

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, May 14, 2026
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Daniel Bradbury, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks District (Agency)
*Rebecca Correa, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
*Kelly Fisher, Agoura Hills (Municipal)
*Melanis Stepanian, Calabasas (Municipal)
Kelsey Reed, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)
*Vivian De Anda, Malibu (Municipal)
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura (Community)
Aaron Ordower, Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3 (Municipal)

Committee Members Participating Virtually:

Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jessica Forte welcomed Committee Members of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) and called the meeting to order. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Committee Members introduced themselves, and a quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for online meeting participants.

Vice-Chair Roxanne Hughes participated remotely in compliance with Brown Act regulations.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2026

Public Works Staff presented the meeting minutes from March 12, 2026. Member Andrew Nickerson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Jacy Shillan. The NSMB WASC voted to approve the March 12, 2026 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member & Program Updates

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Committee Members were invited to provide updates. Member Kelly Fisher reported that the contract for the Agoura Hills Stormwater Diversion Project has been awarded. The Committee noted that this is the NSMB WASC's only Infrastructure Project (IP) for construction, marking a significant milestone for the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program.

Public Works shared Regional Program updates, noting:

- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) voted to approve the 2026 Biennial Progress Report for submission to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2026. The report is available on the Safe, Clean Water ([SCW](#)) [Program website](#) under Adaptive Management.
- As of May 14, 2026, eight Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) have recommended Fiscal Year 2026–2027 (FY26–27) Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). The ROC is scheduled to discuss the recommended FY26–27 SIPs on June 10 and July 8, 2026, with NSMB tentatively scheduled for the June 10 ROC meeting.
- SCW Program staff will prepare SIP Transmittal Reports for the ROC on behalf of the WASCs, incorporating updates based on prior feedback and released Initial Watershed Plans.
- The 2026 Call for Projects for the FY27–28 Stormwater Investment Plan will close on July 31, 2026. Two informational sessions were held on May 13 and May 14, 2026, and additional guidance is available on the [SCW Program website](#).
- On March 12, 2026, SCW Program staff reminded Regional Program Project Developers to submit 12-month lapsed funding extension requests under the Regional Program Transfer Agreement. Only Infrastructure Program projects that received funds in FY20–21 are eligible for potential fund lapse review at this time. If a project had not expended funds equal to its FY disbursement as of the FY24–25 Annual Report, a reminder was issued. Four extension requests were received by the March 31 deadline, and Public Works approved 12-month extensions in late April 2026.
- The recording of the November 2025 Science Symposium has been posted on the [Science Symposium event webpage](#). The next Symposium is anticipated to be held in April 2027.
- All twelve Watershed Coordinator contracts are fully executed. Contracts will end on December 31, 2026, with options to renew for up to four one-year terms and six month-to-month extensions, for a maximum total term of five years and six months.
- The Quarter 4 (Q4) 2026 Funding Report has been posted to the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab.
- The SCW Program Municipal Program Team now offers project support services to cities with updated City Services Contracts with Los Angeles County Public Works. Services currently include initial project planning and project design. Cities interested in utilizing these services can contact the SCW Municipal Program email address: SCWPMunicipal@pw.lacounty.gov.
- To stay informed about SCW Program updates, stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to email notifications on the [SCW Program website](#). The newsletter provides updates on Regional, Municipal, and District Programs. Implementation updates are also available on the News and Updates page of the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Public Works clarified that the K–12 Education Program includes schoolyard transformation design guidance and flexible implementation tools to support school-based projects within regulatory frameworks.

Member Madelyn Glickfeld noted prior coordination with Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts to engage a local school district and recommended additional outreach to improve awareness of SCW Program benefits. Watershed Coordinator Watts noted recent positive engagement with Calabasas High School and shared that some school districts were more hesitant to participate.

Watershed Coordinator Watts emphasized that improved outreach and clearer communication of Program incentives could increase participation from schools and communities.

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Member Glickfeld requested that Watershed Coordinator Watts share outreach materials with Public Works staff for review.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented updates. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Key highlights included continued outreach efforts such as the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Celebration, collaborations with local filmmakers, identification of new project concepts, support for the Technical Resources Program (TRP) application process, participation in and hosting of community events, and leveraging existing partnerships to strengthen engagement and SCW Program visibility.

6) Discussion

a) Key Areas of Interest for 2026 Call for Projects

Strategic Advancement Section staff, formerly the Watershed Planning Section, and Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination) presented on the Round 8 (FY27-28) Call for Projects WASC Priorities. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Forte questioned long-term watershed supply targets and projected diversion benefits, expressing concern that assumptions may be overly ambitious given the watershed's clay soils, limited infiltration, lack of groundwater basins, and constrained storage and treatment capacity. Public Works Staff responded that projections are based on applicant-submitted data, watershed modeling, prior watershed management assumptions, and adaptive planning frameworks subject to future reassessment.

