

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, February 3, 2026
12:30pm – 3:00pm
Culver City Hall – Patacchia Conference Room
9770 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Daniel Bradbury, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*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), Chair
*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles City of Recreation and Parks (Agency)
Rita Kampalath, Los Angeles County Chief 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)
*Virginia Wei, 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, S. Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Roberto Perez, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate
See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Susie Santilena welcomed Committee Members 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 January 6, 2026

Member Maggie Gardner motioned to approve meeting minutes from January 6, 2026, seconded by Member Darryl Ford. The Committee voted to approve January 6, 2026, minutes with 10 votes in favor, 3 votes in abstention, no votes in opposition, and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Member & Program Updates

There were no Committee Member updates.

Public Works shared Program updates, noting the following:

- Mid-Year Reports for Infrastructure Projects (IPs) and Scientific Studies (SS) are due February 15, 2026, covering the reporting period July–December 2025. All Round 1 through Fiscal Year (FY) 2024–25 Infrastructure Projects and Scientific Studies, as well as new FY2025–26 Projects, will

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



report as part of the Annual Report. Summaries of the FY2024–25 Annual Reports (July 2024–June 2025) will be presented at a future meeting.

- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met on January 14 and initiated a 30-day public review period for the Draft Biennial Progress Report. The public comment period closes on February 14. Additional information is available through the Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program website banner. The next ROC meeting on February 11 will include discussion of Initial Watershed Plans scheduled for publication.
- The Los Angeles County Flood Control District conducts completeness checks as part of routine SCW Program administrative responsibilities. Completeness checks are conducted pursuant to the SCW Program Ordinance to confirm application eligibility and consistency with Chapters 16 and 18 of the Ordinance. These reviews ensure applications contain all required information and allow Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) to focus on evaluating complete and eligible submissions. WASC members may view submitted applications through the publicly accessible Dashboard. Eligibility determinations are an administrative responsibility of Public Works staff and not of the WASC role, consistent with the Ordinance and the Regional Program Handbook. The District determines application eligibility in its role as Program Administrator. WASCs provide recommendations on the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) for applications deemed eligible by the District.
- Project Modification Requests (PMRs) are accepted year-round. PMRs submitted by October 31 are considered for inclusion in the current Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
 - Three PMRs were submitted within the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area. Two PMRs were determined consistent: the Angeles Mesa Green Infrastructure Corridor Project (LASAN), a like-for-like modification with a schedule change; and the MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation / Stormwater Capture Project (LASAN), a like-for-like modification with a schedule change. These consistent PMRs do not affect future funding allocations. Project developers have been notified and will reflect updates in upcoming progress and expenditure reports. No action is required from the WASC regarding this modification.
 - One PMR, the Slauson Connect Clean Water Project, was determined to be inconsistent and will be discussed later in the agenda.

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of Funding Assessments prepared for eligible IPs. Funding Assessments have been prepared by the Regional Coordination Team for all SCW Regional Program IPs deemed eligible by the Scoring Committee. Funding assessments are addressed to each relevant Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) with the intent of strengthening the identification of leverage funding sources and supporting WASCs in funding priorities and partial funding decisions. The Funding Assessments outline a high-level analysis of potential funding sources for proposed projects and provide information on the funding opportunity description, requirements, and timeline to reduce current constraints and difficulties with identifying leverage funding sources.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte disclosures.

5) Presentation and Discussion Items

a. Infrastructure Program Presentations

i. San Vicente Streetscape Plaza

Presentation by Ric Abramson (City of West Hollywood) and Merrill Taylor (Craftwater)

Ric Abramson (Project Applicant, City of West Hollywood) and Merrill Taylor (Project Applicant, Craftwater) provided a presentation on the San Vicente Streetscape Plaza. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Watershed Coordinator Stephanie Gebhardt Rath asked for additional details about the Project's Tribal engagement, including opportunities to incorporate education for younger community members. Project applicants noted that the City of West Hollywood integrates an arts component into all projects and is working with local Tribes to explore land stewardship. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in development to support an education program related to Tribal and environmental stewardship.

Member Amenu requested clarification on whether the project is being proposed solely as a dry-weather project. Project Applicants noted that the Project would be primarily a dry-weather capture facility but could also capture some wet-weather runoff. Approximately 2.3 acre-feet of water would be treated and diverted; the Project is not designed to return water to the system due to structural constraints. Design costs are estimated at \$897,000 and construction costs at \$2.3 million.

