

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, April 16, 2025
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*CJ Caluag, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Matthew Veeh, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (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)
*Shin Furukawa, Torrance (Municipal)
Doug 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 Not Present:

Cathie Santo Domingo, Los Angeles Recreation & Parks (Agency)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for the 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 March 19, 2025

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from March 19, 2025. Member Elizabeth Sala motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Susie Santilena. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 3 in abstention, and 1 Member absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Member Vanessa Hevener met with representatives from the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) group and the County to discuss the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project, with a focus on addressing and updating the original funding request to align with current program priorities. Member

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Geremew Amenu and Member Shin Furukawa also disclosed involvement in discussions. Member Santilena joined a follow-up phone call to review the outcomes and to consider potential City funding reallocations to support the continued progress of the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project.

4. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson (Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Management Group) provided an update on the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Watson shared that approximately two weeks ago, the Gateway Water Management Authority released an RFP for a project manager, with proposals due on May 23. A decision will be made after the deadline, followed by coordination with Public Works staff on the Transfer Agreement. The study is anticipated to begin in late summer or early fall. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9, WASCs, NGOs, and the State Water Resources Control Board are involved in this effort.

5. Discussion

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

Public Works staff provided an update on the Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project, which submitted an additional Project Modification Request (PMR) since the prior WASC meeting. This secondary PMR would be deemed consistent with the previously submitted PMR, if the WASC votes to approve the initial, inconsistent PMR for the project as part of the FY25-26 SIP. The new PMR form is included in the Summary of Resources, under the [PMR for WASC Discussion](#) document.

Public Works staff presented the updated results of the survey distributed to SSMB WASC Members. A total of 12 responses were received, which does not provide a representative sample of the WASC. The survey results indicated broad support for the PMR to the Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project (hereafter referred to as the Fulton Project), with 5 respondents supporting the full additional funding request, while 5 others supported the modifications but preferred to partially fund the request. Of those that supported partial funding, 3 respondents favored 50% of the additional funding request (\$2 million), and 2 preferred 25% of the funding request (\$1 million). Additionally, 2 respondents supported the modifications but did not support allocating any additional funding requested in the PMR.

Public Works staff presented a scenario that included all projects under consideration, including the Fulton Project PMR, and deferring the Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor and Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project. This scenario accounts for the Fulton Project PMR construction funding previously allocated. Public Works shared that Project Applicants were present and available to discuss their respective PMRs and Scientific Studies (SS).

Chair Cadwallader commented that the presented scenario achieves the 80% funding cap to reserve remaining funding for future funding requests and uncertainties. Chair Cadwallader emphasized that the scenario aligns with Public Works guidance and strongly recommended the WASC support it, while also inviting questions for further clarification.

Member Santilena expressed appreciation to the Beach Cities for their flexibility and collaborative consideration of funding reallocations. Public Works staff clarified that a motion could proceed so long as the Project Applicants are able to move forward with the projects as proposed with the funding allocations listed.

Member Santilena inquired whether the proposed shift allows the Fulton Project to proceed within the current fiscal year. Geraldine Trivedi (City of Redondo Beach) acknowledged the Beach Cities' efforts to

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advance the SIP and noted that it would be helpful to receive funding in earlier years. Public Works staff presented an alternative scenario allocating \$2 million to the Fulton Project PMR in FY25-26, and noted the earlier disbursement of funds would impact total SIP allocations in future years. Trivedi confirmed that \$2 million allocated in FY25-26 would meet the project's funding needs.

Member Amenu questioned the rationale behind limiting funding allocations in FY25-26, expressing concern about delays to shovel-ready projects despite available funds. Public Works staff explained that due to rollover funds, the SIP would be affected by current year allocations and emphasized the recommendation to maintain an 80% funding cap to accommodate future requests and PMRs. Member Amenu shared a preference to provide funding in earlier years rather than delaying current progress. In the scenario allocating \$3 million to the Fulton Project in FY25-26, the allocation for FY25-26 would be 78% and FY26-27 would be 87%.

