

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



Thursday, August 13, 2026
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Conference Room
4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Seta Marjanian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
William Johnson, Los Angeles County Waterworks District (Agency)
*Rebecca Correa, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
*Craig Jones, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jessica Forte, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
Madelyn Glickfeld, Resident (Community)
Andrew Nickerson, PSOMAS (Community)
Susan Nissman, Resident (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura (Community)
Jacy Shillan, Resident (Community)
*Melanis Stepanian, Calabasas (Municipal)
*Kayla Urbina, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Aaron Ordower, LA County Supervisorial District 3 (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)
Kiernan Brtalik, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Consulting, LLC (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Charmaine Yambao, Agoura Hills (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jessica Forte (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District) 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 and established a quorum. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial for online meeting participants.

Member Seta Marjanian (Los Angeles County Flood Control District) made introductions to the NSMB WASC, noting prior service with the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC. Member Marjanian now serves as the primary member representing the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) on the NSMB WASC.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from May 14, 2026. Member Madelyn Glickfeld (Resident) motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Andrew Nickerson (PSOMAS). The WASC voted to approve the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 5 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 2 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3) Committee Member & Program Updates

Public Works shared Regional Program updates, noting:

- Community Stakeholder terms expire December 31, with reappointments/vacancy appointments beginning December 2026 or early 2027. Interested members of the public can submit the online Interest to Serve form, available on WASC agendas and in the monthly Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program) Implementation email.
- WASCs and the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) recommended approval of all nine Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Programs (SIPs) to the Board of Supervisors, with Board review anticipated in Fall 2026.
- The SCW Program is updating the 2019 WASC Operating Guidelines to clarify procedures and improve consistency. Proposed amendments (shared July 28) include: aligning primary/alternate members by geographic or subject-matter interest rather than organization; revising quorum requirements to one member per category (Municipalities, Agencies, Community Stakeholders); and referencing Conflict of Interest (COI) Guidance. Adoption is targeted for this fall.
- The 2026 Call for Projects closed July 31. Program-wide, 15 Infrastructure, 11 Technical Resources Program (TRP), and 12 Scientific Studies applications were submitted; NSMB received 0/1/2, respectively. Staff are conducting eligibility and completeness checks; a summary will be presented to WASCs at an upcoming meeting.
- Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance is now posted on the [SCW Program website](#), offering a framework for monitoring Water Quality, Water Supply, and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) benefits.
- The ROC met August 12 on the Call for Projects, Mid-Year Report Summaries, Scoring Revision Process, and Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance. The ROC's next meeting (September 9) will cover District Program Report Summaries, the Biennial Progress Report Interagency Task Force, and the Workforce Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee report.
- Stakeholders can subscribe to SCW Program email updates and view implementation updates on the News and Updates page of the [SCW Program website](#).

The Strategic Advancement Section shared updates, noting:

- Revisions to the Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria for the 2027 Call for Projects are underway; the related survey closed July 19.
- 2026 Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance is posted on the [SCW Program website](#); Reporting Module updates are in progress to reflect it.
- The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey has collected 2,100 responses program-wide, including 45 for NSMB.
- Questions should be directed to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

Member Glickfeld noted that the ROC had recommended a change to the Water Supply Scoring Criteria for NSMB. This change intends to address a threshold issue that had previously kept any projects in the Watershed Area from passing Scoring Committee. Member Glickfeld stressed the importance of that change, noting several projects are now being funded as a result, and asked staff to continue highlighting and preserving it. Public Works staff confirmed that the Scoring Criteria concepts currently under development take into account the Watershed Areas' specific characteristics, along with results from two earlier pilot programs that tested new approaches to ranking projects on Water Supply and Water Quality.

Member Susan Nissman (Resident) requested clarity on the implementation timeline for the new Scoring Criteria. Public Works staff responded that revised Scoring Criteria are expected to go to public comment in early 2027, with implementation targeted for the 2027 Call for Projects.

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Member Glickfeld asked that the Scoring Criteria revisions incorporate engagement opportunities with the NSMB WASC. Public Works staff confirmed engagement will be considered as concepts develop over coming months.

Member Aaron Ordower (LA County Supervisorial District 3) asked staff to confirm whether results from the LACFCD's County Water Plan Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) Task Force are being incorporated into the Scoring Criteria revisions. Public Works staff confirmed that during the last NbS Task Force meeting, the consultant provided updates on the Scoring Criteria revisions and received feedback via a revision survey from Task Force members.

