



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Report August 14 - October 11 2025

Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator
October 11, 2025

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

An aerial photograph of a clear, shallow body of water, likely a coastal area. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, with numerous small ripples and waves visible on its surface. In the lower-left corner, several dark, rounded rocks are partially submerged. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Measure W: The Safe Clean Water Program
provides local, dedicated funding to increase our
local water supply, improve water quality, and
protect public health.

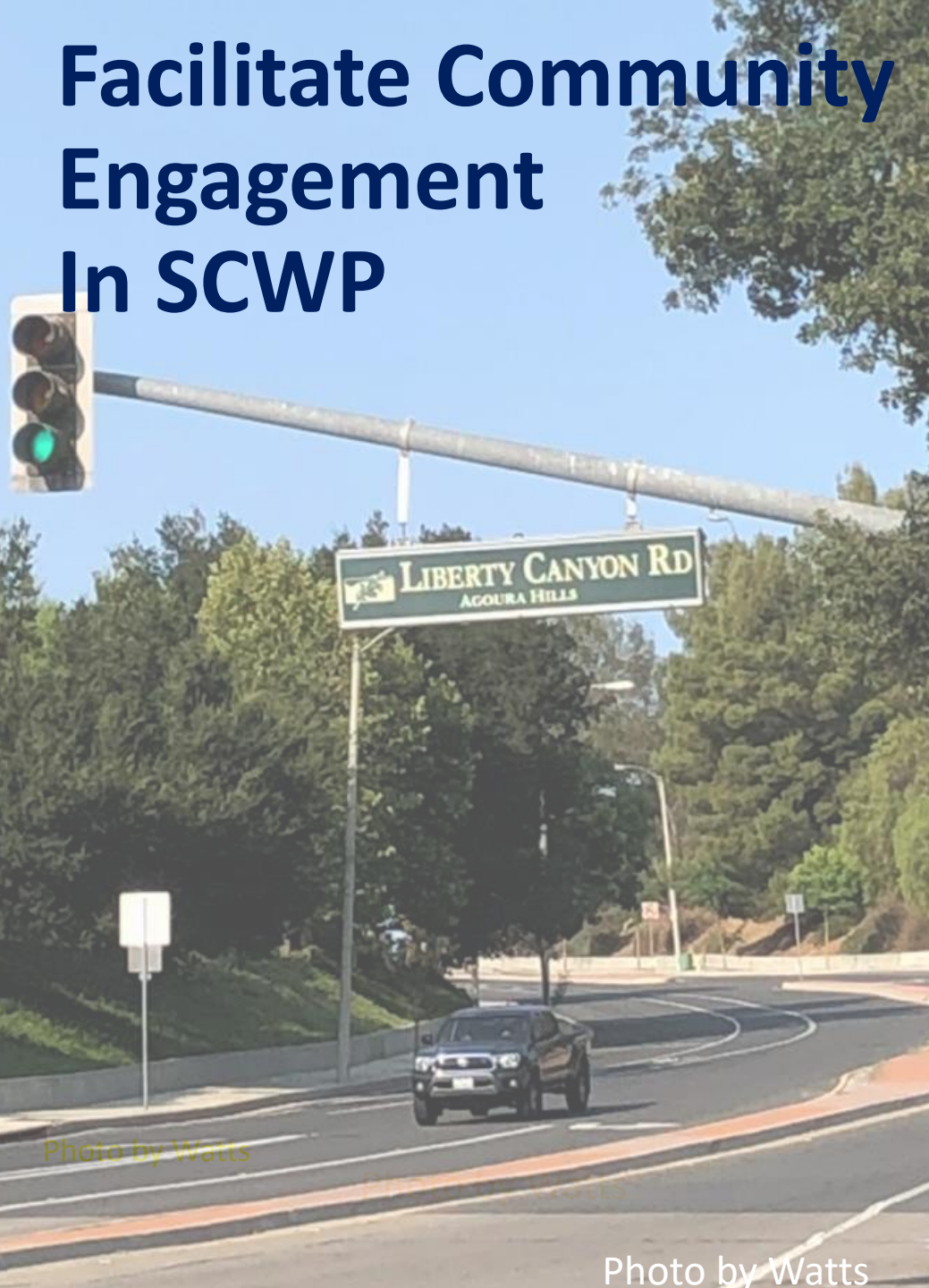
Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Photo by Watts

Facilitate Community Engagement In SCWP



- Promoted Public Works' online outreach event on **September 4, Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project event**
- **Trying to set up event discussing Community Based Design** with Kerjon Lee, Elizabeth Vasquez and Claire Robinson
- Met with Zenya Prowell, **to explore ARLA's use of arts in outreach**
- Exploring **Sacramento's new work on environmental flow**
- **Elicited list of community priorities at event on September 18**



TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM

Stay tuned for 2026.

