



Los Angeles County Nature-based Solutions Task Force Phase 2 Meeting 4 – Summary

Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83147064330>)

Meeting Objectives

- Share updates on the Metrics setting process in collaboration with Paradigm
- Outline final deliverables for Nature-based Solutions Task Force Phase 2
- Provide an overview of Watershed Planning scoring process to support transparency

Attendees Panel Members:

Alonso Garcia (CWH)

Amanda Begley (Tree People)

Amelia Milano (LA County Subcontractor/Ultieg)

Art Castro (LADWP)

Arturo Gonzales (SG LLARMC)

Becca Ayala (LADPW)

Brian Baldauf (MRCA)

Claire Robinson (Amigos de Los Rios)

Clement Lau (CSO)

Craig Doberstein (Herrera)

Drew Ready (CWH)

Esther Lofton (UC ANR)

Felipe Macchia (Heal the Bay)

Gabe Mason (LADPW)

Gary Lai (Quixotic Nature-based Solutions)

Geraldine Trivedi (City of Redondo Beach)

Hayat Rasul (DRP)

Igor Bronz (Tree People)

James Cortes (Day One)

Jessa Calderon (SPI)

Kat Superfisky (City of LA)

Kelsey Jessup (TNC)

Kristina Kreter (CWH)

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

Nurit Katz (LADWP)

Rachel Malarich (City of LA)

Raina Dwivedi (CNRG)

Rebecca Kaliff (Paradigm)

Tina Calderon (SPI)

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)

Keith Hala (LA County DPW)

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:
1. Welcome	<p>Tanishka Chellani opened the virtual meeting, noted that the meeting would be recorded, and shared that the purpose was to provide updates on Phase 2 progress and the Nature-based Solutions metrics-setting process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Task Force purpose was revisited: Phase 1 established a countywide Nature-based Solutions definition, standard, and criteria, while Phase 2 is focused on recommending metrics tied to that framework and considering integration into the Safe, Clean Water Program. ● Meeting objectives included updating the group in collaboration with the Paradigm/Prem Environmental team, outlining Phase 2 deliverables, and hearing from Watershed Planning on the scoring refinement process.
2. Metrics Setting Process Share Out + Q&A	TC summarized the prior Phase 2 meetings and explained how each step

	<p>informed the current metrics framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting 1 focused on the challenge of setting metrics for Nature-based Solutions, since Nature-based Solutions are both an approach and a set of benefits the County wants to encourage and measure. • Meeting 2 crosswalked watershed planning metrics with additional metric categories recommended by the Task Force and Blue Ribbon Panel, using the Task Force criteria as an organizing framework. • A metrics survey and proposed metric structure were developed to capture site context, design intent, qualitative Nature-based Solutions evaluation, systems function, and pre- and post-implementation assessment considerations. • Meeting 3 refined design intent categories, Nature-based Solutions assessment questions, and pre/post implementation considerations, while discussing how to reduce project proponent burden.
<p>3. Refined NbS Metrics-Setting Approach for SCWP + Q&A</p>	<p>TC shared the current metric direction: instead of a standalone area metric, the Nature-based Solutions metric would evaluate what proportion of project outcomes or benefits are achieved through Nature-based Solutions.</p> <p>The proposed roll-up question is: What percent of project benefits are being achieved through Nature-based Solutions within a particular project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach aligns with Task Force feedback that Nature-based Solutions are not a separate benefit category, but rather a method or approach for delivering water quality, water supply, community, ecological, and other benefits. • The framework is intended to meet the Safe, Clean Water Program where it currently is, using existing project portal data where possible while incrementally moving toward a more systems-based assessment. <p>Rebecca Kaliff explained that the team is reviewing existing Safe, Clean Water Program goals, indicators, and project portal data to identify where Nature-based Solutions contributions can be calculated using data already</p>

	<p>collected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team is considering how existing indicators, such as stormwater capture, water supply, water quality improvements, park and green space creation, and other benefits, may be tied to Nature-based Solutions delivery. • Potential project portal additions include site context questions, qualitative Nature-based Solutions evaluation questions, and design-intent prompts to distinguish intentional Nature-based Solutions integration from incidental outcomes. <p><i>The group discussed where existing data may be sufficient, where proxy indicators may be useful, and where new qualitative or quantitative fields may be needed.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion focused on the complexity of measuring the percentage of project benefits delivered through Nature-based Solutions. Participants noted that different Safe, Clean Water Program goals may require different methods or proxy metrics, especially for community investment benefits and recreation. Participants emphasized the need to balance project proponent burden with sufficient nuance, while Eileen noted that living systems change and may perform differently over time than traditional infrastructure. Another participant suggested reframing the analysis to consider how much “nature benefit” is delivered per project benefit, such as per volume treated, pollutant load reduced, or dollar spent. The group discussed the need to better define nature benefits beyond acreage, including biodiversity quality, native species diversity, habitat value, ecological function, and long-term performance.</i></p>
<p>4. Phase 2 Deliverables + Watershed Planning Scoring Share Out + Q&A</p>	<p>TC shared that Phase 2 deliverables will include a refined proposed metric structure, a singular roll-up Nature-based Solutions metric, and a Phase 2 summary that brings together the process, recommendations, and application considerations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed metric structure will likely continue to serve as an anchoring document for broader countywide Nature-based Solutions assessment, beyond the immediate Safe, Clean Water Program project portal application. • The Safe, Clean Water Program application will focus on relevant pieces of the structure that can be integrated into existing program

	<p>processes and watershed planning updates.</p> <p>Jason shared that the County is undertaking a parallel effort to refine the existing Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Program feasibility study guidelines and scoring criteria.</p> <p>A public survey was expected to be released in May 2026 to gather feedback on current feasibility study guidelines and scoring criteria, including strengths, challenges, and recommended changes. Survey feedback will be synthesized with historical scoring feedback to inform technical analysis and proposed revisions.</p> <p>Draft feasibility study guidelines and scoring criteria are anticipated to be released for a 30-day public review period in early 2027, with final guidelines expected soon after.</p> <p>The team will collect Task Force feedback on the metric-setting process, including what existing data should count toward Nature-based Solutions, what formulas may be appropriate, and what additional information is needed.</p>
6. Closing	<p>The final Phase 2 Task Force meeting was planned as an in-person meeting in June, with the exact date to be confirmed if scheduling changes are needed.</p> <p>TC thanked Task Force members for their expertise, patience, and continued input throughout the metrics-setting process, and noted that Phase 3 updates will be shared as they develop.</p>