



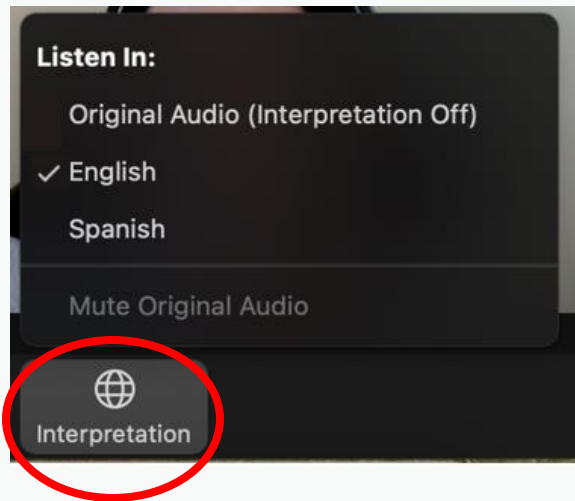
# Regional Oversight Committee Meeting

May 14, 2025



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- **You are using a Chromebook**
- **You are calling into the meeting**

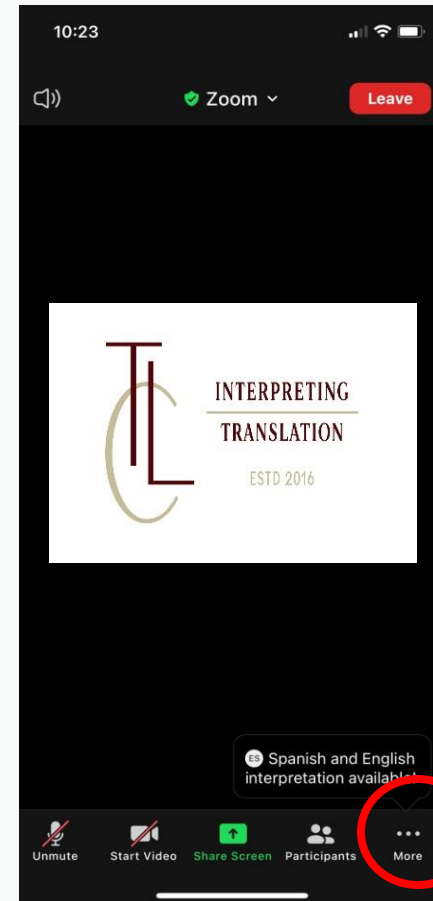


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**Computadora:** seleccione el globo y ponga una palomita en su idioma de preferencia

**Nota: La interpretación por Zoom NO funciona si:**

- **Su aplicación no está actualizada**
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# Regional Oversight Committee Meeting

May 14, 2025



## Safe, Clean Water Program **Regional Oversight Committee Purpose:**

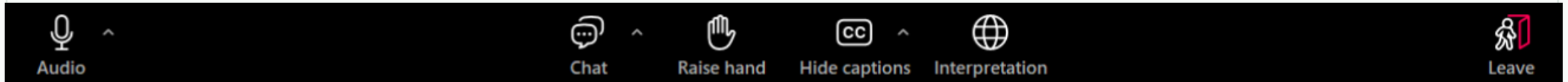
High-level review and assessment of the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program to help ensure that Program Purposes and Goals are met.

## Web Version

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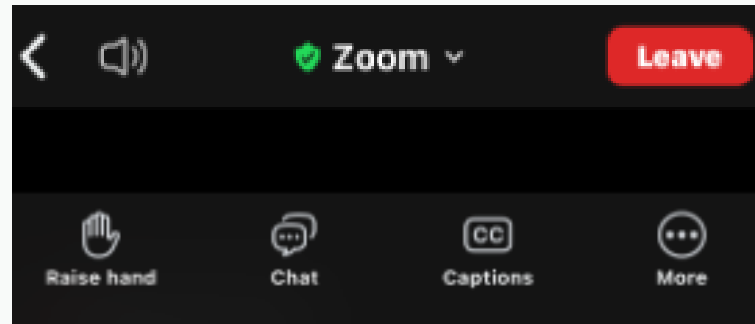


