

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, December 18, 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)  
\*Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
\*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation & Parks (Agency)  
Margie Hoyt, Resident (Community)  
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair  
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)  
\*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)  
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (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 Member Alternate

#### Committee Members Not Present

Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)

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

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### **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. Public Works' Watershed Planning staff made self-introductions.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2024**

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from November 20, 2024. Vice-Chair Doug Krauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Chair Cadwallader. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 3 in abstention, and 1 member absent at the time of voting. (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

### **3. Committee Member and Program Updates**

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes



- The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) Quarterly Report 4 covering the period April to June 2024 was due on August 15, 2024. Project Developers should address comments and resubmit as soon as possible.
- The FY23-24 Annual Report (July 2023 to June 2024) will be due December 31, 2024. The Mid-Year Report (covering July to December, previously known as Q1 and Q2 Reports) will be due on February 15, 2025.
- A Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting occurred on December 11, 2024 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. The ROC received presentations about the Watershed Planning Framework, County Water Plan Overview, Implementation Update, and discussed interconnectivity of initiatives. More information is located on the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report is an extension of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). The SIP is a 5-year plan prepared annually, allocating funding for projects, studies, and concepts. The WARPP follows the SIP, providing a summary on the progress of those projects, Scientific Studies, and project concepts based on the Project Developers' previously submitted Quarterly and Annual expenditure and progress reports. The WARPP Report summarizes progress in FY22-23 for projects, studies, and project concepts approved in the first three funding rounds. The WARPP does not include new information. All Project Developer reports are publicly accessible through the [SCW Project Portal](#) and the [SCW Reporting Repository](#). The WARPP includes a section on the projected benefits from Round 4 (FY23-24) SIPs. The ROC provided recommendations in November 2024 for adjustments for future WARPP Reports. For details, please refer to the Meeting Minutes from the November 13, 2024 ROC meeting available on the [SCW Program website](#). The next WARPP Report will cover FY23-24 and is anticipated to be released next year.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program formally launched on September 24. The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, in collaboration with the Water Foundation, will support education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture. Proposals will be accepted until May 21, 2025, and will be evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis. More information can be found on the [Water Foundation website](#).
- The SCW Program continues to work towards launching the Credit Trading Program. The Procedures and Guidelines document was available for a 30-day Public Comment Period that closed November 18, 2024.

Public Work's Watershed Planning staff provided updates, noting that the second Watershed Planning workshops were conducted with all nine WASCs to confirm that WASC members perspectives shared during the first workshops were understood correctly and to solicit additional feedback. The Watershed Planning Framework is completed and available on the [SCW Program website](#). Additionally, the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment and a Frequently Asked Questions document were also launched, and are available on the SCW Program [Adaptive Management](#) website. For more information, Watershed Planning staff can be reached at [watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov).

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes shared recent outreach and engagement activities, including participation at the King Tides Event on Friday, December 13, 2024. During the event, community members were able to use the new QR code for the Community Strengths and Needs Survey, facilitating broader input and engagement.

Other highlights included attendance at the Community Power Showcase, which provided an opportunity to connect with stakeholders and expand outreach efforts. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also shared successes in capital stacking to support project funding. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared recent collaboration with the Schools and Stormwaters Working Group to plan priorities for the upcoming year and

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes



connected with residents living near an SCW Program project site to address concerns about ongoing construction activities.

#### **5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### **6. Discussion**

##### **a) South Santa Monica Bay FY22-23 Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report.**

The Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#) and includes information input directly from Project Proponents. Public Works staff shared that the Report does not include new information, but summarizes progress towards SCW Program. Feedback can be shared with Public Works staff.

Member Susie Santilena suggested including statistics on stormwater captured as a percentage of the SCW Program Area and commented that there are significant opportunities for further progress on hardscape removal given the low number of acres of impervious area removed to date.

##### **b) WASC Update to the Regional Oversight Committee**

Public Works staff provided an overview of the upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting, noting that all WASC Chairs have been invited to present highlights from their respective Watershed Areas. Each presenter will have five minutes. Chair Cadwallader opened the floor for discussion on feedback the WASC would like to share with ROC members and confirmed with Public Works staff that the meeting will take place in person on January 8, 2025, at the Public Works Headquarters in Alhambra.

