

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, February 18, 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)
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair
Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)
*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)
Susie Santilena, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Geremew Amenu, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Joshua Soliz, Torrance (Municipal)
Douglas 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 Members Not Present:

Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)
*Committee Member Alternate

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

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) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2026

Vice Chair Krauss presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from January 21, 2026. Member Susie Santilena motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Dave Pierce. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 14 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed and 1 member absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

4) Discussion

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a) Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Report Summary

Presentation by Melanie Rivera, HDR

Melanie Rivera (HDR) provided an overview of the Regional Program FY24–25 Annual Report. Presentation slides are available on the [Safe, Clean Water \(SCW\) Program website](#). Rivera reviewed the reporting requirements and noted that Municipal and Regional Annual Reports are accessible online. Annual Reports were due August 15, 2025, and Mid-Year Reports were due February 15, 2026. Progress and Expenditure Reports are submitted throughout the year. Definitions and reporting guidance are available on the [SCWP website](#).

Member Santilena inquired whether the report shows common themes related to project cancellations. Rivera responded that cancellations are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with a few projects currently awaiting completion of CEQA review. Rivera noted that most projects have unique circumstances contributing to cancellation or delay.

Watershed Coordinator Shrodes asked about plans to present Scientific Study findings to the WASC. Public Works indicated that no presentation is currently scheduled, but that staff will contact the applicant to request an update for a future WASC meeting.

Member Geremew Amenu asked why the Hermosa Beach Multi-Benefit Parking Lot Greening Project (Lot D) was cancelled. Vice Chair Krauss stated that the Project was cancelled by City Council and that funds will be returned.

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes noted that reported expenditures to date appear lower than anticipated and asked whether this reflects a broader trend across the WASC. Rivera stated that delayed expenditures are common across the WASC, primarily due to CEQA timelines and the execution of new project transfer agreements. Design delays within this WASC have also contributed to slower spending.

Member Santilena asked whether reduced expenditures are reflected in the SIP Tool and how that might affect subsequent funding cycles. Public Works clarified that unused and unspent funds are removed from the available funding pool and are not included in future funding allocations.

b) FY26-27 Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary

i) A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds

Presentation by Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research)

Win Cowger responded to the Scientific Study Peer Review Summary of the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Scientific Study. The Peer Review Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) provided an overview of peer review feedback on the proposed roadside trash Study. Reviewers expressed strong support for the Study, noting that it represents a novel scientific effort with significant potential to inform management strategies. While some reviewers characterized the nexus between roadside trash and riverine trash as indirect, Cowger explained that despite existing measures such as total trash capture devices and street sweeping, trash continues to enter waterways, particularly during storm events. The Study aims to identify gaps in current systems, evaluate the effectiveness of existing capture devices and street practices, and improve overall efficiency while reducing costs and operational burdens.

Peer reviewers also requested additional specificity regarding model development. Cowger clarified that the model framework is intentionally broad at this stage. The Study proposes development of a mass-balance model that would allow comparison across WASCs. A Technical Advisory Committee would be formed prior to model development to ensure the model reflects WASC priorities and management needs. Input from the WASC would be solicited to identify key modeling parameters and ensure the tool is practical

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and actionable. The overall goal is to maximize usefulness and tailor the model to participating watershed areas.

ii) Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment

Presentation By Sanjay Mohanty (University of California, Los Angeles), Dylan Ahearn (Herrera), Jian Peng (AtkinsRealis)

Sanjay Mohanty (UCLA) responded to the Scientific Study Peer Review Summary of the Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment Project. The Peer Review Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Amenu asked how this Study would complement existing data from water bodies and Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), and whether an additional plan would be required. Mohanty explained that the Study would focus on regulated pollutants for which limited data currently exists, such as PFAS, to support future planning and implementation strategies, including potential pretreatment options. During design of dry wells, monitoring can be done to evaluate BMP performance, even though these BMPs are not currently regulated. Ahearn added that projects could include best practices for removing specific pollutants as part of planning.

Member Santilena noted a reviewer comment regarding site selection and the resolution of land-use data. The WASC asked how land use by zoning and hydraulic response should inform site selection, and whether additional sites should be considered. Ahearn clarified that the Study would prioritize land coverage and include projects with a minimum size of three acres that encompass industrial, residential, and other land uses. Additional metadata would also be collected.

Member Miller Zou asked about stakeholder involvement and how the Study would address critical data gaps. Mohanty explained that the Study would support project proponents and agencies, such as the Water Replenishment District (WRD), in understanding project feasibility and framing. Stakeholders could provide input to ensure that the Study would meet SCW Program goals. Ahearn noted that the Study design is frontloaded and would be scaled up over time, requiring coordination across jurisdictions for site access and safety. Monitoring is expected to begin approximately 1.5 years after initial coordination. Lessons learned from similar studies in Orange County demonstrate how data can inform BMP design and project implementation.

