

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, June 10, 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 Water Department, Chair
Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities
Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive
Charles Treviño, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena
Carl Blum, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (non-voting member)
David Nahai, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair (non-voting member)

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE
Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Committee Members Not Present:

Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles

Meeting Summary:

The ROC received an update on the District Grants Program for Engagement, Workforce Development, and K-12 Education. The ROC reviewed and approved Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) recommendations from four Watershed Area Steering Committees, including North Santa Monica Bay, Central Santa Monica Bay, Lower Los Angeles River, and Upper Los Angeles River.

Key Action Items:

- Public Works staff will submit remaining SIP Transmittals to the ROC as they are finished along with links to resources.
 - Public Works staff will offer updates on requested topics at future ROC meetings, including District Program, Municipal Program, and Regional Program Audits and provisions to address projects with lapsed funding or delayed progress.
 - Public Works staff will consider feedback on the Scientific Studies Advisory Panel and the process to review regional studies when developing next steps.
 - Public Works staff will consider feedback on the process to review Project Modification Requests and potential impacts to the scoring threshold.
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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.

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Chair Tang welcomed Member David Nahai as a new ROC Member. Member Nahai made a self-introduction and expressed excitement to join the ROC.

Member Lauren Ahkiam and Member Bruce Reznik joined the meeting virtually on Zoom. The Executive Clerk confirmed just cause for remote attendance.

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 Districts Grants Program for Engagement, Workforce Development and K-12 Education and to review Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) recommendations from Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs).

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Reznik disclosed serving on the Scoring Committee, which scored Infrastructure Program projects in the proposed FY26-27 SIPs, and on the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) during SIP deliberations.

5) Approval of April 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Tang presented the April 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Member Belinda Faustinos requested that meeting minutes be pulled and revised to capture all Committee Member comments made during the meeting. Chair Tang suggested that meeting minutes attribute certain comments to specific members of the ROC.

6) Public Comment Period

20 public comment cards were 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 regarding the Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator procurement process. Cluxton urged ROC Members to reference the full public comment card submitted on the SCW Program website.

Clara Solis (member of the public) provided public comment and referenced the full letter submitted on the SCW Program website regarding the approval of the Arroyo Park Infiltration Gallery Project. Solis expressed concern regarding misinformation shared by the Project Proponent to the WASC. Solis asserted that over 4,000 members of the public submitted comments opposing the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. Solis requested that the ROC investigate the funding of the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project and investigate potential conflict of interest between Upper Los Angeles River WASC Members, Public Works staff, and approval of projects in the Watershed Area.

Jens Jonason (Garvanza resident) commented about the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. Jonason commented that public opposition is related to the City of Los Angeles parcel, which will house a pump station and pre-treatment unit. Jonason commented that Los Angeles City Council Member Ysabel Jurado introduced a resolution that would place the entire City of Los Angeles on record against the project indefinitely by blocking the project's lease of the half-acre parcel. Jonason asserted that opposition has been expressed by a small number of residents trying to oppose the project. Jonason recommended the ROC contact the City of Los Angeles' Rules Committee members and submit public comments on the resolution to urge them to hold the resolution until the City has further analyzed the impacts of this decision.

Pilar Reynaldo (Garvanza resident) commented and expressed support for the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. Reynaldo commented that both projects will provide a multitude of benefits for the Cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, and Los Angeles. Reynaldo asserted that these projects will improve these sites near areas where families recreate. Reynaldo commented that Save San Pascual Park organization has spent time disinforming the community. Reynaldo urged the ROC to fund the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project.

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Yael Pargas (Save San Pascual Park) commented that San Pascual Park is a gem with functioning habitat and a myriad of trees. Pargas commented that 85% of trees will be removed as a result of the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project and will replace functioning habitat with an artificial lake. Pargas urged the ROC to review funding requirements of this project and object it. Pargas noted that thousands of community members have signed-on to oppose the project.

Constance Villalvazo (Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council) expressed concern regarding the new basin infiltration system proposed for the Arroyo Seco Water Diversion project. Villalvazo commented that their jurisdiction includes Los Angeles Council District 14, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the country and was historically redlined. Villalvazo expressed concern that the project will destroy native riparian habitat, cause human health impacts, and is not considering views submitted by the Kizh Nation throughout the process.

Amada Segura (San Pascual Valley resident) commented and expressed opposition for the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. Segura commented that the San Pascual community is identified as a disadvantaged community on the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool, while the Garvanza community is not.

Josh Kashapata (San Pascual resident) voiced opposition to the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. Kashapata asserted that the people opposing the project is not a small group. Kashapata commented that the Project would remove over 50 native plants and take years to regrow. Kashapata additionally commented that many of those who live in the project area are minority groups that do not speak English as a first language. Kashapata asserted that there should be other water sources for the golf course.