Chair Santilena thanked the Project Applicants and noted that while water quality treatment occurs downstream, the Project could explore capturing additional wet-weather flows. The Project Applicants stated that expanding depth and storage for wet-weather capture is a possibility.

Member Conor Mossavi asked about low-flow diversion to the sanitary sewer. The Project Applicants confirmed that while this has not been fully evaluated, capacity and feasibility could be assessed if the design moves forward.

Member Ford requested clarification on whether the total funding request covered the full scope of the proposed project. Project Applicants noted that SCW Program funds requested are for the entire water component of the Project, not separate elements. Furthermore, Project Applicants also clarified that cost estimates include multiple consultants and street-level improvements and expressed confidence in their estimates while acknowledging potential cost escalation.

Member Geremew Amenu noted that projects exist downstream of the proposed Project, but that limiting capture to downstream would reduce regional benefits. The Project would incorporate three key aspects: dry-weather capture, approximately a quarter-acre of new greenspace, and conservation and educational components. The Project Applicants shared that there is leveraged funding for non-water components of the Project, however, the SCW Program funding request is focused on the water component.

b) Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary

i. A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watershed

The Peer Review Summary of the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Santilena asked if Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) had reviewed the nexus between the Study's focus and receiving waters. Cowger noted that the SS peer reviewers provided useful points, including questions about the indirect nexus between roadside trash and rivers. Cowger shared that the Study would survey trash on roadsides, which is considered a primary source of river trash, and would aim to identify opportunities for source prevention. Cowger emphasized that the modeling framework is intentionally flexible; each WASC would help define the technical modeling questions through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Chair Santilena asked who the project team envisioned serving on the TAC to help shape and customize the study. Cowger shared that TAC membership would include community-based organizations, such as Ezrach in Leimert Park, along with the City of Long Beach, State Water Board regulators, and scientific partners. These collaborators would help guide monitoring strategies and management recommendations.

Member Amenu asked about monitoring existing trash capture devices and whether locations might change. Cowger explained that monitoring plans are flexible and that while trash capture devices are in place throughout the County, they can overflow during high flows and trash continues to reach rivers

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



downstream. Cowger indicated that roadside trash remains relevant for study and may inform the placement of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Total capture devices are designed to capture 99% of trash during normal conditions, though high flows may exceed this capacity.

ii. Stormwater BMP O&M Needs Assessment, Guidance Document, and Implementation Materials

The Peer Review Summary of the Stormwater BMP O&M Needs Assessment, Guidance Document, and Implementation Materials SS can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Elizabeth Fassman-Beck (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)) explained that the Study duration and scope are intentionally flexible and reflected in the proposed budget. Fassman-Beck also noted that during extended dry periods, the Study would use water trucks to support testing.

Member Amenu asked where applicant qualifications were addressed. Craig Doberstein (Herrera Environmental Consultants) clarified that the application does not include a standalone qualifications section. Doberstein noted that the Study team includes two well-established firms with relevant experience, and that Public Works will include firm qualifications in the application materials.

Chair Santilena asked whether the proposed work is redundant with other efforts to better engage BMPs. Fassman-Beck responded that SCCWRP has convened an expert panel focused on Operations and Maintenance (O&M) to better understand implementation needs, improve guidance, and support safe design. Fassman-Beck noted that a publicly available workshop report is forthcoming and aligns with the proposed recommendations. Fassman-Beck also noted that Watershed Plans published after the Call for Projects identify watershed-specific opportunities to further advance O&M practices, indicating the work is complementary rather than duplicative.

Member Rita Kampalath asked how the Study scope relates to other studies. Fassman-Beck explained that the intent is not to duplicate compliance monitoring or existing performance metrics, but rather to evaluate how maintenance activities affect BMP performance and how maintenance approaches can be refined to better support stormwater treatment. Fassman-Beck noted that replication across multiple settings is intended to demonstrate measurable impacts under different conditions and support broader application of the findings.

iii. Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment

The Peer Review Summary of the Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment SS is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Sanjay Mohanty (UCLA) shared that the number of proposed monitoring locations and samples is sufficient to evaluate Study outcomes, noting that the Study includes 12 monitoring sites. Mohanty shared that the monitoring design is modular, allowing sites to be added or reduced as needed and enabling resources to be redistributed if adjustments are required. Jian Peng (Atkins Réalis) shared experience from redesigning the Orange County monitoring program, emphasizing the importance of conducting a statistical power analysis to determine an appropriate number of monitoring sites and ensure a defensible level of confidence in the results. Peng noted that this Study would include monitoring planned for three storms over a three-year period.

