

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



Tuesday, November 4, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Veteran's Memorial Building, Multi-Purpose Room
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA
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
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles City of Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (Community)
Gloria Medina, SCOPE (Community)
Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Community)
Zoe Cunliffe, Black Women for Wellness (Community)
Josette Descalzo, Beverly Hills/West Hollywood (Municipal)
Sean Singletary, Culver City (Municipal)
Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
*Virginia Wei, 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)

Committee Members Absent:

Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office (Community)
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Vanessa Boudreau, SGA Marketing (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Marcela Benavides 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. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2025

Member Conor Mossavi motioned to approve meeting minutes from October 7, 2025, seconded by Member Josette Descalzo. The Committee voted to approve October 7, 2025 minutes with 8 votes in favor, 6 votes in abstention, and 1 Member absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tacking sheet attached).

3) Committee Members and Program Updates

Public Work staff shared updates, noting:

- The Scoring Committee began scoring projects in September. The next scheduled Scoring committee will be on November 10. If projects need to be rescored by the Scoring Committee, they

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



will meet again in December or January to rescore. Projects that score above the threshold score will be sent to the WASC for consideration in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).

- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) SIP was October 31, 2025. The SCW Program is transitioning from the current PMR form to an online, direct submittal through the Reporting Module. This enhancement will improve integration with the SIP Tool and other modules.
- The next Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for December 10 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.
- The Science Symposium is scheduled for November 12, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters. Participants may also attend virtually with listening capabilities only.
- The annual disbursements for FY24-25 have been completed for municipalities that met all eligibility requirements. A total of 77 cities received over \$95 million collectively in local return.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program received an overwhelming response, with a high volume of strong and competitive applications. A total of \$8.5 million of grant funding has been allocated across 52 approved projects, and proposed grant activities have begun. Detailed information about funded projects from all three rounds is available on [the Water Foundation's website](#).
- The SCW Program's Landcover Survey was updated for FY25-26. This Landcover Survey provides the aerial imagery used to calculate parcels' Safe Clean Water Tax. A parcel's impermeable area may have changed although the tax rate of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable area has not. Each parcel's new impermeable area is anticipated to remain in effect until the next update in approximately three years or until revised per appeal.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath provided an update. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Recent activities focused on community outreach, Applicant support, and coordination with grantees. Questions may be directed to the Watershed Coordinators via email.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Member Bruce Reznik disclosed participation in ongoing discussions regarding Watershed Planning and has received feedback from the ROC as well as other regional water stakeholders.

6) Presentation and Discussion Items

a. Watershed Planning Phase 4 Engagement

Public Works' Watershed Planning team shared an update on Watershed Planning. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Mossavi asked when updates to the Planning Tool would be available. Public Works staff stated that the "Under Consideration" feature will be added to the Planning Tool and will display progress toward targets. Public Works staff clarified that projects submitted in the current cycle were not required to align with the Initial Watershed Plans.

Hayat Rasul (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion regarding the Initial Watershed Plans and anticipated effects on FY27–28 Project applications. Co-Chair Susie Santilena encouraged the use of the Watershed Planning and mapping tools to understand how proposed projects interact with other completed and proposed projects.

Member Reznik noted that the Initial Watershed Plans are extensive and may take time for the Committee to review. Member Reznik added that the Plans should support strategic, proactive project development

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



and recommended that the WASC consider dedicating future meetings to identify desired project outcomes and communicate priorities to Project applicants. Member Reznik recommended the WASC focus on awarding funds to projects that provide the greatest benefit. Member Mossavi also stated that the WASC may choose to make strategic investments that exceed standardized Watershed Area targets. Member Mossavi recommended that the WASC assess progress annually and discuss whether to save funds to address identified gaps.

Co-Chair Santilena noted that this will be the first year that Project applicants are expected to align Project Applications with the Initial Watershed Plans. Co-Chair Santilena acknowledged that project development requires time and that alignment is expected to improve in subsequent funding cycles. Public Works staff added that additional guidance will be provided to support the WASC during SIP deliberations.

Member Descalzo suggested that a future meeting be used to identify Watershed Area priorities. Member Descalzo also clarified with Public Works staff that funds may be rolled over if doing so results in improved project alignment with Watershed Planning objectives.

Watershed Coordinator Gebhardt Rath reported that Watershed Coordinators are available to assist Project Applicants with early project development, understanding the Watershed Planning tools, and identify appropriate timing for Project Applications. Member Roberto Perez acknowledged progress toward measurable targets and expressed appreciation for additional Project Application guidance.

