

# South Santa Monica Bay

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, January 21, 2026

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Torrance Civic Center, Human Resources Department

3231 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present:

CJ Caluag, 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)

Caroline Orija, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Community)

Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)

\*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)

Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Shin Furukawa, Torrance (Municipal)

Douglas Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair

\*Clifford Shum, EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)

Vanessa Hevener, EWMP: Peninsula (Municipal)

Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Not Present:

Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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

Douglas Krauss, Vice 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 and established quorum. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and instructions on public comment submissions.

### **2) Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure**

There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

### **3) Discussion**

#### **a) Workforce Development**

Presentation by Jolene Guerrero, Deputy Director for Water Resources at Los Angeles County Public Works

Jolene Guerrero (Public Works) gave an overview of the SCW Program's Workforce Development Program, intended to create local job training and career pathways that support the construction, operation, and maintenance of stormwater projects. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program [website](#).

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Member Susie Santilena thanked Public Works for their workforce development efforts and asked for clarification on workforce parameters and vacancy types for participating agencies. Guerrero explained that workforce needs are primarily focused on green infrastructure, with opportunities ranging from entry-level roles to long-term career pathways.

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes asked how community members would access training and workforce programs and whether outreach materials would be available. Guerrero noted that elements of the program are anticipated to be launched within the year and that outreach materials will be developed to support local hiring.

#### **b) Infrastructure Program Presentations**

##### **i. Darby Park Multi-Benefit Project**

Presentation by Brenda Ponton (City of Inglewood)

Brenda Ponton (City of Inglewood) presented the Darby Park Multi-Benefit Project. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Project will capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater from the 84-acre drainage area using dry wells and related infrastructure to improve water quality in the Dominguez Channel Watershed. In addition to hydrologic benefits, enhancements at Darby Park will include upgraded park amenities such as exercise areas, shade, seating, signage, pathways, and landscape improvements, with associated public outreach and educational opportunities. The Project emphasizes community benefits, green infrastructure, and pollutant load reductions, and includes cost-sharing from the City of Inglewood.

Member Santilena asked whether the applicant had developed a backup plan if the preferred infiltration approach is infeasible. Ponton indicated that the preferred alternative involves deep dry wells, which have been confirmed with geotechnical studies. A nearby sewer line was noted as a secondary option but is not large and would require pumping.

Member Geremew Amenu asked about the drainage area and the number of dry wells. Ponton confirmed that there would be 24 dry wells for the 4.4-acre-foot system.

Member Amenu questioned the need for the gallery and its drainage capacity, noting that its cost should be carefully considered if it is not necessary for source infiltration. Ponton explained that the gallery addresses peak flow management, as the Project's dry wells would manage all flow, based on lessons learned from previous County Projects. Ponton further clarified that the infiltration gallery would serve both pretreatment and gravity flow purposes.

##### **ii. Los Angeles Harbor College Stormwater Projects**

Presentation By Daniel Apt (Olaunu)

Daniel Apt (Olaunu) presented 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.

Member Vanessa Hevener noted that the Project site consists mostly of open space with very few acres of parking lot, while the offsite area consists of a golf course, and asked the applicant to highlight the pollutants of concern at the site. Apt noted that while infiltration at the site is limited due to predominantly clay soils, a fair amount of runoff is expected.

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Member Santilena expressed Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment's support for the Project and emphasized the importance of the Project's intention to capture offsite runoff on a school campus, noting coordination challenges with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Upon inquiry, Apt confirmed that the golf course is a municipal course owned by the City of Los Angeles.

Member Dave Pierce noted that the funding request is structured to address any potential issues, and that reimbursement through Measure W is possible.

Member CJ Caluag asked about operations and maintenance (O&M) funding. The applicant confirmed that O&M will be fully covered by the Los Angeles Community College District, with no future funding request anticipated.

#### **4) Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025**

Vice Chair Krauss presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from December 17, 2025. Member Margie Hoyt motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Santilena. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 13 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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

Member CJ Caluag will be taking over from Member Marcela Benavides as the primary for Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the SSMB WASC.

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- Three Scientific Study applications were deemed ineligible. Two of the three ineligible applications were focused on workforce development. Applicants have been notified of the SCW Program's decision. Workforce development remains a key component of the SCW Program. The SCW Program Scientific Symposium recording is available on the [program website](#) to provide additional guidance.
- Of 29 Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects scored, 26 are being considered for inclusion in the SIP. Program-wide, three IP Projects did not pass the Scoring threshold.
- Project Modification Reports (PMRs) are collected year-round, with an October 31 submission deadline. Updates will be provided to each WASC at a future meeting, and Mid-Year Reports are due February 15.
- Eight Watershed Coordinator contracts have been finalized. Four remain pending, with two in finalization and two still under review.
- Program updates, guidance documents, and application materials are available on the [SCW Program website](#) to support applicants, Project managers, and partners.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that the Application Module will be updated prior to the next Call for Projects deadline, and functionality issues will be addressed. Subsequent changes to the Scoring Criteria are anticipated for the 2027 Call for Projects.

Member Santilena referenced the Regional Oversight Committee's (ROC) Biennial Progress Report, and highlighted challenges with Projects passing the Scoring threshold in certain Watershed Areas. Member Santilena asked if it would be appropriate to advocate for WASC-specific Scoring thresholds. Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination) noted that the public comment period is open and that comments can be submitted from WASC Members, including feedback related to watershed area-specific Scoring.

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Member Caluag inquired about the PMR submitted for SSMB and the timing for updates to the SIP tool. Public Works staff indicated that the tool is scheduled for release at the end of next week and will be available prior to the next meeting.

#### **6) Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared an update on Watershed Coordinator activities. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes met with a local landscape architecture firm to explore potential collaboration opportunities and continued coordination with Living Stormwater to identify additional partnership and outreach opportunities. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also attended a ROC meeting and encouraged Committee Members to provide feedback on the Biennial Report.

The Watershed Coordinator participated in the Los Angeles County Regional Water Reliability Task Force to learn more about Task Force objectives and public engagement opportunities.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also noted upcoming outreach and education efforts, including planning for the Pasadena Green Schoolyard initiative and a May 13 event at the Natural History Museum focused on harvesting. A Baldwin Hills watershed planning meeting is anticipated in March, focusing on Watershed Planning, the SCW Program, and coordination with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Proposition 4 grant guidelines were also released and made available through the Conservancy.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also attended training on moving beyond land acknowledgements, which addressed historical erasure and resource inequities and explored actionable steps for more inclusive tribal engagement practices. Additional updates included future participation in Whale Fiesta outreach activities.

#### **7) Public Comment Period**

Public Works received six public comment cards, which are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Jessica Rivas (City of Pasadena) commented on the City of Pasadena's Workforce Development Study and outreach and the need to develop a trained workforce at the same pace at which green infrastructure is being constructed. Rivas noted that the City of Pasadena has committed \$500,000 local dollars to the continued development of their proposed Study and encouraged stakeholders to reach out to the City of Pasadena to stay engaged with these efforts.

Amanda Pollack (Center for Watershed Protection) commented on the Center for Watershed Protection's history of leadership in stormwater management and professional training. Pollack highlighted the Center's workforce development efforts and pathways to provide stormwater maintenance training and credentials. Pollack expressed excitement about the Center's partnership with the City of Pasadena and commitment to expanding high-quality workforce development opportunities across the region.

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

- a) Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Report Summary
- b) FY26-27 Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary
- c) Project Modification Requests (PMR) for WASC Discussion

#### **9) Adjournment**

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

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

See [SCW website](#) for meeting details.

SSMB WASC - January 21, 2026								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the December 17, 2025 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes		
Agency	LACFCD	CJ Caluag	X	Daniel Bradbury		a		
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		y		
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	<b>Craig Cadwallader</b>		Mary Simun				
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orjia	X			y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala	x			y		
Community Stakeholder								
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	x	y		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Virginia Wei		y		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu	X	Lara Awad		y		
Municipal Members	Torrance	Shin Furukawa	X	Joshua Soliz		a		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	<b>Doug Krauss</b>	x	Geraldine Trivedi		y		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou		Clifford Shum	x	y		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	x	Jeannie Naughton		y		
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	13	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	15	0	0
Municipal Members		7			Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	

Other Attendees	
Adrian Lee	Kristina
Alexia	Lara Awad
Amanda Pollack	Lisa (Jin) Kim - Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Groehnert	Luis
Anthony Vidal	Marisol Ibarra
Carlos Rodriguez	Mei-Lin Hanna (ILHA)
Chris	Michael Ku
CV	Michelle Staffield
Deanna Fraley	mike
Eric Bonilla	Robyn Dali
Geraldine Trivedi	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Jenny Chau	SSMB AV
Jessica Rivas	Susan Robinson
John Mendoza	Thomas Lee
Jolene	Tony Olmos
Kenny Khov	



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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	CJ Caluag
Daniel Bradbury	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
		Alternate	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts	Primary	Dave Pierce
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Cathie Santo Domingo	LA Recreation & Parks	Primary	Cathie Santo Domingo
Darryl Ford	LA Recreation & Parks	Alternate	
Margie Hoyt	Resident	Primary	Margie A. Hoyt
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Primary	
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Alternate	
Caroline Orija	LA County Public Health	Primary	Caroline Orija
Elizabeth Sala	Resident	Primary	Elizabeth Sala



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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	
Clifford Shum	EWMP: Dominguez	Alternate	
Vanessa Hevener	EWMP: Peninsula	Primary	
Jeannie Naughton	EWMP: Peninsula	Alternate	
Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay	Primary	



South Santa Monica Bay  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Brenda	Ponten	Woodard + Curran	
Daniel	Apt	Olacny	