

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

#### **Attendees**

##### Committee Members Present:

Dan Sharp (District)	Gina Nila (Commerce)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Dan Mueller (Downey)
Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
James Vernon (Port of Long Beach)	Laura Ochoa (Lynwood)
Kedrin Hopkins (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Adriana Figueroa (Paramount)
Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy))	Kelli Tunnicliff (Signal Hill)
Manny Gonez* (TreePeople)	Gladis Deras (South Gate)
Stephen Scott (Long Beach Parks & Recreation)	
Melissa Bahmanpour (River in Action)	

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Alex Rojas (Central Basin)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Gina Nila, Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River WASC, welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

CJ Caluag (District) conducted the roll call and with a majority present, quorum was established.

The District provided an overview of the WebEx functions and housekeeping items.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Gina Nila asked the committee members for comments and/or revisions.

Manny Gonez (TreePeople, Inc.) motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Gladis Deras (South Gate) provided a correction to the minutes and then seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

### **3. Committee Member and District Updates**

CJ Caluag (District) provided the District updates, noting:

- Call for Projects Round 3 deadline is July 31, 2021;

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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- Conceptual Approval Letter request must be submitted to respective Watershed managers by May 31, 2021;
- Info sessions for Call for Projects will be hosted on May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Edits made to the Project Module will be discussed at info sessions;
- Watershed Coordinators (WCs); 7 of 12 agreements have been executed;
- WCs contact roster for each Watershed Area is available on the website;
- Municipal Programs year 2 Annual Plans were due on April 1<sup>st</sup>; and
- Updates regarding interim programming guidelines for Nature-based Solutions, as well as for implementing Disadvantaged Community Benefit policies were circulated via email to the WASC.

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Gina Nila introduced the Watershed Coordinator (WC), Tara Dales (SGA), who presented a slide presentation on the development of their Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan.

#### 5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

None.

#### 6. Public Comment Period

Miguel Ramos (LA County Public Health) introduced himself to Tara Dales and expressed delight to support any outreach efforts.

Richard Watson commented on the Regional Pathogen Study, noting that they did interview several scientists (contrary to the letter of concern) and involved a group of people from the City and County of Los Angeles. He added that they started the whole program because they have Bacteria TMDL and don't know how to comply with fecal indicator bacteria in wet weather. Consequently, they're trying to develop a system to address the riskiest of pathogens.

Melissa Bahmanpour (River in Action) asked for the Committee to make an announcement in Spanish that anyone who wants to make a comment in Spanish will have their comment translated. CJ Caluag commented that the Spanish translator reiterated the comment period.

Mario Dominguez Jr. (South Gate resident) said he is grateful to the Committee for funding projects that improve water quality and create green spaces, particularly the Urban Orchard Project. He added that it is rare to see a whole new park in a low-income community.

#### 7. Discussion Items

- a) Summary of Scientific Studies from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)**
- b) SCW Project Funding by Municipality Map**
- c) Review Preliminary Ranking of Projects**

CJ Caluag discussed items A, B, and C, noting:

- Scientific summaries were sent out and posted on the website;

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

---



- Municipality Map by Funding tool show where a project is located within their region; and
- Ranking tool shows preliminary ranking from Committee members that gives a visual of where a respective project stands amongst the Committee, and is another tool to help populate the SIP.

Gina Nila asked to see the top three projects populated into the expenditure plan to facilitate dialogue and get a sense of the costs. CJ Caluag (District) populated the Urban Orchard Project, Spane Park, and Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture / Furman Park Stormwater Capture and Infiltration (tied for 3rd place).

Gina Nila requested the Committee and Lynwood City Park project proponent discuss how they foresee the \$32M requested from the Committee or if they have other funding resources. She also inquired about Spane Park, which is asking for design funds only, with a future \$7M construction cost request.

Melissa Bahmanpour asked if each project applicant would address questions to learn more about each project applicant's workforce development. Gina Nila asked if there is a consensus with the group to have discussion opened for each project. Dan Sharp suggested that they should not hear from every single project if there's some projects they can eliminate. Consequently, Gina Nila suggested that they start with the top projects. Manny Gonez and Adriana Figueroa agreed with Gina Nila's suggestion.

