

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



Tuesday, December 2, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Culver City Hall – Patacchia Conference Room
9770 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Marcela Benavides, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency), Co-Chair
Matthew Veeh, 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)
Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office (Community)
Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (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)
Mara Luevano, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica/Inglewood (Municipal)
Vanessa Boudreau, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Stephanie Gebhardt Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Gloria Medina, SCOPE (Community)
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate
See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Marcela Benavides 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 November 4, 2025

Co-Chair Susie Santilena motioned to approve meeting minutes from November 4, 2025, seconded by Member Ion Cretu. The Committee voted to approve November 4, 2025 minutes with 11 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, and 2 Members absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Members and Program Updates

Public Work staff shared updates, noting:

- The Board of Supervisors approved the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan on November 4.

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- The SCW Program's Science Symposium was held on November 12 at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters.
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for December 10 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.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Co-Chair Susie Santilena disclosed that, as an employee of the City of Los Angeles, requests for collaboration are often received. For this meeting, a request was received for the Reimagining La Brea Tar Pits: An Investment in Community, Green Space, and Water Quality Enhancement Project, and the City of Los Angeles issued a letter of non-objection.

5) Presentation and Discussion Items

a. Infrastructure Program Presentations

i. Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project Presentation by Brenda Ponton (Woodard & Curran)

Brenda Ponton (Woodard & Curran, Project applicant) provided a presentation on Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The project intends to capture the full 85th-percentile, 24-hour storm volume for the multi-jurisdictional 857-acre drainage area, reducing pollutant loads to the Centinela Creek and Ballona Creek Estuary.

Co-Chair Susie Santilena asked whether the project would daylight water or if any surface water would be present. The applicant explained that the stormwater system is underground and would only have visible flow during rainfall. Full daylighting would require extensive excavation, which would reduce usable park space, so the system is designed as a symbolic surface feature while still capturing runoff.

Member Darryl Ford asked for a breakdown of the cost share, which includes three sources: city, county, and grants. Ponton noted that grant funding is still being pursued and amounts are not confirmed. Ponton explained that Los Angeles County will provide funding, though the exact amount is unknown. Assuming no grant funding, Ponton noted that the City of Inglewood would cover two-thirds of the \$8.9 million cost, and the County would cover one-third. Funding will be distributed over three years to align with SCW Program funding availability, and the City of Inglewood is open to modifying timing and amounts as needed.

Member Zoe Cunliffe highlighted feedback from community meetings, including safety concerns, restoring a flat field previously used for sports, and the dry creek feature. Ponton confirmed that workshops and additional outreach are planned to incorporate community input into the final design.

Member Josette Descalzo asked how much of the \$29 million project budget is dedicated to water reuse and whether other water reuse options were considered. Ponton explained that recycled water is currently being used, and the infiltration galleries are a large part of the project budget.

Member Conor Mossavi noted that the project does not provide a direct Water Supply benefit and asked about challenges or alternatives that ruled out Water Supply. Ponton explained that pumping and treatment requirements made a direct Water Supply benefit infeasible. The project instead focuses on infiltration, which provides tangible Water Quality benefits and aligns with the park's design and community needs.

ii. Reimagining La Brea Tar Pits: An Investment in Community, Green Space, and Water Quality Enhancement Presentation by Dana Earl (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County)

Dana Earl (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Project applicant) provided a summary of the project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The project includes the addition

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of 4,500 square feet of biofiltration area and 96,724 square feet (2.25 acres) of landscape improvements to enhance stormwater quality, expand green space, and enrich recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors.

Co-Chair Santilena clarified with the applicant that the project is designed to treat runoff specifically from the Hancock Park area. The site's topography and existing drainage patterns limit the capture to this area, and there are no additional contributions from adjacent streets or properties.

Member Geremew Amenu confirmed with applicant that the project treats roughly 0.2 acre-feet. Currently, much of the runoff flows off-site into the municipal storm drain system without treatment. The project intends to use a nature-based solution to capture and retain this runoff on-site, including infiltration and filtration features, before flows enter the storm drain system. This approach would provide localized Water Quality improvements and reduce pollutant loads downstream, contributing to overall watershed benefits.

Member Darryl Ford clarified with applicant that the leveraged funding applies specifically to the stormwater component of the project, not the broader park improvements or recreational amenities. Upon inquiry, applicant explained that year three funds are allocated primarily for community outreach and advisory work. This ensures continued public engagement after construction is complete, allowing the community to benefit from educational programming, site tours, and interpretation of the stormwater and park improvements. Applicant also shared that outreach will include development of educational curriculum for schools, guided site tours, and opportunities for community members to learn how to incorporate native plantings and stormwater management practices into their own homes and yards. Applicant emphasized the project's potential as an ongoing educational resource, reinforcing both environmental stewardship and public engagement.

Member Mossavi noted that while the project does not provide a direct Water Supply benefit, it still captures and manages stormwater on-site for Water Quality purposes. Applicant clarified that the 0.2 acre-feet figure represents infiltration captured related to Water Quality, rather than for potable or supply purposes, and emphasized that this localized capture contributes to reducing pollutants and improving the overall performance of the municipal stormwater system.

iii. Memorial Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project Presentation by Aric Torreyson (Tetra Tech)

Aric Torreyson (Tetra Tech, Project applicant) provided a summary of the project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The project is located in the City of Santa Monica's Pico Neighborhood, a disadvantaged community, and intends to construct an underground infiltration reservoir below Memorial Park to provide stormwater treatment with park amenities and benefit the public.

