

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



---

Wednesday, December 17, 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)  
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  
Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)  
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)  
\*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)  
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
\*Joshua Soliz, Torrance (Municipal)  
Doug 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 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 November 19, 2025

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from November 19, 2025. Vice-Chair Doug Krauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Margie Hoyt. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 6 in abstention, 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

## 3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Chair Cadwallader provided an update on the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Stormwater Infiltration Project in Manhattan Beach. The Project was previously approved by the SSMB WASC in 2021. Member Hoyt and Chair Cadwallader shared that they provided public comment in support of awarding the Construction Agreement to Zusser Company, Inc, who was approved at a recent public meeting.

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

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



- The Board of Supervisors approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) on November 4.
- The Scoring Committee finished scoring all Infrastructure Program Project Applications at the most recent meeting on 12/15. Project Applications meeting the 60-point threshold will be invited to present at next month's SSMB WASC meeting.
- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP was October 31. Public Works staff is in the process of reviewing submitted PMRs.
- The Science Symposium was held on November 12 at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters. The recording has been posted on the [event webpage](#).
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for January 14 at 1:00pm where the ROC will discuss the Draft Biennial Progress Report, open the 30-day Public Comment Period, and discuss next steps for the Initial Watershed Plans.
- The Quarter 2 2026 Leveraged 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.
- Starting January 21, the SSMB WASC meeting location will be changed to Torrance Civic Center, HR Multipurpose Room, at 3231 Torrance Blvd in Torrance. Reminders will be sent out the week of the meeting along with a location map.
- 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 District Programs. Implementation updates may also be viewed on the [News and Updates webpage](#).

The Regional Coordination Team provided the SSMB WASC Members with a workbook containing overviews of the Scientific Studies (SS) and note-taking pages to support SIP deliberations. The Regional Coordination team indicated that overviews of submitted IP projects, along with the corresponding scoring rubrics, funding assessments, and note-taking pages will be added to the workbooks for the next WASC meeting.

#### 4) Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

#### 5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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

- Attendance at the Loyola Marymount University Symposium. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes identified a follow-up meeting with Park Trails as a potential fit for interested parties in the Technical Resources Program. Park Trails may serve as a resource to support program outreach and engagement.
- Watershed Coordinator Shrodes attended the Urbana Strategies' December 6 Community Festival to support outreach and community engagement.
- Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also attended the last Scoring Committee meeting. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes noted opportunities to strengthen public participation and community engagement and is available to share best practices and serve as a resource.
- A meeting with the Los Angeles County Planning Department included discussions on the SCW Program dashboard and results from the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey.
- Holly Park community meetings have resumed and are continuing on a regular basis.

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



- Watershed Coordinator Shrodes attended a Climate Action City Sustainability meeting, which included discussion of Proposition 4 funding opportunities. Climate Resolve offers a no-cost grant-writing assistance program.
- Watershed Coordinator Shrodes plans to review the CSNA dashboard to analyze conditions in each area and flag potential opportunities.

#### 6) Discussion

##### a) Scientific Studies Program Application Presentations

##### i. Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds

Presentation by the Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research (MIPPR)

Andrea Amend (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research, Project applicant) presented an overview of the proposed A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS. This SS intends to measure roadside trash loading, harmonize public data, and create watershed models to assess Best Management Practices (BMPs). Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Caroline Orija asked whether the map locations were randomly selected and if there would be an opportunity to change the study locations. Amend explained that the Study team could meet with technical staff to refine the Study scope and plan the five locations. Upon inquiry, Amend shared that the Study could incorporate a beach trash cleanup with an educational component and potential outreach to a school. Amend also shared that Algalita Marine Research and Education would be involved as part of the community engagement strategy.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes confirmed with Amend that outreach would target specific communities and focus on sharing real data to support implementation in other cities. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes noted that the SSMB Watershed Area includes 17 cities and suggested that email outreach may be a helpful method to share information widely.

Member Hoyt asked for clarification about the leveraged funding and the red areas shown on the map of the study location. Amend noted that details were not immediately available but indicated that the WASC could receive an update at a later date.

Member Marcela Benavides-Aguilar noted that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has established trash Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and that jurisdictions have implemented catch basin screens to prevent trash from entering waterways. Member Benavides-Aguilar asked how the SS would distinguish between trash present on roadways and trash that is swept, vacuumed, or prevented from entering storm drains. Amend responded that the SS would involve cleaning trash and documenting trash accumulation during storm events. Member Benavides-Aguilar noted challenges related to compliance and funding flexibility for jurisdictions that have already implemented screens or sweeping programs and questioned how much additional improvement could be achieved beyond TMDL compliance. Member Benavides-Aguilar expressed interest in continued discussion through advisory teams.

Chair Cadwallader shared experience with cleanup and trash reduction programs and emphasized the importance of accounting for recent cleanups in outreach surveys to ensure accurate data and noted that coordinating with Heal the Bay could enhance the SS and benefit broader trash reduction efforts.

Member Susie Santilena noted that some agencies with existing trash screens and other BMPs may be reluctant to participate and inquired about the SS target outcomes and intended audiences. Amend explained that while the MIPPR cannot implement new legislation to regulate trash, they anticipate that the SS data will enable municipalities and other governing bodies to craft increasingly effective trash reduction policies and practices going forward. Amend further explained that the SS portal intends to provide public access to trash-related information and tools to support the development of best practices and targeted solutions.

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



Member Hoyt asked whether the SS would include parking lots, citing complaints associated with a specific facility in Gardena. Amend responded that while the current plan focuses on roadside walking surveys in selected areas, the Study's approach could be updated if the Committee directs the SS team to include specific areas.

Member Geremew Amenu noted that roadside trash does not always enter waterways and clarified with Amend that the SS focuses on trash accumulation in specific locations, which could lead to a broader understanding when combined with survey data and research.

## **ii. Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment**

Presentation by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Sanjay Mohanty (UCLA, Project applicant) and Dylan Ahearn (Herrera, Project applicant) presented the proposed SS. The SS intends to link land use to contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) such as 6PPDQ, PFAS, and microplastics to help guide future BMPs and planning. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Miller Zou asked whether a technical committee or task force had been considered, given the Study's highly technical focus. Ahearn explained that the SS intends to collaborate with 6PPDQ and PFAS experts.

Member Santilena asked how BMP installation would be addressed and what land use data the SS intends to use. Mohanty explained that the SS intends to provide guidance to jurisdictions on best practices, develop tools for multiple contaminants, and explore treatment approaches for stormwater, while noting gaps in available data. The Stormwater Monitoring Committee would update data from literature reviews and collect new information to provide updated Event Mean Concentrations (EMCs).

Upon inquiry, Mohanty explained that the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area does not have SS funding available for this round of proposals and was therefore omitted from the request. However, the SS team will maximize existing data and provide cross-interpretation.

Member Orija confirmed with the applicant that target locations will focus on drainage areas, ensuring both adequate coverage and isolation of sites based on land use characteristics.

Member Amenu asked whether the SS would focus on modeling or data collection and whether model calibration is planned. Jian Peng (AtkinsRéalis, Project applicant) noted that calibration is not currently part of the work plan, but the SS will collect data on microplastics and PFAS to support future modeling efforts.

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

## **iii. Stormwater BMP O&M Needs Assessment, Guidance Document, and Implementation Materials**

Presentation by Herrera Environmental Consultants & Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)

Rebecca Dugopolski (Herrera, Project applicant), Kate Forester (Herrera, Project applicant), and Elizabeth Fassman-Beck (SCCWRP, Project applicant) presented the proposed Study. The SS plans to gather information on common stormwater BMPs and operation and maintenance (O&M) practices, as well as on barriers to successful O&M implementation. After prioritizing these barriers and needs, the SS intends to develop solutions for the highest-priority O&M needs and monitor BMP performance over time, measuring the impact of improved O&M practices relative to current practices. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Amenu noted the SS was limited to the SSMB, Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB), and Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Areas and suggested that while these Watershed Areas could serve as

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



a strong initial focus, the potential for expansion should not be overlooked. Member Amenu also asked whether sufficient BMPs could be identified in the limited Study area. The Applicant explained that the Study team has a clear understanding of existing BMPs in these Watershed Areas, including the status of biofilters assessed in the SCCWRP report.