#### **d) Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & LLAR Scoring Rubric)**

##### **I) Infrastructure Program (IP)**

- (1) Compton Blvd Et. Al. Project (LACPW)**
- (2) Furman Park Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project (Downey)**
- (3) Salt Lake Park Cistern Project (Huntington Park)**
- (4) Huntington Park High School Storm Water Management System Project (LAUSD)**
- (5) Looking Back to Advance Forward Project (Rancho Los Cerritos)**
- (6) Urban Orchard Project (South Gate)**
- (7) Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project (Lynwood)**
- (8) Spane Park (Paramount)**

##### **II) Scientific Studies (SS)**

- (1) Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (Richard Watson and Craftwater)**
- (2) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study (Gateway Water Management Authority)**

#### **e) Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit Validation**

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount) commented that the funding requested for Spane Park is only for design. She noted that they are a Disadvantaged Community, and therefore, they do not have the funding to make a project like this happen. As such, they will return later to ask for construction funding. They are also able to phase in the construction. They will also use Measure W funding if possible.

Gina Nila asked Adriana Figueroa if the tentative plan is to come back for an additional funding request in fiscal year 2023-34. Adriana Figueroa indicated that they will, but likelier for fiscal year 2025-26. Gina Nila asked if the next couple of years would be for design only. Adriana Figueroa confirmed.

Jon Abelson (Stantec) addressed Melissa Bahmanpour's workforce development concern, noting that the District is currently in the development of a workforce training program. The intent of the training program

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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is to provide certification classes and vocational training for construction inspection of the Stormwater projects.

Melissa Bahmanpour asked for confirmation, if the \$892,000 requested by the Spane Park is for design and development only - no construction costs. Adriana Figueroa indicated that this is correct and noted that a main part of the funding will be allocated for public outreach.

Gina Nila asked the Committee if they had questions regarding the Furman Park Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project. Melissa Bahmanpour inquired regarding the plans for workforce development or local hire. Dan Mueller (Downey) indicated that for construction purposes, their code gives a break to local contractors and vendors, whether it be material suppliers or vendors. He also explained that if they are not the low bid, but they're within a certain percentage of the low bid, they get preferential treatment as a result. Regarding outreach, that will be a big part of the design phase, which is the first two years of the project. The last two years of the five-year period would be the construction phase.

Gina Nila asked what other communities would benefit from using the Furman Park facility. Dan Mueller indicated that the communities of South Gate and Pico Rivera would benefit. He added that most of the people that use that park are non-Downey residents.

Joseph Gonzalez (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy) asked if they would utilize the Conservation Corps. or another similar workforce program that utilizes youth. Dan Mueller responded that they would like to work with Conservation Corps.

Melissa Bahmanpour asked if low bid contractors are low bid because they are not subject prevailing wage requirements. Gina Nila clarified that as a Municipal agency, they are required to pay prevailing wage for all Public Works contracts. Adriana Figueroa corroborated Gina Nila's clarification. Melissa Bahmanpour asked if this is the case for all Cities. Gina Nila replied that it is.

Gina Nila asked the Committee if they had any questions regarding the Urban Orchard Project. No questions or comments were received.

Gina Nila asked about the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project's \$32M future construction cost and what the timeline was for coming back to request additional funding. John Hunter (consultant) clarified that the actual projected cost of the construction phase is about \$15M. He indicated that they are planning on a 1 ½ yr. design timeline and coming back in 2024 or 2025 to ask for the construction funding.

Adriana Figueroa commented that for the Spane Park Project, it was difficult to break down the costs for design and construction, and that the project would be designed first and come back later for construction funding. John Hunter commented that that is exactly the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project strategy is as well.

James Vernon (Port of Long Beach) asked if there is flexibility in the construction phase of both projects asking for design only funding. Adriana Figueroa responded that for Spane Park project, there may be a little flexibility. James Vernon asked if it would be one fiscal year as opposed to multiple years shifting. Adriana Figueroa responded that it's a fiscal year difference. John Hunter responded that for the Lynwood City Park project, there is flexibility of one year, maybe even two years.

