

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



Thursday, April 14, 2022
1:00pm – 4:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency), Chair
*Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Agency)
Chad Christensen, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Agency)
Madelyn Glickfeld, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability UCLA (Community), Co-Vice Chair
Doug Marian, California Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors (Community)
Kirsten James, Resident (Community)
Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County (Community)
Jessica Forte, Agoura Hills (Municipal)
*Joe Bellomo, Hidden Hills (Municipal)
Sophie Freeman, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Mark Johnson, Malibu (Municipal)
Roxanne Hughes, Westlake Village (Municipal)
Melina Sempill Watts, Melina Sempill Watts Inc. (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Russ Bryden, LA County Waterworks Districts (Agency), Co-Vice Chair
Harry Semerdjian, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Community)
Alex Farassati, Calabasas (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

District Staff welcomed Committee members and facilitated a brief WebEx tutorial.

David Pedersen, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) WASC, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

District Staff facilitated the roll call of Committee members. All Committee members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2022

District staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Member Cung Nguyen, seconded by Co-Vice Chair Madelyn Glickfeld. The Committee voted to approve the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes.

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

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- SCW tax exemptions and reductions for next year are due May 1st. Any taxpayers who qualify for the low-income senior own exemptions, or the general income based tax reductions must submit their forms and supporting documentation before the May 1st deadline.
- On March 29, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to continue meeting virtually, acting under the authority of Assembly Bill 361 which authorizes public committees to meet without complying with all the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when the situation warrants it. The Board is reviewing its position every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.
- The County Chief Executive Office issued a memo stating in-person meetings may be returning and that it may occur as soon as May. The District requested that Committee members send their vaccination status in anticipation of in person meetings.
- Quarter 3 Quarterly Reports are due May 15. For Infrastructure Projects and Scientific Studies approved in Round 2 of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) (Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022), project developer should report and capture all expenditures through March.
- Under the Municipal Program, Annual Plans were due April 1 to the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). Annual Plans are required to receive the Municipal Program revenue. The District added functionality to the existing reporting module to streamline the Annual Plan process. A webinar was conducted in March. The recording of the webinar is available here: <https://safecleanwaterla.org/municipalities/>
- Public Review for the 2022 Interim Guidance ended March 27. The District is now compiling comments and feedback and will present an update on that soon.

Chair Pederson described how the NSMB WASC's comments on the Interim Guidance document were submitted on March 25 and were acknowledged during the April Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting. The comment log related to the Interim Guidance public comment period is available on the Regional Oversight Committee webpage on the SCWP website.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Watts presented an update that relayed various conversations and collaborations in the past month (refer to Watershed Coordinators Presentation).

5. Public Comment Period

There were no public comment cards that were received in advance.

Public member Joan Yacovone voiced support for the Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project.

Public member Kevin Kunz asked if other WASCs had also reached their Technical Resources Program (TRP) funding limit. District Staff explained that the amount of TRP funding varies by Watershed Area, so other WASCs may be able to fund more TRP projects than this WASC.

6. Discussion

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld disclosed that she and Member Sophie Freeman have set up a meeting with the Los Angeles County Public Works Deputy Director for Water Resources Keith Lilley, to discuss the Interim Guidance on April 29th.

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Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld disclosed participating in a presentation by Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA) that included Chair Pedersen and Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts. The presentation regarded a series of recommendations about SCWP from a working group convened by ARLA. Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld also met with their Alternate, Richard Ambrose, Member Jessica Forte, and Professor Michael Stenstrom to discuss the science behind daylighting streams. Lastly, Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld disclosed a conversation with Alternate Ambrose regarding the Scientific Studies in the SIP.

Member Kirsten James disclosed a conversation with a colleague at Water Now Alliance regarding creative financing for small stormwater projects, and suggested having that organization provide an informational presentation to the WASC at an upcoming meeting.

Member Freeman disclosed conversations with Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld regarding the Interim Guidance as well as conversations with Watershed Coordinator Watts regarding compliance opportunities and collaboration across Watershed Areas.

Member Forte spoke with Watershed Coordinator Watts about an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) diversion project and had several conversations with Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld about a technical study, which will be funded through local MS4 funds. In the conversation regarding daylighting streams, Member Forte mentioned that a feasibility study should be conducted before utilizing the technique and Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld expressed the hope that other cities would also engage in testing daylighting techniques. Member Forte disclosed the occurrence of biweekly meetings with Watershed Coordinator to discuss cistern projects, Agoura Hills updates, and region-wide updates.

Chair Pedersen disclosed discussing ARLA's recommendations on the Interim Guidance with Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld. Chair Pedersen also met with Watershed Coordinator Watts, Member Freeman, and Co-Vice Chair Glickfeld on ensuring the NSMB WASC recommendations are considered by the County.

