## Nov 12, 2024

## □ NBS Task Force Zoom Meeting - Nov 12 10am-11am

Attached files: ■ NBS Task Force Meeting 3 Agenda 11122024.pdf

## Goals

- Discuss new timeline
- Review initial trends from NbS definition survey

## Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Reminder of Goals | 10:00 10:10 a.m.
- NbS Task Force: The Path Forward | 10:10 10:15 a.m.
  - 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: Dec. 17 (TBC)
    - Task Force Meeting: Dec. 17 (TBC)
    - Final Report Q1 2025
- Discuss Initial Trends from NbS Definition Survey | 10:15 10:45 a.m.
  - NbS Definition | Resonating Themes
    - Theme #1: Ecosystem focus and function
    - Theme #2: Conserve, Preserve, Restore, Reclaim, Open Space & Nature
    - Theme #3: Clarity of Outcome and Definitions
    - Theme #4: Water | One Part of NbS
      - Do not limit to stormwater and urban runoff, Have a more expansive perspective
  - Initial Attendee Thoughts
    - Jessa Calderon: Rethink using the word "reclaim"
      - The only one who can "reclaim" is Nature herself (and in LA the Tongva peoples) so we could stand to be more thoughtful in our words to ensure people understand that no human is reclaiming a land that is not theirs.
    - Claudia Arends: "Reclaim, reclamation is a stage in a restorative process. Good idea to make it context specific
      - Jessa Calderon: Restoration can hold a similar definition to reclaim. Restorative can be a better definition but why not calling it for what it is: attempting to bring nature back to a natural way of being

- **Bruce Hamamoto:** Even if nature mimicking is not nature it should be part of the toolbox
  - Claudia Arends: There may be times when nature mimicking can be a way to put nature back in that particular system or context before the natural context can become self sustaining
- **Igor Bronz:** My personal definition is shorter: nature-based solutions prevent or reverse the short-circuiting of the water cycle.

  Ex: Cistern that captures water and releases it into the soil for use by plants = good

  Cistern that sends water to the drain = bad
- Definitions (cont.)
  - United Nations definition of NbS was preferred by survey respondents (8 first place voted)
  - Los Angeles County definition had next most 1st place votes with 4 (Those who ranked it 1st usually ranked UN definition 2nd)
- What is not NbS From Grey to Green
  - Asked attendees to place terms on a scale from grey to green (1 to 5)
- What is NbS Prioritized Phrases
  - Asked attendees to rank their top ten phrases (from a predetermined list)
- Attendee Thoughts (cont.)
  - **Brian Baldauf:** Surprised to see green roofs scoring the highest. From experience, green roofs don't make much sense here (LA) as they require long-term irrigation and generally fail beyond providing aesthetics
    - Rachel Malarich: Agreed. Maintenance intensive, rather than a tool that leads to more natural function and less human intervention
    - Igor Bronz: there is a lot of room for advancement and innovation for green roofs in SoCal. They provide immense energy benefits when properly scaled and placed on the correct building typology. Further, if they use native meadow vegetation, they provide important pollinator habitats. Importantly, they can go on the same footprint as buildings, which is critical for industrial areas full of huge warehouses
      - (cont.) With green roofs, its relatively easy to integrate them into the greywater system of a building (or retrofit a greywater system), and to supplement the water supply for the green roof from the existing HVAC condensate. In any case, I wouldn't consider irrigation as an issue in and of itself, since without evapotranspiration, there isn't any way to build ecosystems

- Easing greywater permitting might be a good agenda item for this group. Greywater is critical to achieving the right water balance, since the greywater supply doesn't fluctuate the same as rainfall
- Melina Watts: Also, roofs can provide water supply if we capture runoff. And roofs are available for solar rather than deserts.
   Combining roof rainwater capture with solar like they do in the Bermuda Islands is much preferable to green roofs which are in danger of becoming the new lawn in terms of water use.
- Craig Doberstein: Important to consider all the votes (3rd & 4th place) in ranking survey respondents preference of different definitions not just 1st.
- Wrap up and Next Steps | 10:45 10:50 a.m.

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Action items