## Phone Version

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hand

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meeting



Member	Expertise	Affiliation
<b>Belinda Faustinos, Chair</b>	Community Investment Benefits, Nature-Based Solutions	NGO (retired) and State Agency Executive
<b>Diana Tang, Vice Chair</b>	Water Quality	City of Long Beach
<b>Maria Mehranian</b>	Water Quality, Water Supply	Cordoba and Former LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair
<b>Charles Trevino</b>	Water Supply	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
<b>Lauren Ahkiam</b>	Community Investment Benefits	LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)
<b>Kristine Guerrero</b>	Water Quality	League of California Cities
<b>Barbara Romero</b>	Water Quality, Community Investment Benefits, Nature-Based Solutions	City of Los Angeles
<b>Mark Gold</b>	Water Quality, Water Supply	Natural Resources Defense Council
<b>Diana Mahmud</b>	Water Supply, Community Investment Benefits	Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena
<b>Carl Blum</b>	Water Quality, Water Supply	LA County Flood Control District (non-voting member)
<b>Norma Camacho</b>	Water Quality	Chair of the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board (non-voting member)

## Agenda Review & Meeting Purpose

### Meeting Purpose:

- ☐ ROC consideration of working group summaries
- ☐ Watershed Coordination input and recommendations for the 2025 Biennial Report

### Agenda Review:

1. Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose
4. *Ex Parte* Communication Disclosures
5. Approval of April 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes
6. Public Comment Period
7. Discussion Items: ROC working group summaries
8. Voting Item: Inclusion of working group summaries and any pertinent recommendations into the draft Biennial Report
9. Watershed Coordinators Biennial Report Input
10. ROC Member Updates
11. Program Administration Updates
12. Items for Next Agenda / 6 – month look-ahead
13. Meeting Adjourned (Next meeting June 11, 2025)





# Watershed Planning

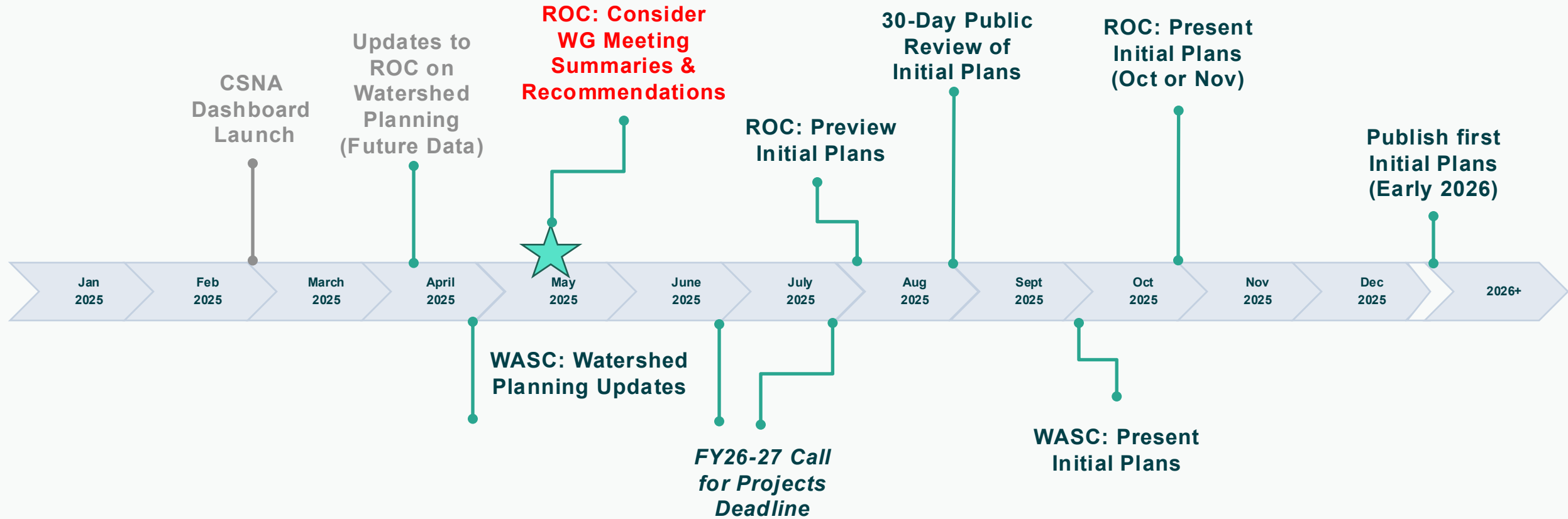
Regional Oversight Committee  
Working Groups Update

