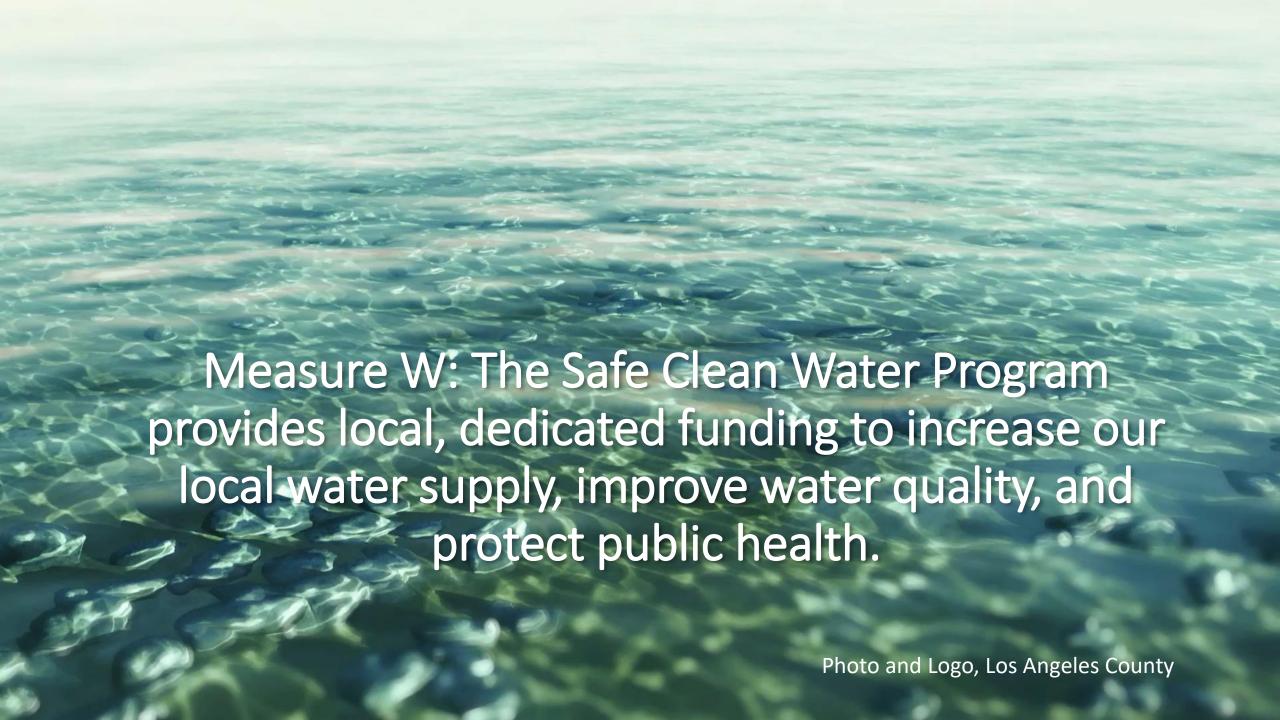


Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator



Native American Heritage Day Chumashm - Wishtoyo Village, Malibu

November 15, 2025 - 11 am - 3 pm

Watts will forward invitation to all interested parties.

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Altadena Library Workshops

A series of workshops led by the Gabrielino-Tongva Nation

Beaded Wire Wrap, 2 – 4 pm, November 15, 2025

Pine Needle Basket Medallion Workshop, 2 – 4 pm, November 22, 2026

Native American Market

Gabrieleno San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Siban' gna -- San Gabriel

December 6, 2026- 10 am - 3 pm

Art from Wall at Chumash Indian Museum in Thousand Oaks; Photo by Watts

SAMO Fund: Chumash Elder, Dennis Garcia, Chumash songs and stories Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center, Thousand Oaks January 11, 2026 - 10 am and 1 pm



For solutions that serve everyone



Look to Michigan



CLIMATE & ENVIRONS

Melanie Winter, who fought for embracing nature along the Los Angeles River, dies





In memoriam

Facilitate Community Engagement In SCWP

- Set up agenda for Malibu Lagoon Restoration Celebration Event May 7, 2026
- Aiming to meet Lee Kerjon to plan event on Community Based
 Design
- Still working on event centering on education about E-flow
- Continued to work with SMMUSD, Central Santa Monica Bay
 Watershed Coordinators and Claire Robinson, Amigo de Los Rios
- Sent out RFP for search for NSMB SOW 2026 Filmmaker
- Connected irrigation expert Mike Garcia with Austin Toyoma, SMMUSD, to look at broken underground cistern at Edison Language Academy.
- Connected with Laura Verbryk and Team from L.A. County Office of Education!



