

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



Monday, June 23, 2025
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Santa Clarita City Hall
23920 Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91355
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Alynn Sun, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Ali Elhassan, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (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
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Laurene Weste, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Oliver Cramer, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
*Dan Duncan, Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
*Lindsay Schmandt, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)
Ivan Volschenk, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandra Cattell, Vice-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 April 17, 2025

Public Works staff presented the previous meeting minutes. Member Diane Erskine-Hellrigel motioned to approve the meeting minutes from April 17, 2025. The motion was seconded by Member Steve Cole. The Committee voted to approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes, with 13 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, 0 votes opposed, and 0 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

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Public Works staff conducted a survey about a new recurring meeting date with SCR WASC Members. The SCR WASC meeting date will remain on the third Thursday of each month.

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- Applications for the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 (FY25-26) Low-Income Senior-Owned Exemptions and General Income Based Tax Reductions were due May 1, 2025. More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#).
- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration within the FY26-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) is July 31, 2025. The Projects Application Module is now live for Infrastructure Program, Technical Resources Program, and Scientific Study Applicants. Applicants can now start populating the Application. A list of resources related to the Application can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).
- The Regional Program Annual Report covering July 2024 - June 2025 is due on August 15, 2025 for Project Developers and Scientific Studies approved in FY2020 through FY2025 SIPs. Project and Study Developers should submit Reports regardless of receiving funds, having expenditures or activities, or having executed the Funds Transfer Agreement.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting occurred on June 11 at 1:00pm, where the ROC reviewed four of the nine SIPs and voted to approve the SCR SIP. It is anticipated that the ROC will review the remaining five SIPs during the ROC meeting on July 9 at 1:00pm.
- A new Metrics & Measures section is now available in the Municipal Program Reporting Module, which will collect data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program Project activities to align with and inform the Watershed Planning efforts and SCW Program-wide progress assessments. Municipalities were asked to submit by June 16. Public Works staff hosted a virtual workshop on May 15 and materials can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Applications are no longer being accepted for the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program; however, a list of approved proposals for Round 1 and Round 2 can be found on the [Water Foundation's Website](#).
- The Quarter 4 (Q4) 2025 Funding Report has been posted to the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab. In support of Public Works, the Regional Coordination team prepares quarterly funding reports that include a high-level overview of recent funding policy highlights and a funding matrix that shares currently active and upcoming funding opportunities that may be relevant to SCW Program projects. Public Works staff and the Regional Coordination team are actively tracking activity to better understand impacts to future funding.
- The wildfires that occurred in LA County in January 2025 will not impact SCW Program taxes. Public Works staff is not waiving SCW direct assessments in the fire or other emergency affected areas since they fund services that are still being provided independently of the fires and its aftermath. However, there will be a decrease in the ad valorem revenue the Flood Fund receives since all ad valorem revenues County-wide are receiving a decrease based on general property tax relief in the fire areas.

5. Public Comment Period

Tara Dales (SGA Marketing) shared support for Amanda Begley (TreePeople) to be reappointed as the SCR Watershed Coordinator. Dales highlighted Begley's accomplishments in leading tours of green schoolyards and expertise in public education, community engagement, stormwater management, and nature-based solutions.

James Cortes Rivera (Day One) shared support for Amanda Begley (TreePeople) to be reappointed as the SCR Watershed Coordinator. Rivera commented that Begley contributed to advancing the goals of SCW Program in Begley's current term as Watershed Coordinator.

6. Discussion Items

a) Watershed Coordinator Selection

Public Works staff provided an overview of the Watershed Coordinator Interview and Selection process. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). In the SCR Watershed Area, there is one Watershed Coordinator position available, and two qualified proposers applied to the position – TreePeople

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and Dudek. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that if a proposer applied for Watershed Coordination positions in multiple WASCs, the proposer can be selected by more than one WASC. Public Works staff also clarified that the SCR WASC selects a primary and alternate Watershed Coordinator, so in the case that the primary Watershed Coordinator does not have capacity to fulfill the position, the WASC can sign a contract with the alternate Watershed Coordinator instead.

Public Works staff and WASC Members conducted interviews with the two proposers, who received interview questions in advance. Each interview included seven identical questions, a 15-minute response period, and 10 minutes for follow-up. Proposers were asked to temporarily exit the room while the other proposer was interviewed.

Following the interviews, the WASC discussed the candidates. WASC members remarked that the two proposers offered different approaches and unique strengths. Several WASC members commented on the importance of selecting a Watershed Coordinator with local knowledge of the SCR Watershed Area. On the other hand, the WASC also commented on the benefits of selecting a Watershed Coordinator with a large team of technical professionals.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that Dudek had applied for Watershed Coordinator positions in four WASCs, while TreePeople had only applied to the SCR WASC.

i. Public Comment Period

Alonso Garcia (Council for Watershed Health) shared support for selecting Amanda Begley (TreePeople) for SCR Watershed Coordinator. Garcia noted that Begley is experienced with engaging disadvantaged communities and tribal groups and is a leader amongst the existing Watershed Coordinators in school greening and tribal allyship.

7. Voting Items

Member Mary Johnson motioned to appoint TreePeople as the Primary Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator and Dudek as Alternate Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator, seconded by Member Erskine-Hellrigel. The Committee voted to approve the motion with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, 1 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

8. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 17, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items on the next agenda include the FY-24-25 Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summary.

Vice-Chair Cattell requested that the WASC receive an annual update on invasive plants removal program. Additionally, Member Bruce Hamamoto requested an update on the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity study.

9. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Cattell thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - JUNE 23, 2025							
		Quorum Present			Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present ?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve April 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes	Appoint TreePeople as the Primary Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator and Dudek as Alternate Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator
Agency	District	Julian Juarez		Alynn Sun	x	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan	x	Najwa Pitois		y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		y	n
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna	x	Susan Nelson		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly					
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell**	x	Diane Trautman		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk					
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Laurene Weste, Councilmember	x	Tyler Pledger		a	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Oliver Cramer	x	Haley Lawton		y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz		Dan Duncan	x	a	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*		Lindsay Schmandt	x	y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Amanda Begley	x	Heather Turpin			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	13	14
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0	1
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	15	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Webex Attendees
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Alonso CWH	Josephine Gutierrez	Tara Dales	Erum Razzak
Anthony Barreras - SCW Staff	Julian Juarez	Vicki Friesen	Ileene Anderson
Bryan Igboke - LACPW	Ken Petersen	alex messina	James
Call-in User_2	Kristina Kreter	Santa Clara River WASC	Jason Casanova
Chris	Larry Tran - SCW Staff	Claire Barr	Ryanna Fossum