

Regional Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, August 12, 2026

1:00pm – 3:30pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 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, LA City Resident

Diana Tang, Long Beach Utilities, Chair

Dave Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive

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 Not Present:

Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE

Charles Treviño, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Meeting Summary:

The ROC received updates about the 2026 Call for Projects, Scoring Revisions Process, and 2026 Biennial Progress Report Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance. The ROC also received Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summaries.

Key Action Items:

- Additional information about the metrics included in the adopted Initial Watershed Plans will be shared at a future ROC meeting.
 - Public Works staff will consider feedback provided by the ROC about the development of K-12 education programs.
 - Public Works will review recommendations about managing late or missing required reporting from Program participants.
 - In alignment with the 2026 Biennial Progress Report, Public Works will report back to the ROC about ongoing efforts to find alignment between SCW Program Municipal Reports and Regional Board reporting requirements.
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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.

3. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose

Chair Diana Tang reviewed the agenda and shared that the purpose of the meeting is to receive updates on the 2026 Call for Projects, Scoring Revisions Process, and 2026 Biennial Progress Report Post-

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Construction Monitoring Guidance. The ROC also will receive Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summaries.

4. *Ex Parte* Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communications disclosed.

5. Approval of July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Mehranian presented the July 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Member Belinda Faustinos motioned to approve the July 8 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Diana Mahmud. The motion was approved with six votes in favor, 0 abstained, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracker).

6. Public Comment Period

Five 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.

Barbara Eisenstein (resident, City of South Pasadena) expressed concerns about the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project and other projects in the Arroyo Seco.

James Cluxton (OhanaVets) requested that the ROC review the public comment submitted and respond accordingly.

Yael Pargas (Save San Pascual Park) commented on the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project and expressed opposition.

Maggie Gardner (OurWater Los Angeles (OWLA)) provided recommendations on the Scoring Committee's Scoring Criteria revisions, which can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Annelisa Moe (OWLA) provided recommendations to strengthen the Scoring Criteria.

Constance Villalvazo (Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council) expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project.

Amada Segura (Save San Pascual Group) commented on the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project and recommended that funding be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Josh Kashapata (Save San Pascual Group) expressed opposition to the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project.

Susie Santillana (City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)) provided recommendations to strengthen the Scoring Criteria revisions.

Clara Solis (Save San Pascual Park) urged the ROC to withdraw funding for the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project.

Arturo Garcia (OWLA) commented that the resource-intensive application process for the SCW Program limits participation for under-resourced applicants and community-based organizations, despite the Technical Resources Program.

7. Program Administration Updates

Public Works staff provided updates on SCW Program 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 CSNA has received nearly 2,100 responses to date.

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- Regional Program
 - The Round 7 FY 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs), which include 24 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, seven Technical Resources Program (TRP) project concepts, and 15 new Scientific Studies, are advancing to the Board. This portfolio represents approximately 77% of the available funding capacity and is projected to leverage 67% in matching funds.
 - The Round 8 FY 2027-28 Call for Projects closed on July 31. A total of 15 Infrastructure Program IPs, 11 TRPs, and 12 unique Scientific Study applications were received, representing a total funding request of approximately \$96 million. The North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB), Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR), and Rio Hondo (RH) Watershed Areas did not receive any IP applications. This is the first round which required applicants to demonstrate alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans.
- Municipal Program
 - Regional Project Partnership Services are now available, and Public Works has begun receiving requests of varying scales. Municipalities with an updated City Services Contract with Public Works may request support in identifying regional-scale projects informed by Watershed Area Plans. A workshop is planned for September to showcase the application process; the date is still to be determined.
- District Program
 - The Public Education & Community Education Grants Program Pilot grantees have completed their projects and are currently preparing final reports. A presentation highlighting program outcomes is scheduled for November. Public Works is also developing a new solicitation to a multi-year Grants Program, combining workforce development, school education, and broader public education initiatives.
 - K-12 Education Program listening sessions are underway to inform the education vision document and design guidelines.
 - The Los Angeles & Orange County Building Trades Council was selected by the County Department of Economic Opportunity to administer the Construction High Roads Training Program. The first training cohort will launch in September 2026 through June 2027 and will include 75 participants.
- SCW Program Project Highlights
 - The Zamora Park Project in El Monte, funded through the FY 2021-22 Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area SIP, is now open to the public. The Project recently celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony and was implemented by Trust for Public Land.
 - The Regional Board is evaluating permitting options for two SCW Program funded Projects. Discussions are ongoing, and Public Works will continue to keep the ROC informed as updates become available.
- Upcoming SCWP Deadlines
 - Annual Reports are due August 15.
 - Credit Trading applications are due September 30.
 - Project Modification Requests (PMRs) are due October 31.

