

**B L U E R I B B O N P A N E L**



**BASED SOLUTIONS**

LA COUNTY  
**WATER PLAN**  
TASK FORCE

**Workshop 4**  
**February 11, 2025**

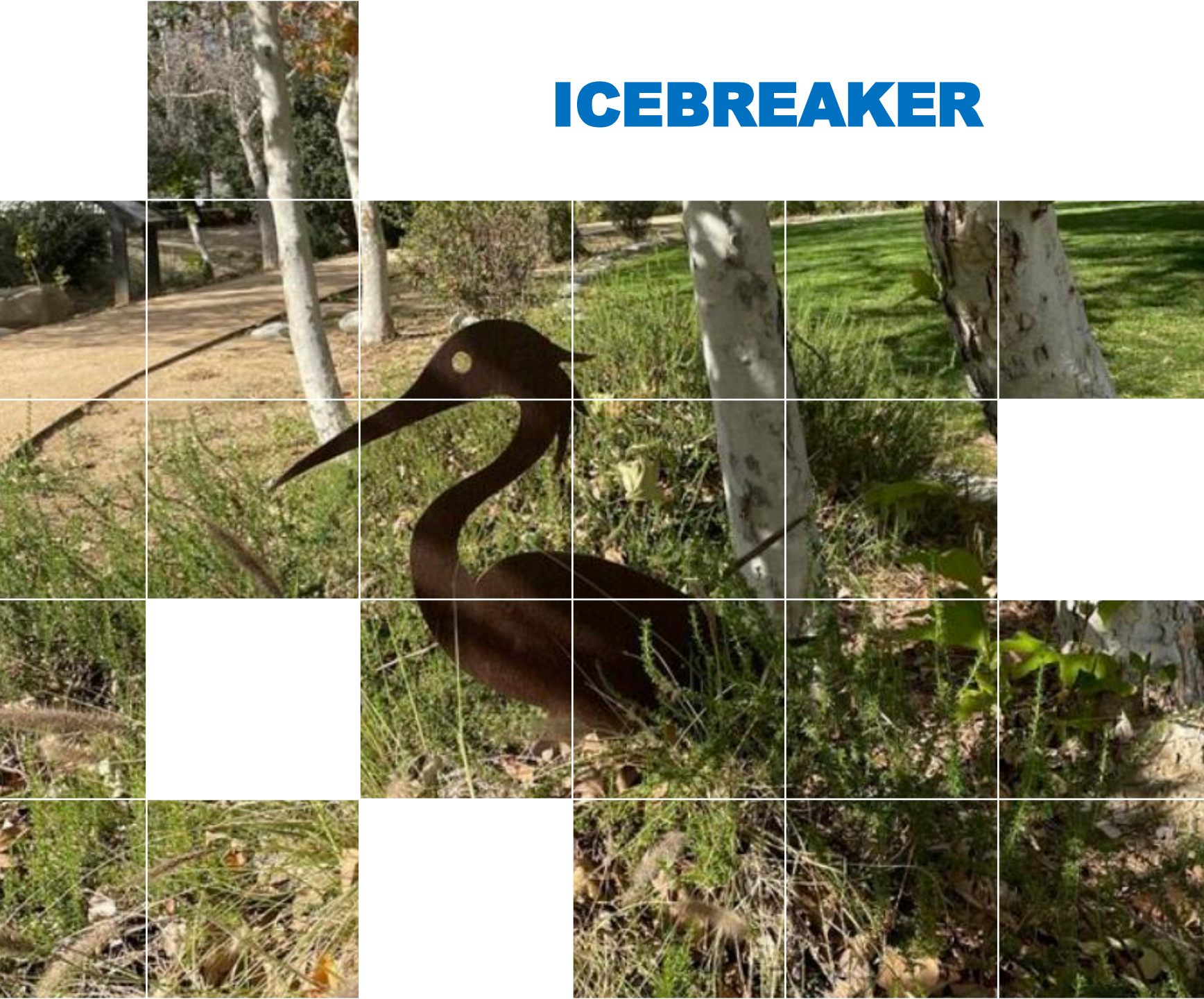
# **AGENDA**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1:00 – 1:10pm | <b>Arrival and Check-in</b>  |
| 1:10 – 1:15pm | <b>Welcome and Agenda Overview</b>   |
| 1:15 – 1:20pm | <b>Review of Task Force Meeting</b>  |
| 1:20 – 1:40pm | <b>Review of Blue Ribbon Panel Workshop 3</b>  |
| 1:40 – 2:05pm | <b>Accelerating Nature-based Solutions</b>   |
| 2:05 – 2:50pm | <b>Nature-based Solutions Definition, Standard, and Criteria</b>                         |
| 2:50 – 3:00pm | <b>Break</b>   |
| 3:00 – 3:45pm | <b>Presentation: The Nature Conservancy's Planting Stormwater Solutions Mapping Tool</b> |
| 3:45 – 4:00pm | <b>Wrap-up and Next Steps</b>  |

