

Measure W - Safe, Clean Water Program
Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Members Present: Patricia J. Huber, City Administrative Officer, Chair (CAO)
Matias Farfan, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)
Mara Luevano, Civil Engineer (Mayor)

Members Present: Jacqueline Vernon Wagner, CAO
Hermineh Amijanian, CAO
Blayne Sutton-Wills, CLA

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM.

Public Comment – Held

1. Minutes of the May 29, 2025 Regular Meeting

Disposition: Approved 3-0.

2. Verbal update from Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) on the status of Measure W – Safe, Clean Water Municipal and Regional Programs

Susie Santilena, Senior Water Engineer (Bureau of Sanitation/BOS) presented updates on the following:

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) – The City has representation in multiple WASCs, including the maximum number of seats (three) in the Central and Upper Los Angeles River Watersheds. The City is about 20 percent of the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed area, had one designated seat, but gained an additional seat through the municipal self-selection process. The City now has a seat as the Management Watershed Plan representative for the Dominguez Channel watershed. All previously vacant seats now have a representative and BOS is working to finalize all alternative representatives.

Projects Updates – A number of projects have made progress in the CIP Program. Haynes Street Greenway completed construction and is now in post-construction phase. Despite the City's efforts to pursue leveraged project funding and work within scope, many projects have funding shortfalls. The City is working with the municipal program and outside funding programs to address these shortfalls.

Bureau of Street Services (BSS) Updates – Victor Cortes, Senior Civil Engineer, Streets LA reported a schedule delay for the Eagle Rock Boulevard Project. The project is a multi-modal, complete street project on the surface and a stormwater project in the sub-surface. The surface project is facing delays and these projects need to be implemented together. BSS will be requesting an extension for the stormwater funds.

Chair Huber asked if any concerns were expected from requesting an extension and Mr. Cortes responded that there is no concern for the extension for the stormwater component of the project.

Brian Ahn, Senior Engineer, BSS, provided an update on the Broadway Manchester Project. Design on the project is complete, but the new cost estimates show a funding shortfall. BSS is exploring additional funding sources and seeking an extension.

Mr. Farfan asked about the project timeline and area. Mr. Ahn noted that the project construction was a little over three years and BSS is exploring different options to extend design phase to consider alternatives. The project is located along the Broadway Corridor and is a combination of ATP and Measure W projects, from 92nd St to 105 or 106 St.

Chair Huber asked about the cause of the cost increase, project shortfalls and efforts to address these issues. Mr. Ahn responded that the Broadway Manchester project was delayed due to COVID and subsequently the labor and material costs increased. Additionally, the costs increased on the design due to utility impacts and the project complexity. Mr. Cortes responded that the Eagle Rock project initially had a federal grant that then decreased by \$6.3 million due to a corrective action. The project started in 2017 and the funding is not enough to complete the project with the 2025 costs. BSS is reviewing the costs and scope of work for savings and funding opportunities. For Eagle Rock Blvd, BSS applied for a SCAG grant for \$35 Million to address the shortfall and will hear back by the end of the year.

Mr. Farfan asked about the complexity of various funding sources for different project elements and the back and forth of shortfalls for the different elements. Mr. Cortes responded that they are looking at shortfalls for both elements and applying for more grant funds. The Council Office wants to prioritize the ATP elements of the projects. Michael Scaduto from Bureau of Sanitation added that the City must be careful about scope changes and that the Measure W funds must deliver the results / water quality elements that were funded. Ms. Santilena asked BSS if there have been scope changes to the Measure W component. Mr. Cortes responded that there have been no scope changes at this time and BSS is meeting with the Council Offices for further direction.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Updates – Art Castro, Waterworks Engineer from LADWP, provided an update on their stormwater capture projects. All four DWP projects are currently at the bid and award stage. The last two

projects completed design and will go to bid and award at the end of the year. All of the LADWP projects include a partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. The David M. Gonzales Project is out to bid and a pre-bid conference was held with contractors the previous week. They hoped to award in October 2025. The other projects will be out to bid in October and November 2025 with award dates in February or March 2026. No questions asked.

Draft Initial Watershed Plans – Ms. Santilena provided an update that the Initial Watershed Plans are out for public comment (from August 14th to September 28th 2025); Some notable comments include the need to account for existing projects completed before Measure W, the need to incorporate tools to report metrics consistently and reduce the administrative burden for reporting, the need to incorporate information from scientific studies, and the need for more consideration of O&M funding requirements and workforce development for O&M. Overall BOS is impressed with the draft plans.

Letters of Non-Objection and Support for Round 7 (2026-27) and Round 8 (2027-28) – Ms. Santilena stated that the City received a request in July for a Letter of Support for the UCLA Mobility Stormwater Capture and Greening Project. This project plans to implement trash capture infrastructure, storm drain diversions, new walkways to improve water quality and water supply and urban greening ahead of the Olympics. The project is on UCLA's property and would not obligate the City for future O&M. It would assist the City in improving water quality downstream.

