

BLUE RIBBON PANEL



BASED SOLUTIONS

LA COUNTY
WATER PLAN
TASK FORCE

Workshop 2
November 12, 2024

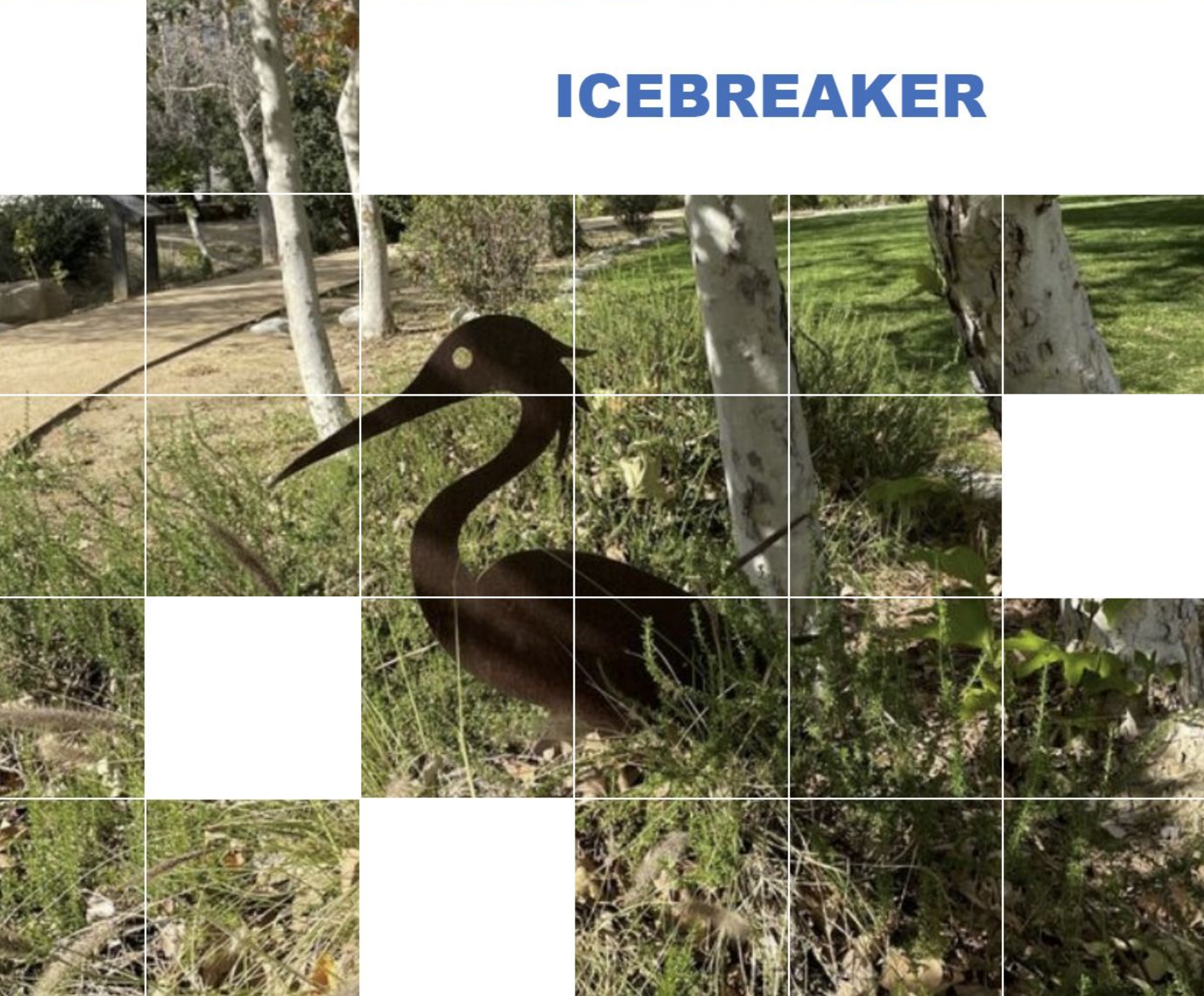
AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1:00 – 1:10pm | Arrival and Check-in |
| 1:10 – 1:15pm | Welcome and Agenda Overview |
| 1:15 – 1:25pm | Review of Task Force Meeting and County Report |
| 1:25 – 1:35pm | Review of Blue Ribbon Panel Pre-Workshop Survey Results |
| 1:35 – 2:35pm | Nature-based Solutions Definition (Draft) |
| 2:35 – 2:45pm | Break |
| 2:45 – 3:40pm | Review Shared List of Nature-based Solutions Criteria & Standards for LA County Water Plan |
| 3:40 – 3:55pm | Planning for Future Workshops |
| 3:55 – 4:00pm | Wrap-up |

