

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



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Thursday, February 13, 2025  
1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room  
4232 Las Virgenes Rd, Calabasas, CA 91302  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)  
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks (Agency)  
Brian Baldauf, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)  
David Pederson, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Jessica Forte, Agoura Hills (Municipal), Chair  
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community)  
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)  
Charmaine Yambao, Agoura Hills (Municipal)  
\*Mayra Martinez/Kelsey Reed, Hidden Hills (Municipal)  
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair  
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)  
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)  
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)  
Tatiana Holden, Calabasas (Municipal)

## Committee Members Not Present:

Aaron Ordower, Los Angeles County SD3 (Municipal)  
Kiernan Btralik, Malibu (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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## **1) Findings to Meet Virtually Under a Declared State of Emergency due to Imminent Risk to the Health and Safety of Attendees**

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) provided updates on local evacuation orders due to heavy rainfall and imminent risk of mudslides and debris flow in recently burned areas. Committee members expressed concern for their safety and established that due to the stated circumstances, there was an imminent risk to the health and safety of members within evacuation zones. Public Works staff also stated that the presence of imminent risk to attendees must exist for the meeting to be held virtually.

## **2) Voting item**

- a) Findings to Meet Virtually Under a Declared State of Emergency due to Imminent Risk to the Health and Safety of Attendees

The WASC voted to approve the ability to meet virtually for the February 13, 2025 WASC meeting, motioned by Vice-Chair Roxanne Hughes and seconded by Member Madelyn Glickfeld. This motion passed with 15 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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### 3) Welcome and Introduction

Jessica Forte, Chair of the NSMB Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for meeting participants joining online.

Chair Forte introduced Charmaine Yambao as a new member of the NSMB WASC.

### 4) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2024

Chair Forte presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Suggested revisions to the meeting minutes consisted of correcting the term “Credit Training” to “Credit Trading”.

Member Hamamoto motioned to approve the meeting minutes with revisions, seconded by Member Andrew Nickerson. The WASC voted to approve the November 14, 2024 meeting minutes with 15 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### 5) Committee Member & Program Updates

Chair Forte shared insights from the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting, which offered an opportunity to highlight topics of interest for the NSMC WASC, including flood control, Scientific Studies (SS), and nature-based solutions.

Member Glickfeld raised concerns about Malibu Creek’s water quality, specifically regarding nitrates and bacteria, and noted that recent monitoring data reflects these challenges. Chair Forte confirmed the presence of bacterial issues and septic systems in the region. Member Glickfeld also expressed urgency for addressing the flooding and vegetation damage in Malibu caused by recent fires.

Member Hughes noted delays on the Westlake Village MS4 Compliance Project caused by competing priorities as Public Works responds to current emergencies.

Public Works staff provided an update:

- The recent wildfires were acknowledged. The SCW Program is assessing how the fires may have impacted funded projects and schedules, and updates will follow as necessary adjustments are evaluated. With specific focus on the impacts of the fires and the importance of resilient planning, the Watershed Planning team will determine how these lessons can inform the Initial Watershed Plans. This includes understanding landscape changes, water quality, and community needs, while refining strategies for fire-impacted areas and enhancing climate resilience. The focus on resilience and equity will remain a priority throughout the process, and collaboration with stakeholders on implementing the Los Angeles County Water Plan will continue.
- Public Works’ Watershed Planning staff are developing key components of the Initial Watershed Plans, starting with the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area to ensure consistency before expanding to other areas. Progress has been made in identifying watershed characteristics, establishing a benefits baseline, and defining indicators, performance measures, and strategies to address needs and meet SCW goals. The development of a Watershed Planning tool, which will include a GIS map and dashboard, is underway. This tool will track progress toward Watershed and Program-wide goals and highlight areas in need of attention. The SCW website offers resources such as the Adaptive Management Framework, which details the Watershed Planning process, and the Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey, which has launched to gather community input on needs and preferences. The CSNA Dashboard, displaying survey response trends, will be available soon.

