

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, May 7, 2020

10:00am - 12:30pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Liz Crosson (Los Angeles)

Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper)

Charles Herbertson (Culver City)

Josette Descalzo (West Hollywood)

Katie Mika (LA Bureau of Sanitation)

Rita Kampalath (LA County CEO)

EJ Caldwell (West Basin)

Max Podemski* (Los Angeles)

Rafael Prieto* (Los Angeles)

Neal Shapiro (Santa Monica)

Art Castro* (LADWP)

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)

Bruce Hamamoto (LA County)

Alysen Weiland* (PSOMAS)

Gloria Walton (SCOPE)

Darryl Ford* (LA Recreations & Parks)

Committee Members Not Present:

none

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Crosson, the Chair of the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC, called the meeting to order.

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Liz Crosson asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Bruce Reznik made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Cung Nguyen seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes (unanimous).

3. Public Comment Period

Three public comment letters received and included within these minutes.

A member of the public noted that LAANE and Our Water LA requests only the best projects that meet the goals of the Safe Clean Water Program, and that a method be developed to track community benefits.

A member of the public noted Heal the Bay and Our Water LA requests projects meet the fourteen goals of the Safe Clean Water Program, that materials be accessible online, that meetings and SIP be publicly available for comment, and to reject the zinc study. A detailed letter has been provided for this comment.

Bruce Reznik inquired if public comment letters could be included in agenda packets prior to the start of meetings.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



4. Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen provided the District update noting: the RFSQ for the watershed coordinator is going through a final round of review by legal counsel and will be released in early June. Kirk Allen also noted that current SCW revenues are not impacted this year but may be impacted in future years. This uncertainty makes it critical that this first year's SIP should be programmed conservatively.

5. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Charles Herbertson a discussion with Baldwin Hills Conservancy about projects in that area.

Bruce Reznik has had discussions with Our Water LA to draft recommendations for projects to recommend but avoided recommendations for CSMB.

Bruce Hamamoto and Neal Shapiro have had discussions about how to distribute funds over more than one year.

b) Fund Transfer Agreement templates

Kirk Allen provided a brief summary of the fund Transfer Agreements.

Liz Crosson inquired if there would be just one disbursement per year. Kirk Allen clarified that the agreement includes a onetime disbursement annually. No additional comments received.

- i) Regional Program Version**
- ii) Municipal Program Version**

c) Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan - Interactive Planning Tool

Kirk Allen provided a summary for how other WASC groups have developed their SIPs. The committee discussed project prioritization and recommendation placement within the SIP. The committee referenced the previously ranked projects to review funding allocation percentages.

i) Review ranking of Projects in the Infrastructure Program

The Committee discussed potential funding phasing through multiple years to potentially reduce the SIP funding percentages for infrastructure Projects.

The committee noted that it was critical that all funding not be allocated for the entire 5-year SIP, and that some remainder of funds for future projects be accounted for.

The committee explored various funding scenarios to fund infrastructure projects. The first scenario developed considered including only the top 5 ranked projects. Additional scenarios are to be explored in the next meeting.

In the interest of time, this item was held for continued discussion for next meeting.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

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ii) Review the Technical Resources Program Submittal

The committee recommended funding the technical resource program project.

iii) Review the Scientific Studies Program Submittals

Charles Herbertson inquired what other WASCs have done for Scientific Studies. Kirk Allen noted that other WASCs have gone through an informal roll call to determine which studies to include and which to request to re-apply next year with additional information.

The committee reviewed scientific studies individually to decide whether to include or not include scientific studies from the SIP. All scientific studies were removed from the SIP consideration after discussion.

6. Public Comment Period

In the interest of time, this item was held for now.

7. Voting Items:

a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan for the CSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.

Item held for next meeting.

8. Items for next agenda

The Committee decided to continue the ranking process in the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

Liz Crosson thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - MAY 7, 2020

		Quorum Present				Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x	Alex Heide		Y
Agency	LA Water & Power	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	x	Y
Agency	LA Sanitation District	Katie Mika	x	Ariel Flores		Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	Not Present
Community Stakeholder	LAC Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath	x	Gary Gero		Y
Community Stakeholder	Lipa Consulting Company /	Jacob Lipa		Alysen Weiland	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	SCOPE	Gloria Walton	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	LA Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x	Liz Jones		Y
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills /	Josette Descalzo	x	Hany Demitri		Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Charles Herbertson	x	Kim Braun		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Ackley Padilla		Max Podemski	x	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Jeff Camp		Rafael Prieto	x	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	<u>Liz Crosson</u>	x	Susie Santilena		Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Armando D'Angelo		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Neal Shapiro	x	Rick Valte		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	15
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Other Attendees	
A Magallanes	Julie Millett
Annelisa Moe	Justin
Ariel Flores	Katie Harrel
Armando D'Angelo	kdroz
Brenda Ponton	Kim Braun
Brett Perry	Kincaid
Cameron McCollough	Lauren Amimoto
CMcLeod	Matthew Magener
Connor Mossavi	Nichole Heil
Derek Nguyen	PCHOY
Dustin Bambic	Rendl
Emily C	Richard Watson
Gregor Patsch	Rita
Hans Tremmel	Shahriar
Jaime Sayre	Sharam Kharaghani
Johanna	Sheila Brice
Jon Ball	Susie
Jonathan Abelson	Taraneh Nik-Khah
Jud Warren	



Public Comment Form

Name:* Nichole Heil Organization*: LA Alliance for a New Economy
Email*: nheil@laane.org Phone*: 570-575-2957
Meeting: CSMB WASC Date: 5/7/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

Hello, my name is Nichole Heil representing LA Alliance for a New Economy and I am a member of Our Water LA. I would like to thank the committee for hearing my comments. I understand that resources are limited, and that is why I urge you to fund only the best of the projects before you, ones that truly exemplify the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program. Consider reserving the remainder of your funds for exemplary projects that may be proposed in the next rounds of funding allocation. You can find more detail about the OurWaterLA recommendations in the April 24th letter.

I would also recommend the committee enact rules and regulations for tracking community benefits and local hiring as equity is a cornerstone of the Safe Clean Water Program and without a robust tracking mechanism there will be no way to ensure this program achieves its intended outcomes. Tracking mechanisms should ensure projects are built or maintained with Targeted and Local Hire goals, built under a Project Labor Agreement, projects are connected with workforce development programs, and projects support good quality maintenance jobs.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Annelisa Moe Organization*: Heal the Bay / OurWaterLA
Email*: amoe@healthebay.org Phone*: 310-451-1500 X115
Meeting: Central Santa Monica Bay WASC meeting Date: 05/07/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

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Comments

The stormwater investment plan must achieve the fourteen programmatic goals clearly laid out in the Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance including the goals to improve water quality, prioritize nature-based solutions, foster community engagement, ensure the equitable distribution of funds, and provide local quality jobs.

I understand that resources are limited, and that is why I urge you to fund only the best of these projects; ones that truly exemplify the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program. Consider reserving the remainder of your funds for exemplary projects that may be proposed in the next few rounds of funding allocation.

I would like to express support for The MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project. It scored 70 points, and is a strong water quality improvement project that uses nature-based solutions and provides DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.

I would also like to express support for The Monteith Park and View Park Green Alley Stormwater Improvements Project. It scored 80 points, and is a strong nature-based water quality improvement project that provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.

I am also here today to oppose The Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. There are serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study, it will not support many of the program goals, and there are other potential funding sources that would be much more appropriate for a study like this. Additionally, The Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc Criterion proposal is asking for \$500K to potentially weaken water quality objectives, rather than improving our water quality. This study does not support the program goals, and there are other potential ways to achieve this type of recalculation, including working with the State Water Resources Control Board. Our funding should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects.

I'd also like to provide some recommendations concerning best practices for public participation. These recommendations should be considered now, to improve upon the virtual online meetings, but should also be continued when we shift back to in person meetings, as well. First, notify the public of all meetings and hearings at least 72 hours in advance. Information on public meeting and links to all materials should be easy to find on the SCWP website home page and within the meeting agendas (currently not the case). This information should be translated into at least Spanish and Mandarin, and interpretation should be provided during the meetings. Please also consider participation barriers for members of the public that may not have access to the internet or a computer, and provide adequate telephone options.

You can find more detail about the OurWaterLA recommendations in the April 24 Letter and the May 4 letter, which I hope are both included in your agenda packets.

Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program, and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the stormwater investment plan.

