

# Watershed Management Initiative

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## Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative CORE GROUP MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2009

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

City of San José, Roosevelt Community Center, Classroom #1  
901 East Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95116

Attendees: Trish Mulvey, Nancy Bernardi, Vishaka Atre, Melody Tovar, Elaine Marshall, Matt Krupp, Kirsten Struve, Roberta Dunlap, Phil Bobel, Larry Johmann, and Sandra Freitas.

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
9:30 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, and Early Announcements (Trish Mulvey)
9:40 a.m.	Review Meeting Minutes and Update Action Item from Core Group Meeting on October 2, 2008 (Trish Mulvey)
9:45 a.m.	Trash Summit Update (Phil Bobel)
10:05 a.m.	Status on Single Use Bag Actions (Melody Tovar and Phil Bobel)
10:35 a.m.	POTW Permit (Phil Bobel and Kirsten Struve)
11:05 a.m.	Subgroup Updates (Trish Mulvey)
11:30 a.m.	Tour of Stormwater Features at Roosevelt Center (Melody Tovar)
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

### **ACTION ITEMS**

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<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1.	Contact Bob Kass for next steps on trash leadership meeting	PB	4/09	
2.	Contact Art Catbagan about Silicon Valley Anti-Litter Campaign staff support	MT	4/09	Done
3.	Follow-up on trash summit meeting; plan next meeting	PB& MT	4/09	
4.	Send SCVURPPP Trash Ad Hoc Task Meeting invite to Larry Johmann	TM	ASAP	Done
5.	Forward e-mail on styrofoam use in Palo Alto schools	TM	4/09	Done
6.	Invite WMI to the Community workshop in May for the WPCP Mater Plan	SF	ASAP	Done
7.	Send out Save the Date for '09 Core Group Meetings	SF	ASAP	Done

#### **1. Welcome, Introductions, Recognition, and Early Announcements (Trish Mulvey)**

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Larry Johmann expressed concern for watershed activities in the East Hills draining to Calaveras Reservoir, but it does not lie in the Santa Clara Basin Watershed. He will be address concern with the Santa Clara County SCVURPPP representative.

As of April 7, the Santa Clara Valley Green Gardener program will have graduated some 70 landscape maintenance professionals and approximately 10 other interested individuals from the training program. . The Santa Clara Valley Green Gardener program, as a part of the overall outreach efforts on IPM being done by SCVURPPP, received the 2008 IPM Innovators award from the Department of Pesticide Regulation – congratulations! Current budget conditions have constrained program advertisement. Classes continue to be offered in cooperation with the Santa Clara County Master Gardeners and the Metropolitan Adult Education Program, which is where gardeners go to take the class in San José. This spring’s class attendance consisted of 18 Spanish-language and 15 English-language attendees.

## 2. **Review Meeting Minutes and Update Action Item from Core Group Meeting on October 12, 2008 (Trish Mulvey)**

Sandra Freitas will correct meting date for the Plant; meeting did not take place. Melody Tovar’s and Karin North’s action items will be carried over to April.

## 3. **Trash Summit Update (Phil Bobel)**

The trash summit was held on October 15, 2008. A list of activities was identified and circulated for individual input. Some members of the WMI Trash Group talked about meeting in March, but a planning group has not convened. Potential work group details will be sought by contacting Bob Kass (City of Campbell) and Art Catabagan’s (Silicon Valley Anti-Litter Campaign) groups. Trash Group concurred that an organized group and campaign needs to be identified to address current issues. It is expected that a follow-up meeting will be taking place in April. A group name and/or title have not been determined, but the Core and the trash groups would like it to include more than trash and toxins (e.g., human waste).

Trash issues, specifically those dealing with human excrement from homeless encampments, continues to be a concern along Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River in downtown San José. The City of Palo Alto will be piloting a voucher program for individuals living in creeks for creek cleanup projects. Stormwater funds are supporting this effort.

## 4. **Status on Single Use Bag Actions (Phil Bobel and Melody Tovar)**

Palo Alto’s bag ban recommendations with an ordinance will be going to Council on March 16, 2009 and it will only affect the seven larger grocery stores. Consideration to ban polystyrene in Food Service Establishments (300) will be introduced to Council in April 2009. Polystyrene is also a concern for Palo Alto schools, but they are addressing this on their own. In the meantime, schools are exploring vendors for compostable food service items. Palo Alto will be working on an appropriate CEQA document such as a Negative Declaration for environmental clearance.

