

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



Tuesday, March 4, 2025

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Building, Multipurpose Room

4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)

*Augustine Han, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)

*Conor Mossavi, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Agency)

Susie Santilena, Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment (Agency), Co-Chair

*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks (Agency)

Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (Community)

*Tanya Borja, SCOPE (Community)

Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Community)

Zoe Cunliffe, Black Women for Wellness (Community)

Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)

Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)

Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica (Municipal)

Stephanie Gebhardt Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Vanessa Boudreau, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Virtual Committee Members:

Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office (Community), Co-Chair

Committee Members Absent:

Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Michelle Barton, Los Angeles (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Susie Santilena, 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 and explained rules for Committee Members attending virtually under Assembly Bill 2449. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2025

Member Darryl Ford motioned to approve meeting minutes from February 4, 2025, seconded by Member Josette Descalzo. The Committee voted to approve the February 4, 2025 minutes, with 13 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 2 members absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Member Marcela Benavides introduced the new Alternate Member for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- The Mid-Year Report (covering July-Dec 2024, previously known as Quarter 1 (Q1) and Q2) was due on February 28.
- The new Metrics & Measures section was made available within the Reporting Module for Project Developers with a deadline to fill out the information by February 28. Project Developers received an email with instructions and a link to the Regional Program Performance Measures Guidelines.
- Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 (FY24-25) Transfer Agreements/Addendum distribution began in December. An email blast was sent out to new and continuing Project Developers with instructions on how to use the Transfer Agreement functionality within the Reporting Module. Project Developers are advised to start uploading supporting documents, such as the Scope of Work, Authorization, and California Environmental Quality Act documents as applicable, to execute agreements. For questions about specific projects, interested parties can email SafeCleanWaterLA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov.
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 1:00pm, where the ROC will begin its first Biennial Report Session of the series. The meeting will gather public input, and public comments will be extended from two to five minutes. To view meeting details, interested parties can visit the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are being processed and executed by Public Works staff. The first and second batches have been executed, and the third batch is in progress. Cities will need to comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement. Public Works staff is following up with pending municipalities.
- The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is partnering with the Water Foundation to administer the Safe, Clean Water Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. The program will support education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. The final deadline to submit a grant proposal to be evaluated during Round 3 is April 4, 2025. For more information and to submit an application, interested parties can go to the [Water Foundation's website](#).
- To keep up with Program Updates, interested parties can subscribe to receive email notifications on the [SCW Program website](#). This newsletter provides important updates on the Regional, Municipal, and District Programs. Implementation Updates can be viewed in the [News and Updates webpage](#) on the SCW Website.

Public Works' Watershed Planning staff provided updates, noting:

- Watershed Planning staff is continuing to evaluate the impacts of the recent wildfires and how findings may be incorporated into the Initial Watershed Plans and/or future Adaptive Plans.
- Development of the GIS-based Watershed Planning tool is ongoing. This tool will be a companion to the Initial Watershed Plans and will illustrate and track progress toward Watershed Area and program-wide goals, targets, opportunities, and needs.
- The Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Dashboard has now launched and is available on the Adaptive Management page of the [SCW Program website](#).
- Watershed Planning staff will be giving an in-person presentation on Watershed Planning progress.
 - Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared a summary of the CSNA Dashboard and presented a tutorial of the website. Antos mentioned that the CSNA Tool is a beta version and outputs data from the CSNA Survey onto a live map. Antos also mentioned a detailed tutorial will be provided in a future meeting.

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- Draft Initial Watershed Plans will be available for review in Late Summer 2025 and will include a 30-day public review period. In Fall 2025, Watershed Planning staff will present the Initial Watershed Plans to each WASC and the ROC and, in early 2026, the Initial Watershed Plans will be published.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators Vanessa Boudreau and Stephanie Gebhardt Rath provided recent engagement highlights. Watershed Coordinator Boudreau mentioned meeting with community-based organizations, exploring potential collaboration opportunities, meeting with the City of West Hollywood regarding a potential Project Applicant, and meeting with the Malibu School District in collaboration with the North Santa Monica Bay WASC.

Current project support includes Watershed Coordinators tracking progress meetings, joining Technical Resources Program (TRP) Progress meetings, and contacting neighborhood councils. Watershed Coordinator Gebhardt Rath noted that the Watershed Coordinators have spoken with the City of Santa Monica on two possible Project Applications, including a TRP and an Infrastructure Program (IP) project.

Watershed Coordinators attended a webinar for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership to encourage the City of Santa Monica to apply for SCW Program funding. Watershed Coordinators have also contacted various projects, including the MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project, about funding opportunities.

Watershed Coordinators hosted an Open Space Advocates summit, showcasing the SCW Program. The Living Infrastructure Field Kit developed by Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles was also showcased at the summit, demonstrating stormwater flow across Los Angeles County. Upcoming events include the Urban Watershed Working Group on March 20, a Community Visioning Workshop with the Garden Schools Foundation, and outreach for Earth Month in April.

