

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



---

## Meeting Minutes:

Monday, July 6, 2020

1:30pm-3:30pm

WebEx Meeting

## Attendees:

### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Sean Woods\* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)

Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)

Bryan Urias (Former USGVMWD Board Member)

Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)

Ed Reyes (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)

David Diaz (Active SGV)

John Beshay (Baldwin Park)

Kevin Kearney\* (Bradbury)

Alison Sweet (Glendora)

John Di Mario\* (La Puente)

Paul Alva (LA County)

Fabian Aoun\* (Pomona)

Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)

### Committee Members Not Present:

None

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for the full list of attendees

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Alva, the Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), called the meeting to order. Mr. Kevin Kim (District) reviewed the various WebEx housekeeping items for both the Committee members and the general public's participation and discussed the process for public comments. The District staff conducted a roll-call of Committee members, and with a majority present, quorum was established.

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2020

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes from the June 1, 2020 meeting on the Safe Clean Water (SCW) website. Ms. O'Brien cited page 6 of the previous meeting minutes and requested that her statement "Some projects that may be scored poorly may still be a good project" be amended to add "for that area". Mr. Urias motioned to approve the meeting minutes with Ms. O'Brien's revision, with Mr. Love seconding this motion.

**The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from June 1, 2020 with revision (16 yay, 1 abstain).**

## 3. Committee Member and District Updates

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked if the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting minutes and Supervisor Hilda Solis' letter would be shared in this meeting. The District assured the ROC feedback would be discussed later in the agenda and Supervisor Solis' letter was already included within the ROC meeting minutes.

The District described the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) timeline. The next ROC meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2020, which is intended to include reconsideration of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) SIP.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



The Board is anticipated to consider all the SIPs in late August or September. Upon Board approval, Fund Transfer Agreements (FTAs) can begin to be executed. The Regional and Municipal FTA templates approved by the Board on June 9 are available on the SCW website. Municipalities will receive the available portion of their municipal return revenue within 45 days after execution of the FTA by the District or within 14 days of when the District's receipt of the annual plan for 2021-21, whichever comes later. The regional program recipients will receive funds following Board approval of the SIP and within 45 days of receipt of the signed executed agreement.

The Watershed Coordinator (WC) solicitation is open until July 20<sup>th</sup> and the solicitation and the scope of work are available on the SCW website. Each WASC will select their respective WC(s). The WC interview process is anticipated to begin in September. The current call for projects deadline is October 15, 2020.

Ms. Debbie Enos asked for clarification on if the solicitation is intending for agencies and larger organizations to apply rather than individuals. She noted that smaller operations may be better connected to the community, which would be more in line with the intent of the WC. The District clarified that anyone that meets the minimum qualifications, including both organizations and individuals, are invited to apply and are encouraged to submit questions officially to the solicitation. Submitted questions and corresponding answers will be posted on the WC solicitation webpage. ([Click here to access WC Solicitation Webpage](#))

#### **4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

Ms. Ruffell asked if listening to the ROC meeting is included as ex parte communication and Mr. Alva confirmed that it is not. Ms. Sweet, Ms. O' Brien, Mr. Beshay, and Mr. Di Mario stated that they are members of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee and the Upper San Gabriel Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP) group.

Mr. Kearney also mentioned, as members of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Water Committee, some policies were discussed including the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP).

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

The District received public comment cards which will be included in the meeting minutes.

Mr. Cameron McCullough, on behalf of Mark Persico the assistant city manager for City of West Covina, endorses the Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit (Bassett) Project as a cost-effective method for capturing and infiltrating stormwater run-off.

Mr. Alex Tachiki brought attention to a couple items. He claimed the USGR WASC is likely the busiest WASC in the SCWP with 4 EWMP/WMP groups in the watershed and 5 individual cities having an individual stormwater plan. This fortunately brings many great projects to consideration for the committee but also creates a challenge. Also, this watershed has a perceived scoring issue as it is difficult to achieve water supply points in this watershed due to previous planning in the area. He hopes the WASC will consider all projects to advance the region's interests.

Mr. Brian Matsumoto, with Nature for All and representing Our Water LA (OWLA), thanked the WASC for reconsidering the SIP due to many concerns with the June 1<sup>st</sup> vote. All other WASCs went through a prioritization process, ranked projects based on program criteria, and fully funded and selected the best projects. He highlighted partially funding projects in the first 5 years as problematic because the projects were scored and submitted to be fully funded, and overcommitting funding into the sixth year doesn't allow funding for future projects. Limiting funding for design only in the first 5 years for projects that also submitted for construction sets a dangerous precedent to not commit to construction. This makes planning difficult for all projects and violates public trust by funding design for projects that might not be built in the future when the public expects the SCWP to implement projects. He asked to fully fund only the best projects under consideration

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Mr. Paul Solano, Vice President of Bassett Unified School Board of Education, supported the Bassett project in February and shared that the Board voted unanimously on June 29<sup>th</sup> to support the County's use of the Bassett School property for the Bassett Project. They believe the project will help the community with providing park space and will be another example to other school districts on how to create stormwater capture partnerships. He thanked the County and the WASC for patience and looks forward to a hopeful partnership that supports the region.