May 14, 2025





# Tentative SCWP Watershed Planning Timeline for 2025

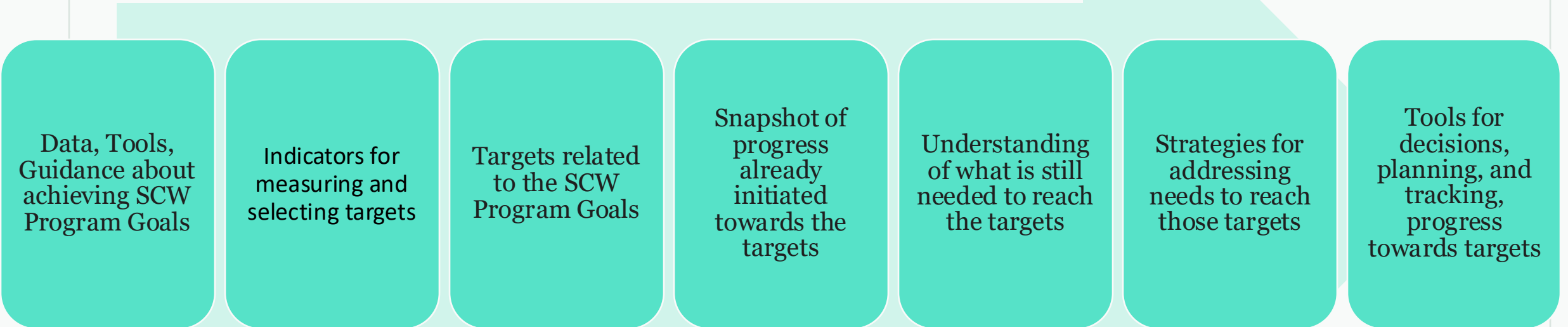


2025 Biennial Report Timeline



Watershed Planning

# Watershed Planning is developing:



## Recommended Motions:

The Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee moves to:

- include the meeting summaries from the Initial Watershed Planning working groups in the draft Biennial Report,
- concur with the SCW Program related recommendations, and,
- acknowledge the efforts already responsive to the recommendations.

The Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee moves to:

- recognize that some working group recommendations will require further discussion beyond Initial Watershed Planning, and
- include applicable ideas in the Biennial Report as recommended topics for regional consideration beyond Safe, Clean Water Program.

## ROC working groups – A Brief History...

In 2023, the Water Supply working group of the ROC:

- Convened to support Biennial Report development
- Produced a memo with a series of recommendations
- Reviewed the memo at a ROC meeting
- Acted to:
  - direct staff to incorporate recommendations by the working group in the Biennial Report, and,
  - recognize some recommendations had implications larger than SCW Program that would therefore need to be handled separate from the Biennial Progress Report.





## 2025 Watershed Planning Working Groups:

- Formed to support efforts to develop Initial Watershed Plans
- Provided input to the approach for setting targets and identifying strategies for SCW Program goal attainment

## 2025 Watershed Planning ROC Working Groups

### **Community Investment Benefit and Benefit Ratios Working Group Members:**

- Belinda Faustinos, NGO (retired) and State Agency Executive, ROC
- Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena, ROC
- Rich Watson, RH Watershed Coordinator
- Santina Contreras, University of Southern California
- Dawn Petschauer, City of Pasadena, Chair RH WASC
- David Diaz, Active SGV, Scoring Committee

Met on 30 Oct 2024 and 24 Mar 2025

### **Water Quality Working Group Members:**

- Mark Gold, Natural Resources Defense Council, ROC
- Norma Camacho, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, ROC
- Mark Lombos, Los Angeles County Public Works
- Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, SCR WASC, NSMB WASC
- Jenny Newman, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Dawn Petschauer, City of Pasadena, Chair RH WASC
- Ken Susilo, Geosyntec
- Michael Scaduto, City of Los Angeles
- Susie Santilena, City of Los Angeles, Co-Chair CSMB WASC, SSMB WASC

