



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Report October 2024 – February 2025

Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator
February 13, 2025

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County



January 11, 2025

AGOURA



"Malibu, he said, is a place that “no matter what, goes back to its wildness. They can build those big ol’ houses and do whatever they want. But they’ll never be able to tame Malibu. It turns out we are all just renters here.”

From Malibu resident Bill Stange
via an article by Jaimes Rainey in the Los Angeles Times

An aerial photograph of a clear, shallow body of water, likely a coastal area. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the seabed is visible through the transparent surface. Numerous dark, rounded rocks are scattered across the bottom, creating a textured appearance. The water's surface is covered in fine, concentric ripples, giving it a shimmering, dynamic look. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, which enhances the clarity and color of the water.

Measure W: The Safe Clean Water Program
provides local, dedicated funding to increase our
local water supply, improve water quality, and
protect public health.

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County



**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT,
VIA SAN DIEGO**

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians + Gabriëño-Tongva at UCLA



Tribal Governance in Los Angeles:

A workshop to strengthen Government-to-Government relations

Local Stakeholder Education

Plymouth Elementary School Stormwater Tour:

**Claire Robinson
and
Amigo de Los Rios
November 7, 2024**



Photo by
Watts

Going to School

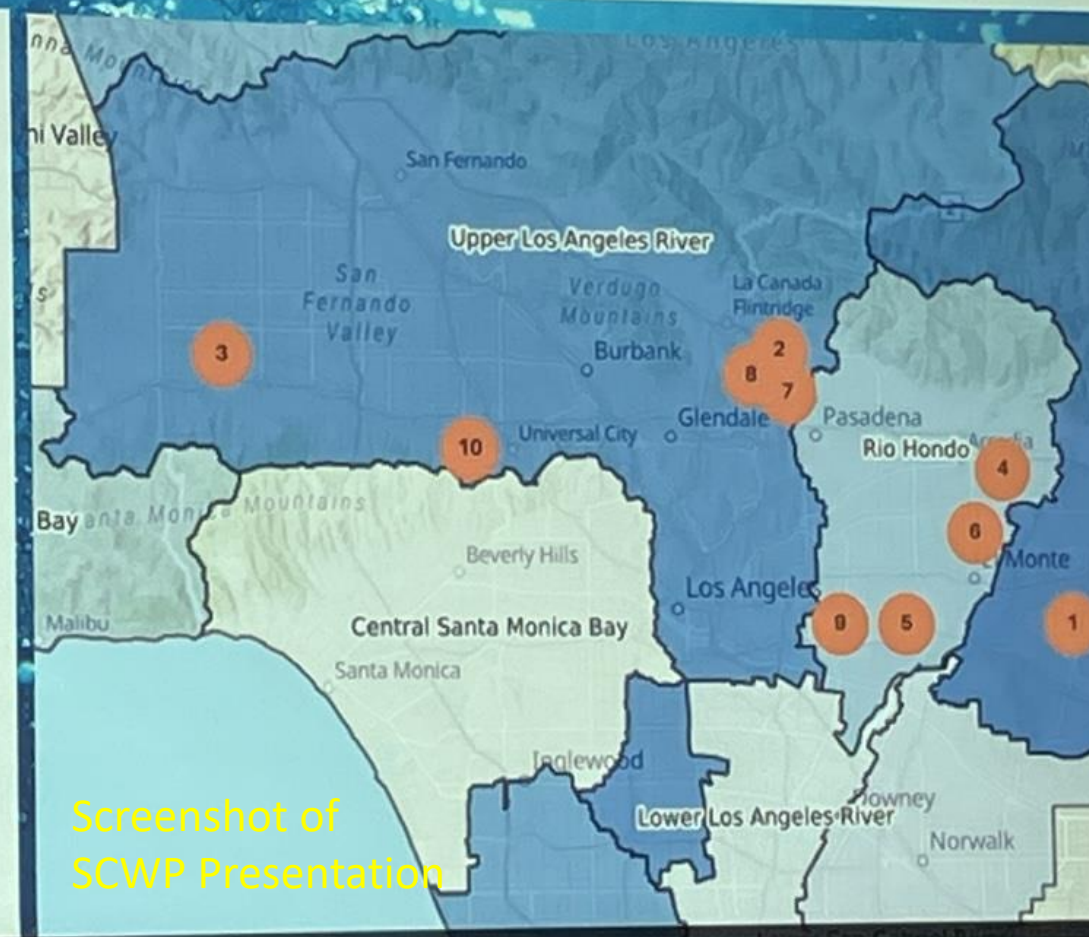
Reached out to
High School
principals at...

