Absent:

Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Michelle Barton, 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 and explained rules for Committee Members attending virtually under Assembly Bill 2449. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2024

Member Darryl Ford motioned to approve meeting minutes from September 3, 2024, seconded by Member Bruce Reznik. The Committee voted to approve the September 3, 2024 minutes, with 11 votes in favor and 3 votes in abstention (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:

- The Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 (FY 2023-24) Quarterly Report covering April to June was due on August 15. The FY 2023-24 Annual Report, covering July 2023 to June 2024, is due December 31. The Mid-Year Report, covering July to December, previously known as the Quarter 1 (Q1) and Quarter 2 (Q2) Reports, will be due on February 15, 2025.
- A Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting was scheduled for November 13 at 1:00pm to 3:30pm. Meeting details and materials can be found on the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The Municipal Program Reporting Module has been updated to streamline the renewal process for the Municipal Transfer Agreements. Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program Payments are generally available for disbursement by December 31, based on the timing of revenues collected by the Program. The Municipal Program will be transferred to another team within Public Works in the coming months.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program formally launched on September 24. The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, in collaboration with the Water Foundation, will support education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District area. More information can be found on the [Water Foundation website](#).
- The SCW Program continues to launch a Credit Trading Program. The procedures and guidelines document will be available for a 30-day public comment period towards the end of 2024.
- A tentative schedule was developed for future CSMB WASC meetings until April 2025. The tentative schedule is attached to these meeting minutes.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath announced that the next Watershed-wide event will be a Day of Service at Kuruvungna Springs on November 17 from 9:00am to 1:00pm with the Gabrielino-Tongva Springs Foundation near University High School.

5) Ex parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Discussion

a. Watershed Planning Workshop

i. Watershed Planning Recap Phase 1

Public Work's Watershed Planning staff and the Stantec consulting team presented an overview of the outcomes from the Phase 1 WASC Watershed Planning workshop, which included a program-wide synthesis of priorities and strategies that were common regionally amongst the nine SCW Program WASCs as well as specific priorities and strategies voiced by the CSMB WASC. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) explained that the program-wide synthesis did not specifically include nature-based solutions because that strategy was not identified as a clear priority in other WASCs; however, nature-based solutions will still be part of the CSMB WASC's opportunity analysis. Member Reznik suggested incorporating opportunities for floodplain reclamation, such as at Ballona Creek, into the CSMB Watershed Area synthesis.

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



Co-Chair Susie Santilena noted that regulatory collaboration is necessary to remove barriers to using stormwater for irrigation. Antos acknowledged that while this idea is beyond the scope of SCW Program Watershed Planning, the comment will be documented.

Co-Chair Santilena noted that regulated watersheds within the CSMB Watershed Area that do not have disadvantaged communities (DAC) should not be left out of Watershed Planning, since those watersheds still have regulatory compliance requirements. Antos clarified that although the SCW Program required DAC ratio is 45% for CSMB Watershed Area funds, the remaining funds once the DAC ratio is met can be allocated to other eligible projects regardless of whether they serve DACs. The Watershed Planning process will not affect the Watershed Area DAC ratio requirements.

Member Josette Descalzo and Member Marcela Benavides suggested that all school districts in the CSMB Watershed Area be identified during the Watershed Planning process in addition to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), to encourage all school districts from applying to the SCW Program. Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath will reach out to other school districts in the Watershed Area about opportunities related to the SCW Program. Antos also clarified that all school districts are eligible to participate in the SCW Program and asked that if Committee Members have contacts at other school districts or are aware of stormwater goals set by other school districts, to please inform the Watershed Planning team. Upon inquiry, Antos confirmed that the Watershed Planning Staff has not yet engaged with Los Angeles County Office of Education. Member Conor Mossavi recommended that existing efforts on school campuses, such as LAUSD's Living Schoolyards Study funded by the Upper Los Angeles River WASC in a previous year, should be evaluated during Watershed Planning. Antos confirmed that individuals involved in past projects within school districts participated in one of the interested parties Watershed Planning engagement efforts.

