

Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator May 8, 2025



The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians — Kizh Nation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

LAND
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LAND Map courtesy Wikipedia Greenland Sea

Thickness of Greenland ice sheet
Thickness over 10 m above bedrock and

Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP



Pepperdine Earth Day 2025, Tabled Calabasas Earth Day, 2025, Tabled Westlake Earth Day, 2025, Tabled

Santa Monica Bay Foundation

Southern California Coastal Research Project L.A. County

Attended LA County NBS Blue Ribbon Panel - Workshop #5

Localized Water Network Oceanwell

APRIL 22^{nd...}THE DATE of EARTH DAY is CRAZY

BECAUSE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS'
BEST TIME TO PLANT IS
LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER,
FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER

Can California create our own California Earth Day?

Ask botanists, nursery plant managers, biologists.

Something like... December 2^{nd?}

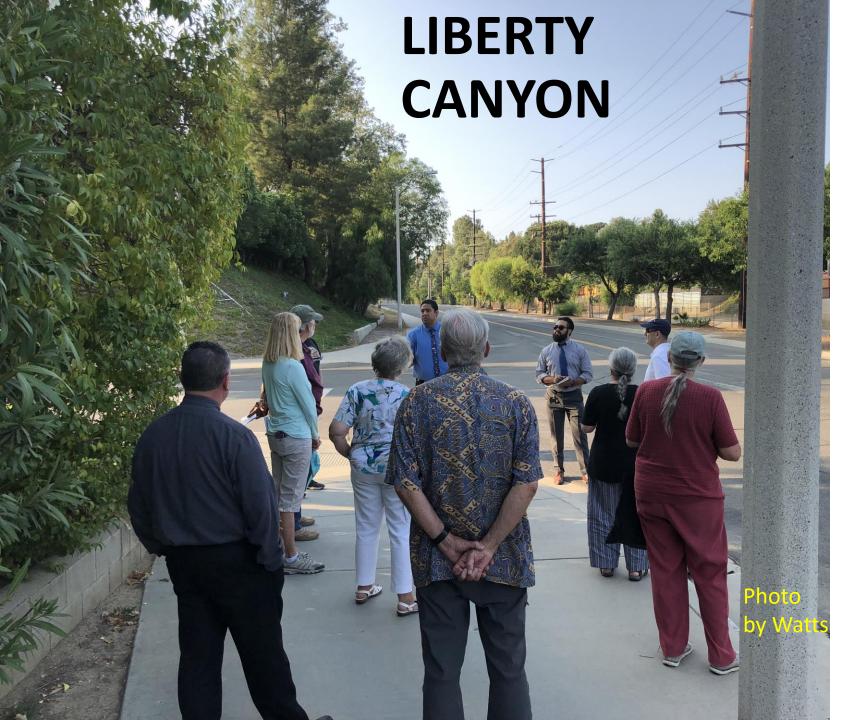
Photo by Watts

Why Can't We Be More Like Bermuda?

The Big Three,

- White rooftops (reducing the amount of air conditioning required)
- Capture of <u>all</u> rainwater capture from rooftops and storage on site via building scale cisterns for safe water storage
- Solar on every roof to reduce the need for transporting energy (which often causes fires.)

See: https://socalwatersierraclub.org/why-arent-we-behaving-like-bermuda/
Photo by John Gardner



Pitched string of times / venues for outreach events for Liberty Canyon outreach to Alberto Grajeda and Bruce Hamomoto

Potentially, Agoura Hills' Creek Clean-up Day,

First Saturday in September (same as Beach Clean Up)

Location at Kanan and Agoura

Photo from event in 2021

Identify and Develop Project Concepts

City of Malibu busy post-fires

(Franklin AND Palisades, and still...Woolsey) but...long shot,

Ewelina Mutkowski is exploring IP application 2026 for project on TMDL implementation list at Kanan and PCH





- Reached out to Wildlife
 Conservation Board, RCDSMM,
 CALTRANS to explore funding
 Topanga Creek Watershed
 planning to support project
 development in the future.
 - Photo, Topanga Headwaters at Viewridge Estates
- Asking Wildlife Conservation
 Board if historic streamflow
 scientific study that came to
 NSMB WASC is of interest.

Work with Technical Assistance Teams



Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

Attended,

- Oceanwell Event at LVMWD
 Reservoir, desalination
 project
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration
 Foundation Board meeting
- L.A. County Beaches and Harbors Commission meeting
- Nature Based Solutions Blue Ribbon Committee
- Sierra Club Los Angeles
 Chapter Water Committee



LA Department of Public Health

Virtual Town Hall on the Post-Fire, Air, Soil and Water Assessment Plan

Shared invitation to this event, now available on YouTube,

- newsletter
- city websites
- local news venues

Many community members are deeply interested in impacts of fires on water quality.

Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

Continue to sustain and grow extensive networks.

One issue that jumped out,

At LA County Beaches and Harbors Commission meeting; presentation by John Warner, CEO, Marine Mammal Care Center on domoic acid and devastation of marine life was tough to hear. Warner stated that excess nutrients is causing the high level of *Pseudo-nitzschia* algae overgrowths that lead to domoic acid outbeaks. Another species of algae may be contributing as well.

Cost Share Partners

- Supported SMMUSD in cross-watershed SCWP Education grant application with Amigo de los Rios for just over \$200K for 6 schools in Santa Monica and 1 school in Malibu
- Attempting to organize collaborative application to fund State of the Watershed Film 2025 and 2026 from SD3
- The Santa Monica Airport is transforming into an arts and culture hub.
 Pitched project idea for non-profit to be located on site to Heal the Bay, SAMO Fund.



Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

Conversations That Didn't Quite Gel into Applications

- Discussed impacts of past USDA-NRCS funding on water quality, water supply,
 climate change issues with Patricia Horton, staff for Senator Schiff
- Thanks to Craig Doberstein, Herrera Consultants, Shared with Beaches and Harbors, SD3, RCDSMM, USC Sea Grant and California Watershed Network:
 NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund 2025 Request for Proposals
- Explored potential flexibility on amount available from SCWP funding for scientific applications for NSMB WASC with Eric Bonnilla, Chair and Co-Chair;
 L.A County Counsel clear on limitations
- Learned about discussions by CARCD ED Nancy Wahl-Scheurich and NACD in Washington D.C. to discuss impacts of past USDA-NRCS programming

Conversations That DID Gel into Applications

Decisions Pending,

- The LA County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announces the launch of the HRTP Fund a \$17.8 million grant; SAMO Fund applied for \$1 million dollars.
- SAMO Fund requests \$1.3 million via appropriations request process at office of Senator Schiff;
 big thanks to Patricia Horton who I met at LVMWD Oceanwell event
- Rosi Dagit thanked me for encouraging RCDSMM to apply for appropriations from office of Senator Schiff, RCDSMM applied for appropriations for Topanga Lagoon via Senator Padilla, number TBD
- SMMUSD applies for just over \$200K from Safe, Clean Water L.A. Community Engagement and Outreach Grant

Success,

Tracy Lovric, Marilyn Brodie French and RCDSMM receives \$100K from SCWP program community
 engagement and education program for watershed programming for kids

Local Stakeholder Education

PREDICATED UPON AVAILABILITY OF SPEAKERS; PICK SOME GENERAL DATES...

- Began exploring putting together event on hyporheic zone, "Stories from Oregon" – 10 a.m. on a weekday or Thursday evening?
- "Regional Board: How the Other Half(s) Lives": considering putting together event to explore how other California Regional Boards deal with TMDL project implementation – 10 a.m. on what day of the week
- Began exploring putting together event featuring "Majik: Pulling Water from the Air in Desert Regions in Kenya", water supply technology opportunity from Kenya...still trying to get in touch with them

Outreach, Upcoming



Safe, Clean Water Program
Success Stories:

Nine Watersheds, Nine Projects PICK A MONTH...

OR

SAY NO THANK YOU

Does the NSMB WASC want this presentation

In June?
In July?
In August?

Scheduling Concerns or Issues

North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed 2025 + 2026, the Movie, Production on hold, Calabasas City Communications Department Let Go

Needs funding. **Exploring SD3 grant** + SEP applications for these films. Will connect with film students. Will ask other cities for support.

Watershed Coordinator Coordination



- Organized and helped implement a 2
 Watershed SCWP Community Engagement and Education Grant for SMMUSD with CSMB Watershed Coordinators + Claire Robinson, Amigo de los Rios
- Attended, helped facilitate and spoke about how to ask a WASC what kind of scientific / technical studies it wants at monthly Watershed Coordinator meeting; ran event with Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson
- Looking to ULAR watershed coordinator
 Jennifer Amarant for support in upgrading
 newsletter list-serve process (subject to
 schedules)

Over 2.5 million requested by our community in outside funding in 2 months because of YOUR watershed coordinator

\$100,000 in funding received for watershed education by the RCDSMM in the North Santa Moncia Bay Watershed serving students from across L.A. County – many of whom have never been in an open space setting or to the beach ever -- because of repeated (but gracious, I promise) encouragement from YOUR watershed coordinator