

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, March 12, 2025

1:00pm – 3:30pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, 1st Floor (Courtyard) Conference Rooms A & B

900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803

Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present:

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

Kristine Guerrero, League of Cities

Diana Tang, Long Beach Water Department, Vice-Chair

Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive, Chair

Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles

Charles Trevino, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Mark Gold, Natural Resources Defense Council

Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena

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

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

Committee Members Not Present:

All Committee Members were present.

Meeting Summary:

At the March 12, 2025 Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting, Committee Members received public comments about the 2025 Safe. Clean Water Program Progress Report, hereinafter referred to as 2025 Biennial Progress Report, responding to the following prompts:

Of primary interest to the ROC are the public's answers and insights to the following questions:

- 1. How have you seen the Safe, Clean Water Program achieving its goals in the past two years?*
- 2. How do you hope the Safe, Clean Water Program can improve in the coming two years?*
- 3. What do you feel are the most important improvements over the long term that will help Safe, Clean Water Program be successful and achieve its goals?*

Committee members also received an update from Public Works about ongoing efforts related to workforce development, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity.

Key Action Items:

- Public Works will provide information to the ROC to support a 2025 Biennial Progress Report recommendation about supporting smaller-scale projects within the District, Regional, and Municipal Programs.
- Public Works will provide information to the ROC to support a 2025 Biennial Progress Report recommendation about how the Safe, Clean Water Program might contribute to wildfire recovery and resilience.
- Public Works will develop additional materials and website elements, in multiple languages, to help interested parties and community members better engage with the SCW Program.

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1) Welcome and Attendee Instructions

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

2) Roll Call

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

3) Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose

Chair Faustinos reviewed the agenda and noted the focus on the 2025 Biennial Progress Report, which will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) at the end of the 2025 calendar year. As part of the ROC's oversight role, this report serves as a key opportunity to assess SCW Program implementation, highlight key findings, and provide recommendations on how the SCW Program is progressing towards its goals. Chair Faustinos shared that this meeting is the first in a series of discussions aimed at gathering public input and incorporating community perspectives into the review process.

The ROC also received a presentation on collaboration efforts between Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Public Works to advance the workforce development goals of the SCW Program.

4) *Ex Parte* Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5) Approval of February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Faustinos presented meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Kristine Guerrero motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Diana Mahmud. The ROC voted to approve the February 12, 2025 meeting minutes with 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 in abstention and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

6) Discussion Items

a) Biennial Report Process Review

Public Works staff presented an overview of the 2025 Biennial Progress Report. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Public Works staff provided an overview of the 2025 Biennial Progress Report, outlining its purpose, the ROC's role in its development, key outcomes from the previous report, and expectations for the upcoming submission. The report, which is anticipated to be submitted to the Board by the end of the year, serves as a critical tool for evaluating the SCW Program's implementation and progress. Public Works staff noted that the April ROC meeting will be particularly valuable in reviewing the most meaningful and available data, and will include the development of a new executive summary for the Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Reports.

Member Mahmud confirmed with Public Works staff that the 2025 Biennial Progress Report focuses on reporting from Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, based on information available from Project Developer reporting. The 2025 Biennial Progress Report will also include current and ongoing information from FY 2024-25 related to adaptive management efforts, Watershed Planning, ROC Working Group recommendations, and the recent January 2025 wildfires. The 2023 Biennial Progress Report addressed the Program's first two years (FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22), setting a foundation for future evaluations.

Member Mark Gold inquired about the inclusion of quantitative data in the 2025 Biennial Progress Report, particularly regarding Water Quality performance. Member Gold recommended that a summary of findings from funded Scientific Studies be incorporated to enhance public understanding of the SCW Program's

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progress. Additionally, Member Gold emphasized the importance of presenting performance data, noting that existing Water Quality and Water Supply baselines are documented through County MS4 monitoring reports submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Public Works staff acknowledged the significance of real-time monitoring data and stated that efforts would be made to review data from the limited number of completed projects alongside modeled projections. Public Works staff also highlighted that the April ROC meeting will offer a comprehensive review of available data that can be used to inform the 2025 Biennial Progress Report and could also provide an opportunity to identify any gaps that may need further attention.

7) Biennial Report Session 1 – Public Input Session

a) Special Public Comment Period

The Executive Clerk noted that the Biennial Progress Report expresses the ROC's findings on attainment of the SCW Program's goals and offers recommendations for adaptive management. The Executive Clerk shared that the ROC is seeking public input on the development of the 2025 Biennial Report. Of primary interest are insights to the following three questions: 1) How have you seen the SCW Program achieving its goals the past two years?; 2) How do you hope the SCW Program can improve in the coming two years?; 3) What do you feel are the most important improvements over the long term that will help the SCW Program be successful and achieve its goals?

The Executive Clerk stated that public comment periods were extended from two to five minutes for this meeting. Participants in-person, on the Spanish interpretation line, and call-in users were invited to provide public comment. Four public comment cards were received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting and nine comments were submitted on the day of the meeting. Public comment cards can be found on the SCW Program website.