Met on 7 Oct 2024, 6 Nov 2024, and 19 Mar 2025

# Recommendations Received and Activity Undertaken or Planned

## Community Investment Benefits (CIB) and Benefits Ratio (BR) Recommendations for Watershed Planning

Working Group Recommendation	Action Undertaken
Separate metrics for <u>new</u> from those for <u>enhanced</u> green spaces or recreational spaces as a resource for incentivizing and prioritizing new recreational area.	<b>Complete – Added to WP.</b> The Initial Watershed Plans will separate targets related to new park space from enhanced/restored and will be reflected in target setting. Parks Needs Assessment+ data is being used to develop associated targets.
Document additional planning documents recommended by the group against the existing list and consider their implications for opportunity analysis and target setting.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> – Municipal climate plans were recommended for review and potentially for helping set targets.
Prioritize engagement with municipalities to support awareness of SCW Program targets.	<b>Complete – Existing Collaborative Meetings</b> – Engagement with League of California Cities and the SCW Program Municipal Program is aiding in this effort.
Continue efforts to support delivery of benefits sought by communities that are or are not aligned with the “such as seven” of the CIB policy.	<b>Complete – CSNA</b> – The Watershed Planning Tool and the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment Survey and Dashboard can help with Program alignment to support delivery of benefits sought by communities.



## Community Investment Benefits (CIB) and Benefits Ratio (BR) Recommendations for Watershed Planning

Working Group Recommendation	Action Undertaken
Identify level of community support and associated documentation.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - Community Engagement and Support is assessed on a good/better/best scale and will ultimately rely on the judgement of WASCs and Municipalities. The Planning Tools will support this judgement using existing documents such as the PNA+ Survey, the OurCounty Needs Assessment, the CSNA, and direct engagement conducted by Watershed Coordinators and NGO's.
Define the term "access" as broader than just within the context of ADA.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - Within the Initial Plans, the term access will be used in the following manners, including, but not limited to: Public Access, Physical Access, Viewing Access, Open Space Access, Waterway Access, ADA Access, etc.
Concur that specific benefit types should have different distance metrics dependent on scope and scale.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - CIB and BR distances are ranging from ¼ to 2 miles dependent on project scope and size.
Develop guidance about wildfire resilience strategies that fulfill the existing definition of CIB.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - An analysis of the CIB definitions in the SCW Program Ordinance is underway to understand how wildfire resilience can be interwoven in existing Program language.

## Community Investment Benefits related to Wildfire Resilience Strategy

Community Investment Benefit [is] created in conjunction with a Project or Program, such as, but not limited to...	Related Wildfire Resilience Strategy
Improved flood management, flood conveyance, or flood risk mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slope stabilization with native plants</li> <li>• Maintaining integrity of emergency routes</li> <li>• Debris basin and dam maintenance</li> </ul>
Creation, enhancement, or restoration of parks, habitats, or wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire prone invasive plant removal</li> <li>• Habitat enhancement for ecological resilience</li> <li>• Fire spread buffer</li> <li>• Wetland, riparian, upland soil moisture retention</li> <li>• Education and engagement assets and programs</li> </ul>
Improved public access to waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency firefighting access to water</li> <li>• Emergency routes</li> <li>• Education and engagement assets and programs</li> </ul>
Enhanced or new recreational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel management via open space programming, operations, and maintenance</li> <li>• Education and engagement assets and programs</li> </ul>
Greening of schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire spread buffer</li> <li>• Education and engagement assets and programs</li> </ul>
Reducing heat island effect and increasing shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil moisture retention</li> <li>• Fire spread buffer</li> </ul>
Planting of trees and/or vegetation that sequesters carbon and improves air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-fire air quality and recovery</li> <li>• Fire spread buffer</li> </ul>