Member Glickfeld strongly recommended recalibrating water supply assumptions to better reflect actual NSMB watershed conditions, noting that comparisons to watersheds with substantial groundwater recharge capacity may not be appropriate.

Fossum facilitated discussion regarding FY27–28 priorities for the NSMB WASC. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that approximately \$800,000 had been returned to the watershed. Available FY27–28 funding was estimated at approximately \$8.5 million, including returned and carryover funds.

Discussion included the ongoing North Santa Monica Bay Dry Weather Storm Drain Diversions Scientific Study (SS) evaluating regional diversion opportunities. Public Works staff stated the Study is intended to support long-term diversion program viability and is expected to begin soon following contract execution. Member Glickfeld requested a future update regarding the Cornell Mulholland Project.

Chair Forte encouraged the City of Agoura Hills to pursue additional infrastructure funding to address construction cost escalation since 2020. Public Works staff clarified that Agoura Hills may submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) by October 31 for additional funding requested for a previously approved project.

Committee Members generally agreed that leverage funding should be encouraged but not required, citing limited regional grant availability, equity concerns, and the risk of disadvantaging otherwise competitive projects. Members noted leverage funding may improve competitiveness during close funding decisions, but that emphasis on leverage funding in WASC evaluation should remain limited. Fossum noted that leverage funding accounts for approximately 26.7% of total project costs to date within the Watershed Area.

Discussion also included possible funding set-asides for smaller projects, mini-grant concepts, and long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) funding needs. Members expressed interest in exploring these topics further. Public Works staff emphasized that applicants must demonstrate alignment with Watershed

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Planning themes, strategies, feasibility requirements, and identified watershed needs through updated application prompts. Projects addressing unmet watershed benefit targets and incorporating strong stormwater components were described as more competitive when evaluated alongside similar proposals.

The Committee highlighted regional limitations related to groundwater storage, infiltration, and treatment capacity, particularly in Malibu, Topanga, and surrounding sub watersheds. Members emphasized the need for diversified water quality and water supply strategies suited to local watershed conditions.

Member Bruce Hamamoto shared recent experience with a coastal canyon parking lot project located in the watershed. Member Hamamoto noted the project was able to construct gates, parking lot improvements, and a cistern and dry well with approximately three acre-feet of storage capacity. Member Hamamoto stated the project included storage and treatment for spray irrigation using ultraviolet and ozone treatment systems to meet public health requirements. Member Hamamoto explained that the treatment component proved extremely expensive and operationally difficult and may not be a prioritized component for future projects, though cistern storage itself remains viable. The Committee also discussed retreatment requirements and ongoing maintenance needs associated with sediment accumulation. Member Hamamoto noted future uses such as firefighting or drip irrigation may face fewer regulatory treatment requirements than spray irrigation applications.

Member Glickfeld and Watershed Coordinator Watts identified Topanga Canyon, Westlake Village, and Zuma Creek as potential focus areas due to flooding concerns, stormwater constraints, and overlapping opportunity areas. Chair Forte observed that many existing and proposed projects already align with identified opportunity areas. Public Works staff clarified the Tool is intended for planning and prioritization guidance rather than mandatory project siting requirements.

Discussion also focused on Topanga Lagoon and Topanga Creek restoration opportunities. Member Hamamoto explained that large-scale lagoon restoration efforts may be difficult under current funding limitations due to extensive upstream runoff conditions, high capital costs, and challenges separating developed runoff from natural watershed flows. Chair Forte identified smaller tributaries as a possible future opportunity area for smaller-scale water quality projects and visitor-serving infrastructure improvements potentially coordinated with Caltrans. The Committee also discussed uncertainty surrounding proposed Caltrans bridge improvements and associated flood management concerns.

Watershed Coordinator Watts discussed additional restoration opportunities, including beach dune restoration, lagoon improvements, and parking lot retrofit concepts. Member Hamamoto referenced parking lot retrofit designs incorporating bioinfiltration swales and runoff management features.

Chair Forte reiterated interest in diversion-related opportunities while cautioning against premature large-scale commitments without regulatory certainty. Several Members expressed preference for phased implementation and pilot-scale validation before making major infrastructure commitments. Vice-Chair Hughes noted practical constraints associated with procurement schedules, design timelines, and project readiness, highlighting that some diversion-related projects may not be ready for construction applications for several years.