Melissa Bahmanpour asked what the plans were for local hire and workforce development for the Salt Lake Park Cistern Project. She also asked if there is a possibility to work with a union that has an apprenticeship program. Cesar Roldan (City of Huntington Park) indicated that in any public contract it is

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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not required to have a specific union, as this is covered under the tracking code relevant to prevailing wage.

Joseph Gonzalez commented that the Salt Lake Park Cistern Project should be considered by the Committee for design first and limit the award to \$2.5M. He noted that although the total request is \$28M, it extends beyond the 5-year SIP timeline. CJ Caluag asked Joseph Gonzalez if he was suggesting partial funding consideration. Joseph Gonzalez confirmed. Steve Forster (City of Huntington Park) noted that the allocation of funds indicates exactly what was being suggested as design first. Steve Forster added that Huntington Park is willing and able to commit to local funding through some potential infrastructure acts.

Melissa Bahmanpour asked the Committee for assistance in understanding which projects would best meet the MS4 permit requirements. She also asked if the Salt Lake Park is a capture and infiltration project. Steve Forster (City of Huntington Park) noted that from the City of Huntington Park's perspective, the design does incorporate infiltration, which would make the project very viable.

Gina Nila requested confirmation on the project design costs. Steve Forster confirmed that it would be around \$1.5 million.

Kelli Tunnicliff asked for clarification on the design and construction timeline. Cesar Roldan indicated that construction would start in year five. Kelli Tunnicliff asked if they would be amenable to having the \$4M funding request spread out into phases. Steve Forster responded that they would be amenable.

Adriana Figueroa asked if all the projects are EWMP projects and if they would qualify for MS4 permit compliance. John Hunter indicated that they are EWMP projects and would qualify for MS4 permit compliance.

Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts) asked for clarification on whether projects can be partially funded with or without commitment to have them built. CJ Caluag indicated that if the Committee partially funds a project, the applicant will then have to commit to return with a signed form stating that they will ask the WASC for future funding. He noted that partial funding with regards to Scientific Studies is difficult as it is based on a Watershed-to-Watershed basis. However, Spang Park and Lynwood City project are not partial funding projects as they would be coming back to be re-scored again on an entirely different process.

Manny Gonez asked for clarification on the Committee's timeline to complete their work. CJ Caluag indicated that the next Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>, which potentially gives this Committee an opportunity to have another meeting. Gina Nila commented that she would rather have the Committee agree on a SIP today and recommend it to the ROC.

Kelli Tunnicliff (Signal Hill) asked if the Salt Lake Park project had any additional funding sources available and if there are any thoughts on other construction funds if it was not funded through the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). Steve Forster noted for now they are only looking locally to the SCWP for funding. Kelli Tunnicliff asked if the \$20 million is for one year and if the construction can be phased. Steve Forster indicated that the construction could not be phased.

Kristen Ruffell commented that if a project wants to get design only or design and construction funding, should they submit two applications. CJ Caluag indicated that for planning purposes it is difficult for the Committee to gauge costs and applicants could just come back for later funding.

Kelly Tunnicliff asked if the Committee can move forward with the ranking of projects. Gina Nila agreed and asked if the Committee could proceed with voting as the funding allocations for the SIP are at 80 percent based on the four ranked projects. She further asked the Committee if they agree to stay at 80

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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percent or allocate additional funds. Kelly Tunnicliff asked if there was a reason why the Committee should not allocate the additional funds for a 100 percent allocation. CJ Caluag (District) indicated that the \$12.7 million budget is yet to be confirmed as fully collected.

Kelli Tunnicliff asked about the \$3.2 million left from last year's unallocated funds. Gina Nila noted that those funds were carried over into the current fiscal year that are now in this current SIP.

Gina Nila asked the Committee if they would like to hear from the remaining three projects; Compton Blvd., Huntington Park High School, and Looking Back to Advance Forward Project.