Ms. Laura Santos, Bassett community member, asked if the current meeting was subject to Brown Act since it seemed like at the last meeting all the Cities came together to make a unique decision. On behalf of Greater Bassett Neighborhood Council, she requested for full funding of the Bassett project and genuine engagement, not just a photo opportunity. She requested some guarantee the park will be funded to ensure the multi-benefit aspect of the project. The District clarified the committee members are subject to the Brown Act.

Dr. Art Cunha, interim superintendent for Bassett Unified School District (USD), spoke first on behalf of the Board President Armando Barajas to thank the County for partnering with Bassett and endorse the Bassett project. He added the project will bring many benefits to the socioeconomically disadvantaged community. Adding his own comments, Dr. Cunha mentioned the students are also community members. He supported the project to be funded fully to support his students outside of the school day. Encouraging community development in a park-poor area and providing space for students to become responsible community members benefits everyone in the community.

Ms. Dena Florez, community member of the Bassett USD, supported the comments made by Mr. Matsumoto to support full funding of the Bassett project with support from the USD and community. She recalled at the last meeting some projects only received design funding with delayed construction funding. She requested some guarantee the full project will be funded as it was one of the highest scoring projects.

Ms. Carolina Sanchez, on behalf of the Six Basins Watermaster, stated support of the East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group's projects, including the Pedley Spreading Grounds (Pedley) Project. She added it would be helpful in terms of stormwater capture and water supply for the Six Basins.

Mr. Dan Holloway, City of La Puente councilman, expressed continued support for the Bassett Project. He added Bassett USD has been involved for almost 5 years, appreciates the unique design and innovation with multi-agency support, noted the high score, and requested full funding of the Bassett Project. He stated that the school is in the City of La Puente and the City also supports the Bassett project.

## 6. Discussion and Voting Items

### a) Regional Oversight Committee recommendations

Mr. Paul Alva summarized the decision made by the ROC on June 18 and by the WASC on June 1. He highlighted the unique decision to commit to project design funds only in the first 5 years for some projects that applied for both design and construction. He listed the planning, design, construction, and operation & maintenance (O&M) phases. He reviewed project applicant options to request funding for design only, construction only, design and construction together, and O&M only. All other WASCs committed to funding the full application when including a project in their SIP. Mr. Alva summarized the ROC's role in reviewing each SIP and determining whether it meets SCWP goals, including providing feedback on the SIP. The ROC does not have line-item veto abilities to change the SIP, but ultimately recommends or does not recommend the SIP to the Board. On June 18, the ROC received public comments, discussed the USGR SIP, and returned the USGR SIP with feedback for consideration. During the ROC meeting, there were 8 entities in support of the SIP (from 7 Cities and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) and 8 entities (7 environmental organizations and Supervisor Hilda Solis' office) that expressed concern. The requests of those that expressed concern included: fund only the highest-scoring projects, allocate less than 50% annually in the 5-year plan, select multi-benefit

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Upper San Gabriel River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



projects with sufficient community input, use public funds wisely to gain public confidence, make the SIP regionally consistent, and don't overcommit available 5-year funds. The ROC generally agreed with most of these concerns and gave the three feedback items: prioritization of projects based on scoring by Scoring Committee and preliminary rankings by WASC members, assurance that funding is not overcommitted over the current 5-year period, and additional investigation into project-specific community engagement. The WASC is now responsible to consider the ROC's feedback and either propose changes to the SIP or keep the SIP as is with justification to the ROC.

Mr. Urias noted the ROC voted 7 to 2 to return the USGR SIP and urged the WASC to reevaluate the SIP instead of returning the same SIP to the ROC. He suggested the committee start by considering the preliminary rankings, not funding every project. He asked for stronger consideration of the limited budget and noted that excluded projects could reapply in later rounds to achieve a better score and eventually be considered again in the future.

Mr. David Diaz, with Active San Gabriel Valley, noted his absence at previous meetings due to paternity leave, and he seconded and uplifted comments by Mr. Urias and noted the comment letters highlighting similar concerns. Mr. Alva reiterated the project applicant options to request funding. Mr. Diaz continued to note the limited budget and encouraged applicants to receive feedback and consider applying for the second round of projects. He noted the WASC has discussed the importance of multi-benefit projects, workforce development, local hiring, recreational access, equity, urban heat island mitigation, and urban forestry. In the second round, applicants can better consider these important factors and can apply for design-only funding if that's something the applicant wants. Additionally, without the Watershed Coordinator position filled, it's difficult for the WASC to maximize community-driven projects. The WASC needs to consider how to be inclusive of the voices that aren't being represented currently.