- Agoura Hills
- Calabasas
- Malibu
- Viewpoint School

Hoping to share
the basics
about
water supply
and
invite students
to lead the way!

SCWP FUNDED SCHOOL GREENING PROJECTS 2020-2024

- 1) Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi Benefit Project.
- 2) Pasadena Unified School District Campus Green Infrastructure Development Project. Feasibility study for four campuses.
- 3) Los Angeles Pierce College Northeast Stormwater Capture & Use and Biofiltration Project
- 1) Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project
- 5) South El Monte High School
- 6) El Monte Norwood Elementary School Stormwater Capture Project
- 7) Emerald Necklace John Muir High School Campus Natural Infrastructure Improvement Project
- 8) Jackson Elementary School Campus Greening and Stormwater Improvement Project
- 9) East LA College Northeast Drainage Area and City of Monterey Park Biofiltration Project
- 10) LAUSD Living Schoolyards Program Pilot Study



Screenshot of
SCWP Presentation



William Higgins Photographs
Topanga Creek for Viewridge Estates Project Outreach Effort

Photo by
William Higgins

We are a full service design-build collaborative, executing projects from concept through construction. We work across scales, from residential to public and commercial projects to create resilient, nature-based landscapes of lasting significance that will serve generations to come.

Screenshot by Watts



Regina Hirsch, Watershed Progressive Offers to Facilitate Watershed Planning Event for NSMB WASC

L.A. County Watershed Planning is well underway.

Do NSMB WASC stakeholders want to pursue this opportunity?

If so, when?

Gretchen E. Hayes,
Environmental Planning
and Program
Management
Community /
Watershed Facilitator,

Napa River Restoration
Project at
Rutherford Reach,
Rutherford Dust Society
+ Napa River RCD





**Cost Share Partners
Contacted**

Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III

To explore best option
fish-friendly design,
helped Calabasas City
staff meet with,

- Jamie King, RCDSMM
- Jessica Hall, Wildling Design
- Kyle Evans, California
Department of
Fish and Wildlife



Photo by
Watts

Lake Lindero

Exploring how to help,
Agoura Hills City
Lake Lindero HOA
Lake Lindero Golf Course

And...water quality

Exploring funding options
Potential partners

Photo by Hal Siegel





Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued



Anand Maganti, CALTRANS spoke to all the watershed coordinators about projects co-funded via CALTRANS partnership program and discussed how to pursue project possibilities.

\$300 million dollars worth of stormwater projects in L.A. County so far...

So, City of Calabasas met with them to discuss how this works.

Additional Co-funding Efforts...

- **RCDSMM Applying for SCWP Community Engagement and Education Fund for Watershed Education K-12**
- **Floating the idea of a prebate (coupon) rather than a rebate to make funding garden do-overs more reasonable for low or medium income people**
- **Provided support for City of Agoura Hills in starting the process to reach out to get SCWP Funding Agreement set up**



**Direct Person-by-Person Funding =
Direct Climate Change Improvements**

**Low to moderate income folks
can get a stipend for \$2K for an ebike.**

See: <https://ebikeincentives.org/>

***Could this approach apply to small
Water Quality projects?***

Small Local Water Supply projects?



Potential Projects

Scientific Study Requests

L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board asked for,

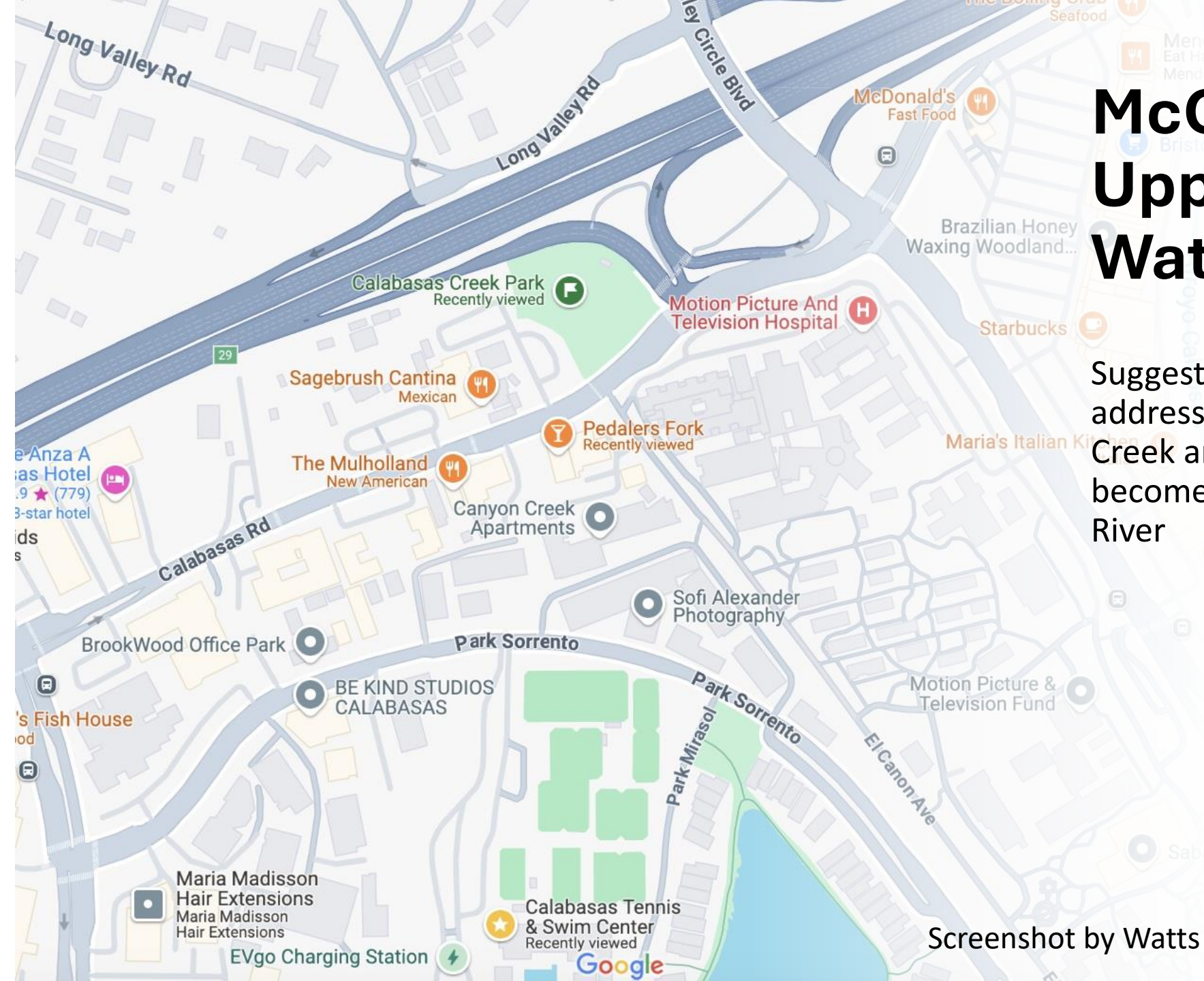
Help acquiring data on water quality at the beaches impacted by the Palisades Fire to build on the Malibu monitoring data base

Madelyn Glickfeld suggests,

Research to build on the Malibu monitoring data base

McCoy Creek in Upper L.A. River Watershed

Suggesting a TRP application to address Calabastas Lake and McCoy Creek and under road to where it becomes a tributary to the L.A. River



Screenshot by Watts

**Austin Toyoma, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District
and Claire Robinson, Amigo de los Rios,
Stephanie Gebhardt, Vanessa Boudrea + MSW
Consider the Possibilities...
Webster Elementary in Malibu,
2 Title 1 Schools in Santa Monica**



Photo by Watts



Ongoing Projects



Westlake MS4 Compliance Project - Kick-Off Meeting with Technical Advisory Team



Community Priorities

CALTRANS. Topanga. The Long View.

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SR-27 in Topanga Canyon Opened June 2, Months Ahead of Schedule

ADVISORY: Continuing emergency repairs will require one-lane closure with flaggers directing alternating traffic during off-peak hours at postmile 1.8 on SR-27. Schedule is to be determined. Check [Quickmap.dot.ca.gov](https://www.quickmap.dot.ca.gov) for real-time road conditions.

State Route 27 Landslide Recovery Plan

Screenshot by Watts

And, reiterating a thank you to Karl Price, CALTRANS for sharing the e PSR-PDS for the Topanga Narrows project on behalf of SD3.



