

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, April 8, 2026

1:00 – 3:30pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, Conference Rooms A & B  
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

Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena

Carl Blum, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (non-voting member)

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

### Committee Members Not Present:

Charles Treviño, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

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### **Meeting Summary:**

The ROC received a preview of the 2026 Call for Projects (CFP) Information Sessions and received key updates on the Scientific Studies Program and the SCW Municipal Program. The ROC formed an Ad-Hoc Workforce Development Subcommittee to report back findings and recommendations regarding the implementation of the SCW Workforce Development Program at the September 2026 ROC meeting.

### **Key Action Items:**

- Public Works staff will coordinate the first Ad-Hoc Workforce Development Subcommittee meeting.
  - Public Works staff will submit SIP Transmittals to the ROC as they are finished.
  - Public Works staff will offer concise updates at future ROC meetings, including the topic of Water Supply Benefits and the Scientific Advisory Panel's Draft Guidance Document once it has been produced.
  - Public Works staff will consider feedback on the SCW Municipal Program and Scientific Studies Advisory Panel when developing next steps.
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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.

### **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**

Chair Tang reviewed the agenda and shared that the purpose of the meeting is to receive updates on the 2026 Call for Projects (CFP) and the SCW Municipal Program. The ROC will also discuss forming an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on workforce development.

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### 4) *Ex Parte* Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

### 5) Approval of March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Tang presented the meeting minutes from March 11, 2026. Member Kristine Guerrero motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Belinda Faustinos. The March 11 meeting minutes were approved with 6 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### 6) 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) provided public comment and followed up on prior public comments made during the March 12, 2026 ROC Meeting regarding the non-renewal of the Watershed Coordinator contract. Cluxton requested that the ROC direct the County to provide specific, factual responses to matters in the administrative record, with supporting documentation made available for public review and independent evaluation.

Angelo Gladding (resident, City of South Pasadena) commented on the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project's San Pascual site and expressed concerns regarding the Project. Gladding commented that the forest in the Project area has already been removed and replaced with gravel pits, despite the Project Developers announcing that groundwater recharge will no longer be part of the project. Gladding asked who is responsible for overseeing this Project.

### 7) Program Administration Updates

Public Works staff reviewed the topics from past, present, and future ROC meetings and highlighted overall SCW Program benefits and reported metrics. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

#### a. General Updates

Public Works staff provided the following updates:

- A Watershed Planning Information Session for Project Developers was held on March 18. The Informational Session walked through the Planning Dashboard and Tool. A recording of the Informational Session and a Frequently Asked Questions document are posted on the [SCW Program website](#).
- The Public Works team responsible for the Watershed Plans also continues to collaborate with the County Water Plan Nature-based Solutions (NBS) Task Force. The second phase of the Task Force is looking to develop NBS metrics that can be folded into the SCW Program and Watershed Plans as an addendum.
- The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) has received over 1,500 responses to date. Responses are geolocated and Project Developers are able to filter responses as another way to use community input to help inform project development.
- Eight of the nine Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) have recommended Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27. SIP Transmittals will be refined this year, with additional sections to more clearly display project benefits through Watershed Planning data available and a new section for the WASCs to communicate priorities for future investments.
- Infrastructure Program projects that received funding in FY20-21 with uncommitted funds could be subject to lapsed funding provisions. If a project has not expended any funds equal to FY20-21's disbursement, as reported in the FY24-25 Annual Report, the Project Developer received an email from Public Works staff on March 12, with a reminder to submit their 12-month lapsed funding

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extensions to meet the conditions of the Regional Program Transfer Agreement. The deadline for extension requests was March 31 and reviews of requests are currently underway. Determination notices are anticipated to be sent out by Public Works staff by April 30.

- FY25-26 Mid-Year Reports were due in February. Reviews are in progress.
  - Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that Project Developers can request additional funding, due to factors such as cost escalations, through Project Modification Requests.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that over 70 people attended the Watershed Planning Information Session for Project Developers on March 18.

Member Carl Blum expressed that presentation slides 9 and 10 included helpful graphics and suggested that future iterations compare reported statistics to SCW Program goals and targets.

