

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



Wednesday, November 20, 2024
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Tammy Hierlihy, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Margie Hoyt, Resident (Community)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair
Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Stephanie Holst, Torrance (Municipal)
Douglas Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Miller Zou, EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)
Vanessa Hevener, EWMP: Peninsula (Municipal)
Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Attending Virtually

Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Committee Members Not Present

Cathie Santo Domingo, Los Angeles Recreation & Parks (Agency)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Craig Cadwallader, Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and instructions on public comment submissions. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff made self-introductions.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2024

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from October 16, 2024. Vice-Chair Doug Krauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Margie Hoyt. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Committee Member and Program Updates

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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 July 2024, is due December 31. The Mid-Year Report, covering July to December, previously known as Quarter 1 (Q1) and Quarter 2 (Q2) Reports, will be due on February 15, 2025.
- 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.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes shared recent outreach and engagement activities, including participation at the Day of Service at Kuruvungna Springs on November 17 in collaboration with the Gabrielino Tongva Foundation. On November 6, the Watershed Coordinators' Schools and Stormwater Working Group hosted a school site tour at Plymouth Elementary School, sharing successes and challenges of ongoing projects. On October 24, Watershed Coordinator Shrodes attended the Ballona Creek Coordination Meeting held at the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also shared details about the Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) Field Kit, a resource for multi-benefit projects that provides tools for community envisioning, which is available on [ARLA's website](#). Watershed Coordinator Shrodes is also organizing meetings with newer WASC members and preparing for the King Tides Event scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2024.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Discussion

a) Watershed Planning Workshop #2

i. Watershed Planning Recap Phase 1

Public Work's Watershed Planning staff and the Stantec consulting team gave a recap of the SCW Program Planning Workshop 1 and the next steps for Watershed Planning. Key topics included the SCW Program Initial Watershed Plans and Tools and the Initial Watershed Plan Framework. The Initial Watershed Plans will outline needs, strategies, opportunity areas, and gaps, and will be supported by Watershed Area Planning Tools such as a dashboard and Planning Map. The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey was also developed to gather data to guide Watershed Planning efforts. Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) gave an overview of strategies prioritized by the SSMB WASC and progress made since the last Watershed Planning workshop. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Cadwallader highlighted the importance of integrating city-level tree canopy plans and the Los Angeles County's Community Forest Management Plan. Chair Cadwallader emphasized the value of coordination between local and County efforts to ensure cohesive forestry management. Watershed Planning staff acknowledged that the Los Angeles County Community Forest Management Plan is being reviewed to understand opportunities to integrate with Watershed Planning.

Chair Cadwallader also confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that coordination with city-level stormwater efforts is underway and will be incorporated into the Initial Watershed Plans.

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Member Susie Santilena highlighted the importance of including strategies related to capturing water for onsite reuse and irrigation. Member Santilena emphasized the need for agency collaboration, suggesting that Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Regional Water Quality Board, local agencies, and municipalities, who could collaborate on a cohesive and effective approach.

ii. Initial Watershed Plan Framework and Next Steps

Watershed Planning staff provided an overview of the Initial Watershed Plan Framework and next steps. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Planning staff discussed how the Watershed Plan and the Watershed Area Planning tool are intended to be a resource for WASC members during Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberations, allowing projects to be evaluated against strategies and priorities identified in the Watershed Plans. Member Stephanie Holst clarified with Watershed Planning staff that the input used to develop the Initial Watershed Plan Framework was gathered from WASC feedback and external parties during previous Watershed Planning workshops.

Watershed Planning staff highlighted engagement with groups including but not limited to Our Water Los Angeles, the Regional Oversight Committee, and school greening advocacy organizations. These efforts aim to incorporate regional needs and gaps into the Initial Watershed Plan, creating Opportunity Areas for project developers and municipalities to address with future projects. The current baseline of funded projects was reviewed to determine progress toward targets, with unmet needs defining the Watershed Area's priorities.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the Initial Watershed Plan is scheduled for completion in June, and that aligning project submissions with the Initial Watershed Plan will be a multi-year effort due to the development timelines of most projects. Watershed Planning staff explained that making the Initial Watershed Plans available ahead of the next round of project applications will offer guidance to Project Applicants. The Initial Watershed Plans are also expected to serve as a critical resource for WASC members during SIP deliberations. Chair Cadwallader confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the Watershed Area Planning Tool is anticipated to be ready by Spring 2025.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the Watershed Area Planning Tool will be updated as projects are completed to reflect the most current available information.