Maggie Gardner (Our Water Los Angeles Coalition (OWLA)) provided a public comment that reiterated the points of a letter submitted by OWLA alongside the comment card. Gardner emphasized the need for clear metrics and transparent definitions around Community Investment Benefits, Nature-Based Solutions, Disadvantaged Community Benefits, and workforce impacts. Gardner highlighted the importance of prioritizing hardscape removal and increasing green space, particularly in schools and park-poor communities, and called for the full rollout of K-12 education and workforce development initiatives. Additionally, Gardner suggested streamlining project applications for smaller, community-based organizations (CBOs). Gardner also acknowledged positive actions taken by some Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs), such as allocating funding for smaller-scale projects—citing the Lower San Gabriel River WASC's dedicated funding set-aside to enhance equity in project distribution. Gardner also highlighted the grouping of smaller projects, as seen in the SSMB Beach Cities' Green Streets Project. Gardner also highlighted how the North Santa Monica Bay WASC asked specific questions to solicit Scientific Studies to ensure research efforts address key challenges and directly help improve the decision-making processes.

Gardner recommended considering a sunset date for allocated SCW Program funds to minimize unnecessary inflation effects, allowing extensions only with justification. Gardner suggested that Project Modification Requests (PMRs) due to inflation be considered but not guaranteed, with preference given to cost requests that leverage additional funds. Gardner also advocated for allocating a portion of Technical Resources Program (TRP) funds directly to Project Applicants, rather than solely supporting consultants, to assist resource-constrained Applicants developing projects. Gardner expressed concern with the transparency of the Municipal Program and recommended regular reporting to stakeholders to ensure funds are enhancing, not replacing, existing stormwater investments. Additionally, Gardner encouraged creative uses of SCW Program funds to address emerging challenges, such as wildfire response and water quality monitoring, consistency in translation services across all SCW Program committees and platforms, and making sure Public Works has sufficient staffing to efficiently manage the SCW Program.

Kelsey Jessup (The Nature Conservancy, OWLA) provided a public comment endorsing OWLA's submitted comment letter and supporting Gardner's remarks. Jessup emphasized the need for stronger goals, clear metrics, and definitions for Nature-Based Solutions, particularly in prioritizing hardscape removal and

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creating green spaces with native plants to support healthy ecosystems. Jessup highlighted the multiple benefits of nature and stressed that nature should be considered critical infrastructure, prioritized whenever possible. Jessup underscored the importance of accelerating Nature-Based Solutions projects over the next few years and suggested developing stronger metrics to track progress, such as measuring the conversion of impermeable surfaces to permeable ones.

Michael Scaduto (Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)) provided a public comment on how the SCW Program has achieved its goals from a municipal perspective through the City of Los Angeles. Scaduto noted that \$36 million in SCW Program municipal returns have been allocated, funding 24 Capital Improvement Projects and 20 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) staff positions, with an additional eight positions programmed for the next Fiscal Year. LASAN has completed five low-flow diversion projects along the Los Angeles River to ensure dry weather regulatory compliance, with one project currently in construction, one in bid and award, and five in design. Additionally, \$15 million in municipal funds have been allocated to support projects funded by the Regional Program that are experiencing cost escalations. Scaduto highlighted 12 projects in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and CBOs, highlighting the collaboration on Caballero Creek Park with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority as an example of multi-benefit initiatives. Scaduto also referenced the Ballona Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Project, which manages 80% of the watershed and 100% of dry weather flow and sends 23 million gallons per day (MGD) to Hyperion for reuse and 7.3 MGD to Ballona Creek to improve downstream water quality. Scaduto shared that the Project has been ongoing for 22 years and involves collaboration among eight municipalities, with SCW Program Regional Funds serving as the largest financial contributor.

Scaduto also addressed potential improvements to the SCW Program, emphasizing the need for better planning and funding stability across the three Watershed Areas within the City of Los Angeles' jurisdiction—Central Santa Monica, Upper Los Angeles River, and South Santa Monica Bay. Scaduto expressed concerns about the County's approach to future funding projections, stating that potential scenarios—such as those conveyed last year which portrayed all projects returning for O&M funding or the concern over PMRs due to inflation—create uncertainty and discourage funding new project applications. Scaduto suggested implementing a monetary cap where 80% of available funds are allocated, leaving 20% reserved for future needs, inflation adjustments, or new project applications. Scaduto commended efforts in Watershed Planning and expressed optimism about Workforce Development initiatives, noting that LASAN plans to share similar efforts with Public Works staff.

Melissa Bahmanpour (Rivers and Mountains Conservancy) shared a public comment announcing that a Proposition 4 grant application will be available this spring, with awards expected in July. Bahmanpour also highlighted workforce development efforts, noting that Long Beach City College has launched a new climate resilience workforce development program. Bahmanpour will serve as its first director and plans to partner with Los Angeles County, the SCW Program, and other entities to support workforce development, climate resilience, and job placement.

