

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, May 21, 2026
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Santa Clarita City Hall
Carl Boyer Room
23920 Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91355
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Ali Elhassan, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)
*Rick Viergutz, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
Francisco Guerrero, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Mayor Laurene Weste, City of Santa Clarita Recreation/Open Space (Agency)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
*Diane Trautman, Sierra Club (Community)
*Mitchell van Bekkum, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Darin Seegmiller, City of Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Hunt Braly, Poole and Shaffery (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff gave a brief WebEx tutorial. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members and established a quorum.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2026

Public Works staff presented the previous meeting minutes. Member Ali Elhassan motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 19, 2026. Member Mary Johnson seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the February 19, 2026 meeting minutes, with 9 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, 0 votes opposed, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and Program Updates

Chair Seegmiller invited Connor Hall (City of Santa Clarita) to share updates regarding the Newhall Park Infiltration Project. Hall noted that the Project's first public outreach meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 27, 2026, at 10:00am in Newhall Park.

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

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- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) voted to approve the 2026 Biennial Progress Report for submission to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) on March 8, 2026. The report, along with public comments received, is available on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- As of May 21, 2026, all nine WASCs have recommended a Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
- Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program staff will prepare the SIP Transmittal Reports for the ROC on behalf of the WASCs. This year, the SIP Transmittal Report are being updated based on prior feedback and information from the Initial Watershed Plans.
- The ROC is scheduled to discuss the recommended FY26-27 SIPs on June 10 and July 8, 2026.
- The 2026 Call for Projects will begin accepting applications in June, with a submission deadline of July 31, 2026. Call for Projects Info Sessions were held on May 13 from 9:00am to 11:00am and on May 14 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. For more information and updated guidance, please visit the [Call for Projects webpage](#).
- On March 12, 2026, SCW Program staff reminded Regional Program Project Developers to submit 12-month lapsed funding extension requests per the conditions of the Regional Program Transfer Agreement. Only Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects that were disbursed funds during FY20-21 have the potential to lapse funds. If a Project had not expended funds equal to that year's disbursement as of the FY24-25 Annual Report, they were sent the reminder email. Four extension requests were received by March 31, 2026. SCW Program staff reviewed the requests and provided notifications of extension at the end of April 2026.
- The recording of the November 2025 Science Symposium has been posted on the [Science Symposium event webpage](#). The next Science Symposium is anticipated to be held in April 2027.
- All twelve Watershed Coordinator contracts are now fully executed. The Watershed Coordinators are continuing to provide services under the new agreements.
- The Quarter 3 (Q3) 2026 Funding Report has been posted to the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab.
- The SCWP Municipal Program Team is now offering project support services to all cities with an updated City Services Contract with Los Angeles County Public Works. Current available services are limited to initial project planning and project design. Cities interested in utilizing these services or seeking clarification can contact the SCW Municipal Program Team at SCWPMunicipal@pw.lacounty.gov. Additional details on the scope and availability of future services will be shared in the coming months.
- To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, the public can subscribe to receive email notifications on the SCW Program website. Implementation Updates are also located in the [News and Updates webpage](#) on the SCW Program website.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5. Discussion Items

a) Key Areas of Interest for 2026 Call for Projects

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented on the Round 8 (FY27-28) Call for Projects Key Areas of Interest and Priorities. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

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Strategic Advancement Section staff, formerly the Watershed Planning section, described the 20th requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines. Fossum encouraged Committee Members to explore the Watershed Planning Tool.

Upon inquiry, Fossum clarified that the Watershed Planning themes are consistent across all Watershed Areas, not unique to the SCR Watershed Area.

Fossum requested Committee Members' input on funded projects to date. Chair Seegmiller noted that the Via Princessa Park and Regional Best Management Practice (BMP) Project will begin construction shortly.

Fossum highlighted that 28.66% of project costs in the SCR Watershed Area are attributed to leveraged funding. Fossum asked whether Committee Members would set requirements for a certain percentage of leveraged funding from Project applicants. Chair Seegmiller recommended case-by-case evaluations and emphasized that a leveraged funding requirement should not be prohibitive for projects in unincorporated areas of the Watershed.

Public Works staff noted that the ROC recommended 25% leveraged funding in the 2026 Biennial Progress Report.

Member Elhassan requested an explanation of the criteria used to determine Watershed Planning opportunity areas. Strategic Advancement Section staff explained that Multi-Benefit Opportunity Areas are composite layers of multiple planning themes and that more information about the sources used to develop each layer is available in the Initial Watershed Plan.

Fossum noted that Vasquez High School and a middle school near Acton are located in High Opportunity Areas in the northwest Watershed Area. Fossum also commented that multiple projects funded to date are located in High Opportunity Areas. Watershed Coordinator Begley explained that projects may have been sited with the same data used included in the Watershed Planning Tool.

Chair Seegmiller noted that opportunity areas are aligned with densely populated areas and explained that projects funded to date in the SCR Watershed Area have primarily focused on Water Quality and Water Supply in densely populated areas.

Watershed Coordinator Begley noted an upcoming meeting with College of the Canyons to discuss the SCW Program, given that schools are a priority area for future projects.

Member Mayor Laurene Weste expressed concern about water supply shortages. Member Mayor Weste also emphasized that projects must progress quickly and reflect the public's perspective. Member Johnson noted that domestic wells have gone dry in Agua Dulce and explained that project planning is a challenge in unincorporated areas with low population density. Fossum noted that adhering to the SCW Program's criteria for Water Quality benefits has been a challenge for restoration-based activities in the SCR Watershed Area. Watershed Coordinator Begley encouraged Committee Members to respond to a recent survey on SCW Program Scoring Criteria.

Member Johnson noted that Agua Dulce lacks City and County resources but is coordinating with Watershed Coordinator Begley on potential project concepts. Member Diane Trautman requested examples of other WASCs with open space projects in unincorporated communities. Fossum noted the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) WASC as an example, with a similar focus on determining the Program eligibility of restoration and conservation projects. Member Trautman inquired how Committee Members could support these efforts. Chair Seegmiller explained that the SCW Program eligibility criteria pose an obstacle to projects in the SCR Watershed Area since Water Supply benefits cannot be emphasized over Water Quality benefits. Chair Seegmiller recommended that Committee Members advocate for scoring modifications.

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Member Elhassan emphasized Chair Seegmiller's comments and requested information on restoration projects across the program. Fossum emphasized the Benefits of Restoration and Land Preservation as Nature-Based Solutions to Water Quality and Water Supply Scientific Study as a resource for future restoration projects. Public Works staff highlighted use of the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) data to inform project development.

Member Rick Viergutz noted that the California State Portal has a Dry Well Reporting System. Member Johnson explained that many domestic well owners are not open to sharing data about the status of their wells. Watershed Coordinator Begley noted that TreePeople recently developed the Acton-Agua Dulce Drought Resiliency Report for the California Department of Water Resources with well assessments included.

Fossum inquired whether Committee Members would prioritize any watershed-specific Scientific Studies (SS) and noted that the County is developing a SS Advisory Panel to signal countywide scientific priorities and review guidelines for the Program. Chair Seegmiller commented that the Benefits of Restoration and Land Preservation as Nature-Based Solutions to Water Quality and Water Supply SS exemplifies areas of concern for the WASC. Watershed Coordinator Begley recommended College of the Canyons as a potential future SS partner.

Fossum requested the Committee Members' input on the SIP Deliberation Workbooks. Chair Seegmiller expressed support for the Workbooks. Fossum noted that another WASC had requested a comparison matrix of projects. Member Julian Juarez expressed support for a comparison matrix. Member Johnson commented that a matrix may not be necessary as the SCR WASC does not receive many project applications.

i. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

b) Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley presented on the SCR SOEP. [Presentation slides](#) and the [SOEP](#) are both available on the SCW Program website.

Chair Seegmiller expressed appreciation for Watershed Coordinator Begley's work and the work of TreePeople on regional restoration projects.

i. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

6. General Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Voting Items

a) Approve Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (if needed)

Member Trautman motioned to Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. Member Mayor Weste seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with 12 votes in favor, 0 votes opposed, and 0 abstentions (approved, see attached vote tracking sheet).

8. Items for Next Agenda

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The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 18, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

9. Adjournment

Chair Seegmiller thanked the WASC and members of the public and adjourned the meeting.

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - May 21, 2026							
		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 2/19/2026 Meeting Minutes	Approve the FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan	x	Najwa Pitois		y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole		Rick Viergutz	x	a	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		y	y
Agency	City of Santa Clarita Recreation/Open Space	Laurene Weste, Mayor	x	Michael Villegas		not present at vote	y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly					
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell**		Diane Trautman	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk		Mitchell van Bekkum	x	a	y
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel		Heidi Webber			
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Paul Choy			
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Paul Choy			
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Paul Choy			
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Oliver Cramer		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Oliver Cramer		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Haley Lawton		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Haley Lawton		y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Amanda Begley	x	Eric Wilson			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	9	12
Total Voting Members Present		12			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	11	12
Municipal Members		4				Approved	Approved

Webex Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
May 21, 2026

Chris
Claire Barr (LACPW)
Eric Wilson, TreePeople
Erum Razzak (LARWQCB)
Grey Crisanto

JGutierrez
Jacqueline Stone
James Carpenter - SCWP
Jason Jade Pepito - SCWP
Jenny Chau

Lauren Anderson
Linnet Khechatoorian
Ryanna Fossum
SCR AV
SCR Room

SCWP Staff Buddy Barreras
SCWP Staff Larry Tran
SCWP Staff Timothy Lim
Tim Brown (Herrera)
kmoreno
Kevin Te

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Sign-In
Julian Juarez	FCD		P
Carolina Hernandez	FCD		A
Steve Cole	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley		P
Rick Viergutz	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley		A
Janine Prado	City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services		P
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita		A
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts		P
Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts		A
Dirk Marks	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency		P
Mike Alvord	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency		A
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery		P
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council		P
Jason Gibbs	GP Strategies		P
Frederick Andre Hollings	CA Department of Tax and Fee Administration		A
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation		P

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		
Heidi Webber	Community Hiking Club	[REDACTED]		
Sandra Cattell	Sierra Club		A	
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club		P	
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County		A	
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County		P	
Darren Hernandez	Santa Clarita		A	
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita		P	
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita		A	<i>Darin Seegmiller</i>
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita		P	
Robert Newman	Santa Clarita		A	<i>Oliver Cramer</i>
Mike Hennawy	Santa Clarita		P	
Tom Cole	Santa Clarita		A	
David Peterson	Santa Clarita		P	
Amanda Begley	Tree People		A	<i>Amanda Begley</i>

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		
Francis W. Grommon	LACOA			
Ali Elhassan	SCUWA			

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
VALERIE	FERCHAW	City of S. Clara	
CONNOR	HAHM	City of SC	
Haley Linton		City of SC	
Melanie	Rivera	LACPW	
Lauren Weste	Waste	Mayor City of SC	
Mitchell	van Beken		

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

May 21, 2026