

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, March 19, 2025
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)
Matthew Veeh, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation & Parks (Agency)
Margie Hoyt, Resident (Community)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair
Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Stephanie Holst, Torrance (Municipal)
*Geraldine Trivedi, 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

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

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.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2024

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from February 19, 2024. Member Elizabeth Sala motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Margie Hoyt. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 15 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes announced that Heal the Bay will host the 2025 BioBlitz on April 27 at either the Ballona Creek Discovery Park or Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve.

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Chair Cadwallader reported that the City of Manhattan Beach is proceeding with the South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project (hereafter referred to as the 28th Street Infiltration Project). Despite some community pushback regarding traffic impacts, the project remains on track, with construction expected to begin in spring 2025.

4. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

5. Discussion

a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Quarter 3 (FY23-24 Q3) and Q4

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented an overview of the Regional Program Quarterly Report and Summary for FY23-24 Q3 & Q4. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Key highlights included new reporting requirements, updates to Project Modification Requests (PMRs), and a reporting timeline. In July, the SCW Program transitioned from quarterly to mid-year reporting. Moving forward, HDR will review Mid-Year Reports for completeness and provide status updates to the WASC.

Melanie Rivera (HDR) provided a summary of the submitted 2024 Quarterly Reports for Q3 (January to March) and Q4 (April to June). Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). The update included a list of project reports and project status. Project highlights included the 28th Street Infiltration Project, which received a Mitigated Negative Declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), adopted by the Manhattan Beach City Council on March 18, 2025.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar inquired if the 28th Street Infiltration Project's CEQA status should be marked as "completed" rather than "in progress," noting that the Quarterly Report only provides a snapshot in time. Clarification was sought regarding the construction start date, which was originally scheduled for June 2024. Rivera clarified the schedule is based on information submitted to the Reporting Module. Kathleen McGowan (McGowan Consulting, Project Developer) indicated that the schedule is not updated and may be delayed by approximately one year. McGowan explained that the project is set to go out to bid next week. Katie Harrel (CWE, Project Developer) stated that construction is expected to begin in July 2025 and take approximately 18 months to complete. Member Benavides-Aguilar requested that future reporting differentiate between project completion and actual construction progress.

Member Stephanie Holst provided an update on the Beach Cities Green Streets Project, noting that bids for both construction and post-construction monitoring have been received, with construction expected to begin this summer.

b) South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)

Fossum provided an overview of the FY25-26 SIP Programming, highlighting the current year's budget and projections for the next four years. Guidance and reminders were shared for the WASC to consider during SIP deliberations. Key resources, including the SIP Tool, meeting minutes, presentation slides, project applications, preliminary rankings, Scientific Studies (SS) Peer Review Summaries, and Quarterly Report updates, are available to assist with deliberations. These resources can be accessed on the [SCW Program website](#).

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Public Works staff shared initial non voting survey results on project rankings, which showed that that Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting (hereafter referred to as the Depave LA SS) was the highest ranked SS followed by the Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County (hereafter referred to as the DROPS SS), which ranked second.

The survey also indicated that all WASC members support the Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project PMR (hereafter referred to as the Lomita PMR), and most WASC members support the Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project PMR (hereafter referred to as the Fulton PMR); however, some members do not support the full funding ask as requested.

Public Works staff clarified that the scenario of “All Considered Projects + Potential Future IP Costs” applies potential construction funds only to Infrastructure Program (IP) projects and that Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects are more difficult to assess in terms of long-term funding needs. This scenario showed the SSMB WASC budget being over allocated until FY 27-28. Member Susie Santilena noted that the scenario is hypothetical and does not provide actionable insights for decision-making.

Public Works staff demonstrated the SIP Tool and provided an overview of pre-programmed scenarios available on the [SCW Program website](#) to facilitate discussions. Public Works noted that the “All Considered Projects + PMR” scenario incorporate both SS and both PMRs under consideration. This scenario results in funding allocations of 107% for FY25-26 and 114% for FY26-26, which are above the available budget.

Member Geremew Amenu clarified with Fossum that the 80% funding cap is a recommendation, not a requirement. Chair Cadwallader emphasized the importance of adhering to the 80% funding cap and encouraged Project Proponents to seek additional funding sources to help fill funding shortfalls.

Member Benavides-Aguilar requested clarification on the ranking methodology, noting that some Members were not in support of the SS Applications. Public Works staff reported that out of 11 Members input, the results supported the Depave LA SS and that the DROPS SS was not ranked by 2 members of the 11 members input. The Lomita PMR received the most responses in favor and support. For the Fulton PMR, eight members supported partial funding, five supported full funding, and two did not support any funding. Chair Cadwallader suggested modifying the project ranking survey to allow respondents to suggest a dollar amount when voting for partial funding of a PMR, to improve the decision-making process.

Member Benavides-Aguilar noted that Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) had offered to defer funding and requested that Public Works staff present a revised scenario reflecting this option.

Member Benavides-Aguilar then asked the SS Applicants to share an update on what would happen if the SS did not receive funding from all WASCs.

