



## Central Santa Monica Bay

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, January 6, 2026

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

\*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)

Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Sustainability Office (Community)

Ion Cretu, PSOMAS (Community)

\*Tanya Borja, SCOPE (Community)

\*Maggie Gardner, 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)

\*Blayne Sutton Wills, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Mara Luevano, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Joshua Carvalho, Santa Monica/Inglewood (Municipal)

Stephanie Gebhardt-Rath, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Vanessa Boudreau, SGA Marketing (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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#### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Co-Chair Susie Santilena 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 December 2, 2025**

Prior to the vote, Member Conor Mossavi clarified the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes by noting that the Memorial Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project was the first project within the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) to receive points specifically for groundwater recharge, correcting the prior reference to water supply points.

Following the clarification, Member Mossavi motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 2, 2025, seconded by Member Josette Descalzo. The Committee voted to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes with 15 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, at the time of the vote (approved; see vote tracking sheet attached).



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#### **3) Committee Member and Program Updates**

Public Works provided updates, noting that Stormwater Investment Plan projection modifications were necessary to maintain transparency and fairness within the WASC and the regional program. Public Works staff reminded WASC members to avoid advocating for applications associated with their home entities and noted that colleagues or consultants, rather than a WASC member themselves, can attend meetings to present project applications. Public Works conducted completeness and eligibility checks for all applications to ensure consistency with applicable ordinances. Program-wide statistics indicated that three Infrastructure Program project applications did not pass scoring thresholds, and three Scientific Study applications were deemed ineligible. Eight Infrastructure Program Projects, three Scientific Studies, and one Technical Resources Program project concept were identified for consideration within the CSMB Watershed Area. Public Works reminded the Committee of Brown Act requirements and noted that funding decisions under consideration totaled approximately \$40 million.

- 4) Co-Chair Santilena asked whether the number of projects deemed incomplete reflected program-wide totals or the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area specifically. Public Works clarified that one Infrastructure Program Project and one Scientific Study application submitted that would impact the CSMB WASC were deemed ineligible.

#### **5) Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator Vanessa Boudreau provided an update. Watershed Coordinator Boudreau shared that the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinators expanded outreach efforts to include healthcare and public health agencies within the watershed, focusing on facilities with large parking areas, high community visibility, and aligned missions. The Watershed Coordinators held meetings with Enrich LA to discuss school campuses that could benefit from Technical Resources Program funding. The Watershed Coordinators also participated in the Day of Service at Kuruvungna Springs and helped prospective applicants strengthen and better differentiate their applications, given the high volume of anticipated applications. Coordination efforts also included meetings with Los Angeles County Planning and South Bay community planning representatives.

Additional outreach included meetings with school districts, particularly within Santa Monica, that receive Safe, Clean Water Program funding. The Watershed Coordinators met with the City of Santa Monica to discuss the City's airport conversion project and assess potential overlap. The Watershed Coordinators also worked with Verdant Venice Group and Resilient Palisades to evaluate potential opportunities for collaboration and shared goals. As part of their educational outreach, the Watershed Coordinators delivered a presentation at Edison Language Academy on the Safe, Clean Water Program and watershed education. The Watershed Coordinators also met with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to learn more about available technical resource offerings, as well as with Santa Monica Pier stakeholders to discuss water quality improvements aimed at removing the Pier from the Beach Bummer list. The Watershed Coordinators are in contact with the Native American Heritage Commission as part of their efforts to identify Native American contacts within the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area and facilitate connections between tribes and future applicants or current project proponents.

The Watershed Coordinators also distributed quarterly reports that provide additional detail on their outreach and coordination activities.

#### **6) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**



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Member Rita Kampalath, an appointed board member of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County and the La Brea Tar Pits, participated in a board meeting related to the Reimagining La Brea Tar Pits Infrastructure Program Project Application. Member Kampalath noted ongoing discussions with the District regarding appropriate measures to ensure transparency and disclosed the interaction for the Committee's awareness.