5) Ex parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Public Comment Period

One public comment card was received and can be viewed on the [SCW Program website](#). There were no public comments made during the meeting.

7) Discussion

a. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q3 and Q4

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) and Melanie Rivera (HDR) presented the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY 23-24. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Co-Chair Santilena expressed appreciation for the new format of the report summary, stating that the additional information and funding breakdown made information easier to understand and more accessible to the public. Member Bruce Reznik agreed and suggested making completed projects more accessible through the potential implementation of an ArcGIS StoryMap or similar interface to make completed projects even easier for the public to view. Public Works staff stated that this idea would be explored for the future.

Committee Members provided suggestions for future improvement of presenting this data, such as the suggestion of adding Q3 information and differentiating infrastructure projects with color coding. Member Roberto Perez also suggested organizing a tour of completed projects. Public Works staff acknowledged all feedback for future improvements and stated suggestions would be considered in the future.

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b. Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented on the FY25-26 SIP Programming Guidance. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

In advance of SIP Deliberation, a summary of resources document was posted on the [SCW Program website](#). The outcome of SIP deliberation includes programming newly submitted concepts and studies, including one or no additional funding requests in a Project Modification Request (PMR), reallocating annual funding projections, and/or omitting from recommended SIP any continuing projects that do not meet SCW Program or Committee goals.

Public Works staff presented a demonstration of potential scenarios related to various project considerations. These scenarios involve ongoing projects and new Project Applications, as well as PMR funding requests such as the Washington Boulevard Stormwater and Urban Runoff Diversion Project (hereafter to referred to as the Washington Boulevard project). For previous SIPs, an Assumed Construction Costs scenario was created for design-only projects and verified with Project Developers to facilitate long-term planning. The FY25-26 SIP Tool has an "All Considered Projects + Potential Future IP Costs" scenario to assess hypothetical long-term outcomes based on original applications and progress/expenditure reports. This scenario also includes estimates like assumed construction costs, inflation per fiscal year, and factors 50% leveraged funding for construction and inflation, which reduces the estimated financial requirements per project.

The WASC had a discussion regarding potential scenarios with current and future budget, including the combinations of the most preferred SS and TRP projects, including those with and without PMR requests. Member Descalzo questioned why inflation was included in the "...Potential Future IP Costs" scenario when the calculation was based on Project Developers' projections. Public Works staff mentioned there has been a trend of Project Developers coming back to the WASC asking for additional funds due to inflation. Antos noted that the intent was to simulate a hypothetical worst-case scenario to understand the impacts of future uncertainties. Co-Chair Santilena inquired about how inflation was calculated, to which Public Works stated that it was calculated to be about a 3% inflation cost to cover potential unexpected cost for Infrastructure Projects.

Co-Chair Santilena reminded the WASC that these are potential scenarios, specifically involving PMRs that may be submitted due to inflation costs. Member Descalzo commented that a decision should not be made on assumed cost, to which Co-Chair Santilena commented that while decisions are not made on assumed costs, the presented scenarios can be used as a reason to not allocate all available future funds.

Co-Chair Santilena inquired if there was any data from the Public Works staff on the cost of TRPs outside of the allocated budget provided from the WASC. Public Works staff explained that any unused budget by the TRP is returned to the WASC.

The WASC discussed two TRPs and one PMR received from Culver City. Co-Chair Santilena asked the representatives from Culver City which request is the priority. Javier De La Cruz (Culver City) stated that the most urgent project is the Washington Boulevard project. The Washington Boulevard project is almost finalized with design and is advertising construction. Among the two TRPs being proposed by Culver City, the Fox Hills Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture project intends to serve disadvantaged communities and therefore would be Culver City's priority among the TRPs.

Continuing the discussion of the Washington Boulevard PMR, it was stated that the updated project cost is \$16.5 million, with outside funding from local Culver City funds at \$5.5 million, an open space part grant from Los Angeles County at \$767,000, and a private company contributing \$2.1 million. The PMR funding request is \$4 million. Member Reznik expressed concern about the rising project cost and potential scope

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changes, particularly the alteration of the project footprint as well as the project's Disadvantaged Communities Benefit. Member Reznik commented that the project was fairly different in cost and impact than what was originally brought to the CSMB WASC, and that a reapplication might be appropriate.

Upon inquiry from Co-Chair Santilena, it was specified that the change occurring within the scope of the Washington Boulevard project PMR was a change in the treatment method. Member Geremew Amenu recognized that about 50% of the cost of the project is being leveraged. Watershed Coordinator Gebhardt Rath added that this is one of the first public-private partnership projects proposed in the SCW Program. Member Sean Singletary also highlighted that this project is one of the only opportunities that serves the Marina Del Rey portion of the Watershed Area.