MEETING AGREEMENTS OVERVIEW

1. Expect and accept non-closure.
2. Speak from your own experience. Use “I” statements.
3. Listen attentively and fully. Participate actively.
4. Be concise and say what’s core.
5. Notice power dynamics in the room. Take space, make space.
6. Respect confidentiality.
7. Disagreements will be handled with professionalism and open-mindedness.
8. Take care of yourself (e.g. water, snack, bathroom breaks).

ICEBREAKER



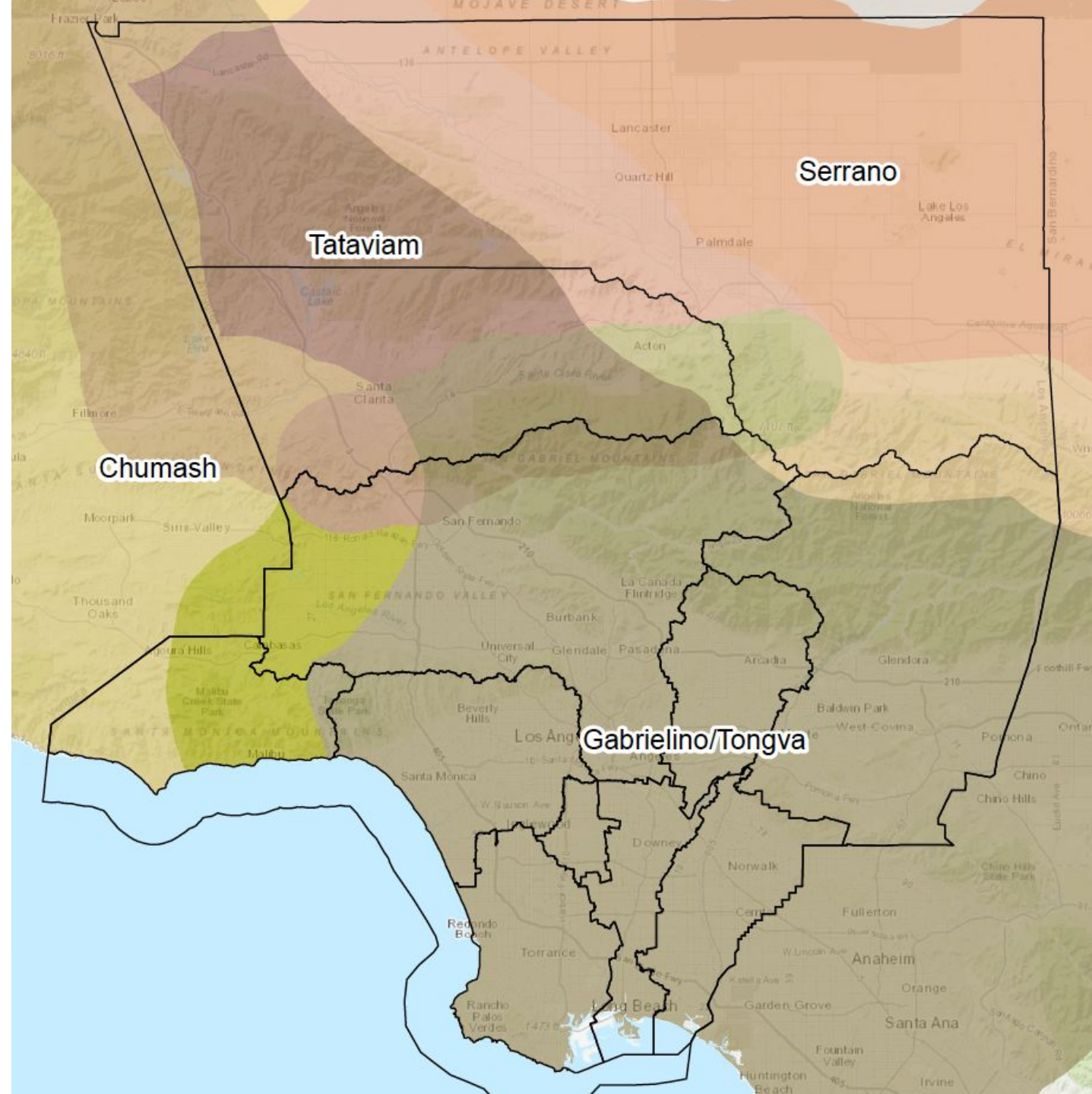
- Name & Pronouns
- Affiliation/Role
- +/- or Moment of Gratitude