Ms. Enos with the Watershed Conservation Authority echoed comments from Mr. Urias and Mr. Diaz. Additionally, she wanted to consider the public comment about this WASC's unique configuration with many EWMPs/WMPs and Cities and how this impacts Cities' compliance. This program's process may not be able to aid with compliance for all Cities. She asked for clarification about whether applicants that don't receive funding from this program would lose State compliance. She also inquired as to whether Technical Resources Program (TRP) funding would count as demonstrating progress toward compliance. She felt getting clarity on these questions would help both current and future rounds. She did not support the precedent set by funding design only and pushing construction to the future year column in the SIP. She encouraged selecting projects on merit and not overcommitting funds, while ensuring community engagement. She would consider an option, however, if it's allowed and if the applicant is willing, for the applicants to receive partial funding from their initial ask to apply to design only. Funding design only allows the WASC to determine if the project includes community engagement before continuing onto construction. Additionally, if community engagement is considered, the scope, budget, score, and requested construction funding might increase before the construction phase. Mr. Alva responded that the District has acknowledged that they are considering lessons learned for future rounds of funding. When these lessons will be implemented is to be determined. The District reiterated that the Program has received feedback from committee members and is exploring additional guidance. Mr. Alva responded regarding MS4 compliance that wherever the capture area is, the city or cities receive the benefit proportionally. Credit trading is also being considered to incentivize program participation to benefit the region.

Mr. Sean Woods noted he is replacing the position held by Mr. Mark Glassock. He commented that rewarding projects regardless of scoring criteria doesn't set a good precedent. He encouraged prioritizing projects based on scoring criteria.

Mr. Tom Love recalled that one Infrastructure Program (IP) Project was referred to the TRP and asked if the WASC could refer other IP Projects to the TRP. The District clarified that the MacLaren Hall Property Park and Sports Fields (MacLaren) Project application was determined to be missing critical feasibility study requirements. Therefore, the project application was referred to the TRP. This application year was unique in sending all applications to the scoring process. In future years, the

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



WASC will be able to select which complete applications they will send to the scoring committee, if desired.

Ms. Sweet echoed comments of Ms. Enos. However, Ms. Sweet's concern was for cities who have no assurance for MS4 compliance, citing large fines of up to \$25,000 per day. Moving projects forward allows for cities to be in compliance and obtain other funding sources, alleviating funding demand on the SCWP. She noted additional funding uncertainty due to the pandemic. Mr. Alva suggested requesting funding for specific phases may increase funding assurance. He mentioned credit trading and how the USGR EWMP mentioned the issue in their time extension letter to the Regional Board to incentivize further collaboration with the SCWP. Ms. Sweet noted if an applicant is requesting design only funds, construction costs are still assumed to be needed. Mr. Alva proposed a potential scenario may be that the project situation may change after design is complete or the applicant might have asked for full construction funding at first but later only needs partial construction funding from the SCWP. Mr. Alva reiterated that the WASC was advised to not consider changes to application request amounts but was allowed to adjust the funding timeline of the full amount within the SIP.

Ms. O'Brien supported development of a credit program. She responded to Mr. Wood's comment that all the projects met the 60-point scoring minimum and mentioned there are factors out of the control of the City design, such as limited space, that affect the project scoring. These projects can still be considered the best projects for the area.

Mr. Aoun echoed Ms. Sweet's comments that approving projects that allocate five or six years of funding doesn't provide opportunity for communities with smaller projects to apply in the future. He was concerned these communities will continue to pay annually into the program without receiving community benefits. He supports spreading funding over time and to as many municipalities as possible.

Mr. Beshay mentioned that the credit trading program may cause a potential negative effect by encouraging applicants to maximize capacity and maximize cost of projects, not leaving any funding left for other applicants.

## **b) Overview of projects, scores, and rankings**

The District shared on the screen and summarized the IP Summary information for committee members to consider including Scoring Committee scores, preliminary rankings, Disadvantaged Community (DAC) benefits, and community engagement. Mr. Alva noted the ranking was only for preliminary discussion and that there are many other factors to consider.

Ms. Ruffell noted when she reviewed the projects, she considered acres served and cost per acre served as a measure of cost effectiveness.

Mr. Huff associated himself with the last two speakers and noted the member rankings did not have uniform criteria, were unofficial, and were for discussion only. Ms. Sweet agreed with Mr. Huff.

