

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Q1 Report

By Melina Sempill Watts

December 9, 2021



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

Land Acknowledgments, Black Lives Matter and Biodiversity Survival

Diversity, equity and inclusion
is foundational.

Chumash cultural values ask
each of us to include all living
beings in this conversation.



Photo Courtesy Wishtoyo

The Brown Act

Thanks to Dave Pedersen,
Kirk Allen and County
Counsel for Helping Guide
How Watershed
Coordinators Can Do the
Work and Comply with Both
the Letter and the Spirit of
the Brown Act

Art from Microsoft Collection





NSMB Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Why did we finally get to pass the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan?

Mike Antos, Stantec, was able to translate key element of Measure W program so that NSMB watershed coordinator could grok the goals.

Coordinator's goal is to develop and fund projects / programs rather than to implement them.

Projects and programs are for cities, agencies, non-profits and community members to implement.

Blue Pony and Child at Topanga Public Library, Artist: Megan Rice; Year: 2012



Photo by Watts

Stakeholder Meeting List

- Viewridge Estates Tour
- NSMB WASC
- Brown Act Discussion
- CA Watershed Network
- City of Calabasas
- Malibu-Las Virgenes Council of Governments
- LVMWD
- Watershed Discussion
- Joe Bellomo
- Agoura Hills Creek Cleanup
- Westlake Village
- Wishtoyo Foundation
- Katie Yaroslavsky + Sophie Freeman
- Malibu Creek Watershed Enhanced Watershed Management

- Isabelle Duvivier
- Wildlife Conservation Board/Calabasas
- Funders' Fair
- Senator Stern Community Townhall: Preparing for the Next Fire.
- Dave Roberts
- Madelyn Glickfeld, Co-Chair NSMB WASC
- Jerry West, Jeremy Wolf
- Kirsten James (call)
- NSMB WASC
- Mike Antos + Tori Klug
- Dave Rydman
- Blake Whittington
- Watershed Coordinators, Coordinate!
- L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board
- SMM Fund
- Cung Nguyen
- Mike Antos

Funders' Fair



Photo by NPS

Isabelle Duvivier and the Bermuda Roof Project Idea

Cover of Venice Living, Screenshot by Watts



Native Plants Kit Idea, Native Plants Online Sale

- ▶ Began to connect City of Malibu staff and Water District 29 to Dave Roberts, LVMWWD, TreePeople and TreeTrust to cross-promote Online Native Plants Sale
- ▶ Began to seek funding to support Native Plants Kit project idea



Photo by LVMWWD

Viewridge Estates Tour March 31, 2021 and After

- ▶ While staying in touch with community members at Viewridge Estates, coordinator became aware of local angst about perceived maintenance gaps for newly planted trees on Viewridge. Coordinator connected with Art Murphy, District Tree Superintendent at County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to allow community members to feel heard.
- ▶ Kudos to Alberto Grajeda, Los Angeles County Department Public Works for grace in working to resolve dilemmas.



Engaging a Broad Set of Conventional and Unconventional Stakeholders

- Attended a class on growing native plants lead by Antonio Sanchez, Santa Monica Mountains Fund, became aware of his deep concern for the under-funded low-income BIPOC interns (\$20 per day) he has on staff who are in need of a living wage to sustain their work on Woolsey Fire restoration.
- Committed to reaching out to fellow watershed coordinators Carlos Moran and Rich Watson to learn more about workforce development opportunities.
- Community members who engaged in SOEP development and/or watershed insights include, Nathan Hamburger, City of Agoura Hills, Kirsten James, community member / water quality expert and Dr. David White, from Once Upon a Watershed in Ojai, working in Ventura County.
- Joined the Board of Directors of the California Watershed Network; shared their assessments of upcoming watershed-related legislation both within the NSMB WASC and with watershed coordinators across Los Angeles County.
- Additional time with valuable connections includes lunch with former watershed coordinator Blake Whittington, phone calls with Debra Sharpton, focusing on a potential project at Seminole Springs, a meeting with Tom Hicks, a water rights lawyer, to learn about his current work in sustaining streamflow in Ventura and elsewhere and a phone call with community member Michael Almory focusing on his projects to improve water quality.
- Invited Erik Ringelberg, California Director of Freshwater Trust to become potential board member for California Watershed Network. Strongly support CA Watershed Network aspirations to include more BIPOC on Board of Directors.
- Established a good rapport with Heather McIntire, a grant administrator at the California Wildlife Board.
- Reconnected with former State Senator Fran Pavley.
- Connected green architect/sustainability star Isabelle Duvivier to Katy Yaroslavsky, office of Supervisor Kuehl, because of their shared perspective on the value of trees in Nature Based Solutions.
- Jeremy Wolf, Chief of Staff for Senator Henry Stern and coordinator met Jerry West, Interim Director, California Department of State Parks (Malibu) and staffer Danielle LeFer to invite them to participate in Safe, Clean Water] Attended a class on growing native plants lead by Antonio Sanchez, Santa Monica Mountains Fund, became aware of his deep concern for the under-funded low-income BIPOC interns (\$20 per day) he has on staff who are in need of a living wage to sustain their work on Woolsey Fire restoration.