Upon inquiry, Antos shared that CSNA Survey respondents are asked to provide geographic information about the community feedback. Geolocation data can be used to determine Watershed Area specific responses.

Member Holst confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the CSNA Survey will remain open indefinitely and that the survey will be disseminated by Watershed Coordinators before broader implementation. A demonstration of the CSNA Survey Tool can be shared with relevant parties.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes confirmed that the CSNA Survey will be available at events hosted by the Watershed Coordinators via QR codes and paper surveys, in addition to being distributed through community canvassing efforts. Member Holst expressed concern about reaching a diverse audience, to which Watershed Planning staff responded that after initial feedback is gathered, Watershed Planning staff will adaptively manage and strategize ways to ensure broad distribution.

Member Holst also commented that the CSNA Survey Tool could serve as a useful internal planning resource for the City of Torrance. Watershed Planning staff added that the CSNA Survey Tool could also help build better relationships between communities and project developers by serving as a starting point for engagement.

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Watershed Coordinator Shrodes asked about the topics that are beyond the scope of the Initial Watershed Plan. Watershed Planning staff highlighted that the Watershed Planning Tool could provide valuable insights for potential applicants on topics not currently included in the Watershed Plan. The Watershed Planning tool could also serve as a helpful resource for answering questions that the WASC may have.

Chair Cadwallader expressed excitement about the Watershed Planning effort and is looking forward to the Planning Tools being developed.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility. Items on the upcoming agenda include:

- a) Scientific Studies (SS) Presentations
- b) Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Report FY22-23

9. Adjournment

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

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY MEETING - November 20, 2024

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to approve October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		y
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	x	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Aimee Zhao	x	Asha Kreiling		y
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Dave Pierce		Christopher Lapaz	x	a
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	<u>Craig Cadwallader</u>	x	Mary Simun		y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	x			y
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	x	a
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ryan Jackson		y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Geremew Amenu	x			y
Municipal Members	Torrance	Stephanie Holst	x	Wilson Mendoza		y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	x	Geraldine Trivedi		y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	x	Nick Petrevski		y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	x	David Wahba		y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15
Municipal Members		7			Approved	

Other Attendees

- Aimee Zhao, WRD
- Ashwini Bhide
- Brenda
- Bryant Alvarado
- CJ
- Craig Doberstein
- Curtis Fang
- Eric Bonilla - LA County Public Works
- Jenny Chau
- Jessica
- Lara Awad
- Luis
- Marisela Velasquez - LA County Public Works
- Mark Hall GLAмосquito
- Mark Nguyen
- Mayra Cabrera - LA County Public Works
- Paige Bistromowitz
- Robyn
- Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
- Safe, Clean Water LA - Host
- Samantha Torres - LA County Public Works
- Sara
- Susan Robinson
- Susana Vargas
- Susie Santilena

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	P	<i>MC</i>
Agency	CJ Caluag	LACFCD	A	
Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	P	
Agency	Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	A	
Agency	Aimee Zhao	Water Replenishment District	P	
Agency	Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	A	
Agency	Dave Pierce	LAC Sanitation Districts	P	
Agency	Christopher Lapaz	LAC Sanitation Districts	A	<i>Chris Lapaz</i>
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	P	
Agency	Darryl Ford	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	A	
Community Stakeholder	Margie Hoyt	Resident	P	<i>Margie A. Hoyt</i>
Community Stakeholder	Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	P	<i>Craig Cadwallader</i>
Community Stakeholder	Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	A	
Community Stakeholder	Caroline Orija	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	P	<i>Caroline Orija</i>
Community Stakeholder	Elizabeth Sala	Resident	P	<i>Elizabeth Sala</i>
Community Stakeholder			A	
Municipal Member	Gilbert Marquez	Carson	P	
Municipal Member	Roland Jen	Carson	A	<i>Roland Jen</i>
Municipal Member	Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	P	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Municipal Member	Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County Public Works	P	
Municipal Member		Los Angeles County Public Works	A	
Municipal Member	Stephanie Holst	Torrance	P	
Municipal Member	Wilson Mendoza	Torrance	A	
Municipal Member	Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	P	
Municipal Member	Geraldine Trivedi	EWMP: Beach Cities	A	
Municipal Member	Miller Zou	EWMP: Dominguez	P	
Municipal Member	Nick Petrevski	EWMP: Dominguez	A	
Municipal Member	Vanessa Hevener	EWMP: Peninsula	P	
Municipal Member	David Wahba	EWMP: Peninsula	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay		