Member Augustine Han disclosed a prior meeting in 2025 with the Campus Community Connection Infrastructure Program Project Applicant and noted submission of a letter of support. Co-Chair Santilena disclosed that the City of Los Angeles submitted a letter of support for the Campus Community Connection project. Member Maggie Gardner also disclosed that Los Angeles Waterkeeper submitted a letter of support for the Campus Community Connection project.

#### 7) Presentation and Discussion Items

##### a. Infrastructure Program Presentations

##### i. Ballona Creek TMDL Operations and Maintenance Project

Presentation by Presentation by Mark Nguyen and Wendy Dinh (Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment) and Mike Scaduto (City of Los Angeles)

Mark Nguyen (Project Applicant) provided a presentation on Ballona Creek TMDL Operations and Maintenance Project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Ballona Creek Watershed is dense and heavily urbanized. The facilities in the Round 2 Project are called out in the Ballona Creek EWMP and are a critical part of the overall watershed strategy to address numerous water quality issues. As construction of the Round 2 Project nears completion, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) funding will be integral to continuous operation and delivery of benefits. The Ballona Creek TMDL Operations and Maintenance Project will support the Round 2 Project in meeting dry weather bacteria TMDL compliance, supporting water contact recreation, enhancing the downstream ecosystem, and augmenting local water supply through water recycling at Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant.

##### ii. Campus-Community Connection: UCLA's Mobility, Stormwater Capture, and Greening Project

Presentation by Bonny Bentzin (UCLA) and Felipe Vazquez (LA Metro)

Bonny Bentzin (UCLA) and Felipe Vazquez (LA Metro) provided a summary of the Campus-Community Connection: UCLA's Mobility, Stormwater Capture, and Greening Project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Project represents a collaborative initiative developed in coordination with UCLA, Metro, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Waterkeeper, and aims to improve water quality, increase local water supply, and increase greening and habitat on UCLA's campus within the Sub Region.

During the discussion, Co-Chair Marcela Benavides expressed appreciation for the Applicants' inclusion of student engagement in the project.

Member Mossavi expressed appreciation for the presentation's graphics and clarified with the Applicant that the construction will begin after the Olympic Games to avoid associated complications. Member Mossavi also received clarification that groundwater levels vary significantly across UCLA's campus due to topographic differences and shared that groundwater conditions are being closely monitored to identify optimal infiltration locations. Bentzin (UCLA) further noted differences in municipal stormwater approaches,



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explaining that design practices were influenced by historical flooding events, and emphasized the importance of public education regarding feasible stormwater solutions.

Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt-Rath asked whether the Project represents a leading effort among university or campus-based projects or whether the project was intended to meet an existing benchmark. The Applicants responded that comparisons to other campuses had not been conducted and noted that UCLA's campus presented unique conditions.

Member Amenu requested clarification regarding the funding request breakdown; the Applicants clarified that the request is for an additional \$1.1 million and that the total design cost was approximately \$2.2 million, with cost share offsetting the balance. Co-Chair Marcela Benavides noted a possible typographical error on slide 16 that may have contributed to the confusion. Curtis Fang (Geosyntec) provided additional clarification regarding the funding breakdown.

Co-Chair Santilena asked about differences in pollutant targets across drainage areas and noted that the Scoring Committee recommended that BMP address both pollutants and trash. Co-Chair Santilena also asked whether coordination with the Santa Monica Groundwater Management Association included a letter of confirmation. The Applicants responded that trash capture devices were strategically located to maximize campus coverage and that infiltration locations were selected to balance trash capture benefits with groundwater conditions. The Applicants noted that these considerations would be further refined as design progressed.

#### **iii. Syd Kronenthal Park Stormwater Capture Project**

Presentation by Dave Mercier (Michael Baker Intl.) and Javier De La Cruz (Culver City)

Dave Mercier (Michael Baker Intl.) provided a summary of the Project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Project consists of three diversions from local storm drains for full wet-weather capture from 77 acres within Culver City. The Project also considers a low-flow diversion from Ballona Creek to provide partial wet-weather capture (3.67 cfs) plus full dry weather capture. The site was identified through a Stormwater Quality Master Plan and Ballona Creek WMP. A feasibility study was completed in July of 2025.

