



# **SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

**North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Report  
March 12, 2026**

Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator



Measure W: The Safe Clean Water Program provides local, dedicated funding to increase our local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

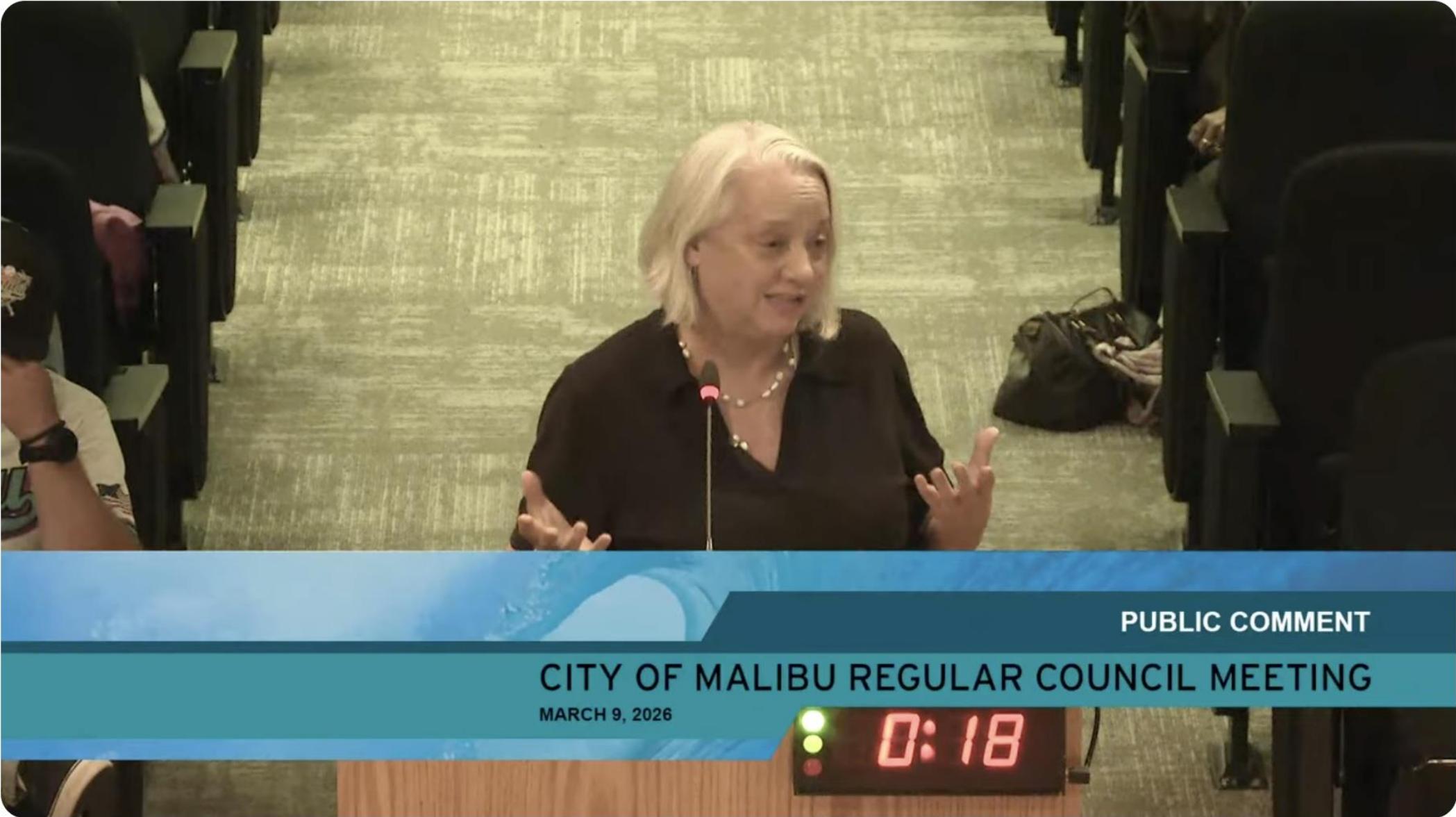
# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The Colorado River  
Indian Tribes group  
(CRIT) are working to  
declare that the  
Colorado River is alive --*

