

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, November 19, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Tammy Hierlihy, West Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, 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
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
*Virginia Wel, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Joshua Soliz, Torrance (Municipal)
Miller Zou, EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)
*Jeannie Naughton, 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)
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)
Douglas Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Craig Cadwallader, Chair 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 October 15, 2025

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from October 15, 2025. Member Jenn Swart motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Darryl Ford. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 4 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

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- Starting January 21, 2026, the SSMB WASC meeting location will be changed to Torrance City Hall, HR Multipurpose Room at 3231 Torrance Blvd in Torrance. Reminders will be sent out the week of the meeting along with a location map.
- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Call for Projects was July 31, 2025. 29 Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects, 7 Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concepts, and 12 unique Scientific Study (SS) applications were submitted Program wide. SSMB received 3 IP Projects, 3 TRP Project Concepts, and 3 SS.
- The Scoring Committee began scoring projects in September and continued with meetings on October 20, October 27, and November 10. The Scoring Committee will continue scoring projects on December 1, 2025. If projects need to be rescored by the Scoring Committee, the Committee will meet again in December or January to rescore. Projects that score above the threshold score will be sent to the WASC for consideration for inclusion in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP was October 31, 2025. To access the PMR form for a project, users should navigate to the Reporting Module, select the appropriate project, and then click on the new tile labeled "Project Modification Request." More information can be found in the Guidelines for Project Modifications section on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- The next Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025, at 1:00pm. During the meeting, the ROC will discuss the 2025 Draft Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program Biennial Progress Report and the next steps for the Initial Watershed Plans.
- The Science Symposium occurred on November 12, 2025, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters. The symposium showcased the latest regional science that is both improving stormwater quality and advancing treatment technologies. There was an exciting panel discussion with renowned experts to explore the future of stormwater sciences.
- There is an invitation on behalf of the City of Los Angeles to collaborate on community-proposed projects funded by the SCW Program for the FY27-28 SIP. Please reach out to the Watershed Coordinator for more information.
- 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. Those that have not executed their agreement and are not part of these 77 cities should reach out to the leaders of the Municipal Program.
- 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. Although the tax rate (2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable area) has not changed, a parcel's impermeable area may have changed. Each parcel's impermeable area is anticipated to remain in effect until the next Landcover Survey update.
- The Quarter 2 (Q2) 2026 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 the Regional Coordination team are actively tracking activity to better understand impacts to future funding.
- To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, the public can subscribe to receive email notifications to the newsletter, which provides important updates on the Regional, Municipal, and

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District Programs. Implementation updates may also be viewed on the [News and Updates webpage](#).

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes shared an update on Watershed Coordinator activities. Highlights included the following:

- Hosting the Clear Waters LA: Harmful Algal Blooms Summit with Heal the Bay on October 23 in collaboration with Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment.
- Discussing community concerns regarding urban runoff, watershed management, and best practices on a panel.
- Hosting the seventh Urban Watershed Working Group Meeting on October 30 in collaboration with the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinators and the Baldwin Hills & Urban Watershed Conservancy. This included presentations by Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE) and Mujeres de la Tierra with a focus on building equity through community engagement.
- Attending the ongoing Scoring Committee meetings.
- Attending the Science Symposium, which included a panel discussion with Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), TreePeople, and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG). These discussions highlighted priority research needs, including hydrologic and contaminant sources, best management practice effectiveness, and groundwater contamination.
- Holding the second Day of Service at Kuruvungna Springs on November 8.
- Attending the Green California Schools and Higher Education Summit in Pasadena on November 13, which included panels like “Natural Playgrounds are Physical Education” and “Managing Stormwater Capture on School Grounds.”

4) Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure

Chair Cadwallader noted that Manhattan Beach City Council will reexamine the 28th Street Stormwater Infiltration Project at their December 2 meeting due to community concerns regarding traffic during construction. Chair Cadwallader intends to speak in support of the project's Water Quality benefits and invited other WASC Members to participate if available.

6) Discussion

- a) **Technical Resources Program Application Presentations**
 - i. **Lucerne St and Watson Center Rd Dry Well Improvements**
Presentation by the City of Carson

Wilfred Hsu (Michael Baker International) presented on the proposed Project Concept. The project intends to improve stormwater quality, recharge groundwater, and improve flood mitigation through the implementation of dry wells on two street corridors. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program [website](#).

Public Works staff shared that while WASCs can allocate up to \$400k, Public Works staff coordinates with a consultant to develop a scope of work that will typically be a lesser amount.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that the total TRP budget maximum was recently increased to reflect the higher costs associated with increased Project Application requirements, including geotechnical investigations and community outreach expectations. Public Works staff expect proposals to remain below the maximum amount.

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Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar confirmed with Public Works staff that any remaining TRP funds would be returned to the WASC's SIP funds.

