

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, January 12, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)
Alex Rojas (Central Basin)	Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)
Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation)	Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)
Adam Galia (Resident)	Vicki Smith (Whittier)
Joseph Gonzalez* (River and Mountains Conservancy)	
Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Community Stakeholder Seat - TBD

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Ann Rapp, the Chair of Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. Kevin Kim (District) conducted roll call, and with a majority present, quorum was established. Lisa Ann Rapp and the District confirmed Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment) as a new appointed WASC member was provided with the meeting details. Further, Lisa Ann Rapp and the District confirmed the Business Community Stakeholder Seat vacancy and that an appointee was yet to be selected by the Board. The District later confirmed Lisa Ann Rapp's inquiry during District Updates that last year's Business Community representative was Michelle Yanez (San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership).

Lisa Ann Rapp and the District discussed housekeeping items and the public comment process.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked committee members if there were any changes to be made. With no changes requested, Lisa Ann Rapp requested a motion to approve minutes. Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve minutes, with Noe Negrete seconding.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from December 15, 2020 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

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Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: Scoring Committee (SC) has met and will continue to meet through the end of January to officially score Infrastructure Program (IP) projects. Applicants were invited to attend SC meetings to answer questions and/or to provide additional project details. Regarding the Watershed Coordinator (WC) proposer selection, the District completed Phase I which was the scoring of project applicants. Phase II consisted of WC interviews and WC selection by the WASC. After the WASC selects a Primary WC proposer, it is anticipated they will be onboarded by March 2021. The District also mentioned the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2021. The ROC will discuss Water Supply Benefits and prioritization of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). On February 25, 2021, the ROC will discuss Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Community Engagement guidance to assist applicants and committee members in understanding and applying the program guidelines. The Safe Clean Water Program's (SCWP) reporting module is scheduled for an April 2021 release. The reporting module is intended to assist project applicants, and Cities with the requirement of uploading their Quarterly Reports, with the first Quarterly Reports due on May 15, 2021. Finally, regarding the Fund Transfer Agreements, the District has disbursed funds to Cities that have completed all the submittal requirements. For those Cities that did not return their executed Transfer Agreements, the District requested that these be returned as soon as possible including the Annual Plans, authorizations, and any other requested documents. As for the Regional Program funding Transfer Agreements, all project applicants received the agreements, which should have been executed and returned along with the scope of work and authorizations to the District.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No Ex Parte Communication Disclosures received.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

6. Voting Items

a) Watershed Coordinator Selection

i) Process Overview & Discussion

The District provided an overview of the WC selection process.

ii) Voting Process for Watershed Coordinator Selection

The District provided an overview of the WC voting process. Lisa Ann Rapp and the District noted that WC proposers should be in attendance and follow up questions should be directed to the WC proposers.

The committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of the WC as defined in the ordinance, the request for statement of qualifications (RFSQ), and the guidance documents provided by the District.

Noe Negrete requested clarification as to why the WC proposer interviews were conducted through the WASC regular meetings as opposed to a review panel comprised of WASC members and their recommendations. The District stated that the selection of the WC must follow the Ordinance which requires that the WASC select the WC.

Meredith Reynolds and the District clarified the WC positions are full time positions and a WC proposer can serve full-time WC positions in multiple WASCs if they are selected for multiple WASCs and have staffing capacity.

Delfino Consunji commented and requested clarification regarding the voting and selection process of the WC. He agreed with the WC interviews being in an open public meeting. However, he asked if deliberations would be open to the public or more confidential. The District noted that WC selection

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deliberations will be held today in a public setting. Delfino Consunji and the District confirmed the voting process would be individually voting to have one Primary WC, then first alternate WC and then secondary alternate WC, so each committee member will have three votes.

Dan Knapp commented by echoing what others have said regarding the WC discussion held in an open forum and stated the need to do deliberate responsibly and choose words carefully, without offending the applicants, members and the public. He stated having difficulty in differentiating his opinion based on the presentations and his opinion based on experience with several of the WC applicants. Lisa Ann Rapp noted she believes both presentations and experience with the WC applicant are relevant to consider when choosing a WC. Dan Knapp recommended that the WASC consider individuals or organizations that have a history of working within this Watershed Area as great value as well as their successful track record of working in the Watershed Stormwater discipline. He further commented there were a couple WC proposers who did a phenomenal job but lacked experience within this specific Watershed and the communities we are trying to target the most: underserved communities.