Identify and Develop Project Concepts

- Shared interest of a number of NSMB WASC stakeholders in cisterns for design elements at 6 SMMUSD schools with team
- As CALTRANS already did a TMDL project along 101 corridor,
 Wolf Wild Forest idea cannot ask for co-funding ... other options may arise
- Implausible, but interesting query: could there be a path for unincorporated communities like Santa Clara or Topanga get more direct access to SCWP funding such as cities receive with municipal returns?
- Recurring discussion point: both non-profits and watercentered engineering firms want to be able to apply for or be considered for TRP funding for their own work

TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM

- Connected with school gardener Jesse Hull thanks to CSMB Watershed Coordinator team; Jesse reached out to me at the suggestion of SCWP web designer Adam J. Weissler;
 - I recommended a 5 or 6 school TRP application
- All across L.A., buildings are being dewatered; Is this a water supply source?
 Trying to talk an applicant into a multi-watershed TRP app
- Not exactly a TAT but Amigo de los Rios' community-based design process is leading SMMUSD towards an IP application; great design work, seeking funding to put trees in, getting Heal the Bay to do great classes with the kiddos...
 - The take-home, the SCWP Engagement and Outreach Grant is an awesome tool for getting schools on board with SCWP application process

Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

- Sent information on cistern viability story idea to lan James, L.A. Times
- Does NSMB WASC want a presentation on Untapped Potential: Leveraging Schoolyards for Stormwater Management and Climate Resilience report by TreePeople?
- Attended Topanga Town Council meeting on 10/15/2025
- Attended Coastal Resilience Planning Workshop on 10/20/2025
- MACC meetings on hold while Malibu deals with post fire challenges
- Learning about, California Environmental Flows Framework
- (CEFF)
- Suggested Waring Ranch property in AH to Brian Baldauf at MRCA for potential acquisition suitability

Water Foundation Management of Engagement and Outreach Funding

A repeat topic of conversation, can this be re-upped on an annual basis?

The funding reaches a lot of needs that would not be otherwise met at a wide variety of nonprofits across L.A. County, such as community based concept design development, classroom education, summer programming, site visits like via the RCDSMM program etc.

Bird's-eye view: As a grant manager, folks are loving the Water Foundation.

Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- Attended Reyes Adobe Days: Night at the Adobe; briefly attended Calabasas
 Pumpkin Festival
- C.C. Huang, Deborah Bloome and Devon Provo with Madelym Glickfeld, talk on Connecting re Living Infrastructure Field Kit
- Oceanwell is competing in the XPRIZE for Desalinization
- Shared insight from Ewelina Mutkowska with Richard Watson and Julie Millet, that... "the 2022 Bacteria Summit organized by the State Water Resources Control Board and CASQA, they ran into push back because they had not reached out to tribal leadership and asked for input from tribal liaisons or from Non-profits as well."

PASADENA NOW

Guest Opinion | Tim Brick: Let's Restore the Arroyo Seco

Published on Thursday, June 26, 2025 | 4:36 am









Things people ask me...

Screenshot by Watts

San Rafael Creek, at the southern tip of Pasadena, has long been considered an ideal site for stream restoration in the Arroyo Seco. But now the Pasadena Public Works Department has teamed up with the South Pasadena Public Works Department to champion the "Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project," a \$14 million plan that will degrade the Lower Arroyo with industrial equipment and shattered dreams.



Image from US Mint

Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

Wrote SD3 grant for SAMO Fund to support Malibu Lagoon Restoration Celebration 2026

- Reaching out to all NSMB WASC stakeholders to revise the NSMB Watershed SOEP, will review the CSNA as well
- Invited all watershed coordinators to present 9 Watersheds, 12 Projects to NSMB WASC at meeting in October
- Coordinated talk by Annelisa Moe, HTB, on post fire WQ to NSMB WASC this October
- Received call from Laura Vebryck School Facilities Compliance Manager at LA County Office of Education, and her team Haley Blaesi, Rachel Torgerson and grant writer Gonty Borh... thank you, Tessa Charnofksy. Amanda Begley and I are working with Ryanna on next steps.

Local Stakeholder Education

Cost Share Partners

SAMO Fund will pay filmmaker \$5K for NSMB
 SOW 2026 Film

 Attended IRWM meeting in Alhambra; working with NSMB branch of IRWM to make next local meeting



California Native Plants Update...

- AB 581. Bennett (D-Ventura). State shrub.
- This bill would establish the big berry manzanita (Arctostaphylos glauca) as the official state
- shrub.
- Status: Passed and chaptered on 10-9-25.

Watershed Coordinator Coordination





Scheduling Concerns or Issues

ULAR Watershed Coordinator Adi Liberman stepped in for me at the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival, splitting the day 1:7 rather than 4:4 North Santa Monica
Watershed
Strategic Outreach
Engagement Plan, 2025-2026

NEW format online...will build our ideas into this new structure.

Photo by Watts