Mr. Urias supported the preliminary ranking system as a good starting point and emphasized that the committee participated in creating the rankings. He highlighted the top 5 ranked projects are the projects that benefit DACs. He reminded the committee that many DACs have access to fewer funding resources and are park poor and that a goal of Measure W is to help these DAC communities.

Mr. Mike Antos highlighted that in 2012, LA County failed to raise funds for a compliance-centric program. Measure W exists partially because it's more than just compliance, it is meant to create multiple benefits. He applauded the deliberation of the WASC to balance competing needs. He emphasized that diverse backgrounds will bring different perspectives, which is a sign of success and strength. He noted the WASC's process to find balance is more political than it is administrative.

Mr. Ed Reyes noted in all the meetings he had in different communities and cities, one of the most aggressive and consistent comments made to him when he was educating and interacting with the

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Upper San Gabriel River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



public was asking why these historically neglected communities should support Measure W if the cities already have their agenda and know what projects they want to support. He assured the communities that the program would provide benefits, parks, green space, water quality improvements, heat island effect mitigation, and access to water. He noted a Tale of Two Regions. He stated that this is the opportunity to show that this WASC is listening to their concerns. The program could lose credibility and lose confidence of communities if their requests are ignored. Mr. Alva noted Mr. Reyes's comments reaffirm the need for the Watershed Coordinator and for funding to be available in the 5-year plan for new projects that benefit communities in need.

#### **c) Public Comment Period**

Ms. Laura Santos reminded the WASC that Bassett is a DAC project and this status is reflected in the County data. The community struggles with diabetes and adult/childhood obesity rates. Bassett is one of 9 out of 188 County communities that are the most park poor. The City of Walnut nearby has 7 acres of park and open space per 1000 people. Bassett has one park that is less than one acre per 1000 people and is overrun with homelessness, effectively zero acres per 1000 people. For equity purposes, she requested the WASC to approve the Bassett project.

Mr. David Marquez commented Barnes Park is in a park poor DAC with 0.3 acres per 1000 residents and is ranked 110 of 120 communities in terms of open available green recreational space. Barnes Park provides a multi-benefit project for the community and will make a regional impact. The community has been engaged since 2014. It will provide many benefits including reducing heat island effect, addressing environmental justice, promoting active transportation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms. Dena Florez recalled the construction funding requested for Bassett was delayed in the last SIP. She advised that if a project is started, assurance should be provided that the project would be fully funded. The project is fully supported by the community, school board, and community members.

Mr. Solano echoed comments from Ms. Santos and added how Bassett Park has been taken over by homelessness during the pandemic. He noted many San Gabriel Valley communities wanted to address homelessness but have the "not in my back yard" approach. He noted Bassett doesn't have a city council to represent their community. As a school board member, he noted that preliminary rankings are significant when making decisions and he was concerned the preliminary rankings were being dismissed. The Bassett project would be very beneficial, and the community is deserving of the project regardless if they have a city council.

Ms. Sharon Gallant with City of Covina, the lead agency for Wingate Park Regional EWMP (Wingate) Project, noted that Wingate was chosen as the lead EWMP project. The park abuts a DAC and is located upstream of the DAC that floods during rain events. The City has applied for a flood protection grant, Proposition 1 funds, and SCWP funds. Given the economic situation, she noted the general fund isn't available for the project and another funding opportunity is uncertain. The application originally asked for design-only funding for compliance and requested the WASC to consider Wingate when developing the SIP.

Mr. Alex Tachiki, City of Monrovia, lead applicant for Encanto Park Stormwater Capture (Encanto) Project, noted the project is one of 5 true signature projects in the watershed quality group. The revised approach started with 10 large signature EWMP projects with a total budget of 1.4 billion dollars to a unanimously Board approved approach that cut as much as 80% of costs. He noted deliberations have shown all projects are good, and the funding needs to be spread through the entire watershed. It would be ideal to fund all projects, but he acknowledged challenges.

Mr. Ed Suher noted the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project is ready for construction, is a big project for the City of El Monte, is a part of the WMP, would help with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance, has a drainage area of about 47 acres, has letters of support including from the Madrid Middle School principal, Juan Castillo, and community organizations, is

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



located within a DAC, would help with quality of life, community, transportation, and commerce in the DAC, benefits El Monte, South El Monte, and Irwindale, and is a major thoroughfare. He noted the City believes the request is reasonable and the City is ready to put forth a sizeable contribution and O&M funding. He added the City would consider spreading funds over two years.

Mr. Art Cunha agreed with Mr. Tachiki that all the considered projects are important to the applicants, which only emphasizes the importance of the application and scoring process. He noted deviating from the process sets a bad precedent. He noted the committee felt these projects have multiple benefits for the communities and have scores that reflect this. He encouraged the WASC to move forward with the Bassett Project because it ranked highly, scored highly, and he thinks the need and benefit is recognized.