Photo by NPS



# Facilitate Community Engagement In SCWP



PUBLIC COMMENT

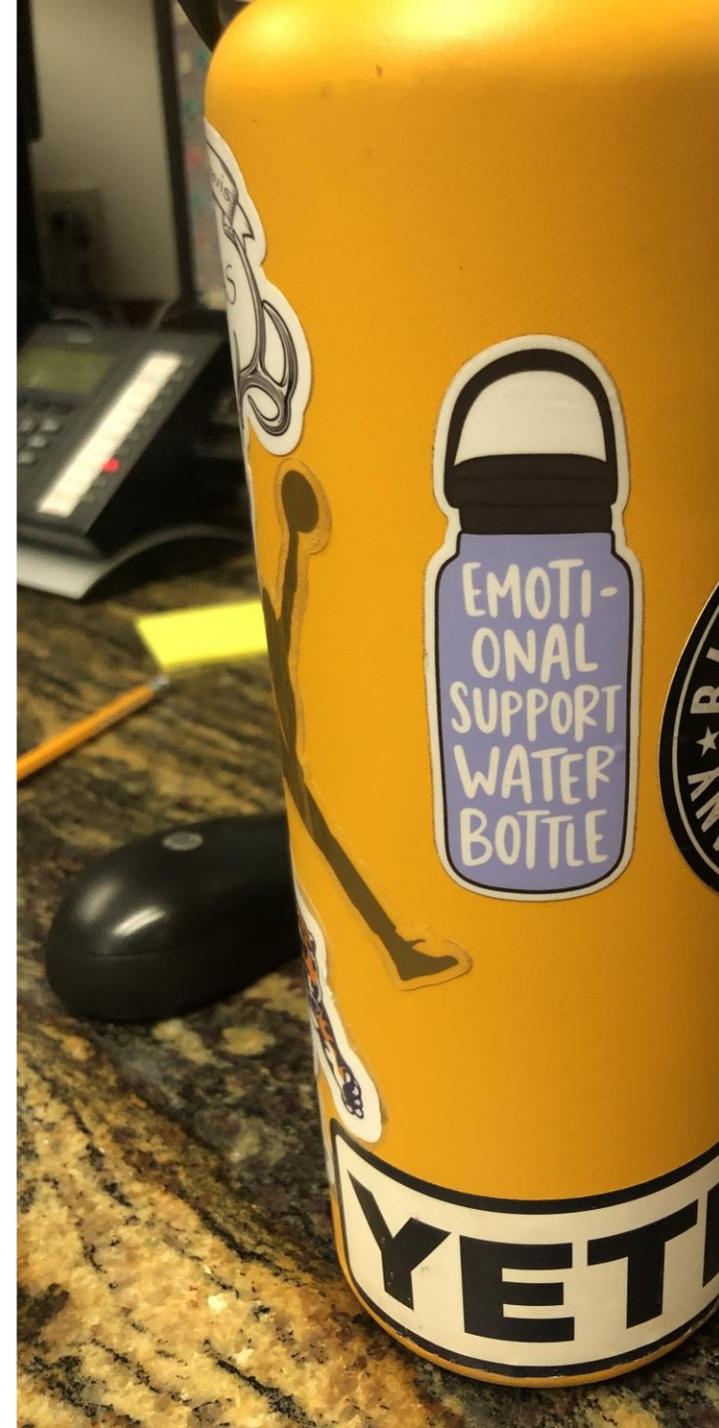
CITY OF MALIBU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 9, 2026

0:18

# Looking for Money from SCWP? Attend the Virtual Project Developer Info Session

- The Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Planning Team is hosting a virtual Project Developer Info Session about the elements of the Initial Watershed Plans on:
- **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 PM.**
- This Project Developer Info Session will discuss the main Initial Watershed Plan outputs (Baselines, Targets, Strategies, Opportunities), how applicants can demonstrate alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans per the 20th Requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines, and examples of Project alignment.





