

Safe, Clean Water Program

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
2:00pm - 4:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)	Wendy Butts (LA Conservation Corps)
E.J. Caldwell (West Basin)	Julio Gonzalez (Carson)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Susie Santilena (Los Angeles)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	TJ Moon (LA County Public Works)
Darryl Ford* (Los Angeles Rec & Park)	John Dettle (Torrance)
Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider)	Shawn Igoe* (EWMP: Beach Cities)
Guang Yu Wang (SMB Restoration Commission)	Ken Rukavina (EWMP: Peninsula)
Hany Fangary (Fangary Law Group)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Heecheol Kwon (EWMP: Dominguez)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for the full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay WASC, welcomed the WASC Members and called the meeting to order.

The District gave a tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the rollcall. All WASC Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Kristen Ruffell asked the WASC for comments or revisions.

Cung Nguyen made a motion to approve the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Guang Yu Wang seconded the motion. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes. (14 Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen (District) provided the District updates, noting:

- First Annual Plans are being posted on the SCW Program website. Over half of the cities have received their local returns. Cities that did not return their executed Transfer Agreements (TA) were requested to return them as soon as possible. Second Annual Plans are due in April 2021. The second Annual Payment is expected to be distributed in August.

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- An interactive web-based Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) planning tool will be introduced in March 2021. District stated the goal of completing SIP programming by late April/early May. Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) will begin reviewing SIPs in June.
- Watershed Coordinators are submitting Letters of Intent and insurance requirements to execute contracts.
- District is advancing 14 of the 16 Technical Resources Program (TRP) project concepts approved from the first FY20-21 SIPs. Many applicants aim to complete Feasibility Studies by the Round 3 call for projects. Round 3 deadline is July 31, 2021.
- Conceptual review/approval of projects along LACFCD right of way should be requested a few months in advance of submittal.
- Tax relief applications are due May 1, 2021. Low-Income Senior-Owned (LISO) properties are eligible for a full exemption of the SCWP tax if they meet the minimum income and age threshold. Also, there is a tax Credit Program for property owners who have invested in storm water management infrastructure on their property. The deadline for submittal of applications is May 1st of every year.

Cung Nguyen reminded the WASC of item 16, on pg. 48, of the Feasibility Guidelines handbook, which describes the LACFCD right of way approval requirements. Non-public agencies require a letter of support from the local municipality. Kristen Ruffell reminded the WASC that projects with sewer diversions require approval from the local sewer/sanitation agency.

4. Public Comment Period

Kathleen McGowan asked if the online SIP tool should be used for the April 1 Annual Plan submittals. Kirk Allen recommended mimicking last year's method of preparing the Annual Plan. The online reporting tool is expected to be ready in early May.

5. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

None.

b) Presentations for Scientific Studies Program (SCW Portal)

i) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Gateway Water Management Authority. Presented by Richard Watson.

Susie Santilena asked Richard Watson to address previous concerns raised by the Regional Board Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) and environmental groups. Richard indicated the Regional Board originally objected to the study since it they interpreted that the TMDLs did not have to be addressed while the study is being conducted.

TJ Moon asked if the cost of the study can be reduced if not all the WASCs want to participate. Richard Watson replied that the cost can be reduced, and the full study can be completed by excluding data collection/analyzing costs from the Watershed Areas that are not included.

c) South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan

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Kirk Allen commented the SIP online planning tool should be available before the next meeting. He briefly reviewed features of the SCW Portal and current projects. The next meeting will discuss prioritization of projects. Partial funding guidelines are available.

Multiple committee members shared concerns about the Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Benefit Flow Diversion Project.

Susie Santilena asked for additional information on funding. It was noted that the SIP planning tool will provide information on funding allocations and available funds.

Cung Nguyen asked if there was a cap on the amount of available funding that will be allocated for the upcoming year and about Projects that would accept partial funding. The District noted that the SIP tool will show carry over funding from year to year and that partial funding will be negotiated between the WASC and the applicant.

TJ Moon commented that he believes the WASC should prioritize projects that have matching funds; prioritizing projects that address MS4 compliance and projects identified in EWMPs. He noted it would be practical to allocate funds for design only and have the applicants request funding for construction later.

Kristen Ruffell expressed concern about advancing the Torrance Airport Storm Water Basin Project and would not feel comfortable allocating construction funding now.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

a) Establish a subcommittee to review Fiscal Year 2020-21 Technical Resources Program Scopes of Work

Kirk Allen shared it is not necessary to form a subcommittee, however, the District is committed to exploring all aspects of what makes a project feasible. The District can inform the WASC with more in-depth information as progress is made on the concepts.

Kristen Ruffell indicated that she would like to be involved in scope of work discussions.

Susie Santilena agreed that a subcommittee is not necessary, but there is a need for updates. Kirk noted that there will be quarterly reports and updates via the reporting module starting in May or June.

7. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson commented that he does not believe the Regional Board understands the competition for Measure W funding and wanted to know if there will be any bonding opportunities to build more projects at the beginning of the SCW Program. The District noted that there are no bonds under consideration for Regional Program funding at this time.

8. Voting Items

None.

9. Items for Next Agenda

a) South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan – Interactive Planning Tool

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10. Adjournment

Kristen Ruffell thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting. Next meeting Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - March 3, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes 02/17/21
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x	Alex Heide		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatzka		Lyndsey Bloxom	x	Y
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Kristen Ruffell	x	Mike Sullivan		Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	Craig Cadwallader	x	Mary Simun		Y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission	Guang Yu Wang	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	Fangary Law Group	Hany Fangary	x	Justin Massey		Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Wendy Butts	x	Bo Savage		Y
Community Stakeholder	VACANT					
Municipal Members	Carson	Julio Gonzalez	x	Eliza Jane Whitman		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena	x	Ilene Ramirez		Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	TJ Moon	x	Thuan Nguyen		Y
Municipal Members	Torrance	John Dettle	x	Wilson Mendoza		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Shawn Igoe	x	Geraldine Trivedi		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Heecheol Kwon		Mitchell Wagner		
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Ken Rukavina	x	David Wahba		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Other Attendees	
Brett Perry	Tammy Takigawa
Ed Suher	Wendy Dinh
Geraldine Trivedi	Wilson Mendoza
Ilene Ramirez	Charles Eder
Jacky Cervantes	Michelle Staffield
Jacqueline Mak	Paul Glenn
John Hunter	Sheila Brice
Kathleen McGowan	
Katie Harrel	
Lauren Amimoto	
Lonnie Chung	
Lorena Matos	
Marita DRA Inc	
Mary Simun	
Mercedes Passanisi	
Nate Schreiner	
Richard Watson	

Overview of Pathogen Reduction Study

Presented by Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. (RWA)

Project Lead: Gateway Water Management Authority

Presentation to the South Santa Monica Bay WASC

03 March 2021

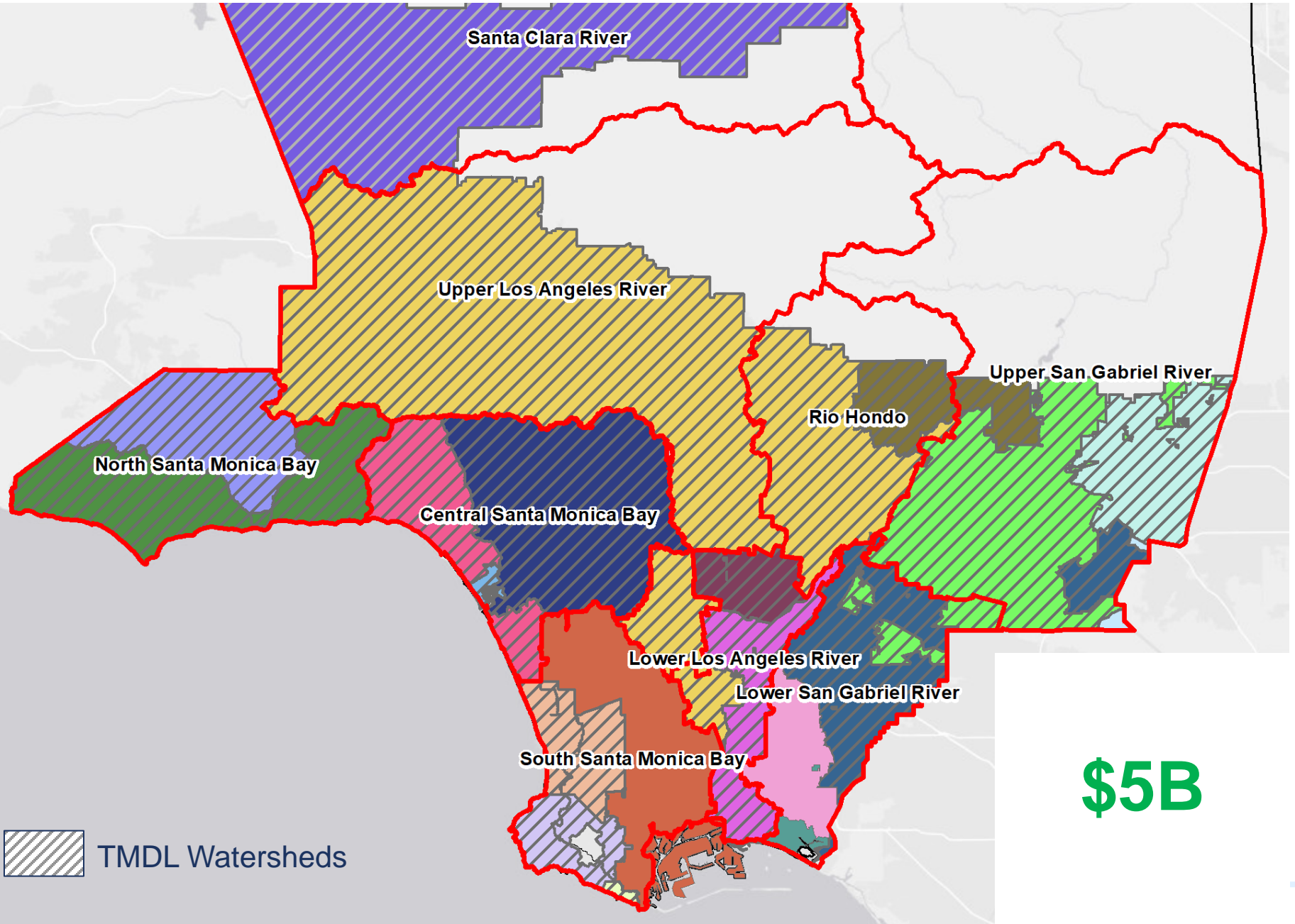
Summary of Study

- This Study aims to use the latest available science to measure water-borne pathogens across watersheds. It will help identify key sources of human health risk, and develop cost-effective protective strategies
- USEPA and academia agree not all sources of bacteria are equally risky, but we do not have the information we need to focus limited resources on the riskiest sources first.
- Objectives of Study
 - Leverage recent USEPA, academic, and stakeholder driven research
 - Produce strategies for incorporation into Program Plans
 - Support informed decisions that help us protect more people sooner

Study Overview

- Nexus to Stormwater and Urban Runoff Capture and Pollution Reduction
 - Study will facilitate improved targeting of pathogen sources and water to capture and/or treat
 - Study could reduce need to capture stormwater for bacteria compliance purposes while improving the protection of human health
 - Study may lead to partnering with various parties, such as wastewater agencies and homeless services agencies, to address human sources of pathogens.

Study Location



Scientific Study Details

Problem Statement:

- Waterborne pathogens represent the most significant potential threat to the health of people recreating in and around the ocean and inland waters of Los Angeles County.

- Current standards are based on FIB (fecal indicator bacteria), which are used as proxies for pathogens.
 - FIB are ubiquitous; a vast network of structural control measures would need to be implemented to provide adequate control – projected cost over \$5 billion.
 - USEPA and academia agree that human sources of pathogens pose the greatest risk
 - Unless high-risk sources are targeted, water capture projects may receive large FIB loads, but miss the highest risk human sources.

(Continued)

Scientific Study Details (Continued)

Expected Outcomes

- Completion of a needed regional study in LA County to identify the sources of pathogens and the most effective BMPs to address them. Studies have been completed elsewhere identifying human sources of pathogens as the highest driver of risk to human health.
- The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health.
- Combined with scientific advancements, the results will provide an opportunity to improve the current bacteria strategy using source-specific indicators, improved viral detection methods, and risk modeling frameworks.
- The study results will facilitate meaningful, appropriate, productive actions by Permittees that will effectively reduce human health risks.

Scientific Study Details (Continued)

Methodology:

- Study work plan will be developed through a stakeholder-led process with the input of technical experts, including academics.
 - Stakeholder engagement is at the forefront of the study to ensure that diverse viewpoints are incorporated.

- Study will collect samples from beaches and waterbodies. Samples will be analyzed for traditional bacterial indicators, viruses, and human markers during wet and dry weather.
 - Identify areas with highest risk to support a focus on those areas
 - Identify the sources causing the highest risk to focus on those sources

- Study will assess control measure effectiveness and efficiency
 - Identify the best BMPs to address the sources
 - Support planning, applying municipal funds, requests for SCWP funding, and actions by other parties

Scientific Study Details (Continued)

- *Regional collaboration efforts:*
 - Small Group Initiated Discussions and built a scope for a Safe, Clean Water Regional Program project
 - Presented Approach to E/WMP Groups
 - Discussed with proponents of watershed-specific studies
 - Discussed with Regional Board staff

- Revised study to address concerns
 - Clearly focused on human pathogens
 - Clarified that study is a component of overall strategy to protect human health
 - Clarified that implementation continues during the study
 - Recognized that we do not need to wait until the end of the study to take action
 - Reduced first year cost of study

Cost & Schedule

Phase	Description	Cost	Schedule
Task 1	Stakeholder Process	\$484,000	7/21 – 6/26
Task 2	Health Risk Assessment	\$5,816,208	7/21 – 9/25
Task 3	Risk Management	\$1,702,100	4/22 – 3/26
Task 4	Application of Study Findings	\$484,000	1/25 – 6/26
TOTAL		\$8,486,308	

Funding Request

WASC	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
CSMB	\$45,659	\$333,041	\$322,298	\$319,612	\$53,716
LLAR	\$32,801	\$239,256	\$231,539	\$229,609	\$38,590
LSGR	\$42,810	\$312,259	\$302,186	\$299,668	\$50,364
NSMB	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RH	\$29,477	\$215,011	\$208,075	\$206,341	\$34,679
SCR	\$15,378	\$112,168	\$108,550	\$107,645	\$18,092
SSMB	\$47,156	\$343,964	\$332,869	\$330,095	\$55,478
ULAR	\$98,952	\$721,766	\$698,483	\$692,663	\$116,414
USGR	\$48,435	\$353,290	\$341,893	\$339,044	\$56,982
TOTAL	\$360,668	\$2,630,755	\$2,545,893	\$2,524,677	\$424,315

Summary of Benefits

- By developing a better understanding of pathogens present in the region's watersheds, the relative risk to human health they pose, and the effectiveness of various control measures, new or adapted BMPs can be established that improve water quality and reduce human health risks at our beaches and inland waterbodies.
- Short-term: results could be used to protect people from health risks that aren't currently known.
- Long-term: results will enable the targeted placement of BMPs in locations where they can maximize the prevention or treatment of key sources of human pathogens.

Questions and Thank You

Richard Watson
Richard Watson & Associates
rwatson@rwaplanning.com
(949) 394-8495