

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, July 8, 2026

1:00pm – 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

Charles Treviño, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Diana Mahmud, Former City Councilmember, City of South Pasadena

Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive

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

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Committee Members Not Present:

Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities

Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE

David Nahai, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair (non-voting member)

Meeting Summary:

The ROC reviewed and approved Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) recommendations from five Watershed Area Steering Committees, including Santa Clara River, Lower San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo, South Santa Monica Bay, and Upper San Gabriel River.

Key Action Items:

- Public Works staff will format changes to meeting minutes to distinguish requested revisions.
 - Public Works staff will offer updates on requested topics at future ROC meetings, including Post-Construction Monitoring Guidelines and key Watershed Planning target definitions.
 - Public Works staff will consider feedback on developing guidance for WASCs to review continuing projects facing delays and Project Modification Requests.
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1. Welcome and Attendee Instructions

Maria Mehranian, Vice-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.

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

3. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose

Vice-Chair Mehranian reviewed the agenda and shared that the purpose of the meeting is to review Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) recommendations from Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs).

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4. *Ex Parte* Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communications disclosed.

5. Approval of April 8, 2026 and June 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Mehranian presented the revised April 8, 2026 meeting minutes and the June 10, 2026 meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Mehranian motioned to approve both the April 8 and June 10 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Diana Mahmud. The motion was approved with seven votes in favor, 0 abstained, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracker).

Member Mahmud additionally requested that revised meeting minutes reflect revisions in either bold or italics to ease review.

6. Public Comment Period

Nine 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. The Executive Clerk invited those who submitted public comment cards and were present virtually or online to provide a comment.

Stephanie Bartron (Silverlake Reservoirs Conservancy) provided a public comment as part of a small community-based non-profit organization with a Technical Resources Program (TRP) application. Bartron commented that the TRP application was facing challenges with obtaining a Letter of Non-objection from City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) or Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), as neither agency was willing to commit to operations and maintenance (O&M) for the project. Bartron commented that lack of O&M commitment seemed like a general theme in the SCW Program that has hindered community groups from moving forward with TRP Project applications. Bartron explained that the community-based non-profit organization is trying to understand what O&M needs are required for the project, which is why the organization had attempted to pursue TRP funding.

Cynthia Hubach (Silverlake Reservoirs Conservancy) commented that the Silverlake Reservoirs Conservancy is exploring the TRP process for a project at the Silverlake Reservoir, noting that the project has strong community member and elected official support, citing a letter of support that was received from an Assemblymember's office. Hubach asserted that the organization has been unable to obtain a Letter of Non-objection from LADWP or LASAN and Hubach commented that the concern about O&M is driving the need for a TRP application. Hubach expressed a desire to bring awareness to this SCW Program process, which has created barriers for their organization and urged the SCW Program to create equitable pathways for small, community-based organizations.

William DiBernardo (Silverlake Reservoirs Conservancy) provided a comment regarding the Silverlake Reservoir Eucalyptus Grove Project, commenting that the Project has been widely recognized as a viable stormwater capture project. DiBernardo shared experience as a landscape architect and commented on the project's significant progress, noting the Project was incorporated in master plans, that an Environmental Impact Report has already been conducted and accepted, and how calculations have been submitted to the public domain. DiBernardo maintained that the project is a great opportunity for the SCW Program to showcase how agencies with jurisdiction can work directly with non-profit organizations. DiBernardo commented that allowing the City of Los Angeles and the Silverlake Reservoir Conservancy to move forward on a TRP project application would be beneficial to the SCW Program and provide a model for future projects.

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

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- The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) has received nearly 2,000 responses to date.
- Regional Program
 - The 2026 Call for Projects deadline is July 31. Information sessions and recordings can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).
 - Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance is available on the [SCW Program website](#).
 - Public Works staff has distributed surveys soliciting input on Scoring Criteria and Feasibility Study Guidelines revisions. Survey responses are encouraged to help strengthen the process of refining the Scoring Criteria.
 - Annual Reports are due August 15, covering activities from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. All Regional Program recipients are required to submit this report. A summary of the Mid-Year Reports will be presented at the August ROC meeting.
- Municipal Program
 - Regional project partnership services are now available. Municipalities that have an updated City Services Contract with Los Angeles County Public Works can submit a request for support in identifying regional scale projects informed by Watershed Plans.

Member Belinda Faustinos commented that while a request was made for a discussion on District Program audits to occur in August, the 2-Year Lookahead shows the discussion will be slated for September. Member Faustinos also noted that the Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines are available on the [SCW Program website](#) and encouraged Committee Members to review the document to better prepare for discussions on how Scientific Studies are evaluated for funding, particularly those Scientific Studies that span multiple Watershed Areas.