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Photo by Watts

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Photo by Watts

Connecting L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, NPS, California Department of State Parks and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy



Invited Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board staff to come present to the NSMB WASC about the trash conditional permit and connected with both staff and leadership at State Parks, National Park Service and Mountains Recreation Authority to invite them to come hear this presentation and to connect with project ideas that could be funded by Measure W to better serve the whole of the watershed

Planned Engagement Activities



- ▶ Planned engagement meetings include:
 - ▶ Liberty Canyon Water Quality Project Community Tour, set for July 15, 2021
 - ▶ First North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting, set for September 23, 2021
 - ▶ Invited to attend Calabasas Pumpkin Festival on October 16, 2021
 - ▶ Invited to speak to the Calabasas Environmental Commission on November 2, 2021

Watershed Education / Outreach



Photo by Watts

- Per the request of City of Calabasas, a press release about the watershed coordinator was sent out, resulting in this coverage on page 3,

<https://valleynewsgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/WCN-1.pdf>

- Coordinator invited to write for *Earth Island Journal* on local native plants nursery lead, Antonio Sanchez; piece in progress.
- Created presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram for North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community.
- Addressing the concerns of Madelyn Glickfeld and other stakeholders that open space agencies have been putting aside the subject of the Trash TMDL, connected with Ivar Ridgeway from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to invite Dr. Jun Zhu and Dr. Alexander Prescott speak about the Conditional Trash Permit Waiver in the Northern Santa Monica Bay Watersheds and then invited both leadership and water-related staff from NPS, SMRCA and State Parks to attend the NSMB WASC to hear this presentation and have the opportunity to engage in a conversation about how to begin to meet the trash TMDL.

Meetings Held By Others



Photo by Watts

- ▶ March 31, 2021: Tour of the proposed Viewridge Estates water quality project lead by Bruce Hamamoto
- ▶ April 22, 2021: Invited to serve on Board of Directors, California Watershed Network, will attend monthly.

- ▶ April 28, 2021: Introduced self + attended Las Virgenes Municipal Council of Government meeting
- ▶ May 1, 2021: Agoura Hills Creek Clean Up
- ▶ May 6, 2021: Malibu Creek Watershed Enhanced Watershed Management Event
- ▶ May 25, 2021: Senator Henry Stern's Community Townhall: Preparing for the Next Fire.
- ▶ June 20, 2021: Funders' Fair hosted by multiple Sacramento / Federal agencies (online)
- ▶ June 21; Attended "Watershed Coordinators, Coordinate!" Event hosted by Mike Antos and Tori Klug, Stantec, this was incredibly helpful for growing knowledge + creating *esprit de corps*
- ▶ June 23: Toured met Santa Monica Mountains Fund's Nursery Manager Antonio Sanchez, growing out plants for NPS for Woolsey Fire recovery work.

▶ Monthly:

- ▶ Attended monthly California Watershed Network
- ▶ Attended monthly L.A. watershed coordinator meetings
- ▶ Attended and spoke at monthly North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Advisory Steering Council Meetings
- ▶ Started to attend Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Government meetings
- ▶ Initially held off attending IRWM meetings out of concern for Brown Act, later on, able to start attending in

Cost Share



Photo by Watts

- ▶ Connected with office of Congressman Lieu to see if funding would be available for potential project on NPS site; it was not
- ▶ Connected with staff at Wildlife Conservation Board to discuss potential project on NPS site
- ▶ Connected with Dawn Afman, USDA-NRCS to explore funding and saddened to learn that funds are only allocated for agricultural sites now
- ▶ Connected via email with staff at One Cause (fundraising website)
- ▶ See graph C

Q1 Problems?

Problem Solved as of July 2021.

- Initial slow start due to complexities of passing the NSMB SOEP!



Successes?

- ▶ Getting connected to stakeholders and community members, learning about great project opportunities, starting to set up funding options and meeting coordinators.
- ▶ Setting up first NSMBWC meeting:
- ▶ First public North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community meeting will be set for Thursday, September 23, 2021 in the evening.
- ▶ Coordinator plans to invite guest speakers, Bermuda architect / artist John Gardner and fog catcher creator Abel Cruz Gutierrez from Peruanas Sin Agua. In order to increase community participation, Coordinator will ask community leaders to function as co-hosts.



Photo by John Gardner

Looking Forward



Photo, Watts' Collection

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Q2 Report

By Melina Sempill Watts

December 9, 2021



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

fit : 1,000,000 Swimmers

Land Acknowledgments, Black Lives Matter and Biodiversity Survival

What does shared happiness
look like?

What does equal opportunity
feel like?

Is hope something we can
quantify?

Photo from Swim Uphill website,
created by ED Para-Olympian
and Swim Teacher Jamal Hill



Quarter 2, 2021

Momentum!



Photo by Watts

NSMB WASC passes NSMB SOEP in August 2021

Community projects and programs will be co-created by coordinator, stakeholders and community.

Projects and programs will be *implemented* by community partners, cities, agencies, non-profits, and other engaged watershed partners.





First Ever North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting: 70 Attendees via Zoom

- Originally imagining this on-site at the Mountain Mermaid Inn, transformed this to a Zoom event.
- Coordinator invited local leaders Bill Buerge, owner of Mountain Mermaid Inn, Susan Nissman and Jeremy Wolf, Chief of Staff to State Senator Henry Stern, to co-host the event. Their leadership helped draw in local viewership to the event.
- Featured: NSMB Stakeholders
- Dr. Jun Zhu, L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Bermuda architect / artist John Gardner to talk roofs/cisterns
- Peruvian innovator Abel Cruz Gutierrez to talk about fog-catchers.
- Special thanks to translator Javier Marrone from UCLA whose immediate connection to guest Abel Cruz Gutierrez made the event shine.
- Wrote an [article on John Gardner](#), promoted the event across social media and in such venues as Linked In, Facebook, and Twitter, and via [The Acorn](#) and [Malibu Times](#).

