

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, May 20, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)	Josette Descalzo (Beverly Hills)
E.J. Caldwell (West Basin MWD)	Charles Herbertson (Culver City)
Art Castro* (LADWP)	Roberto Perez (Los Angeles)
Sheila Brice (Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation)	Rafael Prieto (Los Angeles)
Rita Kampalath (LA County CEO)	Liz Crosson (Los Angeles)
Alysen Weiland* (PSOMAS)	Bruce Hamamoto (LA County)
Gloria Walton (The Solutions Project/SCOPE)	Curtis Castle (Santa Monica)
Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Cathie Santo Domingo (LADRP)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Crosson, Chair of the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

Kirk Allen (District) discussed WebEx features and facilitated the roll call. All committee members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 5 and May 3, 2021

The District provided a copy of the minutes from the previous meetings. Liz Crosson asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Gloria Walton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Cung Nguyen seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes.

3. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson informed the Committee that he would be attending another meeting at 11:00am.

Shahriar Eftekhazadeh (SEITec) commented that SEITec is entitled to an explanation as to why their Ballona Creek Low Flow Diversion Project is not included in the proposed recommended SIP. See attached letter for details.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

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Liz Crosson informed the Committee that this will be her last meeting as she will be stepping away from the Mayor's Office, effective May 21, 2021. She thanked everyone for being incredible partners and their serious dedication to the program. She indicated that she will be doing part-time work with the County's Chief Sustainability Office.

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

- Call for Projects deadline is July 31st.
- Deadline to request conceptual approval from the District is May 31st.
- There are two info sessions: first one scheduled for May 27th and the second one for June 3rd. Confirmation of attendance will be required when submitting application; project applicants will need to state which info session was attended.
- In the month of May, two substantial interim guidance documents were shared: the first was the Nature-Based Solutions Programming Guidelines and the second was the Disadvantaged Community Programming Guidelines. The documents are available on the SCW website.
- Reminder to all applicants that have received funding for Round 1; the Regional Program Reporting Module is up and running and the first reports were due on May 15th.
- Regarding the Municipal Program; that's the 40% local return back to each city. The fiscal year 2021-22 Annual Plans were due April 1st, which was the 2nd set of Annual Plans. The first Annual Plans have been posted on the website if they've been received and funds have been disbursed to those cities.
- Watershed Coordinators: S. Groner Associates (SGA), as well as Heal the Bay, will present on Item 5.

5. Watershed Coordinator Updates:

Mikaela Randolph (Heal the Bay) presented the Watershed Coordinator updates, included opportunities to leverage funding.

Bruce Reznik asked Mikaela Randolph about the Governor's budget and if she's aware of any push to increase more funding for Stormwater that could leverage Safe Clean Water Program. Mikaela Randolph indicated that she's not aware of any efforts right now but will check in with the team and report anything she may find.

Kirk Allen commented that the Watershed Coordinators (WCs) are working on their Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, as such they will be in touch with various stakeholders in the Watershed area as they start to formulate their plans over the next twelve weeks. This will be an item that the WASC has to approve at a future meeting.

Michelle Struthers (SGA), noted that they'd like to receive input from the WASC, particularly in the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan.

6. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Bruce Reznik disclosed that at the OurWaterLA core group, he presented on what the outcome of the last meeting. There were also general discussions about recommendations around projects for various WASCs and studies.

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b) Summary of Scientific Studies from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)

Kirk Allen noted that all the experts that reviewed the Scientific Studies proposals were primarily from academia. He also reminded the Committee that there was a motion to include both Scientific Studies in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) and it was voted down. Subsequently, the Committee left that meeting with the possibility of funding one of the two Scientific Studies.

Richard Watson commented that the problem some reviewers had was with the lack of detail, which he notes, was intentional. The approach they outlined was designed to provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement with stakeholders and the independent technical experts that they proposed to add to the project.

Deborah Deeds asked if they have investigated studies that will invite academia through the City portals for different City programs. She noted that the democratization of the study will provide more opportunities for academics and will make the study more scientific than political. Richard Watson replied that the point of the study is exactly that, that the national technical experts are likely to be academicians who have expertise in this area.