Fossum facilitated discussion regarding SS priorities. Fossum summarized previously identified focus areas, including studies evaluating water quality differences between sewered and non-sewered areas, hydraulic mapping of Conejo Valley sub watersheds, identification of areas with high flows and water quality impairments, assessment of urban runoff contributions, ecological flow studies for tributaries and creeks, and wet weather TMDL compliance analysis.

Member Hamamoto emphasized that many SS applications request dollar amounts that exceed NSMB's annual 5% funding cap and recommended clearer communication of funding limitations to applicants. Member Hamamoto also expressed concern regarding regional studies divided across jurisdictions without

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



proportional allocation methodologies. Watershed Coordinator Watts referenced parking lot retrofit assessments as possible future project development opportunities.

Chair Forte asked whether retroactive reimbursement for SS already underway may be eligible under SCW Program rules. Public Works staff stated that retroactive eligibility may be technically permissible under ordinance provisions and needs to comply with Interim Scientific Studies Program Guidelines though prior completion status could reduce funding competitiveness.

Watershed Coordinator Watts summarized additional priorities discussed by community members, including incorporation of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission action plan elements into watershed planning, identification of nature-based solution opportunities, creek restoration strategies to improve water quality, fertilizer reduction incentives, living shoreline concepts, drought-tolerant landscaping approaches similar to City of Santa Monica programs, and a potential horse manure digester project for the Hidden Hills and Santa Monica Mountains area. Watershed Coordinator Watts also noted that Member Nickerson had suggested encouraging local high school student participation in SS program.

Fossum requested feedback regarding the SIP Deliberation Workbooks. WASC Members expressed overall support for continuing the resource and requested digital versions in future cycles. Fossum also discussed potential development of a project tracking matrix summarizing projects under consideration.

Member Melanis Stepanian asked whether WASC funding balances generate interest income. Fossum stated awarded funds are required to be held in interest-bearing accounts and interest may be used toward eligible project costs.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Items for Next Agenda

- a) FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) Presentation
- b) FY25-26 Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summary

9) Adjournment

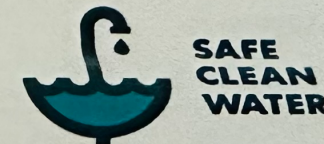
Chair Forte thanked the WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting. The next NSMB WASC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026. See the [SCW Program website](#) for more information.

NSMB WASC - May 14, 2026								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the March 12, 2026 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes		
Agency	LACFCD	Daniel Bradbury	X	CJ Caluag		y		
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	X			y		
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf		Rebecca Correa	X	y		
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen	X	Craig Jones		y		
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	X	Jeremy Wolf		y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	X	Richard Ambrose		Absent during vote		
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	X	Ion Cretu		y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman						
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt		Natalia Cuellar				
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	X			y		
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher	X	y		
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Curtis Castle		Melanis Stepanian	X	a		
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed	X	Mayra Martinez		y		
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower		Emily Ellison				
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	X			y		
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik		Vivian de Anda	X	a		
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	X	Josephine Wilson		y		
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	X					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	13	0	0
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees

Alexander Iglesias Ri
 Annelisa Moe
 Craig Doberstein
 Grey Crisanto
 HG
 Hannah Daum
 James Carpenter - St
 Jason Jade Pepito
 Kevin Keegan
 Linet Khechatoorian
 Lisa Kim
 Luis Perez (SAS)
 Mayra Martinez
 NSMB AV
 Omar Abdelhadi
 Pablo Forni - LACPW
 Rich Ambrose
 Roxanne Hughes
 Ruby Cornejo
 Ryanna Fossum
 Sneha Suresh
 Stacy Luell
 kmoreno

North Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	<i>[Signature]</i>
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
David Pedersen	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Craig Jones	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Jessica Forte	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
Jeremy Wolf	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Alternate	
Madelyn Glickfeld	Resident	Primary	
Richard Ambrose	Resident	Alternate	
Andrew Nickerson	Community Stakeholder	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Ion Cretu	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	

North Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Natalia Cuellar	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Alternate	
Jacy Shillan	Resident	Primary	
Charmaine Yambao	Agoura Hills	Primary	
Kelly Fisher	Agoura Hills	Alternate	<i>Kelly Fisher</i>
Curtis Castle	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	<i>MS</i>
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	<i>Kelsey Reed</i>
Mayra Martinez	Hidden Hills	Alternate	
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Emily Ellison	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Primary	<i>BH</i>
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Vivian de Anda	Malibu	Alternate	<i>Vivian de Anda</i>
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	

North Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator		