

Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report A Project of Safe, Clean Water L.A.

Watershed: North Santa Monica Bay
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Year 3 Quarterly Report 2

July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

Submitted: November 28, 2023

A. Summary of Activities

Provide a high-level summary of activities completed this quarter and progress made toward completion of the annual scope of work.

Combining a commitment to public outreach with ongoing effort to seek funding for meaningful water supply / water quality projects remain the twin priorities for the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinator program.

Fortunately there are two major upcoming public events happening in which the watershed coordinator was invited to participate, the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival and the first ever Malibu Watershed Fair.

Due to a concern that many members of the Viewridge Estates neighborhood are unaware of the upcoming Viewridge Estates SCWP project, coordinator worked to bring together a wide array of stakeholders to set up a Topanga Community Conservation Day to be held at Viewridge Estates. Event was set for several dates that got moved, ultimately ending up on November 4 which was cancelled the Wednesday before.

Coordinator shares funding opportunities with stakeholders as they arise and continues to work to create felicitous pairings, inviting both TreePeople and Santa Monica Mountains Fund staff, for example, to approach the Office of Supervisor Lindsey Horvath for annual SD3 community grants.

Required elements of the Quarterly report to achieve in this summary are:

- *Strategies used to integrate priorities for the community, municipalities, the watershed area, and the region*

In the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed, the watershed coordinator program has focused on,

- high level public outreach and education, including plans to table at the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival, at the Malibu Watershed Fair and at the Topanga Community Conservation Day to be held on site at Viewridge Estates
 - connecting with stakeholders and community members to work to elicit great water projects
 - working collaboratively to make progress towards funding community's dream water projects.
- *Document the extent of partnerships and networks you have engaged.*

Connecting with leaders and community members in the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed and in larger regions of L.A. and California is vital.

Below follows a partial list of these efforts.

- Planning an article about Eric Wilson, TreePeople, and Native Plants Kit project.

- Connected City of Calabasas to folks working on Rindge Dam Removal to discuss fate of endangered southern steelhead trout in Las Virgenes Canyon.
 - Attended MACC and Malibu Las Virgenes COG meetings to listen to community
 - Connected THIRD Space (new venue for conservation outreach / local artists) with Malibu environmental outreach day opportunity
 - Attended Santa Monica Bay Foundation meeting online
 - Attended Topanga “Friends of the Fest” fundraiser event
 - Met with Scott Vineberg and Darius Fisher to discuss Mr. Vineberg’s proposed citizens’ assembly project
 - Attended Metropolitan Water District / Center for Watershed Health, “From the Ground Up” project
 - In Malibu, attended CB2 Furniture shop opening + visited new bookstore in Malibu
 - Spoke with Alexa Hendricks, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Eric Wilson, TreePeople about potential native plant garden tour event
 - Attending Watershed Education Day in Malibu created by CALTROUT on October 1
 - Trying to set up talks to address water quality in Malibu Lagoon
 - Submitted updated data on NSMB WASC for Biennial Review
- *Document your effort to engage a broad set of conventional and unconventional stakeholders*
 - Working with Calabasas Environmental Commission and City of Calabasas staff on outreach plan for proposed Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III project at Pumpkin Festival 2023
 - Checked in with Calabasas about connecting with Technical Advisory Team
 - Talking with Calabasas, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills about projects of interest for SCWP applications
 - Attended Malibu Las Virgenes COG and Malibu Area Conservation Coalition
 - Met with Lisa Firmiania, Loyola Marymount University, Elena Rios, Chumash Teacher, David White, Once Upon a Watershed (Ventura)
 - Met with Martha Davis and Tracy Quinn, Executive Director, Heal the Bay and Director Metropolitan Water District, 2 times
 - Attended Credit Trading Program Stakeholder Overview Meeting #3, shared information with stakeholders
 - Helped clear up misrepresentation of funding on SCWP site as regards NSMB projects that state they are funded that are not funded yet
 - Spoke at Calabasas Mayor’s Youth Council
 - Shared, Draft Los Angeles County Water Plan Public Information Session
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- *Required elements detailed below that you should mention here:*
 - *Any of the four required engagement meetings you held during the quarter*
 - None held during this quarter; planning for and will be attending 3 public engagement meetings next quarter.
 - *Either of the two required educational events you held during the quarter*
 - None held during this quarter; planning for and will be attending 3 public engagement meetings next quarter.