ii. Initial Watershed Plan Framework and Next Steps

Watershed Planning staff gave an overview of the Initial Watershed Plan Framework, preliminary outline of the Initial Watershed Plans, and the Watershed Area Planning Tools. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Zoe Cunliffe and Co-Chair Rita Kampalath inquired about the layers that will be shown on the Watershed Area Planning Map. Public Works staff clarified that the map may identify opportunity areas where a potential project can have the most impact and will consist of a coalesced collection of the most appropriate existing datasets being evaluated, for a given benefit-type, through the Watershed Planning process, when available. The Planning Map and Dashboard will serve as a resource that will specify and track progress toward regional and watershed area-specific targets, SCW Program's goals, and WASC priorities. Co-Chair Santilena suggested that the Watershed Area Planning Map show locations of historic investment in the Watershed Areas that existed before the SCW Program, such as projects funded by City of Los Angeles Proposition O, Los Angeles County Public Works, and others.

Member Descalzo inquired if Watershed Planning staff foresees any disadvantages once the Initial Watershed Plans are developed, suggesting that there could be potential impacts on small cities that may not have the capacity to develop comprehensive projects that meet the existing Scoring Criteria, as well as an impact on projects that would require coordination with multiple agencies. Watershed Planning staff clarified that the Initial Watershed Plan will not revise Scoring Criteria. Watershed Planning staff identified that the timeline for completion of the Initial Watershed Plans (mid-2025) and any related changes to the current application process or newly developed targets and priorities may not provide enough time to be reflected by projects that will seek funding during the next Call for Projects.

iii. Community Strengths and Needs Assessment

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



Antos presented an update on the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) and Watershed Planning staff presented a tentative SCW Program Adaptive Management timeline. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Antos clarified that the CSNA Dashboard will be public, the survey responses anonymous, the CSNA data timestamped and able to be filtered by year, and that the CSNA is not intended to produce data used for spatial statistical analysis.

Member Reznik noted that the CSNA data could be useful to identify locations where investment would be most impactful, encourage proactive project planning, and potentially inform changes to the Scoring Criteria. Member Ford shared that the CSNA results could lead to the development of projects that create new open space.

Member Descalzo suggested that Public Works staff conduct a workshop with local non-profit organizations and agencies to explain how the Watershed Area Plans, Planning Tools, and CSNA Survey Tool may be used to inform project development once the Initial Watershed Plans are published. Member Mossavi suggested that the community priorities identified in the CSNA Dashboard are incorporated in the Watershed Area Planning Map so users can geographically visualize where each benefit is prioritized.

Member Descalzo commented that the Watershed Area Planning Tools may create a perception that projects in municipalities without disadvantaged communities would face challenges in applying for SCW Program funding. Antos clarified that the Watershed Area Planning Tools intend to help identify areas where investment benefits will be most impactful within both disadvantaged communities and non-disadvantaged communities. Antos added that the Initial Watershed Plan will not require that the WASC fund projects in specific areas; the WASC will still decide which projects to fund during Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberations. Member Cunliffe shared that the Watershed Area Planning Tools and CSNA Survey Tool have potential and emphasized the importance of incorporating Committee Members' feedback into the development of the tools. Member Cunliffe and Co-Chair Kampalath also expressed a concern that the tools could have a negative impact if communities within the Watershed Area are not accurately represented.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff clarified that the CSNA will collect demographic data on language spoken, home ownership, and whether the respondent identifies as Native American, Indigenous, and/or Tribal. Antos also clarified that some of the questions in the CSNA referenced the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) WaterTalks survey, which involved collaboration with 13 community-based organizations. Watershed Planning staff also clarified that the CSNA Survey Tool is not a substitute for conducting project-specific community engagement.

