

# Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, April 17, 2025  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Santa Clarita City Hall  
23920 Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91355  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

Alynn Sun, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)  
Francisco Guerrero, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
Jerrid McKenna, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)  
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)  
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community), Vice-Chair  
Ivan Volschenk, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)  
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation (Community)  
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
\*Tyler Pledger, Santa Clarita (Municipal)  
Oliver Cramer, \*Haley Lawton, Santa Clarita (Municipal)  
Damon Letz, Santa Clarita (Municipal)  
Darin Seegmiller, Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair  
Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Ali Elhassan, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)  
Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)

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

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff gave a brief WebEx tutorial. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2025**

Public Works staff presented the previous meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Sandra Cattell motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 20, 2025. The motion was seconded by Member Bruce Hamamoto. The Committee voted to approve the March 20, 2025 meeting minutes, with 11 votes in favor, 3 votes in abstention, 0 votes opposed, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### **3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

There were no ex parte communications.

### **4. Committee Member and District Updates**

Chair Seegmiller attended the last Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to track WASC decision and highlighted that, at the time of the meeting, seven out of nine WASCs approved their Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs).

Public Works staff then provided an update:

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- Public Works staff will work with the SCR WASC to reschedule the meeting occurrence via a survey that will be distributed after the meeting.
- Applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 25-26 Low Income Senior Owned Exemptions and General Income Based Tax Reduction are due on May 1. For more information, see the Exemptions and Reductions section of the [SCW Program webpage](#).
- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP is July 31. Info Sessions will be held virtually on May 21 from 9:00-11:00am and May 22 from 3:00-5:00pm. Both sessions will contain the same information. For proposed projects involving Los Angeles County Flood Control District infrastructure or facilities, the deadline to request a letter for conceptual approval from the Flood Control District is May 31.
- Mid-Year Reports covering July to December 2024, (previously separated as Q1 & Q2 Reports) were due in February. Project and Study Developers must address comments and resubmit as soon as possible, regardless of receiving funds, having expenditures or activities, or having executed the Funds Transfer Agreement.
- The upcoming ROC meeting is scheduled for May 14 at 1:00 pm. The ROC will be receiving updates from the Watershed Planning Water Quality Working Group and Community Investment Benefits and Benefit Ratio Working Group. The meeting will also include an update from Watershed Coordinators. To view meeting details please visit the [ROC events webpage](#).
- FY25-26 Annual Plans were due on April 1.
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are being processed and executed by Public Works. The fifth disbursements are ongoing. Cities will need to comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement.
- A Metrics & Measures section is being developed as a new tile in the Municipal Program Reporting Module. This Metrics & Measures section will collect data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program activities to align with and inform the Watershed Planning efforts and Program-wide progress assessments. A release date and instructions for municipalities to provide data will be provided soon.

#### 5. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley shared updates and upcoming events in the SCR Watershed. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights include:

- Completing the SCR Watershed mobile education display, which will be debuted throughout Earth Month events
- Collaborating with the Steelhead Trout Coalition for an educational tour
- Engaging with the County Water Plan via the Nature-Based Solutions Blue Ribbon Panel Working Group
- Conducting community outreach and engagement and elevating the use of the Watershed Planning Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey and dashboard.

Vice-Chair Cattell confirmed that TreePeople will be at an open house event for Placerita Canyon on May 10.

#### 6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

#### 7. Discussion Items

##### a) Watershed Planning Update

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Watershed Planning staff within Public Works provided the WASC with a presentation on the Watershed Planning effort to-date. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights from the presentation include:

- The Initial Watershed Plans are developing strategies, actions, and opportunities to address Watershed Area needs and achieve SCW Program goals. Needs are determined by the difference between targets set for the watershed area and the benefits from SCWP-funded projects. Strategies explain how to meet these needs, actions outline what types of projects to implement, and opportunities identify where to implement them for the highest impact.
- For example, in the LLAR Watershed Area, the need for zinc load reduction involves prioritizing high-performance wet weather projects with large drainage areas and mapping areas with the highest potential to reduce water quality pollutants.
- Composite layers are being developed to identify multi-benefit opportunities, combining various planning themes such as drought preparedness, public health improvement, nature-based solutions, and equitable benefit distribution; and
- The Initial Watershed Plans and Planning Tool will help interested parties and project applicants plan, track, and guide the implementation of impactful multi-benefit stormwater projects. The plans will be presented at upcoming meetings, followed by a public review period, and finalized in early 2026.

Watershed Planning staff within Public Works encouraged WASC members to visit the [Adaptive Management webpage](#) on the SCW Program website for more information. Questions related to Watershed Planning can be directed to [watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov).

