

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



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

Committee Members Present:

*Daniel Bradbury, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Matthew Veeh, 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)
*Maggie Gardner, Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Community)
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)
Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)
*Blayne Sutton-Wills, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica (Municipal)
Angelica Garcia, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Stephanie Gebhardt Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Absent:

Susie Santilena, LA City Sanitation and Environment (Agency), Co-Chair
Zoe Cunliffe, Black Women for Wellness (Community)
Roberto Perez, 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. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2024

Member Josette Descalzo motioned to approve meeting minutes from November 12, 2024, seconded by Member Darryl Ford. The Committee voted to approve the November 12, 2024 minutes, with 9 votes in favor and 3 votes in abstention, and 1 member not present at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

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- Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) Quarterly Report 4, covering April through June 2024, was due on August 15. Project Developers should address comments and resubmit as soon as possible. FY23-24 Annual Report covering July 2023 through June 2024 will be due December 31st, 2024.
- The Mid-Year Report covering July 2024 through December 2024, previously known as the Quarter 1 (Q1) and Q2 Reports, will be due on February 15th, 2025.
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2024, from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. The ROC received a Watershed Planning presentation on Framework, County Water Plan Overview, Implementation Update, and Interconnectivity of Initiatives. To view meeting details and materials, please visit the ROC events webpage.
- The Watershed Planning Team has completed the 2nd WASC Watershed Planning Workshops with all 9 WASCs. The Watershed Planning Workshops have included a presentation of a synthesis of the WASC's priorities from the first Watershed Planning Workshops as a confirmation of WASC Member perspectives and to solicit additional feedback. The Workshops have also included a preview of the Watershed Planning Framework and Initial Watershed Plans. The Watershed Planning Framework has been completed and is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators Angelica Garcia and Stephanie Gebhardt Rath provided updates that can be found on the [SCW Program website](#), highlighting potential collaborations with the Sierra Club, Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, Garden School Foundation, and West Basin Municipal Water District. Watershed Coordinator Rath recently presented at UCLA's "Introduction to Environmental Engineering" class on November 18 and is scheduled to speak at UCLA's Sustainability Talks Session on December 4.

In November, two school greening tours were conducted, leading to ongoing discussions with Santa Monica Unified School District about potential projects at Santa Monica schools. Additionally, preparations are underway for a Community Visioning Workshop with Pacific America Volunteer Association World (PAVA) on December 14, 2024. The Watershed Coordinators have also compiled a contact list for schools in the CSMB Watershed Area for further collaboration.

5) Ex parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Discussion

a. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q1 and Q2

The Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#) and includes information input directly from Project Proponents. Member Maggie Gardner confirmed with Public Works staff that a list of completed projects could be included in future updates of the summary and that the SCW Program's Project Portal is being updated to display completed projects.

Watershed Coordinator Rath confirmed with Public Works staff that a legend or glossary of commonly used terms could be added to meeting materials produced for the WASC about Quarterly Reports. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) clarified that the meeting materials are primarily designed for WASC use and that the SCW Program's Project Portal provides clear access to the Quarterly Reports.

Member Conor Mossavi confirmed with Public Works staff that the start and end dates are based on the most recent information from Project Developers. Public Works suggested Committee Members raise specific concerns with Project Developers. Two projects experiencing delays were flagged for discussion.

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The Beverly Hills Burton Way Green Street and Water Efficient Landscape Project faced delays related to electrical and pump installations due to issues sourcing parts. Member Descalzo noted that these issues have since been resolved, with supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) controls now implemented, bringing the project close to completion.

The Community Gardens Stormwater Capture Project experienced delays last year due to challenges in engaging with garden leadership. Gabriella Gonzalez (Project Proponent) reported that these issues have been resolved and the project is now complete, with all required documentation uploaded to the SCW Program Project Portal.

b. Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concept Presentations

i. Fox Hills Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture

Javier De La Cruz (City of Culver City, Project Developer) and Katie Harrell (CWE, consultant) provided an overview of the proposed project, with presentation slides available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Gloria Medina confirmed with De La Cruz that the project's engagement efforts include communities near Fox Hills Park. Member Medina also inquired whether outreach efforts extended to the adjacent disadvantaged community, to which De La Cruz explained that current outreach focuses on Culver City residents but acknowledged that engagement with both communities could be added during the feasibility study phase.

Member Ford asked whether the TRP would include improvements to the park itself. Harrell clarified that past TRPs have supported surface improvements, and this project would likely do the same.

Member Blayne Sutton-Wills asked whether dry weather flow from the project would be treated by the Ballona Creek TMDL Project or the City's Mesmer Low Flow Diversion (Mesmer) Project. Harrell explained that the Fox Hills Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project area is tributary to Centinela Creek, with the Mesmer Project capturing the dry weather flow for that region. Member Sean Singletary noted that drainage from the Mesmer Project area currently diverts to the sewer. Member Singletary suggested that an upstream solution could capture this flow for reuse on-site while also addressing wet weather components not currently managed.

Co-Chair Kampalath asked how Public Works staff could support early project development given the absence of finalized Watershed Planning Tools. Antos noted that if selected, the concept's Feasibility Study would likely take two to three years to develop, during which Watershed Planning Tools would become available for guidance.

Member Gardner clarified with Public Works that TRP funding includes geotechnical investigations, hydrological studies, and the development of the Feasibility Study for submittal to the Infrastructure Program, and that requirements for a Feasibility Study are listed on the SCW Program website. Antos shared that the TRP can also include outreach, depending on the scope of work, and that the maximum funding amount for TRP projects is \$400,000.

Member Descalzo requested clarification regarding the nature-based solutions being proposed, inquiring which option would be prioritized for assessment. De La Cruz explained that the decision hinges on the geotechnical study, which will provide a clearer understanding of what is feasible.

ii. Lindberg Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture

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The Lindberg Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project was presented by Project Applicants Javier De La Cruz (City of Culver City, Project Developer) and Katie Harrell (CWE, consultant). Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Geremew Amenu confirmed with De La Cruz that about 30% of the site's drainage area is open space that falls within Los Angeles County's jurisdiction. Member Medina clarified with De La Cruz that the open space is not adjacent to Kenneth Hahn Park, but closer to the Inglewood oil fields. Member Medina also clarified with Harrell that the oil fields have specific runoff quality requirements, which are intended to be evaluated during the feasibility study. Member Amenu confirmed with De La Cruz that the project team plans to reach out to the Inglewood oil field owners to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

iii. Hayden Tract Community Greenbelt

The Hayden Tract Community Greenbelt Project was presented by Michael Berns (California Greenworks, Project Developer). Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Sutton-Wills confirmed with Berns that the Hayden Tract Community Greenbelt project area includes disadvantaged communities. Member Descalzo confirmed with Berns that the easement identified in the TRP application is owned by Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). Berns explained that part of the TRP process will include efforts to obtain LACFCD approval and that the project was submitted to LACFCD once already. Member Ford confirmed with Berns that the TRP concept would investigate both sides of Ballona Creek and that the disadvantaged community is located within the Culver City side of the creek. Member Gardner also confirmed with Berns that the project easement is narrow and that the TRP concept plans to include a pedestrian path that widens where possible.

Upon inquiry, Berns explained that Water Supply goals are a priority, but implementation depends on the TRP concept findings, which will explore incorporating adjacent businesses and promoting permeable spaces. Berns explained that the nearby businesses' sites are primarily warehouses, which contribute significant runoff. Member Medina inquired about how the warehouses affect accessibility to the project, and Berns explained that the Los Angeles side of the project would offer more access points than the Culver City side, but that the TRP concept plans to address accessibility gaps.

7) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting date will be January 7, 2025. 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) Scientific Studies (SS) Presentations
- c) Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report FY22-23

9) 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 - December 3, 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)	Vote to approve November 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Marcela Benavides			Daniel Bradbury	x		a
Agency	West Basin Municipal Water District	Matthew Veeh	x		Augustine Han			y
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Art Castro			Conor Mossavi	x		y
Agency	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	<u>Susie Santilena</u>			Hubertus Cox			
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			y
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu	x					y
Community Stakeholder	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	Gloria Medina	x					Not present during vote
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik			Maggie Gardner	x		a
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe			Tianna Shaw-Wakeman			
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Josette Descalzo	x		Matthew Magener			y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Sean Singletary	x		Javier De La Cruz			y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez						
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto			Blayne Sutton-Wills	x		a
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)		9
Total Voting Members Present		13				Nay (N)		0
Agency		4				Abstain (A)		3
Community Stakeholder		4				Total		12
Municipal Members		5						Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
December 3, 2024

Alexander Iglesias Rosales
Alexia Skrbic
Angineh Shahnazarian
Bhetsua Tinoco Lima
Brett Perry
Carlos Rodriguez
Selim Eren
Craig Doberstein
David Washington
Eric Bonilla
Gabriel Zavala Jr

Gabriela Gonzalez
Giselle Ramirez
Haley Johnson
Jason Casanova
Javier De La Cruz
Jenny Chau
John Bodenchak
Josafat Flores
Katie Harrel
Lara Awad
Lauren Amimoto

Luis Perez
Michael Scaduto
Marisol Ibarra
Michael Berns
Michelle Reed
Omar Abdelhadi
Pearl Azizian
Robyn Finely
Samantha Torres

Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: December 3, 2024



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	
Agency	Daniel Bradbury	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 Medina	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	P	
Community Stakeholder		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	

Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: December 3, 2024



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Municipal Member	Javier De La Cruz	Culver City	A	
Municipal Member	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	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County	P	<i>Geremew Amenu</i>
Municipal Member		Los Angeles County	A	
Municipal Member	Joshua Carvalho	Santa Monica	P	<i>Joshua Carvalho</i>
Municipal Member	Selim Eren	Santa Monica	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	Heal the Bay	WC	<i>Stephanie Gebhardt Rath</i>
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	<i>Angelia Jueira (for Vanessa Boudreau)</i>

Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 PUBLIC SIGN-IN: December 3, 2024



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Robyn	Finley	Stantec	
Sean phar	PHAR	LA CITY	
NAOMI DIEP	DIEP	LA CITY	
KEVIN	REILLY	CORVIAS INFRASTRUCTURE	
Katie Marsh	Marsh	Cortech	
Rachel	Miller	Cortech	

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