

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

10:00am – 12:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Alex Rojas (Central Basin)

Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)

Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)

Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation)

Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)

Adam Galia (Resident)

Joseph Gonzalez (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)

Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)

Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)

Delfino Consunji (Downey)

Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)

Melissa You (Long Beach)

Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)

Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)

Vicki Smith (Whittier)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*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) facilitated the roll call of Committee Members, and quorum was established.,

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked Committee Members if there were comments or revisions. Joseph Gonzalez noted that his last name was spelled incorrectly and requested the minutes be corrected. Delfino Consunji motioned to approve amended minutes, and Kristen Ruffell seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the amended meeting minutes from February 9, 2021 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: The Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Tool, is now live in beta version on the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) website. The District provided a brief overview of the SIP Tool's navigation. Melanie Morita (District) noted that the Municipality Benefits data is still under consideration as it requires compiling additional data and the timeline is yet to be established.

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Regarding the Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs), the District has received a substantial number of Annual Plans and disbursed funds to 53 Municipalities. The first year Municipal Annual Plans have been posted to the SCWP website. The next Annual Plans are due in April. As for the Regional TAs, the District has executed a number of agreements and is in the process of dispersing funds.

The District noted that an email was sent out regarding Partial Funding Guidelines to the Committee members and project applicants. WASCs can award partial funds; however, Infrastructure Program (IP) project applicants will need to demonstrate how they can fulfill the entire scope of work using other funding sources and must maintain project score as identified in the original application. Additional details are available on the SCW Program website under the Regional Program page.

With regards to the Watershed Coordinators (WC), WCs are submitting Letters of Intent and insurance requirements to execute contracts. As for the Technical Resources Program (TRP) project concepts, the District has advanced 13 TRPs. For the Scientific Studies Program, there were four Scientific Studies that were submitted. However, two of the Scientific Studies have been withdrawn and removed from WASC consideration: The Nature Conservancy's Comprehensive County-wide Monitoring for SCWP and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments/Accelerate Resilience L.A.'s Using Watershed Science to Build Consensus around Balanced Watershed Projects. The District did note that the Call for Projects' deadline is July 31, 2021 and that Flood Control District (FCD) concept approvals need to be submitted two months in advance for District review.

Finally, tax relief applications are due May 1, 2021 for Low Income Senior-Owned (LISO) and General Income Based Tax Relief (GIBTR). Deadline will remain the same every year (5/1).

Dan Knapp requested clarification on the WC responsibilities as being able to assist with the TRPs. The District indicated that the WC responsibilities includes assisting and bringing TRP projects to the WASC in addition to Infrastructure Program projects. Dan Knapp commented that more projects need to be brought forth from the Community as opposed from the Cities and County. The District indicated that it is part of the Role of the WC to assist the Community with project feasibility and assist with leveraging funding.

Joseph Gonzalez inquired as to the status of filling the current vacancy of the WASC and WASC attendance requirements. The District indicated that the Board of Supervisors appoints a member to fill in the vacancy and that the District would follow-up with the Board of Supervisors.

The WASC discussed Committee Member attendance requirements. [After the meeting, the District referred to Article V.C of the WASC Operating Guidelines describing roles and responsibilities: An absence of two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in one year will be considered failure to attend meetings making the member eligible for removal as a member of the WASC.]

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No Ex Parte Communication Disclosures were received.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comments were received.

6. Discussion Items

a) Infrastructure Program Presentations

The District provided a brief overview of the SCW Program Portal features, including executive summaries and project applications available for download. The District noted a SIP Planning Tool is being developed.

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The District clarified that unfunded projects from the previous year will not show on the SCW Program Portal.

b) Presentations for the Infrastructure Program

i) Cerritos Sports Complex - City of Cerritos

Presentation by Mike O'Grady and John Hunter. *Design only. Relocated and reduced size of regional stormwater system including capture, directed infiltration, reuse treatment facility.*

Kristen Ruffell inquired as to the project's outstanding issues on the scoring rubric and the disallowed Water Supply points for the sewer due to the project's plan not being fully developed. John Hunter indicated that the potential of 130 acre-feet going into the sanitary sewer was considered by the Scoring Committee a potential for discharge and not an intending discharge therefore points were disallowed. He further indicated that this would be addressed in the design phase of the project.

Lisa Ann Rapp asked that if the project should move to a second phase, would the storage chamber accommodate the additional source of water as it currently shows as 17 acre-feet capacity. John Hunter indicated that conceptually they would add 9 acre-feet to the storage capacity.

Delfino Consunji asked if mitigation efforts would be required prior to construction of the project since the project improvements do not appear to be directly on field surface. He also asked if there would be any percolation infiltrating into the landfill. John Hunter indicated that they are not anticipating any construction in the design phase, and that it would be further determined, however; that the project is 300 feet away from the landfill. Probably no mitigation will be required. He further indicated that an analysis would need to be conducted in the future regarding the landfill. If they decide to disturb the landfill, at some point, they would bring this back to the committee. Regarding the infiltration, John Hunter indicated that stormwater would not pass through the landfill. The percolation rate is marginal and the facility will primarily be used for storage.

Joseph Gonzalez commented on the use of recycled water for irrigation. He noted that because of salinity issues that might kill the grass there may be a conflict with the proposed use. John Hunter noted that they conducted a study and found that the treated stormwater is better quality than the reclaimed water. He further stated that blending treated stormwater with the reclaimed water is better for the grass. Lisa Ann Rapp noted that treated stormwater is currently being used for irrigation on the Bolivar Park making the grass grow nice and green.

ii) Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System (STAR System) Hacienda Park – City of La Habra Heights

Presentation by Christopher Rochfort. *The project aims to capture, infiltrate or treat and store stormwater runoff from Hacienda Park and nearby catchment for beneficial reuse.*

Lisa Ann Rapp requested clarification on the use of the Advanced Biofiltration Filter (ABF) cartridge systems. Christopher Rochfort noted the cartridge system along with filter media and geotextile sack will go along the trench system for ease of replacement rather than loose bio filter media that could compromise the structures below it if trying to unearth 10 or 15 years later. The cartridge system is designed to easily replace and if there's a spill like a fuel spill or a chemical spill in an isolated part of the system, it can just be removed and replaced separately to the rest of the cartridges.

Delfino Consunji asked besides from the City of La Habra Heights will other Agencies and Cities benefit from this project. Christopher Rochfort indicated that La Habra Heights is an upper catchment therefore the downstream Cities would benefit by the reduction of contamination in the La Mirada Creek. He also indicated that the community events held in Hacienda Park area are open to neighboring Cities and

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benefiting them as well. Another benefit from this project are the range of technological approaches that can be used as a model in other areas of the County and other Cities as a cost-effective approach to addressing runoff pollutants.

b) Scientific Study Presentations

i) **Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis) – Gateway Water Management Authority** Presentation by Richard Watson and Brad Wardynski. *Finding and analyzing new projects in a watershed context to plot a coordinated, project-by-project pathway to safe, clean water.*

Kristen Ruffell asked if project team had coordinated with the WASC WC. Brad Wardynski indicated that no coordination with the WC has yet been established but that moving forward they anticipate coordinating with the WC.

Joseph Gonzalez commented on the emphasis of the multi benefit opportunities. Such as a bill to develop a Lower San Gabriel River Park District and other active grant programs in the County for Measure A. He further commented that this study should also leverage parks and open space planning and consider other funding sources.

ii) **Regional Pathogen Reduction Study (Revision) – Gateway Water Management Authority** Presentation by Richard Watson. *The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health.*

Joseph Gonzalez asked how sampling data will be collected and if non-profit organizations would be engaged to assist in this effort. Richard Watson indicated that there is a possibility to engage non-profit organizations and added that the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the NGOs are expected to be part of the Stakeholder groups. He noted that the methodology on collecting samples would be approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for consistency and result acceptance.

Lisa Anna Rapp requested clarification on the project's five-year funding request and the number of WASCs that would be needed to support the project. Additionally, she asked what the impact on the project would be if some WASCs choose to support the project and others do not. Richard Watson indicated that the project funding request is for the five-year period. He also indicated that the project would need the support of 5 WASCs to fund the study. However, only WASCs that fund the project will benefit from the study's collecting of samples and analysis in their Watershed Area. The project can be scaled depending on the number of WASCs supporting it.

7. Items for Next Agenda

WASC discussion for project consensus and funding:

- Infrastructure Program projects: 5
- Scientific Studies: 2
- Technical Resources Program projects: 2

8. Adjournment

Lisa Ann Rapp thanked Committee Members, project presenters and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

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		Quorum Present				Voting Item (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve 2/9 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	X	Jeremy Melendez		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza		Lyndsey Bloxom	X	Y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	X	Mike Sullivan		Y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Meredith Reynolds	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	X	Irene Lopez-Muro		Y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	X	Thalia Campos		Y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	X			
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	X	Rebecca Scott		Y
Municipal Members	Downey	Delfino Consunji	X	Dan Mueller		Y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Lisa Ann Rapp	X	Konya Vivanti		Y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	X	Alvin Papa		Y
Municipal Members	City of Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	X	Glen Kau		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Fe Springs	Noe Negrete	X	Marlin Munoz		Y
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	X	Kyle Cason		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendance
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Adam Galia	Kekoa Anderson
Alex Rojas	Kevin Kim (LACFCD)
Alexander Iglesias - SCWP	kimberly henry
Aric Torreyson	Konya Vivanti
Bernie Iniguez	Kristen Ruffell
Brad Wardynski	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Bryce Lee	Lisa Rapp
Carlos Moran	Lonnie Chung
Christopher Rochfort	Lyndsey Bloxom
Cristian Duran	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Dan Knapp	Melanie Morita - LACFCD
Delfino Consunji	MELISSA YOU
Elisha Back	Meredith Reynolds
Elizabeth Lambe	Michelle Kim
Gabrielle Weeks	Mike O'Grady
Grace Kast	Noe Negrete
Hans Tremmel	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Iwen Tseng	Richard Watson
Jacqueline Mak	Robert Gomez
john hunter	Thalia Campos
John K.	Thom Epps, Craftwater
Joseph Gonzalez	Tori Klug
Jud Warren	Traci Gleason
Julian Juarez	Vicki Smith
Kala Anderson	Vik Bapna - CWE
katie m	wataru kumagai