

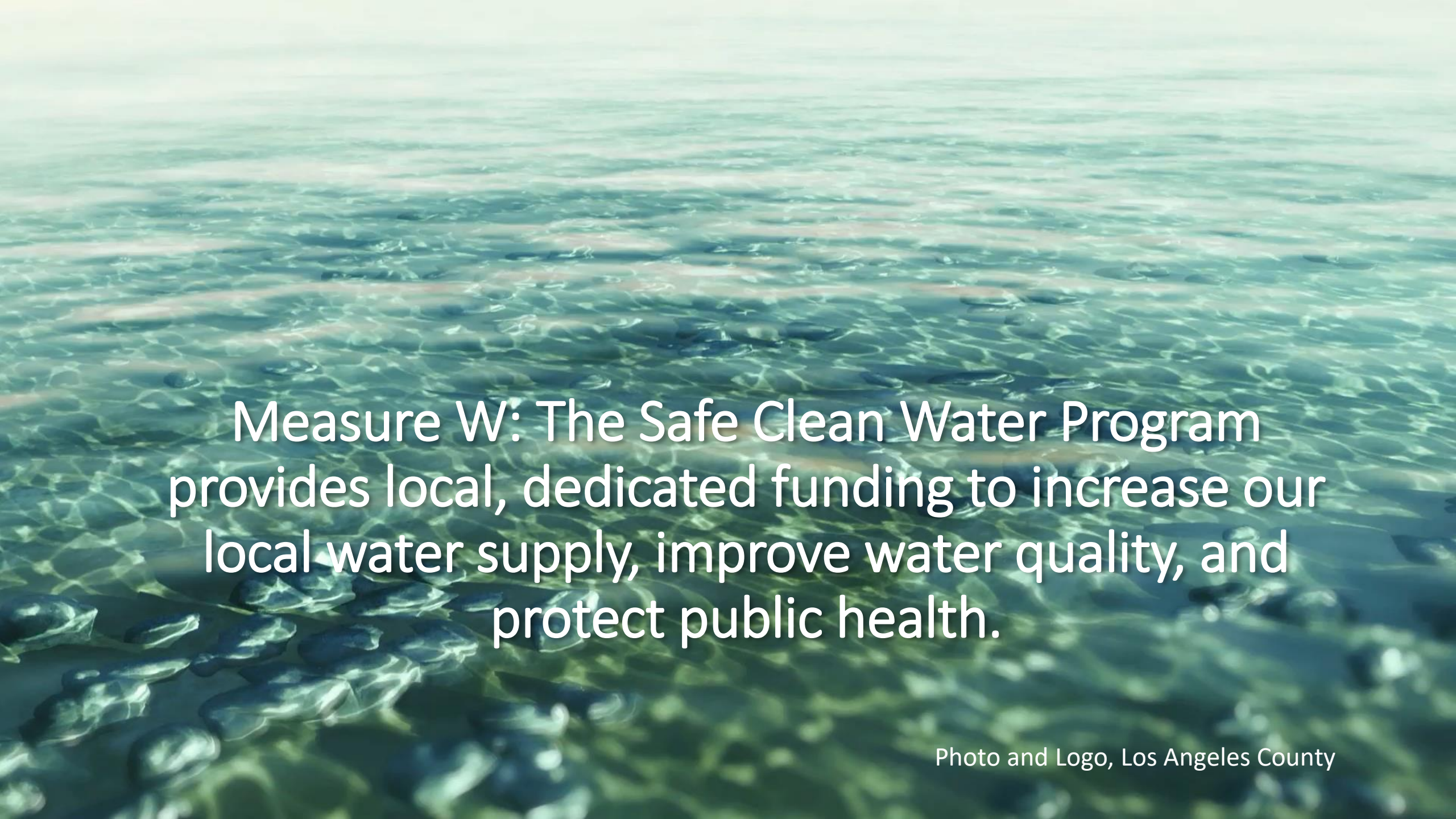


SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator Report August 13, 2026

Melina Sempill Watts, Watershed Coordinator

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

An aerial photograph of a clear, shallow body of water, likely a coastal area. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, with numerous small ripples and waves visible across the surface. In the lower-left corner, several dark, rounded rocks are partially submerged. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

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

RECRUITING CORPSMEMBERS

TIÜVAC'A'AI TRIBAL CONSERVATION CORPS



**12-Month Paid Program
up to \$2,265 per month**

In-person, full time work responsibilities:

include, but are not limited to: land management, replanting, reforestation, invasive species removal, litter and weed abatement, graffiti removal.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Be between the ages 18-26
- ✓ Have the right to work in the U.S.
- ✓ Have a high school diploma or GED

THE TIÜVAC'A'AI TRIBAL CONSERVATION CORPS offices are in City of San Fernando and Pacoima, offers a multi-beneficial hands-on training program will work with Native youth and young adults towards the goals of regaining ecological functionality, enhancing climate resiliency, and human well-being.

APPLY BY CONTACTING

Pablo Cardoso
pablo.cardoso@t-tcc.org



TIÜVAC'A'AI
TRIBAL CONSERVATION CORPS

Screenshot by Watts

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Kaelyn Faustinos, Belinda Faustinos' granddaughter, is coordinating both the Tataviam Native Plants Nursery which is mostly growing trees at this time and the Tataviam Tribal Conservation Corps.