Bruce Hamamoto commented that the Committee should not approve both studies because he believes there's overlap. However, if the Committee were to approve one, he would support the Regional Pathogens Study.

Rita Kampalath commented that though she appreciated Richard Watson's explanation for wanting to keep things inclusive, lack of details made it hard to understand exactly where the cost estimate came from without knowing who is going to do the analysis, how many sites are going to be analyzed, etc. It is unclear how they can evaluate the quality of the study that's going to come out of this. She indicated that the way the study is defined seems more likely to just support changing water quality standards versus addressing water quality problems. Although sites will be identified, there is no source identification associated with this. She is inclined to fund the UCLA study instead, because she has faith in the quality of that team.

Bruce Reznik commented that he is inclined to support the UCLA study, but is skeptical of both studies overall.

Josette Descalzo suggested that both project applicants work together and comeback for next year.

Chris Minton, on behalf of Richard Watson, addressed Rita Kampalath's concern about lack of sources and stated that they did include a task that looks at the relative contribution of likely major sources. They do know that bacteria indicators are everywhere and so part of the study does need to look at specifically where pathogens associated with those indicators are coming from so that they are identified as part of task 3, the risk management task.

c) SCW Project Funding by Municipality Map

Kirk Allen provided an overview on the Municipality Map and explained that the map shows various City jurisdictions and their associated revenue that is generated within their boundaries. Green dots indicate funding allocated in 2021, while dark blue dots represent current funding requests. He reminded the Committees that the first requirement is the equity component of investing 110% into Disadvantage Communities.

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Liz Crosson asked if there is a way to tell how much is requested versus how much revenue is generated in those Municipalities. Kirk Allen replied that on the heat map, if you click on a City, it will show the revenue that is generated in that City.

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

i) Scientific Studies Program (SSP)

Bruce Reznik asked if there was any follow-up on the idea of LAUSD receiving partial funding. Kirk Allen indicated that partial funding forms were sent, and a note based on the discussion from the last meeting to the applicants. They were asked if they were willing to come back to this meeting with a partial funding offer. Although he did not receive a response, the two project applicants are here to discuss the matter.

Christos Chrysiliou (LAUSD) commented that partial funding would not be enough to support them through the program. He asked the Committee to take into consideration the burden they, as applicants, will incur with such limited funding and perpetual monitoring.

Liz Crosson asked Kirk Allen if he had any response to what Christos Chrysiliou just stated. Kirk Allen replied that if the WASC chooses to partially fund these projects, as Christos Chrysiliou indicated, it does put them in a reporting obligation back to the WASC. He then questioned the Committee's thought process of putting that kind of obligation on the applicants by giving them such a lowball offer of partial funding.

Scott Singletary (LAUSD) commented that he shared the same thought as Christos Chrysiliou; LAUSD requests full funding.

Charles Herbertson asked for clarification, if the Normandie Ave ES Project was already completed and constructed and all the applicant was asking for was reimbursement. If that were the case, he's not sure why a smaller amount would be a problem. He also asked for an update on Venice High School Project.

Scott Singletary replied that the Venice High School Project is a little more than halfway complete. The project will be contracted regardless of this funding as it is fully local bond funded at this time. They hope to receive this money so that they can further treat the public property, recognizing that all the water they're treating is public water.

Christos Chrysiliou replied that the Normandie Ave ES Project was completed. The funding that they're asking for is to offset additional improvements that they've made. He also noted that the water they are capturing is not just theirs and it will benefit the Community and Region.

Scott Singletary added that the amount of funds requested is only for work that was done after the deadline of November 2018. Therefore, they're not asking for anything prior to November 2018, so it still fits under the terms of the Measure W.

Charles Herbertson asked if the schools have estimated what the cost of reporting is going to be for their projects. Christos Chrysiliou indicated that they estimated the reporting costs and it exceeded \$100K which does not account for staff time.

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Josette Descalzo commented that the project is just taking its own runoff and treating it, which equates to private development. He noted that if they set a precedent here, private developments will be coming to this Committee asking for reimbursement for the capital costs.