Member Amenu asked why the Study focuses on MS4 systems rather than receiving waters. Mohanty explained that focusing on MS4s would avoid challenges with receiving water sampling while still providing data useful for future implementation. TMDLs do not currently exist for the receiving waters targeted, and starting at the source allows for more meaningful pollutant management. The presenters agreed that although all pollutants carry some risk, the Study's findings would provide significant benefits for Program planning and BMP performance evaluation.

iii) Stormwater BMP O&M Needs Assessment, Guidance Document, and Implementation Materials

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

Craig Doberstein (Herrera Environmental Consultants) & Elizabeth Fassman-Beck (SCCWRP), responded to the Scientific Study Peer Review Summary on the Stormwater BMP O&M Needs Assessment, Guidance Document, and Implementation Materials Scientific Study. The Peer Review Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

The Technical Advisory Committee was brought up in conjunction with the importance of incorporating a broader perspective to ensure guidance is relevant and practical. Fassman-Beck emphasized the need for the guidance to be useful in supporting BMPs and shared several questions regarding monitoring design.

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The monitoring design aims to understand how a BMP captures and treats water and whether maintenance or other activities restore the BMP's intended function, with evaluation tailored to each BMP type.

Member Santilena noted the reviewers' reservations regarding reliance on qualitative information. Presenters clarified that the monitoring effort would generate quantitative data, and that given the many variables involved, the process would begin with the Technical Advisory Committee and would be supplemented with detailed monitoring data to produce measurable results. Member Santilena also highlighted resource constraints, noting the importance of prioritizing key operations and maintenance (O&M) activities. O&M is recognized as a critical issue by multiple stakeholder groups; applicants noted that while this Study cannot solve every problem, it focuses on addressing priority challenges.

Member Amenu asked whether the Study would focus on priority projects, noting that not all projects currently have the staff capacity to operate BMPs. The presenters explained that applicants often rely on manufacturer guidance, but that the Study emphasizes the value of independent evaluation and testing. Positive outcomes from monitoring and O&M practices can inform long-term operational performance. Doberstein noted that 90% of BMP testing has been conducted, resulting in a large database of BMP failures. Highlighting BMP performance through this Study would provide actionable benefits for long-term facility operations and overall BMP effectiveness.

c) Project Modification Requests (PMRs) for WASC Discussion

Mike Antos (Regional Coordination) provided an update on overview of the PMRs. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Three PMRs were deemed consistent, as they were related primarily to scheduling adjustments. Two PMRs were deemed inconsistent; Wilmington Q Street Local Urban Area Flow Management Project (Wilmington Q Project) did not request any additional Safe, Clean Water Program funding, while a change in leverage funding was included to reflect approximately \$10,688,000 secured since applying to the SCW Program, whereas South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project (28th Street Project) requested an additional funding of \$3 million.

Member Pierce noted that several PMRs include site or design modifications and asked whether additional resources or guidance could be provided to assist developers in managing design changes. Regional Coordination shared that a Scientific Study Advisory Panel is being convened to support knowledge sharing and post-construction monitoring guidelines are in development. In response to Projects meeting Water Supply goals, Regional Coordination further explained that while precipitation totals may be significant, achieving water supply targets presents design and feasibility challenges.

Member Amenu asked whether any project schedule changes require submission of a PMR. Regional Coordination encouraged project developers to review the [PMR guidelines](#) and noted that a PMR may be submitted at any time during the year, but it should be submitted by October 31 to be considered for the planning SIP year, particularly for projects that may be deemed inconsistent PMR. For further assistance and clarification, Regional Coordination encouraged project developers to engage Public Works or the Watershed Coordinator prior to PMR submission.

Chair Craig Cadwallader referenced a Manhattan Beach City Council meeting and inquired about the timing of the 28th Street Project PMR submission. Eduardo Pech, 28th Street Project developer, clarified that the PMR was submitted prior to the City Council meeting, however, the City Council awarded the project without project modification considered. Pech further explained that during feasibility analysis and pre-construction design, additional costs were identified such as retaining walls, additional parking lot improvements, trash capture device and soft cost including construction management and public outreach resulting in \$3 million additional funding request. Katie Harrel, 28th Street Project developer, further explained that the Project design plans include a total of 40 drywells; however the contracted number includes 35 drywells currently.

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Bejamin O'neal, Wilmington Q Project developer, indicated that due to updated infiltration findings, the design was revised while maintaining water quality and stormwater capture as originally proposed. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes asked whether the Wilmington Q Project is located near a high school and whether there are plans to incorporate students or administrators into the design of modular wetlands. O'neal indicated that the Project has conducted community outreach and received support, though no additional updates were available at this time.