Carmen Duarte (Nature for All) provided a public comment, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and transparency. Duarte expressed concern about the lack of reporting for the FY 2024-25 period and requested clarity on reporting processes. Duarte also called for stronger coordination between District, Regional, and Municipal Program funding to ensure alignment and efficiency. Duarte stressed the importance of collaboration among different geographic areas, such as the San Fernando Valley, and the Cities of Los Angeles, Carson, and Long Beach, to better address community needs. Duarte encouraged the SCW Program to work more closely with local communities to ensure involvement in project planning and implementation, particularly for smaller projects that would have significant local benefits.

Laura Acosta (Nature for All) provided a public comment, highlighting concerns from residents of North Hills, Panorama City, Pacoima, and surrounding areas regarding the lack of SCW Program projects and green spaces in their communities. Acosta urged the ROC to review this issue and support small-scale projects that address localized concerns such as street flooding, rainwater capture, and green space creation. Acosta emphasized that residents have valuable insights into their communities' needs and should

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be included in the project planning and decision-making processes. Acosta also requested that project information be provided in multiple languages to ensure accessibility for multilingual communities.

Sanjuana Zamorati (Nature for All) echoed the need for multilingual accessibility, emphasizing that many community members do not speak fluent English and rely on translated materials to stay informed. As a community ambassador for Nature for All, Zamorati stressed the importance of small-scale projects that benefit entire communities. Zamorati shared personal experiences as a mother, emphasizing the need for educational programs on water conservation and drought awareness, particularly for students who may pursue careers in the field.

Georgina Manzano (Nature for All) reinforced the organization's ongoing support for the SCW Program and its efforts to inform and educate communities in the San Fernando Valley, North Hills, and Panorama City. Manzano urged the ROC to facilitate streamlined funding processes for small-scale projects with high community benefits, such as rainwater capture and green space expansion.

Bruce Reznik (Los Angeles Waterkeeper, OWLA) provided a public comment, emphasizing the importance of hearing from community members and NGOs. Reznik acknowledged the SCW Program's progress in areas such as the Watershed Planning effort and Water Supply Scoring Pilot, but stressed the need for clear definitions, goals, and metrics—particularly for the community-focused aspects of the Program. Reznik commented that there is a lack of clear goals for green space expansion, green schools, and tree canopy coverage, making it difficult to evaluate Program success. Reznik identified existing frameworks, such as the LA County Water Plan Nature-Based Solutions Task Force and Blue-Ribbon Panel and Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles' (ARLA) reports, that could be incorporated into the Biennial Report. Reznik also advocated for a more proactive approach to project selection, ensuring that SCW Program funding supports the most cost-effective and community-driven initiatives.

Ulmira Loza (Nature for All) provided a public comment, representing North Hills, Panorama City, and parts of Van Nuys. Loza emphasized the need for SCW Program projects that directly address community priorities and requested greater involvement from local community members in project planning with an emphasis on green spaces.

Sonia Ferrera (Nature for All) provided a public comment emphasizing the importance of community engagement in project development. Ferrera highlighted that local community members possess deep knowledge of their neighborhoods and should play an integral role in shaping projects to maximize benefits. Ferrera expressed confidence that SCW Program projects, through inclusive collaboration, will be impactful in fostering a more resilient and sustainable future. Ferrera underscored the importance of working together to build a greener, safer, and healthier future for all.

Devon Provo (ARLA) commented that ARLA has a working group to research and provide recommendations regarding SCW Program implementation. Provo suggested that the upcoming Biennial Report should be leveraged as an opportunity to evaluate SCW Program effectiveness and propose improvements. Provo acknowledged the value of large-scale regional investments but cautioned that current climate challenges cannot be addressed with outdated infrastructure. Provo expressed concerns about infrastructure vulnerabilities, noting that Nature-Based Solutions are often overlooked due to perceived complexity and unpredictability, despite the potential to enhance resilience. Provo advocated for integrating climate resilience measures at the neighborhood level and emphasized the benefits of Nature-Based Solutions, including job creation and expanded green space. Provo recommended streamlining the project application process for smaller projects to ensure Program benefits reach local communities. Provo also encouraged exploring opportunities beyond publicly owned lands and expanding workforce development initiatives.

Annelisa Moe (Heal the Bay) expressed support for the OWLA letter, which compiled recommendations for equitable SCW Program implementation. Moe stressed the importance of integrating best practices consistently across the Program to improve transparency, equity, and efficiency in water management. Moe urged the SCW Program to address WASC-specific concerns and suggested allocating a small portion of TRP funding to assist Project Applicants and improve accessibility for smaller CBOs. Moe also called for innovative Municipal Program Funding approaches and advocated for enhanced Water Quality monitoring,

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particularly in the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River watersheds. Moe emphasized the need for robust metrics and monitoring to ensure SCW Program projects deliver the intended benefits. Moe proposed that adaptive management strategies be employed in monitoring, to signal whether projects are meeting Water Quality goals, while also incorporating community engagement in the monitoring process to build public trust.

