

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Monday, December 9, 2019
1:00pm-3:00pm
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	Amanda Hamilton (Duarte)
Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)	Alison Sweet (Glendora)
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)	Joshua Nelson (Industry)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Paul Alva (LA County)
Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)	Julie Carver (Pomona)
Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)	Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)
Ed Reyes (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)	Alina Bokde (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)
David Diaz (Active SGV)	
John Beshay (Baldwin Park)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Brian Urias (Former USGVMWD Board Member)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Alva, the Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River WASC, called the meeting to order.

All committee members made self-introductions and quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 22, 2019

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Alva asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Mr. Alva requested the meeting minutes identify committee members not in attendance. The District will revise the October 22, 2019 meeting minutes and incorporate this change in future meeting minutes. Mr. Alva requested the meeting minutes identify if Alternate Members are substituting for a Primary Member and to identify members of the public. Alternate Members are currently denoted with an asterisk (*) and a copy of the complete sign-in sheet is included with the meeting minutes.

Mr. Love made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 22, 2019 with the revisions noted above. Ms. Ruffell seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 22, 2019 (unanimous).**

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3. Committee Member and District Updates

The District provided a summary of the call for projects info sessions, Ex Parte communications guidelines Release of the final General Income-Based Tax Reduction Guidelines, and Website Information.

Mr. Alva clarified that Projects need to be included in a plan to be approved through the Infrastructure Program. Mr. Kim clarified that the website and the Project Module now includes guidance on how to add Projects to regional water management plans. Mr. Reyes asked how long it takes to be added to a plan. Mr. Alva responded that the Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMP) Committee meets Fall of every year for Los Angeles County Unincorporated Projects and the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) Committee meets monthly to discuss adding Projects to their respective databases.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comment

5. Voting Items

None

6. Information Items:

a. Regional Coordination Efforts and Preparation for Watershed Coordinators

Mr. Mike Antos (Stantec) presented about the recently initiated regional coordination effort, watershed management principles and roles of the watershed coordinators in the Safe, Clean Water Program. Mr. Antos discussed and shared with the committee the existing tools and resources available for future watershed coordinators.

b. Discussion of watershed area context, priorities, and needs

Mr. Antos initiated discussion to prepare the WASC for upcoming evaluation of submitted Project concepts, Projects, and studies. The committee discussed applicable plans, programs, and related efforts, as well as shared experiences and input.

The committee discussed community concerns including the large ethnic, economic and language diversity within the Watershed Area. The committee also discussed physical properties of the watershed, how stormwater is infiltrated, and to whom its adjudicated to. Mr. Antos then facilitated a focused discussion of the relevant plans for the Watershed Area which may include, but is not limited to, IRWMP/EWMP, The Emerald Necklace Vision Plan, San Gabriel River Master Plan, Facilities plans for infrastructure, Parks Needs Assessment, Greenway Network, Drainage Area Management Plan, and Transportation Plans.

Mr. Antos displayed a map of the watershed area showing different data sets and priorities that the WASC should consider when developing the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs)

Mr. Reyes stressed the importance of developing Projects benefiting Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Projects that improve quality of life. Mr. Antos stated that additional datasets can be added

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to the mapping tools to help inform the WASCs and that the WASCs should consider all Safe, Clean Water Program goals, including water quality, water supply, and public health.

The committee discussed the Watershed Coordinator position. Mr. Kim stated that the District is currently developing the Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for the Watershed Coordinator position. Mr. Kim and Mr. Antos stated that Watershed Coordinators will be available after the adoption of the Fiscal Year 20-21 Stormwater Investment Plan in June/July 2020. Mr. Antos (Stantec) is managing the regional coordination effort and is not contracted to fill the role of the Watershed Coordinator. Mr. Alva requested to review and comment on the scope of work for the Watershed Coordinator. The District noted that it is currently under our management review and is not currently available. Ms. Bokde asked how the number of Watershed Coordinators was determined for each Watershed. The ordinance states that a Watershed Coordinator will be assigned for each additional 1 million people within the watershed area. The committee expressed their concerns about the large amount of responsibility for the Watershed Coordinator position and recommended a second Watershed Coordinator. It was noted that the Watershed Coordinator position is funded by the Technical Resources Program. If additional funding is allocated toward a Watershed Coordinator, it would decrease the amount of funding available to provide technical assistance to develop Project Feasibility Studies.

The committee discussed the scoring process. Mr. Kim stated that the WASC will be encouraged to send Projects to the Scoring Committee at the next meeting to initiate the process. The Scoring Committee will provide an official score and Projects must meet or exceed the Threshold Score of 60 points in order to be eligible for Infrastructure Program funding. The WASCs are not required to include the highest scoring Projects in the SIP and are encouraged to consider Safe Clean Water Program Goals, regional benefits, and watershed priorities when making determinations.

c. Safe, Clean Water Program Project Module Overview

Mr. Kim (District) presented on the Project Module and its usefulness for WASC members and the status of submitted Projects.

At this time, Ms. Gardner had to leave the meeting and her alternate, Tony Zampiello, stepped in to fill her seat.

The committee discussed how Projects would be transmitted to the WASCs. Mr. Kim clarified that District staff would review the Project submittals for completeness. The WASCs will receive a summary sheet of all Project submittals deemed complete. If a Project is deemed incomplete, the Project applicant will be notified and referred to Technical Resources Program or encouraged to apply for the next Fiscal Year through the Infrastructure Program.

Mr. Reyes asked how to allocate funding for complex or long-term Projects. Mr. Kim explained that the WASC Operating Guidelines recommends the WASC to consider Projects and programs totaling only 50% of the current budget year for the subsequent four years to remain fluid/open for revisions.

Mr. Alva requested an email summarizing the number of Project submittals once the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Call for Projects is closed on December 15, 2019.

7. Items for next agenda

The District recommends the following items for the next agenda:

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- Review the complete list of Projects
- Select at least 3 Projects to be sent up for scoring
- Select Infrastructure Program Project Applicants and non-Project applicants for potential presentations

Mr. Alva solicited additional recommendations from the committee for the next agenda.

Mr. Alva and Mr. Diaz requested a standing agenda item for updates on the watershed coordination efforts and for integration of funding sources related to Measures W, H, A, and M (WHAM).

Ms. Bokde stated that she would like a presentation from the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) when the schedule permits.

Ms. Ruffell requested a list of tentative meetings be included in future agendas.

8. Adjournment

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

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	<i>Julian Juarez</i>
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Jane Tsong	Watershed Conservation Authority	jtsong@wca.ca.gov	A	
Ed Reyes	Ed P. Reyes & Associates	ed.p.reyesla@gmail.com	P	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



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*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public