Mr. David Lopez noted Barnes Park is ranked second, is a multi-benefit project, has many partners, has a good, flexible schedule, will capture metals, and will have benefits as shown in the rankings. He advised the WASC to consider the scoring criteria and that the criteria reflect community benefit. He noted seven additional acres of drainage area from the City of Irwindale draining to the project. He recommended funding the project.

## **d) [Voting item] - Confirm final Stormwater Investment Plan**

Mr. Urias made a motion to allocate 50% of available funding to the top 5 ranked projects. Mr. Bob Huff made a parliamentary inquiry and noted that the WASC sent an approved SIP to the ROC. The WASC needs to first consider if the approved SIP will be modified or kept with justification. The committee deliberated if the first step would be to rescind, amend, or make no changes.

Mr. Diaz recommended to amend instead of fully rescinding the approved SIP for ease. Mr. Huff would support amending but suggested that introducing another motion when the approved SIP is still active may not be appropriate.

Ms. Ruffell asked if the amount requested for Wingate and shown on the current SIP was erroneous. The District clarified that included amount was not erroneous. As was done in other WASCs for this first funding year, the 5-year requests from the supplement form are honored as the official request amounts.

Mr. Alva and Mr. Diaz discussed the order for amending the IP, TRP, and Scientific Studies (SS) components of the SIP. Mr. Alva suggested considering the TRP first, then SSs, then the IP. The District displayed the approved SIP for reference.

Ms. Ruffell suggested considering the TRPs first would be a mistake. She recommended first considering and allocating funding to the projects that are ready to begin followed by considering other projects with the remaining funds available. Mr. Diaz made a motion to amend the SIP, starting with the IP, then SS, then TRP. Mr. Reyes seconded.

Mr. Diaz asked the District for TRP committee scoring results. The District clarified the TRPs were not scored, but the TRPs were ranked. The District displayed TRP rankings.

Ms. O'Brien considered a proposal that "included everything" but amended the construction funding and other funded projects. She asked if the WASC wanted to consider the proposal separately after Mr. Diaz's motion. Mr. Alva agreed to discuss details after Mr. Diaz's motion.

Ms. Enos shared concern for considering the IP first since considering their budget size, they may consume the budget quickly. This may not set aside enough budget for the TRP and SS Programs that benefit the entire region and watershed. The TRP and SS Program allow for community input for a small investment, something the WASC has been unable to do without a WC. She suggested addressing these programs first before the capital projects. Mr. Diaz amended his motion to consider first the TRP, then IP, then SS. Ms. Enos agreed. Ed seconded to agree.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



---

**The Committee voted to approve hearing the TRP first, followed by the IP, and followed by the SSs (17 yay, 0 nay).**

The District displayed the TRP rankings on the screen. Ms. Ruffell asked the committee to clarify which projects are already included in WMP and EWMPs. The applicant for MacLaren, Mr. Ed Suher, noted the project is not originally part of the WMP because it was a concept developed after the WMP was developed. In the interest in time, the District asked if any committee members were interested in removing from the SIP any of the TRPs and the associated funding.

Mr. Diaz motioned to only include Maclaren, Fairplex Regional Stormwater (Fairplex) Project, Glendora Avenue Green Street Feasibility Study (Glendora), and the Watershed Coordinator. Ms. Enos seconded.

Ms. O'Brien, on behalf of the East San Gabriel Valley Group, noted the Brackett Field Stormwater Infiltration (Brackett) and Fairplex Projects are in the region's WMP.

Mr. Love asked why Brackett was excluded from the considered projects in the motion. Mr. Diaz shared he felt the Brackett and Fairplex projects have similar scopes of work in terms of providing equity, justice, and multiple benefits. Excluding Brackett allows the WC to identify other community projects that could possibly apply for the TRP in the future and sets aside funding for IPs or SSs.

Ms. O'Brien noted her group has done extensive studies with the Six Basins group to identify site locations with Brackett as a top area. She noted her group could also potentially add other partners since it's in a County area. She advocated for Brackett so that funding is equitably split across the watershed.

**The Committee voted to approve Maclaren, Fairplex, and Glendora TRPs and the Watershed Coordinator into the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 USGR SIP (11 yay, 6 nay).**

Mr. Alva encouraged the applicant for Brackett to apply again in the next funding cycle. Moving onto considering the IP, he noted how the WASC will need to be creative to fund as many IP Projects within the budget but would not be able to include all the IP Projects.