Member Ordower reminded the Committee that Community Seat appointments are open and made through the Supervisor's Office. Member Ordower encouraged WASC Members to consider continuing to serve on the Committee, and asked Members not continuing to serve to notify the Office so vacancies can be identified and encouraged Members to recommend potential community members or alternates to fill vacant seats. Public Works staff noted that the required interest form is linked on the meeting agenda and confirmed it will also be emailed to NSMB WASC Members.

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Chair Forte disclosed having lunch with Vice-Chair Roxanne Hughes (Westlake Village), Member Glickfeld, and Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts and discussing briefly who might be a strong candidate for Chair or Vice-Chair of the WASC.

Member Tevin Schmitt (Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura) disclosed a meeting with Los Angeles County Sanitation District staff in which participants discussed how the District plans to comply with recent changes to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for treatment plants regarding temperature compliance limits, including the need to reach a specified Fahrenheit limit, and discussed using Measure W funds to support projects related to water management and other cycle-related projects.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented updates. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Key highlights included ongoing community outreach and partnership-building with LA County's urban forestry program, the Tataviam plant nursery and conservation corps, local schools, and a youth climate commission; educational content on groundwater recharge concepts and native plant ecology; project updates on the Topanga Lagoon restoration effort, a school-district TRP application in progress, a groundwater replenishment site tour; and a round of funding updates, with several grant applications submitted or in progress and mixed results reported so far. Watershed Coordinator Watts also noted a potential future guest presentation from an international water-access organization and asked Members to share their availability.

Member Nissman recalled that a cistern may have been involved in a past project near Station 71 on the Pacific Coast Highway and asked whether it was ultimately included or removed from that project. Watershed Coordinator Watts agreed to investigate the matter.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Discussion

a) Regional Program FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Summary

Elyssa Lawrence (HDR) presented on the Regional Program FY25–26 Mid-Year Report Summary. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

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Member Glickfeld noted that the previously approved Viewridge Road Project has been withdrawn and asked what happens to project funding in such a situation. Member Glickfeld also asked why the reversion of funds was delayed. Lawrence clarified that, per the mid-year FY25-26 reporting period, the Project had noted delays related to water utility relocation and design impacts from the Palisades fire, but that these delays predated and were separate from the withdrawal decision. Public Works staff confirmed that because no transfer agreement had been executed by either party, no funds were ever actually disbursed; accordingly, reverting the \$800,000 allocation was simply a matter of returning it to the SIP pool, which has already been completed as part of the SIP that will go before the Board of Supervisors for approval this November. The funds will therefore be available when the WASC programs its next SIP.

b) WASC Roles & Responsibilities

Mike Antos (Regional Coordination) presented on WASC Roles and Responsibilities. Slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Nissman asked for clarification on whether SCW Program targets are affected as regulatory standards change, noting that the Regional Water Quality Control Board periodically revises standards. Antos clarified that compliance with regulatory requirements falls to individual project proponents, not to the SCW Program itself. Watershed Planning efforts determine how much the SCW Program aims to contribute toward those external targets, and that contribution is adaptively managed over time rather than tied one-to-one to regulatory changes. Current SCW Program targets are new as of this past December and have not yet been revised.

Chair Forte asked whether there has been outreach to the City of Agoura Hills regarding project submissions. Public Works staff agreed to follow up, noting the jurisdiction's limited capacity and the concern about missed funding opportunities.

Upon inquiry, Antos highlighted the Watershed Planning Dashboard and Map tools' ability to identify opportunity areas, noting that local knowledge, such as awareness of vacant parcels, is valuable information Members can pass along to Watershed Coordinator Watts.

c) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Chair Forte highlighted that traditionally, the Chair serves roughly two years with the Vice-Chair assuming the Chair position at the end of that period. Chair Forte nominated Vice-Chair Hughes for Chair and proposed Member Kelsey Reed (Hidden Hills) for Vice-Chair, while inviting any other interested Members to come forward. Chair Forte confirmed intent to remain on the WASC after stepping down as Chair.

Member Melanis Stepanian (Calabasas) agreed with the nomination of Vice-Chair Hughes for Chair, citing Vice-Chair Hughes's forward-thinking approach and extensive watershed experience, and voiced support for Member Reed as Vice-Chair. Vice-Chair Hughes accepted the nomination for Chair.

Discussion also touched on Resource Conservation District (RCD) representation on the NSMB WASC. A Member noted that the RCD has not had representation since early in the SCW Program's development. A suggestion was made to invite the RCD to consider rejoining the NSMB WASC.

d) FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented the SOEP. The current SOEP can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Slides can be found on the SCW [Program website](#).