Jenny Newman (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board) provided public comment and expressed appreciation that most projects in the SIP are cost-effective and make meaningful progress towards MS4 compliance. Newman expressed caution about dry-weather diversion projects, including diversion of dry-weather flow before entering storm drains. Newman commented that diversion of water from creeks and open channels raises concerns, since permittees would be responsible for TMDL compliance at flows upstream of a diversion point. Newman noted that this is not the first time dry-weather projects have been proposed in SIPs and there is a path forward.

Maggie Gardner (OurWater LA (OWLA Coalition) recommended the approval for the FY26-27 SIPs. Gardner urged ROC Members to review OWLA's full recommendation letter, which can be found on the SCW Program website. Gardner commented on some patterns from FY26-27 applications, including that narrative responses in the Community Investment Benefits section and anti-displacement section were lacking in detail. Gardner highlighted the Reimagining La Brea Tar Pits: An Investment in Community, Green Space, and Water Quality Enhancement Project and its Tribal partnerships, and expressed a desire to see similar partnerships in the future. Other notable projects include the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture O&M Project, Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project, Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project, Ganesha Park Stormwater Capture Project, and Sky Sanctuaries: San Vincente Streetscape Plaza Project.

7) Program Administration Updates

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

Public Works staff provided the following updates:

- Watershed Planning
 - The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) has received over 1,900 responses to date. Responses are geolocated for Project Developers to filter responses, zoom in, and view community input to help inform project development.

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



- Regional Program
 - Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines have been developed and are now posted on the [SCW Program website](#).
 - Public Works staff has distributed surveys soliciting input on Scoring Criteria and Feasibility Study Guidelines revisions. Responses should be submitted by June 30. These recommendations will be reviewed and will help guide updates to the Scoring Criteria.
 - The 2026 Call for Projects deadline is July 31. The Continuing O&M pathway has been streamlined during this round and more information has been provided on how to demonstrate alignment with Initial Watershed Plans, the integration of the new Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines, and the integration of the new Scoring Pilot. A line in the application has also been added for applicants to acknowledge repercussions for failure to execute a Transfer Agreement.
- Municipal Program
 - Project partnership services are now available, as announced during the April ROC meeting. Cities can submit a request through the Los Angeles County Public Works Cities Service Contract. These services can provide extra support to cities in identifying regional scale projects.
- SCW Program Project Highlight
 - Winery Canyon Channel and Descanso Gardens Stormwater Capture and Reuse Project hosted a groundbreaking on May 18. The project is funded by the SCW Program in addition to leveraging County Measure A Regional Parks and Open Space District funding. The Project captures 65-acre feet per year and allows Descanso Gardens to store 3 million gallons onsite for fire response.
 - David M. Gonzalez Recreation Center Stormwater Capture Project also hosted a groundbreaking on May 18. The Project features a 2.6-acre underground infiltration gallery and anticipates capturing 450-acre feet of stormwater each year.

Upon request from the April ROC meeting, Public Works staff provided additional information on Water Supply Targets and an overview of the SCW Grants Programs. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Faustinos requested that the ROC receive more information about all levels of audits in the SCW Program (e.g., District Program, Regional Program, Municipal Program, and project-specific) during its August meeting. Member Faustinos requested more information about when audits are prepared and how to access reports.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that new Scoring Criteria revisions have not yet been made, and the survey will better inform revisions. Public Works will present Scoring Criteria revisions to the ROC in August, prior to moving forward with the revisions.

Member Belinda Faustinos recommended that ROC Members reference each SIP Transmittal and the accompanying presentation slides presented to the WASCs, which summarize each project and study submitted. Member Faustinos requested that these presentation slides and Scientific Study Peer Reviews be linked and shared with the ROC for the July meeting.

8) Action Item: Review FY26-27 SIP Recommendations and Consider Approving for Submittal to the Board of Supervisors

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of SIP guidance given to WASC Members prior to SIP deliberations. WASC Chairs were invited to provide additional details on SIP recommendations. [Presentation slides](#) and [SIP Transmittals](#) are available on the SCW Program website.

Member Mehranian asked how a WASC could remove a continuing project from the SIP. Fossum clarified that if a continuing project has changed significantly since its original application, the Project Developer

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



would have had to submit a Project Modification Request by October 31, 2025 to be considered in the FY26-27 SIP. The WASC could then discuss potentially removing funds that had been previously earmarked for the continuing project in the SIP during deliberations, which typically begin in the spring. The Executive Clerk clarified that a project receives funding for one year at a time and funding is earmarked for the subsequent four years. If the continuing project has been changed, the WASC can decide to modify or even drop the earmarked funding to the project in future years.

a) North Santa Monica Bay

Fossum provided an overview of North Santa Monica Bay's (NSMB) SIP recommendation. NSMB WASC Chair Jessica Forte shared that the NSMB WASC is targeting a single-year increase in funding for the Watershed Coordinator, since the Watershed Coordinator's responsibilities have grown and include a broader scope. Chair Forte additionally highlighted that NSMB WASC Members have expressed interest in finding solutions to improve water quality issues in Topanga and Malibu, especially given diversion to sewer is not an option in these areas since much of the area is unsewered. The NSMB WASC would like to see applications related to improving conditions in these areas. Chair Forte mentioned some Scientific Studies that WASC is looking for in future years, including hydraulic modeling and mapping studies to better define flow rates and wet weather TMDL compliance. Chair Forte shared that the NSMB WASC must be intentional in its investments due to its limited annual regional funding.

Member Faustinos asked about a lease on the parcel for the Westlake Village MS4 Project, since the project would be sited on private property owned by a homeowner's association (HOA). Chair Forte clarified that the lease would be between City of Westlake Village and the HOA. Member Faustinos urged Public Works staff to review lease agreements in-depth for SCW Program-funded projects located on privately owned property.

Member Diana Mahmud asked about the status of the Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project and Cornell – Mulholland Highway Green Improvement Project, both of which are previously approved projects and are not part of the proposed SIP. Chair Forte noted that both projects are currently not moving forward. Specific questions can be directed towards Los Angeles County Public Works, the Project Developer for both projects.

Upon inquiry, Fossum clarified that WASCs cannot remove funds for a Scientific Study in a recommended SIP upon discovering that other WASCs did not fund the study. Fossum noted that WASCs will often ask the Study Applicant how the scope would be impacted if it is not funded by other WASCs. Member Mahmud expressed concern over this process and assumptions made during SIP deliberations and suggested the Scientific Study Advisory Panel explore how to better address regional studies.

Member Mahmud commented that the \$2 million annual budget for the NSMB WASC is difficult to work with and suggested Public Works staff explore merging NSMB and Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Areas together to provide more access to funding.

Member Nahai and Member Carl Blum concurred with Member Mahmud's suggestion for the Scientific Study Advisory Panel. Member Nahai recommended that Scientific Studies that apply to multiple WASCs disclose this information more clearly.

Upon inquiry, Chair Forte noted that leverage funding has been particularly difficult for the region, given many funding programs do not prioritize projects in higher median household income areas, but confirmed that leveraged funding is still prioritized by the NSMB WASC.

Member Nahai referenced the NSMB SIP Transmittal and asked Chair Forte about the status of the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project, given that it has an upcoming anticipated construction end date of October 2026. Chair Forte shared that the WASC has recommended that the Project submit a PMR this year to signal project timeline delays. Member Nahai suggested that it may be helpful to review project deadlines and flag to Project Proponents when a PMR may be needed ahead of time.

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Member Nahai additionally referenced the public comment made earlier by Newman, emphasizing that WASCs need to understand dry-weather diversions alone will not reach MS4 regulatory compliance.

Member Faustinos motioned to recommend that the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area FY2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve the SCW Program's Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Member Charles Trevino. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracker).

b) Central Santa Monica Bay

Fossum provided an overview of Central Santa Monica Bay's (CSMB) SIP recommendation. CSMB WASC Co-Chair Susie Santilena shared that the CSMB WASC had a difficult deliberation process this round, since there were so many strong applications proposed in the Watershed Area. The CSMB WASC's discussion focused on meeting the 80% allocation target for future funding and also balancing the types of projects (i.e., phases and scales). The CSMB WASC additionally prioritized the construction of the Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project, noting that the Project is a strong example of the full breadth of the SCW Program, beginning with its inception through the Technical Resources Program. Prioritizing the Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project resulted in constraints on the remaining SIP capacity. Co-Chair Santilena shared that Project Developers returned to the WASC and put forth more leverage funding to alleviate SIP budget constraints. Co-Chair Santilena noted the Slauson Connect Clean Water Project PMR received had decided to return to the WASC in the future with a more considerate and modest request. Co-Chair Santilena shared that other WASC Members commented on potential redundancies, such as projects that covered the same dry-weather areas, but the group determined that the projects created new wet-weather and Water Supply Benefits.

Member Faustinos encouraged the ROC to reference the Edward Vincent Jr. Park Stormwater Improvements Project, citing it as an exemplary project with a strong project summary, site plan, and community-led project design.

Member Faustinos expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Study and noted that public education is needed to address trash in waterways.

Member Mahmud commented about project construction completion dates on the SIP Transmittal, with inconsistencies in milestone dates that have already passed. Member Mahmud requested that future SIP Transmittals include updated information about projects so the ROC can more accurately assess project statuses and funding ability.

Member Reznik encouraged ROC Members to review the OWLA recommendation letter, which highlights exemplary projects in the CSMB Watershed Area.

Member Trevino motioned to recommend that the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area FY2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve the SCW Program's Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Vice-Chair Maria Mehranian. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracker).

c) Lower Los Angeles River

Fossum provided an overview of Lower Los Angeles River's (LLAR) SIP recommendation. LLAR WASC Co-Chair Joseph Venzon highlighted that the WASC has funded three completed Infrastructure Program projects since the SCW Program's inception and has also supported eight other Infrastructure Program projects that are projected to be completed in the next eight years. These investments contribute to LLAR WASC's budget being strained this FY. Co-Chair Venzon shared that the LLAR WASC communicated to Project Applicants that the WASC was not prioritizing new Infrastructure Program projects in this SIP cycle, thus no applications were received. Co-Chair Venzon noted that many LLAR WASC Members, municipalities, and community-based organizations found value in the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Watersheds Scientific Study and the Characterizing and Optimizing the Water Quality Benefits of In-Channel Vegetation Scientific Study, since the Watershed Area is highly urbanized.

Upon inquiry, Co-Chair Venzon shared that the LLAR WASC asked the Project Proponents of the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Scientific Study about the implications of funding the study in one WASC and not others and confirmed that the study can be conducted independently, regardless of support from other WASCs. Member Nahai recommended that the process for deliberating about studies that apply to more than one Watershed Area be improved.

Member Reznik motioned to recommend that the Lower Los Angeles River FY2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve the SCW Program's Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Vice-Chair Maria Mehranian. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 1 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracker).

d) Santa Clara River

This agenda item was deferred to the July ROC meeting due to time constraints.

e) Upper Los Angeles River

Fossum provided an overview of Upper Los Angeles River's (ULAR) SIP recommendation. ULAR WASC Vice-Chair Karo Torossian noted that the FY25-26 SIP featured the removal of the Metro Orange Line: A Water Infiltration and Quality Project for failure to achieve goals and benefits initially claimed. The \$6 million previously allocated to the project has only partially been returned to the Regional Program, but will ultimately increase the available budget for FY27-28 when received. Vice-Chair Torossian shared that the WASC wants to see Project Developers leverage more funding. Vice-Chair Torossian also clarified that the WASC has already fully funded the Arroyo Seco-San Rafael Treatment Wetlands Project in prior years and the WASC is unable to retroactively deliberate on funding that has been previously awarded. Vice-Chair Torossian commented that the project included in this SIP, the Arroyo Park Infiltration Gallery Project, was not the subject of public input.

Chair Tang clarified with Public Works staff that there are provisions in the Funds Transfer Agreement for lapsed funding. There will also be an added acknowledgement for Project Developers to complete when submitting an application that projects must make reasonable progress toward execution of the Funds Transfer Agreement if approved for funding in a SIP.

Member Mahmud clarified with Vice-Chair Torossian that the Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project / Rory Shaw Park PMR reduced the anticipated Water Supply Benefits, but the WASC confirmed that these benefits still contribute to Water Supply goals. Member Mahmud confirmed with Fossum that PMRs are not reviewed by the Scoring Committee for verification of meeting the Scoring threshold, and it is up to the WASC to evaluate the modified projects.

Member Mahmud additionally asked about the status of receiving funds from Los Angeles Metro. Vice-Chair Torossian shared that County Counsel is working to coordinate returning these funds. Member Mahmud recommended a process improvement be made to those who do not return funds in a timely manner, precluding them from any future funding opportunity.

Upon inquiry, Member Kristine Guerrero clarified with Public Works staff that the ROC could recommend the WASC adjust the SIP on a programmatic level, but not at a line-item veto level, and that the WASC is not required to adjust the SIP.

Member Reznik noted that Watershed Planning Tools will be very helpful for WASC and the ROC in making future decisions. Member Reznik requested that the three priorities from SIP deliberations mentioned in the Executive Summary of SIP Transmittals be added to the presentation slides for the July ROC meeting, in addition to the spider web chart of IP project benefits.

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Vice-Chair Mehranian motioned to recommend that the Upper Los Angeles River FY2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve the SCW Program's Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Member Guerrero. The motion passed with 6 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracker).

Member Mahmud commented that the spider web chart in the SIP Transmittals is often blank for the school greening benefits and emphasized the importance of making progress on this goal through the SCW Regional Program. Member Reznik commented that SCW Program school greening goals are less ambitious compared to County-wide school greening goals.

9) ROC Member Updates

No ROC members shared an update.

10) 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. July – SIP Review & Recommendations

11) Meeting Adjourned

Chair Tang expressed gratitude and appreciation for Member Guerrero's contribution to the SCW Program and the ROC, on this the occasion of Member Guerrero's final meeting on the Committee.

Chair Tang thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:40 PM.