Photo by Watts

Support for LVMWD / California Native Plants Society Online Native Plants Sale



OCTOBER 2021

- ▶ Invited City of Malibu to Share Opportunity
- ▶ Shared with Community Outreach / News Sites in Topanga
- ▶ Invited L.A. County Waterworks District #29 to Share Opportunity
- ▶ Shared Via Social Media

Photo, LVMWD

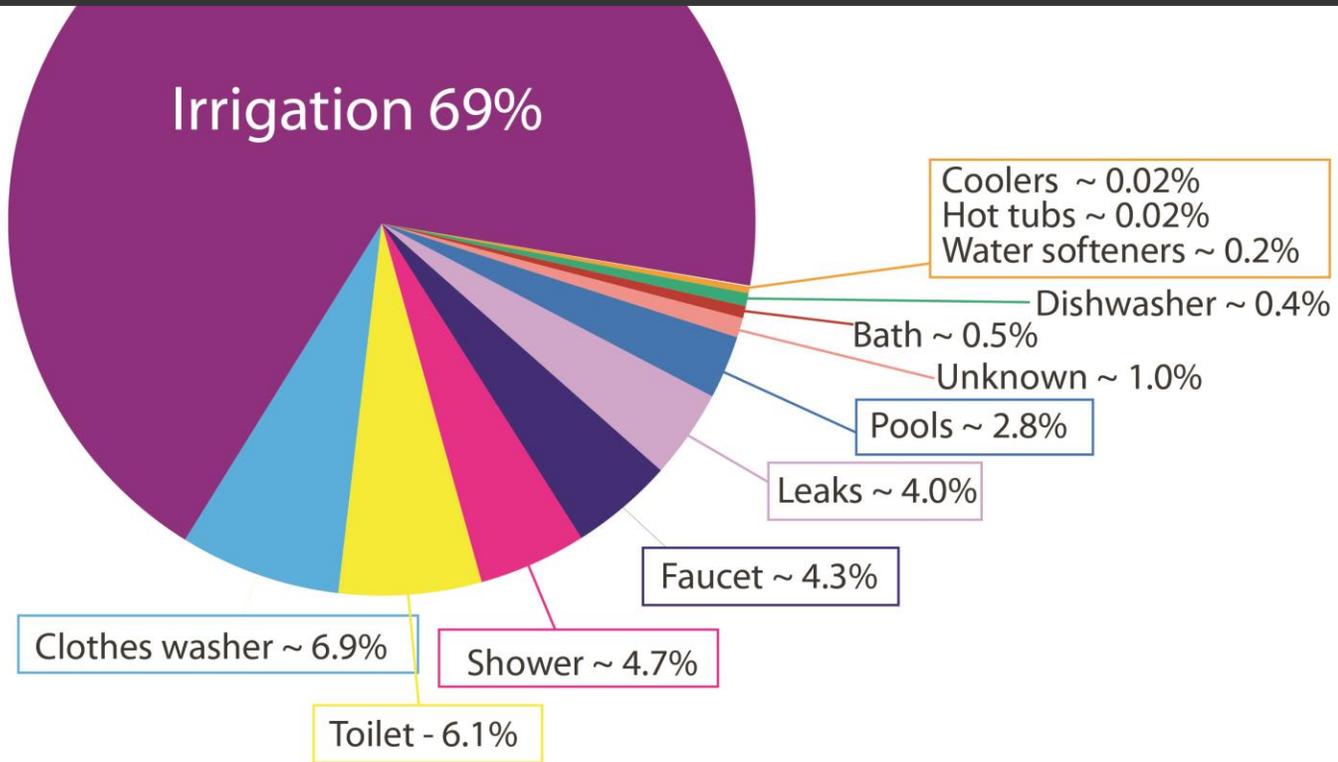


Native Plants Kit Project



- ▶ Found grant opportunity via Supervisorial District 3
 - ▶ Coordinated call with Tessa Charnofsky and Dave Roberts
 - ▶ Wrote first draft of grant
 - ▶ Supervisorial District 3 Grant submitted, request amount \$8,500.
 - ▶ Project requires \$100K.
 - ▶ Opportunities for cities / agencies to buy coupons for Native Plant Kits at scale.
- ▶ (Spoiler alert in the third quarter, this grant is a success.)

Why Does Reducing Water Use in Gardens Matter? LVMWD Study Results



Public Outreach for Los Angeles County Department of Public Work Liberty Canyon Green Street Project



Photo by Watts

Facilitated community engagement in support of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' Liberty Canyon Green Street project for an application due on July 30 with the goal of eliciting community support letters. After conferring with Alberto Grajeda and Josafat Flores from Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, set event for July 15, allowing a week to set up invitations, to issue press releases and to invite the public, to do the event and then to request letters of support for the project. Coordinator reached out to Liberty Canyon Facebook groups (there are two,) on the Next Door app, at the local [Patch](#), via the [Agoura Hills City website](#) (thanks to Kelly Fisher) and sent press releases to other venues. Received letters of support from community member Sally Bartel, Rudy C'Dealva, Liberty Canyon HOA president, Dennis Washburn, and Senator Fran Pavley

Seminole Springs Dam Repair Project

Met with Debbie Sharpton, consultant, and Jeremy Kerns, the President of the HOA, Seminole Springs Mobile Home Community. They want to restore the earthen dam + manmade lake at Seminole Springs, provide water supply for fires, some irrigation, and recreation for residents. Project would address public safety (unrestored earthen dam is unsafe in flood conditions) and could create bioswales to capture run-off from the mobile home park before stormwater hits the creek. Upon suggestion by Coordinator, Kerns and Sharpton are exploring developing a phase two creek restoration project to reduce sediment, create bioswale /riparian habitat, and improve safety for homeowners/downstream residents. Project would benefit a community, much of it low income, but can a project on private land can qualify for Measure W funding?