# 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
- Favorite de-stressor when work/life gets tough

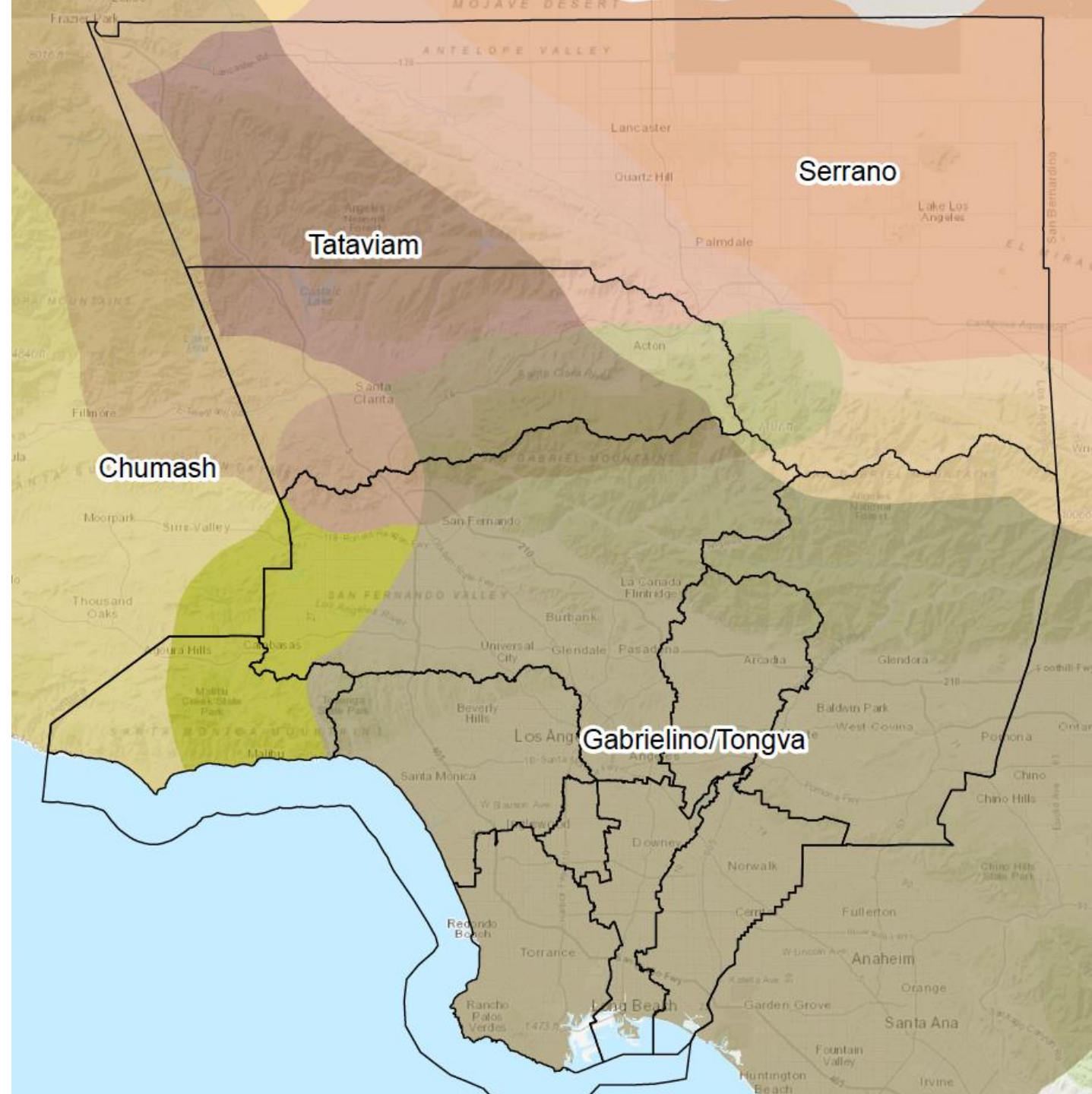
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN HOMELANDS