Member Benavides-Aguilar asked how the Study team will physically access the BMPs included in the SS, especially those that are not easily or publicly accessible. The applicant proposed a combination of visual inspections and surveys to evaluate BMP performance. The applicant shared additional plans to install sensors to monitor hydrology and assess the impacts of maintenance, with measurements taken before and after interventions.

Member Santilena asked whether approvals have been obtained from agencies for BMP testing and how the Study would coordinate with ongoing efforts. The applicant shared that the team has not yet requested approvals, but the Study proposes forming a Technical Advisory Group to guide BMP selection based on existing data. Member Santilena suggested that the applicant also coordinate efforts with the County's O&M Technical Working Group, which is focused on best practices for maintaining stormwater BMPs, and offered to connect offline with the Study team to provide additional information. The applicant noted that coordination with the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity SS has occurred to avoid overlap with ongoing research.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes confirmed with the applicant that no formal outreach plan to disseminate study materials and findings has been developed yet, but that one could be arranged through the Technical Advisory Group to share Study findings with O&M crews and more broadly across the region.

## **7) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **8) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Infrastructure Program Application Presentations

Public Works staff shared a reminder that beginning in January, the SSMB WASC will meet at Torrance Civic Center in the HR Multipurpose Room, located at 3231 Torrance Blvd, Torrance. An email reminder will be sent the week of the meeting with a location map.

## **9) Adjournment**

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

SSMB WASC - December 17, 2025							
Member Type	Organization	Quorum Present				Voting Items	
		Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the November 19, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	
Agency	IACFCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		y	
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	x	y	
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	x			y	
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	x	Christopher Lapaz		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	<u>Craig Cadwallader</u>	x	Mary Simun		y	
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orjia	x			a	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	x			a	
Community Stakeholder							
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	x	y	
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Virginia Wei		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	<b>Doug Krauss</b>	x	Geraldine Trivedi		a	
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	x	Nick Petrevski		y	
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	x	Jeannie Naughton		a	
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	x				
		Total Non-Vacant Seats	16			Yay (Y)	10
		Total Voting Members Present	16			Nay (N)	0
		Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0
		Community Stakeholder	4			Total	16
		Municipal Members	7			Approved	Not Approved
							Not Approved

Other Attendees	
Alexander Iglesias Rosales	Hazel Vaquero
Angela	Kate Forester
Anthony Vidal	Kathleen McGowan
Aric M	Kenny Khov
Brenda Ponton	Lara Awad
Call-in User_1	Lisa (Jin) Kim
Carlos Rodriguez	luis
Chris	Marisol Ibarra
CJ	Michael Ku
CV	Michael Scaduto
Deanna Fraley	Rebecca Dugopolski
Dylan Ahearn (Herrera)	Robyn Dali
Elizabeth Fassman-Beck (SCCWRP)	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Eric Bonilla	Shelly Moore (MIPPR)
Gabi Prior	SSMB AV
Geraldine trivedi	

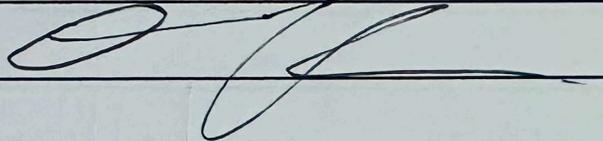
South Santa Monica Bay  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	AMB
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	Jenn Swart
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	Alternate	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts	Primary	
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Cathie Santo Domingo	LA Recreation & Parks	Primary	
Darryl Ford	LA Recreation & Parks	Alternate	
Margie Hoyt	Resident	Primary	Margie C. Hoyt
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Primary	
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Alternate	
Caroline Orija	LA County Public Health	Primary	
Elizabeth Sala	Resident	Primary	ESala

South Santa Monica Bay  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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	
Joshua Soliz	Torrance	Alternate	
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	