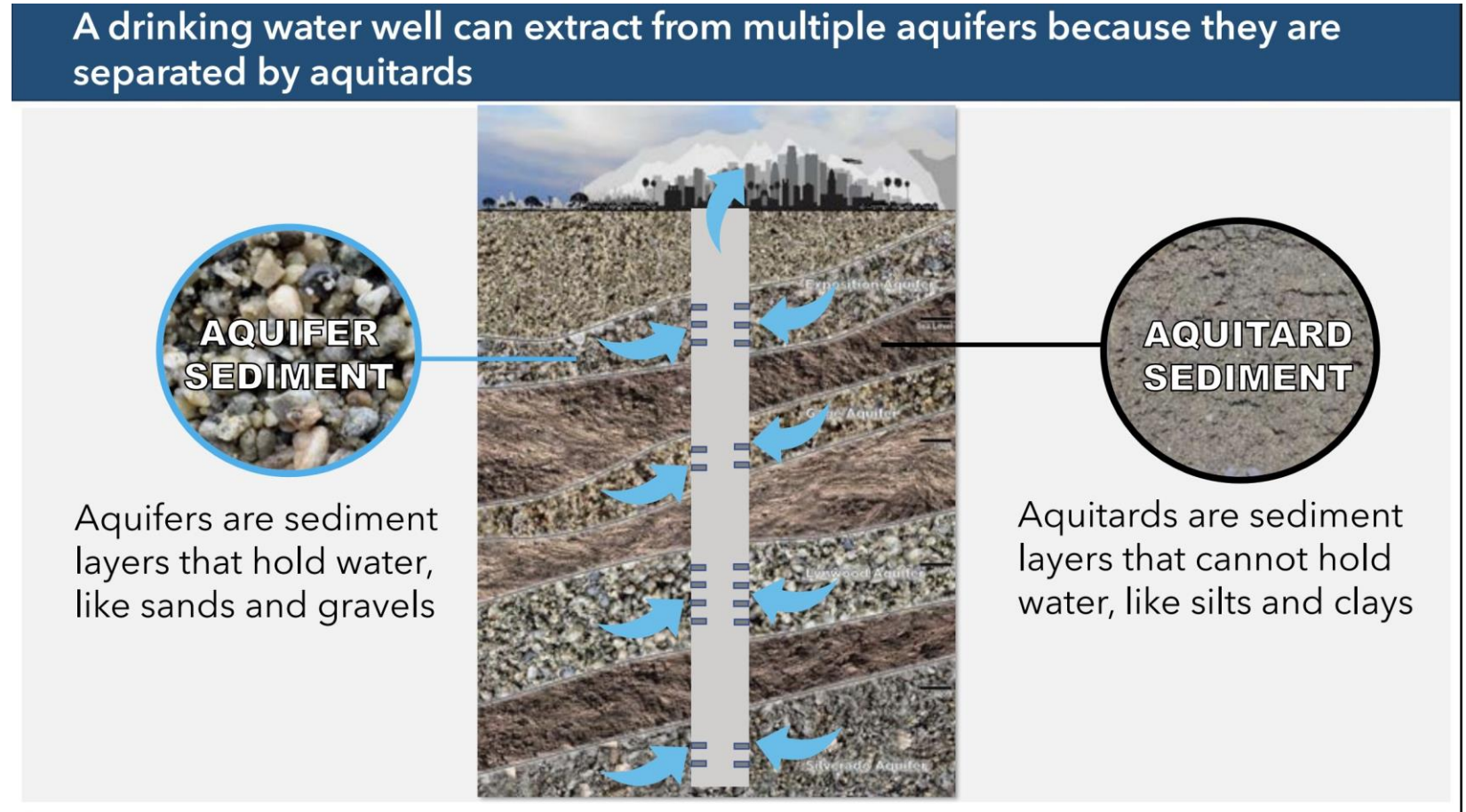
Groundwater Recharge + Other Goals of SCWP

Aquitard, from Esther Rojas,
Water Replenishment District

Unconfined aquifers have no
aquitards.

Aquifers with differing layers
are confined aquifers but they
can still store water.

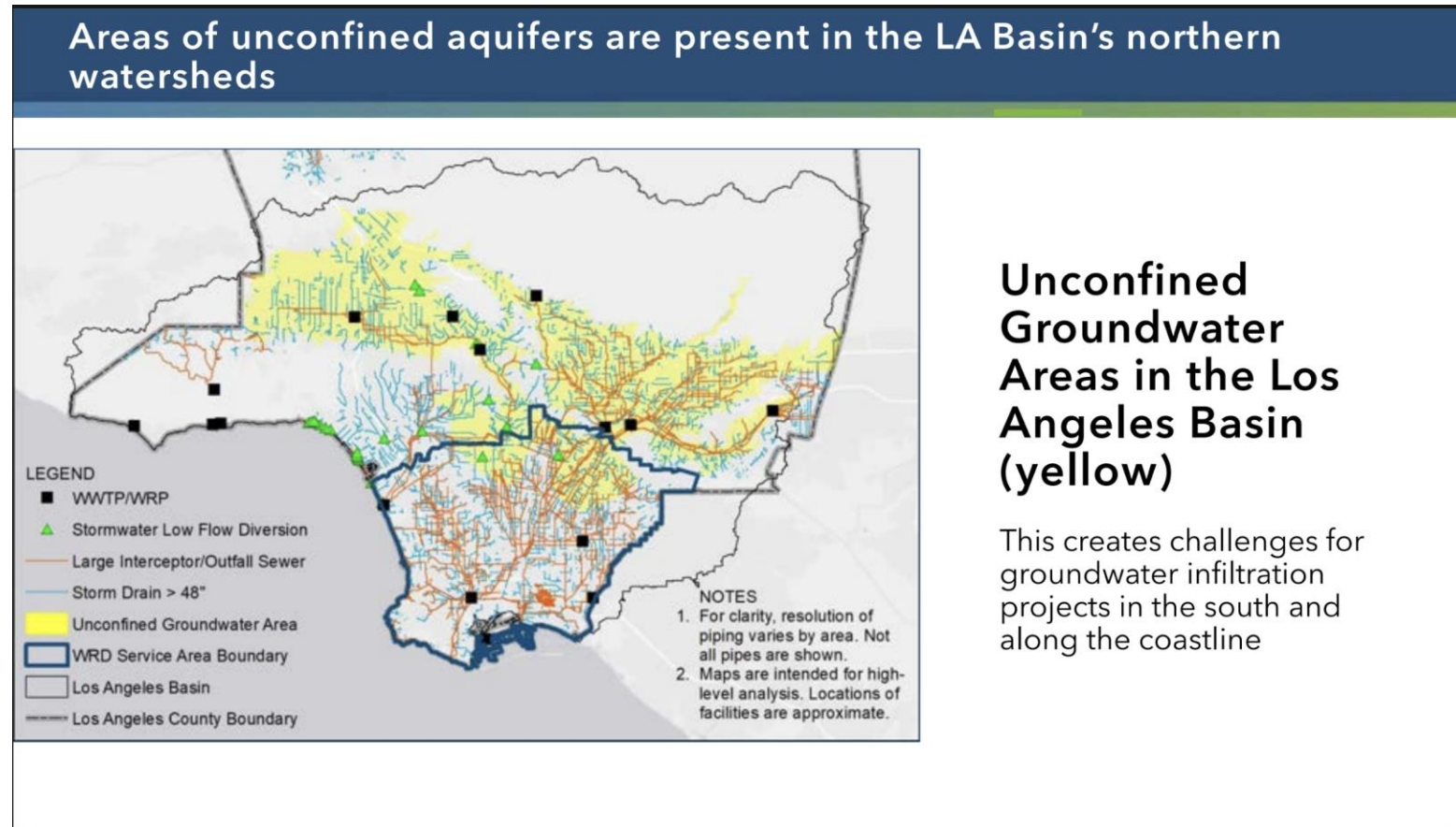
If you have highly
impermeable soils,
it is sort of like all aquitard,
all the way down, you're
mostly out of luck.



Screenshot by Watts

Location, location, location –

Underneath the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains...



...to quote Madelyn,

Screenshot by Watts

“stores about the same amount of water as *LAKE TAHOE*.

Facilitate Community Engagement In SCWP

Topanga Lagoon Restoration: the Big Picture

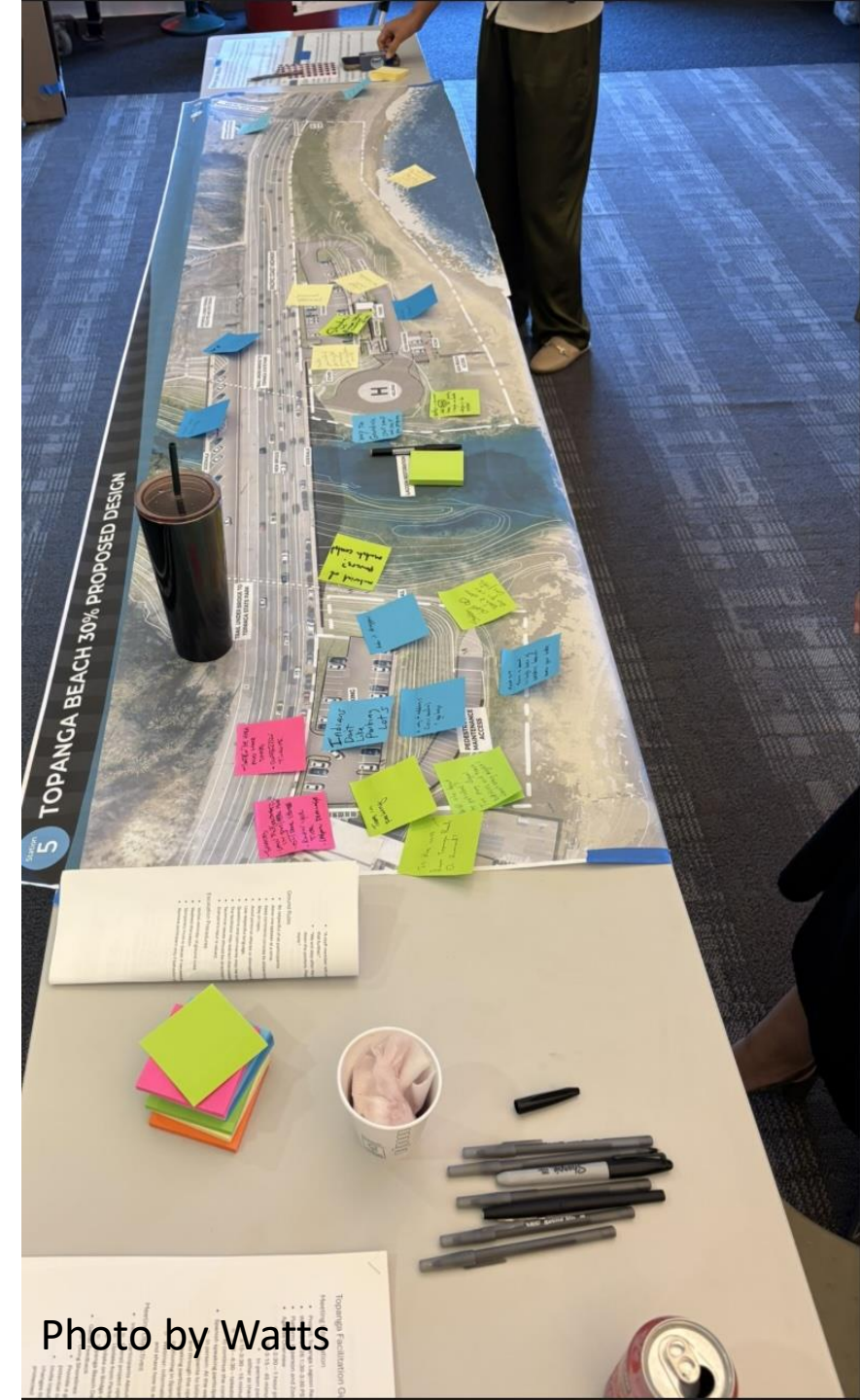


Photo by Watts

Identify and Develop Project Concepts

Webster Elementary TRP for 2027



Photo by Watts

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to Consider the Growth / Evolution of the SCWP Scientific Study Program

- At the suggestion of L.A. County Department of Public Works, Dr. Ken Schiff invited Watts to serve on a panel to discuss the NSMB WASC experience of eliciting preferred programs via a facilitated process
- Dr. Richard Ambrose will be a part of this effort
- Open to hearing from **you** what you want me to layer into the conversation





Photo by Watts

Met with Rebecca Ferdman, Chief Sustainability Policy Director for L.A. County Office of Sustainability + Environment

Discussing,

- *Room to Grow: A Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP)*
- **Interest in asphalt / cement removal**
- interest in tree planning,
- *Resilience Pro* Exploring Extreme Heat and Community grant
- **Does the County want to apply for SCWP funding to create more treewells or other permeable delights?**

Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

Participants: Guisel Hernandez, Eliana Ibarra

You are viewing Vanessa | CSMB Watershed Coord... 's screen REC View Options

Who Are We? The 12 Watershed Coordinators



Public Education
Organize educational events and activities.



Community Engagement
Connect with relevant agencies and resources.



Sourcing New Projects
Learning about needs and solutions.

Unmute Video Participants 34 Chat React More

Screenshot by Watts

LA County Youth Climate Commission invited Watershed Coordinators to come talk water; we invited them to take the SCWP Community Wants and Needs Survey

