

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



Thursday, November 14, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Rd, Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks (Agency)
Brian Baldauf, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
*Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
Jessica Forte, Agoura Hills (Municipal), Chair
Tatiana Holden, Calabasas (Municipal)
*Mayra Martinez, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Aaron Ordower, Los Angeles County SD3 (Municipal)
Kiernan Brtalik, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Committee Members Not Present:

Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community), Chair

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introduction

Jessica Forte, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members 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 Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants joining online.

Member Brian Baldauf made a self-introduction as a new Committee Member, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. Member Bruce Hamamoto joined the meeting virtually with just cause under AB 2449.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2024

Chair Forte presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Andrew Nickerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Jacy Shillan. The WASC voted to approve the October 10, 2024 meeting minutes with 13 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3) Program Updates

Committee Member updates were deferred to the next WASC meeting to provide more time for discussion.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Public Works issued a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for On-Call Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW) Watershed Coordinator Services. The deadline for responses to the RFSQ was extended to Thursday, November 7, 2024.
- 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 took place on November 13 at 1:00pm to 3:30pm. To review meeting details and materials, visit the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The Municipal Program Reporting Module has been updated to streamline the renewal process for the Municipal Transfer Agreements. 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 and 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 that closes November 18, 2024.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Member Shillan and Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts disclosed conversations about the Malibu Lagoon Event occurring virtually in May 2025 via Zoom.

5) Discussion

a) Watershed Planning Workshop #2

i) Watershed Planning Recap – Phase 1

Public Work's Watershed Planning Staff and the Stantec consulting team presented progress on Watershed Planning efforts, including the Watershed Planning Framework and the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA). Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) also provided 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 NSMB WASC Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Antos noted that some ideas generated by the WASC were broader than what will be addressed in the Initial Watershed Plans, however, they may be addressed during Adaptive Management or through other efforts. NSMB WASC members confirmed that the presented summary accurately characterized the first Workshop's discussions, especially in highlighting local, Watershed Area specific issues.

Antos clarified that potable water reuse program ideas were recorded but may not directly be incorporated as those ideas do not fall within the current Watershed Planning scope. Member Susan Nissman suggested implementing pilot potable water reuse programs in small community areas, to which Antos explained that

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such programs may be accomplished through other efforts. However, it is noted that potable water reuse is in initiative of interest to the NSMB WASC.

Chair Forte recommended that the Watershed Planning effort evaluate opportunities to partner with Caltrans since it is also required to contribute to the reduction of stormwater pollution. Chair Forte commented that the cities within the NSMB WASC are well positioned to collaborate with Caltrans considering the proximity of infrastructure within the lower elevations of the Watershed Area. Antos explained that if Caltrans receives credit for load reduction, cities in partnership with Caltrans for those projects cannot also receive credit for that same load reduction.

Chair Forte clarified that Caltrans' stormwater pollution load reduction requirements are different than cities' requirements. Member Kiernan Btralik echoed that a partnership between Caltrans' and cities could be mutually beneficial.

Member Aaron Ordower suggested it could be beneficial for the Watershed Planning effort to explore opportunities for partnerships, which could include development of a pilot project or study, review of best practices with other partnerships, or an assessment of desired outcomes for these partnerships.

Chair Forte proposed a future workshop with Caltrans to discuss collaboration opportunities. Antos noted that Caltrans had recently shared information with Watershed Coordinators. Member Nissman questioned whether cities could handle this partnership independently, specifically Unincorporated Los Angeles County, and Member Bruce Hamamoto confirmed that Los Angeles County Public Works could investigate a potential partnership with Caltrans for Unincorporated County.

Member Nissman inquired about the implications of incorporating historic land use disparities and environmental justice metrics in the NSMB Opportunity Analyses, citing that residents from underserved areas visit and benefit from the NSMB Watershed Area beaches. Member Nissman inquired if this can be acknowledged through the Watershed Planning effort. Member Ordower explained that a recent effort to quantify beach visits found that 75 million beach visitors annually primarily came from inland communities. Member Nissman suggested developing a strategy to recognize projects that benefit underserved communities through recreational enhancements. Antos clarified that the SCW Program mandates that a portion of funding must be allocated to low-income communities if those communities exist within a Watershed Area. The NSMB Watershed Area has no disadvantaged community areas based on the criteria used, so while there is no mandate to spend funding towards those communities, the WASC is still able to prioritize funding to projects that are perceived as providing benefits to disadvantaged communities.

ii) Initial Watershed Plan Framework

Watershed Planning staff gave an overview of the Initial Watershed Plan Framework, preliminary outline of the Initial Watershed Plans, and the related Watershed Planning Tools.

Member Ordower confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that flood risk will be included in future geospatial data analyses. Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff agreed to check whether sea level rise was included in the data analyses and will report back to the NSMB WASC at a future meeting.

Member Nissman expressed concern regarding the potential impact that development would have on the Watershed Area's unique, natural space. Watershed Planning staff responded that the NSMB WASC can assess how much of the overall Program targets could be accomplished within the NSMB Watershed Area by first reviewing existing projects' benefits. In addition, Watershed Planning efforts would not include specific projects but instead provide a framework to inform future decision-making. Watershed Planning

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Staff noted that the Initial Watershed Plans are expected to be delivered to each Watershed Area by June 2025 and provided an overview of the Watershed Area Planning Tool.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff confirmed that there has been engagement with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) about Watershed Planning. Watershed Planning staff explained that the Los Angeles Water Board has been engaged through the ROC Water Quality Working Group.

Committee Members discussed the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Member Hamamoto explained that the last MS4 permit was approved in 2021 and noted that while the typical permit period is for five years, there may be delays in meeting the 2026 timeline. Member Hamamoto confirmed that permittees are required to submit annual compliance reports and enforcement is typically focused on noncompliant permittees, with more flexibility given to permittees who are actively making progress towards compliance.

Member Brtalik confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the targets used in the Watershed Planning Tool will be adjusted as new projects are tracked, as the intent of the Watershed Planning Tool is to aid in the evaluation of how well new project aligns with identified priorities.

Watershed Planning staff presented an update on Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey. Member Nissman confirmed with Antos that respondents can submit multiple survey responses and provide feedback on recreational areas, as well as residential areas.

The WASC recommended engaging with surfing associations to inform them about the CSNA Survey, as surfers represent a large community in the NSMB Watershed Area. Watershed Coordinator Watts responded that past engagement with surfing associations could be improved upon. Member Ordower mentioned the Surfrider Foundation, and Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar suggested that the Black Surfers Association also be included.

Member Ordower commented that because 40% of SCW Program funding is allocated to the Municipal Program, it is valuable to understand how Municipal projects and programs, in addition to the Regional Program projects and programs, contributes to and the achievement of SCW Program goals.

The Committee expressed interest in sharing the CSNA Survey with municipalities and entities within the Watershed Area to promote responses. Antos added that the Watershed Planning effort will benefit the Municipal Program in addition to the Regional Program, and that the Municipal Program was discussed during the October ROC meeting. A presentation summarizing the structure and initiatives of the Municipal Program can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Antos stated that a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page for the CSNA Survey will be posted to the SCW Program website soon, followed by the CSNA Dashboard at a later date. . Antos assured the WASC that there would be oversight of the CSNA Survey responses to ensure the data remained relevant and appropriate.

Watershed Coordinator Watts expressed concern about how to respond to community desires that cannot yet be fully realized. Antos emphasized that while technical expertise in water management is important, community members are often the experts in their own neighborhoods and comments will be reviewed to support the alignment of projects with community needs and priorities.

Member Shillan questioned whether the questions included in the CSNA Survey were too broad. Antos explained that the CSNA Survey was initially developed with guidance from community-based organizations, and the survey responses imported from prior efforts demonstrated that the design of the CSNA Survey generally kept responses on topic.

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6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2024, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Items for the next agenda include:

a) Regional Program Scientific Studies Presentations

Watershed Coordinator Watts confirmed with Public Works staff that the Technical Resources Program application submitted to the NSMB WASC will not be discussed at the December 12 meeting but will be included at a future meeting in 2025.

Committee Members requested that representatives from Los Angeles County come to a future NSMB WASC meeting to provide updates on their projects.

8) Adjournment

Chair Forte thanked the WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

NSMB WASC - November 14, 2024						
		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve October 10, 2024 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Daniel Bradbury		y
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			y
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf	x	Rebecca Correa		a
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones	x	y
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld		Richard Ambrose		
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			absent at vote
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			y
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte	x	Kelly Fisher		y
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x	Melanis Stepanian		y
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed		Mayra Martinez	x	a
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower	x	Rachel Fox		y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik	x			y
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	13
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Other Attendees

Alberto Grajeda
 Alexander Iglesias Rosales
 Allen Ma - LA Co Public Works
 Bruce Hamamoto
 Bryant Alvarado
 Daniel Bradbury
 Elisabeth
 Eric Bonilla
 Jenny Chau
 Joe Bellomo
 Kayla Urbina
 NSMB WASC 1
 NSMB WASC 2
 Rebecca Correa
 Rich Ambrose
 Ruby Cornejo
 Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
 Safe Clean Water LA


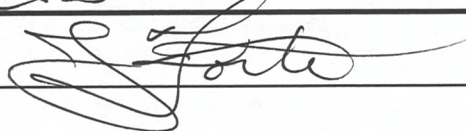

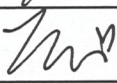

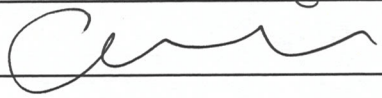
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	<i>B. Baldauf</i>
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	<i>W. Johnson</i>
David Pedersen	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Craig Jones	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Madelyn Glickfeld	Resident	Primary	
Richard Ambrose	Resident	Primary	
Andrew Nickerson	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	<i>Susan Nissman</i>
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	<i>Tevin Schmitt</i>


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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	
Jessica Forte	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	
Tatiana Holden	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	
Mayra Martinez	Hidden Hills	Alternate	
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Rachel Fox	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Primary	
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator	Primary	

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ryanna	Fossum	Stantec	ryanna.fossum@stantec.com