Member Descalzo asked why annual operations costs were reported as zero. The Applicants responded that operations costs were included in maintenance costs. The Applicants also noted sewer discharge costs, coordinated discharge timing for overnight versus daytime rates, and evaluated infiltration to manage long-term costs.

Co-Chair Benavides questioned the estimate of 90 annual full-time equivalent jobs created. The Applicants stated that the figure was system-generated and had raised questions for them as well.

Member Mossavi asked about the estimated 850 acre-feet per year water supply benefit, potential reuse of treated water, and Scoring comments indicating redundancy with a previously funded Infrastructure Program Project. Member Mossavi asked whether that redundancy was quantified and whether Applicants had considered revisions to the Project. The Applicants responded that a revised scenario would reduce the score from 75 to 71, that the Project did not rely on dry-weather flow, and that system layout would remain unchanged. Member Mossavi asked about coordination with downstream operators, including Los Angeles Sanitation. The Applicants stated that coordination was ongoing but not confirmed.



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Co-Chair Santilena noted prior concerns regarding redundancy, asked about compliance point locations, and stated that the upstream compliance point could elevate water quality benefits. Co-Chair Santilena noted that the existing Project does not address wet-weather compliance and that the watershed remained responsible for wet-weather compliance. Co-Chair Benavides noted that city-level compliance responsibility complicated WASC funding decisions. The Applicants stated that the project location would produce significant capture even during lower rainfall.

Member Amenu asked about the proportion of water captured from diversion from Ballona Creek as compared to watershed capture. The Applicants responded that approximately one-quarter of the total water would be contributed by the drainage area of the park, and three-quarters diverted from Ballona Creek, noting that the drainage area contribution produced approximately three acre-feet annually and that the Project aligned with Culver City's master plan.

Member Descalzo asked about advanced stormwater treatment requirements for baseball field irrigation. The Applicants responded that potable irrigation would still be required, and that a passive irrigation system eliminated the need for additional treatment.

#### **iv. West Los Angeles College Stormwater Improvements Project** Presentation by Daniel Apt (Olaunu)

Daniel Apt (Olaunu) provided a presentation on the West Los Angeles College Stormwater Improvements Project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Project consists of five stormwater BMPs treating five separate drainage areas, including dry wells and biofiltration units. Project goals include functional treatment of stormwater runoff, enhanced aesthetics and reduction of the heat island effect through incorporation of the vegetated biofiltration areas, significant reduction in stormwater related pollutants, and educational opportunities regarding the benefits of sustainable stormwater management.

Co-Chair Marcela Benavides disclosed a spouse who may be involved in construction activities for the Project and stated an intention to abstain from voting when the item is brought forward for action. Co-Chair Benavides also asked whether the drywells located on the fields were operational and functioning effectively. The Applicant responded that the drywells were operational and successfully draining the soccer basin, preventing the field from becoming unusable.

Member Mossavi asked whether planning and design considered capturing offsite stormwater and followed up by asking whether the Groundwater Management confirmation was provided as a formal letter or an email. The Applicant responded that the campus's location near the top of the watershed limited the Project's ability to capture offsite runoff without pumping. The Applicant clarified that confirmation from the Groundwater Manager was provided via email and noted that a formal letter was requested but could not be obtained until the body's next scheduled meeting in approximately two weeks.

#### **7. Public Comment Period**

Public Works staff received six Public Comment Cards by 5pm the day prior to the meeting, which can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Dawn Petschauer (City of Pasadena) provided comments encouraging the WASC to review the Scientific Study and consider challenges related to program ordinance interpretation, noting that the Pasadena



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workforce development program is prepared to move forward, while the County program requires additional development.