John Mendoza (Resident, City of Pomona) provided a public comment regarding the outreach process for projects, citing concerns about transparency and community engagement. Mendoza referenced public outreach efforts at for the Fairplex/Ganesha Park Project, noting that these projects appeared to be "shovel-ready" when soliciting public input. Mendoza emphasized the need for early-stage community involvement and stronger checks and balances to ensure municipal accountability. Mendoza commented that City Councilmembers and elected officials in the region often lack clarity on SCW Program provisions. Mendoza raised concerns about the interpretation of Program language, particularly regarding workforce development, and stressed the importance of prioritizing local hiring. Mendoza also expressed concern regarding the lack of follow-up on approved projects and urged greater oversight of Regional Program Project Applications to prevent potential misuse of funds. Mendoza also called attention to the need for environmental oversight in local municipalities, particularly in the context of climate change.

Vice-Chair Faustinos thanked public members for their participation and input.

Member Mahmud responded to OWLA's concerns regarding Municipal Program transparency, acknowledging that Municipal Reports are publicly available online, but the language used is often bureaucratic and perhaps difficult for the general public to understand and glean progress in a meaningful way. Member Mahmud expressed the need for clearer information on how the Municipal Program benefits communities.

Member Mahmud also expressed appreciation for Nature for All's contributions, and suggested that the community members connect with Veronica Padilla Campos from Pacoima Beautiful who is a community representative on the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee, for further collaboration. Member Mahmud also noted that the City of Los Angeles also has representatives on the Upper Los Angeles WASC.

Member Norma Camacho referenced the memo from the February ROC meeting, which summarized the WASC and Scoring Committee findings and recommendations for the 2025 Biennial Progress Report. Member Camacho shared that the memo highlighted the urgency of meeting MS4 compliance deadlines, as well as additional challenges posed by wildfires and flooding.

Member Lauren Ahkiam reiterated the importance of advancing smaller-scale projects alongside larger initiatives, acknowledging efforts to separate project applications by project type (design, construction, and O&M) and recommended separating project applications for smaller projects in a similar manner. Member Ahkiam additionally advocated for the continued development of performance metrics, including measurements related to tree canopy expansion, job creation, and other Community Investment Benefits, and an update on this for the Biennial Report.

Member Charles Trevino, speaking in both English and Spanish, thanked those who provided public comment, and encouraged the public to remain engaged and continue sharing perspectives. Member Trevino emphasized the need for grassroots advocacy and community-driven initiatives to drive meaningful change, and that SCW Program funding exists to support these community enhancement projects.

Vice-Chair Diana Tang echoed discussions regarding the pace of Program implementation, expressing optimism that the ROC is on the right trajectory in advancing climate resiliency. Vice-Chair Tang expressed the need for adaptive management strategies to keep pace with climate change challenges, noting that small projects can have significant impacts. Vice-Chair Tang additionally underscored the importance of community education through tangible, localized experiences, such as having a smaller-scale project in a neighborhood.

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Member Maria Mehranian addressed the complexities of cost escalation and timelines, highlighting the need to base decisions on scientific data while also refining the Program's approach to community engagement. Member Mehranian suggested developing a standardized model to evaluate Water Quality, Water Supply, and other project impacts. Member Mehranian emphasized the importance of Watershed Area specific needs assessments to ensure projects align with local conditions. Member Mehranian also highlighted the recent wildfires' impact on Water Quality and further stressed the need for data-driven policy decisions.

Member Carl Blum commented that only a small number of municipalities have participated in SCW Program discussions and expressed the need for broader city engagement to ensure Program effectiveness. Member Blum expressed the need for broader city engagement to ensure Program effectiveness. Chair Faustinos reaffirmed the role of Watershed Coordinators in connecting with communities and facilitating outreach efforts.

Member Barbara Romero reflected on the progress made since the very first ROC meeting, acknowledging the shifts in SCW Program priorities. Member Romero commented that initially, project selection focused on maximizing Water Quality and Water Supply Benefits, but the Program has now reached a stage where metrics and community enhancements require further priority. Member Romero elevated the need for clearer definitions of key program components, such as the definition for Disadvantaged Community Benefits. Member Romero supported continued collaboration with Nature for All and other stakeholders to enhance community participation. Member Romero also commented on the need for cities to be more actively engaged in all aspects of the SCW Program, beyond the project-funding stages.

8) Discussion Items (continued):

a) Workforce Development

Public Works staff provided a presentation on ongoing Workforce Development Program efforts, highlighting collaboration with the Stormwater Maintenance Division, who supports the maintenance and ensures the performance of stormwater projects. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Vice-Chair Tang mentioned that Long Beach Utilities and Long Beach City College are engaged in a similar effort, receiving a \$1 million grant from California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the development of climate resilience workforces. Vice-Chair Tang suggested that the SCW Workforce Development Program could be a valuable addition. Vice-Chair Tang shared that Long Beach Utilities is partnering with California Department of Water Resources and Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), as well as exploring partnerships with trade colleges based on need, proximity, and available resources. Public Works staff clarified that no specific colleges have been selected yet.

Member Ahkiam highlighted the importance of integrating certification programs into O&M funding requirements, ensuring a direct link between Workforce Development programs with O&M projects. Ahkiam also expressed enthusiasm for the Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment (PLACE) program, which intends to connect workforce initiatives with Los Angeles County O&M roles. Smaller cities, which may lack their own maintenance crews, could benefit from contracting with Los Angeles County for O&M services. Additionally, apprenticeship readiness programs such as Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) through the building trades could play a key role in project construction. Member Ahkiam also emphasized the need to address holistic workforce barriers, such as childcare and transit access.