Delfino Consunji commented that his evaluations are based on the WC proposer interviews. He has worked indirectly with three of the WC proposers. His number one selection is CASC Engineering & Consulting. They provided the best qualifications in his opinion. Technically, they're the most qualified, they are experienced in the field of stormwater and have assisted Cities in this Region. CASC Engineering & Consulting possesses experience in public outreach, one of the most important roles of the WC. They have been innovative and creative, especially in times of a pandemic when you cannot have large gatherings to perform community outreach services. He noted OhanaVets Inc. had a great presentation. For him, the only difference between OhanaVets Inc. and CASC Engineering & Consulting is their technical experience. He noted OhanaVets Inc. did a phenomenal job in their presentation, they are very knowledgeable as far as stormwater is concerned. OhanaVets Inc. would be a good alternate as a WC if CASC Engineering is assigned to another WASC. His third choice was S. Groner & Associates Inc. He felt they executed a good presentation, however; he felt they lack stormwater experience, especially in this Region.

Bernie Iniguez suggested they use a ranking sheet to score WC proposers and generate the top three WC proposers. Lisa Ann Rapp suggested that perhaps the WASC give attention to what each members' three choices are, vote for Primary choice, move on to second choice, and then vote for third choice. This gives members a chance to talk about their reasoning and focus on WASC needs.

Bernie Iniguez commented that his top three WC proposers are first, OhanaVets Inc., second CASC Engineering & Consulting, and third S. Groner Associates Inc. These are the same choices as Delfino Consunji's WC choices but in different order.

Lyndsey Bloxom commented that her first choice is OhanaVets Inc. She felt they had clear ideas to work within the Watershed which stood out as being a benefit to the Watershed. She appreciated the discussion around Disadvantaged Communities and how their boundaries, don't match Watershed boundaries and the need to identify those groups and ensure they are heard and that part of the program is run equitably. She noted that OhanaVets Inc. had good balance understanding the technical aspects of the Watershed. They also have experience with grants and ideas of combining projects into a larger project.

Adam Galia commented that it's important to select WC proposers who have community engagement experience, especially when it comes to diversifying the applicants. It would be great to have a WC looking at applicant communities that have different ideas that they want to propose.

Joseph Gonzales commented that the WASC received very strong WC proposer applications, and it was a hard to decision to make. TreePeople Inc. have worked in this area and are locally based with a

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successful track record. They are an established non-profit in the environmental realm with over 45 years of experience. They also listed some nonprofits as subconsultants, including the LA Neighborhood Land Trust. TreePeople Inc. emphasized using Nature Based Solutions and a Community based approach. They also highlighted ongoing work that could be leveraged within the WASC outreach, disadvantaged communities, and engagement programs. Joseph Gonzales also noted that last year the WASC didn't receive any applications for Measure W programs from any non-profit organizations. Secondly, there appears to be a gap in the WASC program with non-profit participation. Finally, Joseph Gonzales chose OhanaVets Inc. as his second choice for their experience in the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Region, their connection with the Gateway Water Management Authority, and local Watershed planning.

Mike O'Grady commented that OhanaVets Inc. and CASC Engineering & Consulting were his top two proposers after the interviews. OhanaVets Inc. was his first choice because their experience was focused in the LSGR. CASC Engineering Consulting was his second choice because their experience appeared to be focused in the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR). He also noted that from a municipal perspective, funding for regional projects is needed to comply with the MS4 permit. He noted to consider if the WC role is to seek Regional projects or parcel-based projects in the Measure W program.

Melissa You requested clarification from the District in regard to WC proposers being selected by another Watershed as their Primary choice. The District clarified that all WASC must complete their WC proposer selections: Primary, 1st Alternate and 2nd Alternate. A list will be compiled of all WASC WC proposer selections, if there are WC proposers that have been selected by multiple WASCs, the District's Contracts Division will coordinate with those specific WC proposers as to their WASC selection. Melissa You further commented on her WC proposer selections: OhanaVets Inc. as 1st choice because of their experience as previously expressed by other Committee members and their interest in helping the LSGR area. CASC Engineering & Consulting as 2nd choice. As for S. Groner & Associates', she noted that she could not recall any stormwater projects with the City of Long Beach, but recalled that they presented having project experience in Long Beach and wanted to know more.

Noe Negrete commented to having three WC proposer choices not in a specific order as Primary, 1st Alternate and 2nd Alternate but that he was open to discuss their order with the Committee. His choices were OhanaVets Inc. for their local experience and technical knowledge. CASC Engineering & Consulting for their local experience although it is north of the LSGR Watershed and for their technical knowledge. As for S. Groner & Associates, they have public relations experience and asked if the WASC is seeking a public relations WC or a technical WC? Noe Negrete did note that the WASC already has technical consultants on board.

Dan Knapp commented on his three choices in no particular order: OhanaVets Inc., TreePeople Inc., and S. Groner Associates.

