

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, June 18, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Tammy Hierlihy, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (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)
*Lara Awad, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)
Shin Furukawa, Torrance (Municipal)
Douglas 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 Members Not Present:

Susie Santilena, City of Los Angeles (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair Douglas Krauss 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 April 16, 2025

Vice-Chair Krauss presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from May 21, 2025. Member Elizabeth Sala motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Caroline Orija. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, 0 opposed and 2 Members absent during the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

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- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) is July 31, 2025. Informational sessions were held virtually on May 21 from 9:00am to 11:00am and May 22 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Both sessions contained the same information. For proposed projects involving Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) infrastructure or facilities, the deadline to request a letter for conceptual approval from LACFCD was May 31.
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024-June 2025) is due on August 15, 2025 for Projects and Scientific Studies approved in FY2020 through FY2025 SIPs.
- The recent Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting was scheduled for June 11 at 1:00pm where the ROC reviewed four of the nine SIPs. The subsequent Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting was scheduled for July 9 at 1:00pm where the ROC reviewed the last five of the nine SIPs. The SSMB SIP was reviewed at this meeting.
- A Metrics & Measures section has been added in the Municipal Program Reporting Module. This Metrics & Measures section collects data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program activities to align with and inform the Watershed Planning efforts and SCW Program progress assessments. The SCW Program hosted a virtual workshop on Thursday, May 15, 2025 from 10:00am to 11:00am that provided an overview of the Reporting Module and the Metrics and Measures tile functionality. Municipalities received an email with instructions to fill out the section along with a link to the [workshop event page](#); the information should be filled out by June 16, 2025.
- The first two rounds of Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program proposals were awarded a total of approximately \$6.1 million. To see a list of approved proposals for Rounds 1 and 2 of the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, please visit the [Water Foundation Website](#). Grant submissions have been closed.
- 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 Regional Coordination are actively tracking activity to better understand impacts to future funding.
- Drafts of the Initial Watershed Plans and the partially functioning Planning Tool will be available for a 30-day public review period in the Fall. A new standalone [Watershed Planning webpage](#) on the SCW Program website is now live. It will house all prior and any upcoming resources related to the Watershed Planning effort.
- The Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey has been steadily gaining momentum in the last several months, due largely to engagement efforts led by the Watershed Coordinators. Since the CSNA's launch, 427 new survey responses have been collected for the SSMB Watershed Area. To aid in spreading awareness of the survey, a promotional toolkit has been developed and is available on the new [Watershed Planning webpage](#), alongside the CSNA Survey and Dashboard. The toolkit is available to anyone, such as municipalities, non-governmental organizations/community-based organizations, and others interested in utilizing and promoting the CSNA.
- As part of Adaptive Management, the Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Task Force and Blue Ribbon Panel is currently developing a standard NBS definition and criteria to fill current definitional gaps. Once available, these updates will be incorporated in future Watershed Planning efforts.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes shared an update on Watershed Coordinator activities. Highlights include:

- Recent outreach at the Queen of the South Bay Surf Festival in Hermosa Beach on May 22 and in Manhattan Beach on May 31; these events offered valuable engagement opportunities.
- Participation in the Darby Park Technical Resources Program meetings. A revised Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan was submitted in connection with the upcoming contract extension.
- Meeting with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) and attended the South Bay Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) meeting where two Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) projects were added to the Regional Plan. An update was also shared by the City of Manhattan Beach regarding ongoing stormwater projects.

Current efforts focus on planning the next Urban Watersheds Working Group regional meeting held in collaboration with CSMB and the Baldwin Hills Urban Watershed Conservancy. The July 9 meeting at the Hawthorne Memorial Center will feature a grant funding workshop on Prop 4 funding and other leveraged funding opportunities. The event is open to the public and available via [Eventbrite](#).

Upcoming outreach events include tabling at the City of Torrance's open house on June 21, and a tour of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant hosted by Heal the Bay on July 12. Planning is underway for a Watershed-wide event in August with more details to follow.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion

a) Watershed Coordinator Capabilities and Qualifications Interviews and Selection

Public Works staff opened the meeting by explaining the Watershed Coordinator selection process and stating the required qualifications. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

For the SSMB WASC, one Watershed Coordinator position is available, with an anticipated agreement executed by December and work starting in January 2026. Vice-Chair Krauss clarified with Public Works staff that the Watershed Coordinator position would be reopened if Heal the Bay was not selected for the position. Vice-Chair Krauss also asked whether the WASC could still function without moving forward with the current applicant. Public Works staff confirmed that the WASC could continue operating, but the Watershed Coordinator position would need to be filled. Member Shin Furukawa confirmed with Public Works staff that one qualifying application had been received, which was consistent with other watershed areas that typically received between one to three proposals. Vice-Chair Krauss confirmed with Public Works staff that Heal the Bay has also applied to the CSMB WASC's Watershed Coordinator position.