Member Margie Hoyt inquired about the source of the project's 3.2 acre-feet capacity. Hsu confirmed that the capacity was for the total tributary area. Hsu also clarified that while zinc and bacteria are limiting pollutants, other pollutants would be captured as well.

Member Geremew Amenu asked how the design and construction costs were estimated, given that the project is in its planning phase. Hsu shared that design costs were estimated as a percentage of the construction costs, which were based on the unit costs for bid items developed during preliminary design. Hsu noted that these estimates will be refined once the Feasibility Study is prepared. Member Jeannie Naughton confirmed with the applicant that the construction cost estimate incorporated an escalation to project costs in 2032.

Member Virginia Wei inquired if there was overlap between the storm drain system and the tributary area and if there was a plan to collect those flows. Hsu displayed the area on a map and noted where flow would be collected near the existing storm drain using the existing drainage system, with no diversion planned. Member Wei asked if there had been any coordination with the local Watermaster regarding infiltration. Hsu explained that coordination had not occurred since Water Supply Benefits are not anticipated due to the project's location above a confined aquifer.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes asked if there were reports of flooding in the area from community members. Hsu stated that incidental flooding occurs during storms but expressed uncertainty as to whether the area had been flagged as high-risk. Member Roland Jen, who is the municipal proponent of the project, noted that a statement could be provided by a City of Carson representative during a later stage of the project.

Upon inquiry, Hsu explained that the site's selection was based on the City of Carson's Stormwater Facilities Implementation Plan. The project scored well on multiple criteria, including water quality, proximity to storm drain, and proximity to the Dominguez Channel.

Member Benavides-Aguilar noted that industrial facilities have their own permits that require compliance and asked if there was any data showing that water along these streets was high in zinc or bacteria to confirm a benefit. Dave Mercier (Project applicant, Michael Baker International) stated that areas with Industrial General Permit coverage were examined, but impact for this project is expected to be mostly from roadway impacts rather than industrial uses.

Member Amenu noted that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is revising the Commercial, Industrial, and Institution (CII) Permit for the Dominguez Channel and Los Cerritos Channel Watersheds, and a hearing for adoption will take place on November 20. Member Amenu confirmed with Mercier that project locations were mapped in anticipation of the CII permit and the team does not believe these facilities will be impacted.

Upon inquiry, Hsu shared that coordination with the railroad agency has not yet occurred for excavation of the facilities.

Chair Cadwallader confirmed that the applicant has not secured leveraged funding for the planning phase but plans to leverage the City of Carson's General Fund for design and construction. Hsu shared that the total amount of future funding that would be requested from this WASC is unknown.

ii. Victoria Park Stormwater Capture Project

Presentation by the City of Carson

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Mercier presented on the proposed Project Concept. The project intends to divert stormwater to underground storage structures at Victoria Park and ultimately to the sanitary sewer. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program [website](#).

Member Wei asked how much of the project's construction estimate is for the site improvements. Mercier noted that most of the cost is driven by buried infrastructure piping, diversion, and pumps. Member Wei suggested early coordination with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). Public Works staff added that the Transfer Agreement includes a provision about eligible expenses as identified by an audit post-construction.

Member Christopher Lapaz confirmed with Mercier that coordination with LACSD had not yet occurred, but is anticipated to be conducted during the development of the Feasibility Study.

Member Benavides-Aguilar asked if a special study was required to validate diversion to LACSD facilities, including capacity analysis of the A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility (Warren Facility) and sewer lines. Member Lapaz noted that similar studies have cost around \$50,000. Member Lapaz also noted that the project is upstream of a pumping plant but does not anticipate capacity issues at the Warren Facility. Member Benavides-Aguilar asked if such a cost could be included in the TRP. Public Works staff confirmed that a sewer capacity study is an eligible part of the TRP scope of work. Mercier recommended that sewer capacity study should be prioritized and that the site is a unique location due to the large amount of water and capture area.

Member Ford confirmed that the footprint is three baseball diamonds. Mercier explained that replacement of these fields would be a component of community outreach alongside the Parks and Recreation Department. Upon inquiry, Mercier noted that the City of Carson would have to coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department for operations and maintenance (O&M) of the stormwater facilities versus the park itself. Member Ford commented that if the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for O&M, they will likely have a significant voice in future improvements.

Member Amenu inquired if the historic BKK Landfill footprint is within the park. Mercier stated that the landfill is adjacent to the project site and noted that it will be important to have a clear boundary with the landfill and setbacks for subsurface structures. Mercier also confirmed that infiltration is not expected due to the high groundwater levels of 13 to 18 feet below ground surface based on projections across the City.

Chair Cadwallader inquired whether the County was contributing financially to the Project. Mercier shared that the City will look to grants and the WASC to cover future costs and noted that the municipal annual return is likely not sufficient. Chair Cadwallader confirmed with the applicant that the turf replacement for baseball fields will be discussed during outreach efforts.