## Water Quality Working Group Recommendations for Watershed Planning

WG Action #	Working Group Recommendations	Actions Undertaken or Planned
<i>Overall</i>	With the MS4 Permits as the policy source, <b>acknowledge a countywide target</b> of meeting water quality standards in all receiving waters directly impacted by dry weather and stormwater runoff by 2038.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - A final target date of 2038 is assigned to WQ targets, and both the overall pollutant load reductions and SCW contributions are calculated.
1.1 & 2.1	Develop watershed area-specific <b>load reduction interim targets for 2032</b> .	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - Each WA has unique load reduction targets based on modelled baseline loading, existing projects, and projects funded to date by SCW and other programs.
2.2	<b>Include SCW Program, and over time, projects from other programs when available, in Watershed Planning Tools</b> to express load reduction contributions in support of developing projects in unmanaged or under-managed areas.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - WQ targets account for existing and planned projects (e.g., MS4 and IRWMP projects). Major FCD facilities are mapped in the WA Planning Tools. <b>Future – Adaptive Mgmt</b> – Over time, other existing non-SCW projects (e.g., Prop O projects) could be added to the WA Planning Tool maps.
1.2	Develop quantitative tools <b>that link watershed area-specific load reduction targets with the load reduction contributions</b> from existing and proposed projects, using both monitoring and modeling.	<b>Complete – Added to WP</b> - The WA Planning Tool will use modeling to quantify load reduction by funded and proposed Projects, allowing WASCs and Municipalities to consider the WQ benefits of funding decisions. <b>Future – Adaptive Mgmt</b> – Over time, the modeled estimates can be augmented with monitoring data as projects are constructed/ completed.
3.3	<b>Consider aligning SCW Program post-construction monitoring and reporting with MS4 monitoring and reporting</b> requirements to ease reporting burdens and avoid duplication.	<b>Future – Adaptive Management</b> - During adaptive management, one of the key gaps identified by Initial Plans to address is the approach to incorporating monitoring data for assessment (including approaches to avoid duplication).



## Water Quality Working Group Broader Recommendations That Extend Beyond SCWP

WG Action #	Working Group Recommendations
3.1	<b>Consider establishing a new “Countywide Adaptive Management Implementation Plan” that identifies specific projects to achieve the Countywide Water Quality Target</b> of meeting all water quality standards in receiving waters.
3.2	Consider developing monitoring and reporting requirements for the “Countywide Adaptive Management Implementation Plan” that provide <b>data sufficient to judge progress towards the Countywide Water Quality Target</b> .
3.4	<b>Receive and consider effluent and receiving water quality monitoring data</b> from LA Water Board in support of this Plan ( <i>item 3.1 above</i> ), monitoring, and reporting.
2.3	<b>Receive and consider load reduction strategy and prioritization guidance</b> from LA Water Board.



## Recommended Motions:

The Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee moves to:

- include the meeting summaries from the Initial Watershed Planning working groups in the draft Biennial Report,
- concur with the SCW Program related recommendations, and,
- acknowledge the efforts already responsive to the recommendations.

The Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee moves to:

- recognize that some working group recommendations will require further discussion beyond Initial Watershed Planning, and
- include applicable ideas in the Biennial Report as recommended topics for regional consideration beyond Safe, Clean Water Program.

SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM  
May 14, 2025

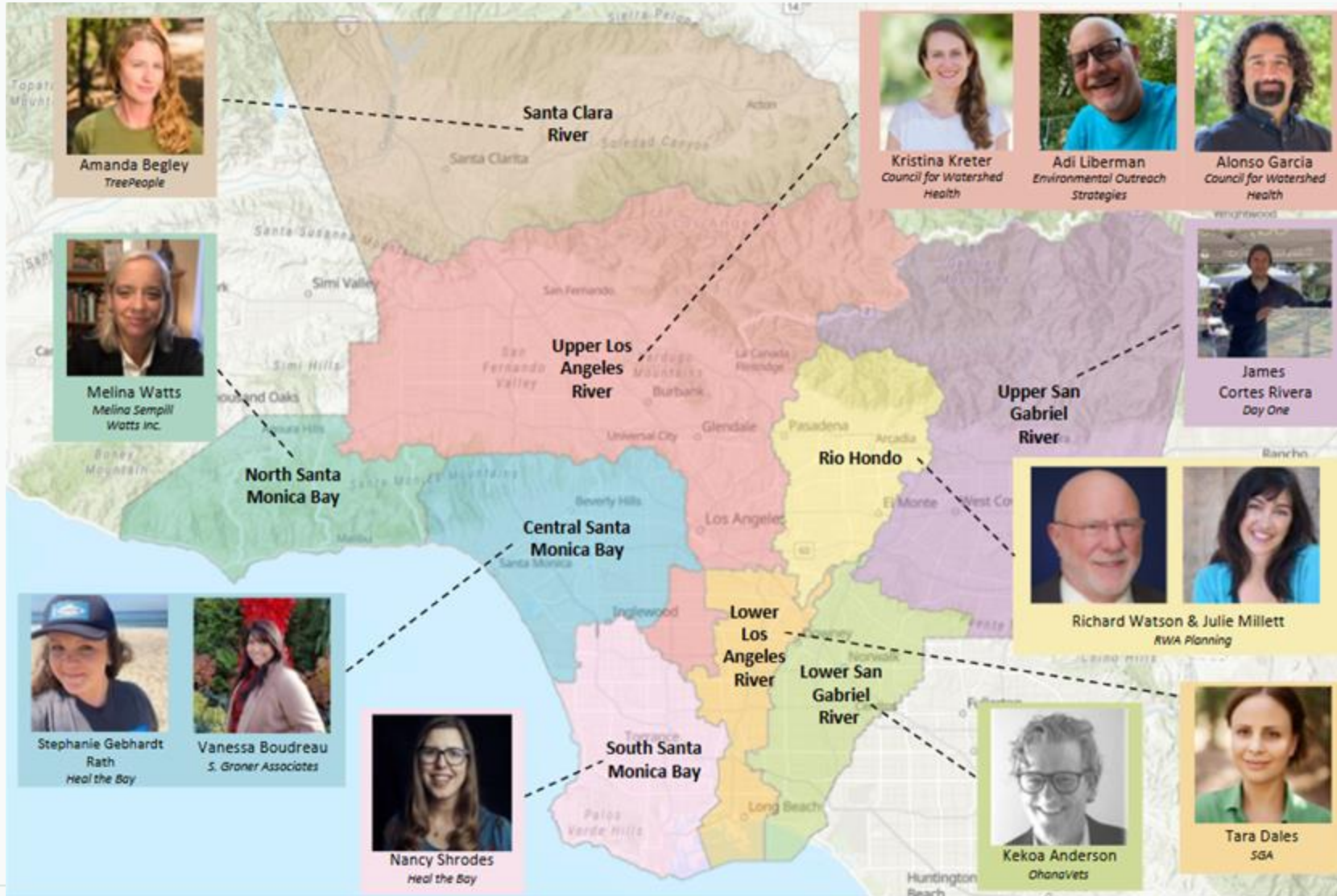
# Watershed Coordination Update

Themes for 2025 Biennial Report





# Watershed Coordinators & Regional Coordination



## Regional Coordination



Mike Antos  
Stantec

Ryanna Fossum  
Stantec

Emily Ng  
Stantec

# Watershed Coordinator Role

Each of the 9 watersheds has an assigned Coordinator or team of Coordinators (depending on watershed size)

**1**

## **Solicit & Support New Projects**

Identify parties with project ideas & connect them with the Technical Resources Program

**2**

## **Community Engagement**

Gather input on community needs that SCWP projects can help fulfill

**3**

## **Public Education**

Educate the public about SCWP projects in their communities  
+  
Inform community members about how they can voice their input



# Watershed Coordinator Highlights



**790** outreach events hosted

**613** education events hosted

**71,000** people reached





# What We're Hearing as Watershed Coordinators

## 1. Simplify Application & Reporting Processes

- Streamline applications & simplify reporting, particularly for CBOs
- Establish dedicated support, such as a help desk (beyond the scwp email)

## 2. Accelerate timelines to be responsive to:

- Wildfire recovery
- School greening (around school year constraints, i.e. students in classrooms during construction)
- Flooding







# What We're Hearing as Watershed Coordinators

## 3. Support Environmental Restoration & Green Space Acquisition

- Interest in the Regional Program supporting open space preservation including the acquisition and restoration of open space, wetlands, and riparian habitats
- A desire to see more conversion of hardscapes to green space
- Excitement for the County Water Plan Nature-Based Solutions Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations influencing the SCW Program