Public Works requested that WASC Members share any questions they would like posed to Project Applicants during SIP deliberations.

c) Project Modification Request (PMR) for WASC Discussion

i. Project Modification Request Overview

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Ng provided a summary of Project Modification Requests (PMRs), which require transparent evaluation of schedule, scope, benefits, and funding to ensure consistency with Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) goals before they are considered for future funding in the FY26–27 cycle. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

ii. Project Modification Request (PMR) Discussion

i.) PMR – Slauson Connect Clean Water Project

Daniel Lee (Geosyntec) provided a brief overview of the Project, noting that the original proposal was for an Los Angeles Metro parcel where the City of Los Angeles was implementing the Slauson Community Center Project in preparation for the 2028 Olympics. The SCW Program-funded component was intended to integrate with the Slauson Community Center Project to capture stormwater from an approximate 20-acre drainage area and reuse it to supplement proposed on-site irrigation. The PMR form is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Lee explained that after six to nine months of coordination with the City, a flaw related to real estate and jurisdiction arose because the Metro-owned land and City Project involved multiple departments (Los Angeles Metro, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles Department of General Services, and City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment). Combined with Olympics-related schedule constraints, this complication required rescoping the Project. The SCW Program component was moved offsite to an adjacent block, maintaining similar Water Quality Benefits while eliminating the on-site reuse component. Infiltration would be used instead, and green space reductions have been offset with additional landscaping improvements across two blocks.

Chair Santilena asked about the increased funding request and cash flow needs. Lee noted that cash flow is flexible, and the \$8 million request could be spread over future FYs. David Washington (Corvus Infrastructure Solutions) added that the Project's original proposal predated the pandemic and was included in the FY21-22 Stormwater Investment Plan, incurring cost increases due to post-pandemic cost escalations. Funding is currently allocated at roughly \$4.8 million, with additional funding requested in FY28 and FY29 to cover the difference. Washington confirmed that the Project team is open to pursuing additional grant opportunities to address the funding gap.

Washington and Lee confirmed that the Project's CEQA documents have been approved by City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, with construction permits nearly complete (approximately 98% ready) pending final checklist items.

Member Mossavi asked about the Water Supply Benefit, noting that the original nine acre-feet per year capture for direct use is no longer included. Lee clarified that infiltration remains the primary driver, as the City of LA decided against reuse due to operational and maintenance challenges. The diversion-to-sewer alternative was considered but rejected due to flow restrictions and higher costs.

Committee Members discussed the significant increase in Project costs (164%) and the approach for evaluating PMRs. Public Works staff noted that the WASC has the discretion to partially or fully fund PMRs. The Committee can also choose to move forward with the Project's original funding request, without granting any additional funding requested through the PMR, or remove funding for modified Projects that the Committee deems no longer meet Program goals. Chair Santilena highlighted the need to balance benefits, acknowledging potential increases in some areas and decreases in others.

Washington and Lee discussed potential funding distribution, proposing to split the \$8 million request across FY28 and FY29 to align with Program flexibility. Lee emphasized that the Project is ready to begin construction once funding is secured, with timing optimized for the dry season. Washington noted that phased construction could reduce economies of scale but agreed that flexibility exists to manage costs efficiently.

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Member Gardner noted that the original application received zero points for Water Supply Benefit and did not include leveraged funding. Public Works confirmed that funding agreements allow for up to five years from execution to deliver Projects, providing some leeway for delayed funding.

Finally, Member Descalzo asked about modifications to proposed BMP locations, including the green alley, which was removed due to maintenance concerns. Lee stated that outreach to the community has been limited but will be incorporated as the Project progresses. Member Mossavi clarified that while the original application received zero points for Water Supply Benefit, as it did not meet the 25-acre-foot threshold, there remains a minor benefit from the nine-acre-foot capture.

d) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Programming Guidance Presentation

Ng provided an update on the 2026 SIP Programming Guidance, which describes how WASCs should plan and program SIP funds in a fiscally responsible and strategic way.