Ms. Ruffell motioned to vote 1 by 1 on projects, starting from the bottom of the list based on preliminary rankings (i.e., Finkbiner Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture (Finkbiner) Project). Mr. Juarez seconded Ms. Ruffell's motion. Ms. Sweet asked to see the SIP tool to include the top 5 IPs. Mr. Diaz stated that voting projects into the SIP individually would extend the meeting time significantly. The District noted the WASC can extend the meeting as long as quorum is present. The goal was to finalize the SIP in the same day.

[Records show Ms. Gardner left the WebEx Meeting at 3:47pm.]

Ms. O'Brien suggested spreading funding for Bassett into equal parts over 10 years, making no changes to Barnes, Encanto and Wingate, splitting Finkbiner into \$2M for the first year and \$4M for the second year if the applicant approves, and keeping Garvey funding in one year. This reduces funding demand by Bassett in earlier years to allow more equitable project funding distribution, compliance for other applicants, funding of high-priority projects, and funding for Finkbiner design only. She felt this proposal met many goals, allocated funding across the board, and allowed applicants to apply for other funding sources. Mr. Alva, representing Bassett project, opposed spreading Bassett funding over 10 years since the project is already stretched to 5 years. He added the project has 50% matching, is a multi-benefit project, and benefits multiple jurisdictions. Ms. O'Brien suggested allocating 50% funding into future funding. Mr. Alva mentioned that his understanding was that the ROC advised the WASC to not allocate funds past the 5-year plan. He added Bassett is ranked the highest, is supported by the public and partnering cities. He advised the WASC to make choices and not fund all projects. Mr. Beshay asked if the committee should be voting on Ms. O'Brien's proposal. The District reminded the



# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



committee of the motion already made by Ms. Ruffell and seconded by Mr. Juarez. Ms. Ruffell did not withdraw or amend her motion since there was not a consensus in the WASC.

To advance the process in a timelier fashion and honor the substantial discussions already had, Mr. Diaz made a substitute motion to approve the top 5 ranked projects. Mr. Urias seconded the motion. The District displayed the funding allocation of this proposal with the SIP tool, which would allocate 57% of the budget the first year and 82% of the 5-year planned budget. The committee discussed both motions that were put forward and chose to vote on the substitute motion.

**The Committee voted to approve funding for the top 5 ranked projects into the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 USGR SIP (9 yay, 7 nay).**

The passing of this motion inferred that the motion presented by Ms. Ruffell no longer required attention as it was inconsistent with the passing motion.

Ms. Gallant indicated they were agreeable to removing the Wingate future funding allocation so that the column had no deferred expenses. Mr. Love suggested moving the Wingate future funding to the 5<sup>th</sup> year since the ROC did not prefer future funding allocated. He noted in future years, the applicant can request to delay the funding if needed. Mr. Alva noted the total requested funding amount is not allowed to be changed. The District moved the Wingate future funding to the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

Mr. Diaz recognized the importance of City compliance, pandemic budget concerns, capital investment, and human investment. He highlighted the beneficial infrastructure outcomes and the process outcomes such as local hires, engaged communities, increased open space, reduced carbon emissions, and fighting climate change that affects the most vulnerable community members. He thanked the committee for dialogue that moved the committee forward.

Ms. O' Brien was concerned about a disproportionate return of revenue relative to contribution and wanted to reconsider the TRPs. Mr. Paul Alva confirmed that this could likely be discussed after finishing all three categories (Scientific Studies being the last).

Ms. Sweet motioned to reconsider the SIP with the top 6 ranked IPs, which includes Pedley. Mr. Love seconded the motion. Mr. Diaz asked how many times a motion can be amended or superceded. The District conveyed their understanding that there was no limit provided it was within all applicable law and protocols. [After the meeting, the District confirmed with Counsel that the committee does have the ability to re-vote on an item to amend its prior action.]

Mr. Urias noted the WASC meeting exceeded the allocated meeting time slot and that he may need to leave the WASC meeting for another meeting scheduled at the same time.

Mr. Kearney noted he didn't support the prior motion because he preferred the motion made by Ms. Sweet. He was interested in seeing if others felt similarly. He noted a more unanimous vote may seem more acceptable to the ROC.

Ms. Enos reminded the committee of the ROC direction to allocate budget conservatively given uncertain economic conditions. She noted the allocation is already over 50% and adding more projects would push the allocation toward 100%.

Mr. Woods asked if in future meetings County Counsel could participate in the WASC meeting to give clarity on parliamentary procedures. The District indicated that Counsel is currently not able to attend all meetings but continues to diligently work with Counsel as needed.

