

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, March 11, 2026
1:00 – 3:30pm
LA County Public Works Headquarters, Alhambra Room
900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803

Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian, Cordoba/Former Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair, Vice-Chair
Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles
Diana Tang, Long Beach Utilities, Chair
Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities
Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive
Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE
Charles Treviño, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena
Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Carl Blum, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Norma Camacho, Former Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair (non-voting member)

Meeting Summary:

The ROC approved the 2026 Biennial Progress Report (BPR) and will submit the BPR to the Board of Supervisors. The ROC received an update on the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Regional Program and 2026 Call for Projects (CFP) Preparations. The ROC received a briefing on SCW District Program Workforce Development efforts.

Key Action Items:

- 2026 Biennial Progress Report will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Public Works staff will incorporate requested topics as updates at future ROC meetings, including fiscal oversight and the metrics used for jobs reporting.
 - Public Works staff will consider feedback on the Workforce Development Program when developing next steps.
 - Public Works staff will agendize a discussion item at the April meeting for the ROC to consider creating an ad hoc Working Group to further discuss workforce development.
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1. Welcome and Attendee Instructions

Diana Tang, Chair of the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), welcomed Committee Members and members of the public and called the meeting to order. Chair Tang welcomed new ROC Member Bruce Reznik. Member Reznik expressed excitement about joining the ROC.

2. Roll Call

The Executive Clerk conducted a brief tutorial on Zoom and announced that the meeting was being broadcast live in Spanish.

3. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose

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Chair Tang reviewed the agenda and shared that the purpose of the meeting is to consider approving the 2026 Biennial Progress Report and submitting it to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board), to receive updates on the SCW Regional Program and 2026 Call for Projects preparations, and to receive a briefing on the SCW District Program Workforce Development efforts.

4. *Ex Parte* Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5. Approval of February 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Tang presented the meeting minutes from February 2026. Member Belinda Faustinos motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Diana Mahmud. The February 11 meeting minutes were approved with 7 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

6. Program Administration Updates

Public Works staff provided Program Administration Updates. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Public Works staff additionally highlighted:

- Initial Watershed Plans were published last month and are an important new tool, developed with extensive insight from the ROC.
- A Watershed Planning information session for Project Developers will be held on March 18.
- The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) has received over 1,400 responses to date.
- Four of the nine Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) have established recommended Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs)—Santa Clara River, Upper Los Angeles River, Lower San Gabriel River, and Lower Los Angeles River. WASC Chairs will attend a future ROC meeting to share more about the discussions and process behind the recommended SIPs. This year, there will be a new section in SIP Transmittals that will allow the WASC to reference Opportunity Areas outlined in the Initial Watershed Plans and signal their priorities to Project Developers for future Call for Projects rounds.
- All 12 contracts for Watershed Coordinator services have been fully executed.
- Project Highlight:
 - The City of Manhattan Beach began construction on the 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project and hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on March 5. The Project incorporates multi-benefit features and leverages funding.
- Upcoming deadlines:
 - The annual deadline for municipal annual plans is April 1, 2026.
 - The annual deadline for Low-Income Senior Owned Exemptions related to parcel taxes is May 1, 2026.
 - The Call for Projects Deadline is July 31, 2026.

Member Mahmud asked Public Works staff if there are any substantial project delays flagged from the Mid-year Progress Report. Public Works staff noted that staff regularly check in with Project Developers and there are no delays of major concern. Upon request, Public Works staff will provide a report back at the next ROC meeting.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the “estimated total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Created” metric displayed on the presentation slide for Anticipated Infrastructure Program Project Benefits reflects permanent FTEs. Public Works staff is working to quantify both temporary and permanent FTE metrics.

Member Lauren Ahkiam added that operations and maintenance (O&M) jobs are typically assumed to be permanent jobs, while construction jobs are typically tracked in job year rather than FTE because they are

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short- or medium-term temporary. Member Ahkiam expressed interest in learning more about how job types and estimates are calculated in project reporting.

Member Barbara Romero emphasized the importance of streamlining processes to reduce administrative burdens and to shift the focus onto project implementation. Member Romero also recommended that SCW Program staff continue to look at ways to balance reporting responsibilities.

Member Reznik asked if there are efforts underway to have the SCW Program website's home page display SCW Program highlights, including the metrics presented in the presentation slides. Public Works staff confirmed that this effort is underway and factsheets are also being developed.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that the main touchpoint for the ROC to review financial audit data is during the Biennial Progress Report period. Public Works staff will continue to make audits publicly available on the SCW Program website to support transparency. Chair Tang added that the ROC has emphasized financial reporting as an area of interest and expressed interest in the ability to assess the Program's return on investment (ROI). Chair Tang commented that as future years of the SCW Program progress, projects should align with stronger benefits and show a greater ROI as lessons are learned.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that every audit conducted is an independent audit and will be posted on the [Reporting Repository](#) of the SCW Program website.

7. Public Comment Period

One public comment card was submitted prior to the meeting and can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Virtual attendees, call-in users, and in-person attendees were invited to provide public comment.

James Cluxton (OhanaVets) commented about recent experiences with the transition as former Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Watershed Coordinator. Cluxton expressed concerns about coordinated transitions, governance committee issues, and Brown Act compliance.

Maggie Gardner (Our Water Los Angeles (OWLA)) congratulated the ROC on the Biennial Progress Report and expressed appreciation that suggestions made were incorporated. Gardner highlighted incorporated recommendations addressing methods to maximize green space in schools, advance the SCW Education Program, and streamline processes for smaller community-based projects. Gardner celebrated the SCW Program's progress and expressed eagerness for continued engagement between OWLA and the ROC.

Mike Scaduto (City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment) provided a public comment and congratulated Member Reznik on the appointment to the ROC. Scaduto commended the County's effort on the Biennial Progress Report. Scaduto commented that the current public review process lacks transparency in how comments are considered and addressed. Scaduto recommended that future rounds of Biennial Progress Reports implement public comment logs to demonstrate how revisions and decisions are made to strengthen overall public trust.

Member Carl Blum asked for more information about Watershed Coordinators and the transitions between contracts. Chair Tang added that seven of the nine WASCs elected to continue contracts with the previous Watershed Coordinators. Public Works staff added that Watershed Coordinator contract procedures have been followed and the transition is in progress, and that the Regional Coordination team works with all 12 Watershed Coordinators across the nine Watershed Areas Steering Committees to facilitate collaboration and share resources.

Tiffani Shin (Los Angeles County Counsel's Office) stated that the County is already engaged with Cluxton and does not agree that the stated facts are correct and will be preparing a further response to the commentor.

8. Voting Item: Biennial Report Session 5 – ROC to Consider Approving Final Report to Submit to the Board of Supervisors

Public Works staff presented on the 2026 Biennial Progress Report. [Presentation slides](#) and the [Final Draft of the Biennial Progress Report](#) can be found on the SCW Program website.

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Public Works staff provided a summary of public comments received on the 2026 Biennial Progress Report and updates that have been made.

Member Mahmud asked about recent legislation changes related to design-build project delivery and requested that Public Works provide updates at a future meeting on the pros and cons of design-build delivery. Public Works noted that conversations are underway with municipalities to identify how to modify the portal to reduce administrative burdens. Public Works staff will provide updates at future meetings as more information becomes available.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that public comments received have been addressed as they are received. Member Reznik suggested that future iterations of the Biennial Progress Report public comment period include posting public comment logs.

Member Ahkiam confirmed with Public Works that the benchmarking white paper highlighting best practices in stormwater education be made public and be linked in the Biennial Progress Report.

Member Mahmud motioned to approve the Final 2026 Biennial Progress Report to submit to the Board, seconded by Member Faustinos. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, and 2 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9. Discussion Item: Regional Program Update & Call for Projects Preparations

Public Works staff presented an update on the Regional Program and Call for Projects preparations. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff provided a demonstration of the Watershed Planning Tool and highlighted options to view the methodology behind metrics, such as annual FTE jobs creation.

Member Mahmud commented that the Watershed Planning Tool contains a great amount of information and that it is crucial to make that information readily accessible. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the Watershed Planning Tool can be found through the SCW Program website, through navigating to the “Watershed Planning Initiative” at the top navigation bar and scrolling down to [“Watershed Planning Tool.”](#)

Member Faustinos recommended that a tutorial manual and video tutorial be developed to walk the reader through the different components of the Watershed Planning Tool and what to click. Public Works staff shared that a Watershed Planning information session will be held on March 18, which will be recorded and uploaded onto the [SCW Program website](#). Member Barbara Romero suggested that adding a link to the Watershed Planning Tool to other pages may make it more accessible.

Public Works staff noted that the next Call for Projects will be the first round in which Watershed Plans are implemented.

Chair Tang acknowledged Member Kristine Guerrero’s contributions in recommending Watershed Plans and the Watershed Planning Tool during Member Guerrero’s tenure as former Chair of the ROC.

