

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, September 1, 2021
2:00pm - 4:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Genevieve Osmena (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

*Art Castro (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power)

Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)

Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles - Sanitation)

Cathie Santo Domingo (LA Recreation & Parks)

Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300)

Miguel Luna (Urban Semillas)

John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park Association)

Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)

Yazdan Emrani (Glendale)

Patrick DeChellis (La Cañada Flintridge)

Teresa Villegas (Los Angeles)

Max Podemski (Los Angeles)

*Rafael Prieto (Los Angeles)

*TJ Moon (Los Angeles County)

Kris Markarian (Pasadena)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Jacob Lipa (Lipa Consulting)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Teresa Villegas, Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

The District conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 17th, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes, by Yazdan Emrani. Teresa Villegas seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the June 17th, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

7.c. Discussion Items: Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Chair Villegas moved this item up in the agenda. A brief discussion was held, leading to a motion by Veronica Padilla-Campos, seconded by Miguel Luna, to retain Teresa Villegas as Chair, and Max Podemski as Vice-Chair. A public comment period was conducted about this motion, with no comments received.

9.a. Voting Items: Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Chair Villegas moved this item up in the agenda. Following the public comment period conducted by the Chair, voting proceeded on the motion by Veronica Padilla-Campos, seconded by Miguel Luna, to retain Teresa Villegas as Chair, and Max Podemski as Vice-Chair. The committee voted to approve the motion (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3. Committee Member and District Updates

CJ Caluag provided the District updates, noting: Call for Projects round 3 closed July 31, 2021 and program-wide received forty-one infrastructure program, eight scientific study, and seven technical resources program submittals; quarterly reports were due August 15 from current projects and will be reviewed next meeting; municipalities should have submitted their annual plans in April 2021 but some are not yet received.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

The watershed coordinators: Carlos Moran, Clarasophia Gust (Council for Watershed Health), and Adi Liberman (EOS Strategies), yielded their time and indicated they would provide updates as part of agenda item 7B.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No ex parte communications were disclosed.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items:

a. Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities

Presentation by Stantec. Presentation by Mike Antos included discussion of WASC principles, responsibilities, communities, watershed management, operation guidelines, program revenue, Stormwater Investment Program (SIP), and program guidelines.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mike Antos explained that the program seeks to provide an understanding of how the different watersheds with their various demands can be managed.

b. Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Presentation by Watershed Coordinators. Presentation by Carlos Moran, Clarasophia Gust, and Adi Liberman. Included an acknowledgement of Native American Ancestral Homelands, an introduction to the Watershed Coordinator Support Team, and discussion of the results of the WASC survey and the Watershed Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan. The group's strategies will include five focus areas: stakeholder collaboration, project development, diverse representation, inclusive management, and education and awareness. Plan to be submitted for a vote during the next meeting on October 6.

Committee members were invited to comment. Members suggested providing plan updates to the WASC and presenting at other public meetings in the future. Comments received until September 22 will be incorporated into the final plan.

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c. Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

This item was moved earlier in the agenda by the Chair during the meeting.

8. Public Comment Period

Francisco Romero commented their support for the Native American Ancestral Homeland acknowledgement and support for the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan.

9. Voting Items

- a. Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

This item was moved earlier in the agenda by the Chair during the meeting.

- b. Send all completed Feasibility Studies to Scoring Committee for scoring

Motion to send all completed Feasibility Studies to Scoring Committee for scoring, by Teresa Villegas. Seconded by Veronica Padilla-Campos. The committee voted to approve the motion (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

- a. Approve the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

11. Adjournment

Teresa Villegas thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

2:00PM – 4:00PM

See SCW website for meeting details

Upper Los Angeles River - September 1, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 6-17-2021 Meeting Minutes	ULAR WASC Chair (Teresa Villegas) and Vice-Chair (Max Podemski)	Send all completed Feasibility Studies to Scoring Committee
Agency	FCD	Genevieve Osmena	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y	y
Agency	Water Agency	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	x	a	y	y
Agency	Groundwater / Water Agency 2	Paul Liu	x	John Huynh		a	y	y
Agency	Sanitation	Alfredo Magallanes	x	Michael Scaduto		y	y	
Agency	Open Space	Cathie Santo Domingo	x	Javier Solis		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	At Large	Ernesto Pantoja	x	Sergio Rascon		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	At Large	Miguel Luna	x	Yvette Lopez-Ledesma		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Environment	John Luker	x	Wendi Gladstone		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Business	Jacob Lipa						
Community Stakeholder	EJ	Veronica Padilla-Campos	x	Felipe Escobar		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Glendale	Yazdan Emrani	x	Edward Hitti		y	y	y
Municipal Members	La Canada Flintridge	Patrick DeChellis	x			y	y	y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Teresa Villegas	x	Barbara Romero		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Max Podemski	x	Ackley Padilla		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Christine Peters		Rafael Prieto	x	y	y	y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Mark Lombos		TJ Moon	x	y	y	y
Municipal Members	Pasadena	Kris Markarian	x	Brent Maue				y
Watershed Coordinator								
Non-Voting Member	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Adi Liberman	x					
Watershed Coordinator								
Non-Voting Member	Council for Watershed Health	Clarasophia Gust	x					
Watershed Coordinator								
Non-Voting Member	Council for Watershed Health	Carlos Moran	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	13	15	15
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	15	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendees

Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - September 1, 2021

Napoleon Beraza	Carlos Moran	Nayiri Vartanian	Mike Antos
Adi Liberman	miguel luna	Phuoc Le	ilene
Rafael Prieto	Ben Ipekjian	Thuan Nguyen	Cameron McCullough
shahram kharaghani	Leslie Friedman Johnson	Cathie Santo Domingo	Gus Orozco
Genevieve Osmena	Mike Rudd	Tasia Kieffer	Susie Santilena
Justin Jones LACFCD	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD	Brianne Logasa	Lauro Alvarado
Teresa Villegas	Tracey Chavira	Joyce Amaro	Max Podemski
Alynn Sun	Christine McLeod	Lisa Skutecki	Ernesto Pantoja
Arlene Guzman	Marisa Perez-Reyes	Raina Dwivedi	Kris Markarian
John Huynh	Paul Glenn (GHD)	Johanna Chang	Drew Ready
Eileen Alduenda	John Luker	katie m	Raffy Piamonte
Mayra Cabrera - LACFCD	Tim Brick	Jason Casanova	Rebecca Rasmussen
TJ Moon	Paul Liu	christine peters	Clarasophia Gust
Michael Scaduto	Ramy Gindi	Alfredo Magallanes	Jennifer Amarant
Francisco Romero	Yaz Emrani	Conor Mossavi	Laureen Abustan
Veronica Padilla	Jesenia Maldonado	Patrick DeChellis	Wendi Gladstone
Elizabeth Orozco	Sheila Brice	Edward Hitti	Kevin Chang
CJ Caluag - LACFCD	Shant Oganessian	Art Castro	Pablo Forni
emily ramos	Tanya Sullivan	Michelle Zhang	