

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, October 7, 2025
1:00pm – 3:30pm
Culver City Hall, Patacchia Room
9770 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230b
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency), Co-Chair
*Augustine Han, West Basin Metropolitan Water District (Agency)
*Conor Mossavi, Los Angeles City Water & Power (Agency)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment (Agency), Co-Chair
Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability (Community)
*Tanya Borja, SCOPE (Community)
*Maggie Gardner, Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Community)
*Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Black Women for Wellness (Community)
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)
*Javier De La Cruz, Culver City (Municipal)
Mara Luevano, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Anna Groehnert, Santa Monica/Inglewood (Municipal)
Stephanie Gebhardt Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Vanessa Boudreau, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Absent:

Cathie Santo Domingo, Los Angeles City of Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (Community)
Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Susie Santilena of the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, shared housekeeping items, and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members and explained rules for Committee Members attending virtually under Assembly Bill 2449. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2025

A correction was noted to update the spelling of Raymond Lam's name in the previous meeting minutes. Member Rita Kampalath motioned to approve meeting minutes from September 2, 2025, seconded by Member Josette Descalzo. The Committee voted to approve September 2, 2025 minutes, with 8 votes in favor, 5 votes in abstention, and 0 Members absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tacking sheet attached).

3) Committee Members and Program Updates

Public Work staff shared updates, noting:

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- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the FY 2026–27 Stormwater Investment Plan is October 31, 2025. The SCWP is transitioning from the current PDF PMR forms to an online submittal form available through the Reporting Module. This enhancement will improve integration with the SIP Tool and other modules. The new online form is anticipated to launch in early October 2025. Updates are available under the [Guidelines for Project Modifications section on the Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- The next ROC meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025, at 1:00pm. The agenda includes discussion of the 2025 Draft SCW Program Biennial Progress Report and an overview of Initial Watershed Planning (IWP) comments.
- On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, there is an Invitation to Collaborate on *Community-Proposed Projects* funded by the SCW Program Regional Program for Round 8 (FY 2027–28). The City has also released [Policies and Procedures for Community-Proposed SCWP Projects](#). Committee Members are encouraged to contact their Watershed Coordinator for more information.
- The Q1 2026 Funding Report is now available on the [SCW Program website](#) under the *Resources* tab. Prepared in coordination with Los Angeles County Public Works, the report provides a summary of recent funding policy updates and includes a funding matrix highlighting active and upcoming opportunities relevant to SCW Program projects. Public Works staff and the Regional Coordination team continue to monitor funding activity and impacts.

Public Works' Watershed Planning staff provided updates, noting:

- The public comment period for the Draft Initial Watershed Plans (IWP) and beta Watershed Planning Tool closed on September 28, 2025. The Watershed Planning team thanks everyone who reviewed the materials and provided feedback. Comments were received from a wide range of individuals, municipalities, Committee Members, and organizations. The team is currently compiling and categorizing comments to support the preparation of responses. A summary of the number and types of comments will be shared, and a presentation on the Draft IWPs will be provided at the next WASC meeting.
- Since the launch of the Community Needs and Strengths Assessment, 775 new responses have been collected, including 106 responses within this watershed area. The team appreciates the continued participation and support.

For questions or additional information, please contact watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Member Maggie Gardner disclosed attending a presentation on *Building and Bringing Infrastructure Workforce Project Labor Agreement Region*, which is being presented at today's meeting. Member Gardner disclosed providing general SCW Program information to Win Cowger (Project Applicant) and references to the SCW Program website. Member Gardner also attended a presentation by the Moore Institute for Plastic Solutions, which focused on program information and resources rather than any specific project.

5) Presentation and Discussion Items

a. Scientific Study Presentations

i. A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research)

The Scientific Study (SS) intends a comprehensive evaluation of trash accumulation in Watershed Areas. By analyzing various forms of debris, the research aims to identify key sources and propose effective mitigation strategies to reduce environmental impact. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

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Member Geremew Amenu raised questions about how the proposed trash study accounts for areas that have already implemented full-capture devices under the California Statewide Trash Amendments. Concerns were noted that roadside trash may not reach downstream waters if devices are already in place, and that surveys should consider whether monitoring occurs before or after street sweeping activities. The Applicant responded that the SS is designed to provide high-resolution data that can help determine how much trash is entering capture devices, how frequently devices should be cleaned, and what effect street sweeping has on reducing trash loads. The Applicant emphasized that this level of data could complement existing visual observations.

Member Tianna Shaw-Wakeman highlighted the importance of equity and inclusivity in the technical advisory committee, suggested the SS consider overburdened communities in site selection, and recommended community-based organizations are represented alongside technical experts. Questions were raised about whether the project would also assess chemical leachates from plastics and other broader environmental impacts; the Project Applicant explained that while the current scope is focused on trash loads, there exists ongoing work in microplastics research that could connect with future efforts of this SS.