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We acknowledge that we are presently on unceded land of the Gabrielino/Gabrieleño Tongva, Ventureño Chumash, Gabrielino Kizh, Fernandeno 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.



# 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

# DEBRIEF OF THE NBS TASK FORCE MEETING

## Task Force Meeting 5 Objectives

- Shared out Updated NBS Definition
- Gut Check Exercise on the BRP Standard + Criteria
- Activity + Discussion:
  - NBS + Fires: How do we feel NBS will have to change in the scope and scale of its consideration after the fires?

# REVIEW OF BLUE RIBBON PANEL WORKSHOP 3

## Definition Discussion with Stakeholders

- Iterated Definition Workshop: Built upon insights from BRP 2.
- Task Force Review: Integrated Task Force feedback before presenting to co-chairs.
- Co-Chair Approval: Seeking final approval before bringing the definition back to the BRP.

## Revising the NbS Standard & Criteria

- Integration Process: Incorporated feedback from the Standard + Criteria Exercise into the existing framework.
- Decision Point: Based on BRP discussion reflections, evaluating whether to hybridize or adopt the IUCN framework.

## Scoring System Discussion

- Discussed the "Good, Better, Best" Framework



# **ACCELERATING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

## **Discussion:**

1. How do we accelerate Nature-based Solutions in this urgent moment?
2. How do we rebuild in a restorative way for our communities and ecosystems?

# **SHARED NbS DEFINITION FOR LA COUNTY WATER PLAN - AS DEVELOPED BY THE BRP**

## **Definition of “Nature-based Solutions”:**

Nature-based Solutions ensure human well-being and benefit biodiversity by addressing societal challenges through sustainable actions that protect and restore living ecosystems and their functions.

## **Flipped Definition:**

NbS address societal (socio-ecological) challenges through sustainable actions that protect and restore living ecosystems and their functions to ensure human well-being and benefit biodiversity

# SHARED NbS STANDARD AND CRITERIA – AS DEVELOPED BY THE BRP

**Standard:** Nature-based solutions (NbS) must use place-appropriate and evidence-backed living processes and infrastructure, such as soil and vegetation, to lead to improved long-term ecosystem function and community health and wellbeing. Success of nature-based solutions should be evaluated using the following criteria and indicators:

Criteria	Criterion 1: NbS scale and scope are appropriate to the local social and ecological context.	Criterion 2: NbS are designed and regularly monitored, evaluated, and adapted based on scientific, Indigenous, and local knowledge.	Criterion 3: NbS are economically viable.
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•NbS planning process includes a comprehensive constituent map analysis to identify those who may be directly and indirectly impacted by the NbS.</li> <li>•Undertake a baseline assessment to characterize current social and ecological conditions and then outline options for improvements using living processes and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NbS design includes a clear and measurable monitoring and evaluation plan for pre-determined project indices of success.</li> <li>• NbS design, implementation, and evaluation consult experts (e.g., landscaping specialists, water and utility companies) with ties to the local and/or Indigenous community and who use local and native plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NbS are self-sustaining, requiring minimal stewardship in the long term (10+ years).</li> <li>• Undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the NbS to determine sustainable return on investment, including direct and indirect costs, benefits, and associated societal externalities.</li> </ul>