Photo by Watts

Relevant **pre-fire** Conversation: Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project + SCWP

Met with project proponents from California Department of State Parks, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Susan Nissman and SD3.

Short analysis of meeting: **great project but scale of financial need exponentially exceeds capacity of SCWP funding available.**

Perhaps a letter of support from the NSMB WASC would be a contribution towards supporting state or federal funding asks?



**Rosi Dagit and Dozens of Volunteers Rescue Tidewater Goby + Southern Steelhead Trout
After Palisades Fire, Fish at Heal the Bay, LB Aquarium, Edison School and Fillmore Fishery;
Resident Topanga Creek southern steelhead now in Santa Barbara Watersheds**

Photo by California Department of Fish and Games



**Integrate Priorities Through
Partnerships and Extensive Networks**

- **Attended Community Powered-Infrastructure Justice: A Multi-Benefit Infrastructure Project Showcase**
- **Trying to connect to Beth Koigi from Majik Water Nigeria to invite her to talk about technology that captures water in the air.**
- **Helped (former Heal the Bay Stream Team member and nature photographer) Tom Galassi connect with leaders in water thoughtful gardening for him to pursue landscaping career**
- **Reached out to Michael Blum, former president of Malibu Surf Association**
- **Spoke to Shelley Luce about water quality in Malibu Lagoon who sent me to Luke Ginger SMBRC who is sending me to SCCWRP...**
- **Reached out to head of Malibu Library about possible participation in Malibu Lagoon event**
- **Attended Night at the Adobe, Agoura Hills 10/4/2024**
- **Listened about L.A. River Restoration opportunities 10/6/2024**
- **Attended Nature Based Solutions Blue Ribbon + Task Force Meetings**
- **Introduced Dr. Cynthia Daley, founder of Center for Regenerative Agriculture at California State University Chico to Regina Hirsch, Progressive Watershed...both may speak at one another's (influential) conferences**

Scheduling Concerns or Issues

Scheduling Issue: Brevity and Simplicity Save Time

SCWP

In the future, insofar as the SCWP is simplifying applications for IP projects, can it do the same for...watershed coordinator program applicants?

At Community Powered-Infrastructure Justice: A Multi-Benefit Infrastructure Project Showcase, More on Brevity,

- Can grants from L.A. County (and even, California?) use forms / questions that are the same so it is easier to apply for multiple grants?
- What if one application for ALL L.A. County grants and applicant checks multiple boxes for different categories?
- Can grants be simplified?
Less questions, no repetitive questions, simpler answers, same information required as basics for all grants so that it can be saved and re-used.
- Consider the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board SEP grant as a model.

At Plymouth Elementary School Stormwater Tour,

Can **Proposition 2**, the new \$10 billion California school bond create a set aside so that every school district is funded to create As Builts that are standardized?

Claire Robinson and many attendees at tour pointed out that the lack of records of past construction makes new construction at school sites very difficult...

Photo by William Higgins



Outreach, Upcoming

**PARTNERS: California Department of State Parks
Heal the Bay
Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains**