Member Mahmud stressed the importance of publicizing these workforce development opportunities to secondary schools and juvenile halls.

Member Camacho asked Public Works staff whether there had been any efforts to capture the expertise of recently laid-off federal employees and redirect those skills to areas of need within the SCW Program.

9) Voting Items:

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There were no voting items.

10) ROC Member Updates

There were no ROC member updates.

11) Program Administrator Updates

Public Works staff provided updates on the SCW Program.

- ROC Working Groups are scheduled to reconvene and discuss post-fire recovery. The ROC Water Quality Working Group will meet on March 19 and the Community Invest Benefits and Benefit Ratios Working Group will meet on March 24. Watershed Planning sessions with WASCs will also be planned.
- The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment [Survey](#) and [Dashboard](#) is now posted live online.
- WASCs are undergoing Stormwater Investment Program (SIP) deliberations. The SIPs will soon come to the ROC, with published SIP Programming Guidelines to assist.
- Awardees have been announced for the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program.
- The deadline for Mid-Year Reports was extended to February 28.
- Public Works is actively supporting fire recovery efforts, from debris removal to water quality containment efforts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is removing burned debris, with Public Works hauling anticipated to be completed by May. WASCs are already considering short-term recovery opportunities within SIPs, and Watershed Coordinators have been actively supporting outreach and resource sharing. Municipalities and Project Developers are encouraged to conduct Water Quality assessments in affected areas, and Scientific Studies could help facilitate efforts. Watershed Planning will incorporate fire recovery considerations, and the County Water Plan's four task forces are all engaged in implementing fire recovery strategies.

County Counsel representative Tiffani Shin provided answers to questions raised by the ROC during the February ROC meeting regarding SCW Program funding flexibility. Shin clarified that Regional Program Funding must be allocated proportionally across the nine Watershed Areas, with no flexibility for reallocation. Shin also noted that borrowing between Watershed Areas is not explicitly prohibited nor explicitly authorized. Shin shared that bonding against future revenue is possible under specific conditions outlined, if funds are used for SCW Program eligible efforts. However, challenges exist, including unpredictable revenue and procedural limitations within the SIP framework, which does not currently allow multi-year commitments.

Member Mahmud requested that the awardees of the Public Education and Community Engagement Grant Program be posted online. Member Mahmud additionally expressed concern about Project Developers failing to submit required SCW Program reports on time and suggested exploring options to amend the SCW Program Ordinance to enforce timely reporting.

Member Camacho urged Public Works staff to act swiftly in fire-affected areas, emphasizing the importance of preserving areas for green spaces and natural buffers to prevent recurring issues. Member Camacho noted that properties in fire-affected areas have recently entered the real estate market, raising concerns about potential redevelopment that may not prioritize resilience or watershed protection.

12) Items for Next Agenda / 6-Month Look Ahead

Public Works staff shared a six-month look-ahead. Presentation slides can be found on the SCW Program website.

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Public Works staff noted that the ROC meeting in April will focus on data review, Municipal and Regional Program Reporting, and audit updates.

13) Meeting Adjourned

Chair Faustinos thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:36PM.

Display Name	Role	Session Name
390000	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Aaron Ordower	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Adi E. Liberman	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Alexander Iglesias Rosales	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Alexia	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Alonso CWH	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Amanda	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Amos Lee	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Amos Lee	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Andrew Kim	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Annelisa Moe she/her	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Anthony Barreras	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Bridget	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Bryan	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Call-in User_3	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Carlos Moran- ULAR Watershed	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Carlos Rodriguez	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Conor Mossavi	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Craig	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Daniel B	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Darin Seegmiller	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Dawn Petschauer	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Dee Corhiran	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Diana Mahmud	panelist	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Don C. Moss	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Donna	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Donna Bautista	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Drew Ready CWH	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Dustin Bambic	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Emily Ng	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Enrique Perez	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Eric Bonilla	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Fernando Villauna	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
G. Mora	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Genevieve Osmena	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Geraldine Trivedi	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Guest	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee

Guest	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Haley Lawton	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Haris Harouny	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Hayat Rasul	panelist	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jackson Guze	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
James Cortes	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jason Casanova, CWH	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jason Casanova, CWH	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jason Casanova, CWH	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jeannette Spanish Interpreter	panelist	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jenny Chau	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jeremy McGranahan	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jeremy McGranahan	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Joe Venzon - LA County	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Johanna Chang	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
John Garside	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
John Garside	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
JonPaul Sarro	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jose Castro	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Jose Castro -LACPW	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Joshua Nelson City of Industry	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Justin Jones - LACPW	host	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Kelly	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Kerry Quinlan	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Kristina Kreter	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
LFJ	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
LIA	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Larry Tran - PW	panelist	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Lauren Ahkiam	panelist	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Lidia Rivera	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Luis Perez SCWP	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Luke Ginger	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Marisela Velasquez	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Mark Lombos	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Mark Nguyen	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Mathew Hudson	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Max Bracey	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Mei-Lin Hanna JLHA	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Mei-Lin Hanna JLHA	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Melania G.	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Melanie Hu - LACPW	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Melissa Turcotte	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Mike Antos	panelist	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Nancy Shrodes she/her	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee

OLIVER CRAMER	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Paige Bistromowitz	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Paul Hartman	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Paul Mead	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Paul Shadmani	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
ROC Room Monitor	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
ROC Room Monitor	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Rebecca Kaliff	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Richard Watson	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
River Nguyen	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
River Nguyen	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Rochelle Paras Wilson	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Ruby Cornejo	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
SCWP Co-Host	coHost	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
SCWP Host	coHost	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
SCWP ROC	coHost	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Safe Clean Water LA	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Sara	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Sarina	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Sofia Cardenas	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Stephany Calvillo	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Susie Santilena	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Thuan Nguyen	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Thuan Nguyen	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Tiffani Shin	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Ty Anderson	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
VERONICA A CARRILLO	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Vanessa	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Wataru Kumagai	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
Yao Kouwonou	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
cherise thompson	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee
jqv	attendee	SCWP Regional Oversight Committee

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER SIGN-IN

DO NOT REMOVE



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Voting Members			
Barbara Romero	City of Los Angeles		Barbara Romero
Belinda Faustinos	Nature For All		Belinda Faustinos
Charles Trevino	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD		Charles Trevino
Diana Tang	City of Long Beach		Diana Tang
Mark Gold	NRDC		Mark Gold
Diana Mahmud	Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena		Diana Mahmud
Kristine Guerrero	League of Cities		Kristine Guerrero
Lauren Ahkiam	LAANE		Lauren Ahkiam
Maria Mehranian	Cordoba / Former RWQCB Chair		Maria Mehranian
Non-Voting Members			
Carl Blum	Flood Control District		Carl Blum
Norma Camacho	LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair		Norma Camacho

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN

PUBLIC COPY, DO NOT REMOVE



SAFE
CLEAN
WATER

First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Michael	Sealro	City of LA	
Maggie	Gardner	LA Waterkeeper	
Juan	Diaz Carreras	Black & Votch	
Melissa	Rahmannour	RMC / Long Beach City Coll	
Brill	Ruiz	AM	
STEVE	MENDORA	RMC	
Alejandra	Corona	North Hill	
Estela	Romero	Nature for all	
Humberto	Romero	Nature for all	
Lidia	Aguilar	Nature for All	
Sanyana T	Zamora Tapia	Nature for All	
Laura Acosta		Nature For All	
Georgina Marzono		Nature For All	
Carmen Duarte	Duarte	Nature for all	
Sofia	Ferreira	Nature for ALL	
Ulmira Loza	Loza	Nature For all	

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

PUBLIC COPY, DO NOT REMOVE



Public Comment Form

Name*: Michael Scaduto Organization*: City of LA
Email*: Michael.Scaduto@cityofla.org Phone*: (813) 485-3981
Meeting: SCW Roc Date: 3/12/25

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

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Comments

Public comment - 5 min.



Public Comment Form

RMC

Name:*

Melissa Bahmanpour

Organization*:

Rivers + Mountains Conservancy

Email*:

mbahmanpour@rivers-mtains.org

Phone*:

323-494-6497

Meeting:

RMC

Date:

03/12/2015

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Comments

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org



Public Comment Form

Name*: Carmen Duarte Organization*: Nature for all
Email*: Carmenmonduar7@gmail.com Phone*: (424) 222-3112
Meeting: ROC Date: 3/12/25

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Comments



Public Comment Form

Name*: Laura Acosta Organization*: Nature For All
Email*: acostagarcia56@gmail.com Phone*: 8187200-7820
Meeting: ROC Date: 3/12/2025

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Comments

Buenas Tardes miembros del Comité y asistentes en general, yo soy Laura Acosta soy promotora, embajadora de Naturaleza para Todos,



Public Comment Form

Name*: Sanjana Zamora T. Organization*: Nature For All
Email*: sanjanazamorat@icloud.com Phone*: 424 757 8969
Meeting: ROC Date: March -

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Comments



Public Comment Form

Name:* Georgina Mantano

Organization*: Nature For All

Email*: Imail51@gmail.com

Phone*: (818) 640-5183

Meeting: POC

Date: 3/12/25

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Comments



Public Comment Form

Name*: Bruce Reznick

Organization*: LA Waterkeeper

Email*: bruce@lanwaterkeeper.org

Phone*: 619-851-9947

Meeting: SLWP ROC

Date: 3/12/25

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Comments

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Public Comment Form

Name*: Ulmira Loza Organization*: Naturaleza Para Todos
Email*: Ulmira loza @ Yahoo.com Phone*: 818 961 5184
Meeting: ROC Date: 03/12/25