Member Charles Treviño commended the Watershed Planning effort and commented that these work products demonstrate the ROC’s impact to the Board.

Public Works staff provided an overview on updates to the next Call for Projects, including guidance to Project Developers in the FY 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Transmittal documents, and updated guidance documents and new requirements.

Public Works staff highlighted important deadlines, including the Watershed Planning information session on March 18, Call for Projects information sessions on May 13 and 14, and the Call for Projects deadline on July 31.

10. Information Item: Workforce Development Update

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Public Works staff and Kate Vacanti and Isidro Villanueva (Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity [DEO]) provided a presentation on the SCW Program Workforce Development efforts. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Vacanti shared that a Request for Proposals to procure an administrator for the SCW Program High Road Training Partnership (HRTTP) for construction will be released this month, with a procurement for an administrator for the SCW Program stormwater infrastructure O&M HRTTP to follow.

Member Treviño expressed excitement for these efforts and recommended that the DEO connect with the County's Commission of Local Government and Commission of Labor.

Upon inquiry, Vacanti confirmed that the \$3 million in SCW Program funding will fund the two new SCW Program HRTTPs and will not contribute towards the Preparing Los Angeles County for Employment (PLACE) Program.

Member Ahkiam suggested that the SCW Program HRTTPs connect to County's PLACE Program in Public Works and the County Department of Parks and Recreation to connect graduates of workforce development programs with job placements following the completion of these programs. Member Ahkiam also recommended collaboration with other workforce development programs across different County measures. Vacanti shared that the administrators of the HRTTP program will be responsible for engaging and connecting with employers.

Member Ahkiam suggested that, as the SCW Program O&M HRTTP is being developed, the County consider how certifications and training can be linked with the post-construction monitoring requirements and O&M needs of projects.

Member Ahkiam requested additional information to further understand which projects are expected to have Project Labor Agreements for construction and how to better integrate information provided by Project Developers.

Upon inquiry, Villanueva noted that they have previously partnered with the Apprenticeship Readiness Fund, a non-profit organization connected to the Los Angeles and Orange County building trades. A construction industry workforce union will be identified depending on what is most aligned with the relevant scope of the project.

Villanueva confirmed that the SCW construction HRTTP will focus on pre-apprenticeship training based directly on a formal apprenticeship program.

Member Maria Mehranian asked how overall program success will be monitored. Vacanti noted that DEO has a standard set of metrics that are monitored and includes data such as training enrollment, job placement, and outreach. The Committee confirmed with Vacanti and Villanueva that there will be two SCW Program HRTTPs, each with a separate target of training 75 people. The goal will be for 85% of participants to complete training, and 75% of those graduates to receive jobs. CalJobs, a workforce database, tracks this information.

Upon inquiry, Vacanti clarified that this program and metric tracking are inputted regularly and assessed on an annual basis.

Member Romero emphasized the value and uniqueness of the SCW Program O&M HRTTP and asked why the program has a later launch date. Vacanti noted that DEO wants to make sure that the right curriculum and program are developed before launching this program.

Member Romero suggested partnerships with local schools who are already participating in service-learning programs.

Member Mahmud commented that O&M training confers a unique set of skills. Member Mahmud suggested that those who graduate from the SCW Program O&M HRTTP could be hired by the County, and their services could be utilized by smaller municipalities for skilled work. Member Reznik concurred and added that these services could be useful for school greening O&M.

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Public Works staff noted that while the County is currently under a hiring freeze, more investigation should be done to leverage the O&M training programs for job placement.

Member Faustinos emphasized the longstanding work that the Conservation Corps has been doing related to workforce development.

Chair Tang thanked the presenters and the Committee for a robust discussion and suggested that an Ad Hoc Working Group be developed to further discuss workforce development and schools.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that the scope of another grants program that awards funding to non-governmental organizations and municipalities is still in discussion, and could possibly include workforce development in its scope.

11. ROC Member Update

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that any requests to the Board for additional SCW Program staffing would be for FY27-28 at the earliest.

12. Items for Next Agenda/Lookahead

Public Works staff presented the two-year lookahead, which can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Items for future meetings include:

- a. Municipal Program Updates
- b. Regional Program Call for Projects – Preview of Information Sessions
- c. Scientific Advisory Panel Status

The Executive Clerk added that the next meeting will also include a discussion item on an Ad Hoc Working Group related to workforce development, per Chair Tang's request.

Member Mahmud requested a discussion on audits, commenting that the SCW Program Ordinance does not state a specific timeframe of regularity for audits to be reviewed.

13. Meeting Adjourned

Chair Tang thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.