

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, May 20, 2026

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Torrance Civic Center, Human Resources Department

3231 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

CJ Caluag, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)

*Tammy Hierlihy, West Basin Mun Water Basin (Agency)

Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)

*Darryl Ford, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (Agency)

Margie Hoyt, Resident (Community)

Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter (Community), Chair

Caroline Orija, Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Community)

*Roland Jen, Carson (Municipal)

Susie Santilena, Los Angeles (Municipal)

*Lara Awad, Los Angeles County Public Works (Municipal)

*Joshua Soliz, Torrance (Municipal)

Douglas Krauss, EWMP: Beach Cities (Municipal), Vice-Chair

Miller Zou, EWMP: Dominguez (Municipal)

Vanessa Hevener, EWMP: Peninsula (Municipal)

Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)

Elizabeth Sala, Resident (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Craig Cadwallader, Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated Committee Member introductions and established quorum. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and instructions on public comment submissions.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2026

Chair Cadwallader presented the SSMB WASC meeting minutes from March 18, 2026. Member Douglas Krauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Caroline Orija. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 4 in abstention, 0 opposed and 0 absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

There were no Committee Member updates.

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Public Works staff provided 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 (Board) on March 8, 2026. The report, along with public comments received, is available on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- As of May 20, 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 is 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 will be 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](#).
- All 12 Watershed Coordinator contracts are now fully executed. The Watershed Coordinators are continuing to provide services under the new agreements.
- 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 Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Nancy Shrodes shared key takeaways from the ReDesign LA Workshop, which focused on building community capacity for multi-benefit projects. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared that the workshop included discussions on authentic community engagement, funding and administrative challenges, tribal perspectives on stewardship and trust-building, and the importance of strategic planning and relationship-building. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes shared additional updates on recent outreach events, educational presentations, engagement activities, technical assistance meetings, and participation in regional water and restoration workshops and summits.

6) Discussion

a) Key Areas of Interest for 2026 Call for Projects

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) and Strategic Advancement Section staff, formerly the Watershed Planning Section, presented on the Round 8 (FY27-28) Call for Projects Key Areas of Interest and Priorities. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Strategic Advancement Section staff described the 20th requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines and how applicants can demonstrate alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans.

Fossum highlighted the Watershed Planning Tool as a valuable resource for understanding project alignment, watershed priorities, and metrics for project benefits. Fossum explained that future projects will be evaluated on alignment with the Initial Watershed Plans and anticipated benefits. Fossum also noted

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that project tracking and prioritization efforts are intended to support strategic decision-making across the watershed.

Chair Cadwallader inquired whether SIPs had ever been rejected by the Board of Supervisors. Fossum stated that rejection is uncommon, although some back-and-forth discussions took place with another Watershed Area and the ROC several years ago.

Fossum inquired whether the WASC wanted to emphasize leverage funding expectations moving forward. Committee Members supported establishing a 50% leverage funding target as an aspirational goal to encourage additional outside funding and preserve available SCW Program resources for future projects. Chair Cadwallader emphasized that WASC funds are heavily committed and that encouraging outside funding sources would help sustain implementation of future projects.

Member Orija suggested discouraging requests with no outside funding and exploring tiered approaches to leverage funding based on project type and funding amount. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes recommended against requiring leverage funding but instead encouraging it, additionally suggesting that leverage funding percentages could vary based on project scale, with lower thresholds for smaller projects and higher expectations for larger ones. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also encouraged the WASC to consider flexibility for non-traditional applicants. Member Joshua Soliz supported the idea of a tiered approach to leverage funding depending on project scale and cost. Member Margie Hoyt emphasized the importance of balancing leverage funding goals with equity considerations for disadvantaged communities and smaller cities that may lack funding capacity. Member Susie Santilena suggested stronger leverage funding expectations for PMRs and construction-focused projects.

