

# 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)

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**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*

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**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. <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants shared names, pronouns, and affiliations via chat.</li><li>• Meeting opened with a land acknowledgment honoring the Indigenous Tribes of the Los</li></ul>

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

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

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

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