

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
1:00pm – 3:30pm  
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility  
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245  
WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguiler, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Tammy Hierlihy, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
Dave Pierce, 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  
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)  
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)  
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County Public Works (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:

Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)  
Gilbert Marquez, Carson (Municipal)  
Shin Furukawa, Torrance (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Craig Cadwallader 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 June 18, 2025**

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from June 18, 2025. Member Jenn Swart motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair Douglas Krauss. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 3 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

### **3) Committee Member and Program Updates**

This Agenda Item was moved after Agenda Item 10.

### **4) Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure**

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Member Margie Hoyt disclosed discussions with Allan Rigg (City of Gardena) at a public event regarding the status of the Gardena Willows Wetland Stormwater Enhancement Project.

#### **5) Watershed Coordinator Updates**

This Agenda Item was moved after Agenda Item 10.

#### **6) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **7) Discussion**

##### **a) Regional Program FY24-25 Mid-Year Report Summary**

Elyssa Lawrence (HDR) presented on the Regional Program Mid-Year Report for Fiscal year 2024 – 2025 (FY24-25). The reporting period spanned July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Lawrence noted that the reporting requirement has been changed to a semi-annual basis as opposed to quarterly. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Lawrence shared that Scientific Studies (SS) and Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects that began in FY24-25 are required to submit the Annual Report but not the Mid-Year Report due to the Transfer Agreement starting in January. Public Works staff clarified that SS and IP Projects have the same reporting requirements. Committee Members expressed concern about delays in Funds Transfer Agreements, whether it be from the length of the approval process or missing documentation.

Member Hoyt commented that Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concepts often face delays and requested an update on TRP timing. Public Works staff explained that TRP funds are used to assign a Technical Assistance Team including an engineering consultant, rather than being disbursed to the Project Developer. The scope of work for Project Concepts approved in FY24-25 is in the final review process to reflect lessons learned from past years.

##### **b) Summary of Submitted Infrastructure Program Projects, Scientific Studies, and Technical Resources Program Project Concepts**

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes provided an overview of submitted IP, SS, and TRP applications for FY26-27. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that all three Project Concepts show the same planning phase completion date in July 2027 as this date assumes contracts are issued as soon as possible. Public Works staff also shared that the Board of Supervisors typically approves Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) within 10 months of WASC recommendation, which would leave six to seven months for Project Developers to implement the planning under the proposed timeline.

Member Dave Pierce commented that some projects have proposed infiltration in the past but have yet to meet expectations. Member Pierce inquired if a technical review of infiltration estimates occurs during the Scoring Committee's evaluation. Public Works staff confirmed that the Scoring Committee ensures that the project components are based on geotechnical data and noted that Committee Members can review Project Applications in the SCW Program Project Portal. Member Swart requested insight into unexpected infiltration rates experienced by some projects, despite a complete Scoring Committee review. Public Works staff shared that the Scoring Committee now encourages IP Applicants to be based on recent, site-specific geotechnical data and that TRP budget allocations were increased to allow more flexibility in the scope of work to provide more accurate analyses.

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Member Susie Santilena emphasized the importance of providing accurate timeline expectations to Project Applicants, particularly for Project Concepts. Public Works staff noted that efforts are ongoing to streamline the TRP scope of work.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the Downtown Lomita Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project is applying only for construction funding, not operations and maintenance (O&M). Public Works staff explained that applications with more than 60% complete designs are eligible for construction and/or O&M funding.

Member Vanessa Hevener confirmed with Public Works staff that the Los Angeles Harbor College Stormwater Project is included in a regional Water Management Plan, as this is a required criteria confirmed during Public Works staff completion check of Project Applications.

#### **c) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

The Committee expressed a preference for sending all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration. Public Works staff added that all feasibility studies, regardless of project type, will undergo completion checks before being sent to the Scoring Committee.

#### **d) Review of Committee Roles and Responsibilities**

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of WASC roles and responsibilities. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

#### **e) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs**

Public Works staff provided an overview of the selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming term. Member Santilena nominated Craig Cadwallader and Douglas Krauss to continue serving as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The Committee discussed support for this nomination. Chair Cadwallader and Vice-Chair Krauss expressed gratitude for their current term and interest in continuing in their roles.

#### **8) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **9) Voting Item**

##### **a) Vote to send none, some or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

Member Elizabeth Sala motioned to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration, seconded by Member Santilena. The WASC voted to approve the motion with 13 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

##### **b) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs for the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area**

Member Santilena motioned to select Craig Cadwallader as Chair and Douglas Krauss as Vice-Chair for the SSMB WASC, seconded by Member Swart. The WASC voted to approve the motion with 13 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

#### **10) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

Public Works staff noted that there are currently no items on the agenda for September 17 and that the meeting may be canceled.

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Regarding the upcoming Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) cycle, Chair Cadwallader expressed the importance of staying within the annual funding allocation goal of 80% for future considerations.

### 3) Committee Member and Program Updates

This Agenda Item was moved after Agenda Item 10.

Member Santilena shared that the City of Los Angeles has released an invitation to non-municipal parties for collaboration on project proposals for FY27-28 Project Applications.