7) Public Comment Period

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

Jenny Newman (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board)) commented that the Watershed Plan is a useful tool to solicit and prioritize projects to comply with the regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. Newman expressed that the Los Angeles Water Board does not dictate how a project reaches compliance goals and that permittees can choose the specific compliance method. Newman explained that gray infrastructure and stormwater diversions could be one method of compliance, but other methods exist, such as green streets. Additionally, Newman expressed that both the Central Santa Monica Bay watershed and Ballona Creek watershed in the CSMB Watershed Area would both benefit from projects to reach compliance.

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



Luke Ginger (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC)) shared that the SMBRC passed a resolution in October that supports Watershed Planning for the SCW Program. This resolution and a letter from the governing board chair has been distributed to Co-Chairs Kampalath and Santilena. Ginger offered SMBRC's expertise to the CSMB WASC.

8) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

Public Works staff noted that the next meeting date will be December 3, 2024. The meeting will be hybrid, held in person at Culver City Hall and online via WebEx. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details. Items on the next agenda may include:

- a) Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concept Presentations
- b) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY 2023-24 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

10) Adjournment

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

CSMB WASC Meeting Tentative Look Ahead Schedule

November 12, 2024:

- Watershed Planning Workshop #2

December 3, 2024:

- Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q1 and Q2
- Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concept Presentations
 - Fox Hills Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture
 - Lindberg Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture
 - Hayden Tract Community Greenbelt

January 7, 2025:

- WARPP FY22-23
- Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concept Presentations
 - Western Gage Green Alleys Project
- Scientific Studies (SS) Presentations
 - Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting
 - Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County

February 4, 2025:

- SS Peer Review Summary
- Project Modification Requests for WASC Discussion
- Watershed Coordinators 2024 Highlights

March 4, 2025:

- Watershed Coordinator Proposer Scope of Qualifications Presentation

April 1, 2025:

- SIP Deliberation

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - November 12, 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)	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		a
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Art Castro			Conor Mossavi	x		y
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		y
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 Medina	x					a
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	x		Matthew Magener			y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Sean Singletary	x		Yanni Demitri			y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez						
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto			Blayne Sutton-Wills			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Michelle Barton			Ryan Jackson			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Geremew Amenu	x					y
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)		11
Total Voting Members Present		14				Nay (N)		0
Agency		4				Abstain (A)		3
Community Stakeholder		5				Total		14
Municipal Members		4						Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
November 12, 2024

Anthony Barreras
Armando Nunez-Fausto
Bhetsua Tinoco Lima
Brenda Ponton
Brett Perry
Carlos Rodriguez
Daniel Bradbury
Dee Corhiran

Jenny Chau
John Bodenchak
Lara Awad
Larry Tran
Luke Ginger
Michael Scaduto
Marisol Ibarra
Omar Abdelhadi

Pablo Forni
Pearl Azizian
Ryanna Fossum
Samantha Torres
Sara Mcgaugh
Susie Santilena
Vicki Friesen

Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **November 12, 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>AH</i>
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	<i>CM</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	<i>DF</i>
Community Stakeholder	Rita Kampalath	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	P	<i>RK</i>
Community Stakeholder	Rebecca Ferdman	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	A	
Community Stakeholder	Ion Cretu	PSOMAS / Business Sector	P	<i>IC</i>
Community Stakeholder	Cecilia Mokler	PSOMAS / Business Sector	A	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	P	<i>GM</i>
Community Stakeholder		The Solutions Project / SCOPE	A	
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	<i>BR</i>
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	<i>JD</i>
Municipal Member	Matthew Magener	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	A	
Municipal Member	Sean Singletary	Culver City	P	<i>SS</i>

Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **November 12, 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	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County	P	
Municipal Member		Los Angeles County	A	
Municipal Member	Joshua Carvalho	Santa Monica	P	
Municipal Member	Selim Eren	Santa Monica	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	Heal the Bay	WC	
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	