The County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (Commission) is considering support of the proposed plastic bag fee – it excludes food take-out bags. The proposed model program was introduced to San Jose Council’s Transportation and Environment Committee this month, and leading up to this effort, multiple stakeholder input sessions took place. It has been a difficult process and small retailers have not been adequately engaged. The American Chemistry Council has

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asserted that plastic bags are not a significant litter concern. The Commission will meet on February 25, 2009.

San José staff have been directed by the Council Committee to return with additional program options.

## 5. **POTW Permit (Phil Bobel and Kirsten Struve)**

San José, Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto met early on in the permitting process and have not met since then; at the request of San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board staff the permit review process did not include stakeholder input. For San José's Plant Master Plan, stakeholder and community workshops will be taking place some time in May and an invite will be sent to the Core Group distribution list. Sunnyvale's permit is scheduled to be considered sometime in May.

Regarding recycled water, Nancy Bernardi (GCRCDD) would like to see more discussion on emerging contaminants in recycled water at a future meeting. Currently, staff from San José and the Santa Clara Valley Water District are working on a joint study session pertaining to recycled water scheduled for April 23, 2009. Details will be discussed at the Core Group Meeting in April 2009. Lorrie Gervin from Sunnyvale will be providing basic information to Nancy.

Once the POTW permits are adopted, the Product Stewardship Subgroup can consider permit activities related to Product Stewardship for items like triclosan-free cleansers and chlorine-free paper.

## 6. **Subgroup Updates (Trish Mulvey)**

**Trash:** *Refer above to item #3 for details.*

**POTW:** The group has not met; however, recycled water has been incorporated into the Plant Master Planning process for the San José POTW. A meeting will be set for some time in July.

**WAMS:** The group has not met, but anticipates meeting sometime in March.

**WE&O:** SCVURPPP is surveying the public (a follow-up to 2003) on behavior changes. It began this week and has targeted about 575 respondents (including 75 high school aged students). Some of the questions are related to trash; will provide new data from new questions. Last year, BASMAA conducted a survey for 18-29 year-old males on trash behaviors. Preliminary results will be available next week. Additionally, the group is updating the Public Participation Outreach Opportunities list (WMI Factsheet) with program oriented opportunities. A print-ready will be produced and will be shared with other organizations.

The workgroup has also completed the revision process for the "You are the Solution to Water Pollution" brochure. It will be translated to Vietnamese and Spanish and printed in the next couple months.

**COS:** A WMI Update fact sheet was developed and will be circulated to the group for comments. The group will be planning the next group retreat for sometime this year. The next group meeting will be taking place on March 13, 2009 from 10 a.m. to Noon.

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**Erosive Forces:** No update.

**Product Stewardship:** The group has been meeting and developing a work plan. The City of Sunnyvale is now accepting pharmaceuticals at fire stations (they have public safety staff). The group has a new team member – Andrea Ventura from Clean Water Action. The group meets on the fourth Monday of the month.

**LUS:** The group is recruiting new participants. The group will be addressing the distribution plan for the “Top 10 Development Tips to Protect Creeks.” A presentation was conducted to the West Valley Communities. A LUS work plan update is being addressed at this time.

**Emerging Contaminants:** This group now merged with the Emerging Contaminants Regional Monitoring Program committee of the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). They are working on a white paper and due to staffing constraints with the State budget situation, completion has been delayed.

**7. Tour of Stormwater Features at Roosevelt Center (Melody Tovar)**

The Roosevelt Community Center opened on December 12, 2008. Melody Tovar from San José provided a guided tour and explanation of the stormwater features and related art and education on site.

**8. Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**

**9. Next Meeting:** April 9, 2009. All meetings will be held during the even months of the year. “Save the Date” notices will be sent out to members.

*The WMI's role will be to continue to serve as a stakeholder forum for watershed initiatives, to facilitate problem-solving processes, and to support and encourage agency actions in the direction of the nine strategic policy objectives.*

## WMI Work Plan Priorities Update

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Trash</i>                           | 3. <i>Stream Goals</i>        |
| 2. <i>Erosive Forces/Riparian Setback</i> | 4. <i>Product Stewardship</i> |