Member Roxanne Hughes disclosed a conversation with Member Forte and Watershed Coordinator Watts regarding water quality objectives.

b) North Santa Monica Bay Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan Discussion **[\(FY22-23 NSMB Presentation & Submittals Summary, SCW Portal\)](#)**

- Scientific Studies Program (SS)
 - (1) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study

Due to technical difficulties experienced by the project proponent, and at the request of the Chair, Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided a brief summary of the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Once technical challenges were resolved, Richard Watson (Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, Project Applicant) provided a brief update on the status of the study, noting that four WASCs have included the study in their SIPs. Watson addressed the scientific study review comments regarding the lack of detail surrounding the project team and explained this was done intentionally to ensure that the scope of work could incorporate stakeholder input after the project begins.

Numerous Committee members expressed support for the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Upon request, Watson clarified that Task 2 of the study, which involves the collection of monitoring data, will inform Task 3, which involves extensive testing of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Member Bruce Hamamoto confirmed that it is common to select the project team after determining the scope of work, citing a previous study where the consultant team was selected after establishment of the technical advisory committee. Member Hamamoto suggested that Alternate Ambrose may be a suitable

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representative of the NSMB WASC. The NSMB WASC should take advantage of economies of scale by leveraging the larger WASCs' funding to cover the study's fixed costs. Member Hamamoto also noted that although the County and City of LA chose not to fund the study themselves, their technical staff have reviewed the study in the past and expressed their support.

Watson explained that the technical advisory committee will be a comprised of a combination of both academic and industry professionals. The balance reflects the practicality of including individuals with experience in the application of stormwater projects. Watson also noted that there will be three independent advisors from outside the region that will act as scientific advisors to the entire group, and that they will most likely be from academia.

(2) Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility

In the absence of a project proponent, and at the request of the Chair, Antos gave a brief synopsis on the study, which proposes to construct and then monitor various nature-based solutions (NBS) at a facility in the South Bay watershed area. The City of Los Angeles owns the property and opposes the study since the applicant did not go through the appropriate channels to request access. Member Hamamoto noted that the study's nature-based solutions primarily involve the use of native plants and suggested that such measures are only one type of NBS. Committee members also noted that the study requested nearly the full Scientific Study allotment for FY22-23. The hydrogeology of the NSMB Watershed Area is such that a large investment in native plant BMPs is not well supported among most Committee members.

- Infrastructure Program (IP)
 - (1) Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement

Josafat Flores (Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement, Project Applicant) gave a brief overview of the project which is located along Liberty Canyon Road. The project will capture and treat water while also providing community enhancements through nature-based BMPs, underground treatment units, bioswales, and a permeable pavement walkway.

District Staff shared the SIP tool onscreen and showed various scenarios for project approval. The SIP tool showed that the WASC has already approved funding for one Infrastructure Project, one project concept and funding for the NSMB Watershed Coordinator from previous Fiscal Years.. If the WASC approves the Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project, only \$100,000 of the FY22-23 budget would be allotted, since the project applicant has only applied for design funding. Construction costs for this project are estimated to total approximately one million dollars, which is not currently submitted as part of the application and would be considered "Future Funding". Adding the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study to the funding scenario does not result in overages for future budget year allocations.

Committee members discussed whether the scope of any of the Scientific Studies overlapped with a nutrient study which was previously conducted in the Watershed Area. The broad scope of the Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility study may involve nutrient study, but the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study would not overlap with a nutrient study. Committee members requested a presentation on the previous nutrient study, with a focus on what lessons can be applied from that study to and inform future study applicants on useful methodological or coordination techniques.

7. Public Comment Period

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Analise Moe, from Heal the Bay and Our Water LA Coalition, shared that Our Water LA opposes the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Moe explained that many studies have attempted to discover a different way to quantify bacterial pollution and questioned how this study's approach differed from any of the others. Moe contested that the study's end goal of changing compliance is not aligned with SCWP goals. Our Water LA supports the NSMB WASC's comments regarding the Interim Guidance and requested that District staff consider the recommendations. Moe offering Our Water LA as a resource, moving forward.

Sally Bartell, President of the Liberty Canyon Homeowner's Association, reaffirmed that the Homeowner's Association fully supports the Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement Project. The project benefits water quality near the ocean as well as for the stream in Liberty Canyon. Liberty Canyon will be the location of a new wildlife corridor.

The Committee discussed the comment letters submitted regarding the Interim Guidance, which are posted in a comment log on the SCWP website under the Regional Oversight Committee tab.

Regarding available TRP funds, District Staff explained that if multiple TRP projects are funded in the coming years, the Committee needs to plan to fund fewer TRP projects in the years following.