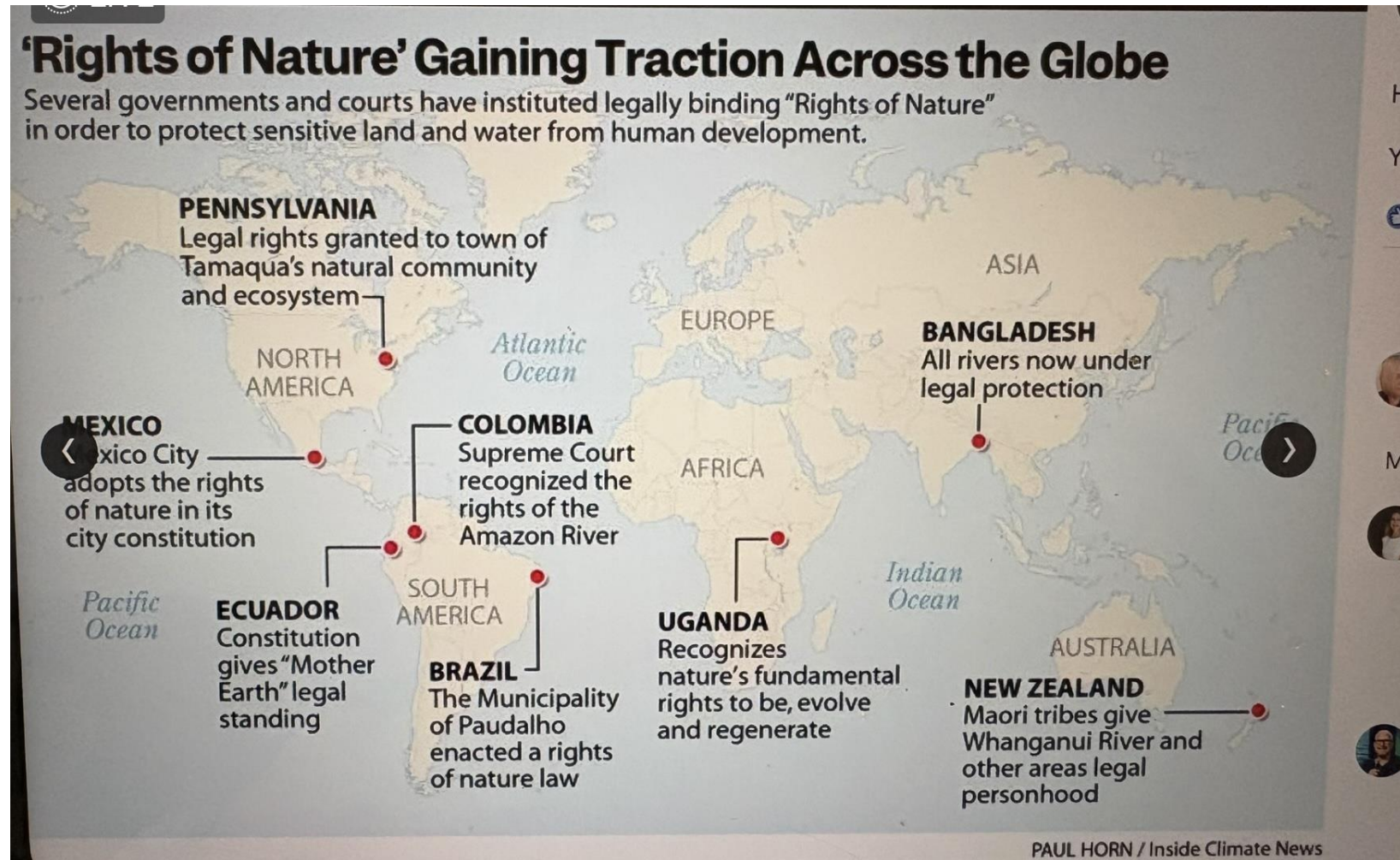
Director Angelina Lee Currently in Edit Phase of NSMB State of the Watershed Film + Malibu Lagoon Film



**Integrate
Priorities
Through
Partnerships
and
Extensive
Networks**

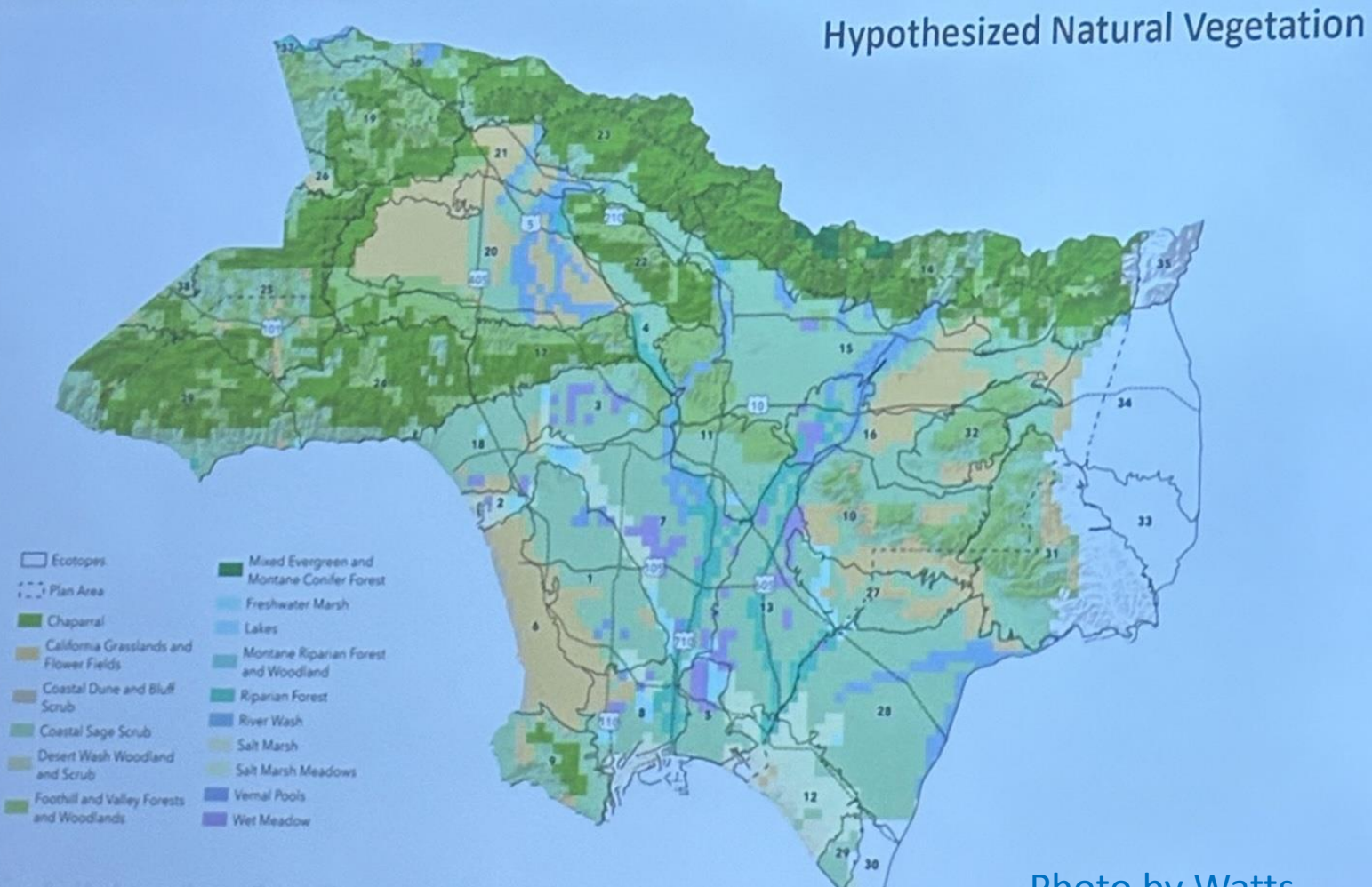
**Norman Wray, Esq.
Lucia Norris
Helen Mitchensen, Esq.**

**In other countries, Rights of Nature laws
are being used as a tool to sustain water
quality, water supply and ecosystem
function**



Slide by Alix Willhem, PhD
via Linked In,
Screenshot by Watts

Recharge LA: Optimizing Water Supply and Nature-Based Solutions



Dr. Isaac Brown,
Ecotones
a.k.a.
Right Plant,
Right Place

Connected to Beth Koigi, MAJIK

Smaller scale
Reverse Osmosis
and Atmospheric
Water Generator
equipment,
in Kenya
with products

that clean well water or pull water from air in desert
Conditions... looking to schedule an 8 am Zoom event.



ULAR Watershed Tour of Donald C. Tillman Groundwater Replenishment Project



**Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power**

LADWP - Water System
Groundwater Replenishment Project (GWR)
Donald C. Tillman - 100% Reuse





PROJECT FUNDED BY
President Joe Biden's
Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law

SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR GWR

- Total Capital Cost: **\$1.0 Billion**
- Funding Secured: **\$438M**
 - WIFIA - \$224M Loan
 - SWRCB - \$15M Grant
 - MWD LRP - \$139M Grant
 - Bureau of Rec. - \$60M Grant
- California Water Board

GWR awarded \$30M Title XVI Bureau of Reclamation Grant (May 2024)



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Environmental Topics ▾ Laws & Regulations ▾ Report a Violation ▾ About EPA ▾

News Releases: Headquarters | Water (OW)

EPA Announces \$224 Million Water Infrastructure Loan for Climate Resilience in Los Angeles

Nationally, 60 WIFIA loans are financing over \$25 billion in water infrastructure upgrades, creating 71,000 jobs



Photo
by Watts

Some Funding Updates

- Reached out to Urban Greening Team at CNRA to see if there will be a third round of funding; shared with likely applicants
- Shared grant for EV chargers for schoolbuses to Austin Toyoma at SMMUSD, they are applying; SD3 is applying, LAUSD unsure
- Found out Prop 4 monies at MRCA allocated before anyone ever got back to me on an LOI that was submitted early
- Connected Big Rock HOA + Councilmember Haylynn Conrad to State Finance Fair
- Connected with CALFIRE with cistern query; not a fit
- Co-wrote SEP grant with Craig Doberstein, Herrera Consultants for CALEPA submitted by SAMO Fund to try to find scientific funding concept suggested by NSMB WASC
- Pitched idea of SEP proposal to attempt to fund revixsion of *LIVING LIGHTLY GUIDE website* to both SAMO Fund and the RCDSMM; stay tuned

Cost Share Partners

**Not cost share partners,
rather project
collaborators working
with City of Calabasas
on Fire cistern concepts
for ULAR and NSMB TRPs**



Photo Courtesy of
Office of Assemblymember Jaqui Irwin

- **Captain Drew Smith L.A. County Fire Department**
 - **THANK YOU Susan Nissman for connecting us to Megan Currier who does community outreach for the fire department and who herself made this connection possible**
- **Las Virgenes Municipal Water District**
 - **Thank you Craig Jones**

Local Stakeholder Education

Rooted in California film showed at Patagonia in Santa Monica on July 12th; attended panel as a volunteer



EVENT ENDED



Restoring California, a Double Screening & Panel



TOP ORGANIZER

by **Santa Monica Mountains Fund**

4.9k followers • 2.1k+ events • 8y hosting • 58.3k total attendees

Follow

Sales ended
Sun, Jul 12 • 6
PM

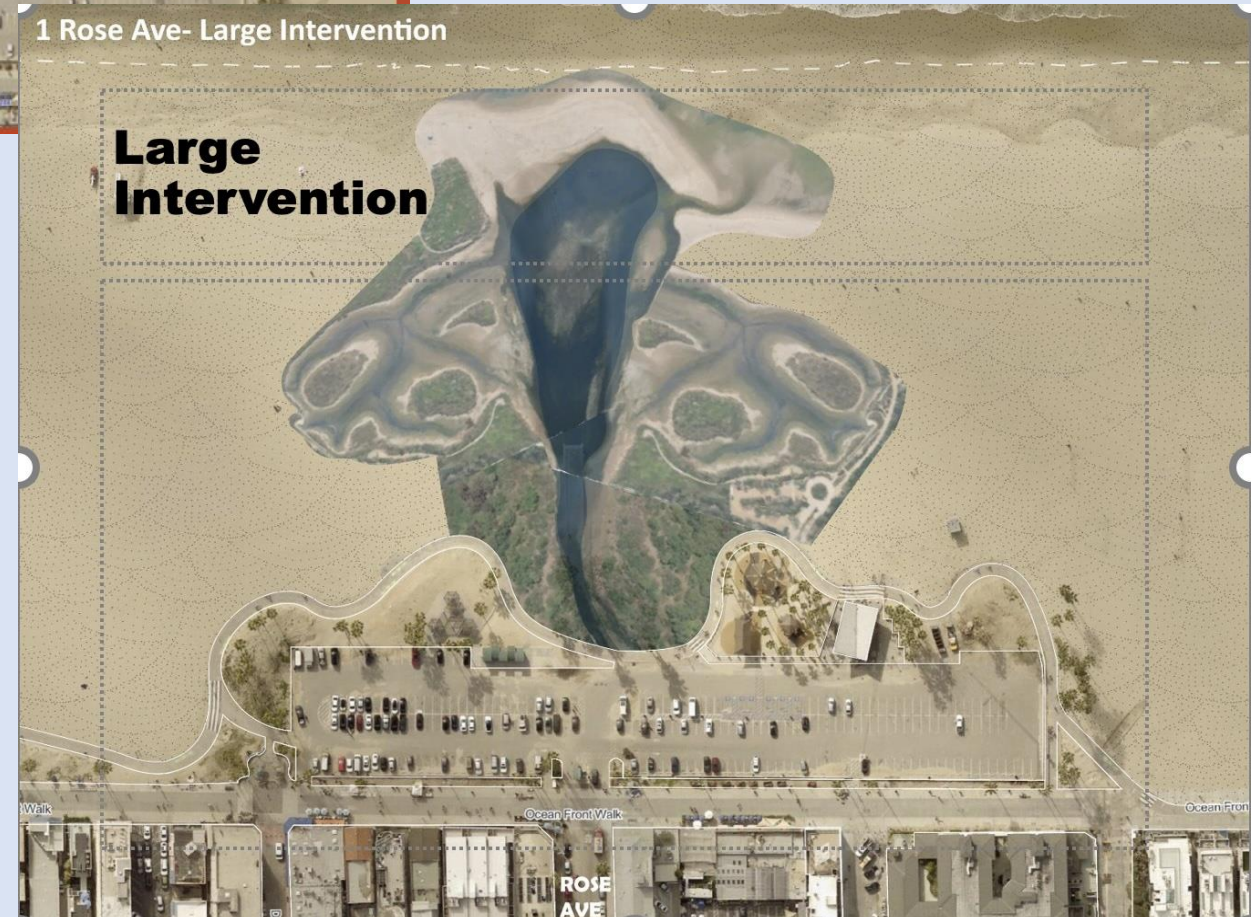
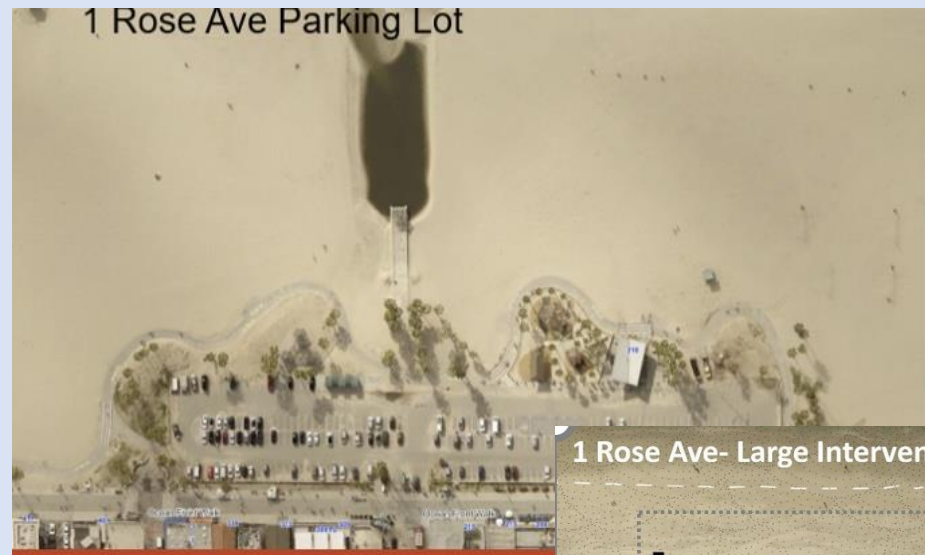
Explore similar events

Patagonia • Santa Monica, CA

Sunday, July 12 • 6 PM - 9 PM

Photo by Watts

Watershed Coordinator Coordination



Exploring Rose Avenue Parking
lot do-over + wetlands project
with Watershed Coordinator
Stephanie Gebhardt +
Architect Isabelle Duvivier

