

Safe, Clean Water Program

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, December 22, 2020
9:30am - 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)	Jessica Forte (Agoura Hills)
David Pedersen (LVMWD)	Alex Farassati (Calabasas)
Dave Roberts (LVMWD)	Sophie Freeman* (LAC Supervisor District 3)
Madelyn Glickfeld (UCLA)	Bruce Hamamoto (LAC Public Works)
Tevin Schmitt (WCFCV)	Mark Johnson (Malibu)
Kirsten James (Community Stakeholder)	Roxanne Hughes (Westlake Village)
Dave Rydman (LAC Waterworks)	Kendal Asuncion (LA Area Chamber of Commerce)

Committee Members Not Present:

Chad Christensen (MRCA)
Doug Marian (CPMCA)
Kerry Kallman (Hidden Hills)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Pedersen, Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay WASC, called the meeting to order. All committee members made self-introductions, and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. David Pederson asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Alex Farassati made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Roxanne Hughes seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes. (13 Approved, 1 Not Present, see Vote Tracker Sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen provided updates from the District, noting: Transfer Agreements have been sent to all cities; several cities have already sent back their annual plans. All template agreements have been sent to regional project developers.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

5. Discussion Items:

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a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

David Pedersen noted to have had a general discussion with a fellow NSMB Committee member regarding Item 5 (Comment Letter) in today's agenda.

b) Watershed Coordinator Selection

i) Process Overview

During the interview process, District staff will read each interview question and have it presented on the screen. Each potential WC will be allowed 10 minutes to present and 10 minutes to answer questions. Committee members were sent the set of WC interview questions, note-taking sheet, the WC roles/responsibilities, and each WC's Statement of Qualifications (SOQs). It is important to write notes to remember critical information when voting at the next meeting. Committee members that have a financial link to any of the WC interviewees must recuse and remove themselves from the WC selection process. For WC applicants that did not meet the scoring threshold, debriefing meetings have been scheduled with LA County Public Works' Contracts Division.

ii) Interviews

The following agencies were interviewed for the WC position; interview questions and individual WASC member questions were answered.

(1) Melina Sempill Watts Consulting LLC

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Kristen James, Cung Nguyen, Madelyn Glickfeld and Bruce Hamamoto.

(2) Environmental Outreach Strategies

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Kristen James, and Madelyn Glickfeld

c) SIP Programming Guidelines (WASC Comment Letter)

David Pedersen asked the Committee members to provide feedback on the SIP Programming Guidelines draft Comment Letter discussed at the November 16, 2020 meeting. Committee members provided their feedback and recommended edits to the draft. David Pedersen asked Committee members if they had any objections in incorporating the edits and finalizing the Comment Letter. There were no objections from the Committee.

6. Voting Items:

a) Selection of Watershed Coordinator for the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area

Alex Farassati shared he like both presentations; Environmental Outreach Strategies has a lot of experience and is familiar with Melina Sempill Watts Consulting's work and understands her dedication to the watershed. He supports Melina Sempill Watts Consulting for WC.

Jessica Forte expressed her support for Melina Sempill Watts; her past work experience with the City of Agoura Hills' Medea Creek was excellent and believes she will roll up her sleeves and get it done.

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Environmental Outreach Strategies' presentation was great; however, Melinda Sempill Watts understands the issues in this watershed Support is for Melinda Sempill Watts Consulting for WC.

Roxanne Hughes felt presentations were extremely helpful. Melina Sempill demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the region, constraints, and opportunities. She supports Melina Sempill Watts Consulting for WC.

Tevin Schmitt supports Melina Sempill Watts Consulting for WC due to her experience.

Madelyn Glickfeld stated Melina Sempill has strong roots in NSMB Watershed, already knows the people, the politics, and knows how to engage with people. Both proposers are extremely qualified and she supports Melina Sempill Watts Consulting for WC.

Cung Nguyen is in support of Melina Sempill Watts Consulting for WC for her in-depth knowledge, expertise in the area, and extensive experience in delivering infrastructure water projects.

Kristen James expressed both were great proposals and it's was a hard decision, but ultimately the NSMB needs someone with intimate knowledge of the watershed and supports Melina Sempill Watts Consulting for WC.

Alex Farassati made a motion to select Melina Sempill Watts Consulting as the Watershed Coordinator. Jessica Forte seconded the motion. David Pedersen proceeded with the voting rollcall for this motion.

The Committee voted (13 'Yes's' and 1 'Abstain') to select Melina Sempill Watts Consulting as the NSMB WASC Watershed Coordinator. (Refer to Voting Tracker sheet)

7. Meeting Schedule

A poll will be sent out to committee members to provide availability for reoccurring monthly meetings. The 4th Thursday of the month from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM will be a placeholder. Committee members are asked to identify an alternate to attend meetings on their behalf if they are unable to do so.