Mr. Diaz asked about the standard goal of allocating 80% of funds. The District clarified the 80% was a recommendation, recognizes the value in economic investment, but ultimately, the WASC is to decide. The District recommended the WASC to provide strong justification for exceeding the 80% guidance. Mr. Antos clarified the 80% guidance was for the first year, not the 5-year plan.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Ms. O' Brien noted voting to include the 6<sup>th</sup> project could show stronger WASC support to the ROC, increasing chances of the ROC approving the SIP, and decreasing chances for another meeting to address the SIP.

Mr. Juarez noted many projects are located on the west side of the watershed while Pedley is located more on the east side of the watershed, which would make the funding distribution more equitable.

**The Committee voted to approve funding for Pedley into the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 USGR SIP (15 yay, 1 nay)**

Mr. Love motioned to include the San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates and not fund the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. This motion is consistent with the previously approved SIP as documented in the June 1, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Ruffell seconded the motion.

[Records show Mr. Urias left the meeting at 4:18pm]

**The Committee voted to approve funding for San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates into the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 USGR SIP (15 yay, 0 nay).**

## 6. Items for next agenda

The next meeting is to take place in August or September after Board consideration of the SIP. Mr. Alva will present the revised SIP at the next July 20<sup>th</sup> ROC meeting.

## 7. Adjournment

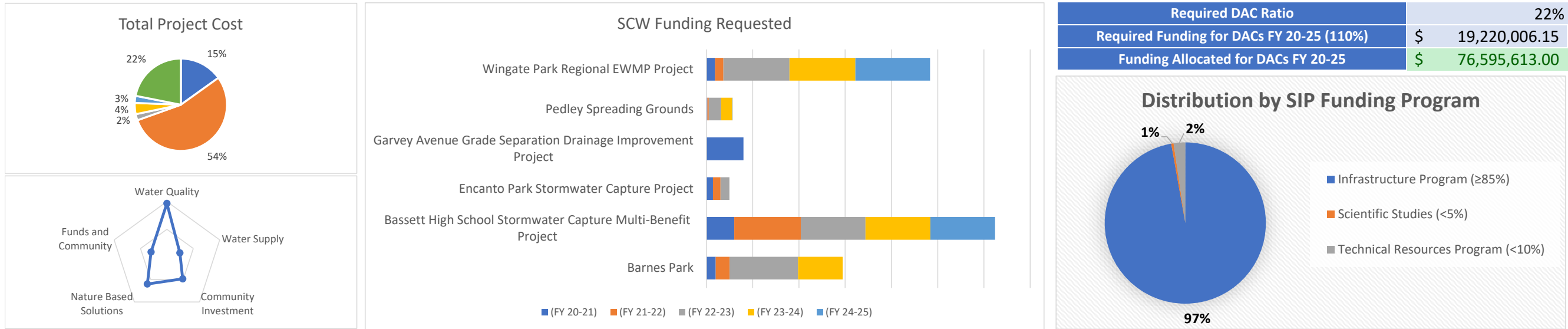
Mr. Alva, Mr. Beshay, and the District thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and Mr. Alva adjourned the meeting.



**Attendance**  
**USGR WASC - JULY 6, 2020**

Sean Woods	David Lopez
Aydin Pasebani	Ruby Wang
Bob Huff	Cameron McCullough (JLHA)
Drew Ready	Michael Gagan
Ed Suher, CASC	Paul Alva
Fernando Villaluna	Laura Santos
GDuran-Medina	Julian Juarez
Elizabeth Ruedas	Oliver Galang
Dena Florez	Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources
Lisa O'Brien	Waqas Rehman
Ryan Kearns - CWE	Safe Clean Water LA
Mark Persico	Kevin Kearney
David Marquez	Alex Tachiki
Vincent Ramos	Kirk Allen
Mark Glasscock	Stephanie Tong
Kristen Ruffell	Tom Love
Jonathan Abelson	Mike Antos (Stantec)
Carolina Sanchez	salmendez
Kelly Gardner	John Beshay
Deborah Enos	Paul Solano
Matt Frary - LACFCD	Martin Reyes
Tori Klug (Stantec)	abullington
John DiMario	Belinda V Faustinos
James Cramsie	Alysha Chan
Iwen Tseng	Bryan Matsumoto
David Diaz Avelar	Bryan Urias
Lonnie Chung	Fabian Aoun
IEC	Ed Reyes
Sharon Gallant	Alison Sweet
Art Cunha	

**Project Details**



**Stormwater Investment Plan Preview**

	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL (5 yr)
<b>A. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Collected</b>	\$18.91 M	\$18.91 M	\$18.91 M	\$18.91 M	\$18.91 M		\$94.54 M
<b>B. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Available (A+D)</b>	\$18.91 M	\$26.60 M	\$34.72 M	\$29.61 M	\$28.14 M		
<b>C. Total Allocated in the SIP</b>	\$11.22 M	\$10.79 M	\$24.01 M	\$20.38 M	\$15.31 M	\$0.00 M	\$81.71 M
<b>D. Remaining Balance/Rollover Funds (B-C)</b>	\$7.69 M	\$15.81 M	\$10.70 M	\$9.24 M	\$12.84 M		
<b>E. Percent Allocated (C/B)</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>54%</b>		<b>86%</b>