## Feedback about the Technical Resources Program (TRP)

- Public Works could direct Watershed Coordinators, and guide prioritizing TRP, to support CBOs, NGOs, and underserved communities
- PW could direct Watershed Coordinators to prioritize collaborating with related regional efforts (e.g., Parks Needs 2.0, OurCounty) to integrate SCW Program Goals
- Technical Resources Program (TRP) proponents are not always funded to participate alongside the PW-assigned Technical Assistance Team





## Feedback about the Technical Resources Program (TRP)

### Achieving Full Spectrum of Project Sizes

- Public Works could encourage proponents and WASCs to consider TRP awards for area investigation for distributed community-led projects and non-traditional locations (e.g., alleys and vacant lots)
- Public Works could direct the Watershed Coordinators, after Initial Watershed Planning is released, to focus on supporting project development in the opportunity areas where no projects have been proposed/supported.







## Ideas for WC supporting long-term Goals

### **1. Long-Term Maintenance & Job Creation**

- Continue guiding WASCs about retaining funds for ongoing maintenance, especially in watersheds with smaller cities and limited resources
- Document and share about the link between O&M for long-term sustainability of projects and workforce development / local meaningful employment opportunities

### **2. Initial Watershed Plans Implementation**

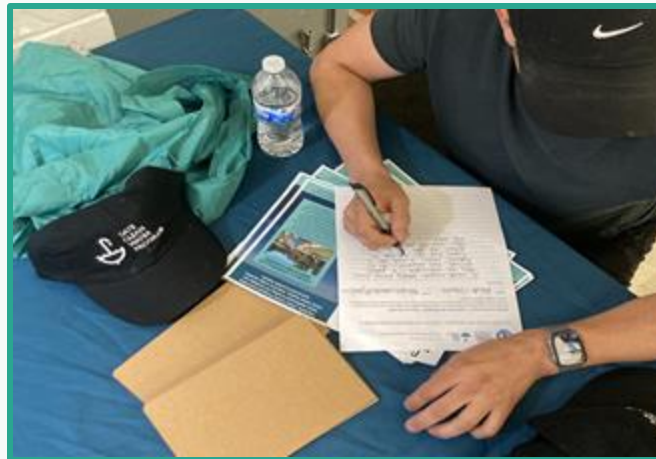
- Task WCs with elements of implementing the Initial Watershed Plans
- Provide examples for WC to share project examples, project types, or specific BMPs that align with watershed needs and opportunity areas



# Ideas for WC supporting long-term Goals

## 3. Support Coordination & Knowledge Sharing

- Strengthen encouragement for project applicants to engage Watershed Coordinators prior to application to the Regional Program
- Task WC with improving the connection of Scientific Studies results to new TRPs and IPs
- Task WC with facilitating knowledge sharing of best practices as projects are completed



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM  
May 14, 2025

# Discussion



## **AGENDA ITEM #11**

# Program Administration Updates

**SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**  
**Regional Oversight Committee Meeting**  
**May 14, 2025**



## 2025 Look-Ahead



### June 11

- Review & Approve FY25-26 SIPs
- Update on Adaptive Management Board Motion Items

### July 9

- Review & Approve FY25-26 SIPs

### August 13

- Update on regional project development/partnerships
- Initial Watershed Plans Preview
- SCWP Education Programs

### September 10

- Biennial Report Session 3 – Draft Report Discussion

### October 8

- Biennial Report Session 4 – Approve Draft Report & Open 30-Day Public Comment Period
- Watershed Planning Update

### November 12

- Scientific Studies Symposium

### December 10

- Biennial Report Session 5 – Approve Final Report to Submit to Board of Supervisors
- Set Course for Adaptive Watershed Plans

# Thank you

## QUESTIONS?

Contact the  
**Regional Oversight Committee**  
**Executive Clerk**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
Hotline: 1-833-ASK-SCWP (7297)

**[SCWP\\_ROC\\_ExecClerk@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SCWP_ROC_ExecClerk@pw.lacounty.gov)**

Safe Clean Water LA - LA County's Safe Clean Water Program Website  
<https://safecleanwaterla.org/>