Dan Sharp commented that a project that is in the five-to-six-acre drainage area size is not Regional. He added that the remaining projects are ranked low for that reason and would not need to discuss further. Dan Sharp also commented that while it is a relatively small Watershed, the Compton project does span to multiple jurisdictions and would be open to hearing from the project applicant. Manny Gonez agreed with Dan Sharp.

Melissa Bahmanpour agreed with Kelli Tunnicliff, in allocating more than 80 percent funding.

Manny Gonez asked if the Committee would consider including the Gateway Area Pathfinding GAP analysis.

James Vernon commented that he shares Gina Nila and Kristen Ruffell's concerns of reaching the funding threshold and would agree on supporting 80 percent funding. He also believes that the Scientific Study overlaps with what the Committee's WC is supposed to do, therefore he is not on board with adding the Gateway Area Pathfinding GAP Analysis.

Dan Sharp echoed the concern about how the GAP analysis study is different from what the WC's role. Tara Dales, WC noted that the coordinator facilitates community engagements, identities projects, and provides technical assistance. The WC also identifies additional cost sharing partners and educates local stakeholders.

James Vernon suggested that the Committee consider the Compton Blvd project.

#### **8. Public Comment Period**

Brad Wardynski on behalf of the Gateway Water Management Authority, commented on the concern of the GAP analysis overlapping with the Watershed Coordinator role. He explained how they worked with the Lower San Gabriel River Group's Watershed Coordinators to have their study supplement what the Watershed Coordinators were producing. Consequently, the WCs are going to be engaging the Community and Committee's needs and project ideas, whereas the GAP analysis will be applying an additional technical lens to ensure that the recommendations have a compliance-oriented focus and integrate with the Watershed Management Program.

Mario Dominguez Jr. asked the Committee if they limit the number of projects. He also shared his fear that the Committee will be inundated with projects that will compete for funding intended for projects currently in development. CJ Caluag responded that the number of projects are based on the anticipated revenue collected in the Watershed Area and total funding and remaining balances are currently being discussed in this SIP process.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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Gerry Greene commented that if the City of Huntington Park finds some of the funding that they have asked over the next four years, that might give them the opportunity to get design work completed which could give them an opportunity to find some other sources of support.

Steve Forster expressed concern over the fact that the Salt Lake Park project is the most significant of the Regional projects that the Committee is looking at today. He added that a project of this magnitude takes many years to develop, and they would appreciate the Committee's consideration in helping them get into the design phase and moving the project along for the Region.

#### **9. Voting Items**

Gina Nila suggested that the Committee consider a SIP that includes Urban Orchard, Spane Park, Lynwood City Park, Compton Blvd., and Furman Park as the Infrastructure Program projects; along with the Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis Scientific Study to be included in the SIP.

Kelli Tunnicliff motioned to move Gina Nila's suggestion forward. James Vernon seconded the motion.

Motion was approved and it will be advanced to the Regional Oversight Committee. (See vote tracking sheet)

#### **10. Items for Next Agenda**

CJ Caluag informed the Committee that the next meeting may be cancelled due to the SIP being approved at today's meeting.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Gina Nila thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WASC MEETING - MAY 25, 2021**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	SIP
Agency	District	Dan Sharp	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Jeremy Melendez			
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza		Lyndsey Bloxom	x	y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Mike Sullivan		y	y
Agency	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon	x	Dylan Porter		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Kedrin Hopkins	x			y	
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joe Gonzalez	x	a	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez		Manny Gonez	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x	Meredith Reynolds		y	y
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Melissa Bahmanpour	x	Erica Maceda		y	n
Municipal Members	City of Commerce						
Municipal Members	City of Bell Gardens	Gina Nila	x			y	y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji		a	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Cecilia Salazar		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Laura Ochoa	x			y	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Signal Hill	Kelli Tunncliff	x	Cecil Looney		y	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x	Clint Herrera		y	y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	14	14
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	1
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved



## Attendees

### Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting

### May 25, 2021

Safe Clean Water LA	Andreyina Juarez	Laureen Abustan	K McGowan
Lauro Alvarado	Dayana Patino	laura Ochoa	Shelly Backlar
Kirk Allen	Issam Dahdul	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)	Brad Wardynski
Michael Gagan	Melissa Bahmanpour	Joseph Gonzalez	Kamaali Lama
Michelle Struthers	john hunter	Kedrin Hopkins	Gladis Deras
caroline b	Adriana Figueroa	Jason Park	Xavier Gutierrez - LA County Public Works
Brittany Rivas	Joe Venzon - LA County	Karen Lee	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Mayra Cabrera	Richard Watson	Fiona McHenry-Crutchfield	Greg Alexander
Alfred Alonzo	Jon Abelson (Stantec)	James Vernon	Stephen Scott
Gregor Patsch	katie m	Dan Sharp	Nadja Swihart
erica Maceda	MELISSA YOU	Matilda Reyes	kelli tunnicliff
Blake Whittington	Tristin Amezcua-Hogan	Bryce Lee	Dylan Porter
Alison Bruesehoff	Wataru Kumagai	Kristen Ruffell	Amy Meenan
Philip Reidy	Sergio Gonzalez	Alvin Cruz LACFCD	Chris Minton
Christy Cooper	Thuan Nguyen	Gerald Greene	Manny Gonez
Paul Senker	Travis Taylor	Gina Nila	Lyndsey Bloxom
Kevin Chang	Cecilia Salazar	CJ Caluag - LACFCD	Tara Dales
Miguel Ramos	Amanda Begley	Mario Dominguez, Jr.	Call-in User_3
Dan Mueller	Sarai Jimenez (TNC)	Cesar Roldan	Call-in User_4
Michelle Kim	Thomas Thorntion	Call-in User_2	Call-in User_5



