



Los Angeles County Nature-based Solutions Task Force Phase 2 Meeting 3 – Summary

Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Time: 11:00-2:00 p.m.

Location: Public Works Building, 900 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803, Alhambra Room

Meeting Objectives

1. Discuss the NbS Metrics Survey
2. Review models for the Working Metric Design

Attendees Panel Members:

Rowan Roderick-Jones (Stillwater Sciences)

Rebecca Kaliff (LA County Subcontract/Ultieg)

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Gabriel Mason (LA County DPW)

Gary Lai (Quixotic Nature-based Solutions)

Igor Bronz (Tree People)

Cynthia Jackson

Bruce Hamamoto (LA County DPW)

Melina Watts (Watershed Coordinator)

Kat Superfiskey (City of Los Angeles)

Amanda Begley (TreePeople)

Maggie Gardner (LA Waterkeeper)

Hayat Rasul (DRP)

Kelsey Jessup (TNC)

Nina Raj (Altadena Seed Library)

County Team:

Jason Pepito (LA County DPW)

Justin Jones (LA County DPW)

James Carpenter (LA County DPW)

Madai Sanchez- (LA County DPW)

Yao Kouwonou (LA County DPW)

Lee Alexanderson (LA County DPW)

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

Panel Facilitation Support Team:

Eileen Aldunda (Council for Watershed Health)

Tanishka Chellani (Council for Watershed Health)

Debbie Enos (Council for Watershed Health)

Agenda Item	Notes:
<p>1. Welcome</p>	<p>Tanishka Chellani started with introductions, then presented Phase 2 Purpose, NbS definitions from Phase 1., NbS Standard, and NbS Criteria.</p> <p>Rebecca Kaliff shared the purpose of metrics/key lessons from her work: <i>The key to ensuring the usefulness of metrics is to limit the number used. In most cases, select 3 to 5 metrics from the list of candidate metrics based on the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Communication Power. Does this metric communicate to a broad range of audiences? Would those who pay attention to your work (e.g., voters, legislators, agency program officers) understand what this metrics means? Communication power means that the data must have clarity with diverse audiences.</i> ● <i>Proxy Power. Does the metric say something of central importance about the result? (Or is it peripheral?) Can this metric stand as a proxy for the plain English statement of well-being? What pieces of data really get at the heart of the matter?</i> ● <i>Data Power. Do we have quality data on a timely basis? We need data which is reliable and consistent. And we need timely data so we can see progress, or the lack thereof.</i>
<p>2. Survey Response Summary</p>	<p>Tanishka Chellani shared the agenda and workshop exercises from the previous meeting and reviewed the purpose of the Metrics Survey. Tanishka shared out survey takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Metrics are too narrow, with too many metrics creating barriers</i> ● <i>Aspirational metrics (i.e. biodiversity outcomes, soil microbial diversity, bird species abundance, etc.) are difficult to measure at the design phase or post implementation, and will require long term monitoring.</i> ● <i>Suggested structure to move to a more qualitative set of questions</i>

	<p><i>that folds in the metrics/design guidance we are offering</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Need to focus on O+M Plans, post-implementation considerations, vegetation survival rate, and long-term stewardship</i>
<p>3. Proposed Metric Design Structure</p>	<p>Tanishka Chellani shared the proposed structure for the Assessment of NbS based on survey feedback and insights from the previous meeting.</p> <p>Tanishka clarified the desire to limit metrics to be useful for rolling up into the dashboard, whereas the assessment of NbS and the design of NbS can be informed by separate efforts/initiatives.</p> <p>To that end, TC posed the question, and opened the floor for comment: Is there an appetite for NbS Design Guidance?</p> <p><i>Comment: Shared the need to ensure alignment and avoid redundancy with the City of LA Biodiversity Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Emphasized that while design guidance is important, it is also important to consider whether projects will be durable and last beyond five years, and whether current approaches are encouraging the right kinds of long term projects.</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Noted the importance of thinking long term and acknowledged that design guidance is a longer range effort. However, she emphasized that scoring and discussions around scoring remain important.</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Stated that incentives for NbS are still needed. Financial and scoring incentives are necessary, as some stakeholders may focus on checking boxes rather than implementing meaningful design changes. She also noted that the values shift required will take time and education.</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Shared that an NbS working group could be attached to each WASC to facilitate co-education. She referenced models where communities have a stake in outcomes, including the Malibu Creek Watershed Restoration Association.</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Shared that ASCE is working on a Manual of Practice for NbS and that the County has applied to serve as an editor.</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Noted that metrics are short term and somewhat reactionary to NbS criteria. She highlighted that there is existing</i></p>

	<p><i>guidance for development in the WUI across the County that could benefit from alignment with NbS efforts. Design guidance would therefore be useful as a longer term effort.</i></p> <p><i>Question: Asked what informs project design from a developer’s perspective—</i> <i>Fellow participants responded that it varies by project, but factors often include cost efficiency, maximizing benefits, funding availability, and the client.</i></p> <p>TC closed the discussion on Design Guidance, summarizing that there is appetite but it needs to be built out a little more, and that scoring changes are underlined as necessary and the Design guidance is not a replacement for scoring changes.</p> <p>TC resumed detailing the proposed updated assessment for NbS. The structure is broken down into 4 Distinct Components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Site Context</i> 2. <i>Design Intent</i> 3. <i>NbS Assessment</i> 4. <i>Pre- and Post-Implementation Assessment</i> <p>Tanishka walked through each component and its purpose. The full detailed structure can be found on this handout: Proposed NbS Task Force Metrics Structure (4/1/26)</p> <p>The Group paused for a 15 Minute Break.</p>
<p>4. Break Out Stations</p>	<p>The groups broke out into groups to work on/provide feedback on 3 of the components of the Proposed NbS Task Force Metrics Structure:</p> <p><i>Design Intent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Refine and confirm Design Intent categories</i> ● <i>Clarify scope and definitions for each category</i> <p><i>NbS Assessment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Refine and rephrase assessment questions</i> ● <i>Reorganize question order for clarity and flow</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify and incorporate additional considerations</i> <p><i>Pre- and Post-Implementation Criteria / Assessment Models</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review available assessment models (e.g., CRAM, 5-point assessment, ARTC)</i> • <i>Suggest additional approaches</i> • <i>Pick a favorite and provide feedback on its applicability to NbS + any necessary adjustments</i>
<p>5. Group Discussion</p>	<p>Group 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared the need for a narrative sections so the project proponents could “prequalify” before going through a lengthy application process • Noting that this prequalification should be an applicable to everybody not just NbS projects <p>Group 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Assessment process for the permits of the City of LA is an additional set of requirements reemphasising the need for coordination across these efforts • Shared the need for incentives • Shared the idea of a singular application for all projects <p>Group 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to change scoring and incentives
<p>6. Closing</p>	<p>TC shared that she and Rebecca Kaliff will review the proposed NbS Task Force Metrics Structure to identify any redundancies with existing NbS metrics. This review will help determine which metrics should be retained, which should be included in the NbS Project Applicant Form, and what the structure of that form should look like.</p> <p>The following meeting will convene in the first week of May in the Public Works building. The date is subject to change.</p>