Photo courtesy of TreePeople, Cistern holds 216,000 gallons

Photo by Watts

Identify and Develop Project Concepts

Connecting SMMUSD, Heal the Bay, Amigo de los Rios with SAMO Fund to tour the Native Plants Nursery so that,

1. Our locally grown **California native plants** can get used in some great SCWP projects across L.A. County
2. the **wonderful interns** who have completed the SAMO Fund training program (**hopefully**) can get hired where they are needed!

And...

Working to develop SCWP project **at Webster Elementary** with SMMUSD, Amigo de los Rios, school leadership, other watershed coordinators

Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

**HOSTED: Santa Monica Mountains:
Tell the Safe, Clean Water Program What YOU Want**

On September 18, 2025

**Inspired by 5 events hosted by L.A. Waterkeepers
(Thank you Bruce and Maggie and other coordinators!)**

30 people attended

Insights from community members include –

Photo by Watts

Screenshot by Watts



Community Themes for Watershed Planning I

- Community members would like to see the **Build Back Better** approach and **SCWP** approach working in combination. Ideal is to **emphasize integrating SCWP priorities into BBB**, especially in Malibu and Topanga.
- Suggest staging an **event with horse-owner** on site in Topanga to demonstrate excellence in manure management
- **How much rainwater does Malibu Creek require to sustain environmental flow?**
- **Aspiration:** Restoring ecosystem function