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion on the potential use of the Planning Tools. Antos additionally conducted a demonstration of the CSNA Survey and Dashboard. Chair Seegmiller noted the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Tool can be used in conjunction with the new the CSNA Dashboard to help the WASC match projects with Opportunity Areas during SIP deliberations.

Vice-Chair Cattell emphasized the need for user-friendly visual materials, particularly PowerPoint templates, the presentation of material, and the Watershed Planning Tool webpage. Watershed Planning staff shared plans to improve user-friendliness through information sessions and public comment and noted that social media kits will be available soon.

Vice-Chair Cattell noted community priorities should be reflected in the tool. Watershed Planning staff noted that the tools will grow over time, and Watershed Coordinators can integrate responses into their Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans.

Member Mary Johnson expressed appreciation for the CSNA and found the survey ideal for rural and unincorporated areas within SCR Watershed Area. Watershed Planning staff added that paper surveys are also available in the top 10 languages spoken in Los Angeles County.

Vice-Chair Cattell discussed heat island impacts at parking lots and inquired about submitting responses for land use types (e.g., parking lots) rather than site-specific responses. Watershed Planning staff shared that information about land use types can be included in the free response sections of the survey. Watershed Planning staff will engage SCW Program governance committees and preview Initial Watershed Plans in August, followed by a public review period.

Vice-Chair Cattell reminded Public Works staff that the Committee requested Comment Periods after every agenda item.

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#### **6. Public Comment Period (continued)**

Public Works staff reopened Agenda Item 6 and noted that there were no public comment cards, call-in users, or in-person comments.

Public Works Staff noted that for future meetings, the agenda will include Public Comment Periods after every Agenda Item in future meetings.

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

Vice-Chair Cattell expressed interest in receiving an update on invasive species. The Committee discussed the upcoming WASC meeting agenda. Public Works staff added that June 19, which is a federal holiday, overlaps with the currently scheduled SCR WASC meeting. An email will be sent to Committee Members noting potential dates, times, and locations for future meetings.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Chair Seegmiller thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

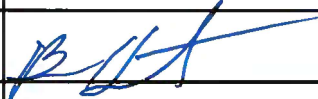

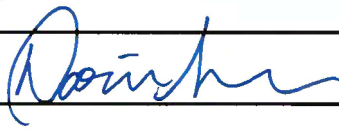



SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - APRIL 17, 2025						
		Quorum Present			Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 3/20/2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Julian Juarez		Alynn Sun	x	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan		Najwa Pitois		
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna	x	Susan Nelson		a
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly				
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell**	x	Diane Trautman		y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk	x			a
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		not present at vote
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Laurene Weste, Councilmember		Tyler Pledger	x	a
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Oliver Cramer	x	Haley Lawton		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz	x	Dan Duncan		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Amber Rodriguez		y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Amanda Begley	x	Heather Turpin		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

**Webex Attendees**  
**Santa Clara River WASC Meeting**  
**April 17, 2025**

Bryan Igboke	Hayat Rasul	Paul Hartman	SCW Staff Larry Tran
Bryant Alvarado	Jenny Chau	Rebecca Kaliff	Sarah Followill
Claire Barr	JonPaul Sarro SCW WP	Ryanna Fossum	YY
Dustin Bambic	Linnet Khechatoorian	SCR WASC	julian juarez
Eric Bonilla	Luis Perez SCW WP	SCR WASC Presenter	najwa pitois
Erum Razzak	Mike Antos Watershed Planning	SCW Staff Buddy Barreras	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ali Elhassan	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency		P	
Allen Ma	LA County Public Works		A	
Alynn Sun	FCD		A	
Amanda Begley (non-voting)	TreePeople		WC	
Amber Rodriguez	Santa Clarita		A	
Bruce Hamamoto	LA County Public Works		P	
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts		A	
Damon Letz	Santa Clarita		P	
Dan Duncan	Santa Clarita		A	
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita		P	
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club		A	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation		P	
Francisco Guerrero	LA County Sanitation Districts		P	
Haley Lawton	Santa Clarita		A	
Heather Turpin (non-voting)	TreePeople		WC	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Heidi Webber	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation		A	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery		P	
Ivan Volschenk	Evolve Business Strategies		P	
Jerrid McKenna	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services		P	
Julian Juarez	FCD		P	
Laurene Weste, Councilmember	Santa Clarita		P	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council		P	
Najwa Pitois	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency		A	
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita		P	
Rick Viergutz	Santa Clarita Valley GSA		A	
Sandra Cattell	Santa Clarita Sierra Club		P	
Steve Cole	Santa Clarita Valley GSA		P	
Susan Nelson	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services		A	
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita		A	
	FCD			