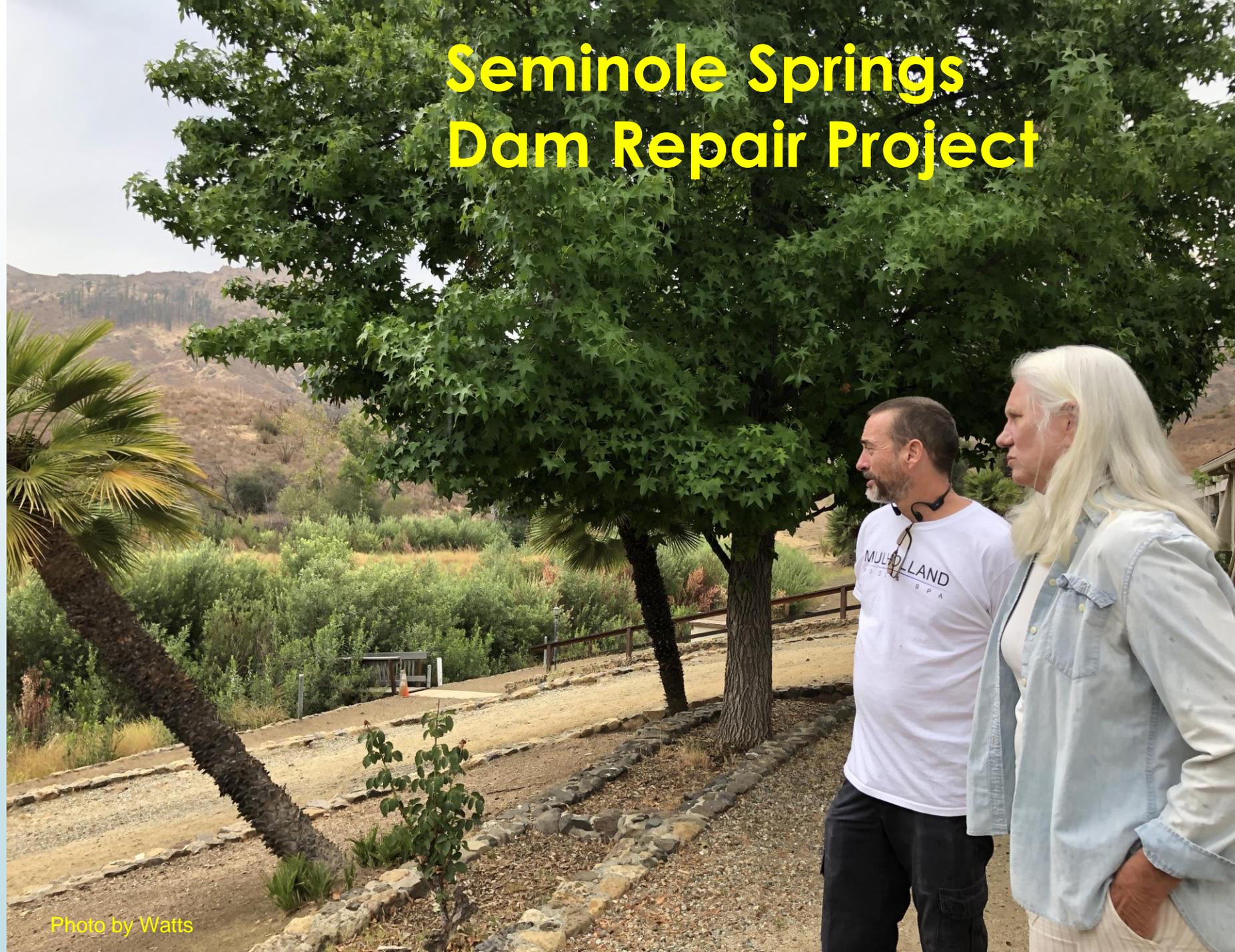


Photo by Watts

TED Talks



Reached out to the TED program to propose a partnership creating an event centering on a series of talks focusing on water supply / Measure W goals, featuring leadership from the Los Angeles County water community; coordinator is talked with Nicholas Olivetti of TED.

Ball is in his court.

Photo by Watts

Outreach with City of Calabasas



- Attended Calabasas Pumpkin Festival in October
- Gave talk to Calabasas Environmental Commission in November

Outreach Focusing on Pure Water Project Demonstration Site



Photo by Watts

- ▶ Dreamed of doing a site tour with David Pedersen after our first in person North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Advisory Steering Committee meeting...instead going to do a mini-film with Pedersen and Calabasas Youth Councilmember Zachary Rosoff and peers.