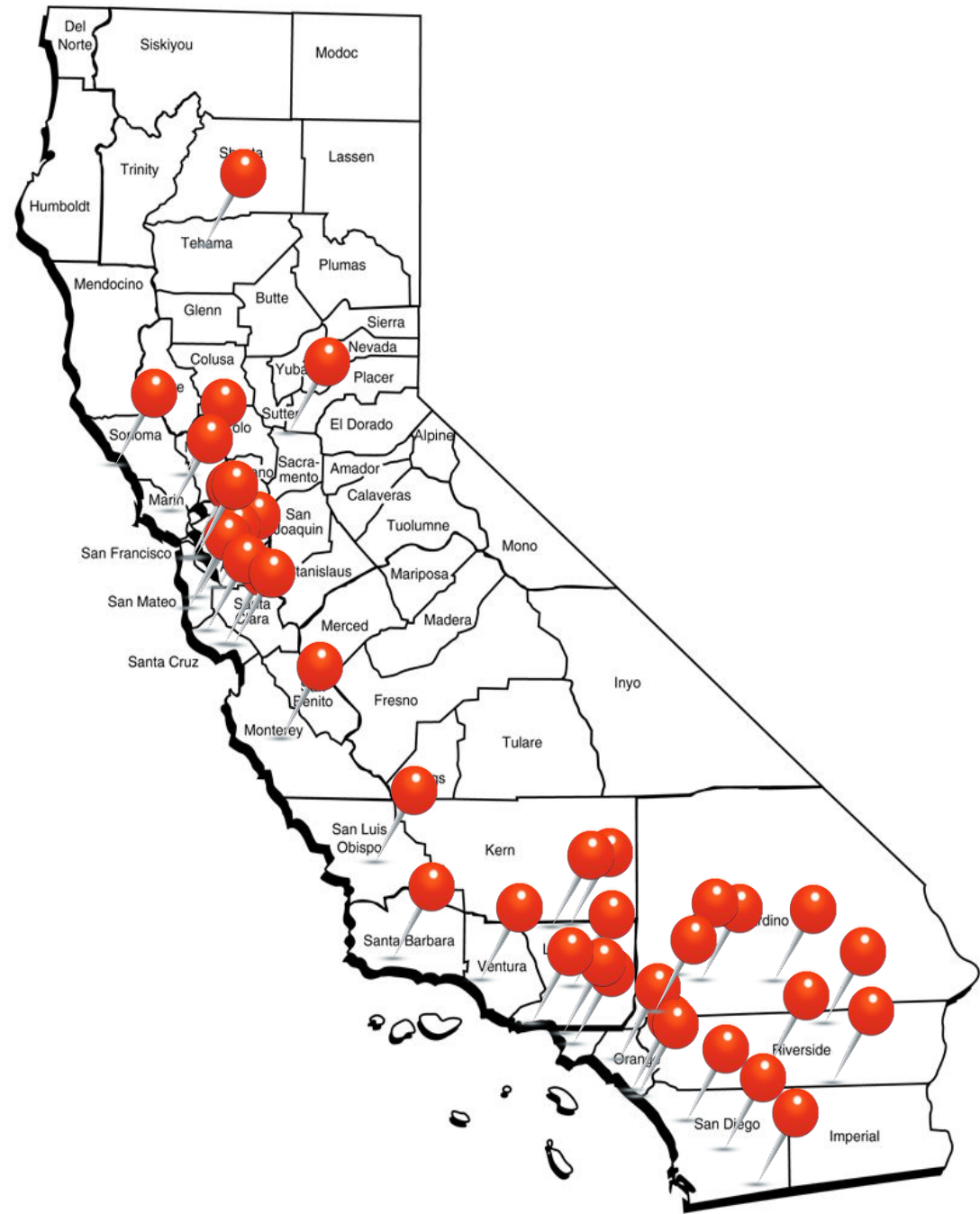
# WATERSHED COORDINATOR

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**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER**

WATERSHED AREA STEERING COMMITTEE



## OUR EXPERIENCE: WATER + ENGAGEMENT

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- In 18 counties
- Over 200 cities and districts
- 21 years of experience



# Tara Dales

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WATERSHED COORDINATOR  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + OUTREACH



# OUR TEAM





# Stephen Groner, P.E.

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

STRATEGIC/FUNDING SUPPORT



# Irene García Humanes

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OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
SPANISH LANGUAGE ENGAGEMENT