Member Roberto Perez asked about the outreach that informed the number of baseball fields in the park and who conducted the outreach. Applicant clarified that the outreach was conducted by their park's consultant as part of the master planning process, as well as Los Angeles County's Master Planning Division's efforts. Applicant confirmed that extensive outreach occurred through online surveys, in-person meetings, and on-site engagement with park users, and that all activities are documented in the Project application. Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath noted that in-person surveys included input from park users and local schools, confirming that the community desire and need for baseball fields were well-documented.

Member Mossavi noted that this is the first project in this WASC to receive Water Supply points for groundwater recharge, highlighting the substantial benefit of recharging approximately 185 acre-feet per year.

Member Bruce Reznik emphasized the importance of urban tree canopy efforts, encouraging Project applicants to collaborate with Shade LA to support strategic planting. Member Reznik also noted that the

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CSMB WASC has more strong projects than available funds allow, and encouraged the WASC to consider what minimum level of funding a project could be awarded if the full requested amount is not possible.

Member Amenu asked about the stormwater storage and groundwater recharge. Applicant clarified that while the project stores approximately 4.7 acre-feet for the 85th-percentile storm, modeling indicates that this equates to roughly 16 acre-feet of total infiltrated water. The Project applicant explained that groundwater is unconfined at the site, allowing recharge to reach the Santa Monica Basin groundwater aquifer.

Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath asked whether the park would help the City of Santa Monica achieve water neutrality. Applicant explained that the project was originally part of the City of Santa Monica's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project (SWIP) and remains an important component in optimizing water usage. Upon inquiry, applicant explained that the Memorial Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project would allow excess flows to be diverted and pumped back into the City of Santa Monica's drainage system, improving efficiency and allowing additional bypass storage without affecting SWIP's current water supply capacity calculations.

Member Amenu clarified with applicant about funding allocation for stormwater infrastructure versus park restoration. Applicant noted that approximately \$19 million is dedicated to stormwater infrastructure and about \$3 million for park restoration, with additional future park improvements planned but not included in the current funding request.

Overall, Committee Members highlighted the extensive outreach conducted, the substantial Water Supply benefits achieved through recharge, and the additional community and park enhancements incorporated.

b. Workforce Development Presentation **Presentation by Jolene Guerrero, Assistant Deputy Director at Los Angeles County Public Works**

Assistant Deputy Director at Los Angeles County Public Works, Jolene Guerrero, provided a presentation on workforce development. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The presentation highlighted regional workforce initiatives to support long-term infrastructure maintenance. The SCW Program aims to train and place both in-house staff and private contractors for SCW Program projects to encourage sustained career opportunities for a qualified workforce. Workforce development programs include PLACE (Preparing LA for County Employment), with Construction Industry Workforce and Operations and Maintenance Workforce initiatives recently launched.

Co-Chair Santilena thanked Jolene Guerrero for the explanation and noted that a recent application related to workforce development have been informative. Co-Chair Santilena inquired about expected deliverables within a two-year timeframe. Jolene Guerrero stated that the Department of Economic Opportunity has set an ambitious goal to train 150 construction industry participants and 150 operations and maintenance participants, for a total of 300 individuals within two years. Jolene Guerrero noted that while this is a stretch goal, it reflects the Department's commitment to building a qualified local workforce.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

8. Items for Future Agenda

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The next CSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2026. 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.

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		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 November 4, 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	x	Augustine Han		A
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	Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath	x	Rebecca Ferdman		Y
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS / Business Sector	Ion Cretu	x	Andrew Nickerson		Y
Community Stakeholder	SCOPE	Gloria Medina		Tanya Borja		
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x	Maggie Gardner		Y
Community Stakeholder	Black Women for Wellness	Zoe Cunliffe	x	Tianna Shaw-Wakeman		Y
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	x	Virginia Wei		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Geremew Amenu	x	Lara Awad		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica / Inglewood	Joshua Carvalho	x	Anna Groehnert		A
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	x			
Watershed Coordinator	SGA Marketing	Vanessa Boudreau	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
December 2, 2025

Adrian Lee	Eric Bonilla	Pablo Forni - LACPW
Alexander Iglesias Rosales	Gabby Schleppenbach	Patacchia Conference Room
Alexia	JALAINE Q VERDINER	Pearl Azizian
Angineh Shahnazarian	Jolene Guerrero	Robyn Dali
Aric M	Josafat Flores	Safe Clean Water LA
Armando Nunez-Fausto	Lara Awad	Salma Kamal
CV	Larry Tran	Thomas Lee
Call-in User_1	Maggie Gardner	Timothy Lim
Carlos Rodriguez	Marisol Ibarra	Wayne Lee
Craig Doberstein	Michelle	dbradbury
David Gins	Omar Abdelhadi	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: **December 2, 2025**



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

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: December 2, 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	

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN: December 2, 2025



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Brenda	Panton	Woodard & Curran	
Dana	Earl	Natural History Museum	
Dean	Howell	GREEN/NHM	
Curtis	Fang	Geosyntec Consultants	