Member Margie Hoyt asked whether the WASC could proceed without holding an interview. Public Works responded that it would be acceptable to proceed with discussion and potential selection without an interview, given that no other proposals were submitted.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar shared that Heal the Bay currently serves as the Watershed Coordinator for another WASC but clarified that the lead individual proposed for South Santa Monica Bay would not be the same person currently serving elsewhere.

Chair Cadwallader expressed interest in giving the proposed Watershed Coordinator an opportunity to describe the current workload of being a Watershed Coordinator. Public Works staff noted that in other watersheds, interviews were conducted as a courtesy and to provide space for the applicant to expand on

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their qualifications and approach. Member Benavides-Aguilar added that the Watershed Coordinator scope is slightly different than past rounds, and it may be helpful to receive more clarity during an interview.

The WASC interviewed Candidate Shrodes. In response to questions previously shared and asked by Public Works staff, Candidate Shrodes highlighted experience serving as the Watershed Coordinator for the SSMB WASC. Candidate Shrodes described ongoing collaboration with other Heal the Bay Watershed Coordinators to align outreach efforts and share resources across regions.

During the discussion, Chair Cadwallader asked Candidate Shrodes whether the current workload felt manageable and whether there could be benefit in exploring the addition of a second Watershed Coordinator. Candidate Shrodes responded that the current workload is manageable and is supported by a strong internal team. Vice-Chair Krauss confirmed with Candidate Shrodes that the SCW Program work is their primary role at Heal the Bay, along with related administrative duties. Candidate Shrodes concluded by sharing that commitment to this work is deeply personal and that the role offers an opportunity to support transformative change across the watershed.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Item

Chair Cadwallader made a motion to appoint Heal the Bay as North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator, seconded by Member Jenn Swart. The Committee voted with 15 in favor, 0 in abstention, and 0 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2025 from 1:00pm– 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

11. Adjournment

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

SSMB WASC - June 18, 2025								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the May 21, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Appoint Heal the Bay as the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator	
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	X	CJ Caluag		Y	Y	
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	X	Y	Y	
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	X	Asha Kreiling		Y	Y	
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce		Christopher Lapaz	X	A	Y	
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	Y	Y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y	Y	
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	X	Mary Simun		Absent During Vote	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	Y	
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena		Ryan Jackson				
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu		Lara Awad	X	A	Y	
Municipal Members	Torrance	Shin Furukawa	X	Wilson Mendoza		Y	Y	
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	X	Geraldine Trivedi		Y	Y	
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	X	Nick Petrevski		Absent During Vote	Y	
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	X	Jeannie Naughton		Y	Y	
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	X					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11	15	0
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	15	0
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees

Alonso CWH
 Aric M
 Eric Bonilla
 Geraldine Trivedi
 James
 Jessica
 Jonathan - SCWP
 Kathleen McGowan
 Kenny Khov
 Laurel Hunt
 Leslie Martinez
 Linet Khechatoorian
 Luis De La Torre
 Luis Perez SCW WP
 Marisol Ibarra
 Michael Ku
 Pablo Forri
 Robyn
 Ryanna Fossum
 Safe Clean Water Pr
 Safe Clean Water Pr
 Shaun Stringer

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	P	MB
Agency	CJ Caluag	LACFCD	A	
Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	P	
Agency	Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	A	Hierlihy
Agency	Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	P	Swart
Agency	Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	A	
Agency	Dave Pierce	LAC Sanitation Districts	P	
Agency	Christopher Lapaz	LAC Sanitation Districts	A	Lapaz
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	P	
Agency	Darryl Ford	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	A	Ford
Community Stakeholder	Margie Hoyt	Resident	P	Margie G. Hoyt
Community Stakeholder	Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	P	Cadwallader
Community Stakeholder	Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	A	
Community Stakeholder	Caroline Orija	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	P	Oreja
Community Stakeholder	Elizabeth Sala	Resident	P	ESala
Community Stakeholder			A	
Municipal Member	Gilbert Marquez	Carson	P	
Municipal Member	Roland Jen	Carson	A	Jen
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	<i>Lara Awad</i>
Municipal Member	Shin Furukawa	Torrance	P	<i>Shin Furukawa</i>
Municipal Member	Wilson Mendoza	Torrance	A	
Municipal Member	Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	P	<i>Doug Krauss</i>
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	Jeannie Naughton	EWMP: Peninsula	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay		<i>Nancy Shrodes</i>

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Alexia	SKrbic	Heal the Bay	
Stephanie	Gebhardt Rath	Heal the Bay	
Vicente	Villasenor	Heal the Bay	
Jesse	De la Cruz	Urban Strategies	
Maria	Espinosa	urban strategies	