



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

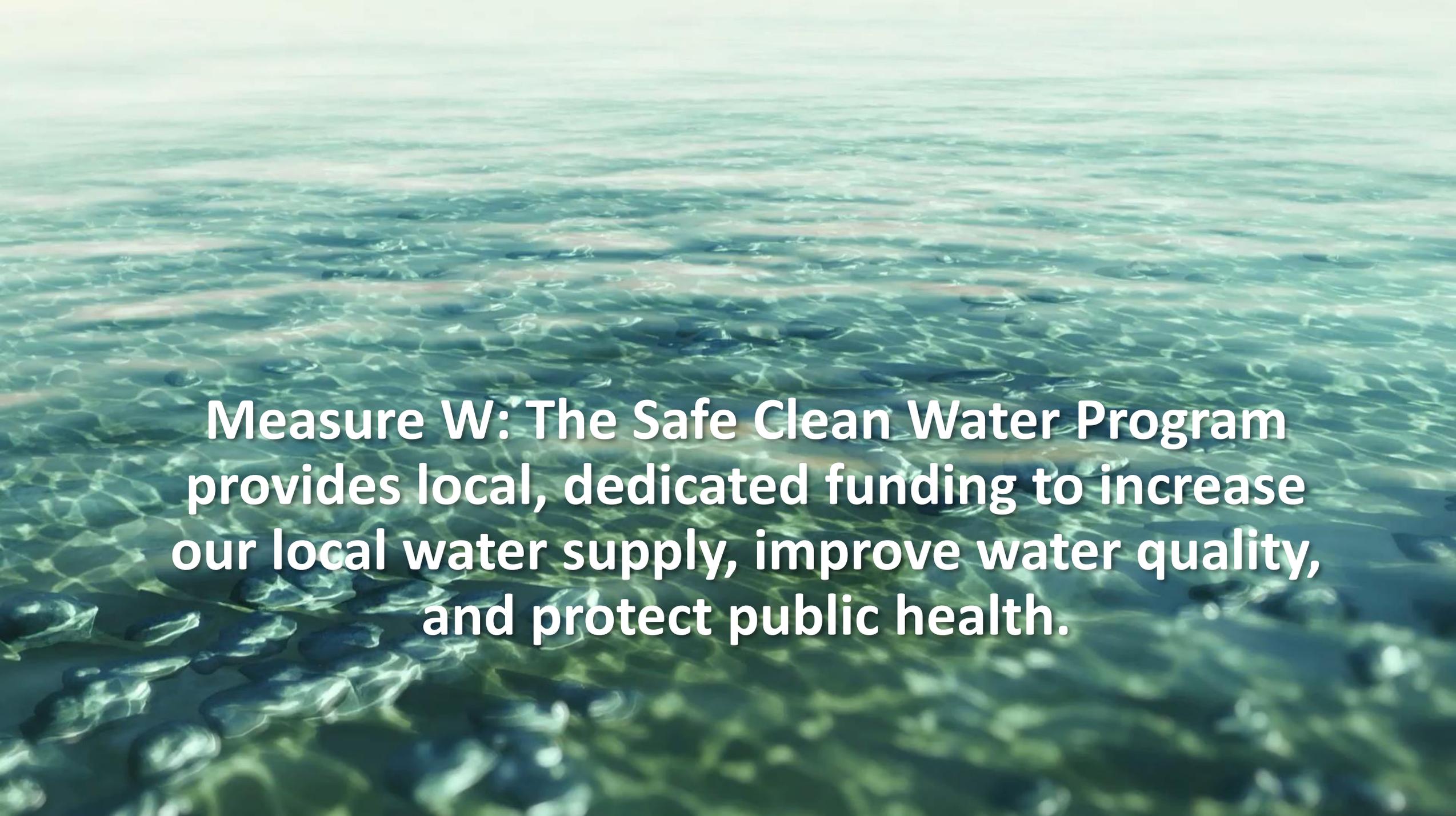
The North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee Update

By Melina Sempill Watts

Watershed Coordinator, Safe Clean Water L.A.