Bruce Reznik commented that he is more open to funding the Venice High School Project as it is greener and more innovative.

7. Public Comment Period

No comments.

8. Voting Items

Bruce Hamamoto made a motion to amend the SIP to include the Regional Pathogen Study, with the condition that there must be four other WASCs approving the Study. Charles Herbertson seconded the motion. Bruce Hamamoto then amended his motion to include the Regional Pathogen Study without the condition. Charles Herbertson seconded the motion.

With 6 “Yes” vote and 8 “No” vote, the motion did not pass, therefore the SIP is not amended. (See Vote Tracking Sheet)

Liz Crosson concluded that this Committee is ready to move forward with the SIP as approved on May 3, 2021. She asked if there were any other comments or different interpretations. None from the Committee. The previously approved SIP moves as is to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review.

9. Meeting Schedule

Kirk Allen informed the Committee that they will not need to meet on June 7, 2021, due to the ROC not meeting to prior to that date to review the approved SIP.

10. Items for Next Agenda

The Committee will hold a vote for selection of new Chair.

WCs engaging on their Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan.

11. Adjournment

Liz Crosson thanked the WASC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - May 20, 2021

Member Type	Organization	Quorum Present				Voting Items	
		Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approval of 04/05 & 05/03 Meeting Minutes	Motion to Amend SIP to include Regional Pathogen Reduction SS
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Marcela Benavides		Y	Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	x	Alex Heide		Y	Y
Agency	LA Water & Power	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	x	Y	Y
Agency	LA Sanitation District	Sheila Brice	x	Michael Scaduto		Y	N
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford			
Community Stakeholder	LAC Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath	x	Gary Gero		Y	N
Community Stakeholder	Lipa Consulting Company / Business Sector	Jacob Lipa		Alysen Weiland	x	Y	not present
Community Stakeholder	The Solutions Project / SCOPE	Gloria Walton	x	Gloria Medina		Y	N
Community Stakeholder	LA Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x	Melanie Rivera		Y	N
Community Stakeholder	VACANT						
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills / West Hollywood	Joseette Descalzo	x	Hany Demitri		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Charles Herbertson	x	Kim Braun		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Roberto Perez	x	Max Podemski		Y	N
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto	x			Y	N
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	<u>Liz Crosson</u>	x	Susie Santilena		Y	N
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x			Y	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Curtis Castle	x	George Rodriguez		Not present	N
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14	6
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	8
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14	14
Municipal Members		7			Approved		Not Approved

Other Attendees		
Adelyn Green	Katie M	Caitlin Gray
Aiyla Balakumar	Kim Braun	Jenna D'Ottavio
Alfredo Magallanas	Laureen Abustan	Julia Hawkinson
Brenda Ponton	Lauren Amimoto	
Brett Perry	Limor Horowitz	
Carmen Andrade	Lorena Matos	
Chanel Kincaid	Marisol Ibarra	
Chris Minton	Melanie Rivera	
Christine McLeod	Michael Scaduto	
Conor Mossavi	Mohammad Baig	
Deborah Deets	Richard Watson	
Elizabeth Gallo	Sarah Bhaga	
Erin Pang	Scott Singletary	
George Rodriguez	Sean Singletary	
Gus Orozco	Shahram Kharaghani	
Ilene Ramiez	Shahriar Eftekharzadeh	
Jae	Susie Santilena	
Jessica Cassman	Taraneh Nik-khah	
Johanna Chang	Wendy Dinh	
Jon Ball	Christos Chrysiliou	
Kara Plourde	Dave Mercier	
Karen Lee	Lisa Skutecki	

WASC Watershed Coordinator Update

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Funding + State and Local Policy

Statewide Bills

These bills could potentially help municipalities meet Trash TMDLs

Bills and their status:

- SB 343
 - On Assembly floor
 - AB 962
 - On Suspense/added to consent calendar
 - AB 1276
 - In Appropriations
-

SB 343: Truth in Labeling for Recyclable Materials

Authored by Senator Ben Allen

- This would ensure that only materials that are **actually recyclable in CA** have the chasing arrows symbol
 - as of now, all plastic resin numbers have that symbol
 - Currently, less than 15% of single use plastic in CA is recycled
 - due to drop in market for recycled material and cheap price of virgin plastic
 - result = contamination + consumers don't know what's actually recyclable!
-

AB 1276: Skip the Stuff- Reduce Unnecessary Food Serviceware

Authored by Assemblymember
Wendy Carrillo

- Expands statewide plastic straw upon request law to include other single-use food accessories, other food facilities, and third party deliver platforms (opt-in system)
 - Save business \$, and relieves recyclersk, composters, and local govt's from complications and costs associated
-

AB 962: Returnable Beverage Bottles

Authored by Assemblymember
Sydney Kamlager

- Returnable (“refillable”) bottles can be preserved to be washed and refilled by beverage producers, creating jobs and reducing waste
 - Prior, glass had to be crushed for recycling to go back into the system
 - Now they can flow through the state’s Bottle Bill, with washers getting same \$ as certified recyclers and recycling processors
-

Local Legislation to
combat trash:
#SkipTheStuff

#SkipTheStuff - Los Angeles



ACTION ALERT!

#SKIPTHESTUFF

REUSABLE | LA

Foodware Accessories Upon Request



#SkipTheStuff Ordinances In the Works

LOCAL

City of Los Angeles - passed

County of Los Angeles - motion to
agendize the ordinance 5/18/21 in order
to vote on a future agenda (BOS)

City of Pasadena

City of Alhambra

City of Beverly Hills

STATEWIDE

Assembly Bill 1276

L.A. County Regional Parks & Open Space District (RPOSD)

Leverage Funding

- Competitive Grant Open as of April 2021
- Virtual Workshops
 - May 12, 2021 - 2:00pm
 - June 9, 2021 - 10am
- To learn more, visit <https://rposd.lacounty.gov/competitive-grant-programs/>

Competitive Grant Programs
apply online at Grantfunding.RPOSD.LACounty.gov

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

2021

virtual workshops
May 12th
June 9th

application opens
April 30th
application deadline
October 28th
10:00 AM

learn more at RPOSD.LACounty.gov

Baldwin Hills Conservancy



<http://bhc.ca.gov/grants/>

Prop 1 Grants

- Funds water supply, capture, recharge and storage infrastructure projects
- Right to “safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes” (Water Code Sec. 106.3)
- Maximum Award - \$2 million
- no minimum to apply

Baldwin Hills Conservancy



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BALDWIN HILLS
CONSERVANCY

<http://bhc.ca.gov/grants/>

Prop 68 Grants

- The funding covers a range of activities, from land conservation and management, to watershed health and drinking water quality ,from fire risk education, to forest health.
 - Maximum award \$ 1 million
 - No Minimum
 - \$200 K Maximum for Community Access
-

Thanks!



Mikaela Randolph

Heal the Bay

Central Santa Monica Bay
Watershed Coordinator

mrandolph@healthebay.org

April 6, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)
Safe, Clean Water Program
Los Angeles, CA

Attention: Chairwoman Liz Crosson

Dear Madam Chair,

Subject: Ballona Creek Low Flow Diversion Project

This letter is an official request for a written explanation and justification for the CSMB WASC decision during the April 5, 2021 meeting to select and recommend the "Ballona Creek TMDL Project" proposed by LASAN, in preference to the "Ballona Creek Low Flow Diversion Project" proposed by SEITec. These projects perform the exact same function and yield the exact same results.

According to their respective feasibility studies, the project proposed by LASAN has a 50-year life cycle cost of \$60.6 Million and consumes an average of 10,150 kWh per day of electricity, while the project proposed by SEITec has a 50-year life cycle cost of \$24.1 Million (60% less) and consumes an average of 1,700 kWh per day of electricity (83% less).

Therefore, the decision to select and recommend the project proposed by LASAN requires clear and irrefutable justification.

I thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,

SEITec



Shahriar Eftekhazadeh, PhD, PE
Principal Engineer