

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

Nature-based Solutions Task Force Meeting 7 Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 10:00 PM – 11:00 AM (Virtual Meeting)

Purpose: Share out Updates on Standards, Criteria and Recommendations, Provide updates on the completion of Phase 1 of the NbS Effort , final updates on Report Timeline

Task Force Lead: Tanishka Chellani (Council for Watershed Health), Eileen Alduenda (Council for Watershed Health)

Task Force Participants:

- Calderon, Jesse — Sacred Places Institute
- Doberstien, Craig — Herrera
- Dwivedi, Raina — CNRG
- Enos, Debbie — CWH
- Fischer, Richard
- Garcia, Alonso— CWH
- Gardener, Maggie — LA Waterkeeper
- Gonzales, Arturo — RMC
- Johnson Yang, Samantha — San Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians
- Kreter, Kristina — CWH
- Lai, Gary — Quixotic Nature Based Solutions
- Lau, Clement — Los Angeles County Dept of Parks and Recreation
- Lofton, Esther — UC ANR
- Ready, Drew — CWH

CWH Support Team:

Eileen Alduenda, Tanishka Chellani, Jason Casanova, Debbie Enos

CWP Support Team:

Keith Hala (Los Angeles County Public Works)

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants shared names, pronouns, and affiliations via chat.• Meeting opened with a land acknowledgment honoring the Indigenous Tribes of the Los

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	Angeles region and their stewardship of land and water.
2. Update on Standard and Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Developments in the NbS Standard Reordering Criteria Based on Regional Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria were restructured to fit Los Angeles County's ecological and implementation context. Foundational elements such as biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, and scale-informed design are elevated. New Tiered Structure Introduced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 8 original IUCN criteria were reorganized into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key NbS Criteria (4) Project Guidance (2) Program Guidance (2) This allows clarity on what <i>must</i> be met versus what <i>guides</i> project and program implementation. Incorporation of BRP + Stakeholder Feedback Language was revised for clarity, local applicability, alignment with SCWP goals, and integration of communal stewardship concepts. A line-by-line rationale document accompanies the updated version.
3. Progress on Recommendations	<p>High Level Overview of Draft Recommendations</p> <p>1. Restructuring SCWP Scoring to Incentivize NbS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the NbS scoring threshold (above current 15 points)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating NbS across all scoring categories• Rebalancing category weights to elevate NbS importance <p>2. Holistic Project Assessment Approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider Letters of Intent• Introduce Peer Review Panel (PRP) functions• Distinguish between “feature presence” and “integrated ecosystem design” <p>3. Spectrum-Based Scoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects evaluated on a continuum from gray → hybrid → fully nature-based• Scaled points for partial alignment• Supports nuanced review, replacing rigid checkbox systems <p>4. Parallel Tracks for Alternative NbS Project Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated pathways for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Conservation/land acquisition◦ Avoided conversion◦ Decentralized small-scale projects• Aligns with original Measure W language and ecological goals <p>5. Additional Work Areas Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transforming TRP to better support CBOs• Strengthening community stewardship and long-term care models• Addressing permitting barriers and improving interagency coordination• Building O&M funding pathways
4. Metrics Alignment and Development	Review of MMS and Interim Guidance Metrics CWH conducted initial analysis to identify which existing SCWP metrics already relate to NbS implementation.

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	<p>The BRP emphasized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New metrics for ecosystem health • Need for stewardship and maintenance indicators • Holistic evaluation (beyond hydrology-only focus) <p>Alignment Pathways Identified Two tracks will be advanced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binary metrics: Determine whether a project meets each criterion • Qualitative metrics: Capture ecosystem quality, community benefit, stewardship, and long-term ecological performance
<p>5. Transition of the Task Force to a Working Group + Next Steps</p>	<p>Next Steps Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWH Team will begin recommending metrics for integration • Task Force Working Group will expand on BRP's draft ideas • Alignment will continue with parallel development between County teams and Task Force members <p>Anticipated Phase 2 Structure</p> <p>Working Group 1: Recommendations + Metrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues the core work of BRP and Task Force • Focus on SCWP alignment • Open to all Task Force participants <p>Working Group 2: TBD Potential directions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species removal / Strategy 13 of the County Water Plan

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerging needs or complementary priority topics
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