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- Public Works staff shared available support related to wildfires, including a [website](#) for fire updates and recovery resources. Public Works is prepared to provide free post-fire engineering advice services to impacted residents wherever access is restored. The hotline to request mudflow engineering advice is 1-800-933-0930.
- The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) Annual Report (covering July 2023-June 2024) was due on December 31, 2024. Project and Study Developers are required to address any comments and resubmit the reports as soon as possible.
- The Mid-Year Report, covering July-December 2024 (previously known as Quarter 1 (Q1 & Q2), was launched on January 17 and was due on February 28, 2025, extended from the typical February 15 deadline for this report only. Additionally, all Project Developers must complete a new Metrics & Measures section by February 28, 2025. This new section, along with supporting guidance, will be available soon, and all Reporting Module users will be notified by email once available.
- The Q3 2025 Funding Report & Matrix is now available on the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab. This quarterly report, prepared by the Regional Coordination team in support of the Public Works staff, provides a high-level overview of recent funding policy updates and a matrix of active and upcoming funding opportunities relevant to SCW Program projects. The team is also monitoring Federal funding opportunities.
- Distribution of FY24-25 Transfer Agreements/Addendums began in December, with an email sent to new and continuing Project Developers containing instructions for using the Transfer Agreement functionality in the Reporting Module. Developers are advised to start uploading supporting documents, such as the Scope of Work, Authorization, and environmental documents, to execute the agreements.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met on December 11, 2024, to discuss Watershed Planning, including the Framework, County Water Plan Overview, Implementation Update, and the Interconnectivity of Initiatives. The January 8 ROC meeting was canceled due to wildfire events in Los Angeles County. The last ROC meeting occurred on February 12, where WASC and Scoring Committee Chairs were invited to provide updates and recommendations, and updates on Adaptive Management were discussed. Meeting details and materials are available on the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report summarizes the progress of projects, studies, and project concepts approved in the first three Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for FY22-23. This report serves as an extension of the SIP, providing updates based on Project Developers' previously submitted Quarterly and Annual expenditure/progress reports. The progress report can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#). All Project Developer reports are publicly accessible through the SCW Portal Dashboard and Reporting Repository. The WARPP does not include new information but includes a section on projected benefits from year 4 (FY23-24) SIPs. This year's WARPP aligns with the structure of the SCWP Biennial Progress Report, approved by the ROC in January 2024. The ROC reviewed and recommended adjustments for future WARPP reports during the November 13, 2024 meeting. Public Works staff will gather input to improve future reports, with the next WARPP report covering FY23-24 and anticipated next year.
- Public Works staff is processing and executing the 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements, with the first two batches completed and the third batch in progress. The initial fifth disbursements were finalized at the end of December 2024. Municipalities must meet all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement, and Public Works staff is following up with pending municipalities
- FY23-24 Annual Reports were due on December 31, 2024.

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- 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. The deadline for Round 2 grant proposals was January 31, 2025, but applicants can continue to submit proposals until May 31, 2025. Proposals will be evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis. More information can be found on the [Water Foundation website](#).
- The SCW Program offers a newsletter subscription to receive email notifications about Regional, Municipal, and District Program updates. Implementation updates can also be viewed on the News and Updates page on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Nissman expressed interest in the Watershed Planning effort, and Public Works staff stated that interested Committee Members can email [watershedplanning@PW.lacounty.gov](mailto:watershedplanning@PW.lacounty.gov) for more information. Additionally, a Watershed Planning meeting will be scheduled for April and Public Works staff specified that information not added to initial Watershed Plans may be included via Adaptive Management.

## 9) Discussion

This agenda item was moved above Agenda Item 6.

### a) Los Angeles County Project Updates

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

### b) Scientific Study – Bacteria Source Identification and Implementation Study

The City of Agoura Hills presented the Bacteria Source Identification and Implementation Scientific Study, aimed at addressing human fecal contamination and protecting public health in the Malibu Creek Watershed. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Committee Members inquired about the existing Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) monitoring sites being leveraged for this study. Member Nissman inquired if the SS is analyzing data from all 21 monitoring and outfall sites. Ashli Desai (Larry Walker and Associates) confirmed the SS is flexible in its sampling approach and will use all available monitoring data resources, such as the outfall sites, and will potentially consider more sites. Committee Member Nissman asked if DNA testing is being used to distinguish between human and other sources and mentioned previous studies that have been conducted, including a 2013-2014 study by the Resource Conservation District and University of California Los Angeles, which distinguished the percentages of human, dog, or bird-related bacteria. Desai noted that while human sources were found to contribute the least, understanding human-related fecal bacteria is crucial as it presents the highest risk and that the goal of this SS is to identify specific sources without over-emphasizing lower-risk sources.

Member Craig Jones asked about the budget for analysis. Desai specified that traditional monitoring and analysis is already covered by CIMP monitoring efforts, and that existing data would be leveraged. Member Glickfeld mentioned scientific data from various regions, including San Diego and Orange County, noting that sometimes more investigation is needed, such as for illegal dumping, and asked how the locations are selected. Desai added that in situations where the contamination source is unclear, the presence of low-flow diversions can be useful information. Member Glickfeld commented that the City of Malibu had studies during its septic probation period that indicated how human bacteria is often only detected when significant contamination has already occurred.