# ALTERNATIVE NbS STANDARD AND CRITERIA: HYBRIDIZED WITH IUCN

NbS Criteria	Suggested IUCN Indicator Additions
<p><b>Criterion 1:</b> NbS scale and scope are appropriate to the local social and ecological context.</p>	<p>1C: Transparent &amp; Inclusive Consultation (<i>IUCN 1.1</i>)</p>
<p><b>Criterion 2:</b> NbS are designed and regularly monitored, evaluated, and adapted based on scientific, Indigenous, and local knowledge.</p>	<p>2A: Baseline Assessment Includes Social, Ecological &amp; Economic Drivers (<i>IUCN 3.1</i>)</p>
<p><b>Criterion 3:</b> NbS are economically viable.</p>	<p>3C: Compare Costs &amp; Benefits, Consider Regulations &amp; Subsidies (<i>IUCN 4.2</i>)</p>
<p><b>Criterion 4:</b> NbS result in a net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity</p>	<p>4A: NbS actions are based on evidence-driven assessments of ecosystem conditions and degradation drivers (3.1).</p> <p>4B: Clear, measurable biodiversity conservation outcomes are established, benchmarked, and periodically assessed (3.2).</p> <p>4C: NbS monitoring includes periodic assessments to identify and mitigate unintended adverse ecological impacts (3.3).</p> <p>4D NbS strategies incorporate opportunities to enhance ecosystem integrity and connectivity (3.4).</p>
<p><b>Criteria 5:</b> NbS equitably balance trade-offs between achievement of their primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits (IUCN Criteria 6)</p>	<p>5A: Identify &amp; Address Trade-Offs (<i>IUCN 6.1</i>)</p> <p>5B: Respect Stakeholder Rights &amp; Responsibilities (<i>IUCN 6.2</i>)</p> <p>5C: Review Safeguards to Prevent Unintended Consequences (<i>IUCN 6.3</i>)</p>

# CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

**Step 1:** Facilitator introduces the proposal

**Step 2:** Coalition members discuss and dialogue

**Step 3:** Facilitator proposes a course of action/recommendation

**Step 4:** Facilitator assesses consensus and Coalition members raise concerns/modifications

**Step 5:** Facilitator proposes modified proposal (as needed)

**Step 6:** Facilitator assesses consensus on modified proposal

*If not: continue to discuss until concerns are addressed/resolved*

# DECISION POINT

## Proposal 1:

Adopt the NbS Definition, Standard, and Criteria as developed by the Blue Ribbon Panel



## Proposal 2:

Hybridize the NbS Definition, Standard, and Criteria as developed by the Blue Ribbon Panel with the IUCN Framework

# NBS SCORING

## Discussion:

1. Which scoring questions are most important for the panel?
2. How should scoring change?

**BREAK**



# **Presentation: The Nature Conservancy's Planting Stormwater Solutions Mapping Tool and Recommendations on How to Prioritize NbS in Stormwater Projects**

Presented by Kelsey Jessup

# NEXT STEPS - TIMELINE

## Task Force - Feedback - Virtual Meetings

- ~~Report out on Session 1 - October 22~~
- ~~Report out on Session 2 - November 12 -~~
- ~~Preview of Session 3 - December 17 - Definition Feedback + Lit Review~~
- ~~Report out on Session 3 - February 11 - Recommendations for SCWP~~
- Report out on Session 4 - TBD

## 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 - Standard (cont.)~~
- ~~Working Session 4 - January 21 - Recommendations for SCWP~~
- Working Session 5 - March 11 (Proposed)

**THANK YOU!**

**Proposed Workshop #5: March 11, 2025**

[www.lacountywaterplan.org](http://www.lacountywaterplan.org)

[www.watershedhealth.org/nbs](http://www.watershedhealth.org/nbs)

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