Additional discussion focused on opportunities for community science and student involvement, which could expand survey coverage beyond the initial 60 sites per Watershed Area. Committee Members also asked about the long-term maintenance and hosting of the data portal. The Project Applicant shared that the portal is being designed for low-cost, long-term hosting and has potential to integrate with statewide data platforms. The WASC expressed interest in how the SS might complement existing Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as rain gardens and bioswales, and asked whether preliminary research had been conducted on existing datasets. The Project Applicant confirmed that numerous datasets across LA County have been compiled and intends to be integrated with the study's data collection.

The WASC agreed that there would be value in using the SS to assess the effectiveness of existing trash capture measures, inform policy and maintenance decisions, and create a robust, accessible dataset that incorporates both technical and community perspectives.

ii. Stormwater BMP O&M Needs Assessment, Guidance Document, and Implementation Materials (Herrera Environmental Consultants)

The SS focuses on the O&M requirements of BMPs in stormwater systems. The SS intends to offer a detailed assessment, guidance documents, and materials to assist municipalities in optimizing BMP performance and ensuring compliance with environmental standards. Presentations slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Co-Chair Marcela Benavides clarified with the Project Applicant that the split between the three WASCs was based on the size of each Watershed Area and the number of contributors within each, with additional input from Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) member representation to inform the allocation.

Member Descalzo confirmed with the Project Application that the Technical Advisory Group would likely include representatives from various municipalities within the participating WASCs, O&M crew leads and field staff (both managerial and operational), public and private O&M experts, designers, and design inspectors. Member Descalzo also clarified with the Project Applicant that average BMP O&M cost data could be incorporated depending on stakeholder feedback and identification of priority focus areas.

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Member Gardner asked how the study will consider the truth that funding is a major challenge for O&M. The Project Applicant acknowledged that funding plays a significant role and noted that leveraging the Southwest Center of Excellence will help evaluate funding-related challenges. The SS intends to explore strategies for securing long-term O&M funding for municipalities and may also assess whether gaps exist between available full-time equivalent resources and the workload required to effectively maintain BMPs.

Member Shaw-Wakeman asked how the SS intends to account for communities that have limited green space for analysis, and the Project Applicant explained that the information-sharing and needs assessment components would capture and address the needs of these communities as part of a comprehensive regional approach.

iii. Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce in the LA Region (City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works)

The City of Pasadena's Department of Public Works presented an SS aimed at developing a skilled workforce to support green infrastructure projects. The presentation highlights training programs, partnerships, and strategies to equip local professionals with the necessary skills to implement sustainable infrastructure solutions in the Los Angeles region. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath confirmed with the Project Applicant that participants in the SS would not only be selected from Pasadena but come from across the participating WASCs. The Project Applicant noted that many workforce development programs are already in place, and several community-based organizations (CBOs) are interested in participating in the SS.

Co-Chair Santilena asked if there were limits on who could be trained through the SS. The Project Applicant explained that while the MASH (Municipal Assistance, Solutions and Hiring) Program is facilitated through the City of Pasadena, instructors could provide training to anyone in the community. The team is also exploring partnerships with community colleges and added that candidates could be hired or contracted by nearby cities, consultants, or other municipalities.

Member Amenu highlighted the importance of workforce development and confirmed with the Project Applicant that the SS initiative intends to provide formal curriculum leading to certification.

Co-Chair Santilena also clarified with the Project Applicant that the training videos would be tailored to WASC projects, but noted that with additional funding, more generalized materials could be developed. The Project Applicant commented that the overall goal is to create a training package that is both specific to each community's projects and adaptable for broader use.

iv. Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment (UCLA) (Sanjay Mohanty PhD with UCLA, Attending in Person and Dylan Ahearn PhD with Herrera, Attending Virtually)

UCLA's Environmental Health & Safety Department presented the Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and Pollutant Event Mean Concentrations (EMCs) in Stormwater Assessment SS. The study examines the prevalence and impact of these pollutants, providing insights into their behavior and suggesting methods for effective monitoring and management in urban water systems. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

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Upon inquiry, the Project Applicant explained that the NSMB Watershed Area was not included because of existing data, and that the NSMB WASC does not have remaining SS funds to participate in this specific SS. Co-Chair Santilena clarified with the Project Applicant that the same funding limitation is why LLAR Watershed Area is not included in this SS Application.

Member Amenu asked whether the site location assessment would be informed by soil, water, or both, commenting that PFAS is more of a concern in water supply rather than stormwater and also asked whether the SS would look at effective BMPs. The Project Applicant clarified that only soil data will inform the location of sampling sites and that the SS is focused on stormwater. The Project Applicant commented that PFAS concentrations in stormwater are similar to those in treated wastewater, and since stormwater systems can eventually carry PFAS into groundwater, the SS aims to identify the source more directly. While BMP effectiveness is part of a different research effort, the Project Applicant explained that the SS intends to provide data to inform Infrastructure Program project options.

Co-Chair Benavides confirmed with the Project Applicant that there are currently no CEC requirements from the Regional Water Quality Board, and the SS is intended to inform potential future regulations and planning.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Items for Future Agenda

The next CSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building – Multipurpose Room, located at 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Watershed Planning Phase 4 Engagement
- b) Technical Resource Project Presentation
 - i. Culver Median Del Rey Way (Del Rey Neighborhood Council & Ballona Creek Renaissance)

Co-Chair Santilena noted that it would be helpful to have Public Works staff present about Public Works' workforce development programs. This would provide an opportunity to understand potential overlaps with programs and studies and explore ways the District and WASC could collaborate.

8) Adjournment

Co-Chair Santilena thanked Committee Members for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Primary Member	Attendance: In-person ("x" for present)	Alternate Member	Attendance: In-person ("x" for present)	Vote to approve September 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	<u>Marcela Benavides</u>	x	Daniel Bradbury		Y
Agency	West Basin Municipal Water District	Matthew Veeh		Augustine Han	x	A
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Art Castro		Conor Mossavi	x	A
Agency	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	<u>Susie Santilena</u>	x	Hubertus Cox		Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford		
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath	x	Rebecca Ferdman		Y
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu		Andrew Nickerson		
Community Stakeholder	SCOPE	Gloria Medina		Tanya Borja	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik		Maggie Gardner	x	A
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe		Tianna Shaw-Wakeman	x	A
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Josette Descalzo	x	Matthew Magener		Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Sean Singletary		Javier De La Cruz	x	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez				
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto		Blayne Sutton-Wills		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Mara Luevano	x	Virginia Wei		A
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Geremew Amenu	x	Lara Awad		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica / Inglewood	Joshua Carvalho		Anna Groehnert	x	Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	x			
Watershed Coordinator	SGA Marketing	Vanessa Boudreau	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	8
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	5
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13
Municipal Members		5				Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
October 7, 2025

Alexander Iglesias Rosales

Alexia Skrbic

Amanda Pollack

Aric Martinez

Armando Nunez-Fausto

Brenda Ponton

Bryan Igboke

Carlos Rodriguez

Chris Vong

Craig Doberstein

Daniel Bradbury

Dylan Ahearn Herrera

Elizabeth Fassman-Beck

Eric Bonilla

Jonathan Ontiveros

Kate Forester

Katherine Evers

Katie Harrel

Kenny Khov

Lara Awad

Lisa (Jin) Kim

Lisa Skutecki

Marisol Ibarra

Michelle Reed

Omar Abdelhadi

Pablo Forni

Pearl Azizian

Rebecca Dugopolski

Sean Singletary

Stacy Luell

Safe Clean Water LA

Yvana Hrovat

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **October 7, 2025**



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	<i>Marcela Benavides</i>
Agency	Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin Metropolitan Water District	P	
Agency	Augustine Han	West Basin Metropolitan Water District	A	<i>Augustine Han</i>
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	<i>Conor Mossavi</i>
Agency	Susie Santilena	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	P	
Agency	Hubertus Cox	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	A	
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	P	
Agency	Darryl Ford	Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks	A	
Community Stakeholder	Rita Kampalath	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	P	
Community Stakeholder	Rebecca Ferdman	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	A	
Community Stakeholder	Ion Cretu	PSOMAS / Business Sector	P	
Community Stakeholder	Andrew Nickerson	PSOMAS / Business Sector	A	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	SCOPE	P	
Community Stakeholder	Tanya Borja	SCOPE	A	<i>Tanya Borja</i>
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	<i>Maggie Gardner</i>

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **October 7, 2025**



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Community Stakeholder	Zoe Cunliffe	Black Women for Wellness	P	
Community Stakeholder	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman	Black Women for Wellness	A	<i>Tianna Shaw-Wakeman</i>
Municipal Member	Josette Descalzo	Beverly Hills	P	<i>Josette Descalzo</i>
Municipal Member	Matthew Magener	West Hollywood	A	<i>Matthew Magener</i>
Municipal Member	Sean Singletary	Culver City	P	
Municipal Member	Javier De La Cruz	Culver City	A	<i>Javier De La Cruz</i>
Municipal Member	Roberto Perez	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Rafael Prieto	Los Angeles	P	
Municipal Member	Blayne Sutton-Wells	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Mara Luevano	Los Angeles	P	<i>Mara Luevano</i>
Municipal Member	Virginia Wei	Los Angeles	A	
Municipal Member	Geremew Amenu	Los Angeles County	P	
Municipal Member	Lara Awad	Los Angeles County	A	
Municipal Member	Joshua Carvalho	Santa Monica	P	
Municipal Member	Anna Groehnert	Inglewood	A	<i>Anna Groehnert</i>
Watershed Coordinator	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	Heal the Bay	WC	
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	<i>Vanessa Boudreau</i>

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First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Wen	Cowger	Moore Institute	
Samyān	Mohanty	UCLA	
Jessica	Rivas	Pasadena	
Jess	KHUN	PASADENA	