Member Ordower asked Watershed Coordinator Watts to reflect on which outreach strategies would be most effective at generating viable project leads, and whether there are ways for agency and municipal Committee Members to share that burden rather than letting it rest solely on the Watershed Coordinator.

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Member Nissman asked whether informal conversations with interested residents could be facilitated outside official Committee structure. Member Nissman asked whether the "Living Lightly in the Watershed" guide could be pitched as a fundable project given the SCW Program's broader funding constraints.

Member Craig Jones (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District) suggested prioritizing and funding projects that already have momentum, funders, and leadership behind them, rather than trying to generate interest from scratch. Watershed Coordinator Watts cited the LA County Beaches and Harbors project in the Malibu Lagoon parking lot as an example of this in practice. The Project moved forward on its own funding, and Watershed Coordinator Watts connected it to the Santa Monica Mountains Fund for native plant materials. While not a SCW Program project directly, it was cited as a success in coordination.

Member Glickfeld noted that despite the Supervisor's Office's efforts, the SCW Program application process remains long and costly and is particularly burdensome for smaller cities. Watershed Coordinator Watts confirmed that even with substantial hands-on support from Public Works staff, one applicant ultimately still declined to apply, underscoring the difficulties of the process. Member Glickfeld suggested that joint applications could help ease the burden. Watershed Coordinator Watts noted one such pairing fell through due to a site-specific technical issue but expressed interest in revisiting other joint opportunities.

Vice-Chair Hughes suggested that municipal Members regularly review municipal Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) for components that could align with SCW Program funding and flag potential opportunities to Watershed Coordinator Watts. Watershed Coordinator Watts agreed to include monthly updates on active project leads and conversations in watershed report presentations. Member Ordower suggested that Watershed Coordinator Watts could implement a quarterly summary by jurisdiction to help other Members track and contextualize progress.

Public Works staff reminded the WASC that the SOEP must be approved by formal vote, since it sets expectations for Watershed Coordinator Watts's work for the year. Chair Forte asked whether delaying the vote to September would disrupt the work, noting Member interest in reviewing the SOEP further before voting. Public Works staff confirmed a one-month delay would not set anything back.

Member Glickfeld summarized the WASC's request to incorporate even more outreach to motivate potential project applicants, highlighting the Committee interest in learning how the WASC itself can help remove obstacles, such as through combined-municipality project applications that share grant responsibilities, and moved to approve the SOEP with that stipulation. Member Jones responded supportively but cautioned against being overly prescriptive about how Watershed Coordinator Watts accomplishes outreach. Member Jones expressed a preference for setting clear priorities and adequate lead time over rigid direction and agreed a short delay to allow further review would be reasonable.

Member Nissman raised the idea of convening a small collaborative pre-discussion group, potentially including agency stakeholders like MRCA, the RCD, State Parks, and the Supervisor's Office, to brainstorm project opportunities outside the standard application process, given that some agencies have been difficult to engage individually. Chair Forte tabled consideration of the SOEP to the September meeting, asking Members to submit comments to Watershed Coordinator Watts in the interim so that the SOEP can be revised and voted on with full input.

8) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9) Voting item

a) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs

Chair Forte motioned to approve the selection of Vice-Chair Roxanne Hughes as Chair and Member Kelsey Reed as Vice-Chair for the NSMB WASC, pending Member Reed's concurrence. Member Nissman

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seconded the motion. The NSMB WASC voted to approve the motion with 16 votes in favor, 0 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 0 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b) Approve the FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Approving the FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan was tabled for the next meeting. Watershed Coordinator Watts requested that NSMB WASC members provide comments at least two weeks prior to the next NSMB WASC meeting.

10) Items for Next Agenda

- a)** Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Annual Report Presentation
- b)** Summary of Submitted Technical Resources Project Concepts and Scientific Studies for FY27-28
- c)** FY27-28 Application Presentations
- d)** Approval of the FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Member Bruce Hamamoto (Los Angeles County Public Works) gave an update on the Regional Pathogen Study, noting the kickoff meeting occurred at the end of July and was attended by Members Brtalik (Malibu), Reed, and Hamamoto on behalf of the WASC. Member Hamamoto shared that other WASC Members are welcome to join future meetings, which are expected to occur quarterly.

Member Glickfeld inquired how the WASC would go about securing formal representation on the Study's advisory board, noting the Committee had been told at the time of the Study's original approval that it would have an official representative in that capacity. Member Hamamoto agreed to work with County staff to follow up, potentially with a fuller update in October alongside the anticipated review of submitted project applications. Chair Forte confirmed the stakeholder meetings are open to all Committee Members.

11) 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, September 10, 2026. See the [SCW Program website](#) for more information.