Member Mahmud clarified with Public Works staff that the municipal project partnership services have already been discussed informally with the California League of Cities, with the City of San Gabriel tentatively discussing an early pilot.

Vice-Chair Mehranian confirmed with Public Works staff that many of the SCW Program targets are in the early stages of progress, and some goals are expected to exceed targets, given that funding in early rounds of the SCW Program were awarded to projects for design. Vice-Chair Mehranian commented that larger projects often have a longer design timeline and noted that progress may increase quickly as earlier projects begin construction.

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

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of the remaining five SIPs to be reviewed by the ROC. WASC representatives were invited to provide additional details on SIP recommendations. [Presentation slides](#) and [SIP Transmittals](#) are available on the SCW Program website.

a. Santa Clara River

Ng provided an overview of the Santa Clara River (SCR) WACC's SIP recommendation. Ng noted that the previous table shown in Table 3-2 of SIP Transmittals for all nine WASCs, which previously included the column labeled "Anticipated Construction Completion" has now been updated to "Reported Construction Completion Date" to more accurately convey information, based off ROC feedback from the previous meeting.

SCR WASC Chair Darin Seegmiller shared that the SCW WASC has been focused on addressing local, Watershed Area specific needs. Chair Seegmiller noted that the committee supported the Jake Kuredjian Park Stormwater Project because the Project represented a long-term investment in infrastructure that also reflected earlier WASC guidance to combine two nearby projects, representing an early collaboration between the WASC and Project Developers. The Benefits of Restoration and Land Preservation as Nature-Based Solutions to Water Quality and Water Supply Scientific Study included in the SIP aims to address creek protection, nature-based solutions, and open space priorities in the SCR WASC. The SCR WASC also expressed support for future projects to restore the natural ecosystem, including invasive species removal.

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Member Faustinos congratulated Chair Seegmiller on the achievements related to the preservation of park and green space, as the dashboard onscreen showed that the SCR WASC has already met the Watershed Planning target for the goal of creating parks and green space. Member Faustinos commented that upcoming Scientific Studies may help with adjusting Watershed Planning targets as progress is being made. Member Mahmud commented that the target set for park and green space creation should correlate with the goals related to new canopy and habitat creation and suggested Public Works staff reevaluate how those metrics are related.

Member Mahmud motioned to recommend that the SCR Watershed Area FY 2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve SCW Program goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Vice-Chair Mehranian. The motion passed with seven votes in favor (approved, see vote tracker).

b. Lower San Gabriel River

Ng provided an overview of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) SIP recommendation. LSGR WASC Co-Chair Dan Mueller shared a summary of the SIP deliberation topics, noting that there was meaningful discussion related to two new Scientific Study applications that were ultimately not recommended for the SIP. Co-Chair Mueller explained that the decision to not include those two Scientific Studies was primarily because the LSGR WASC felt the two studies were duplicative of existing municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) requirements for municipalities and that the LSGR WASC was content in the handful of ongoing Scientific Studies being conducted in LSGR and waiting for those results to inform future Infrastructure Program (IP) and TRP projects.

Co-Chair Mueller explained that the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project Modification Request (PMR) included a significant increase in requested funding, and that the LSGR WASC had discussions with the Project Proponent regarding completion of environmental documents and an anticipated construction schedule of later this year. The LSGR WASC focused on facilitating shovel-ready projects to be constructed rather than funding projects that still had multiple years of design left. Co-Chair Mueller also highlighted a desire to ensure future funding availability for the LSGR WASC, citing a negotiation with the City of Bellflower to delay funding for a year to alleviate upcoming years' funding allocations.

Co-Chair Mueller also shared key takeaways from the WASC's priorities discussion, which occurred after the SIP was finalized and focused on future projects and Watershed Planning. The LSGR WASC would like to see creative project implementation, in terms of leveraged funding, interdepartmental collaboration within municipalities, and utilizing land near existing park spaces or school districts rather than an isolated parcel. Co-Chair Mueller also commented that the LSGR WASC would like to see Project Proponents implement phased approaches, first working on design and then revisiting construction funds rather than allocating funds for design and construction combined. Project Proponents should also understand the O&M considerations required early in the design and/or construction phases to ensure O&M is accounted for. The LSGR WASC recommended that future Scientific Study applications investigate cost effectiveness and mitigation of unanticipated O&M costs or supply chain issues.