Public Works staff noted that Project Developers will also be available for questions at future meetings.

iii. West Carson – Stormwater Improvement Project

Presentation by Los Angeles County

Anthony Vidal (Project applicant, Los Angeles County Public Works) presented on the proposed project concept. The Feasibility Study involves analysis of stormwater capture Best Management Practices (BMPs) on Vermont Avenue in the unincorporated West Carson area. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program [website](#).

Member Wei asked whether the local Water Supply Augmentation Benefit would occur through groundwater infiltration and subsequent well pumping or direct use of stormwater capture. Vidal explain that every method would be explored through the Feasibility Study.

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Watershed Coordinator Shrodes confirmed with the applicant that the project is located on Vermont Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes encouraged collaboration with the Del Amo Action Committee, as the Committee has envisioned projects along Vermont Avenue and Torrance Boulevard. Member Benavides-Aguilar offered to provide contact information for the Del Amo Action Committee.

Member Hoyt confirmed with the applicant that a wide range of BMPs will be explored through the Feasibility Study. Public Works staff noted that for non-specific Project Concepts, a special scope of work can be drafted to identify the general idea and purpose of the project early in the development of the Feasibility Study.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Scientific Studies Program Application Presentations

9) Adjournment

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

SSMB WASC - November 19, 2025								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the October 15, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes		
Agency	LACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	X	CJ Caluag		Y		
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	X	Y		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	X	Asha Kreiling		Y		
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce		Christopher Lapaz	X	A		
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	Y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y		
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	X	Mary Simun		Y		
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija						
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala						
Community Stakeholder								
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	X	Y		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena		Virginia Wei	X	A		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu	X	Lara Awad		Y		
Municipal Members	Torrance	Shin Furukawa		Joshua Soliz	X	Y		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss		Geraldine Trivedi				
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	X	Nick Petrevski		A		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener		Jeannie Naughton	X	A		
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	X					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	9	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	0	0
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	13	0	0
Municipal Members		6			Approved		Not Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees

Alexander Iglesias Rosales
 Alexia
 Anthony Vidal
 Aric M
 Brenda Ponton
 CJ
 CV
 Call-in User_1
 Deanna Fraley
 Eric Bonilla
 Jessica Kanarek
 Lara Awad
 Linet Khechatoorian
 Lisa (Jin) Kim - Los Angeles County Public Works
 Marisol Ibarra
 Michael Ku
 Michael Scaduto
 Michelle Staffield
 Robyn
 Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
 SSMB AV

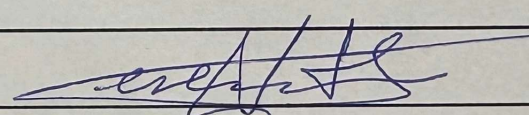
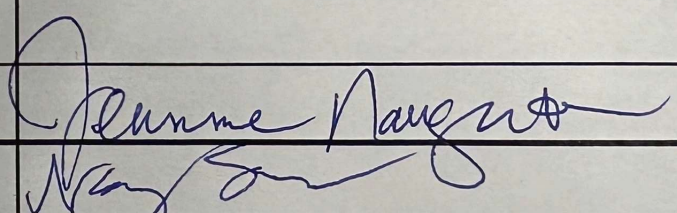
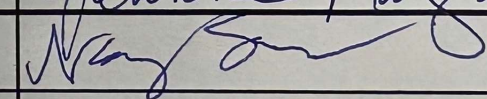
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>Marcela Benavides-Aguilar</i>
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	Primary	
Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	Alternate	
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	Primary	<i>Jenn Swart</i>
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	Alternate	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts	Primary	
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts	Alternate	<i>Chris Lapaz</i>
Cathie Santo Domingo	LA Recreation & Parks	Primary	
Darryl Ford	LA Recreation & Parks	Alternate	<i>Darryl Ford</i>
Margie Hoyt	Resident	Primary	<i>Margie G. Hoyt</i>
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Primary	<i>Craig Cadwallader</i>
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Alternate	
Caroline Orija	LA County Public Health	Primary	
Elizabeth Sala	Resident	Primary	

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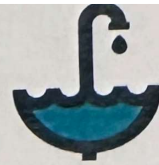


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Gilbert Marquez	Carson	Primary	
Roland Jen	Carson	Alternate	
Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	Primary	
Virginia Wei	Los Angeles	Alternate	
Geremew Amenu	Unincorporated County	Primary	
Lara Awad	Unincorporated County	Alternate	
Shin Furukawa	Torrance	Primary	
Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	Primary	
Geraldine Trivedi	EWMP: Beach Cities	Alternate	
Miller Zou	EWMP: Dominguez	Primary	
Nick Petrevski	EWMP: Dominguez	Alternate	
Vanessa Hevener	EWMP: Peninsula	Primary	
Jeannie Naughton	EWMP: Peninsula	Alternate	
Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay	Primary	
Joshua Soliz	Torrance	Alternate	

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**

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