December 8, 2022

Photo and Logo, Los Angeles County

An aerial photograph showing a vast expanse of water with a complex network of canals or ditches. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the canals create a grid-like pattern across the landscape. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down at the water.

Measure W: The Safe Clean Water Program provides local, dedicated funding to increase our local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.



1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP

Coordinated

- Nature Based Solutions Success Stories Conference, 105 people registered
- Coordinated Nature Based Solutions Success Stories Calabasas and Agoura Hills Creek Restoration Tour and Santa Barbara Creeks Division Sites Tour
 - Wrote articles on keynote speaker Erica Gies for *Daily Valley News*, *Happenings*, *Eco News*, and on Jessica Hall and on Nadine Salas
 - Published about events in local city calendars, in *One Topanga*, David Nahai, Meena Westford, Elizabeth Crosson, Hope Sexton, Elected Officials + Staff etc. Sent invites out to newsletter readers
 - First ever North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Prize, wrote about prize winner Alex Farassati for *Daily Valley News*

2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts

Attempted to develop multi-agency multi-city Measure W application; cannot find project proponent for shared application

Inspired by Miguel Luna, Board of Directors, Metropolitan Water District, working on open space acquisition project ideas

1.

As requested by Austine Racelis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, working to assemble Nature Based Solutions project list

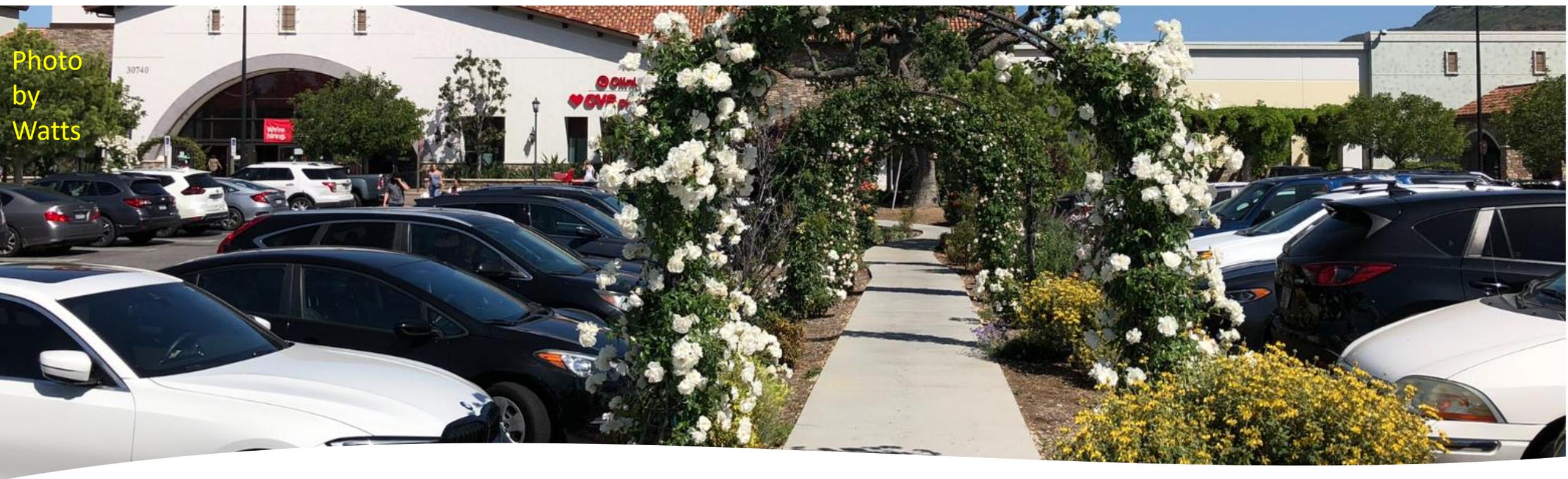
Aiming to connect Deborah Bloome and Devon Provo, ARLA with Kirk Allen to talk ARLA study

Talked with Chad Christensen at MRCA about a potential Measure W application, but...