Member Reznik commented that the Washington Boulevard project might need to go back to the Scoring Committee to reevaluate its eligibility. Antos clarified that PMRs are not required to undergo another round of applications or rescoring as PMRs are at the WASC's discretion to approve. The WASC can choose to move forward with a PMR request, conduct a renegotiation of the request, or to not move forward with project at all given the PMR request. Co-Chair Santilena expressed support in moving forward with the PMR, noting that the project produces many benefits.

8) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9) Voting Items

- a. Final FY25-26 SIP recommendations for the CSMB Watershed Area and submission to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review

The Committee deferred the voting item to the next meeting.

10) Items for Future Agenda

The next meeting will be on April 1 and 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. Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)

Co-Chair Santilena requested that Regional Coordination staff and Public Works' Watershed Planning staff review the Data Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County Foothill Municipal Water District Scientific Study for any potential overlap with the SCW Program Watershed Planning efforts.

11) Adjournment

Co-Chair Santilena thanked WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - March 4, 2025

		Quorum Present						Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Primary Member	Attendance: In-person ("x" for present)	Attendance: Virtual (Brown Act Tel 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 February 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Marcela Benavides	x		Daniel Bradbury			y
Agency	West Basin Municipal Water District	Matthew Veeh			Augustine Han	x		y
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Art Castro			Conor Mossavi	x		y
Agency	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	<u>Susie Santilena</u>	x		Hubertus Cox			y
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			Not present during vote
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu	x					y
Community Stakeholder	SCOPE	Gloria Medina			Tanya Borja	x		y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x		Maggie Gardner			y
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe	x		Tianna Shaw-Wakeman			y
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	x					Not present during vote
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto			Blayne Sutton-Wills			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Michelle Barton			Ryan Jackson			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Geremew Amenu	x		Lara Awad			y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Joshua Carvalho	x		Selim Eren			y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	x					
Watershed Coordinator	SGA Marketing	Vanessa Boudreau	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17				Yay (Y)		13
Total Voting Members Present		15				Nay (N)		0
Agency		5				Abstain (A)		0
Community Stakeholder		5				Total		13
Municipal Members		5						Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
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Andrew Gray UCR	Javier De La Cruz	Marisol Ibarra
Anthony Barreras	Jenny Chau	Mayra Cabrera
Austine Racelis	Johanna Chang	Melanie Rivera
Brenda Ponton	Jon Ball	Michael Berns
Brett Perry	Jonathan Ontiveros	Michelle Reed
Bryan Igboke	Josafat Flores	Mike Antos
Carlos Rodriguez	Jose Castro	Nan Jia
Christopher Tull	Joyce Amaro	Emily Ng
Clara Dahl	Katie Harrel	Omar Abdelhadi
Dusadee Corhiran	Kevin Ho	Pablo Forni
Eric Bonilla	Kevin Reilly	Pearl Azizian
Felipe Vazquez	Larry Tran	Richard Watson
Franci Levine-Grater	Leslie Friedman Johnson	Rita Kampalath
Giselle Ramirez	Lisa (Jin) Kim	Ryanna Fossum
Gloria Medina	Luis Perez	Samantha Torres
Haley Bauer	Luke Ginger	Selim Eren
Ingrid Camacho	Michael Scaduto	Uriel Cobian
Jason Casanova	Maggie Gardner	Vicente Villasenor


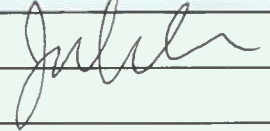
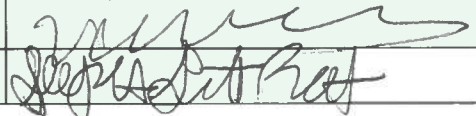

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: March 4, 2025



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	<i>mb</i>
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	<i>Ahan</i>
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	<i>CMossavi</i>
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	<i>D Ford</i>
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	<i>Ion Cretu</i>
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	SCOPE	P	<i>1</i>
Community Stakeholder	Tanya Borja	SCOPE	A	
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	<i>Bruce Reznik</i>
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	
Community Stakeholder	Zoe Cunliffe	Black Women for Wellness	P	<i>Zoe Cunliffe</i>
Community Stakeholder	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman	Black Women for Wellness	A	
Municipal Member	Josette Descalzo	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	P	<i>Josette Descalzo</i>
Municipal Member	Matthew Magener	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	A	<i>Matthew Magener</i>
Municipal Member	Sean Singletary	Culver City	P	<i>Sean Singletary</i>
Municipal Member	Javier De La Cruz	Culver City	A	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: March 4, 2025



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Municipal Member	Roberto Perez	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Rafael Prieto	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Blayne Sutton-Wells	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Michelle Barton	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County	P	
Municipal Member	Lara Awad	Los Angeles County	A	
Municipal Member	Joshua Carvalho	Santa Monica	P	
Municipal Member	Selim Eren	Santa Monica	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	Heal the Bay	WC	
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	

PUBLIC SIGN-IN: March 4, 2025

[illegible]

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

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