Desai specified that technological advances have been made to more accurately predict human bacteria presence. Chair Forte emphasized the importance of focusing on specific bacterial sources.

Public Works staff shared that the SS peer reviews have already been completed by CASC Engineering and will be sent out to the NSMB WASC in March.

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

The Foothill Municipal Water District presented the DROPS for Los Angeles County Scientific Study, which is a tool that intends to integrate advanced data analytics with artificial intelligence to determine site distributed stormwater capture and infiltration projects. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Christopher Tull (California Data Collaborative) noted the total request for \$442,000 is from all nine WASCs, with a request of \$49,111 from the NSMB WASC.

Public Works Stated that funding could be reduced via a funding reduction concurrence form. Tull confirmed that there is some capacity for scaling and modifying features but emphasized that scope changes are easier to implement in the software component, with field verification being the most difficult to change. The possibility of sharing information with development of the SCW Program's Watershed Planning Tool was discussed, and Tull specified that the DROPS tool focuses on real-time, parcel-level data, while the SCW Program tool is on larger scale.

Member Nissman expressed concern with applicability of this SS given the unique hydrology of the NSMB Watershed Area including proximity to the coast and limited potential for stormwater recharge. Tull acknowledged that coastal areas face challenges with recharge but noted that there are other potential projects other than infiltration. Member Glickfeld commented that without recharge, there is no Water Supply potential in the Watershed Area and asked whether the DROPS tool could analyze small-scale Water Supply projects. Tull responded that the available Water Supply in this Watershed Area is minimal, but that this SS could help identify project typologies beyond groundwater recharge.

### **10) Public Comment Period**

This agenda item was moved before Agenda Item 6.

There were no public comments.

### **6) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

Chair Forte disclosed discussing information being presented at the ROC meeting with Member Hughes, Member Jones, Member Glickfeld, and Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts.

### **7) Watershed Coordinator Update**

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented an update on activities from October to February, including educating local stakeholders, contacting cost share partners, pursuing outside funding, and suggesting potential projects. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

### **8) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### **11) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Items for the next agenda include:

- a) Regional Program Scientific Studies Presentations
- b) Los Angeles County Project Updates

Upon inquiry, it was clarified that the SCW Program did not accept new Infrastructure Program projects this year. Any changes in scope for previously funded projects are handled through Project Modification Requests (PMRs). The deadline for PMRs is October 31 each year to be included in the current SIP cycle.

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## **10) Adjournment**

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

NSMB WASC - February 13, 2025

		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Findings to Meet Virtually Under a Declared State of Emergency due to Imminent Risk to the Health and Safety of Attendees	Approve November 14, 2024 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes with revisions	
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	X	Daniel Bradbury		y	y	
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			y	y	
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf	x	Rebecca Correa		y	y	
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen	x	Craig Jones		y	y	
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	x	Jeremy Wolf		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			y	y	
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao	x	Kelly Fisher		y	y	
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Tatiana Holden	x	Melanis Stepanian		y	y	
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed		Mayra Martinez	x	y	y	
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower		Rachel Fox				
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y	
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik						
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y	y	
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x					
	Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	15	15	0
	Total Voting Members Present	15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
	Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	0	0
	Community Stakeholder	5			Total	15	15	0
	Municipal Members	5				Approved	Approved	Not Approved

- Other Attendees**
- Allen Ma - LACo Pub
  - Carlos Preciado
  - Carlos Rodriguez
  - Clara Dahl
  - Daniel
  - Daniel A
  - Devon Provo
  - Eric Bonilla - LACPW
  - Hunter Raskin
  - Jenny Chau
  - Marisela Velasquez
  - NSMB WASC 1
  - NSMB WASC 2
  - Nathaly
  - Rachel Williams
  - Ruby Cornejo
  - Safe Clean Water LA
  - Stacy Luell



North Santa Monica Bay  
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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>gmb</i>
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	
David Pedersen	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Craig Jones	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Jessica Forte	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Jeremy Wolf	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Madelyn Glickfeld	Resident	Primary	
Richard Ambrose	Resident	Primary	
Andrew Nickerson	Community Stakeholder	Primary	



North Santa Monica Bay  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	
Tatiana Holden	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	
Mayra Martinez	Hidden Hills	Alternate	MM
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Rachel Fox	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Pimary	B. Hamamoto

North Santa Monica Bay  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator	Primary	