Member Santilena recommended addressing this Watershed Area's diverse geography, stakeholders, and hydrologic conditions, especially related to challenges with infiltration. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes emphasized the complexity of coordinating across 17 cities and Los Angeles County's unincorporated areas, identifying Water Supply benefits as a critical challenge for the SSMB Watershed Area.

Vice-Chair Krauss highlighted the ambitious nature of efforts that have fully utilized available funding and stressed the importance of continuing to develop new projects. Chair Cadwallader advocated for prioritizing smaller-scale projects to distribute resources more equitably and maximize community benefits while acknowledging funding limitations.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar noted that the presence of three Watershed Management Plan (WMP) groups within the Watershed Area introduces competing priorities for compliance of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Member Geremew Amenu emphasized the area's unique geology and infiltration potential.

Member Hevener commented that infiltration is not applicable in all parts of the Watershed Area, particularly in Palos Verdes, where recent landslides have created unique challenges. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes highlighted the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan as an existing resource that highlights key community characteristics.

Member Asha Kreiling clarified with Public Works staff that the intent of the WASC feedback is for the ROC to gather input that would inform the Biennial Report. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff noted that additional feedback to the ROC can be submitted via Microsoft Forms for inclusion in the ROC meeting.

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes



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#### **c) Scientific Study – Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County.**

Presentation by Foothill Municipal Water District. Implement the DROPS tool that integrates advanced data analytics with AI to site distributed stormwater capture and filtration projects.

Natalie Ouwersloot (Foothill Municipal Water District) and Chris Tull (California Data Collaborative) provided an overview of the proposed Scientific Study. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Ouwersloot explained that the DROPS tool could benefit water agencies in addition to watershed planners, particularly benefitting those managing groundwater basins or redirecting water to other basins. The DROPS tool functionality may expand as the tool is used. Ouwersloot also clarified that the study is applying for funding across multiple WASCs, and that participation from at least three WASCs would enable the SS to move forward.

Member Stephanie Holst inquired about the data sources for the DROPS tool, and Tull explained that a user-centric design approach is planned, which involves interviewing relevant stakeholders to determine the scope and datasets. Tull noted LiDAR data, groundwater basin information, soil characteristics, watershed boundaries, and socio-economic data as examples of data sources used in the DROPS tool. Member Kreiling also suggested referencing prior studies on groundwater basins, including those by Las Virgenes, which examined water supply benefits from stormwater diversion to wastewater treatment plants.

Member Amenu asked about the scale of projects under consideration. Ouwersloot clarified that the study focuses on low-impact development (LID) and distributed capture projects, examining project locations and integrating additional data as needed. Member Kreiling emphasized that while Water Supply benefits might be limited in this watershed, Water Quality improvements are possible. Member Hevener commented that LID is generally not applicable to residential lots under 10,000 square feet.

Member Santilena expressed concerns about groundwater infiltration being unattainable in the SSMB Watershed Area and suggested exploring alternative analyses for the DROPS tool such as water retention or diversion. Member Santilena commented that other Watershed Areas may face similar infiltration challenges.

Member Roland Jen asked if the DROPS tool is being tailored for municipal agencies and Ouwersloot explained that the pilot aims to assess stormwater capture potential at various scales, including individual residential and commercial lots. Member Darryl Ford shared appreciation for the focus on individual lots to ensure taxpayers directly benefit from SCW Program funds and expressed support for the DROPS tool being applicable to private property owners in addition to larger agencies.

Upon inquiry, Tull clarified that three project sites would likely be selected in the Raymond Basin area for the pilot program.

#### **d) Scientific Study – Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting.**

Presentation by Council for Watershed Health. Create a Tool to identify, rank, and prioritize parking lots for greening, water quality, and/or water supply focused retrofits.