Vice-Chair Mehranian clarified with Co-Chair Mueller that the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project (Construction) PMR included in the SIP had increased costs due to a rise in construction costs. Co-Chair Mueller explained that the Project's feasibility study was completed prior to the drastic rise in construction costs and is likely why the construction estimate was low, despite including contingency. Member Mehranian wanted to ensure that the escalation was not due to a delay in the project because redesign was required to comply with the SCW Program, for example.

Member Mahmud clarified with Co-Chair Mueller that the IP projects that were awarded design funding in earlier rounds are expected to return for construction funding requests in the upcoming years. Member Mahmud expressed the importance of WASCs' reviews of continuing projects for design delays. Co-Chair Mueller confirmed that the LSGR WASC receives a summary of Mid-Year and Annual Reports. Project Developers are invited to these meetings to answer questions about project status and delays. Public Works staff shared that progress reports are available on the [SCW Program website](#) and are summarized for each WASC twice a year.

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Member Carl Blum noted that the LSGR's Watershed Plan indicated that most of the funded projects are not located in the highest Opportunity Areas and encouraged the WASC to be proactive in promoting collaboration among agencies in proposing projects. The Executive Clerk clarified that the Watershed Plans identified Opportunity Areas based on areas with no existing projects, and areas of high opportunity do not often correlate with existing projects but can be used to plan new projects. Public Works staff noted that Draft Initial Watershed Plans were released in the middle of Round 7, so applicants did not have this information available during the Round 7 Call for Projects. Member Blum also commented on the importance of an O&M plan and appropriate O&M budget for all funded projects. Co-Chair Mueller noted that O&M funding requests are anticipated from some project developers, but others are expected to use internal funding for O&M phases.

Member Barbara Romero clarified with Public Works staff that the SCW Program Project Application includes a specific question regarding O&M plans, and that a community group would need to identify O&M responsibilities and provide a Letter of Support from a municipality.

Member Romero noted that the Scientific Study applications represented a small portion of the LSGR WASC's available funds and commented that cities may benefit from additional data as an incentive to comply with MS4 permit requirements. Member Faustinos noted that the LSGR SIP Transmittal provided by the LSGR WASC explained additional reasoning why the two SS applications were not approved.

Member Faustinos clarified with Ng that some SIP Transmittals may show red error messages on the SIP allocation tables for the long-term planning scenario if potential future Infrastructure Program costs resulted in negative carry-over. Member Faustinos also highlighted that there are leveraged funding opportunities for projects that propose more open space and tree canopy elements.

Member Mahmud motioned to recommend that the Lower San Gabriel Watershed Area FY 2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve SCW Program Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Vice-Chair Mehranian. The motion was approved, with seven votes in favor (approved, see vote tracker).

c. Rio Hondo

Ng provided an overview of the Rio Hondo (RH) SIP recommendation. RH Committee Member Bryan Matsumoto summarized that the RH WASC faced more project applications than available funds could allow, shared the WASC's priorities, and raised several issues voiced by the WASC.

RH Committee Member Matsumoto shared that the WASC prioritized funding construction and O&M phases for projects previously funded, including two large IP construction projects. The WASC had asked some applicants to either reduce their funding requests or shift around allocations. Funding for design projects prioritized those with many Community Investment Benefits. The RH WASC decided to only fund one Scientific Study, Depave Rio Hondo: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting and Exploring Broader Hardscape Transformation Considerations, which had previously come to the WASC and was asked to combine with another SS for this round. RH Committee Member Matsumoto also highlighted the RH WASC's priorities in equitable distribution of funding, including to smaller cities, and cited the Watershed Coordinator's community engagement roots being useful in reaching out to smaller cities. RH Committee Member Matsumoto also shared that some meetings were delayed due to a lack of quorum for Community seats but noted that the WASC is working on this.

RH Committee Member Matsumoto noted that the RH WASC received two Scientific Study proposals related to workforce development and emphasized the urgency of the District's Workforce Development Program and the RH WASC's desire to reduce duplication of efforts.

RH Committee Member Matsumoto also requested the ROC look into the issue of ensuring accountability of IP projects that are facing significant delays, such as additional guidance on WASCs' authority to address project modifications and/or delays. RH Committee Member Matsumoto cited an example where a project funded in the first round is significantly delayed but has not submitted an official PMR, and RH Committee Member Matsumoto noted that those unexpended funds could have been reallocated elsewhere.

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RH Committee Member Matsumoto also noted that post-construction performance data should be integrated into the SCW Program's models to display actual data rather than the proposed benefits summary, if that data is available.

RH Committee Member Matsumoto also shared an experience regarding leveraged O&M funding, where a project found out they were not eligible for County Regional Parks and Open Space District O&M funding because the project did not previously receive any construction funds, and suggested that this kind of information could be shared with Project Applicants to better plan leveraging O&M funds.

Chair Tang clarified with Public Works staff that there is a five-year lapsed funding requirement for unexpended funds, including municipal dollars, to be returned to the SCW Program. Public Works staff noted that this five-year period is approaching for the first time, and that applicable Project Proponents have been notified.

Member Mehranian clarified with Public Works staff that Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance was recently developed for Project Proponents to follow. Public Works staff also noted differences between anticipated benefits and reported data, noting that results are weather dependent on storm events. Member Faustinos highlighted the need for a mechanism to verify post-construction monitoring data reported by Project Proponents.

Member Mahmud motioned to recommend that the Rio Hondo Watershed Area FY 2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve SCW Program Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Member Charles Treviño. The motion was approved, with seven votes in favor (approved, see vote tracker).

d. South Santa Monica Bay

Ng provided an overview of the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) SIP recommendation. SSMB Vice-Chair Douglas Krauss shared that the SSMB WASC prioritized keeping future allocated funding under the 80% threshold and emphasized local representation in the SIP.

Member Mahmud clarified with Public Works staff that PMRs that propose changes to a project's benefits, funding, or schedule are deemed inconsistent and brought to the WASC. However, these projects are not referred to the Scoring Committee for rescoring and instead rely on the WASC's judgement to determine whether the modification is consistent with the original Project Application. Member Mahmud recommended formal guidance be developed on how to evaluate a project with significant changes to proposed benefits to determine if the project aligns with the SIP and SCW Program goals.

Member Treviño motioned to recommend that the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area FY 2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve SCW Program Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Vice-Chair Mehranian (approved, see vote tracker).

e. Upper San Gabriel River

Ng provided an overview of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) SIP recommendation. USGR Chair Mathew Hudson shared that the USGR WASC received more project applications than available funds and worked with Project Proponents to redistribute funds without affecting the overall projects' schedules and keeping the future funding allocation under 80%. Chair Hudson also noted the USGR WASC evaluated scenarios where construction and O&M funding requests return to the WASC, noting that the USGR WASC will need to encourage projects to have at least 50% leveraged funds.

Member Faustinos commented that the dollars invested and commendable progress on Water Supply targets do not correlate to similar progress with Water Quality targets, according to the graphic indicating progress towards Watershed Planning targets. Chair Hudson noted that this may be due to the particular Best Management Practices (BMPs) used by projects and noted that the USGR is funding Scientific Studies to provide additional insights in BMP effectiveness. Public Works staff also noted that the Watershed Plans and associated targets were only developed recently, so the WASC may have been prioritizing other pollutants and water quality issues than those recently identified.

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Member Mahmud also commented that there may be a mismatch between the acreage of park enhanced/restored and the number of acres of canopy/cooling/habitat created and suggested that the Watershed Plans reevaluate how these targets are defined. Chair Hudson noted that the WASC is asking Project Developers to prioritize habitat creation and canopy. Member Faustinos commented broadly that all projects should receive clearer guidance on what constitutes habitat creation to ensure the metric is being accurately tracked.

Member Faustinos motioned to recommend that the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area FY 2026-27 SIP is helping to achieve SCW Program Goals and therefore be approved, seconded by Member Mahmud. The motion was approved, with seven votes in favor (approved, see vote tracker).

9. ROC Member Updates

Member Blum commented that the SCW Program has matured, noting that previous SIP summaries were more generic and expressed appreciation for the detailed insights each WASC representative presented to the ROC. Member Mahmud appreciated how the WASCs understood Biennial Progress Report recommendations, such as earmarking no more than 80% of funding for future years.

Member Romero also expressed appreciation for how Public Works staff has organized discussions to be more meaningful and noted that the next broad discussion topics will likely include O&M guidelines and post-construction monitoring issues that need to be addressed, particularly in situations with site control/property owner disputes.

Member Mehranian commented that there are still improvements that can be made to the SCW Program, such as helping Project Developers rectify projected benefits with post-construction performance data, as well as providing guidance on WASCs' evaluation of continuing projects and PMRs.

Member Faustinos appreciated the many resources developed and commented that the map in Figure 2.2 of SIP Transmittals was difficult to discern based on the color scale. Member Faustinos also requested more information about study area involved in the two FY26-27 Scientific Studies focused on workforce development. Member Faustinos also noted that several projects were withdrawn from the SCW Program and requested a short explanation be added to future SIP transmittals with additional context.

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 the August meeting include:

- a) Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summaries
- b) 2026 Call for Projects Update
- c) Update on Scoring Revision Process
- d) Biennial Progress Report Updates - Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance

11. Meeting Adjourned

Chair Tang thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.