Document the extent of partnerships and networks you have engaged

- ▶ California Watershed Network meetings
Suggested Erik Ringelberg, California Director of the Freshwater Trust, (who is interested) as a potential board member for California Watershed Network. Also suggested water rights lawyer Tom Hicks, who declined as he is too busy. CWN provides information about upcoming legislation, funding/grants, and other opportunities to support watersheds in California. CWN wants to better integrate DEI goals / values in their work.
- ▶ Agoura Hills Animal Shelter
Pursued charismatic idea from Tevin Schmitt at Wishtoyo, to do an Adopt a Plant project at Agoura Hills Animal Shelter but AHAS staff did not pursue idea.
- ▶ Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments
Attended LYMCOG on July 20 to share Measure W goals and opportunities with attendees.
- ▶ Watershed Coordinator meeting
In partnership with Richard Watson, Julie Millet and Adi Liberman, prepared for July 29, Watershed Coordinator meeting. Coordinator's presentation focused on learning lessons with writing (and rewriting) the NSMB SOEP and on suggesting potential collaborative opportunities.
 - ▶ Supported Adi Liberman's powerful list of opportunities for watershed coordinators to collaborate on cross- outreach, which should lower costs and lead to a more cohesive outcome.
- ▶ Garapito Creek/Topanga Creek
Discussed water quality / creek restoration project idea at Garapito Creek/Topanga Creek mainstem: parallel to Viewridge Estates water quality project currently being implemented by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and discussed other restoration downstream with Chad Christensen and then with Clark Stevens. Project (or projects) would require a willing property owner (or owners) as an opening gambit. Clark envisions a related project at the place where Garapito Creek exits the former Topanga Corral site as it crosses under Topanga Canyon Boulevard in a culvert and enters Edelman Park; this would also require a willing property owner.
- ▶ Liberty Canyon
Agoura Hills community members have expressed interest in a potential expansion of Los Angeles County Flood Control Liberty Canyon Storm Drain water quality project into a cross-agency collaboration leading to a potential creek restoration project. This concept led to reaching out to stakeholders and setting a city / agency meeting for September 14, 2021 (subsequently rescheduled to 11/3/2021.)
- ▶ Bermuda Stepped Limestone Roof + Cistern Project
Emailed Darla Miller at Topanga Community House about roof / cistern idea and pitched concept to a friend who works with the Hilton Foundation, but her boss declined to allow her to forward the idea. Susan Nissman thinks this concept could get traction at Topanga Elementary School. Invited Amy Weisberg, Kindergarten teacher and chair of Topanga Elementary School Safety, Environment and Climate Committee to meet to discuss, also reached out to Dr. Alisa Land Hill, a parent who is working on the science program at TES about potential stepped roof / cistern project.



Photo by Watts



Photo by Watts

Document the extent of partnerships and networks you have engaged, Page 2

- Fog Catchers
Discussing fog catcher projects with multiple stakeholders; pitched to friend who works with Hilton Foundation, but her boss declined to allow her to forward idea. Currently looking for venues with abundant coastal fog. Multiple community members interested in building fog catchers on their own property including Ken Widen, Topanga and Kian and Joel Shulman, Malibu, as is Melissa Baffa, Executive Director, Ventura Land Trust (out of NSMB watershed but a community leader nevertheless.)
- Introduced Dave Roberts to Jenn Rodriguez, Growing Works and set up native plants nursery tour with Antonio Sanchez and Dave Roberts at NPS site.
- EV Charger Rebates
On the premise that reducing climate change inputs will reduce probability of long-term drought, shared EV Charger rebates with agency leads.
- Interviewed Antonio Sanchez, NPS nursery manager to write article on water conservation via nativescaping.
- Connected Malibu property owner Naomi Louise Warne to RCDSMM for potential creek restoration project in Ramirez Canyon.
- Setting up conversation with WCB staff and Danielle LeFer to see if Malibu Bluffs restoration / erosion project is a fit for Wildlife Conservation Board funding.
- Reached out Christos Chrysilio, Director of Architectural & Engineering Services, LAUSD to discuss possible Bermuda roof / cistern project at LAUSD at Topanga Elementary School; he's interested.
- Exploring idea of bringing Abel Cruz Gutierrez to L.A. County to select sites for fog catchers.
- Invited Loni Yost, SCE to participate in potential Liberty Canyon Creek conversation event.
- Thanks to Madelyn Glickfeld connected with Renee Purdy, regional board who invited Dr. JB Nye to talk water quality to NSMBWC.

And...



Photo by Watts

- ▶ Connected Tiffany Chung, Los Angeles County Flood Control and Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains to discuss Trancas Lagoon restoration.
- ▶ Met individually with Fran Diamond, Susan Nissman and Roxanne Hughes to discuss community priorities. Reached out to Gail McTune, Bill Buerge, Mountain Mermaid, Sue and Martin Schmitt, Trust Ranch, in Topanga. Connected with Kian Shulman, Poison Free Malibu.

Document your effort to engage a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders

- Reached out to the TED program to propose a partnership creating an event centered on a series of talks focusing on Measure W goals featuring leadership from the Los Angeles County water community.

- Madelyn Glickfeld suggested connections at The Nature Conservancy; coordinator has upcoming meeting
- Invited Mr. John Gardner, Bermuda, to talk roofs/cisterns and water supply at first NSMB Watershed community meeting.
- Invited Mr. Abel Cruz Gutierrez, Peru, to talk fog catchers and water supply at the first NSMB Watershed community meeting.
 - Both Gardner and Gutierrez qualify as pathways towards “engaging a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders.”