Member Zoe Cunliffe clarified with Public Works staff that Project Applicants were not required to prove alignment with Watershed Plans for this cycle, but that the WASC may use the Watershed Plans and tools as part of project review and ranking. Co-Chair Benavides commented that incorporating the Watershed Planning tools into SIP deliberations will support more informed funding recommendations. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that several WASCs tend to award most of the funding available each year, and emphasized the importance of strategic funding decisions due to resource limitations.

Public Works staff provided an overview of the Watershed Planning timeline and next steps. Member Descalzo confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the Watershed Plan appendices includes maps related to water supply, infiltration, and disadvantaged communities.

b. Technical Resources Project Presentation

i. Culver Median Del Rey Way (Del Rey Neighborhood Council, Ballona Creek Renaissance)

Ravi Sankaran (Project Applicant, Del Rey Neighborhood Council) and Deborah Gregory (Project Applicant, Ballona Creek Renaissance) provided a presentation on the Culver Median Del Rey Way project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The project proposes improvements along a median, enhancing updates already constructed on the Culver City side.

Co-Chair Benavides confirmed with the Project Applicant that encampments in the project area have been significantly reduced since 2023, referencing how it is important to understand whether future project work would be impacted.

Member Mossavi clarified with the Project Applicant on the project's intended Water Supply benefits, noting that captured water could be used for irrigation and bioswales to increase stormwater capture.

Member Geremew Amenu clarified with the Project Applicant that the goal is to capture as much water as possible. Member Amenu noted the presentation referenced a drainage area of approximately 12 acres, the size of the median, and suggested that the capture area could be expanded to increase benefits.

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Public Works staff added that if the TRP moves forward, Phase 1 would focus on whether the project is feasible and pass the Scoring Criteria threshold. Public Works staff added that if the project is not expected to achieve the threshold points needed early on, the remaining funds would be returned.

Member Anna Groehnert confirmed with the Project Applicant that the City of Los Angeles currently maintains the median, and ongoing operations and maintenance would be required for both the above- and below-grade elements.

Member Cunliffe asked whether outreach included disadvantaged community members. Gregory stated that outreach with nearby residents and others took place in October, with multiple engagement opportunities, and that the community has expressed strong support for upgrades.

Co-Chair Santilena noted that this location has limited dry-weather project coverage in the watershed and that achieving both dry and wet-weather benefits is often challenging. Co-Chair Santilena expressed enthusiasm that this concept proposes multiple community benefits and commended the Applicant's efforts.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Items for Future Agenda

The next CSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Infrastructure Program (IP) Presentations

9) Adjournment

Co-Chair Benavides thanked the Committee Members and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - November 4, 2025

		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 October 7, 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	Y
Agency	Los Angeles City Water & Power	Art Castro		Conor Mossavi	x	Y
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	x	A
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath		Rebecca Ferdman		
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu	x	Andrew Nickerson		A
Community Stakeholder	SCOPE	Gloria Medina	x	Tanya Borja		A
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x	Maggie Gardner		A
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe	x	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman		A
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Josette Descalzo	x	Matthew Magener		Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Sean Singletary	x	Javier De La Cruz		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez	x			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto		Blayne Sutton-Wills		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Mara Luevano		Virginia Wei	x	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				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	8
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	6
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
November 4, 2025

Alexander Iglesias Rosales

Alexia Skrbic

Alonso Garcia

Angineh Shahnazarian

Anthony Barreras

Aric Martinez

Armando Nunez-Fausto

Brenda Ponton

Brenda Rendar

Carlos Rodriguez

Cesar Campos

Emily Rosales

James Carpenter

Jason Jade Pepito

Jian Peng

Johanna Chang

Josafat Flores

Kristina Kreter

Lara Awad

Luis Perez

Luke Ginger

Maggie Gardner

Marisela Velasquez

Marisol Ibarra

Melanie Hu

Michelle R Reed

Morvarid Azizian

Omar Abdelhadi

Pablo Forni

Pearl Azizian

Ryanna Fossum

Central Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: November 4, 2025



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	MB
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	AS
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	CM
Agency	Susie Santilena	Los Angeles City Sanitation and Environment	P	SS
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	DF
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	IC
Community Stakeholder	Andrew Nickerson	PSOMAS / Business Sector	A	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	SCOPE	P	GM
Community Stakeholder	Tanya Borja	SCOPE	A	
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	BR
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **November 4, 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	
Municipal Member	Josette Descalzo	Beverly Hills	P	
Municipal Member	Matthew Magener	West Hollywood	A	
Municipal Member	Sean Singletary	Culver City	P	
Municipal Member	Javier De La Cruz	Culver City	A	
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	
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	
Watershed Coordinator	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	Heal the Bay	WC	
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	

Angela Guen

Central Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN: November 4, 2025



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ravi	Sankaran	Del Rey NC	

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

November 4, 2025