Member Faustinos asked whether the benefits measured for nature-based solutions and school greening have been differentiated to ensure benefits are not double counted. Member Faustinos requested to better understand these metrics and Public Works staff clarified that updates on metrics related to Watershed Planning targets will be provided at a future meeting.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the figures presented in the Program Highlights slide represent anticipated benefits from all approved projects, including projects that are still in the design phase.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that the Scientific Studies Advisory Panel will be established in time to review the FY 2027-28 applications and noted that the next Annual Science Conference is scheduled for Spring 2027. Member Faustinos recommended sharing information with the WASCs regarding which Scientific Studies applications were submitted across multiple WASCs.

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Member Carl Blum commented on the Watershed Areas that did not receive IP project applications during the latest Call for Projects and noted that the Program may be in a transition period after releasing the Watershed Plans and stating Watershed Area priorities. Blum urged WASCs to continue to be proactive to fund IP projects.

Member Faustinos emphasized that the new K-12 and community education programs being developed should focus on specific objectives rather than trying to accomplish everything, noting that a consultant may be needed to help develop a more focused and effective program.

8. Information Item: Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summaries

Public Works staff presented on the Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summaries. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Mahmud recommended that projects submitting a PMR for schedule delays disclose whether external funding has been secured to cover cost escalations related to delays. If no funding source has been secured, Member Mahmud recommended that the PMR be marked as inconsistent and thus be presented to the WASC for approval.

Upon inquiry, Public Works confirmed that the Transfer Agreement requires any interest accrued from awarded funds to be used solely for the funded project activity. Member Faustinos asked how the interest requirement would affect expenditure reporting and whether tracking interest would be burdensome for smaller cities. Public Works staff clarified that the reporting module tracks interest, that Public Works is working with some municipalities to support this reporting need, and that interest expenditures are also verified through audits.

Member Mahmud recommended that failure to meet reporting requirements be considered when evaluating future project application eligibility.

Members Faustinos and Blum praised Public Works staff for the simplified format and improved consistency of the reports. Member Mahmud recommended streamlining the Municipal Program report elements to better align with the Regional Board reporting requirements that municipalities are already required to submit. Public Works staff confirmed that this topic will be discussed in March 2027.

9. Information Item: Updates on Scoring Revision Process

Public Works Strategic Advancement Section staff presented on the updates on the Scoring Revision Process. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

The Committee discussed how survey respondents' affiliation may have influenced their feedback on the Scoring Criteria revisions and recommended that Public Works staff account for those perspectives when reviewing responses. Member Barbara Romero and Vice-Chair Mehranian acknowledged the importance of the project developer perspective.

Member Faustinos recommended additional opportunities for ROC members to discuss and inform Scoring Criteria revisions. Chair Tang suggested a forum for the ROC to engage with the Scoring Committee. Public Works staff noted that further discussions with the ROC are planned throughout the revision process.

Member Faustinos recommended referencing previous efforts that have informed the Scoring Revision Process, such as the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) and OWLA's submitted recommendations.

10. Information Item: 2026 Biennial Progress Report Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance Updates

Public Works staff provided an update on the 2026 Biennial Progress Report Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

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Member Faustinos commented that the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions created for each project, in addition to Project Labor Agreements, should be tracked on a regular basis. Public Works confirmed that the number of FTE positions created is a metric in the Watershed Plans.

Member Mahmud confirmed with Public Works that, under the current Transfer Agreement, projects that do not receive Operations and Maintenance funding through the SCW Program are only required to report to the Program for three years after beginning operations. Member Mahmud recommended that the SCW Program require projects to report key water supply and water quality components every three years, regardless of the source of O&M funding, allowing the Program to continue tracking long-term project outcomes.

11. ROC Member Updates

Chair Tang and Member Mahmud welcomed Member Pedersen and acknowledged his long-standing impact on water management.

12. Items for Next Agenda/Lookahead

Public Works staff presented the 2-Year Lookahead, which can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Tang shared the upcoming ROC meeting locations:

- a) September 9, 2026 – LA County Public Works Headquarters
- b) October 14, 2026 – Long Beach Utilities
- c) November 18, 2026 – City of Los Angeles, Media Center

Items for September include:

- a) District Program Report Summaries and Updates
- b) 2026 Biennial Progress Report Update – Interagency Task Force
- c) Workforce Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report of Findings & Recommendations

13. Meeting Adjourned

Chair Tang thanked ROC Members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.