Craig Doberstein (Herrera, Project Applicant) explained that the Depave LA SS could proceed with the full project if four or five WASCs approved funding. However, if full support was not received, the toolkit would be scaled back, and the WASC would discuss which items should remain. Member Benavides-Aguilar asked how the SS would determine which items to include and Doberstein explained that the decision would be based on identifying the tools essential to making the project viable. Doberstein also noted that engagement will be incorporated into the study’s development to invite feedback from interested parties.

Christopher Tull (California Data Collaborative, Project Applicant) shared that the DROPS SS could eliminate non-essential components because it is a software program. If six out of nine WASCs funded the SS, the project would have a smaller feature set and would be tested with two sites instead of three. Member Benavides-Aguilar confirmed with Tull that the tool would still be accessible to all WASCs.

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Member Benavides-Aguilar confirmed with Tull that downsizing to two calibration sites would have no major impact on the SS. Member Benavides-Aguilar also inquired how calibration would work, given the County's diverse geology and how different approaches would be weighed. Tull explained that the details are still being developed as the team works on the software program.

Member Benavides-Aguilar asked about the DROPS SS tool compared to existing tools. Public Works staff shared that Watershed Planning tools are not designed to identify specific projects or parcel locations and instead operate at a regional scale.

Member Kreiling noted that there may be some overlap between the DROPS SS and other studies and tools, such as those from Depave LA. Member Santilena encouraged that the SS proponent review the ongoing Watershed Planning efforts as the resources developed may help inform the DROPS SS, especially given the tight funding constraints.

Public Works staff presented the baseline scenario, which reflects funding allocations without any new project approvals. Member Benavides-Aguilar inquired about the status of the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin project and whether the allocated \$6.5 million would be used in the upcoming fiscal year.

Member Holst shared updates on the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin project and reported that CEQA mitigation documents are still in draft form and that the project is not fully funded, preventing it from moving forward. Member Benavides-Aguilar asked whether funding could be deferred and whether the City of Torrance had an estimate of how much could be utilized this year. Member Holst will share an update on funding allocations at the next meeting.

Chair Cadwallader inquired whether a time limit should be imposed on expending project funds. Public Works staff explained that project updates provide the WASC with funding status reports, and while funds are earmarked, they are not guaranteed. Fossum added that Fund Transfer Agreements include a lapse funding provision that requires funds to be expended within five years after disbursement.

Member Benavides-Aguilar asked for an update on the Wilmington Neighborhood Greening project. Naomi Diep (LASAN) confirmed that funding should remain unchanged as the project is completing design and CEQA documentation.

Member Benavides-Aguilar asked for the anticipated completion date of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). LASAN staff confirmed that the EIR is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, with construction anticipated in 2026.

Member Asha Kreiling expressed concerns about future operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for the Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation Operations and Maintenance (MLER). Mike Scaduto (LASAN, Project Developer) noted that a portion of Municipal funds would support the staff costs of the MLER project but additional funds are needed for the contract with the vendor performing O&M.

Upon inquiry, Andy Winje (City of Redondo Beach) provided an update on the Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project. Winje reported that aside from SCW Program funding, the only alternative source is the City's general fund of \$120 million, of which all but \$25,000 has already been allocated to capital improvement projects. Winje expressed a willingness to extend the Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project timeline by one to two years but has not received a response from City Council regarding a possible extension.

Member Holst requested input from other Beach Cities involved in the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project. Member Vanessa Hevener emphasized that the project is critical for regulatory compliance, and

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



delaying funding could create additional challenges. Member Hevener also noted that the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project, Phase 2 would also be critical in meeting regulatory compliance.

Member Benavides-Aguilar expressed concerns about allocating significant funding to a project that may experience construction delays and questioned whether a balance could be struck to ensure timely project completion. Member Hevener warned that if the project is delayed, it will still require funding in future years, potentially creating the same challenges.

Member Benavides-Aguilar asked whether providing 50% of the Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project PMR would allow construction to begin. Winje stated that as long as total funding would be awarded over time, the City of Redondo Beach would be comfortable covering initial costs. Fossum reminded the Committee that future allocations are earmarked and could be removed if projects fail to meet targets. Public Works staff presented a scenario including all projects with full PMR funding and the Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project's request distributed among 3 years.

Member Santilena requested a scenario where Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project's funding is deferred, noting that this would increase pressure on the SIP's second year of funding. Member Geraldine Trivedi expressed concerns about the ranking process, as those preferences were submitted without prior knowledge that Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project could defer funding. Member Trivedi also reiterated the importance of the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project in meeting compliance goals.

Public Works staff advised against allocating 100% of the WASC's current year or second year budget, as some projects may return with additional O&M or PMR requests. Member Santilena supported shifting funds to FY27-28 if necessary but expressed opposition to reducing previously projected allocations.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes emphasized the importance of Project Proponents securing additional funding to meet the 20% matching goal and to ensure that the SSMB WASC has sufficient funding available for future Project Applicants. Member Darryl Ford noted that only LASAN responded to outreach efforts regarding deferral of funds and stressed the importance of early engagement to ensure continuing Project Developers have ample time to meet funding requirements, fulfill compliance obligations, and navigate potential challenges or schedule changes.