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Comments

Gracias por la oportunidad de traer
la voz de mi comunidad North Hills
Pacoima



Public Comment Form

Name*: Sonia Ferreira

Organization*: Natural for ALL

Email*: esparta

Phone*: 818-390-3887

Meeting: ROC

Date: 3-12-2025

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Comments

Buenos días de Supervisión Regional.
Miembros del comité ROC

Me gustaría expresar algunas recomendaciones para mejorar esfuerzos, con los beneficios de la medida w. y también que sepan el gran compromiso de la Organización Naturaleza para todos, siendo un gran apoyo a esta medida, alentando a la comunidad, educando, involucrándola sobre los beneficios y los proyectos de la medida w. Sin embargo hay comunidades en el valle de San Fernando que preguntan y esperan tengan encuesta. y consideren facilitar el patrocinio de proyectos pequeños pero con beneficios. Múltiples como la captura de aguas lluvias, nuestros parques que son fundamentales para nuestros niños, con esto contribuyen a una mejor calidad de vida para nuestras familias y comunidades densamente pobladas enverdeciendo nuestra comunidad daremos armonía, paz para nuestras familias y nuestros niños también la Organización ayuda para que las comunidades estén involucradas en los proyectos de la medida w y garantizar q sean realmente útiles y respondan a las necesidades de la comunidad que todos tengan acceso a la comunidad sin importar su idioma. apoyamos plenamente Nuestra Agua LA. y Pedimos tomen encuesta nuestras sugerencias al invertir en estas áreas no solo mejorando la calidad de vida

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org



Public Comment Form

Name*: Gina Hakim Organization*: N/A

Email*: _____ Phone*: _____

Meeting: _____ Date: 3/12/2025

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Comments

Good afternoon.

I'm a Doctoral student at UC Irvine where I study how immigrant communities interact with water infrastructure in their local communities. To inform my work, I maintain updated on SCWP developments, and I'd like to say a few things. First, the SCWP is spending significant amount of time, resources, and funding to develop a path for the program—however, I do not see this path being implemented. Second, I would like to see the vast experience of ROC committee members offer more specific direction for projects, whether infrastructure projects or scientific studies. It's unclear to me what the role of Regional Coordination is vis-à-vis the ROC in providing leadership for the program. Finally, as a resident of the San Gabriel Valley, I would like to see how this program will adapt some of its approaches to infrastructure project in response to the recent fires.

Thank you for your time.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Maggie Gardner Organization*: OurWaterLA Coalition
Email*: maggie@lawaterkeeper.org Phone*: (310) 651-3360
Meeting: ROC Date: 3/12/2025

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Comments

Please see attached letter



Date: March 12, 2025

To: Regional Oversight Committee

From: OWLA Core Team (Heal the Bay, LAANE, LA Waterkeeper, Nature for All, Pacoima Beautiful, The Nature Conservancy and TreePeople)

RE: 2025 Biennial Review Public Input

On behalf of the OurWaterLA (OWLA) coalition, the undersigned strongly urge the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to consider the following recommendations in their preparation of the biennial SCWP Progress Report.

As we enter into another biennial review of the Safe Clean Water Program, the OurWaterLA Coalition has distilled our top priorities below. With the biennial review, the ongoing watershed planning process, and the planned release of updated guidance and definitions later this year, there are ample opportunities to ensure these priorities are addressed.

Top Priorities

1. Adopt more **metrics and transparent definitions** around Community Investment Benefits, Community Engagement and Support, Nature-Based Solutions, Disadvantaged Community Benefits, and Workforce Impact/PLA Compliance.
2. Take all steps to **prioritize hardscape removal**, and creation of NEW green space that uses native vegetation—especially at schools and park-poor communities.
3. Roll out the programs that are promised like **K-12 and workforce development**
4. Investigate ways to **streamline applications for smaller, more community-based projects**

Recommendations for the Regional, Municipal, and District Programs

OWLA is pleased to offer insights on best management practices for the SCWP. As the upcoming Biennial Review Process approaches, we respectfully urge the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to consider the following recommendations. These practices have been implemented or discussed by various committees, and many have already demonstrated success. By integrating these proven methods more uniformly across the program, SCWP can significantly enhance transparency, equity, and efficiency in water management throughout Los Angeles County. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these recommendations.

Recommendations for the Regional Program:

- **Allocating Funding for Smaller-Scale Projects:** WASCs should set aside dedicated funding to support smaller-scale projects that provide localized benefits, encourage community engagement, and enhance equity in project distribution. This has been implemented successfully by the Lower San Gabriel River WASC.
- **Funding for Groupings of Smaller Projects:** We encourage broader adoption of funding approaches that support multiple green street projects within a watershed area, maximizing water quality benefits and leveraging economies of scale. A collection of Green Streets was approved for funding as one project in the South Santa Monica Bay WASC.
- **Encouraging Scientific Studies to Address WASC-Specific Questions:** WASCs should identify key questions that need scientific studies to provide necessary insights, ensuring that research efforts are directed toward addressing specific challenges and improving decision-making processes. This has been implemented successfully by the North Santa Monica Bay WASC.
- **Consideration of a Sunset Date for Allocated SCWP Funds:** To mitigate unnecessary inflation increases, WASCs should establish reasonable sunset dates for allocated funds, with an option to approve extensions, only with proven justification from the project proponent for the requested extension. While additional funding requests due to inflation or project modifications should be considered, they should not be guaranteed. A preference for additional funds should be given to projects that pursue additional cost-sharing mechanisms to enhance financial sustainability. This has come up in multiple WASC meetings, in response to recent Project Modification Requests.
- **Allocating a Small Percentage of Technical Resources Program (TRP) Funds to Project Applicants:** While the majority of TRP funds rightfully support consultants, a small percentage should be allocated to project applicants who play an integral role in project development and engagement. Project proponents have expressed that this would improve program accessibility.