Fossum highlighted operations and maintenance (O&M) funding challenges, noting that O&M funding needs are becoming increasingly important as projects approach implementation and long-term maintenance responsibilities. Chair Cadwallader emphasized that leverage funding discussions should occur early in project development processes.

Fossum requested feedback regarding geographic opportunity areas and desired project locations. Chair Cadwallader identified the Palos Verdes area and dewatering wells as opportunity areas, noting concerns about large volumes of water being discharged to the ocean rather than captured for beneficial use. Chair Cadwallader also referenced drought preparedness and wildfire concerns, citing a need in the Palos Verdes area. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes noted that the Watershed Planning Tool reflects limited project investment in portions of the Dominguez Channel watershed, along the northern and eastern watershed boundaries, and in areas near San Pedro. Member Orija emphasized unincorporated communities such as Lennox and West Carson, questioning whether outreach and project investment efforts are adequately reaching those areas. Upon inquiry, Fossum clarified that unincorporated status does not necessarily prevent project implementation through the Municipal Program.

Member Santilena mentioned future considerations for the Watershed Planning Tool, including the importance of understanding drainage areas and pollution pathways when evaluating project impacts, and expressed interest in accessing Watershed Planning map layers on the Spatial Data Library. Public Works staff explained that drainage and runoff calculations are incorporated through the Initial Watershed Plans' Appendices G and H during project evaluation and noted that opportunity area maps are updated following SIP approvals.

Member Hoyt identified opportunities in Gardena and nearby areas to improve stormwater treatment and groundwater recharge before runoff enters the Dominguez Channel watershed. The WASC discussed infiltration mapping layers and the possibility of incorporating political feasibility considerations into project planning processes. Chair Cadwallader commented that political support from local elected officials can significantly influence project feasibility and success of implementation. The Committee acknowledged that some communities may have greater resistance to infrastructure projects despite demonstrated need.

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Watershed Coordinator Shrodes expressed interest in increased development of new green space and nature-based solutions, particularly in underserved and heavily built-out areas. Member Hoyt suggested increased coordination with Councils of Governments (COGs) and the League of California Cities to improve information-sharing and regional collaboration. Chair Cadwallader supported improved regional coordination efforts while noting previous challenges working with COGs. Members also identified San Pedro and Wilmington as additional priority areas for future project investment.

Chair Cadwallader noted that less visible communities and unincorporated areas may be overlooked during project development and suggested developing reference lists identifying underserved areas for future decision-making. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes suggested additional opportunities for smaller-scale projects that would still contribute to regional watershed goals.

Member Santilena referenced the WASC's previously funded Los Angeles Community College (LACC) project as an example of offsite stormwater capture and expressed interest in increased school collaboration opportunities, especially considering that schools are among the largest landowners of Los Angeles County. Member Santilena also emphasized the importance of prioritizing long-term O&M funding alongside leverage funding considerations as projects move closer to implementation.

Fossum asked what kinds of Scientific Studies (SS) the WASC would like to see apply. Fossum highlighted recent updates to SS guidelines and expectations, including the formation of a Scientific Advisory Panel that will focus on County-wide scientific priorities and support the development of guidance documents. Fossum noted that other WASCs, including North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB), have solicited specific SS proposals to obtain data the WASC was interested in. Fossum inquired about potential partnerships with universities and outside organizations. Member Santilena expressed interest in reducing redundant studies and increasing coordinated regional scientific efforts involving multiple stakeholders and agencies. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes suggested future studies focused on green space opportunity areas, vacant lots, and underutilized parcels. Watershed Coordinator Shrodes also expressed interest in improved reporting on completed Scientific Studies and lessons learned. Fossum noted that even studies not selected for funding may still provide valuable findings and recommendations.

Fossum asked the WASC members for feedback on the SIP deliberation workbooks. Member Santilena expressed appreciation for the workbooks, stating that distilling information into comparison matrices would allow Members to evaluate projects side by side. Member Santilena found the Watershed Coordinators' summaries near the end of deliberations especially useful. Member Santilena suggested including more "quick stats" for each project, such as projected load reductions, acreage impacts, community benefits, leverage funding, and cumulative totals. The Committee noted that while the included comparison efforts were helpful, there were limitations because the module outputs did not always accurately translate project information.

