

Safe, Clean Water Program

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Not Present:

Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider Foundation)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2021

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

Susie Santilena made a motion to approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Julio Gonzalez 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:

- Funds Transfer Agreements (TAs) are being executed across the Municipal and Regional programs, and over half of the Cities have received their local returns. Second Annual Plans are due in April 2021.
- Regarding the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) timeline, WASC review should be completed by May.

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - March 17, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes 03/03/21
Agency	LACFC	Cung Nguyen	x			Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x	Alex Heide		Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza	x	Lyndsey Bloxom		not present
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		Mary Simun		
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		Geraldine Trivedi	x	Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Heecheol Kwon	x	Mitchell Wagner		Y
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		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Other Attendees	
Brett Perry	Michelle Staffield
Charles Eder	Mo Estepa
Christine McLeod	Mujahid Chandoo
Eliza Jane Whitman	Nate Schreiner
Fernando Navarrete	Oliver Galang
G B	Phuoc Le
Ilene Ramirez	Prem
Jacqueline Mak	Sarai Bhaga
John Hunter	Seth Carr
Kathleen McGowan	Sheila Brice
Katie Harrel	Taraneh.nik-khah
Katie M	Wendy Dinh
Lauren Amimoto	Gus Orozo
Lorena Matos	Wilson Mendoza
Marita DRA Inc	Alfredo Magallanes
Mercedes Passanisi	Tammy Takigawa
Michael Scaduto	

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- Watershed Coordinators (WC) have been selected and are working to execute contracts. Heal the Bay has been selected as the WC for this WASC.
- Technical Resource Program (TRP) proposals from the first round have received NTPs; for this WASC, this includes the Harbor City Park Project and Eastview Park Project. Kick-off meetings with the selected consultants are being planned.
- The deadline for submission of Round 3 projects is July 31, 2021.
- Tax relief applications are due May 1, 2021 for Low-Income Senior-Owned (LISO) properties and General Income-Based Tax Reductions (GIBTR).
- Partial Funding Guidelines have been released for WASCs.

Cung Nguyen reminded project proponents to engage LACFCD early during the Feasibility Study process for conceptual approval (where appropriate).

Kristen Ruffell noted that during the Feasibility Study process, applicants should obtain approval from the local sewer and downstream treatment plant (where appropriate).

4. Public Comment Period

Fernando Navarrete, on behalf of Councilman Joe Buscaino of District 15, extended support for the Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project.

5. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

None.

b) South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & SSMB Scoring Rubric)

The District gave a brief overview of the interactive SIP Programming Tool. Kristen Ruffell referenced important features about the SIP tool specific to the SSMB WASC.

Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects

- (1) Carson Stormwater and Runoff Capture Project at Carriage Crest Park – City of Carson
- (2) Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex Mitigation Project – City of Rancho Palos Verdes
- (3) South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project – City of Manhattan Beach
- (4) Stormwater Basin Expansion Project – City of Torrance
- (5) Torrance Airport Storm Water Basin Project, Phase 2 Construction – City of Torrance
- (6) Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project – City of Los Angeles

John Dettle asked if it was possible to delay funding for the Torrance Airport Project to spread funds out to later fiscal years. Kirk Allen replied that he will get more information about this from County Counsel.

TJ Moon asked the City of Los Angeles to provide their preference between the Avenue Q and Wilmington Neighborhood Greening projects. Susie Santilena responded that the City would like to fund both projects but needs to calculate what constitutes a fair share and will return with more information at the next meeting. TJ Moon supports the decision to delay funding for the Torrance Airport Project for future construction.

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Multiple WASC members expressed the importance of geographic equity of projects throughout the watershed.

Kristen Ruffell supports the Torrance Airport Project but is concerned that the Feasibility Study may be incomplete. She also made a request for John Dettle to provide an analysis that summarizes the contribution by other peninsula cities to the project at the next WASC meeting.

Several WASC members commented on their top infrastructure choices.

Ken Rukavina commented that the SIP tool should be able to separate O&M costs from capital funding and is concerned about the WASC not making a commitment to O&M. Kirk Allen indicated that O&M funds will need to be requested annually through different TAs.

Technical Resources Program (TRP)

- (1) Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Benefit Flow Diversion Project – City of Rolling Hills Estate
- (2) Prioritization of Parkway BMPs for Dominguez Channel/Harbors Toxics TMDL – City of Torrance
- (3) Watershed Coordinator

TJ Moon commented if it would be better for the City of Torrance to submit the Prioritization of Parkway BMPs Project as an IP project instead of a TRP.

c) Preliminary Ranking of Projects

District will distribute a ranking form to the WASC and will discuss results at the next meeting.

6. Public Comment Period

John Hunter spoke in support of the Portuguese Bend Landslide Project and mentioned that the landslide could potentially cause major environmental impacts. He stated the City is only asking for design funds.

Charles Eder from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes commented that the City is willing to contribute funds to the Portuguese Bend Landslide Project.

Kathleen McGowan clarified that the Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-benefit Flow Diversion Project is in the City of Rolling Hills Estates, not the City of Rolling Hills.

7. Voting Items

None.

8. Items for Next Agenda

a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the SSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review

b) Preliminary Ranking of Projects

c) Reports from the City of Torrance and City of Los Angeles for 5-year allocations.

9. Adjournment

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Kristen Ruffell thanked the WASC and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting. Next meeting: Wednesday April 7, 2021, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.