Photo by Watts

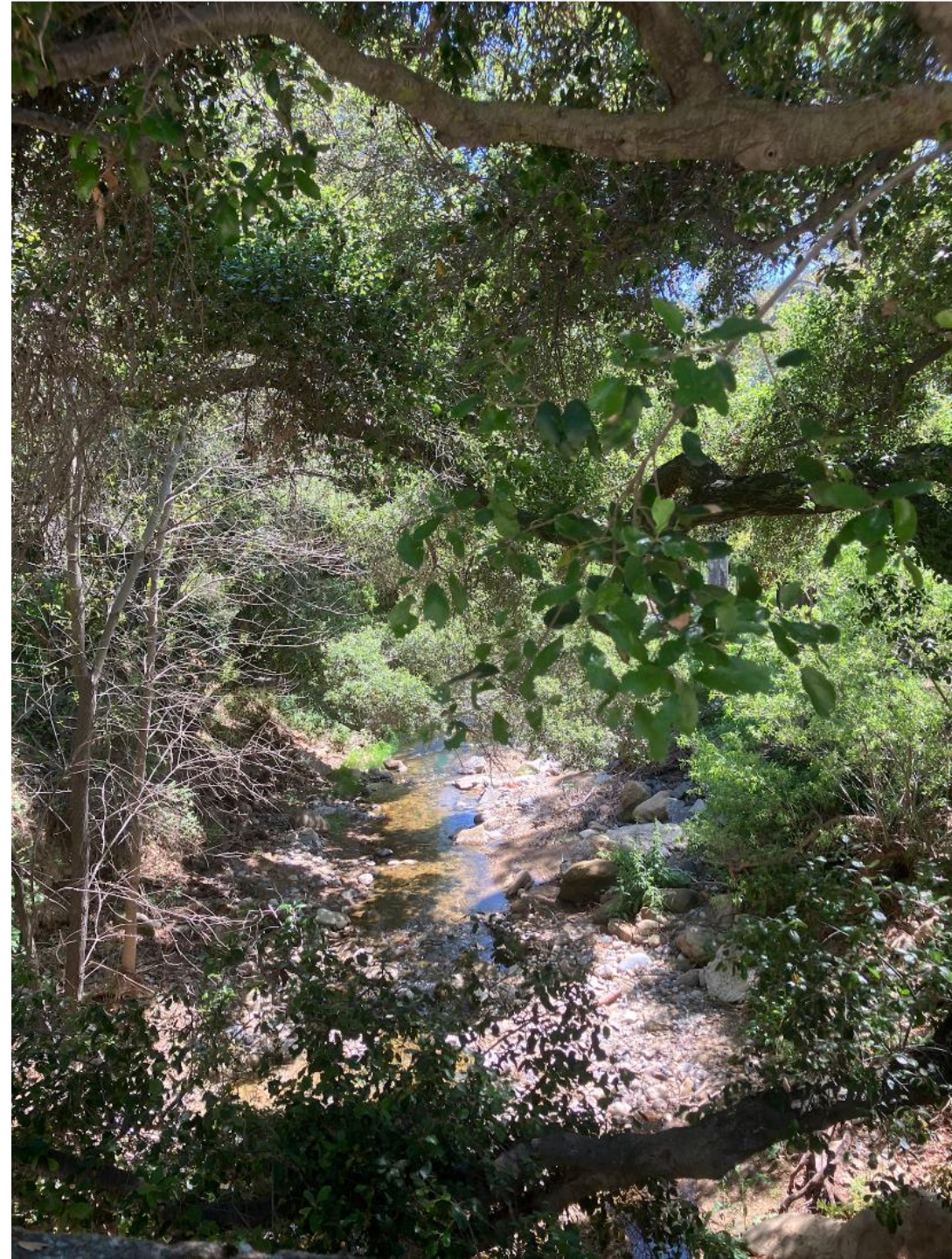


Community Themes for Watershed Planning II

- Are there non-point source pollution solutions that are cheaper / easier than big projects?
- Encourage private development parking lots to install / use cisterns for storing rainwater under them.
- Build working cisterns for rainwater storage under fields of schools and develop long-term program to fund O + M
- Build large local community cisterns with distributing pipes to allow for irrigation for firefighting; as an example, picture one large cistern per block in rural areas.

Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- Attended Sierra Club meeting online, led by Charming Evelyn
- Connecting to a wide array of experts to learn about new work on e-flow
- Looking to get The Nature Conservancy to talk e-flow





Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

- Sadly, found out that CALTRANS has already done a project with Agoura Hills so Councilmember Jeremy Wolfs' idea of the Wild Wolf Forest along the 101 freeway is not going to be co-funded by CALTRANS but will explore other funding opportunities
- Excellent chance that SAMO Fund will donate locally sourced and grown California native plants to Amigo de los Rios to plant soon at the 6 schools that are a part of SCWP grant managed by Water Foundation

- Provided background on and created white board for **watershed planning / opportunities on September 18**
- Brought In watershed planning leadership and outside expertise from Spherical to present at this event
- **Upcoming,
Malibu Lagoon Restoration Celebration -- May 7th 2026**


Working on,

- **North Santa Monica Bay
State of the Watershed Film 2026. Changing plan**
- **Event on Community Based Dewith Amigo de los Rios +
Public works?**
- **Educational event about work by
SSCWRP + California Natural Resources + Others on E-flow**


**Local
Stakeholder
Education**

Photo by Watts

Photo by Watts

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- The background image shows an outdoor nursery setting. In the foreground, several long, rectangular metal trays are filled with small green seedlings, arranged in rows. Behind the trays is a wooden building with a gabled roof, which appears to be a nursery office or storage shed. A few people are visible inside the building. In the background, there are trees and hills under a blue sky with white clouds.
- **SAMO Fund offering plant materials for numerous projects**
 - **Looking at potential grantors for State Parks projects**

Cost Share Partners



North Santa Monica Watershed Strategic Outreach Engagement Plan, 2025-2026

This is the month for the conversation...
What do **YOU** want?

Photo by Watts

The NSMB Watershed Planning Event for
Community members pretty much
high-jacked a good two weeks of
September.

Scheduling Concerns or Issues

Worth it...



Photo by Watts

Watershed Coordinator Coordination

Amanda Begley, Watershed Coordinator for Santa Clara River, asked if it would be possible to get municipal return into areas without official cities; this would encourage participation in rural areas in SCWP goals.

While it looks like this is not possible, this is super interesting out-of-the-box thinking –

Attended wonderful Stantec watershed coordinator meeting; participated in watershed coordinator meeting considering watershed planning + how it aligns with ongoing work