Other Members agreed that concise summaries and comparison tools would make the deliberation materials easier to review.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comment cards submitted.

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 Cadwallader thanked WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

See [SCW website](#) for meeting details.

SSMB WASC - May 20, 2026						
		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve the March 18, 2026 SSMB WASC Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	CJ Caluag	X	Daniel Bradbury		Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	Matthew Veeh		Tammy Hierlihy	X	A
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart				
Agency	LA County Sanitation District	Dave Pierce	X	Christopher Lapaz		A
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Margie Hoyt	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	<u>Craig Cadwallader</u>	X	Mary Simun		Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Caroline Orija	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Elizabeth Sala				
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Carson	Gilbert Marquez		Roland Jen	X	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	X	Virginia Wei		Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Geremew Amenu		Lara Awad	X	A
Municipal Members	Torrance	Shin Furukawa		Joshua Soliz	X	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Doug Krauss	X	Geraldine Trivedi		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Miller Zou	X	Clifford Shum		A
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Vanessa Hevener	X	Jeannie Naughton		Y
Watershed Coordinator	Heal the Bay	Nancy Shrodes	X			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	10
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	4
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Other Attendees

Alexander Iglesias R
 Alexia
 Anthony Vidal
 Aric M
 Chris
 Eric Bonilla
 Grey Crisanto
 James Carpenter - St
 Jason Jade Pepito
 kmoreno
 Linet Khechatoorian
 Lisa Kim
 Luis Perez
 Marisol Ibarra
 Michael Ku
 Michael Scaduto
 Ryanna Fossum
 Sophia Catalan
 SSMB AV
 Susan Robinson

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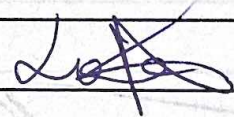
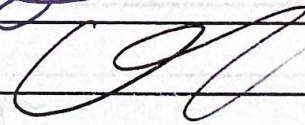
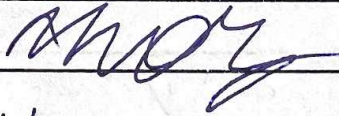
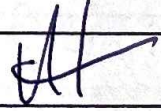
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>CJ Caluag</i>
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Matthew Veeh	West Basin MWD	Primary	
Tammy Hierlihy	West Basin MWD	Alternate	<i>TH</i>
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	Primary	
		Alternate	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts	Primary	<i>DP</i>
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Cathie Santo Domingo	LA Recreation & Parks	Primary	
Darryl Ford	LA Recreation & Parks	Alternate	<i>DF</i>
Margie Hoyt	Resident	Primary	<i>Margie G. Hoyt</i>
Craig Cadwallader	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Primary	<i>Craig</i>
Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Alternate	
Caroline Orija	LA County Public Health	Primary	<i>CO</i>
Elizabeth Sala	Resident	Primary	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Gilbert Marquez	Carson	Primary	
Roland Jen	Carson	Alternate	
Susie Santilena	Los Angeles	Primary	
Virginia Wei	Los Angeles	Alternate	
Geremew Amenu	Unincorporated County	Primary	
Lara Awad	Unincorporated County	Alternate	
Shin Furukawa	Torrance	Primary	
Joshua Soliz	Torrance	Alternate	
Doug Krauss	EWMP: Beach Cities	Primary	
Geraldine Trivedi	EWMP: Beach Cities	Alternate	
Miller Zou	EWMP: Dominguez	Primary	
Clifford Shum	EWMP: Dominguez	Alternate	
Vanessa Hevener	EWMP: Peninsula	Primary	
Jeannie Naughton	EWMP: Peninsula	Alternate	
Nancy Shrodes	Heal the Bay	Primary	