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org



DATE: March 10, 2020

TO: WASC Chair & Members
CC: LAC SCWP Staff

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations Concerning the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for 2019-2020**

OurWaterLA (OWLA) is a diverse coalition that has engaged communities, businesses, and organizations across Los Angeles County, building support to reinvent and reinvest in our water future using nature based infrastructure that provides community health benefits, environmental health benefits, and economic benefits. OWLA recommends that funding priority be given to the projects that best exemplify the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP), and that consideration should be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR STORMWATER PROJECTS

The Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) must achieve the fourteen programmatic goals clearly laid out in the SCWP Implementation Ordinance (Attachment 1), including the goals to improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements, as well as multiple additional community investments such as prioritization of nature based solutions, community engagement, equity, and quality jobs. Our top issues are shown below in bullet point format and described more robustly in Attachment 1.

Nature Based Solutions

The prioritization of nature based solutions is a specific programmatic goal of the SCWP, and therefore must be reflected in the projects for the SIP.

Community Engagement

A plan for future community outreach is not sufficient for true community engagement in a project. Priority should be given to projects for which local community engagement, designed specifically for the proposed project, has already been initiated.

Equity

One of the most innovative aspects of the SCWP is the written requirements for the equitable distribution of community investments. When assessing the 110% benefit return on investments

for disadvantaged communities, it is important to clarify what type of benefits a project provides, and whether the proposed investments directly benefit the receiving community and verified by local community groups.

Quality Jobs

At a minimum, funding through the SCWP SIP must be contingent upon providing direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities.

We recommend that all of these programmatic goals be considered when selecting projects for full or partial funding for the 2019-2020 SIP, and that consideration be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects. One opportunity to reserve future funding is to fund projects in phases, to get projects through initial project development, such as project design.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

There have also been proposals for funding through the SCWP Scientific Studies Program. The purpose of the Scientific Studies Program is to provide funding for scientific and technical activities, including, but not limited to, scientific studies, technical studies, monitoring, and modeling related to *stormwater and urban runoff capture and pollution reduction*.

OWLA recommends that no funding be allocated for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study. It has no hypothesis or clear methodology, and no scientific professionals were involved in the development of the study, as is required under the SCWP Scientific Studies Program when feasible.

This proposal is asking for nearly \$10 million region-wide over the next five years to target a specific source of a specific pollutant rather than providing multiple benefits, and to potentially weaken water quality objectives rather than improving our water quality. This proposed study will not support many of the program goals, listed in Attachment 1. Additionally, there are other potential funding sources for this study including the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, which already has a similar study in its 5-year plan. **This nearly \$10 million should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects.**

Further, for those WASCs considering the Wet Weather Zinc study, this proposal is asking for \$500K to potentially weaken water quality objectives, rather than improving our water quality. Funds should instead be spent on multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. The Safe, Clean Water Program is not the right funding source for this study because this study does not support many of the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program or its Scientific Studies Program. There are other potential ways to achieve this type of recalculation, including working with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with each of you, with the County of Los Angeles, and with our communities to most efficiently and effectively reinvest in our water future. Many of us, including WASC members, recognize that this is a complex process, and we would be remiss not to stop and strongly re-evaluate the context for making these critically important funding recommendations. OWLA core team members want to work with you to be part of the solution for meeting water quality standards by implementing multi-benefit projects. Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

OWLA Core Team

ATTACHMENT 1

Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance: Section 18.04 SCW Program Goals.

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefiting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.



DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), Scoring and Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) Members
Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program Staff
Los Angeles County Board Public Works Deputies

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations - Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for 2019-2020**

On March 10, 2020 OurWaterLA (OWLA) submitted a memo for distribution to the WASC committees specifying our recommendations for the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) under consideration by the WASCs prior to the Safer at Home order. However, only a few of the WASC groups had the opportunity to review the memo. Given our new reality and the conditions under which extremely important decisions will be considered by the WASCs we wish to summarize and update the points we believe are extremely important to ensure that the decision-making process is transparent and results in only the best projects being funded during these unprecedented times.