Recommendations for the Municipal Program:

- **Enhancing Transparency in Municipal Fund Expenditures:** We recommend that the allocation and use of municipal SCWP funds be transparently reported to stakeholders, and there should be an assessment to ensure SCWP funds are being used to enhance (and not simply replace) previous stormwater investments. A detailed breakdown of expenditures and outcomes will enable public oversight and promote accountability in municipal spending decisions.
- **Encouraging More Creative Uses of Municipal SCWP Funds:** Municipal SCWP funds should also be used more creatively to address emerging challenges, such as funding fire response water quality monitoring, to ensure communities have the necessary data to protect public and environmental health.

Recommendations for the District Program:

- **Ensuring Sufficient Staffing to Effectively Run the SCWP:** Adequate staffing is essential for the efficient administration of the SCWP. We recommend evaluating current staffing levels and ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to effectively manage program implementation, stakeholder engagement, and oversight responsibilities.
- **Ensuring Consistency in Translation Services:** The Scoring Committee, ROC, and Upper Los Angeles River WASC have set strong precedents in providing consistent translation services. To ensure accessibility for all stakeholders, we recommend expanding these services and improving transparency. The ongoing community needs assessment could help determine which WASCs require consistent translation services. Additionally, the SCWP website should more clearly communicate the availability of translation services to encourage broader participation.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the Safe Clean Water Program to ensure a better water future for the region.

Sincerely,

The OurWaterLA Coalition

OurWaterLA is a diverse coalition of community leaders and organizations from across Los Angeles County united to create a strong water future for Los Angeles. Our goal is to secure clean, safe, affordable and reliable water for drinking, recreation and commerce now and for the future. We have a deep commitment to uphold the trust that voters had in us when passing this measure and that projects which achieve Safe Clean Water Program objectives of water quality, water supply, nature-based solutions and community investments are prioritized.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Ashley Mercado Organization*: Resident- Glendora
Email*: ashleyvmercado@gmail.com Phone*: 626-519-7787
Meeting: ROC. 3/12/25 Date: 3/11/2025

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

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Comments

To the Regional Oversight Committee.

In response to the question asked about the SCWP, I'd like to share the following thoughts.

I would like to see SCWP work with cities and landowners to address the vast amounts of concrete in parking lots in both public and private properties. During rain, parking lots often flood and in the summer they enhance the heat island effect. I live in the SGV and there are many, many parking lots that are in need of improvements.

I have seen several parks be improved (or are in the process of being improved). This is a positive development. For some other communities, however, there needs to be greater efforts at identifying new park locations. New large parks won't be possible but small unused lots would be locations to explore (like mini local parks for neighborhoods). These can help advance water capture and quality goals of SCWP and are a great resource for green space.

There has been a lot of good education and outreach by the SCWP. I have seen booths in several community events in Pomona and other cities in the east SGV. This should continue and to ensure residents are learning about SCWP.



Public Comment Form

Name*: Kelsey Jessup Organization*: The Nature Conservancy
Email*: kelsey.jessup@tnc.org Phone*: 650-248-8878
Meeting: SCWP Regional Oversight Committee Date: 3/11/2025

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Comments

As a member of the OurWaterLA Coalition and on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in California, I endorse the comment letter submitted by OWLA in response to the biennial review.

I want to specifically highlight the need to have stronger goals and clearer metrics and definitions around nature-based solutions. A top priority for OWLA has been and continues to be prioritization of hardscape removal, and creation of green space. We know that nature provides multiple benefits to people and wildlife and is critical infrastructure. We should treat it that way. Tracking the conversion of impermeable to permeable surfaces is an important metric to show success of the SCWP toward many of the identified goals.

Regional Oversight Committee - March 12, 2025

	Quorum Present		
Member Type	Member	Present?	Approve the February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Voting Member	Maria Mehranian	X	Y
Voting Member	Barbara Romero	X	Y
Voting Member	Diana Tang	X	a
Voting Member	Kristine Guerrero	X	Y1
Voting Member	Belinda Faustinos	X	Y
Voting Member	Lauren Ahkiam	X	Y
Voting Member	Charles Trevino	X	Y
Voting Member	Mark Gold	X	Y
Voting Member	Diana Mahmud	X	Y2
Non-Voting Member	Carl Blum	X	
Non-Voting Member	Norma Camacho	X	
Total Non-Vacant Seats	9	Yay (Y)	6
Total Voting Members Present	9	Nay (N)	0
		Abstain (A)	1
		Total	7
			Approved