Any of the four required engagement meetings you held during the quarter

- ▶ Liberty Canyon Tour, July 15, 2021
- ▶ North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting September 23, 2021



Photo by Watts

An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story house with a white facade and a large, dark solar panel array on the roof. The house is surrounded by lush greenery, including palm trees and other tropical plants. A swimming pool is visible in the foreground. The image is used as a background for the text overlay.

Either of the two required educational events you held during the quarter

- ▶ North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting September 23, 2021
 - ▶ Inclusion of Gardner and Gutierrez helped qualify this event as educational; for community members, talks from key stakeholders, including Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board qualified this event as educational.

Highlights or summary of types of meetings you attended held by others



Photo by Watts

- ▶ California Watershed Network board meetings
- ▶ Watershed Coordinator monthly meetings
 - ▶ Began attending Watershed Coordinator school meeting
 - ▶ Began attending Watershed Coordinator funding meetings
- ▶ Began attending weekly Native Plants meetings put together by LVMWD, TreePeople and TreeTrust

Summary of Cost-share Partner Relationship Development

- Reached out to Topanga Community Center staff to request invitation to discuss potential water supply projects; was not invited.
- Met with Debbie Sharpton and Jeremy Kerns, the President of the HOA at the Seminole Springs Mobile Home Community. Exploring the possibility of seeing if this project would be eligible for Technical Assistance Team support. Asked Clark Stevens, RCDSMM for his take on this project.
- Invited Waterworks district 29/LVMWD to participate in native plants collaboration including California Native Plants Sale
- City of Malibu / LVMWD to partner on CA Native plants' sale with LVMWD
- Exploring WCB grant opportunities for Liberty Canyon Creek restoration project idea
- Exploring Innovative conservation grant MWD for Native Kits Project
- Exploring MWD grant for roof / cistern LAUSD project at TES



Photo MWD

Summary of Leverage Funding Pursuits

- ▶ Explored the possibility of the upcoming Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Proposition 50 grant program at the request of Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas; the opportunity is specifically for water quality centered scientific research. No projects in place currently that match the opportunity.
- ▶ Connected with Laurie Montoya to request more capacity the next time the California Funding Fair is hosted, as 11 out of 12 watershed coordinators were not able to register because events were at capacity and had no more room for would-be attendees.
 - ▶ Shared California Funders' Fair brochure with stakeholders and with other coordinators.
- ▶ Co-wrote grant for Supervisorial District 3 with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, TreePeople and Treetrust to help fund Native Plants Kit project to reduce water use / reduce fertilizer use / decrease erosion; note that the ask is about 5% of the need for the entire project, but is a start.

Photo Office of Supervisor Kuehl



Engagement Meetings Held or Attended: 59



Photo by Watts

Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

- ▶ L.A. County, District 3
- ▶ TreePeople / TreeTrust
- ▶ Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- ▶ CALTRANS
- ▶ TED
- ▶ MWD, 2 Grants
- ▶ LAUSD
- ▶ Topanga Elementary School
- ▶ Wildlife Conservation Board



Photo by Watts

Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued



- ▶ Los Angeles County, District 3
- ▶ CALTRANS
- ▶ TED
- ▶ MWD (2 Grants)
- ▶ Wildlife Conservation Board
- ▶ Patagonia
- ▶ Watershed Network Funding Portal:
<https://www.redesign.la/project-funding>



Photo from Malibu Labor Exchange website

Engagement Efforts Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

- Asked leadership at STANTEC for an event to educate coordinators about how best to work with the technical advisory teams.
- In partnership with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, TreePeople and TreeTrust tried to collaborate with Santa Monica Mountains Fund to provide financial support for their BIPOC low-income interns who are learning from and working for nursery manager Antonio Sanchez at the native plants nursery at the National Parks Service facility at Satwiwa.
- Terry Dipple and coordinator have been discussing how supporting work to address homelessness and water quality interrelate, including intriguing art / housing funding partnerships.
- Coordinator spoke with Tevin Schmitt at Wishtoyo about the possibility of installing one or more fog-catchers at Wishtoyo Village atop the cliffs in Malibu.
- Considering projects that may require Technical Assistance Teams, Seminole Springs certainly has community interest but may or may not be eligible as the HOA is part of a for-profit business.
- Coordinator continues to advocate for swimming literacy for BIPOC students in Los Angeles County; swimming literacy is integral to students' future ability to work with – and in – and for – water.

Scheduling Concerns or Issues

- ▶ Once the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan was approved by the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Advisory Steering Committee on August 12, 2021, this completely opened up time for the watershed coordinator program.
- ▶ Had to rush to set up Liberty Canyon tour
- ▶ Had to rush to set up NSMBWC meeting to meet deliverables...
- ▶ Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas, asked for coordinator to attend the Pumpkin Festival in October in ... March ... and invited coordinator to present at the Calabasas Environmental Committee months in advance.
Note to self (and possibly, to some readers): **be like Alex.**



Photo City of Calabasas

Expected activities next quarter

- Coordinator may apply to funding from Metropolitan Water District for the Native Plants Kit project that Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District envisioned that would be managed by TreePeople; grant open in January.