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN HOMELANDS

We acknowledge that we are presently on unceded land of the Gabrielino Tongva, Ventureño Chumash, Gabrielino Kizh, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. We recognize that these Tribes are still present and that they are the original stewards of this land and waters.

We make this acknowledgement out of respect for their long-standing connection to and protection of this area's watersheds.

We honor their elders, both past and present, and their descendants. We have the responsibility to carry out actions in unceded lands that will meaningfully involve citizens of these tribes.



NBS BLUE RIBBON PANEL

Eileen Alduenda	Council for Watershed Health
Claudia Arends	US Forest Service
Patrick Atwater	Crescenta Valley Water District
Amanda Begley	TreePeople
Isaac Brown	Stillwater Sciences <i>(Alt – Wendy Katagi, Rowan Roderick-Jones)</i>
Dan Cooper	Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
Maggie Gardner	LA Waterkeeper <i>(Alt – Bruce Reznik)</i>
Bruce Hamamoto	LA County Department of Public Works
Kelsey Jessup	The Nature Conservancy
Samantha Johnson	Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Land Conservancy
Nurit Katz	LADWP/UCLA
Dan Knapp	Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Gary Lai	Quixotic Nature-based Solutions
Stephanie Landregan	UCLA Extension
Gabriella Lassos	Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
Claire Latané	Cal Poly Pomona
Esther Lofton	UC Cooperative Extension
Annelisa Moe	Heal The Bay
Mark Nguyen	City of Los Angeles, Sanitation <i>(Alt – Michael Scaduto)</i>
Natalie Ouwersloot	Foothill MWD
Claire Robinson	Amigos de los Rios
Geraldine Trivedi	City of Redondo Beach
Jane Tsong	Watershed Conservation Authority
Andrea Vona	LA County Parks & Recreation
Melina Watts	LA County Safe Clean Water Program
Melanie Winter	The River Project

OVERVIEW OF THE NBS TASK FORCE DELIVERABLES & TIMING

Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP) Vision

A shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably and equitably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County.

Task Force Mission

To implement priority tasks from the CWP 2-Year Action Plan and support the use of nature-based water management solutions across the County to improve the health of communities and ecosystems.

PRIORITY TASKS

1. Develop Countywide definitions and standards for Nature-based Solutions
2. Prioritize Nature-based Solutions in stormwater capture projects
3. Build upon the Safe, Clean Water Program's Metrics & Monitoring Study and 2022 Interim Guidance

NbS TASK FORCE: THE PATH FORWARD

- Submitted Initial Findings to County BOS
 - Presented milestones
 - Included themes from definition discussions
 - Recommendations for more time to dive deeper & refine
- Updated Timeline
 - BRP Workshop #3: Tuesday, December 17 (TBC)
 - Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, December 17 (TBC)
 - Final Report - Q1 2025

REVIEW OF SURVEY TRENDS

NbS Definition | Resonating Themes

Ecosystem Focus and Function

- Ecosystem-based thinking
- Put ecosystem health as focus with societal challenges as a benefit
- Solutions are the priority idea
- Diverse systems, Not human controlled with a nature first and people second shift in mentality
- Ecosystem "function," Not Ecosystem "services"
- Conserve functional nature and restore nature when possible
- Original hydrological systems are part of what made nature thrive

Conserve, Preserve, Restore, Reclaim Open Space & Nature

- Maintain Land for Nature as the Priority
- Fight against Loss of Nature
- Expand reserved lands held by professionals
- Restructure toward a holistic preservation and restorative approach with an ecosystem mentality
- Prioritize the un-paving of schoolyards

REVIEW OF SURVEY TRENDS

NbS Definition | Resonating Themes

Continued:

Clarity of Outcome and Definitions

- Put biodiversity first, to treat water and the living landscape with love and respect
- Clearly name defining elements in order to achieve the highest bar in our diverse region
- A "modified ecosystems" doesn't sound like nature
- Do not prioritize economics above nature
- Projects that "mimic natural processes" are NOT nature, they are human inventions

Water | One Part of NbS

- Do not limit NbS to stormwater and urban runoff, have a more expansive perspective
- County definition is good without the second half and where it uses "or" over "and"
- Think of all our water sources as part of a living whole and totally integral to nature to help make best case scenario management choices

DEFINITION

S

NbS means a Project that utilizes natural processes that slow, detain, infiltrate or filter Stormwater or Urban Runoff.

United Nations

NbS are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits.

These methods **may** include: relying predominantly on soils and vegetation; increasing the permeability of Impermeable Areas; protecting undeveloped mountains and floodplains; creating and restoring riparian habitat and wetlands; creating rain gardens, bioswales, and parkway basins; and enhancing soil through composting, mulching, and planting trees and vegetation, with preference for native species.

Nature-Based Solutions **may** also be designed to provide additional benefits such as sequestering carbon, supporting biodiversity, providing shade, creating and enhancing parks and open space, and improving quality of life for surrounding communities.

Nature-Based Solution includes Projects that mimic natural processes, such as green streets, spreading grounds and planted areas with water storage capacity.

LA County >>>

United Nations	Los Angeles County	IUCN	White House Council
1	4	3	2
3	2	4	1
1	4	3	2
4	1	2	3
4	2	3	1
2	1	3	4
4	3	1	2
1	4	2	3
2	1	4	3
4	3	2	1
3	4	1	2
1	4	2	3
1	4	3	2
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1	4	2	3
2	1	3	4
2	1	4	3

SUMMARY

1st	8	4	2	3
2nd	4	2	6	6
3rd	2	2	7	7
4th	4	9	3	2

DEFINITIONS

IUCN

Nature-Based Solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

White House Comm

Nature-Based Solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges, simultaneously providing benefits for people and the environment. Often, these solutions use long-standing conservation approaches forged in the fight against nature loss.

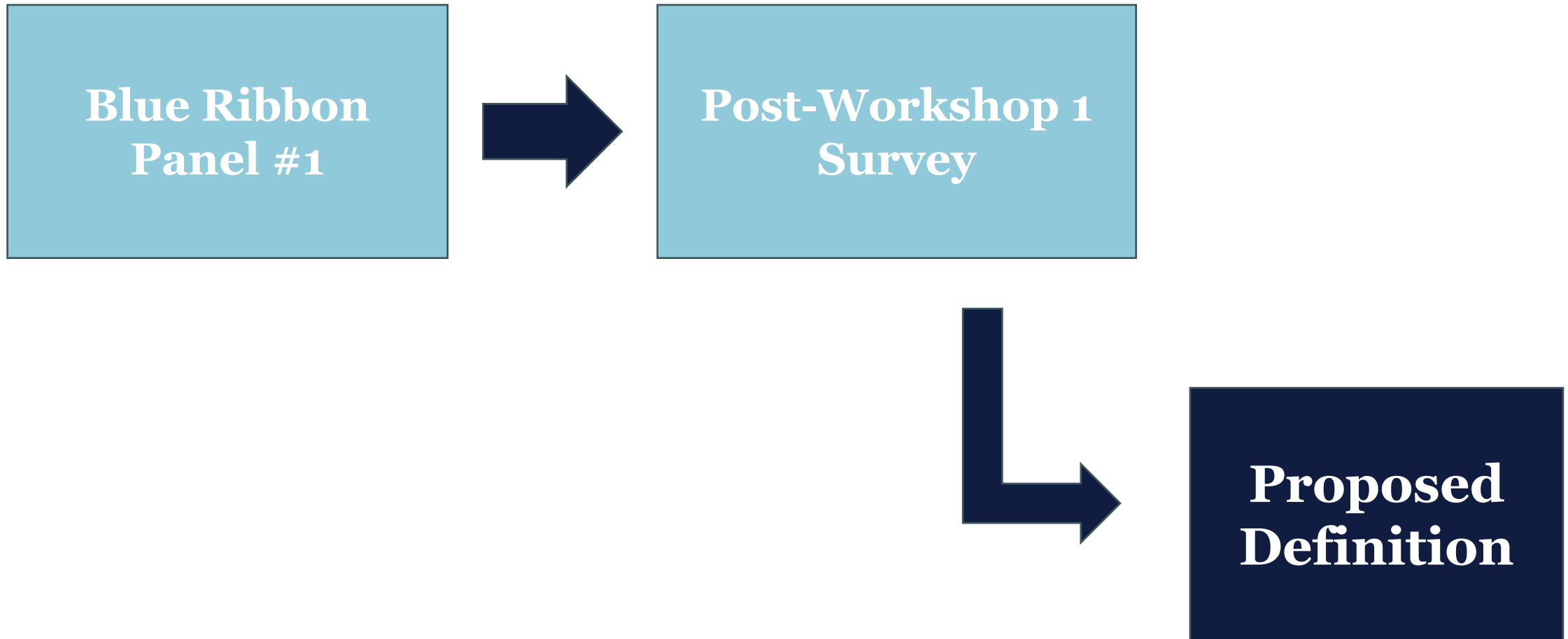
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SUMMARY