Member Bruce Reznik commented on the importance of post-construction monitoring to confirm that project benefits are being realized once constructed. Member Reznik additionally commented on difficulties defining and quantifying Community Investment Benefits and Nature-based Solutions.

The Committee discussed the target of 34,000 acre-feet/year (ac-ft/yr) listed under the “Increase Local Supply through Groundwater Recharge and Storage figure in presentation slide 9. Public Works staff clarified that the County has a 300,000 ac-ft/yr goal of stormwater capture. The 34,000 ac-ft/yr number is specific to groundwater recharge through the SCW Program.

Member Diana Mahmud requested that the SIP transmittals be shared with the ROC well in advance, so ROC Members have sufficient time to review them prior to the SIP Recommendations meeting. Member Mahmud asked for an update on which projects have completed the most recent round of reporting, expressing concern that failure to comply with reporting requirements limits SCW Program transparency and hampers good stewardship of limited public funding.

Member Faustinos commented that future SCW Program Highlights slides should show the progress towards SCW Program Goals made annually. Member Faustinos noted the significant progress made to date on Groundwater Recharge and suggested that such progress might indicate that targets should be increased. Member Mahmud agreed that certain targets seemed too low, identifying Groundwater Recharge in particular as a metric that should be raised. Member Reznik agreed that it would be beneficial in the future to revisit SCW Program targets and language.

### **b. Information Item: SCW Regional Program CFP – Preview of Info Sessions**

Public Works staff provided an update on the 2026 Call for Projects that closes on July 31. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff shared that the Call for Projects Informational Sessions will be held on May 13 at 9:00am and May 14 at 3:00pm. Both sessions will cover the same content and are targeted towards prospective Infrastructure Program, Scientific Study, and Technical Resources Program applicants.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the FY26-27 (Round 7) SIPs that will be presented to the ROC during June and July meetings will show progress toward the targets identified in the Initial Watershed Plans, but Projects were not expected to demonstrate Initial Watershed Plan alignment, as the plans were not yet available during the CFP deadline in July 2025. In this upcoming CFP (Round 8), Project Applicants will be required to demonstrate alignment to Initial Watershed Plans, represented with the new 20<sup>th</sup> Feasibility Study Requirement.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff noted that attendance, or later viewing of a recording, of an Informational Session is a mandatory requirement for Project Applicants. Member Barbara Romero suggested that Public Works emphasize the importance of the 20<sup>th</sup> Feasibility Study Requirement during these sessions.

### **c. Informational Item: Scientific Advisory Panel Status**

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Public Works staff provided an update on the Scientific Advisory Panel. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff shared that Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines are being developed and will be available ahead of the upcoming CFP. A Scientific Advisory Panel will be formed in Summer 2026, in partnership with Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). The Scientific Advisory Panel will signal priorities, define Application categories, and work on developing a Draft Guidance Document in Winter 2026.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines will be released in the coming weeks and will serve in the interim until the Advisory Panel develops the Draft Scientific Advisory Panel Guidance Document. The Guidance Document will be available and integrated into the 2027 CFP (Round 9).

Member Blum commented that the timeline for developing the Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines could be made more efficient. Member Faustinos agreed and expressed the desire that the ROC's suggestions be incorporated into the Draft Guidelines review process, as with previous sets of Program guidelines that have been released. Member Mahmud recommended that the Scientific Studies Program applications ask applicants to identify other available sources of funding, prior studies that have been done on the same topic, and how the proposed study will address gaps in currently available information.

### **8) Discussion Item: SCW Municipal Program Updates**

Public Works staff presented an overview of the SCW Municipal Program. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the SCW Municipal Program helps local governments contribute to achieving MS4 requirements through supporting urban stormwater challenges.

Public Works staff described that the team supporting the SCW Municipal Program works to educate and inform city leaders about the SCW Program requirements, especially in municipalities with high staff turnover. Public Works staff is also piloting using the well-established LA County Public Works – City Services Request process for municipalities to request SCWP assistance (e.g., provide development of Feasibility Studies to help municipalities apply for the Regional Program in the future and provide design documents to prepare for construction).

Public Works Deputy Director Jolene Guerrero reiterated that this new effort is benefitting from what is offered through Public Works' existing City Services Request processes. Services are available for the unincorporated areas and all participating incorporated cities in the County. The City of Los Angeles does not currently participate.

Public Works staff clarified that Municipal Reports can be found in the Reporting Repository and are publicly accessible. For the SCW Municipal Program, municipalities are required to submit an Annual Plan on April 1 of each year, outlining anticipated expenditures. Municipalities must also submit an Annual Report describing actual expenditures each year. Every three years, an independent audit of the Municipal Program in each city and the unincorporated county area is conducted.

Member Mahmud reminded that the Biennial Progress Report suggested that SCW Municipal Program Reports align with information already required in the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) Annual Reports, to reduce the amount of time municipalities are spending on reporting. Member Norma Camacho suggested that Annual Plans integrate information from Initial Watershed Plans when considering expenditures for the year.

In the context of the Municipal Program audits, several Committee Members recommended that the varying levels of non-compliance be further defined when reporting at future meetings.

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Member Guerrero expressed curiosity regarding whether cities that are non-compliant due to late reporting are also out of compliance with SWB's reporting requirements.

Member Camacho suggested that a template be strengthened to clearly show how funded projects from the SCW Municipal Program provide benefits that contribute to the overall targets and goals of the SCW Program. Member Blum emphasized the importance of the SCW Program being proactive and results oriented.

Member Reznik expressed a desire to better understand if municipalities are using Municipal Program Funds to backfill stormwater programs, rather than augment funding for activities. Public Works staff clarified that the Municipal Program Audit is intended to make sure cities are in alignment with Chapters 16 and 18 of the SCW Program Ordinance and Transfer Agreement, and anything beyond this is out of the scope of the audit requirement. Public Works staff cited the SCW Program Ordinance, Section 18.02 which states that up to 30% of a municipality's Municipal Program Funds may be used to operate or maintain projects that were created prior to the SCW Program.

Chair Tang noted that projects in the Regional Program have larger impacts towards SCW Program goals, while the Municipal Program is primarily focused on MS4 compliance. Chair Tang added that smaller projects still contribute towards reducing runoff.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the Municipal Program Audits are presented to the ROC and are not required to be presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

### **9) Action Item: Consider forming an Ad-Hoc Workforce Development Subcommittee**

Public Works staff reminded that at the prior meeting the ROC had expressed a desire to consider forming an Ad-Hoc Workforce Development Subcommittee. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Faustinos asked Public Works staff to ensure that Members of the Subcommittee receive information on workforce development reports that other bodies, such as ARLA and Estolano Advisors, have already produced. Chair Tang agreed and asked staff to provide to the Subcommittee any requests or directives made by the Board of Supervisors regarding workforce development that Members might not yet be aware of.

Chair Tang requested Member Romero lead the Ad-Hoc Workforce Development Subcommittee.

Member Mahmud motioned to form an Ad-Hoc Workforce Development Subcommittee composed of Members Lauren Ahkiam, Romero, Faustinos, and Chair Tang for the purpose of reporting back findings and recommendations about the structure and implementation of the Workforce Development Program at the September 2026 ROC meeting, seconded by Member Faustinos. The motion was approved with 7 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 1 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Member Camacho suggested that the Subcommittee focus on how the ROC's Biennial Progress Report workforce development recommendations can be realized.

### **10) ROC Member Updates**

Member Camacho announced that this will be their last meeting. The current Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, David Nahai, will join the ROC at the next meeting in June. Several ROC Members expressed appreciation for Member Camacho's service and contributions.

Member Blum highlighted the Sun Valley Watershed Program, which integrated many of the same elements of the SCW Program and suggested the ROC look into lessons learned from the Sun Valley Watershed Program.

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Member Reznik shared that LA Waterkeeper is hosting a two-day summit at the University of Southern California on June 15 and 16. June 15 will cover how to improve stormwater capture and water supply in the SCW Program. June 16 will cover how to achieve more NBS and Community Investment Benefits.

### **11) 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. May – Spring Recess – No Meeting
- b. June –
  - i. SIP Review & Recommendations
  - ii. District Grants Program Update

### **12) Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Tang thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:28 PM.