8. Voting Items

a) **Vote and finalize North Santa Monica Bay Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Stormwater Investment Plan**

Member Hughes motioned to vote on the SIP, seconded by Member Joe Bellomo. The motion is to fund the Liberty Canyon Road Green Improvement project and the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, but not the Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility study.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study and requested the voting item be adjusted to vote on adding each project separately.

Member Hughes adjusted the motion to vote to include approval of just the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, seconded by Member Bellomo. The Committee clarified that if the WASC rejects the study, they may still be able to benefit from the results, but there would be no data from the NSMB Watershed Area and the WASC would not be involved in the selection of the project team. Six members voted to approve the motion, two voted against, and six abstained from the vote. Per the guidelines of the SCWP, this vote record meant the motion passed.

The Committee requested clarification from District staff of whether the voting guidelines count abstentions toward the total number of votes, which would affect the threshold for a simple majority vote. The Committee moved on to the second voting item as staff reviewed program policies.

Member Hughes motioned to approve the Liberty Canyon Green BMP Improvement Project, seconded by Member Bellomo. The motion was approved (see vote tracking sheet).

Citing the SCWP's rules of conduct fact sheet, Member Nguyen confirmed with District staff that abstentions do not count toward the total number of votes cast and that majority means more than half of the votes cast. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) suggested that the WASC could revisit the vote, if those who abstained did not fully understand the implications of that decision. Chair Pedersen

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noted that the Committee is welcome to revote but reminded that the motion to fund the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study passed because out of the eight total votes, six were in favor of approval.

Antos noted that there is precedent in the SCWP for a WASC to approve a SIP and then reevaluate the decision. Antos pointed out that the initial funding for the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study is under \$5,000 for FY22-23. The WASC can review quarterly reports and evaluate the Study's progress before approving additional funds.

Member Forte made a motion to conduct a re-vote on the approval of the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, seconded by Member Tevin Schmitt. The motion to conduct a re-vote was approved.

Member Forte motioned to fund the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, seconded by Member Nguyen. The motion was approved (see vote tracking sheet).

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 12 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the SCWP website for meeting details.

Member James suggested to add a short informational item from the NGO Water Now Alliance on innovative financing models, which could help with the WASC's funding availability.

Chair Pedersen suggested adding a summary of the nutrient study which was referenced earlier in this meeting to a future agenda.

District staff congratulated the WASC on approving the FY22-23 SIP. The ROC will review the SIP, then send it to the Board of Supervisors.

10. Adjournment

Chair Pedersen thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - April 14, 2022

Member Type	Organization	Quorum Present				Voting Items					
		Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Vote to approve April 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Approve to include the Regional Pathogen Study to the FY 22-23 NSMB SIP	Approve to include the Liberty Canyon Green Improvement Project to the FY 22-23 NSMB SIP	Recast votes on the Regional Pathogen Study for the FY 22-23 NSMB SIP	Approve to include the Regional Pathogen Study to the FY 22-23 NSMB SIP	
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Agency	LAC Waterworks District	Russ Bryden									
Agency	MRCAs	Chad Christensen	x			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen	x	Dave Roberts		Y	A	Y	Y	A	
Agency	LVMWD	David Pedersen		Dave Roberts	x	Y	A	Y	A	A	
Community Stakeholder	UCLA	Madelyn Glickfeld	x	Richard Ambrose		Y	A	Y	Y	Y	
Community Stakeholder	CPMCA	Doug Marian	x			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Community Stakeholder	LA Area Chamber of Commerce	Harry Semerdjian									
Community Stakeholder	Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation Ventura County	Tevin Schmitt	x			Y	N	Y	Y	N	
Community Stakeholder	Community Stakeholder	Kirsten James	x			Y	N	Y	Y	N	
Municipal Members	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte	x	Kelly Fisher		Y	A	Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Calabasas	Alex Farassati		Alba Lemus							
Municipal Members	Hidden Hills	Kerry Kallman		Joe Bellomo	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	LAC Supervisor District 3	Sophie Freeman	x			Y	A	Y	Y	A	
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Municipal Members	Malibu	Mark Johnson	x	Christine Shen		Y	A	Y	Y	A	
Municipal Members	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	x	Phillipe Eskandar		Y	Y	Y	A	A	
Watershed Coordinator	Melina S. Watts Consulting, LLC	Melina Watts	x			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17				Yay (Y)	14	6	14	12	7
Total Voting Members Present		14				Nay (N)	0	2	0	0	2
Agency		4				Abstain (A)	0	6	0	2	5
Community Stakeholder		4				Total	14	14	14	14	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	

Other Attendees

Alberto Grajeda
 Allen Ma
 Dennis Washburn
 Eric Bonilla
 Grant Graves
 Joan Yacovone
 John Kelly
 Josafat Flores
 Kelsey Reed
 Kevin Kunz
 Lauro Alvarado
 Lynda Bybee
 Marissa Caringella
 Mayra Martinez
 Richard Watson
 Rochelle Paras
 Serena Zgas
 Stacy Luell



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

**North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Advisory Steering Committee
and
Safe Clean Water L.A.**

Melina Watts

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed
Coordinator

April 14, 2022

MS4 Compliance Opportunities





Photo by Watts

Conversations about MS4 Compliance Opportunities – How Do Cities Afford Applications?