Watershed Coordinators Stephanie Gerbhard Rath and Vanessa Boudreau presented on Disadvantaged Community Benefits. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Zoe Cunliffe asked whether the calculation used to meet the 110% Disadvantaged Community Benefit requirement distinguishes between Projects located within disadvantaged communities and those near disadvantaged communities. Watershed Coordinator Gebhardt Rath explained that the projects presented today are those claiming Disadvantaged Community Benefits, and it is up to WASC members whether to validate these claims. Additional analysis may be needed to better differentiate between projects physically located within disadvantaged communities and projects outside of disadvantage community boundaries that claim Disadvantage Community Benefits.

Chair Santilena noted that a detailed breakdown supporting the Disadvantaged Community Benefit ratio does not currently exist. However, the WASC previously allowed certain projects to claim Disadvantaged Community Benefits based on the strength of the justification provided. Member Amenu requested additional feedback on distinguishing projects that provide direct water treatment benefits within disadvantaged communities. Member Gardner raised concerns about projects claiming Disadvantaged Community Benefits without delivering tangible benefits to historically disadvantaged communities. Member Gardner noted that upstream water quality improvements may not be perceived as meaningful benefits by disadvantaged communities and emphasized whether projects provide direct community benefits. Member Gardner stated that projects located outside of disadvantaged communities should not automatically receive Disadvantage Community Benefit credit for downstream impacts if the affected disadvantaged community does not directly benefit or support the project.

Chair Santilena emphasized the importance of identifying clear, tangible Disadvantaged Community Benefits when evaluating whether Projects should be counted toward Disadvantaged Community Benefit requirements.

6. Public Comment Period

Four public comment cards were submitted to Public Works prior to 5:00pm the day before the meetings. Comment cards are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

7. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

8. Items for Future Agenda

- a) Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Report Summary

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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- b) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendation for the CSMB Watershed Area, including Watershed Coordinator, and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.

9. Adjournment

Chair Santilena thanked the Committee Members and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next CSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - FEBRUARY 3, 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 January 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Daniel Bradbury	x	CJ Caluag		A
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		
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				
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto		Blayne Sutton-Wills		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Mara Luevano		Virginia Wei	x	A
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Geremew Amenu	x	Lara Awad		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica / Inglewood	Joshua Carvalho	X	Anna Groehnert		
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)	10
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	13
Municipal Members		5				Approved

Attendees
Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting
February 3, 2026

Alexia Skrbic	Jose Castro	Omar Abdelhadi
Angineh Shahnazarian	Julie Gaeta	Pauline Nguyen
Aric Martinez	Kevin Ho	Pearl Azizian
Armando Nunez-Fausto	Kevin Reilly	Raymond Lam
Bonny Bentzin	Kristina	Rebecca Dugopolski (Herrera)
Brenda Ponton	Lara Awad	Roberto Perez
Daniel Lee (Geosyntec)	Lisa O'Fiesh (CIS)	Robyn Dali
David Washington	Luis Perez	Savina Romanos
Dylan Ahearn (Herrera)	Marisol Ibarra	Wanda Menk (Geosyntec)
Emily Ng (Regional Coordination)	Melissa Levitt	Wayne Lee
Felicia Yin	Michael Ku	Wendy Dinh
John Mendoza	Michael Scaduto	Win Cowger
Josafat Flores	Michelle Staffield	

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: February 3, 2026



Member Type	Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Role	Signature
Agency	Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	
Agency	CJ Caluag	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	
Agency	Art Castro	Los Angeles City Water & Power	P	
Agency	Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles City Water & Power	A	
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	
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	
Community Stakeholder	Andrew Nickerson	PSOMAS / Business Sector	A	
Community Stakeholder	Gloria Medina	SCOPE	P	
Community Stakeholder	Tanya Borja	SCOPE	A	
Community Stakeholder	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	P	
Community Stakeholder	Maggie Gardner	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	A	
Community Stakeholder	Zoe Cunliffe	Black Women for Wellness	P	

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN: February 3, 2026



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	

**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**

Email Address

[illegible]