

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



## Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, October 31, 2019

9:00am - 11:00am

Los Angeles City Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1050  
200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

## Attendees:

### Committee Members

Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles – Sanitation)

Paul Alva (Los Angeles County Public Works)

Delon Kwan (LA Dept. of Water and Power)

Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)

Kris Markarian (Pasadena)

John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park  
Association)

Miguel Luna (Urban Semilla DakeLuna Consultants)

Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)

Genevieve Osmena (District)

Yazdan Emrani (Glendale)

Patrick DeChellis (La Canada Flintridge)

Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300)

Liz Crosson\* (Los Angeles)

Ackley Padilla (Los Angeles)

Jeff Camp (Los Angeles)

David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Lafferty of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) welcomed the committee members and members of the public, shared his excitement for this next phase of implementation, and thanked everyone for their dedication to the Safe, Clean Water Program (Program) and regional resilience. Mr. Lafferty introduced Mr. Frary of the District as the meeting facilitator.

All committee members made self-introductions and shared one reason the Program was important to them. Members of the public introduced themselves as well.

## 2. Discussion of Safe, Clean Water Program Goals, Schedule and Timeline

Mr. Frary provided a summary of the Program, including the goals, core themes, funding distribution, governance, and timeline. Mr. Frary emphasized the unique responsibility and opportunity before the committee as well as the importance of thinking regionally, inclusively, and collaboratively in order to best steward public funds. Mr. Frary also provided a brief overview of the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area and reviewed the requests made to-date of the WASC members to ensure all members were up to date on communications, requests, and next steps. He committed District staff to the committee to support all efforts going forward.

## 3. WASCs Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Frary reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the WASC, according to the WASC Operating Guidelines, which include but are not limited to the development of Stormwater Investment Plans, quarterly Progress/Expenditure Reports, and Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Reports.

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#### 4. Selection of Chair (Voting Item)

Mr. Frary asked committee members to vote, with a show of hands, whether they would like to elect both a Chair and Vice Chair for the committee. Members voted in favor of both a Chair and Vice Chair, where the top vote-getter would serve as Chair and the runner-up would serve as Vice Chair.

Nominees for the position of Chair were: Delon Kwan (LA Dept. of Water and Power), Genevieve Osmena (District) and David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith). All three nominees provided a short justification for why they should be considered for this role. Following the remarks from all three nominees, the committee members voted via paper ballots.

**Mr. Nahai (8 Votes) was elected as the Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River WASC, and Ms. Osmena (6 Votes) was elected as the Vice Chair.** Mr. Kwan received the remaining votes. It was announced that the District would finish facilitating the initial meeting and that the chairs would assume their roles immediately thereafter. The District committed to coordinate with the newly elected chairs to develop future agendas.

#### 5. Selection of Next Meeting Location (Voting Item)

Mr. Frary noted that a series of future meeting dates, times, and venues have been arranged by the District as a resource to ensure the committee has time and space to develop the first Stormwater Investment Plan. Details can be changed at any point later on (provided Brown Act requirements are met) and will be coordinated by the Chair(s) and District staff as applicable. Mr. Frary indicated the planned vote was to simply determine whether to hold the current locations indicated (and by extension, pencil in the tentative dates/times) or to request the new Chair organize a new location.

The venues offered were:

Locations: The California Endowment  
1000 Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles County Public Work Headquarters  
900 S. Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

Mr. Frary solicited comments and feedback from committee members. No committee member had any questions.

**Committee members voted via paper ballots in favor of the default venues (unanimous): The California Endowment 1000 Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and Los Angeles County Public Work Headquarters 900 S. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803.**

#### 6. Break

#### 7. Call for Projects for FY 20-21 and FY 21-22

Mr. Frary provided an overview of the open Call for Projects which began on October 15, 2019 and has two upcoming deadlines. The deadline for projects to be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 20-21 is December 15, 2019, and the deadline for projects to be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 21-22 is July

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31, 2020. Mr. Frary explained that projects can be submitted via an online module, which will generate a project summary sheet for submittal to the District. More information about the Call for Projects and how to apply can be found at [www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org) and in the most recent Program update email. Mr. Frary requested that all members share the Call for Projects information with their contacts.

#### **8. Public Comment / Open Discussion**

Mr. Luker said he called the Safe Clean Water hotline this morning before the meeting to get more information on parking and was unable to get any help. Mr. Frary noted there has been a large influx of incoming calls due to the recently sent out tax bills. And to bear with us as the Safe Clean Water team is doing its best to answer and return phone calls.

Ms. Padilla-Campos asked for clarification on what Mr. Frary meant by the public may be calling the WASC committee members for questions. Mr. Frary clarified that the general public in your watershed may have questions regarding the Program and may be more inclined calling you (ULAR WASC members). Mr. Frary noted you can forward the questions to the SCW hotline or to your perspective ULAR SCW team members Fahim or CJ, if you do not feel comfortable answering the questions.

Mr. Kwan asked if the courses they received though email were mandatory. Mr. Frary noted the online videos and forms on Brown Act and Conflict of Interests are not mandatory, but rather guidance from our County Counsel.

Mr. Nahai mentioned the Feasibility Guidelines are too complicated and most people probably do not have the capacity to understand or complete. Mr. Nahai asked if we are going to rely on the SCW staff to complete. Mr. Frary noted that the District can assist with feasibility studies for those who do not have the capacity. Mr. Frary also stated that District will provide QA/QC before the WASC receives the studies. Mr. Nahai's second question was how projects that are between different Watersheds will be facilitated. Mr. Frary noted that we can have joint meetings amongst the different WASCs. The SCW team can connect the chairs to hold these special and facilitate. Mr. Nahai's third question was regarding what happens to the funds if it is not exhausted in a given year. Mr. Frary noted that the funding can rollover to the following years.

Mr. Luker asked about what happens when the community has a good idea they would like to see put forward but lacks capacity to prepare a feasibility study. Mr. Frary explained they can get help by being referred to Technical Resource Program. Mr. Luker also wanted to know if there is a GIS person to create maps like Hydrology. Mr. Frary noted the SCW team can assist with creating the GIS maps or provide any GIS related data. Mr. Luker's last question was regarding talking to other committee members outside the scheduled meetings. Mr. Frary noted that any meetings outside of the scheduled meetings can be in violation of the Brown Act. Having a lunch with committee member may be okay, but the SCW team can provide counsel. Mr. David Nahai mentioned we need to be careful and these meetings need to be properly disclosed.

Mr. Lui ask if it was possible to create a subcommittee within this WASC. Mr. Frary noted the ordinance and guidelines would not prohibit the creation of subcommittee.

Mr. Kwan asked what happens if a committee member is part of an agency that has interests in a particular project. Mr. Kwan questioned if that member can vote. Mr. Frary noted the committee member or members can excuse themselves if they see there is a conflict of interest.

Mr. Frary opened the public comment period. A member from the public, asked about how someone can submit a feasibility study and what if it was a project from multiple watersheds. Mr. Frary noted anyone can submit through the online project module. The project module has the ability to select multiple watersheds.

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Ms. Melanie Winter asked will County staff be the only ones doing feasibility studies. Mr. Frary noted that a consultant Registered Civil Engineer who understands the goals of SCWP can prepare feasibility studies.

## **9. Meeting Adjourned**

Mr. Frary thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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Municipality/ Organization	Member Name	Email Address	Signature
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\*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public



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