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(International Union of Concerned Scientists - Cohen-Shacham et al., 2016)

DEVELOP A SHARED NBS DEFINITION FOR LA COUNTY WATER PLAN - PROCESS



DEVELOP A SHARED NbS DEFINITION FOR LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

Definition of “Nature-based Solutions”

Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits. (Source: UN Environment Programme)

Definition of “Nature-based Solutions for Water Management”

Actions that use natural processes to slow, filter, and detain stormwater runoff to increase groundwater infiltration, reduce flooding, and improve water quality. Nature-based solutions for water management maintain a site’s natural hydrology and watershed placement. (Sources:

North Carolina Coastal Federation Action Plan for Nature-based Stormwater Strategies; U.S. FEMA Types of Nature-Based Solutions)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What is missing?**
- **What resonates?**
- **What needs more clarity?**

BREAK

VISION FOR LA COUNTY

Visions for LA County presented include:

- **Permeable landscapes with multiple benefits**
- **Naturalized landscapes with hydrology**
- **Healthy and resilient watersheds and ecosystems**
- **Increased natural parks and outdoor spaces**
- **Human integrated restoration**
- **Regional water supply integrated with local ecosystems**

- *What is missing?*
- *What should be prioritized?*

IUCN NbS CRITERIA

1. NbS effectively address societal challenges.
2. Design of NbS is informed by scale.
- 3. NbS result in a net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.**
4. NbS are economically viable.
5. NbS are based on inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes.
6. NbS equitably balance trade-offs between achievement of their primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits.
7. NbS are managed adaptively, based on evidence.
8. NbS are sustainable and mainstreamed within an appropriate jurisdictional context.

CRITERIA FOR NbS

Criteria for nature-based solutions

- **Equity**
- **Increased open space**
- **Reduction of the heat island effect**
- **Net gains in biodiversity and ecosystem integrity**
- **Comparative cost (cost of NbS vs technological solutions)**

Criteria for stormwater management NbS

- **Conversion of impervious surface to native habitat through natural processes**
- **Improvement of natural hydrologic function and functional flows of streams, rivers, and wetlands**

- *What is missing?*
- *What should be prioritized?*
- *What details need to be added to clarify their use or implementation?*
- *What are possible sources of data to measure these criteria?*

STANDARDS FOR NbS

Standards for nature-based solutions

- **Appropriate for place, including empowered community governance and long-term stewardship**
- **Improvements in community wellbeing and ecosystem function**
- **Evidence-based adaptive management**
- **Providing multiple benefits to environment and community**
- **Human use (recreation, education) and community stewardship for operations and maintenance engagement**
- **Consult a certified native landscaping specialist and natural infrastructure specialist for operations and maintenance**

Standards for stormwater management NbS

- **Appropriate for watershed**

- *What is missing?*
- *What should be prioritized?*
- *What details need to be added to clarify their use or implementation?*
- *What are possible ways to measure these standards?*

REVIEW OF SURVEY TRENDS

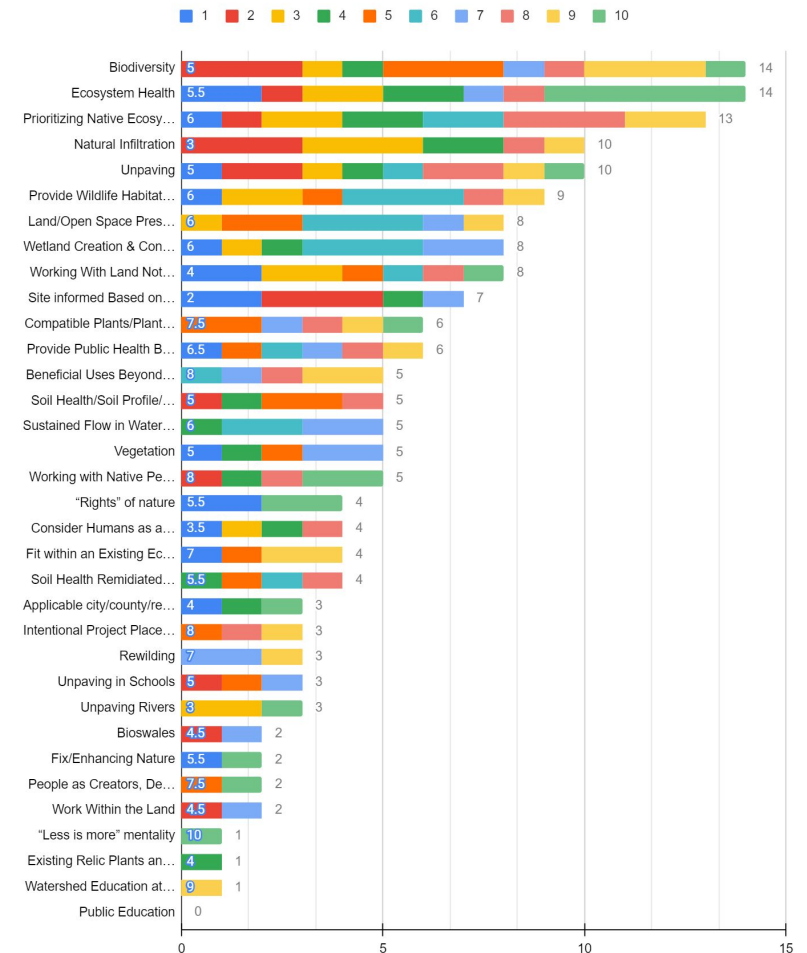
NbS Definition | Statement Ranking Activity

Top 10 Statements:

1. Site informed based on site historic ecology and current conditions
2. Biodiversity
3. Ecosystem health
4. Natural infiltration
5. Unpaving
6. Prioritizing native ecosystems
7. “Rights” of nature
8. Working with land, not on land
9. Provide wildlife habitat connectivity
10. Consider humans as part of nature, not apart from nature

When thinking about how you would define Nature-based Solution, pick 10 statements and rank them from 1 (top priority) to 10 (low priority). These words and statements were generated during the group activity “What IS a Nature-based Solution”

Numbers in white = median rank; Numbers in grey = # of times chosen



PLANNING FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Identify Blue Ribbon Panelists who can lead discussions on next two topics

NEXT STEPS - TIMELINE

Task Force - Feedback - Virtual Meetings

- ~~• Report out on Session 1 - October 22 - NbS Definition & Standards~~
- Preview of Session 2 - November 12 - Definitions (cont.)
- Report out on Session 3 - December 17 - Recommendations for SCWP

Blue Ribbon Panel - Participant Commitment - In Person Meetings

- ~~• Working Session 1 - Sept 24 - NbS Definition & Standards~~
- Working Session 2 - November 12 - Definitions, Criteria, & Standards (cont.)
- Working Session 3 - December 17 - Recommendations for SCWP

NEXT STEPS

Homework

1. Review and provide feedback on IUCN NbS Definition and Standards.
2. Provide additional considerations for developing NbS Definition
3. Submit key resources to add to the Literature Review (*see NBS Resources on the website*).

Submit by December 10, 2024

UPCOMING EVENT: NATIONAL PRACTICE FORUM ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Hosted by the Network for Engineering with Nature (N-EWN)/National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

When: February 4-5, 2025

Where: NAS Beckman Center in Irvine; Zoom option available

No Cost to Attend



Scan the QR code to register, or visit watershedhealth.org/nbs

THANK YOU!

www.lacountywaterplan.org

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Contact: LACountyNBS@watershedhealth.org