- Coordinator hopes to apply to funding from Metropolitan Water District for planning / design for a proposed roof / cistern project with a demonstration fog-catcher at Topanga Elementary School. Discussions will be underway soon with both TreePeople and Clark Stevens, RCDSMM about which entity would best serve this project. Coordinator notes that LAUSD staff expressed strong enthusiasm for working with TreePeople, it appeared that this non-profit is their first choice.
- Coordinator will reach out to Nick Olivetti, TED, to see if the opportunity to create a water supply TED event can come to pass.
- Coordinator will set an appointment to talk trash with CALTRANS leadership to discuss the Golden Shovel Film Competition.
- Coordinator worked to see if there would be a possibility of a creek restoration project at Liberty Canyon, coordinating an agency / city site tour on November 3, 2021. (There was.)
- Coordinator will connect with Zachary Rosoff who is on the Calabasas Mayor's Youth Council Board and runs the Calabasas High School Roots and Shoots program to talk cistern/ roof ideas and to see if students want to visit / work with native plants at Santa Monica Mountains Fund NPS Nursery run by Antonio Sanchez.
- Coordinator will spend a day in Topanga with Terri Alex, Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29 to help her connect with the community so as to best support water conservation outreach in Topanga.
- Coordinator will persist in setting a meeting with Clark Stevens and Seminole Springs advocates Debra Sharpton and Jeremy Kerns.
- Ecosia is new alternative to Google that funds forest growth; coordinator will explore if this a source for funding for work in NSMB watershed.
- Next NSMBW Community meeting is set for January. Coordinator will explore the idea of doing a pre-filmed tour of the Pure Water Project demonstration site, will reach out to Eastern Municipal Water District to hear from them about their proactive water conservation / legislation work and will reach out to Dr. Brian Fagan to learn about effective (and ineffective) drought management techniques throughout history.

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Co-Coordination Updates

By Melina Sempill Watts

December 9, 2021



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

Biodiversity Survival, Black Lives Matter and Land Acknowledgments

- ▶ Colonialism is based on the premise that the dominant culture deserves land, cultural dominance and access to resources – and that doing damage to ... everyone else ... is the *modus operandi* for the dominant culture. Can we ditch colonialism?
- ▶ The way forward is to acknowledge that we are all part of what Buddhists define as “the community of all living things.”
- ▶ Black Lives Matter.
- ▶ First Nations Cultures Matter.
- ▶ Biodiversity Matters.

Oak at the
Chumash
Museum,
Photo by
Watts 2021



**Remembrance
Day
for
Lost Species
November 30, 2021**



How Many Southern Steelhead Trout in Malibu Creek the Last RCDSMM Count in 2015?



Water quality matters.
Water quantity matters.
Habitat matters.

1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP

- ▶ Attended the Pumpkin Festival with the Calabasas Environmental Committee in October; met members of the Mayor's Youth Council
- ▶ Presented at the Calabasas Environmental Committee in November
- ▶ Began to plan for January North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting, January 27, 2022



Connecting Stakeholders and Community Members: Terri Alex, Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29 and the Topanga Tour

► Terri Alex,
“To teach water conservation to a community, you have to know the community.”

► We decided to introduce her to members of the community in Topanga.

► Café Mimosa

► Principal Kevin Kassebaum and Topanga Elementary School

► Topanga Community House

► Bill Buerge, Mountain Mermaid and the Butterfly Reserve

► Topanga Canyon Bistro

► Topanga Public Library



Photo
by
Watts

2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts

- ▶ Looking to connect with each stakeholder for updates
- ▶ Potential projects at or with:
 - ▶ Seminole Springs
 - ▶ Homeowners for fogcatchers
 - ▶ Topanga Elementary School / Possibly Calabasas High School
 - ▶ California State Parks
 - ▶ Liberty Canyon
 - ▶ Viewridge Estates
 - ▶ CALTRANS
 - ▶ The Nature Conservancy
 - ▶ TEDX
 - ▶ LVMWD / TreePeople
 - ▶ Water quality Tik Tok project



Three dreams, three
outcomes pending.

Topanga Elementary School

Roof / Cistern + Fogcatcher
Project

Ms. Weiss' Dream Gardening Teacher
Project Idea

Waterworks District 29 / West Basin
Municipal Water District Rainbarrel
Project



3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

Thinking Inside the Box:
Can the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed learn how to invite star applicants to apply to become Technical Assistance Team providers with Los Angeles County?



4. Community Priorities

- ▶ Agoura Hills leaders and community members continue to ask about the Liberty Canyon Creek Restoration Concept and how they can support this.
- ▶ Some Viewridge Estate community members circulating petition against upcoming water quality project. Unclear how larger community feels.
- ▶ Topanga community members and leaders excited about potential projects at Topanga Elementary School.

Photo by Watts

5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- ▶ Connected with Dashboard Earth to advise them as to how watershed coordinators can help them design conservation / climate change app; connected by them to Accelerate Resilience, L.A., ARLA which is Andy Lipkis' new group. They are considering partnering on potential Nature Based Solutions success stories conference.
- ▶ Connected with The Nature Conservancy about potential Nature Based Solutions success stories conference.
- ▶ Attended UCLA Possible Worlds event with sci fi writer Stanley Robinson: his focus was on COPD 26. Met several professors.
- ▶ Spoke with Supervisor Linda Parks about cross / county partnerships
- ▶ Attended wildfire conference hosted by Center for Watershed Health
- ▶ Connected with Amos White, Alameda, 100ktrees4humanity. Connected him to USDA-NRCS and CARCD.



