

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, January 7, 2021

10:00am – 12:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Kristen Ruffell (LA County - Sanitation)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)
Darren Hernandez (City of Santa Clarita)
Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Julian Juarez (District)
Steve Cole (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)
Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)

Heather Merenda (Santa Clarita)
Tom Cole (Santa Clarita)
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)
Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)
Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)

Committee Members Not Present:

Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Darren Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Clara River WASC, called the meeting to order.

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2020

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes onto the SCW website from the December 15th meeting. Mr. Hernandez asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Sandra Cattell seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes. (Approved, See vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Mr. CJ Caluag provided the District updates for the Round 2 project scoring noting: the Scoring Committee (SC) continues to score projects and it anticipates concluding all scoring on January 12th, 2021. Certain project applicants were requested to provide additional information to the SC, and to view the schedule of projects being scored, please visit the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) website for more information.

Mr. Caluag provided an update on the Watershed Coordinators (WC) - 67 proposals were received from 21 different project applicants. WC Phase 1 is complete, which was the scoring of project applicants by L.A. County Public Works' Business Relations and Contracts Division; a total of 15 project applicants

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passed. WC Phase 2 includes the December interviews and the Committee voting for the WC in today's agenda Item 6. It is anticipated the selected WC will be onboarded by March/April 2021.

Mr. Caluag then transitioned to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting later this month to discuss water supply and benefits and prioritization of nature-based solutions. The ROC will also meet next month to discuss Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Community Engagement. The ROC intends on developing an interim program guidance with the assistance of experts for next year 's future applicants.

With regards to the SCW reporting module, Mr. Caluag stated that it will likely go live by April 1, 2021. 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 15th, 2021.

Finally, Mr. Caluag reminded Municipalities to submit their executed Transfer Agreements, Annual Plans and Resolutions as soon as possible to the District, and for the Regional Transfer Agreements, project developers are also reminded to submit the executed Transfer Agreements, Resolutions, Authorizations and Scope of Work (if applicable) to the District as soon as possible.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no Ex Parte Communication Disclosures provided by the Committee members during this part of the meeting agenda.

5. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments provided during this part of the meeting agenda.

6. Voting Items:

a) Watershed Coordinator Selection

Mr. Hernandez requested confirmation on the selection of the WCs as Primary and Alternate Choices, with Mr. Caluag confirming this as the intended process.

i) Process Overview & Discussion

Mr. Hernandez asked committee members if they would like to further discuss the WC applicants or if there was a consensus among the members for the Primary and Alternate WCs.

Ms. Cattell expressed her support for TreePeople, Inc. for their work within the community. They have worked with the City, L.A. County and are very familiar with this region. TreePeople, Inc. is well positioned to take this leadership role as they have an understanding of the communities that use well water, and they possess a tremendous ability to do outreach. Finally, TreePeople, Inc. would assist with promoting and encouraging nature-based solutions which in the long run are very cost-effective.

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Mr. Hernandez asked Committee members for a consensus on TreePeople, Inc. as the Primary, with the majority of Committee members in favor of TreePeople, Inc. as their Primary WC preference.

Mr. Hernandez asked for a consensus on an alternate and informed the Committee members that an alternate selection was necessary per the District after Mr. Hunt Braly asked if the alternate was necessary. Mr. Hernandez asked the District if all contracts across the nine WASCs were equal, with Mr. Caluag confirming all WC contracts as equal. Mr. Hernandez stated that it is up to the Committee if they want to select an Alternate WC.

Mr. Braly requested clarification on WCs submitting proposals to multiple WASCs and whether WCs were only being allowed to work within one or multiple WASCs. Mr. Hernandez confirmed WCs can work if selected in multiple WASCs. Mr. Braly stated his approval of TreePeople, Inc. as the primary WC given their impressive work within the community, and their outreach. Mr. Braly made a motion to select TreePeople, Inc. as the primary WC, with Mr. Tom Cole seconding this motion.

A member of the public commented that none of these groups have ever reached out to the Acton Town community nor performed any outreach in their community, that it appears they only do outreach to Cities, and that whoever is selected must reach out to the Acton community.

Ms. Cattell mentioned that while none of the WC applicants have gone out to solicit, each prepared and performed presentations to the WASCs. TreePeople, Inc. goes out of its way to do public outreach in communities that are not represented within the City. They would be encouraged to do more work in the areas that are well-water dependent.

Ms. Heather Merenda is requesting confirmation from the District regarding Place Works as a subconsultant to TreePeople, Inc. TreePeople, Inc. confirmed that Place Works is part of their team and has conducted outreach under the Water Talks Program in Acton.

Ms. Mary Johnson noted that Place Works has performed work in the Agua Dulce community, confirmed the Water Talks Program in Acton, and that TreePeople, Inc. is the clear choice.