Chair Cadwallader recommended modifying the initial survey ranking sheet to include a quantification of partial funding amounts and avoid arbitrary percentage allocations. Member Benavides-Aguilar supported delaying the SIP vote to allow for more time for Project Proponents to reassess funding flexibility.

Chair Cadwallader asked Public Works staff to redistribute the survey to the SSMB WASC and ensure that the next meeting includes a discussion on the specific questions proposed by committee members. Chair Cadwallader emphasized the need for greater clarity on key funding and prioritization issues to facilitate a more informed decision-making process. Committee Members expressed the need for additional details before proceeding with a vote on the FY 25-26 SIP.

6. Public Comment Period

Andy Winje (City of Redondo Beach) provided a public comment suggesting that a subcommittee be formed to help streamline and guide the decision-making process for the FY25-26 SIP.

7. Voting Items

- a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan recommendations for the SSMB Watershed Area and submission to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



The FY25-26 SIP vote is deferred to the next meeting. Member Hoyt asked if any items could be approved today. Public Works staff explained that while votes could be taken in parts, a final vote would be required to approve the SIP.

8. Items for next agenda

Public Works staff will resend the ranking survey with suggested updates. Public Works staff will send a scheduling poll to Committee Members to assess availability for an additional meeting before the next scheduled meeting on April 16, 2025.

- a) Continued SSMB Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY25-26 SIP

South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) will continue.

9. Adjournment

Chair Cadwallader thanked WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation, as well as the Los Angeles County wildfire response, and adjourned the meeting.

SSMB WASC - March 19, 2025							
		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the February 19, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan for SSMB Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "name of scenario")
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	X	CJ Caluag		Y	
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh	X	Tammy Hierlihy		Y	
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart		Asha Kreiling	X	A	
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce		Christopher Lapaz	X	Y	
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	Y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y	
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	X	Mary Simun		Y	
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija	X			Y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	X			Y	
Community Stakeholder							
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	X	Y	
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	X	Ryan Jackson		Y	
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu	X	Lara Awad		Y	
Municipal Members	Torrance	Stephanie Holst	X	Wilson Mendoza		Y	
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss		Geraldine Trivedi	X	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		17	Y		Yay (Y)	15	0
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	16	0
Municipal Members		7			Approved		Not Approved

Other Attendees	
Alexia Skrbic	Kathleen McGowan
Ali Sharbat Cal Poly	Katie Harrel CWE
Andrew Gray UCR	Kenny Khov
Angelique Silvestre	Lara Awad
Aric M	Larry Tran
Ashwini	Lisa (Jin) Kim
Ben O'Neal	M. Scaduto
Brenda Ponton	Marisol
Brett Perry	Marisol Ibarra
Bryan Igboke	Mark Nguyen
Caitlin Gray, SMBRC she/her	mary simun
Call-in User_2	Mehrad Kamalzare - CPP
Carlos Preciado	Melanie Rivera
Carlos Rodriguez	Michelle Staffield
Carmen	Naomi Diep
Christopher Tull, CaDC	Pablo Forni
Christopher Vong	Raymond Lam
Eric Bonilla - LACPW	Richard Watson
Haley Johnson	Rob Garcia Jr.
Jason Casanova	Robyn
Jason Pepito - SCW WP	Ryanna Fossum
Jenn Howell	Samantha Torres
Jennifer Coryell, Hazen and Sawyer	SCWP

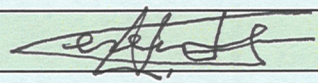
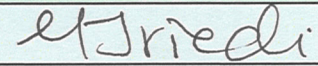
South Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	P	MB
Agency	CJ Caluag	LACFCD	A	
Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	P	
Agency	Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	A	
Agency	Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	P	
Agency	Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	A	
Agency	Dave Pierce	LAC Sanitation Districts	P	
Agency	Christopher Lapaz	LAC Sanitation Districts	A	
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	P	
Agency	Darryl Ford	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	A	
Community Stakeholder	Margie Hoyt	Resident	P	Margie A. Hoyt.
Community Stakeholder	Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	P	
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	
Community Stakeholder			A	
Municipal Member	Gilbert Marquez	Carson	P	
Municipal Member	Roland Jen	Carson	A	
Municipal Member	Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	P	

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



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Municipal Member	Ryan Jackson	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County Public Works	P	
Municipal Member	Lara Awad	Los Angeles County Public Works	A	
Municipal Member	Stephanie Holst	Torrance	P	
Municipal Member	Wilson Mendoza	Torrance	A	
Municipal Member	Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	P	
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		

South Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Shane Hardy	Hardy	Water Replenishment	
Geraldine Trivedi	Trivedi	Redondo Beach	
Robyn Finley	Finley	Stantec	
Craig Finley	Dobersheim	Herrera	
CRAIG	CADWALLADER	SURFRIDER SOUTH BAY	