Next meeting is January 28, 2021 from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

8. Items for next agenda

a) Presentations from FY 21-22 Project Applicants

9. Adjournment

David Pedersen thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

NORTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - December 22, 2020

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	Voting Item 6a Melina Sempill Watts Consulting LLC
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y	Y
Agency	LAC Waterworks	Dave Rydman	X	Russ Bryden		(not present)	A
Agency	MRCA	Chad Christensen		Sarah Rascon			
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>	X	Dave Roberts		Y	Y
Agency	LVMWD	<u>David Pedersen</u>		Dave Roberts	X	Y	Y
Community	UCLA	<u>Madelyn Glickfeld</u>	X	Richard Ambrose		Y	Y
Community	CPMCA	Doug Marian					
Community	LA Area Chamber of	Jessica Duboff		Kendal Asuncion	X	Y	Y
Community	Wishtoyo Chumash	Tevin Schmitt	X			Y	Y
Community	Community	Kirsten James	X	Fran Diamond		Y	Y
Municipal	Agoura Hills	Jessica Forte	X	Louis Celaya		Y	Y
Municipal	Calabasas	Alex Farassati	X	Alba Lemus		Y	Y
Municipal	Hidden Hills	Kerry Kallman		Joe Bellomo			
Municipal	LAC Supervisor District	Katy Yaroslavsky		Sophie Freeman	X	Y	Y
Municipal	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	X	Allen Ma		Y	Y
Municipal	Malibu	Mark Johnson	X	Christine Shen		Y	Y
Municipal	Westlake Village	Roxanne Hughes	X	Phillipe Eskandar		Y	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	13	13
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0	1
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees
Alberto Grajeda
Allen Ma
Annelisa Moe
Blake Tree People
Brenda Morales
David Angel
Debbie Sharpton
Kevin Kim
Melina Watts
Mike Antos
Richard Ambrose
Terry Dipple
Tori Klug

- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY -

North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee

Date: December 22, 2020

To: Regional Oversight Committee
Safe, Clean Water Program

Matthew Frary
Los Angeles County Flood Control District

From: North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee

Re: Comments on Framework for Potential Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan Programming Guidelines

The North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) reviewed the October 19, 2020 memorandum to the Regional Oversight Committee on the preparation of potential Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan Programming Guidelines (copy attached). Based on the collective input of WASC members and their experiences preparing the NSMB's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan, we would like to share the following comments related to each of the five elements identified for additional clarification.

1. Programming partial funding

Given the limited funding available to the NSMB, the WASC would benefit from the opportunity to approve partial funding for projects submitted for inclusion in its Stormwater Investment Plan. For the NSMB's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan, the only qualifying project application was for the Viewridge Stormwater Improvements Project, which requested \$2.9 million in funding. Unfortunately, the project proponent opted to withdraw the application because, if approved, it would have monopolized almost two years of funding for the NSMB.

By approving partial funding for qualifying projects, the WASC would be able to leverage a larger number of projects and distribute the limited funds more equitably. When approving partial funding for a project, the WASC could request assurance from the project proponent of the availability of an alternate source of funding. Alternatively, some projects may be scalable, allowing for a smaller project with proportional benefits.

2. Applying Consistent Disadvantaged Community Benefits Policies

The NSMB has no disadvantaged census block groups shown on the Safe, Clean Water Project GIS map. However, the NSMB is a destination for many disadvantaged community residents who recreate in the region due to its beaches, trails, parks, campgrounds and other visitor facilities. Safe, clean water is essential to support that recreational experience. The NSMB WASC would encourage future consideration of investments in recreational resources that serve and benefit disadvantaged communities.

- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY -

3. Strengthening Community Engagement and Support

The NSMB WASC recognizes the importance of strengthening community engagement and ensuring community support for the projects that are included in its Stormwater Investment Plan. Guidance on the expectations for both community engagement and support would be helpful to ensure that project proponents have a consistent understanding. Also, additional support is recommended to encourage public participation and engagement in WASC meetings.

4. Clarifying Prioritization of Nature-Based Solutions

The NSMB WASC supports the proposal to provide additional guidance on project elements that would qualify as nature-based solutions, and the process to be used by WASCs to ensure that nature-based solutions are prioritized in a consistent way.

5. Understanding Water Supply Benefits

Project proponents in the NSMB have experienced difficulties scoring points in the water supply benefit area due to the unique characteristics of the watershed. The volume of water supply generated by projects in the NSMB is significantly limited by scattered development near relatively small tributary waterbodies, the lack of permeable soils due to local geology, and the lack of a usable groundwater basin. Additionally, the scoring for the Water Supply Benefit area is heavily weighted on cost effectiveness. No water supply points are awarded for projects that produce less than 25 acre-feet at a unit cost of more than \$2,500 per acre-foot. In the NSMB, the smaller tributary areas yield projects that produce smaller volumes of water supply for comparable costs to improve water quality.

The NSMB WASC would support consideration of more flexible scoring criteria for the Water Supply Benefit. The criteria could be amended to provide points for projects in the NSMB with a higher per acre-foot cost, recognizing the difficulty of delivering projects with new water supply at \$2,500 or less per acre-foot. In addition, the criteria could also be adapted to provide points for projects in the NSMB that provide less than 25 acre-feet per year of water supply, recognizing the smaller volumes of water that will be captured with sparse, distributed development and relatively smaller tributary waterbodies.