# Erin Pang, M.S.

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

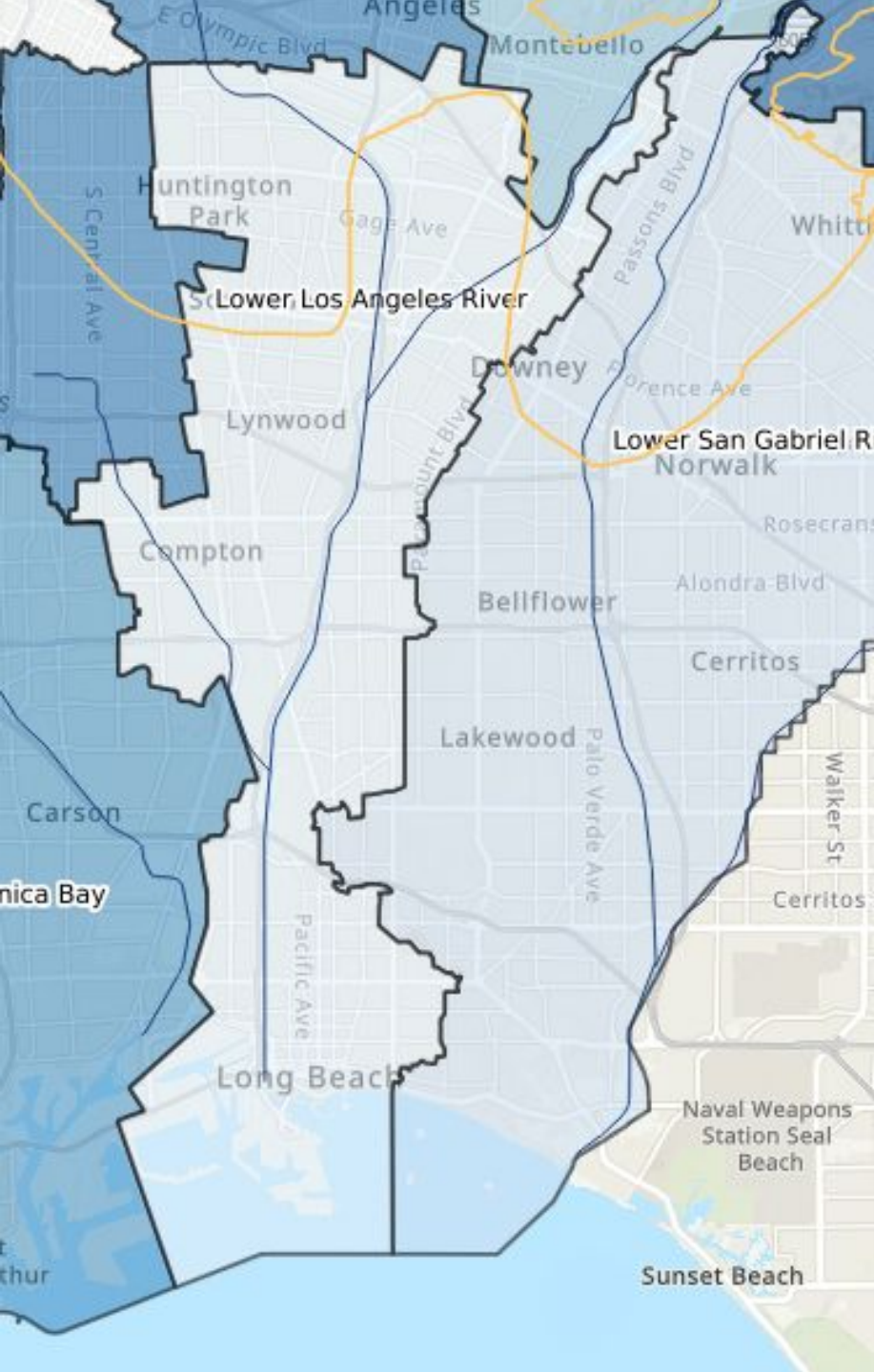




# Michelle Struthers, M.P.H

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CSMB WATERSHED COORDINATOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH/RESEARCH



# STRATEGIC OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SOEP)

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# PURPOSE

**Outlines our work plan  
for outreach**

**&**

**Defines what success  
will look like**

- Engage interested parties;
- Solicit input into the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) ; and
- Ensure all communities are able to engage and receive education about the SCWP.

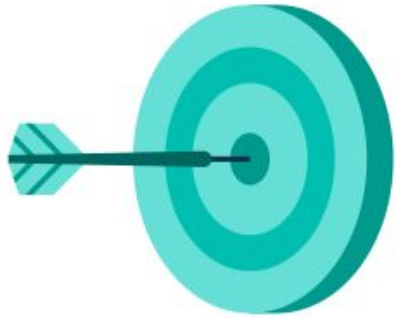
# OBJECTIVES

# CONTENTS OF SOEP

- Watershed Area Description:
  - Physical characteristics
  - Social characteristics
  - SCWP context
- Interested Party Mapping
- Vision for Success & Evaluation Criteria
- Outreach & Engagement Strategies
- Identification of Collaborative Efforts  
Between Watersheds Coordinators

# **SGA'S OUTREACH FRAMEWORK**

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## Objectives

Where you'd like to go



## Key Results

How you'll get there

# FRAMEWORK

1. Set objectives and metrics



## FRAMEWORK

## 2. Engage and listen (research)



## FRAMEWORK

**3. Find Intersection**  
(their interests + our objectives)



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Who are we not hearing from?
- Are there any gaps in projects submitted thus far?
- What adjacent issues could we see opportunities in?

# TIMELINE

## 3 MONTHS:

June WASC      ► follow up questions  
July WASC      ► present SOEP for approval

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## NEXT STEPS:

Reach out to Committee members  
Build a Database