Member CJ Caluag asked whether changes to project scope should be reviewed by the Scoring Committee to reassess project benefits. Regional Coordination responded that the Program has determined that PMR decisions will remain with the WASC rather than returning to the Scoring Committee. Regional Coordination also noted that scoring criteria might have evolved since the time of original scoring; the Program relies on the collective expertise of the WASC in evaluating modifications.

Member Hoyt inquired about potential impacts to the Wilmington Q Project timeline. O'neal responded that a prior schedule change had already been submitted and that the current scope modification will not affect the overall timeline. Member Amenu confirmed that although the scope has changed, the overall capture volume remains the same and no additional funding is being requested.

5) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- Mid-Year Reporting Requirements: Mid-Year Reports are due February 15, 2026, covering the July–December 2025 reporting period. This applies to Infrastructure Projects (IP) and Scientific Studies (SS) from Round 1 through FY24–25. Projects awarded in FY25–26 will begin reporting with the Annual Report cycle.
- FY24–25 Annual Report: Summaries of the FY24–25 Annual Reports, covering July 2024 through June 2025, will be presented at an upcoming meeting.
- Biennial Progress Report Update: The Regional Oversight Committee opened the 30-day public review period for the Draft Biennial Progress Report last week. The public comment period closes February 14, 2026. Additional information is available in the top banner of the SCW website.
- Initial Watershed Plans: The February 11 meeting will include publication of the Initial Watershed Plans. Final release of the Plans and the companion Online Planning Tool is anticipated at the end of February.
- Watershed Coordinator Contracts: Eight Watershed Coordinator contracts were finalized and began January 1, 2026. Four contracts remain pending execution, with two selections finalized and two under County Counsel review.
- Final Release of the Initial Watershed Plans and their companion Online Planning Tool are set for the end of February. More guidance will be provided in the future on how to utilize the plans.
- Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA): Since launch, 1,300 new CSNA survey responses have been collected. A Dashboard Story Map has been completed to guide users in navigating survey results and visualizing community feedback, priorities, and opportunities.
- Additional Information and Updates:
 - Watershed Planning questions may be directed to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.
 - Stakeholders may subscribe on the SCW website to receive updates regarding Regional, Municipal, and District Programs. Implementation updates are also available on the News and Updates page of the SCW website.
 - Subscribe for email notifications on the SCW website to receive updates on Regional, Municipal, and District Programs (SafeCleanWaterLA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov).
 - Implementation updates are also available on the News and Updates page of the [SCW Program website](#).

6) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Watershed Coordinator Shrodes provided an update on recent activities, including attendance at a Brown Act virtual training meeting and receipt of five new CSNA survey responses. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes' outreach efforts included participation in a Sacred Spaces meeting and involvement in the Biennial Review of school stormwater initiatives. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also highlighted an upcoming 8th Urban Watershed Working Group Meeting, scheduled for March 12 at 10:30 a.m. in Baldwin Hills; registration is available on [Eventbrite](#). Ongoing coordination includes development of a strategic water and community engagement team and planning Earth Day activities.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no Public Comments.

8) Items for Next Agenda

- a) Stormwater Investment Plan Deliberation Overview Presentations
- b) South Santa Monica Bay Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan

9) Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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

SSMB WASC - February 18, 2026						
		Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the January 21, 2026 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	CJ Caluag	x	Daniel Bradbury		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		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	<u>Craig Cadwallader</u>	x	Mary Simun		absent at vote
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija				
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		Joshua Soliz	x	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	x	Geraldine Trivedi		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	x	Clifford Shum		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)	14
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Other Attendees	
Alexia	Luis
Anthony Vidal	Luis Perez
Brenda Ponton	Marisol Ibarra
Call-in User_1	Matt V
Call-in User_2	Mei-Lin Hanna (JLHA)
Chris	Melanie Rivera (HDR)
CV	Michael Scaduto
Dylan Ahearn (Herrera)	Pablo Forni
Eduardo Pech	Raymond Lam
Eric Bonilla	Robyn Dali
Geraldine Trivedi	Roland Jen
Jenny Chau	Safe Clean Water LA
Jessica	Sophia Catalan
Katie Harrel (CWE)	SSMB AV
Kenny Khov	Susan Robinson
Lara Awad	Win Cowger
Linnet Khechatoorian	

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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	Tammy Hierlihy
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	
Darryl Ford	LA Recreation & Parks	Alternate	Darryl Ford
Margie Hoyt	Resident	Primary	Margie G. Hoyt
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Primary	Craig Cadwallader
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Alternate	
Caroline Orija	LA County Public Health	Primary	
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	

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Jian	Peng	AtkinsRealis	jian.peng@Atkinsrealis.com