Photo by MRCA

Photo
by
Watts



3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams

Helped Westlake Village with presentation template for talk about TRP application.

If the NSMB WASC could allocate a greater % of our funding to TRPs, this would solve our application gap in a few years.

4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities

- ARLA cistern study; could become Measure W application
- Working on open space acquisition ideas
- Working on Nature Based Solutions project list
- Writing Metropolitan Water District Conservation Innovation application with LAUSD Team for Topanga Elementary School for small to cisterns; possible IRWM
- Attended OWLA Broader Coalition Meeting
- Attended Safe Clean Water Program Metrics & Monitoring Study - Public Workshop – evening
- Talked creek restoration with Tessa Charnofsky
- Per idea of Craig Jones, tried to connect ARLA to Marilee Kuhlman at **Urban Water Group, Inc.** to potentially create budget / project template for cisterns' install costs
- 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Grant?
- Tried to set up measure W application with ARLA as lead



5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks

- Writing MWD CI application with LAUSD Team for TES for small to cisterns
- Sharing information broadly, as this article via social media, LAT 11/7 article on Desal
- Guests at Nature Based Solutions Success Stories indicates how extensive networks are...
 - Writer Erica Gies, in Canada /San Francisco
 - Nadine Salas, Poet/Conservationist, Santa Cruz, California
 - Ben Cameron and Dr. Jill Murray, Santa Barbara Creeks Visision
 - Jessica Hall, Landscape Architect, Humboldt County
 - Ann Riley, Creek Restoration project manager, Bay area

Support from,

- California Watershed Network, Center for Watershed Health, Santa Barbara Creeks Division and Heal the Bay



Photo by Watts



Photo by Watts

6. Cost-Share Partners

- Working to connect Megan Cooper, Deputy Regional Manager, Coastal Commission with Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas
- Exploring Wildlife Conservation Board funding for City of Calabasas
- Exploring meeting with State Parks, possibly NPS, possibly MRCA to support funding work
- CA Watershed Network paid for 1 of 2 honorariums for two 2 writers at conference
- Attended Nov 14 Bipartisan Infrastructure event

7. Leverage Funding

- See item 6

8. Local Stakeholder Education

- **See Item 1.**

9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration



Photo from
The Guardian

- Working with Watershed Coordinators Schools/ Committee , looking to see if we can better articulate community hopes for Measure W in Education / Outreach with new funding from Measure W
- Attended event showcasing watershed work by Rajendra Singh, Rajasthan, India, “Clean flowing rivers must be a human right.”

What Do You Want for NSMB Education / Outreach in 2023?

A. State of the Watershed Event

- Online?
- In person?

B. WaterTalks Workshop (Inspired by Upper Santa Clara River,) for agencies and electeds

C. North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Tour

D. Local Water Supply Opportunities Event

E. CicNSMBVia (Inspired by CicLaVia)

- A. To include Pure Water Project and other watershed sites as key points



Winner, First North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Prize, Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas

12/6/22, 11:41 AM

Alex Farassati, Sustainability Champion for the City of Calabasas - Valley News Group

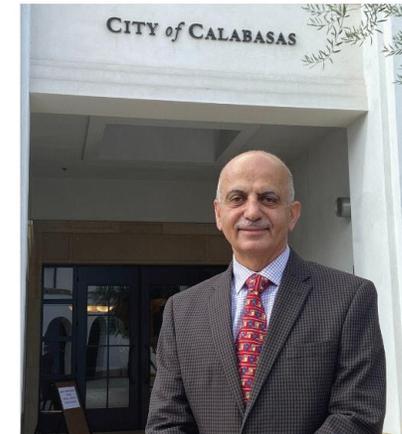
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Alex Farassati, Sustainability Champion for the City of Calabasas

by VNG / November 10, 2022

By Melina Sempill Watts



In Calabasas, both the City Council and voters have pushed towards sustainability...but what does it take to actually get there?

The answer is not a what, but a who: Alex Farassati, Environmental Services Manager.