Jason Casanova (Council for Watershed Health) and Craig Doberstein (Herrera) provided an overview of Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Kreiling expressed enthusiasm for depaving, and noted the challenge that many parking lots are privately owned. Upon inquiry, Casanova clarified that the SS focuses exclusively on parking lots, as retrofitting parking lots is more feasible compared to other surfaces. Casanova added that Accelerate

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Resilience Los Angeles' depaving study addresses other paved typologies, such as sidewalks, rooftops, and patios.

Member Amenu suggested incorporating search and filtering features in the Tool for increased user accessibility. Chair Cadwallader expressed hope that the SS findings could help convince decision-makers to adopt permeable pavement instead of traditional sealants. Chair Cadwallader also clarified with Casanova that the amount of WASC funding requested across the six different WACSS is based on the amount of funding a WASC receives from the SCW Program. Member Amenu clarified with Cassanova that only six of the nine WASCs are included in the SS due to administrative and geographic considerations, but that the SS could be expanded in the future.

Member Jen asked about the criteria for selecting parking lots, such as size and condition, and whether recently paved lots are excluded. Casanova mentioned that stakeholder input would shape the screening criteria and that the Tool could potentially use artificial intelligence to assess the condition of parking lot asphalt.

Member Zhao clarified with Casanova that urban heat, flooding, and water quality impacts align with climate resilience goals, which could improve the SS's ability to secure local and state grants that fund climate resiliency projects.

Upon inquiry, Casanova responded that the Tool's intended audience includes businesses, schools, churches, community organizations, and municipalities.

Member Santilena suggested exploring water retention in addition to infiltration, particularly in Watershed Areas where groundwater infiltration may not be viable. Casanova noted that the SS is currently limited to parking lots but remains open to feedback on broader applications. Upon inquiry, Casanova clarified that the SS plans to explore partnerships to manage off-site water.

#### **7. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **8. Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility. Items on the upcoming agenda include:

- a) Project Modification Requests for WASC Discussion

#### **9. Adjournment**

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

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY MEETING - December 18, 2024						
		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the November 20, 2024 SSMB WASC 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		Asha Kreiling	X	A
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	X	Christopher Lapaz		A
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	A
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	<b>Craig Cadwallader</b>	X	Mary Simun		Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija				
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	X			Y
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	x	
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	<b>Doug Krauss</b>	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)	11
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7			Approved	

#### Attendees

Alexia  
 Carlos Rodriguez  
 Christopher Tull, CaDC  
 CJ  
 Drew Ready  
 Eric Bonilla  
 Jenny Chau  
 Lara Awad  
 Leslie Martinez Hernandez  
 Luis Perez SCW WP  
 Marisol Ibarra LASAN  
 Ryanna Fossum  
 Safe, Clean Water LA  
 Samantha Torres  
 Vicente Villasenor  
 Yoshi Andersen - Geosyntec



# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: December 18, 2024



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	MB
Agency	CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin Metropolitan Water District	P	
Agency	Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin Metropolitan Water District	A	
Agency	Aimee Zhao	Water Replenishment District	P	
Agency	Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	A	Asha Kreiling
Agency	Dave Pierce	LAC Sanitation District	P	Dave Pierce
Agency	Christopher Lapaz	LAC Sanitation District	A	
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	P	
Agency	Darryl Ford	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	A	Darryl Ford
Community Stakeholder	Margie Hoyt	Resident	P	Margie G. Hoyt
Community Stakeholder	Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	P	Craig Cadwallader
Community Stakeholder	Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	A	
Community Stakeholder	Caroline Orija	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	P	
Community Stakeholder	Elizabeth Sala	Resident	P	Elizabeth Sala
Municipal Member	Gilbert Marquez	Carson	P	
Municipal Member	Roland Jen	Carson	A	
Municipal Member	Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County Public Works	P	Geremew Amenu
Municipal Member	Lara Awad	Los Angeles County Public Works	A	
Municipal Member	Stephanie Holst	Torrance	P	Stephanie Holst
Municipal Member	Wilson Mendoza	Torrance	A	
Municipal Member	Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	P	Doug Krauss

December 18, 2024

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: December 18, 2024



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
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	WC	