Katie Evers (Center for Watershed Protection) expressed support for partnering with the City of Pasadena and enthusiasm for advancing the Pasadena Scientific Study, emphasizing the importance of a commitment to expanding the stormwater workforce.

Jeff Khun (City of Pasadena) highlighted challenges associated with an inadequately trained workforce and emphasized the regional need for workforce development. Khun discussed Pasadena's commitment to advancing the effort as a regional resource.

Jessica Rivas (City of Pasadena) stated that extensive outreach conducted by the City identified workforce capacity gaps that posed risks to program implementation. Rivas emphasized the urgent need for workforce development to support nature-based solutions and long-term operations and maintenance.

Co-Chair Santilena asked whether additional comment cards were submitted by individuals not present at the meeting and confirmed with District Staff that all comments were available on the Safe, Clean Water Program website.

#### **8. Voting Items**

There were no voting items.

#### **9. Items for Future Agenda**

- a) Infrastructure Program Presentation
- b) Project Modification Request (PMR) Overview Presentation
- c) Project Modification Requests (PMR) for WASC Discussion
- d) FY26-27 Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary
- e) SIP Deliberation Overview Presentations

Co-Chair Santilena asked Public Works to provide any updates regarding the Pasadena Scientific Study, *Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce for the LA Region*. Public Works noted that updates would be provided as information became available.

The next Central Santa Monica Bay WASC meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3, 2026 from 12:30p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

#### **10. Adjournment**

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

**CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - JANUARY 6, 2026**

		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 December 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes as ammended
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	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	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik		Maggie Gardner	x	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			Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto		Blayne Sutton-Wills	x	A
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Mara Luevano	x	Virginia Wei		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Geremew Amenu	x	Lara Awad		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica / Inglewood	Joshua Carvalho	x	Anna Groehnert		Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Stephanie Gebhardt Rath	x	Alexia Skrbic		
Watershed Coordinator	SGA Marketing	Vanessa Boudreau	x	Angelica Garcia		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	15
Total Voting Members Present		17			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	17
Municipal Members		7				Approved

**Attendees**  
**Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting**  
**January 6, 2026**

Alexander Iglesias Rosales

Anna Groehnert

Aric Martinez

Aric Torreyson

Armando Nunez-Fausto

Brenda Ponton

Carlos Rodriguez

Cesar Ramirez

Chris Carandang

Christopher Vong

Curtis Fang

Daniel Bradbury

Dawn Petschauer

Eric Bonilla

Felicia Yin

Javier de la cruz

Jeff Khun

Jessica Rivas

Jian Peng

Josafat Flores

Kaitie Evers

Kevin Ho

Leeor Alpern

Lisa (Jin) Kim

Marisol Ibarra

Michael Scaduto

Michelle Staffield

Omar Abdelhadi

Pablo Forni

Pearl Azizian

Robyn Dali

Sherreeta White

Tanner Stivers

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: January 6, 2026



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Marcela Benavides	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	<i>MB</i>
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	<i>AH</i>
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	<i>CM</i>
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	<i>DF</i>
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	<i>Ion</i>
Community Stakeholder	Andrew Nickerson	PSOMAS / Business Sector	A	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	SCOPE	P	
Community Stakeholder	Tanya Borja	SCOPE	A	<i>Tanya</i>
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	<i>Maggie Gardner</i>
Community Stakeholder	Zoe Cunliffe	Black Women for Wellness	P	<i>Zoe</i>

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Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
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	Alexia Skrbic	Heal the Bay	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Vanessa Boudreau	SGA Marketing	WC	
Watershed Coordinator	Angelica Garcia	SGA Marketing	A	

Central Santa Monica Bay  
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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN: January 6, 2026



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Susana	Reyes	L.A. Metro	[Redacted]
Melissa	Levi H	LA Metro	
FELIPE	VAZQUEZ	LA METRO	
Bonny	Bentua	UCLA	
Wendy <del>Smith</del>	Dinh	LASAN	
Dave	Mercier	Michael Baker International	

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