6. Cost-Share Partners

- **First Win: Coordinator Champions and Writes First Draft of Grant to Supervisorial District 3 Funds Native Plants Kit Project for \$8,500**
- LVMWD / TreePeople / Supervisorial District 3 and ... You?
- Reviewing CALTRANS funding opportunities shared by Madelyn Glickfeld
- Introduced Dave Roberts, LVMWD with Antonio Sanchez, SMM Fund
- Introducing Dave Roberts to Growing Works team
- Malibu resident Naomi Diebel re fogcatchers on property
- Connecting with Amy Weiss, teacher and others at TES to set up potential roof /cistern project
- Met Christos Chrysiliou, LAUSD



Photo from Growing Works (potential source for Native Plants Kit)

7. Leverage Funding

First funding win: \$8500 for Native Plants Kit project to go to TreePeople thanks to Supervisorial District 3 grant.

- Attended LAR Urban Water grant brainstorm via Eileen Takata, USACE.
- At Clean California grant webinar
- Reached out to Hammer Sui, CALTRANS
- Hope to apply to MWD for Topanga Elementary School Project and Native Plants Kit project.
- Met Don Croker; if stars align, might apply to Wildlife Conservation Board for potential Liberty Canyon Creek Restoration project.
- Attended IRWM, exploring Measure RR, reached out to Patagonia, DROPS team, on WaterSMART list for 2023.



8. Local Stakeholder Education



- ▶ Attended Calabasas Pumpkin Festival with Calabasas Environmental Council
- ▶ Gave Presentation to Calabasas Environmental Community Council
- ▶ Co-submitted Candidate for the Calabasas City's Annual Carl Gibb Environmental Excellence Award
- ▶ Planning North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting on January 27, 2022
 - ▶ Guest Dr. Brian Fagan author
 - ▶ Partnering with LVMWD to create Pure Water Project film with Calabasas Youth Council member Zachary Rosoff + Dave Pedersen, General Manager, LVMWD

9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

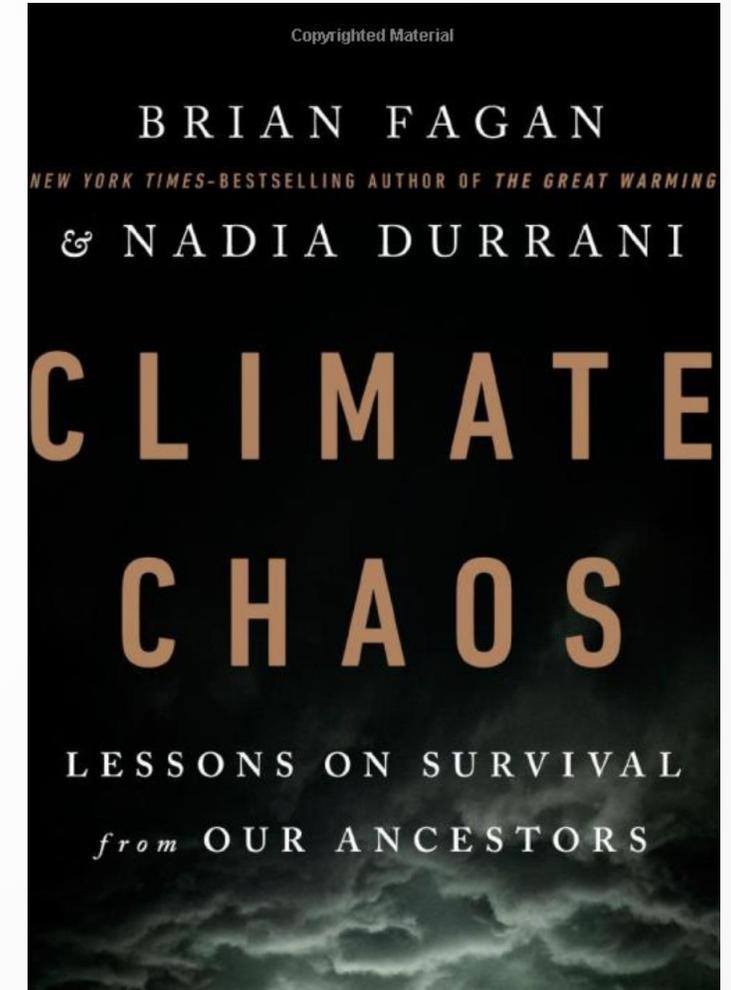
- Attended Equity in Water Training
- Attended Watershed Coordinator Funding group
- Attended Watershed Coordinator School Group (So helpful, thanks to Amanda Begley and Ariel Lew Ai Le Whitson at TreePeople!)
- Shared Fallen fruit and endless orchard website, with presenters at Equity in Water Training Darryl Haddock and Jennifer Arnold, Mike Antos and Tori Klug, see: <https://fallenfruit.org/projects/public-fruit-maps/>



Screenshot by Watts

The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Community Meeting, January 27, 2022

- A Program of the Safe, Clean Water Program Funded by Measure W and the Voters of Los Angeles County
- Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022
- Event Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Zoom
- Speakers include:
 - Watershed Stakeholders
 - A Video Tour of the Pure Water Project Demonstration Project at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Featuring Dave Pedersen, LVMWD and Zachary Rosoff,
 - Dr. Brian Fagan, Author *Climate Chaos: Lessons on Survival from Our Ancestors*
 - HOPEFULLY: Jolene Walsh, Eastern Municipal Water District: Changing Water Conservation Policy



Liberty Canyon Potential Water Quality Improvement/Creek Restoration Design Options City/Agency Meeting Held



Questions from the community:

- ▶ How might a combination of agency and city co-create an MOU?
- ▶ How might an agency or city champion this water quality project as a creek restoration project?
- ▶ How/when might the key agency or city be able to receive grant/ philanthropic funding?