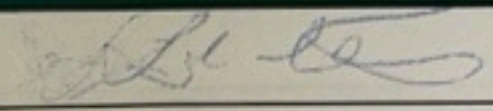
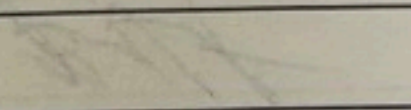
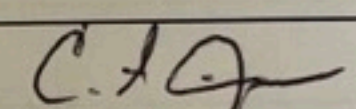
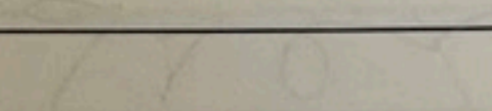
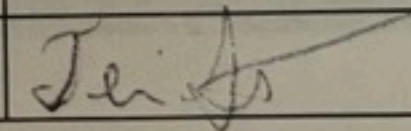
NSMB WASC - August 13, 2026								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the May 14, 2026 NSMB WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve Selection of Roxanne Hughes as Chair and Kelsey Reed as Vice-Chair for NSMB WASC pending Kelsey's concurrence	Approve the FY26-27 North Santa Monica Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) (deferred until September meeting)
Agency	LACFCD	Seta Marjanian	x	Daniel Bradbury		a	y	
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	William Johnson	x			y	y	
Agency	MRCA	Brian Baldauf		Rebecca Correa	x	y	y	
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Craig Jones	x	absent at vote	y	
Agency	LVMWD	Jessica Forte	x	Jeremy Wolf		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	PSOMAS	Andrew Nickerson	x	Ion Cretu		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Susan Nissman	x			absent at vote	y	
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x	Natalia Cuellar		a	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jacy Shillan	x			y	y	
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Charmaine Yambao		Kelly Fisher				
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Curtis Castle		Melanis Stepanian	x	a	y	
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kelsey Reed		Kayla Urbina	x	a	y	
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Aaron Ordower	x	Emily Ellison		a	y	
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Alberto Grajeda		y	y	
Municipal Members	Malibu	Kiernan Brtalik	x	Vivian de Anda		y	y	
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Josephine Wilson		y	y	
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	9	16	0
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	5	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	14	16	0
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Not Approved

Other Attendees

Alexander Iglesias R
Brenda Ponton, Wo
Elyssa Lawrence (H
Eric Bonilla
GC
Grey Crisanto - LACI
HG
Henry Mueller
Ingrid Camacho Avil
James Carpenter - S
Jason Jade Pepito
Jenny Chau
John Mendoza
Kelsey Reed
Meliya Soller
NSMB AV
Omar Abdelhadi
Rich Ambrose
Ruby Cornejo
Sneha Suresh
Tara Dales
dbradbury
kmoreno

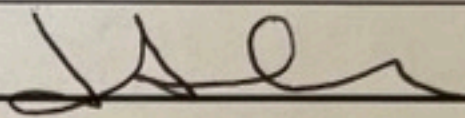
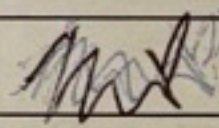
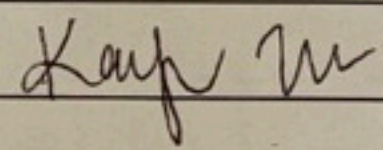
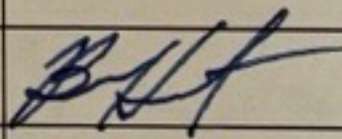
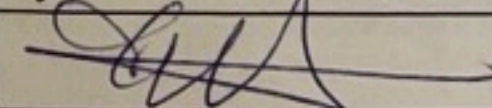
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Seta Marjanian	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Brian Baldauf	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Primary	
Rebecca Correa	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Alternate	
William Johnson	LA County Waterworks District	Primary	
David Pedersen	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Primary	
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	
Ion Cretu	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Susan Nissman	Resident	Primary	
Tevin Schmitt	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Primary	

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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	
Curtis Castle	Calabasas	Primary	
Melanis Stepanian	Calabasas	Alternate	
Kelsey Reed	Hidden Hills	Primary	
Kayla Urbina	Hidden Hills	Alternate	
Aaron Ordower	LAC Supervisor District 3	Primary	
Emily Ellison	LAC Supervisor District 3	Alternate	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	Primary	
Alberto Grajeda	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Kiernan Brtalik	Malibu	Primary	
Vivian de Anda	Malibu	Alternate	
Roxanne Hughes	Westlake Village	Primary	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Josephine Wilson	Westlake Village	Alternate	
Melina Watts	Watershed Coordinator		
Dennis Washburn Planning Comm.			