Images by Isabelle Duvivier

Photo by Watts

Helped City of Calabasas with ULAR TRP



Photo by RAMSA (Architectural Firm)

Coordinated Watershed Coordinator Meeting

- Rebecca Nash, El Nativo
 - Deanna Armbruster, SAMO Fund,
 - Bo Savage, LA Conservation Corps
 - Isabelle Campiformios and Vallarte LB Conservation Corps
 - Kaeylyn Faustinos, Tataviam Native Plants Nursery / Tataviam Conservation Corps
- AND.... Setting up Watershed Coordinator Meeting Speakers for May,
- Kelsey Jessup, The Nature Conservancy
 - Amy Greenwood, Theodore Payne Foundation

Topic: How Did They Get California Native Plants into the BowTie Project?

TAKE HOME...

1. the Power of the Contract Grow!
2. The beauty of hiring staffers who KNOW California Native Plants

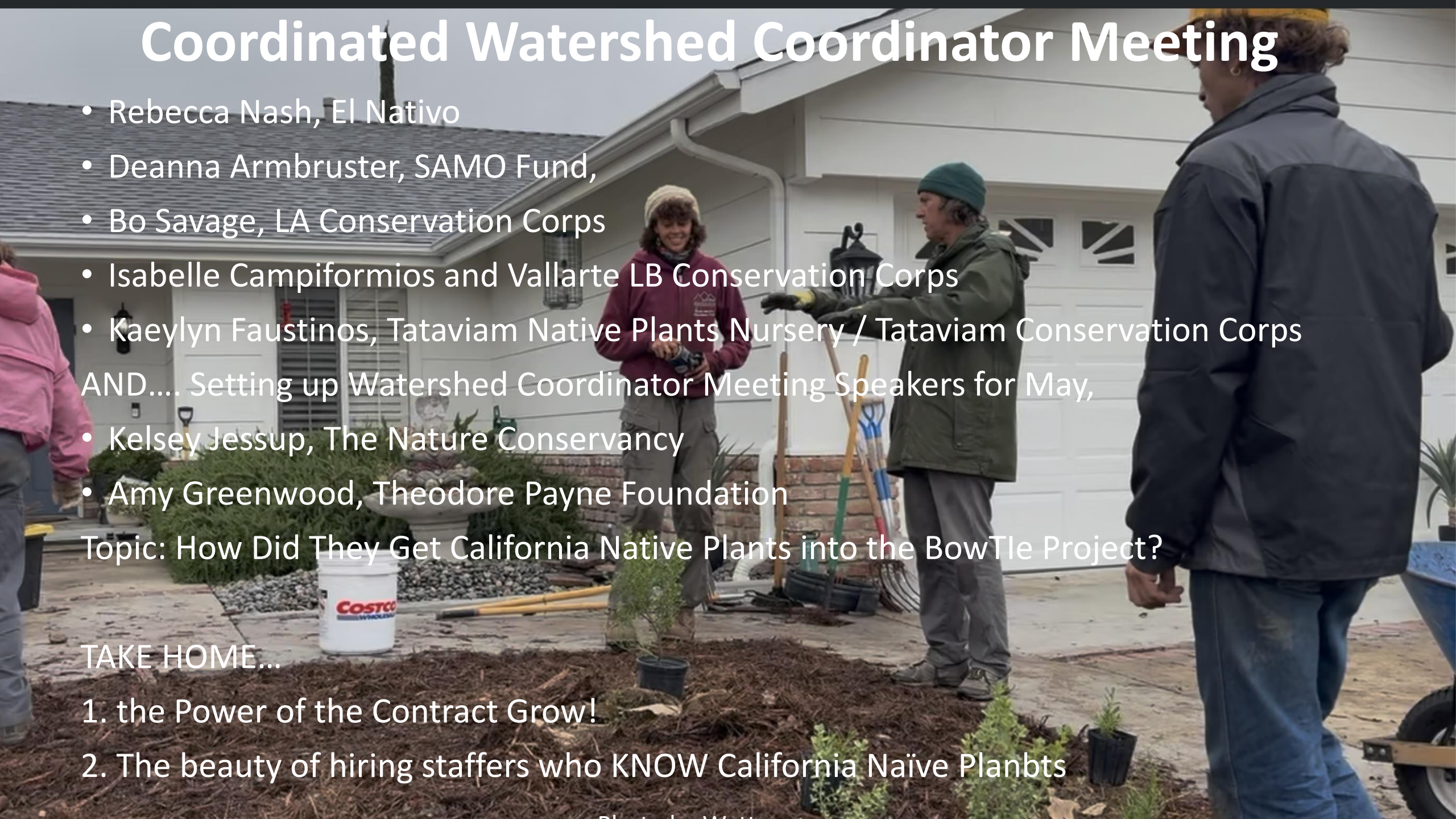




Photo by Watts

Photo by Watts

Scheduling Concerns or Issues

**Big watershed,
little budget.
Climate Change
Commissioner youth
members gasped when
we told them the
budget for ULAR
projects vs. the budget
for NSMB projects...**



Kat Superfisky is talking about the L.A. River but this insight applies to... everywhere.