Member Swart announced the release of a Technical Bulletin (TB) from the Water Replenishment District (WRD) entitled “Increasing Water Supply by Capturing Stormwater in Southern Los Angeles County.” The TB highlights that unconfined aquifers are present below only 10 percent of land within WRD’s service area, limiting the area in which groundwater can infiltrate into a usable drinking water aquifer. Information on requesting concurrence from WRD on Water Supply Benefits for projects in their service area is also provided. See the [WRD website](#) for the full TB.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP was July 31, 2025. The [Call for Projects webpage](#), located in the top banner of the SCW Program website, contains all the information related to the application process.
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024-June 2025) was due on August 15, 2025 for Projects and Scientific Studies approved in FY20-25 SIPs. Reports must be submitted regardless of whether funding was received, expenditures or activities occurred, or a Funds Transfer Agreement was executed.
- The recent Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting occurred on August 13 at 1:00pm, where the ROC received an update on regional project development and partnerships, a preview of Initial Watershed Plans, and discussed SCW Program’s Education Programs.
- Municipalities were asked to input Metrics & Measures in the Reporting Module by June 16. Data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program Project activities are collected to align with and inform Watershed Planning efforts and SCW Program-wide 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. To access the workshop’s presentation slides, recording, and Q&A document, please visit the [SCW Program website](#).
- Applications are no longer being accepted for the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. To see a list of approved proposals for Rounds 1, 2, and 3, please visit the [Water Foundation Website](#).
- The Quarter 1 FY 2025-26 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.
- The SCW Program’s Landcover Survey was updated for FY 2025-26. This Landcover Survey provides the aerial imagery used to calculate parcels’ Safe Clean Water Tax. Although the tax rate (2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable area) has not changed, a parcel’s impermeable area may have changed. Formal information will be announced in September or October in preparation for the FY25-26 Los Angeles County Annual Property Tax Bills.

Public Works’ Watershed Planning staff also shared an update on Watershed Planning, noting:

- The SCW Watershed Planning Team hosted a virtual Technical Info Session on August 12 that was open to WASC members and the public. During the Technical Info Session, staff shared the

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analytical processes used to produce the Watershed Area Baselines and Targets in the Draft Initial Watershed Plans and how they are utilized to contribute to their respective Countywide Goals. Meeting materials will be posted on the new [Watershed Planning page](#) of the SCW website once available.

- Drafts of the Initial Watershed Plans are now posted to [the SCW Program website](#) for review and public comment. Comments may be submitted, using an online form until September 28<sup>th</sup>. Workshop #4 will be held for each WASC during their October or November meetings to present on the Draft Initial Watershed Plans. In early 2026, the Initial Watershed Plans will be published.
- 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, 561 new survey responses have been collected. 66 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.
- Watershed Planning staff can be reached for questions at [watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov).

#### 5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

This Agenda Item was moved after Agenda Item 10.

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

- Tabling at the City Yard Open House in Torrance on June 21,
- Hosting the Urban Watershed Grant Funding Workshop on July 9 in collaboration with the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy, with a focus on Proposition 4 funding opportunities and SCW Program goals,
- Attending a workshop hosted by the Water Foundation for Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program recipients,
- Communicating with grant recipients within SSMB,
- Introducing the Living Infrastructure toolkit to high school students at a community envisioning workshop alongside We Are R.I.S.E.,
- Touring the WRD Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling & Environmental Learning,
- Meeting with SS Applicants in advance of the Call for Projects deadline,
- Meeting with Jenée Ornelas, the Los Angeles County Park's Tribal Liaison, to understand the role and research collaboration opportunities,
- Meeting with the Pacific Institute and Second Nature authors of the report "Advancing Stormwater Capture for Greener Schools in Los Angeles,"
- Attending the Holly Park Multi-Benefit Drought Resiliency and Stormwater Infiltration Project site visit for Technical Assistance Team members,
- Hosting the final SSMB Watershed-wide event of the year at the Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center,
- Working with Los Angeles Waterkeeper to organize Watershed Area-wide planning workshops and identify community priorities, with SSMB's event planned for September 3 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center,
- Planning for Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 20, and
- Collaborating with the LLAR and CSMB Watershed Coordinators and Dr. Andrew Gray's research lab at the University of California, Riverside, to plan a career development workshop for college students regarding microplastics at the Los Angeles River.

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#### **11) Adjournment**

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

SSMB WASC - August 20, 2025								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve June 18, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration	Select Craig Cadwallader as Chair and Doug Krauss as Vice Chair for the SSMB WASC
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	X	CJ Caluag		Y	Y	Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	X	Y	Y	Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	X	Asha Kreiling		Y	Y	Y
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	X	Christopher Lapaz		A	Y	Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	<b>Craig Cadwallader</b>	X	Mary Simun		Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija						
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	X			Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder								
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen				
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	X	Ryan Jackson		A	Y	Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu	X	Lara Awad		A	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Torrance	Shin Furukawa						
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	<b>Doug Krauss</b>	X	Geraldine Trivedi		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	X	Nick Petrevski		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	X	Jeannie Naughton		Y	Y	Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	X					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	10	13	13
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3	0	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	13	13	13
Municipal Members		5				Approved	Approved	Approved

## Other Attendees

Alexia  
 Amanda Begley, TreePeople  
 Aric M  
 Ashlyn Nance  
 Ashwini Bhide  
 Ben  
 Brenda Ponton  
 Bryan Igboke  
 Call-in User\_2  
 Call-in User\_3  
 Carlos Rodriguez  
 Chris Jansen  
 Craig Doberstein  
 Curtis Fang  
 Deanna Fraley  
 Elyssa Lawrence - HDR  
 Emily  
 Geraldine Trivedi  
 Haley Johnson  
 Izellah  
 Jonathan Ontiveros



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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



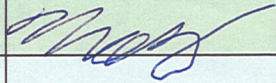


Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
• Agency	Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	LACFCD	P	<i>Marcela Benevides-Aguilar</i>
• Agency	CJ Caluag	LACFCD	A	
• Agency	Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	P	
• Agency	Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	A	<i>TH</i>
• Agency	Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment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

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ryan	Beste	Torrance	
Caleb	Cho	Torrance	
<del>HA</del> Oscar	Quintan	Palos Verdes Estates	