Member Jenn Swart expressed concern about the scenario allocating \$3 million to the Fulton Project PMR in FY25-26, noting that it would exceed the desired funding threshold and requested to review a scenario without the two SS included. Public Works staff confirmed that removing the studies would only increase funding availability by 1%. Member Swart requested a scenario showing both studies removed and \$2 million allocated to the Fulton Project. This scenario results in a 82% allocation for FY26-27.

Member Vanessa Hevener echoed concerns over withholding funding, emphasizing that ready-to-implement projects should proceed without unnecessary delay. It was also noted that project costs are likely to increase and urged the WASC to allow the Fulton Project to advance procurement.

Member Susie Santilena expressed support for allocating more funding to the Fulton Project in FY25-26, noting that delaying funding may create challenges in future years regardless of timing. Member Santilena explained that, due to the long timeline of Transfer Agreement execution, Project Developers typically do not see funding early in the fiscal year, which is why funding is often requested upfront in Year 1 allocations. Member Santilena also commented that the Fulton Project is ready to proceed and should be prioritized now, while future projects can be more flexible and accommodate any resulting constraints. Member Santilena stated that, even if the WASC feels a financial pinch in the next fiscal year, it may open more room in Year 3 and ultimately support a more balanced, responsible approach in the long term.

Chair Cadwallader conveyed a desire to avoid overallocation while also not sitting on unused funds. Chair Cadwallader expressed caution regarding potential impacts of future federal funding cuts and the need to maintain available funding in the SIP for such uncertainties. Chair Cadwallader reiterated the value of preserving a margin and maintaining a cap of 80%.

Member Matthew Veeh inquired whether the proposed funding shift for the Fulton Project PMR would delay project implementation or merely impact internal financing. Trivedi clarified that it is an internal financing issue and emphasized that the project would proceed if funding were confirmed. Trivedi noted that the scenario with a \$3 million allocation in FY25-26 (without the two SS) would result in a total allocation of 86% for FY25-26.

Member Amenu asked whether the Fulton Project has secured leveraged funding. Trivedi confirmed that the City has committed \$1.5M in municipal funds to address the shortfall and ensure project completion.

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes acknowledged recent conversations with potential Project Developers and noted an expectation for future PMRs and new applications. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes highlighted the two primary funding decisions before the Committee: moving more funds for the Fulton Project PMR into earlier years or staying within an 80% funding allocation range.

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Member Christopher Lapaz proposed a scenario with \$2.5 million allocated to Fulton Project PMR in FY25-26, stating that the WASC is operating under uncertain conditions and should consider contingency planning for potential cost escalations.

Member Santilena requested an update from SS applicants and asked about funding received in other WASCs. Public Works staff shared that the Depave LA SS was approved in 2 out of 5 WASCs and that the DROPS Study has been approved in 4 WASCs. Member Santilena asked the SS applicants to comment on their ability to implement the study without full funding from all WASCs.

Christopher Tull (California Data Collaborative, Project Applicant) confirmed that the DROPS SS would proceed and that the scope includes developing a tool as outlined in the application. With 4 out of 9 WASCs onboard, a limited set of features can be developed for the tool. The DROPS SS team will work with stakeholders to develop a user group and prioritize datasets according to the highest needs. Public Works staff added that if approved in SSMB, the SS will have been considered by all 9 WASCs, and the scope must align with each WASC's application.

Chair Cadwallader asked about funding allocations in other WASCs that have already approved the SS. Public Works staff responded that some of the WASCs that approved the SS have a larger percentage of funding available for future years, but others did not adhere to the recommended 80% threshold, highlighting that each WASC operates under distinct challenges.

Jason Casanova (Council for Watershed Health, Project Applicant) provided additional context about the Depave LA SS, explaining that the project includes two main components: a prioritization tool for parking lot retrofits and a toolkit to assist future applicants. Without full WASC participation, Casanova noted that the toolkit resources would be limited. Casanova emphasized the value of funding support, which would enhance the final deliverable. Casanova shared that the Council for Watershed Health (CWH) would consider pursuing other funding sources if needed.

Member Santilena asked whether CWH would return to other WASCs in the future for additional funding. Casanova indicated that returning to other WASCs could allow for toolkit expansion but acknowledged that front-end funding is preferred.

Member Miller Zhou asked about the most significant toolkit features. Casanova listed conceptual O&M guidance and Technical Resources Program (TRP) application assistance as key items, along with tailored support to help applicants navigate the process and bring forward impactful projects.

Public Works staff asked Members to raise hands in support of the two SS proposed to the SSMB WASC—DROPS SS and Depave LA SS. Two Members expressed support for the DROPS SS and seven Members expressed support for Depave LA SS.

Member Santilena requested to view the scenario including Depave LA SS and the \$2.5 million in FY25-26 for Fulton Project PMR, as well as a separate scenario including Depave LA SS, DROPS SS, and the \$2.5 million in FY25-26 for Fulton Project PMR.

Member Veeh expressed appreciation for California Data Collaborative's past work, highlighting how the great partnership resulted in valuable data and resources. Member Veeh encouraged support for the DROPS SS, given its potential to improve data-driven decision-making in the field of stormwater management.

6. Public Comment Period

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There were no public comments.

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**

Member Elizabeth Sala motioned to approve the Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan for SSMB Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator, two new SS, Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project PMR, Fulton Playfield Multi-Benefit Infiltration Project PMR with full funding request, and deferred funding for Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project and Wilmington-Anaheim Green Infrastructure Corridor Project and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "Final - 4/16/25"), seconded by Member Santilena. The motion was approved with 15 votes in favor, 0 votes in opposition and 0 Members absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

8. Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be on May 21, held in person at Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility and online via WebEx. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

9. Adjournment

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

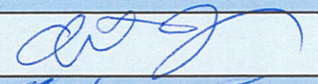

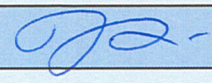

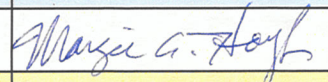
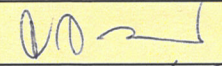
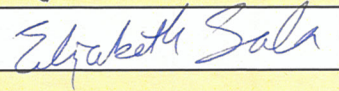
SSMB WASC - April 16, 2025							
		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve March 19, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan for SSMB Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "Final - 4/16/25")
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar		CJ Caluag	X	Y	Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh	X	Tammy Hierlihy		Y	Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	x	Asha Kreiling		A	Y
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	X	Christopher Lapaz		A	Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford			
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	X	Mary Simun		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija	X			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	X			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder							
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	X		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	X	Ryan Jackson		Y	Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu	X	Lara Awad		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Torrance	Stephanie Holst		Shin Furukawa	X	Y	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	X	Geraldine Trivedi		A	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	X	Nick Petrevski		Y	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	X	David Wahba		Y	Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	X				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11	15
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	3	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees

Alexia Skrbic
 Ana Rivera
 Aric M
 brett perry
 Brittney Pascoe
 Bryan Igboke
 Chris Lapaz
 Christopher Tull, CaDC
 Curtis Fang
 Deanna Fraley
 Emily
 Eric Bonilla
 Francisco Lopez Office of Supervisor Mitchell
 Ida Melsami
 Jesse Reyes
 Jessica
 Jose Castro - LACPW
 kathleen mcgowan
 Kenny Khov
 Lara Awad

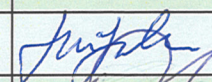
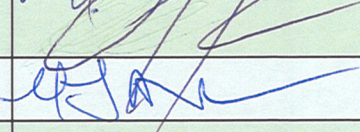
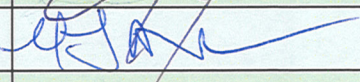
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	P	
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	
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	

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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	Shin Furukawa	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		