The City has sent out an invitation to collaborate with outside Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), third parties, that have requested Letters of Non-Objection or Support for Round 8 Regional Program Application, which is due July 2026. The City needs to get a head start if the project obligates the City for future work. The deadline to respond is October 31, 2025. The City has thus far received requests to collaborate on a green alleys and sidewalks project in Historic Filipinotown by LA Neighborhood Initiative and the various entities around the Venice Grand Canals project for restoration and stormwater projects.

Mr. Farfan asked about the Grand Canals and if it is still TBD due to the need to establish a project lead. Ms. Santilena confirmed that there is a need to establish a project lead and they are working with the Council Office.

Project Modification Requests. – Ms. Santilena presented on the City's Project Modification Requests which are due on October 31, 2025 to the Regional Board. Any significant or material changes in scope, budget, and schedule must be submitted. Once submitted, the Modification Requests will be evaluated to see if the change is consistent or inconsistent with the SIP. If a change is found to be inconsistent, then the WASC must re-consider the project. The City's Project Modification Requests mainly include changes in schedule. None of the requests are for additional fundings, although they may have shortfalls that require revaluation of the project. Wilmington W Street and

Wilmington Neighborhood Green Project have scope changes due to some technical constraints.

Chair. Huber asked if the City would lose the funding if the changes were inconsistent. Ms. Santilena clarified that changes will not necessarily result in loss of funding. There is a process for further negotiation or a possible requirement to return to the prior scope. Mr. Scaduto added that the submitted scope changes are technical and should deliver the same results. As such, they are not expecting changes in funding. However, each WASC is different, so it is hard to know how it will be interpreted.

Ms. Santilena concluded the presentation with the following updates; The City is considering Round 8 Letters of Support and completing the 2025-2026 Watershed Strategic Plan. City Council and Mayor recently approved Round 5 transfer agreements. The Regional Oversight Committee will consider draft initial Watershed Plans and the biennial report. The scoring committee will evaluate Round 7 proposals; the City has one application for O&M for the Ballona Creek Project.

Disposition: No action taken.

3. Report from LASAN requesting authority to issue Letter of Support for UCLA Mobility, Stormwater Capture, and Greening Project (CD 5) by University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for Round 7

Ms. Luevano was recused due to a conflict of interest as a member of the WASC.

Ms. Santilena presented on the UCLA Mobility, Stormwater Capture, and Green Project for Round 7. UCLA has already submitted its application and the City's letter would be retroactive if approved by this committee and the City Council. The project is located on the UCLA Campus in CD 5 in the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed area. It is not in a disadvantaged area, but it is adjacent to one. The project is for a 335-acre drainage area with 196 acres infiltration area. The total project construction cost is \$15.1 million. The project includes flood protection, safety, reduction of heat island effects, and urban greening elements. The proponent, UCLA, would be responsible for implementation. BOS recommends approving the Letter of Support.

Mr. Farfan asked about the project's timeline, projects on private property, the City's involvement with the project and if the City will sign off on the project design. Ms. Santilena responded that their goal is to complete ahead of the 2028 Olympics, with construction completion in early 2028. Ms. Santilena clarified that all non-municipal projects within the City require a Letter of Support from the City. The City previously provided a similar Letter of Support for La Brea Tar Pits. Ms. Santilena and Mr. Scaduto further explained that the City is required to provide input on the design if the project is on City property. If the project is on private property, the City would only provide design input to ensure compliance with City permits and design standards, such as the City's

building codes. If the project includes work in the public right of way, limited to infrastructure, the project would be subject to the Bureau of Engineering's permit process. If the City needs to take over control of the project implementation or its operation and maintenance, then the City would be more proactive in its assessment and feedback.

Chair Huber asked if BOS is concerned about the late submission to the WASC. Ms. Santilena reiterated that the timing of the Letter of Support is a consideration. The City has an early deadline for the Invitation to Collaborate to ensure that there is time for a Letter of Support. There have been instances where projects are reviewed without a Letter of Support, but would not receive funding until the letter is provided. However, there is time for late submissions, but also pressure for having the Letter of Support. Mr. Scaduto added that it is on a case-by-case issue. This project is on private property and has a tight timeline due to the Olympics. For other projects, proponents and the County understand the need for discussion and clarity of roles in the project before the Letter of Support.

Chair Huber asked if Metro has contributed to the project. Ms. Santilena responded that they are not aware of the relationship.

Disposition: Approved 2-0

4. Other Committee organizational matters, as necessary

Ms. Luevano rejoined the meeting.

Jacqueline Vernon Wagner, CAO Measure W Manager, from the Office of the City Administrative Officer recognized Chair ACAO Patricia Huber for her City Service ahead of her retirement and thanked her for her leadership on the Measure W AOC since its inception.

Disposition: No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM.