

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, October 16, 2025
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Santa Clarita City Hall
23920 Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91355
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Alynn Sun, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Ali Elhassan, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)
Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
Francisco Guerrero, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community), Vice Chair
*Mitchell van Bekkum, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Tyler Pledger, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
*Haley Lawton, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
*Dan Duncan, Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
Darin Seegmiller, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Jerrid McKenna, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)
Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff gave a brief WebEx tutorial. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members, and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2025

Public Works staff presented the previous meeting minutes. Vice Chair Sandra Cattell motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Member Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel. The Committee voted to approve the August 21, 2025 meeting minutes, with 11 votes in favor, 3 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communications disclosures.

4. Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff deferred Program Updates to the next WASC meeting to provide more time for discussion items. To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, WASC Members and the public

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are invited to subscribe to receive email notifications on the SCW Program website. Implementation Updates are also available in the [News and Updates webpage](#) on the SCW Program website.

5. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley presented a summary of recent events and outreach activities within the SCR Watershed Area between July and October 2025. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

6. Public Comment Period

A member of the public commented on street sweeping, stormwater capture, and regional recycled water programs. Chair Seegmiller suggested the public commenter follow up with Watershed Coordinator Begley.

7. Discussion Items

a) Watershed Planning Phase 4 Engagement

Public Works' Watershed Planning staff presented updates on Watershed Planning, including background on the Watershed Planning effort, overview of the [draft Initial Watershed Plans](#) (IWPs) and online [SCW Program Watershed Planning tool](#), and summary of public comments on IWPs. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Vice-Chair Cattell suggested that future Watershed Planning presentations include more specific examples from the SCR Watershed Area. Chair Seegmiller commented that the Watershed Planning tool will be helpful to evaluate Project Applications and assess project impacts.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion with WASC Members on how the IWP could shape projects that will be submitted to this WASC in the future.

The WASC discussed what types of projects they would like to fund in the next Call for Projects. Chair Seegmiller expressed interest in projects that incorporate removal of invasive species and projects that address challenges in rural areas of the SCR Watershed Area, such as Acton and Agua Dulce. Vice-Chair Cattell expressed a desire for more Infrastructure Program (IPs) projects, especially school greening projects in disadvantaged communities. Watershed Coordinator Begley mentioned that Watershed Coordinators have been conducting outreach to schools across Los Angeles County to understand barriers schools face in applying to the SCW Program.

The WASC discussed opportunities for groundwater recharge. Member Steve Cole noted that the SCR Watershed Area has many undeveloped areas where stormwater recharge occurs naturally, and at certain times of the year, the water table is too high for stormwater infiltration to occur. Member Cole mentioned that Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency is developing a project to import water to recharge groundwater basins during dry weather, but since this project would not capture stormwater, it would not be a good fit for the SCW Program. Antos noted that there is an opportunity to identify areas in the SCR Watershed Area better suited for stormwater recharge during wet weather.

Vice-Chair Cattell inquired how to protect natural recharge areas from development. Vice-Chair Cattell shared an example of a recent project in Santa Clarita that was built on a natural bog and installed a concrete channel to divert stormwater to the Santa Clara River, preventing recharge. Antos noted that this question may be beyond the SCW Program's scope, but it is possible to use the Initial Watershed Plan and Watershed Planning tools to identify vacant parcels of land within high opportunity areas.

Member Ali Elhassan inquired how the Initial Watershed Plan considered the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. Public Works staff clarified that the IWPs were influenced by targets developed in other Los Angeles County plans, such as the County Water Plan and the OurCounty

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Sustainability Plan. Member Elhassan also highlighted the difficulty of translating state-wide extreme weather forecasts to the local level, and commented that many local agencies, such as Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, could benefit from a Scientific Study that develops localized projections for extreme drought and rainfall.

Watershed Coordinator Begley reminded WASC Members that Watershed Coordinators can facilitate connections with potential Project Applicants to develop projects that this WASC is interested in funding.

i. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Presentation on Invasive Species in the Santa Clara River Watershed Area

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that Project Applicants will be invited to present to the SCR WASC in the winter.

Chair Seegmiller recommended that the November SCR WASC meeting be cancelled, and the presentation on invasive species be moved to December 2025 if possible.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that the Transfer Agreement for the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Scientific Study has been executed, and the Project Developer will be required to submit an update for the next Progress Report.

10. Adjournment

Chair Seegmiller thanked the WASC and members of the public and adjourned the meeting.

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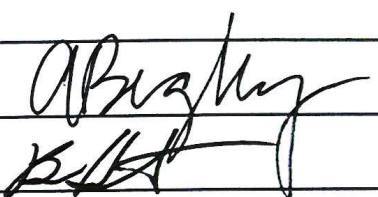

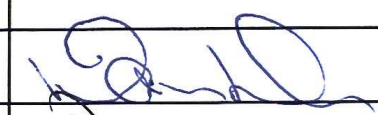

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 08/21/2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Julian Juarez		Alynn Sun	x	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan	x	Najwa Pitois		y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna		Susan Nelson		
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly				
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson				
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell**	x	Diane Trautman		y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk		Mitchell van Bakkum	x	a
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Paul Choy		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Paul Choy		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Paul Choy		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Laurene Weste, Councilmember		Tyler Pledger	x	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Oliver Cramer		Haley Lawton	x	a
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz		Dan Duncan	x	a
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Lindsay Schmandt		y
Watershed Coordinator						
Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Amanda Begley	x	Eric Wilson		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		14			No (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Webex Attendees
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Anthony Barreras - SCWP Staff	Chris	Jenny Chau	Paul Choy
Bryan Igboke - LACPW	Chris Lapaz	Larry Tran - SCWP Staff	Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
Call-in User_2	Claire Barr - LACPW	Luis P	SCR AV
Call-in User_3	Daria Antonova - LACPW	Luis Perez	SCR WASC
Call-in User_4	Eric Wilson	Manuel Gonzalez	Victoria Friesen
Jacqueline Stone LACPW	Erum Razzak	cherise thompson	Wayne Lee - SCWP Staff

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ali Elhassan	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency		P	
Allen Ma	LA County Public Works		A	
Amanda Begley (non-voting)	TreePeople		N/A	
Bruce Hamamoto	LA County Public Works		P	
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts		A	
Damon Letz	Santa Clarita		P	
Dan Duncan	Santa Clarita		A	
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita		P	
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club		A	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation		P	
Eric Wilson (non-voting)	TreePeople		A	
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita		P	
Heidi Webber	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation		A	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery		P	
Ivan Volschenk	Evolve Business Strategies		P	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Jason Gibbs	Santa Clarita		
Jennifer Aborda <i>Alynn Sun</i>	FCD		<i>[Signature]</i>
Jerrid McKenna	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services		
Julian Juarez	FCD		
Kristen Ruffell	LA County Sanitation Districts		
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council		
Mitchell van Bekkum	Evolve Business Strategies		<i>[Signature]</i>
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita		<i>[Signature]</i>
Rick Viergutz	Santa Clarita Valley GSA		
Sandra Cattell	Santa Clarita Sierra Club		<i>[Signature]</i>
Steve Cole	Santa Clarita Valley GSA		<i>[Signature]</i>
Susan Nelson	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services		
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita		<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Francisco Guevarra</i>	<i>LACSD</i>		
<i>Dianne Hellmuth</i>	<i>St. Francis</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>