Row Labels	DAC	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
<b>Infrastructure Program</b>		\$ 9,734,762.00	\$ 10,589,423.00	\$ 23,812,652.00	\$ 20,177,894.00	\$ 15,106,782.00	\$ -	\$ 79,421,513.00
Barnes Park	Yes	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 7,400,000.00	\$ 4,835,690.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,735,690.00
Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Project	Yes	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 7,200,000.00	\$ 7,000,000.00	\$ 7,000,000.00	\$ 7,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 31,200,000.00
Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project	Yes	\$ 702,860.00	\$ 827,000.00	\$ 952,388.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,482,248.00
Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project	Yes	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00
Pedley Spreading Grounds	No	\$ 102,760.00	\$ 154,140.00	\$ 1,330,180.00	\$ 1,212,120.00	\$ 26,700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,825,900.00
Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project	Yes	\$ 929,142.00	\$ 908,283.00	\$ 7,130,084.00	\$ 7,130,084.00	\$ 8,080,082.00		\$ 24,177,675.00
<b>Scientific Studies</b>		\$ 385,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 385,000.00
San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation		\$ 385,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 385,000.00
<b>Technical Resources Program</b>		\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,900,000.00
Fairplex Regional Stormwater Project		\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Glendora Avenue Green Street Feasibility Study		\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
MacLaren Hall Property Park and Sports Field		\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #1		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$ 11,219,762.00	\$ 10,789,423.00	\$ 24,012,652.00	\$ 20,377,894.00	\$ 15,306,782.00	\$ -	\$ 81,706,513.00



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Mark Persico Organization\*: City of West Covina

Email\*: mpersico@westcovina.org Phone\*: 626.939.8401

Meeting: Upper San Gabriel River WASC Date: 7/6/2020

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

The City of West Covina fully supports using its regional share of the Measure W funding to undertake the stormwater improvement project at Bassett High School. Based upon the information provided by County Public Works staff, the project is a cost effective method of capturing and infiltrating stormwater run-off.



# Public Comment Form

Name:\* Alex Tachiki Organization\*: City of Monrovia  
Email\*: atachiki@ci.monrovia.ca.us Phone\*: 626-932-5553  
Meeting: Upper San Gabriel River Date: 7/6/2020

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

I would like to request to make public comment during the USGR WASC meeting on July 6, 2020.

For the record, my remarks are as follows:

Good afternoon Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak and I hope everyone is doing well during such unprecedented times. Before the WASC enters into discussion on revising the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP), I wanted to bring to the attention of the committee a couple of unique items for consideration.

1. The USGR WASC is one of the busiest WASCs, what I mean by this is that within this watershed, there are 4 WMP/EWMP groups (Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River WMP, Upper San Gabriel River EWMP, Lower San Gabriel River WMP and East San Gabriel River WMP) and 5 cities (West Covina, Walnut, South El Monte, Irwindale and El Monte) who have developed an individual stormwater plan. In my opinion, this means that this WASC has the unique challenge and privilege of balancing the needs of several communities and groups which is certainly easier than balancing 2-3 like many other WASCs.

2. This watershed in particular is also impacted from a scoring perspective as it is nearly impossible to achieve water supply points. This is due to the tremendous foresight and hard work



# Public Comment Form

Name:\* Alex Tachiki Organization\*: City of Monrovia  
Email\*: atachiki@ci.monrovia.ca.us Phone\*: 626-932-5553  
Meeting: Upper San Gabriel River Date: 7/6/2020

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

2. This watershed in particular is also impacted from a scoring perspective as it is nearly impossible to achieve water supply points. This is due to the tremendous foresight and hard work of LA County Public Works and for years, this watershed and region has benefited from it.

The projects that are being considered again for funding are all good projects. What I mean by this is that they have gone through their own unique and rigorous challenges before getting back to the WASC today. These projects have been approved by the Regional Board, the SCW Scoring Committee and in some cases, external funding committees such as IRWMP.

The Mission of the SCW program is to capture stormwater, clean it, make it safe and make it for everyone. Meaning, this program is for all of the communities represented in this watershed and the goal of the SIP should be to advance the region/watershed as a whole rather than concentrated sections to the greatest extent practical.

In closing, I ask that the committee consider the needs of all the communities in the watershed while taking into account the WMPs/EWMPs and individual cities' needs.

Thank you,

Alex Tachiki  
Administrative Officer  
City of Monrovia