# Identify and Develop Project Concepts

**This ties into the update of the NSMB Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan – I’ll be asking *you* what you want to see as projects.**

**And our City Councils. And City staff.**

**And Topanga Town Council.**

**And the Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments.**

**And our land-owning agencies.**

**And L.A. County Beaches and Harbors.**

**And...everyone...via the Community Wants and Needs Assessment.**

# TRP APPLICATIONS → TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM

- **City of Calabasas beginning a TRP application!**
- Will **City of Malibu** join in?
- Can Craig Doberstein integrate a request for a Topanga site?
- Potentially next year: Webster Elementary School via Amigo de los Rios + SMMUSD TRP application
- ***Recurring discussion point:***  
*both non-profits and water-centered engineering firms want to be able to apply for or be considered for TRP funding for their own work*



# Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

Snapshot from recent listening, community members want water tanks for fire management, photo is from Topanga Chamber of Commerce in 2022 expressing interest in...cisterns.

# Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- Attended Supervisor Horvath's event commemorating the Palisades Fire at Pepperdine University
- Attending monthly Biodiversity collaborative
- Invited to tour site adjacent to L.A. River for LA28 Nativescaping project
- Connected at MWD event with Staff from Sierra Club who manage state and national committees
- Met with Getty + UCLA Sustainability leads



Photo by Watts



# Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

- **When Craig Jones and Cindy Chau let me know that NSMB IRWM funds had to be returned, assisted them in finding a number of watershed applicants to keep these monies in our neighborhood**
- **Connecting SAMO Fund to Amigo de los Rios to lower costs for projects at schools**
- **Attended MWD event which reiterated interest in local outreach funding applications**

Photo by Watts

# Cost Share Partners



- Encouraging Schools and L.A. County Office of Education to consider CALTRANS collaborations

Photo by Watts

Photo by Watts

# Local Stakeholder Education

- **SAVE THE DATE: Malibu Lagoon Restoration celebration event on May 7<sup>th</sup>**



Photo collection of Angelina Lee

# Watershed Coordinator Coordination

Planning an event with  
Stephanie Gebhardt, CSMB  
Watershed Coordinator,  
on Fire Cisterns featuring  
Fire Department and Planning /  
Permitting Departments from San  
Luis Obispo and the cisterns that  
are in use on rural homes for fire  
prevention





Photo by Watts

# Scheduling Concerns or Issues

**New reporting process for  
Watershed Coordinators  
is streamlined and works like  
a charm!**



**DRAFT  
North Santa Monica  
Watershed  
Strategic Outreach  
Engagement Plan, 2026-2027**

**Update: Goal is to integrate Community  
Wants and Needs Surveys  
along with NSMB WASC input –**

Photo by Watts

Photo by Watts



○  
**On the RCDSMM fish surveys,  
biologist Steve Williams has not seen a Southern steelhead  
trout in the last 6 – 7 years.**

**Jaxon Speer reports,**

- **Invasive Carp in the Malibu Creek Watershed**
- **Illegal Fishing – no fishing signs are not posted**

**Good news:  
Debbie Sharpton and team removing invasive fish  
RCDSMM continuing monthly stream surveys.  
State Parks DOES enforce when called.**

**Stilll...,**

***Where are our Southern Steelhead Trout?***



## **Pining for Scientific Studies Applications of Yore? Let's Talk.**

**Depending on how the NSMB WASC allocates funding for the current scientific study... if NSMB WASC stakeholders choose to pay in full for the remainder of the study this year...that could free up \$500K for scientific studies for next year.**

**The NSMB WASC *could* ask past scientific study applicants to re-apply by July 31.**

**If this becomes an option today, the Watts suggestion: agendize this topic for April.**