- *Highlights or summary of types of meetings you attended held by others*
 - Attended watershed coordinator meetings
 - Attended L.A. River State of the Watershed Event hosted by Center for Watershed Health
 - Attended Soil Health event at Metropolitan Water District hosted by Center for Watershed Health
 - Attended Nature Walk lead by Elena Rios, Chumash Teacher in Ojai, California

- *Summary of cost-share partner relationship development*
 - Working on LOI with City of Calabasas for Wildlife Conservation Board grant.
 - Suggested to Office of Supervisor Lindsey Horvat (SD3) funding for,
 - TreePeople Native Plants Kit program
 - Internship program run by Santa Monica Mountains Fund

- *Summary of leverage funding pursuits*
 - Connecting with Agoura Hills about SCWP application for 2023
 - Talking with Calabasas about Green Streets project as SCWP applicant for 2024
 - Checked in with Calabasas about work with TAT
 - Working on LOI with City of Calabasas for Wildlife Conservation Board grant.
 - Suggested to Office of Supervisor Lindsley Horvath (SD3) funding for,
 - TreePeople Native Plants Kit program
 - Interns at Santa Monica Mountains Fund
 - Met with SMMUSD and other watershed coordinators thanks to SD3 to discuss potential projects for SCWP

8. Local Stakeholder Education

- Shared Mark Pestrella’s path to reporting flooding with stakeholders via newsletter and on social media
- NSMB Watershed Intern Imaan Deen writes about Eric Wilson + Native Plants Kit for *Daily Valley New*
- Shared, Draft Los Angeles County Water Plan Public Information Session
- Wrote and distributed NSMB Watershed newsletters
- Continued to share information on social media and at public gatherings

9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

- Attended Schools and Stormwater Planning events
- Attended watershed coordinator events

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B. Engagement Meetings Held or Attended

Use the table below for high-level summary of all engagement events held or attended. Flag for events held and attach attendance records and materials provided. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

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	Meeting or Event	Date	Summary of Meeting or Event	Stakeholders Engaged	Held or Attended?	Attachments #
<i>Ex.</i>	<i>GLAC IRWM Leadership Meeting</i>	<i>7/4/21</i>	<i>Quarterly business meeting</i>	<i>GLAC Leadership</i>	<i>Attended</i>	
1.	Calabasas City / Rindge Dam Removal Group Conversation	7/6/2023	Conversation about watershed planning	Calabasas, CALTRAN, State Parks	Held	
2.	ARLA / SAMO Fund	7/15/2023	Potential workforce dev.	ARLA, SAMO	Held + Attended	
3.	Mark Abramson Conversation	7/17/2023	Watershed planning	Landscape Architect	Held	
4.	Wildlife Conservation Board	7/17/2023	Funding query	Calabasas, WDB	Held + Attended	
5.	Malibu-LVMWD COG	7/18/2023	COG	Stakeholders	Attended	
6.	Andy Lipkis Talking Water	7/20/2023			Attended	
7.	CEC Creek Tour Meeting	7/24/2023	Calabasas, Calabasas Environmental Committee		Held and Attended	
8.	Malibu Area Conservation Committee	7/25/2023	Event / outreach planning	Malibu + Stakeholders	Attended	
9.	Watershed Coordinator Event	7/26/2023	Watershed Coordinator Gathering	Watershed Coordinators + L.A. Co, Stantec	Attended	
10.	Viewridge Outreach Planning	7/26/2023	L.A. County staff		Held and Attended	
11.	Watershed Coordinator Event	7/28/2023	Watershed Coordinator Gathering	Watershed Coordinators + L.A. Co, Stantec	Attended	
12.	Environmental Listening / Climate Event	7/28/2023		L.A County, invited speakers	Attended	
13.	Aaron Ordower, SD3 L.A. County	7/28/2023			Held + Attended	
14.	Crayfish / WCB / Calabasas	7/29/2023	Funding convo	WCB, MRT, CALTRAN, Calabasas	Attended	

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15.	Center for Watershed Health event	7/27/2023			Attended	
16.	Native Water Stories	7/27/2023		Heal the Bay	Attended	
17.	Jessica Hall	7/31/2023	Watershed conversation		Attended	
18.	Aaron Ordower	7/31	Beaches and Harbors convo	SDC	Attended	
19.	Crayfish / WCB / Calabasas	8/3/2023	Funding convo	WCB, MRT, CALTRAN, Calabasas	Attended	
20.	Imaan Deen	8/7/2023	Intern	Connected her to DVN Editor Ms. Sterling, Eric Wilson, TreePeople	Held and Attended	
21.	SMART Landscape Series	8/9/2023		Center for Watershed Health	Attended	
22.	NSMB WASC	8/10/2023		Stakeholders	Attended	
23.	From the Ground Up - Soil and Water Resiliency for Future	8/23/2023	Center for Watershed Health	Many	Attended	
24.	SMMUSD Water convo	8/24/2023	Project options	Watershed coordinators, SMMUSD	Attended	
25.	CA Watershed Network	8/24/2023	Watersheds		Attended	
26.	CB2 Malibu Shop Talk Wine & Cheese Event	8/26/2023	Social networking		Attended	
27.	School outreach group meeting	8/28/2023	Event planning	Watershed coordinators	Attended	
28.	Garden Tour Discussion	8/29/2023		Eric Wilson, Alexa Hendricks	Held + attended	
29.	Topanga Meeting	8/29/2023	Water / his tv show pitch	Scott Vineberg	Held + attended	
30.	Viewridge Estates Event planning	8/30/2023	Planning	L.A. County, SD3	Attended	
31.	Pumpkin Festival /Calabasas Environmental Commission	9/5/2023	Planning outreach	CEC, City Staff, self	Held + attended	

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32.	Las Virgenes-Malibu COG Technical Advisory Committee	9/6/2023		Leaders, Stakeholders	Attended	
33.	Future of Landscape Transformations Workshop	9/7/203	Water conservation / biodiversity	Ava Farriday	Attended	
34..	Calabasas WCB LOI meeting	9/7/203	Funding		Held + attended	
35.	Jessica Forte + Melina Watts talk ARBOR DAY	9/8/2023	Event planning		Attended	
36.	Viewridge Community Outreach Planning	9/7/2023	Event planning		Held + attended	
37.	Tracy Quinn, MWD/HTB and Martha Davis	9/18/2023	Water supply / Biodiversity		Held + attended	
38.	ARLA	9/18/2023	Water / Funding		Attended	
39.	State of the Watershed LA River Gene Autry Museum	9/19/2023	Water		Attended	
40.	Creek walk Gavin and Julie, check?	9/24/2023	WCB Funding		Held + attended	
41.	SCHOOL TOUR WITH SCWP IN LAUSD	9/25/2023	Stormwater project site education		Attended	
42.	Coffee with Kristina and Melina at Republik Coffee Pasadena	9/27/2023	Watershed Convo		Attended	
43.	Watershed coordinator meeting	9/27/2023			Attended	
44.	Water Quality of Malibu Lagoon Meeting	9/28/2023		LA Regional Water Quality Board staff	Held + Attended	
45.	Tracy Quinn, Martha Davis, Melina Watts	9/29/2023	Water supply / biodiversity		Held + attended	

46.	Memorial Service for Mark Abramson	9/23/2023			Attended	
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C. Potential Cost-Share Partners Contacted

Provide a list of potential cost-share partners contacted for projects within and adjacent to the Watershed Area. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Partner Name	Date First Contacted	Project name / type	Nature of potential partnership	Attachments #
<i>Ex</i>	<i>County of Ventura</i>	<i>7/4/21</i>	<i>Malibu Creek Watershed Awesomeness Project</i>	<i>MOU for project that crosses county boundary</i>	<i>C-1</i>
1.	Wildlife Conservation Board	Multiple times	Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III	Funding for City of Calabasas Project	
2.	SD3 / TreePeople	Multiple Times	Native Plants Kit project	Funding support for project staff	C-2
3.	SD3 /SAMO Fund	Multiple Times	Workforce Development	Funding for Interns	

D. Leveraged / Outside Funding Pursued

Share all outside funding opportunities pursued and the status or outcome of the pursuit. Attach relevant materials. Add an attachment number here and on the attachment to correlate. Add rows when needed.

	Potential Outside Funding Source	Status or Outcome of the Pursuit	Attachments #
<i>Ex</i>	<i>USEPA EJ Small Grants</i>	<i>Grant co-written with Pacoima Beautiful, submitted June 30, 2021, expect to hear by August 12, 2021.</i>	<i>D-1</i>
1.	WCB	Still pending	
2.	SD3	Need to confirm TreePeople submitted request	
3.	SD3	Need to assist SAMO Fund in completion of request	

E. Detailed Progress Report

Provide an update on the amount of effort expended for each Task this quarter and note percentage complete:

Task #	Task	Total Task Level of Effort (from workplan)	LOE this quarter	Accumulated LOE to-date (from monthly reports)
<i>Ex.</i>				
1	Facilitate Community Engagement	15%	20%	20%
2	Identify and Develop Project Concepts	15%	10%	10%
3	Work with Technical Assistance Teams	0%	5%	5%
4	Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	10%	10%	10%
5	Integrate Priorities through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	10%	10%	10%
6	Cost-share Partners	15%	10%	10%
7	Leverage Funding	15%	10%	10%
8	Local Stakeholder Education	10%	10%	10%
9	Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	10%	5%	5%
	Overall	100%	100%	100%

F. Engagement efforts benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

Summarize activities undertaken which have benefitted members of disadvantaged communities. Distinguish between targeted efforts and ones that could benefit all communities.

- Invited Chumash teacher Elena Rios to speak at NSMB WASC; she will be a part of the North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed Event 2024
- At NSMB WASC meeting, discussed inherent funding inequities for First Nations leadership in SCWP, as compared to what is funded for watershed coordinators or Technical Advisory Teams
 - Suggestion: can tribal leaders qualify as TATs?

G. Scheduling concerns or issues

Discuss any scheduling concerns and issues encountered that may delay completion of the program or project. Describe any challenges.

It has been very difficult to get key stakeholders to confirm dates and to lock in documentation to support proposed Topanga Community Conservation Day at Viewridge Estates.

H. Expected activities next quarter

Coordinator plans to reconnect with key stakeholders to pursue SCWP applications. Coordinator aims to lock in location and date for North Santa Monica Bay State of the Watershed 2024.

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Coordinator is exploring creating an event centering on the condition of the Malibu Lagoon from a water quality / habitat perspective.
Coordinator will pursue outside funding when possible.

Upcoming Events:

- **Malibu Watershed Fair** at Malibu Farmers' Market – Sunday, October 1, 2023
- **Calabasas Pumpkin Festival** – Saturday, October 22, 2023
- **Topanga Community Conservation Day**– Saturday, November 4, 2023

Funding Applications

Wildlife Conservation Board LOI in revision status.

Attachments:

- **C-2**, Connecting Staff at TreePeople to opportunity for funding from Office of Supervisor Horvath
- **H-1**, DRAFT Press Release for Topanga Community Conservation Day on November 4
- **H-2**, DRAFT Invitation / Flyer for Topanga Community Conservation Day on November 4
- **H-3**, *Daily Valley News* article by Imman Deen, Intern on Eric Wilson, TreePeople and Native Plants Kit Program

Links:

- **Pumpkin Festival**, <https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/community-services-parks-recreation/pumpkin-festival>
- **Malibu Watershed Fair**, <https://restoremalibucreek.org/events/malibu-watershed-fair>
- **Topanga Community Conservation Day**, https://www.linkedin.com/posts/melinawatts_join-community-conservation-partners-and-activity-7125179234150481920-L4Ds/?trk=public_profile_share_view

Articles:

- Article by Imaan Deen is published next quarter but was written and edited this quarter and so is attached.
- Reached out to local press for memorials for Mark Abramson, who passed away on September 15 2023; may he rest in peace.