Julian Juarez commented that it was a hard decision in selecting WC proposers as they all provided great proposals. Having local experience was at the top of his list therefore OhanaVets Inc. was his top choice. He extended his gratitude towards the WC proposers and further noted that he did not have past working experience with the WC proposers.

Lisa Ann Rapp commented on her top WC proposer choices. OhanaVets Inc. was her Primary choice because of their connection to the San Gabriel River Watershed, they are part of the administration for the Gateway Water Management Authority, and they are an active participant in every Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) meeting as well as being an alternate representative. She noted their extensive project and program experience in this Region in combination with their transportation project experience expands their ability to combine funding from multiple resources outside Measure W and deliver stronger projects. Second choices were CASC Engineering & Consulting and S.

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Groner Associates both with strong points: engineering and technical coordination with S. Groner Associates stronger in the area of Public Relations.

Vicki Smith commented that her top three WC proposer choices were CASC Engineering & Consulting, S. Groner & Associates, and OhanaVets Inc. She further stated not having experience working with any of the WC proposers but would welcome other Cities' input regarding their experiences in working with these WC proposers.

Meredith Reynolds commented that she has had working experience with the WC proposers; OhanaVets Inc., CASC Engineering & Consulting, and S. Groner & Associates. However, she's had vast experience with S. Groner & Associates in the Environmental Programs side with the City of Irvine. They were responsible for the direct implementation of Community Engagement Strategies and are a local Long Beach firm. It is important for the WC proposers to have the local connection, experience and connections to the community from an inclusion and equity perspective.

Kristen Ruffell commented her appreciation for the level of discussion and deliberations from the WASC. For her, it was important to listen to the members' perspectives. Gabrielle Weeks made no comment and was researching the proposers.

iii) [Voting Item] - Watershed Coordinator Selection

Lisa Ann Rapp began the voting process after Committee members noted they were ready to move forward with the voting process for WC selection.

The Committee voted with a 11-vote majority for OhanaVets Inc. as their Primary WC, CASC Engineering & Consulting as 1st alternate choice with a 10-vote majority, and S. Groner Associates as 2nd alternate choice with a 13-vote majority (See vote tracking sheet).

7. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

8. Presentations

i) 2 Technical Resources Program presentations

a) Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project:

Presentation by Lonnie Chung and Iwen Tseng. The feasibility study involves analysis of stormwater capture BMPs at Sorensen Park in the unincorporated West Whittier-Los Nietos area.

Kristen Ruffell asked if community outreach had been conducted to the Community or to the City of Whittier as a potential partner. Lonnie Chung stated that outreach activities have not been conducted and were seeking collaboration with the SCWP team and the WC to plan outreach events in accordance with SCWP objectives. She further stated that the intent is to have the outreach component in place when applying for the IP. Lonnie Chung mentioned that a meeting will be held with the City of Whittier's Director of Public Works to discuss partnership contributions for the Sorensen Park project which meets the SCWP objectives. Kristen Ruffell expanded her question by asking if the City of Whittier decides not to partner on this project, what becomes of the project? Lonnie Chung stated that regardless of a partnership, the project is a good location for stormwater capture. In addition to the water quality and supply benefits, the project will beautify the heavily used park which serves Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities. Kristen Ruffell asked if they would continue with the diversion that takes in the City of Whittier area. Lonnie Chung stated that there could be future adjustments to the project, for example phasing the project. The meeting with the City of Whittier may determine if the partial drainage area in the City of Whittier will be collected. Regardless, the project will proceed collecting water from the County drainage area. Kristen Ruffell asked Committee Chair for a follow-up report on the outcome of the discussions with the City of Whittier and Project Applicant. Lisa Ann Rapp acknowledged request. [The

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District confirmed after the meeting that Whittier supports both Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture and Los Nietos Green Street Feasibility Study projects.]

Noe Negrete asked what percentage of the project is in a DAC area. Lonnie Chung stated that the park is in a disadvantaged community, and within a walking half mile radius, it also encompasses severely disadvantaged community area, as per the Department of Water Resources definition. Noe Negrete asked what percentage of the project within that half mile area is in a DAC area. Iwen Tseng stated that entire park is in a DAC area. Noe Negrete noted that the presenter stated that the project is in the USGR and requested clarification as to what portion of the project is in the USGR vs. LSGR. Iwen Tseng stated that even though the project is identified in the USGR Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP), the project is located in the LSGR Watershed.

b) Los Nietos Green Street Feasibility Study:

Presentation by Cristian Duran and Iwen Tseng. The Study looks at the north region of the Los Nietos Unincorporated County area for potential storm water capture features.