The following are the major issues that we believe are critically important for your consideration as you deliberate on the recommendations you will be making for this first round of funding recommendations. Given the vast number of issues you will have to consider we are providing "bullet" points but encourage all members to review our more in-depth recommendations provided in the attached March 10, 2020 memo (Attachment 3). OWLA recommends the following:

Best Practices for Public Participation

- Notify the public of all meetings and hearings at least 72 hours in advance. Information on public meeting times, topics, and how public comments will be received should be easy to find on the SCWP website home page and within the meeting agendas (*currently not the case*). This information, as well as any additional accompanying meeting materials, should be translated into at least Spanish and Mandarin.

- Ensure language access needs are met by providing interpretation during public meetings. For remote meetings, use teleconference lines or audio channels.
- Consider participation barriers for members of the public that may not have access to the internet or a computer. Provide adequate telephone options, with interpretation, for virtual meetings and receiving public comments. Having multiple avenues to engage in a given meeting will ensure more robust dialogue and input.
- Use best practices for public comment periods in virtual hearings and meetings. This includes giving ample time for the public to submit comments prior to a meeting through multiple avenues and live during a meeting.
- Provide links to all materials including presentations at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Project Funding Recommendations

- Fund projects that best exemplify the goals (Attachment 2) of the SCWP. The best projects out of the 53 that are eligible for funding are listed in Attachment 1.
- No funding for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study.
- Fund projects in phases to get projects through initial project development, such as project design in order to preserve funds for future years.
- Require that all Technical Resources allocations include the development and implementation of a Community Engagement Plan.

Community Engagement, Equity, Community Investments & DAC Benefits

- Require that all project funding recommendations include a sustained community engagement element with the assistance of local experienced NGOs from design through construction and operations and maintenance.
- Require that all projects which claim points for Community Investments submit letters from local community groups verifying that the project includes tangible community investments.
- Those projects which claim that jobs will provide direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities must include documentation as to how they will achieve this goal.

ATTACHMENT 1

Projects Recommended for Funding

Project Name	WASC	Notes
MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project	Central Santa Monica Bay	<u>SCORE: 70</u> A strong water quality improvement project that uses nature-based solutions and provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Monteith Park and View Park Green Alley Stormwater Improvements Project	Central Santa Monica Bay	<u>SCORE: 80</u> A strong nature-based water quality improvement project that provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Salt Lake Park Infiltration Cistern	Lower Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 76</u> A strong nature-based water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds to provide DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Hermosillo Park Regional Stormwater Project	Lower San Gabriel River	<u>SCORE: 84</u> A good water quality improvement project which will provide additional community investment benefits.
East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project	Rio Hondo	<u>SCORE: 83</u> A good water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide significant water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project	Santa Clara	<u>SCORE: 63</u> A good water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide some additional community investment benefits.
Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project	Upper Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 96</u> Strong water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide significant water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
Strathern North Stormwater Capture Project	Upper Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 89</u> Good water quality, nature-based elements and community benefits project that would benefit DAC communities and had support letters from local groups.

Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project	Upper San Gabriel River	<u>SCORE: 92</u> Strong water quality improvement project that leverages funds and uses nature-based solutions to provide some water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
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Attachment 2

Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance: Section 18.04 SCW Program Goals.

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Attachment 3
March 10, 2020 Letter from OWLA to WASCs



DATE: March 10, 2020

TO: WASC Chair & Members
CC: LAC SCWP Staff

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This proposal is asking for nearly \$10 million region-wide over the next five years to target a specific source of a specific pollutant rather than providing multiple benefits, and to potentially weaken water quality objectives rather than improving our water quality. This proposed study will not support many of the program goals, listed in Attachment 1. Additionally, there are other potential funding sources for this study including the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, which already has a similar study in its 5-year plan. **This nearly \$10 million should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects.**

Further, for those WASCs considering the Wet Weather Zinc study, this proposal is asking for \$500K to potentially weaken water quality objectives, rather than improving our water quality. Funds should instead be spent on multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. The Safe, Clean Water Program is not the right funding source for this study because this study does not support many of the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program or its Scientific Studies Program. There are other potential ways to achieve this type of recalculation, including working with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with each of you, with the County of Los Angeles, and with our communities to most efficiently and effectively reinvest in our water future. Many of us, including WASC members, recognize that this is a complex process, and we would be remiss not to stop and strongly re-evaluate the context for making these critically important funding recommendations. OWLA core team members want to work with you to be part of the solution for meeting water quality standards by implementing multi-benefit projects. Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

OWLA Core Team

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