TreePeople, Inc. thanked the Committee members and expressed their excitement about the possibilities with working in the communities, doing more outreach in Acton, and in all communities that are in the Foothills.

A member of the public stated her support for TreePeople, Inc.

ii and iii) Voting Process for Watershed Coordinator Selection and [Voting Item] – Watershed Coordinator Selection

Mr. Hernandez brought forth the motion proposed by Mr. Braly and seconded by Mr. Cole to vote for TreePeople, Inc. as the primary WC. Mr. Hernandez proceeded with the voting rollcall for this motion, and received 16-Yes votes and zero-No votes for this motion. Finally, no alternate WCs were selected/voted by the Committee.

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7. Public Comment Period

*Note – Agenda Item 7. Public Comment Period occurred before Agenda Item 6. Voting Item iii) Watershed Coordinator Selection

A member of the public commended the Committee for the primary WC selection, TreePeople, Inc.

Mr. Hernandez thanked Environmental Outreach Strategies, and Fresh Coast Capital, LLC dba Greenprint Partners for their submission and their interest in the community.

Ms. Jackie Ayer commented that several times she has tried to make a comment and was not able to get through via the WebEx chat, Q&A, and speaking, and asked how the public can comment during these meetings. Finally, Ms. Ayer is looking forward to TreePeople, Inc. working with the Acton community. Mr. Caluag explained the WebEx functions, assured her that the Committee and the District always want to make sure public comments are heard, and will ensure that she has the opportunity to speak during the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Bruce Hamamoto asked the District if the selected WC will be on-board by the next meeting. Mr. Caluag responded that the WC would most likely be brought on board in March 2021, as all of the watershed areas must first finish their voting, and then the Business Relations and Contracts Division will need to meet with the selected applicants to make sure each formally accepts the WC position(s).

Ms. Cattell asked when the next submission date is for the Call for Projects. Mr. Caluag noted the Call for Projects is tentative for June/July. Ms. Merenda noted that per the SCW website, the next deadline for Projects is October 2021. The District will confirm at the next meeting.

Mr. Braly requested that the District have TreePeople, Inc. attend the next SCR Committee meeting. Mr. Mike Antos responded that the District is aware of this request, but due to no contract in place, it is up to the preferred WC to participate in future WASC meetings. TreePeople, Inc. indicated that they intend to attend as members of the public the next SCR WASC meeting.

8. Items for Next Agenda

Starting next month, meetings will go back to their normal schedule of the first Thursday of the month. Upcoming items for future meetings include:

- i) 1 Technical Resources Program presentation; and
- ii) 3 Scientific Study presentations

9. Adjournment

Mr. Hernandez thanked the WASC members and the public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10am – 12pm
Virtual Meeting – WebEx Events

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - JANUARY 7, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items			
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	12-15-20 Meeting Minutes	TreePeople as Watershed Coordinator Selection	Watershed Coordinator Alternate 1	Watershed Coordinator Alternate 2
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Carolina Hernandez		y	y		
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Dirk Marks		Mike Alvord					
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y	y		
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Martha Tremblay		y	y		
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Janine Prado	x	Jennifer Del Toro		y	y		
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	x			y	y		
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	y		
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	x	Diane Trautman		y	y		
Community Stakeholder	GP Strategies	Jason Gibbs	x	Frederick Andre Hollings		y	y		
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y	y		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	y		
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darren Hernandez	x	Darin Seegmiller		y	y		
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda	x	Oliver Cramer		y	y		
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Robert Newman	x	Mike Hennawy		abstain	y		
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Tom Cole	x	David Peterson		y	y		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	15	16	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	15	16	0	0
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
January 7, 2021

Blake	Whittington	Robert	Newman
Mary	Johnson	C.C.	LaGrange
Adi	Lieberman	Connie	Adera
David	Peterson	Benjamin	Shorofsky
Jennifer	Amarant	Brenda	Morales
Mike	Antos	Cindy	Montanez
Jacqueline	Ayer	Darren	Hernandez
Safe	Clean Water LA	CJ	Caluag - LACFCD
kimberly	henry	Bruce	Hamamoto
April	Mendez	Darin	Seegmiller
Diane	Trautman	Oliver	Cramer
Elisha	Back	nick	s
Dianne	Hellrigel	Tom	Cole
Manny	Gonez	janine	prado
Hunt	Braly	Mayra	Cabrera
Francisco	Mendez	Kristen	Ruffell
Justin	Jones (LACFCD)	Luis	Perez
Heather	Merenda	Paul	Glenn (GHD)
Steve	Cole	Peter	Massey
Jason	Gibbs	Sandra	Cattell
Sarona	Vivanco	Alexander	Iglesias - LACFCD
Arlene	Guzman	julian	juarez
Sarona	Vivanco		