Kristen Ruffell asked what other type of funding sources are being pursued for this project. Cristian Duran stated that at this time they have not identified other sources of funding. Their goal is to determine the type of projects that will be implemented before seeking additional funding opportunities. Iwen Tseng further noted that this project area and Los Nietos West Whittier have many SB 1 funded road projects. If selected for Safe, Clean Water Program funding to assist with the TRP, they would partner with many other road projects that have partial SB 1 funding noting this being a great multi benefit project opportunity.

Noe Negrete asked if the project area is over 1000 acres and for clarification as to the water infiltration and cleanup location. Cristian Duran referred to presentation slide 7 demonstrating an area of 1000 acres within Los Nietos Community stating that sections of the work had been completed. Now, the goal is to use green streets road right-of-way to implement subsurface and surface BMPs that will either be nearby storm drains, or just along areas that collect large amounts of surface runoff. They will need to identify the specific sites that can achieve the greatest benefit. Noe Negrete commented that the project cost compared to other projects does not appear to be cost effective. Cristian Duran stated that this study is designed to identify the most suitable opportunities. Noe Negrete asked Cristian Duran to further elaborate on Sorensen Park consideration. Cristian Duran clarified that Sorensen Park captures 17 acre-feet that's also part of the 45 acre-feet that belongs to the study area, leaving 28 acre-feet of unclaimed volume for the study area.

The District noted that project executive summaries and project applications are available on SCWP Portal website for review.

9. Items for Next Agenda

The District noted that the SC will continue with their assessment and official scoring of IP projects. The District will prepare a list of IP projects to present at the next meeting. Presentations for Scientific Studies will follow.

Kristen Ruffell requested that the District provide the WASC a spreadsheet with all the projects in the Watershed and their requested funding. The District acknowledged the request and would get back to the Committee.

10. Adjournment

Lisa Ann Rapp thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and participation and requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Ruffell motioned to adjourn, with Noe Negrete seconding.

Watershed Coordinato	Shorthand	Tally	Tally2	Tally3	Tally4
S Groner and Associates Inc.	SGA	0	2	3	13
OhanaVets Inc.	OV	0	11	0	0
TreePeople, Inc.	TP	0	1	3	3
CASC Engineering & Consulting	CASC	0	2	10	0
Fresh Coast Captial, LLC dba Greenprint Partners	GP	0	0	0	0

LSGR WASC - January 12, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)			
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve Meeting Minutes	Preferred WC	1st alt. WC	2nd alt. WC
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y	OV	CASC	SGA
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	X	Jeremy Melendez			SGA	CASC	SGA
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza		Lyndsey Bloxom	X	Y	OV	CASC	SGA
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	X	Mike Sullivan		Y	OV	CASC	SGA
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Meredith Reynolds	X	Y	OV	SGA	SGA
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	X	Irene Lopez-Muro		Y	OV	TP	TP
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	X	Thalia Campos		Y	OV	TP	SGA
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	X	Y	TP	TP	TP
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	X				OV	SGA	TP
Community Stakeholder									
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	X	Rebecca Scott		Y	OV	CASC	SGA
Municipal Members	Downey	Delfino Consunji	X	Dan Mueller		Y	CASC	CASC	SGA
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Lisa Ann Rapp	X	Konya Vivanti		Y	OV	CASC	SGA
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	X	Alvin Papa		Y	OV	CASC	SGA
Municipal Members	City of Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	X	Glen Kau			OV	CASC	SGA
Municipal Members	Santa Fe Springs	Noe Negrete	X	Marlin Munoz		Y	SGA	SGA	SGA
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	X	Kyle Cason		Y	CASC	CASC	SGA
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Votes	13	16	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0			
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	16	16	16
Municipal Members		7			Approved				

Attendance

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Adam Galia	Kekoa Anderson
Alex Rojas	Kirk Allen - LACFCD SCWP
April Mendez	Konya Vivanti
Benjamin Shorofsky	Kristen Ruffell
Bernie Iniguez	Lisa Rapp
Blake TreePeople	Lonnie Chung
Bryce Lee	Lyndsey Bloxom
Carlos Moran	Manny Gonez
Cecilia Salazar	Matt Frary (LACFCD)
Cindy Montanez	Melanie Morita
Cristian Duran	Melina Watts
Dan Knapp	Melissa You
Delfino Consunji	Meredith Reynolds
El C	Mike Antos
Elisha Back	Mike O'Grady
Elizabeth Lambe	Noe Negrete
Fernando Villaluna	Shin @ DRA
Gabrielle Weeks	STEPHEN GRONER
Grace Kast	Thalia Campos
Iwen Tseng	Tori Klug
Joseph Gonzalez	Traci Gleason
Julian Juarez	Vicki Smith
Julie Millett	Wataru Kumagai
Kala Anderson	William O'Braitis