**CALTROUT
Audubon**

SSCWRP, invited

**SITE: Malibu Lagoon
DATE: MOVED TO MAY 2026**

**Planning:
MALIBU LAGOON RESTORATION CELEBRATION**

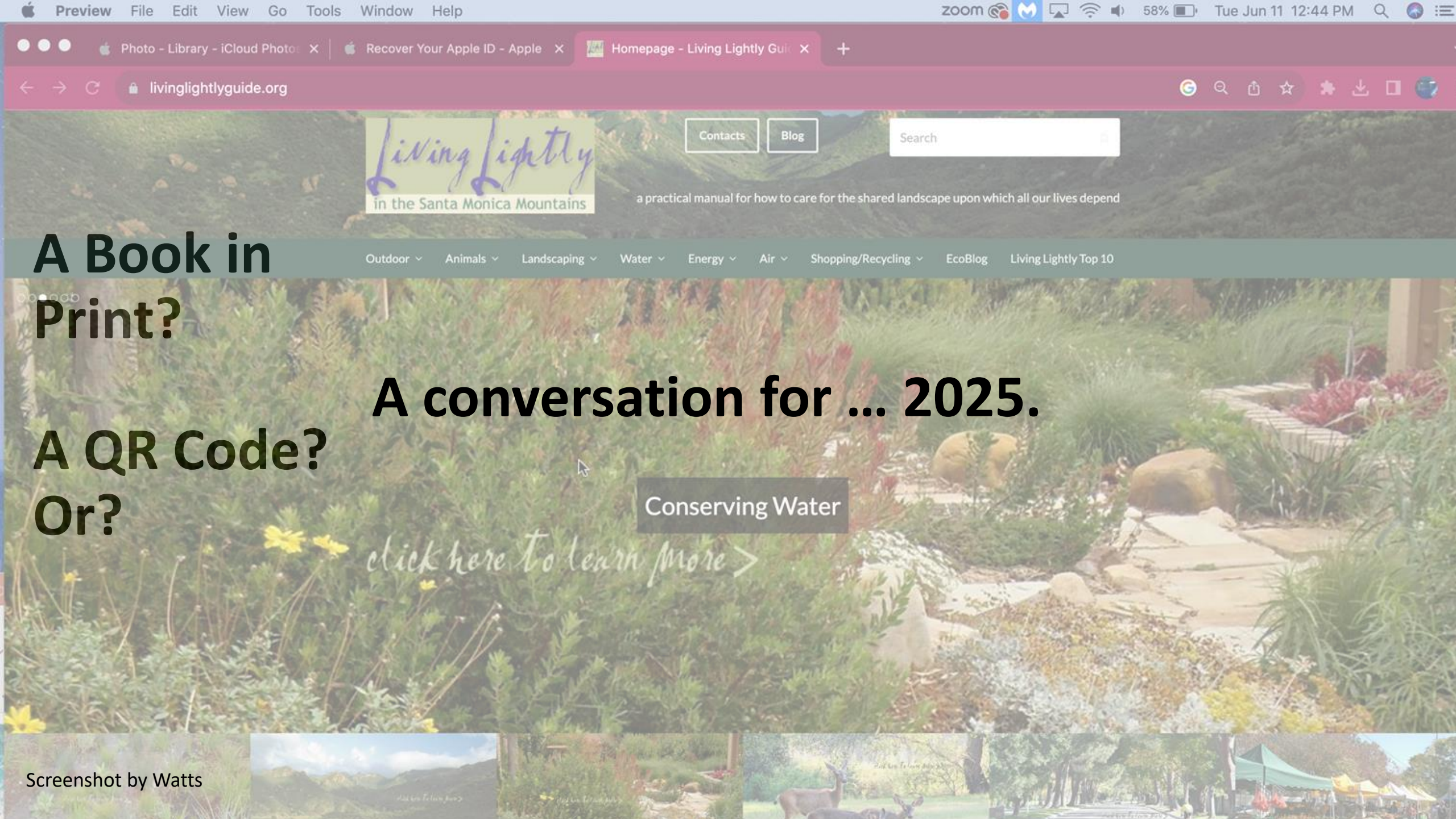
Photo by Watts



North Santa Monica
Bay
State of the
Watershed
2025 + 2026, the
Movie,
Production on hold,
a Calabasas City
Communications
Department Let Go

Seeking funding now.





A Book in
Print?

A QR Code?
Or?

A conversation for ... 2025.

Conserving Water

click here to learn more >



Watershed Coordinator Coordination



Photo by Amanda Begley

**Watershed Coordinators
November 2024
by Amanda Begley,
Watershed Coordinator
Safe, Clean Water L.A.**



Safe, Clean Water Program Success Stories:

Nine Watersheds,
Nine Projects

*Does the NSMB WASC
want to see this
presentation?*

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM



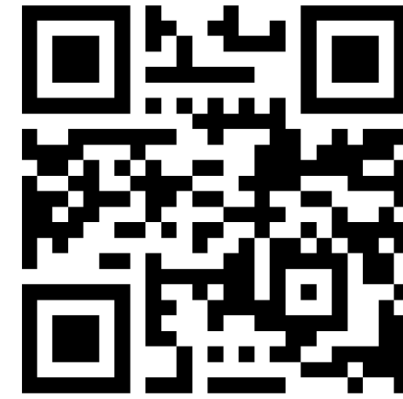
Image Courtesy of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER:
THE
SURVEY**

Image Courtesy Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Link: www.safecleanwaterla.org/survey)

QR Code:



Enter sites or water –centered ideas that keep you up at night.
Enter dream projects.
Enter things you know that *your* community wants.

Community-based data will lead us forward.

Safe, Clean Water L.A.: Community Strengths and Needs Assessment

Take the Survey!



Image, Watts' Collection
Antique Japanese Fabric
Unknown artist inspired by Hokusai