- Agoura Hills
- Hidden Hills
- L.A. County
- Malibu
- Westlake Village
- Collaborative application concept



1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP

- Met with Malibu City Councilmember Mikke Pierson
- Offered outreach for Careful et al Super Green Streets project
- Committed to Earth Day events at Pepperdine, Calabasas and tried to facilitate event for Westlake Village
- Lead water talks at Malibu High School
- Coordinating Nature Based Solutions event for November

2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts

- Met with Rob Duboux, Yolanda Bundy, and Mark Johnson at City of Malibu to discuss Measure W
- Met with Ms. Jessica Forte and Ms. Roxanne Hughes to discuss possible MS4 compliance projects
- Agoura Hills now funding science project with UCLA
- Pairing Native Plants Kit group and ARLA to discuss funding
- WBMWD and RCDSMM discussing cistern projects; ARLA to join conversation.
- Attended LAUSD Bond Oversight Committee Meeting; spoke on behalf of water projects at request of Mr. Mark Hovatter





Melissa Capriglione @ Basil and Oregano!!
@mcapriglioneart



When you ask me how I'm doing and I say "I'm functioning" this is what I mean



4:17 PM · Feb 17, 2022



3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

- Unclear if there is any TRP money remaining for the next 3 years.
- If so, would like to encourage City of Malibu to apply.

Photo by Watts

4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities



- Reached out to all NSMB WASC stakeholders for NSMB SOEP revision
- Attended Malibu-Las Virgenes COG
- Spoke with Debra Sharpton / Mark Abramson re: idea for Lake Lindero; push back probable
- Staying in touch with Topanga Elementary School people
- Connecting to Malibu High School students + Councilmember Mikke Pierseon + Austin Toyoma, SMMUSD

Photo by Watts

5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks



Photo by Watts

Thanks to Mark Johnson, connected with:

- Megan Swanson, Sustainability Lead, Pepperdine University
- Austin Toyama, Sustainability Lead, SMMUSD

Thanks to Sophie Freeman, connected with:

- Mark Hovatter, Director of Operations, LAUSD, 2x

And,

- Meeting with Malibu City Staff
- Spoke to Kevin Kunz, www.aquipor.com



6. Cost-Share Partners

- Teaming up ARLA with LVMWD, TreePeople
- Teaming up RCDSMM and WBMWD and possibly ARLA
- Measure RR funding seems to be already allocated but... LAUSD may self-fund Topanga Elementary Schools project

Photo by Watts

Photo by Watts

Innovative Local Water Supply in the North Santa Monica Bay



Photo by Aquamate Tanks

x 90,000 =



Photo by Watts

/?

***Cistern in photo holds 5,000 gallons**



Photo by Watts

7. Leverage Funding

- Discussing inclusion of cisterns / native plants kit project in IRWM application with WBMWD.
- Plan to submit multiple SEP applications for Native Plants Kit and cisterns projects.
- Looking to connect RCDSMM / WBMWD to ARLA which has articulated that it may have access to DWR funding.
- Looked for original application for garden program, city of Santa Monica, will recreate to memory.
- Exploring CALFIRE funding.
- Talking to CWN about if DWR might consider using SWEEP model for suburban projects

8. Local Stakeholder Education

- Prepping for water talks at Malibu High School held in biology classes in lieu of to whole school.
- Participating in conversations with Dr. Rich Ambrose, Dr. Mike Stenstrom, Jessica Forte, and Madelyn Glickfeld for pathogen; funded by Agoura Hills.
- Spoke with Center for Watershed Health to support their conference.
- Next NSMB Watershed Community meeting is June 30, 2022. Thinking of doing 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- Monthly Newsletter



9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration



Photo by Santa Barbara Creeks Division

- Attended monthly watershed coordinator meeting
- Participating with Schools & Stormwater Working Group preparing for event on May 19.
- Developing Nature Based Solutions success stories event for November; Santa Barbara Creeks Division, The Nature Conservancy and others confirmed attendance.

Contact Information

- Melina Sempill Watts/
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- nsmbwatershedcoordinator@gmail.com

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Watershed Community**

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Photo by Watts