

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, August 26, 2021

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Clement Lau* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)

Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)

Drew Ready (Council for Watershed Health)

Jane Tsong* (Watershed Conservation Authority)

Miguel Luna (Urban Semillas)

David Diaz (Active SGV)

John Beshay (Baldwin Park)

Kevin Kearney* (Duarte)

Alison Sweet (Glendora)

Fernando Villaluna* (LA County)

Julie Carver (Pomona)

Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)

Alfredo Camacho (Day One, Watershed Coordinator)

Committee Members Not Present:

Joshua Nelson (Industry)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for the full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Melanie Morita (District), called the meeting to order. She discussed WebEx functions and the public comment process. She conducted roll call, and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2021

The District displayed a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. The District asked the Committee members for comments or revisions, there were none. Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve the June 10, 2021 meeting minutes. John Beshay seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the June 10, 2021 meeting minutes. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Stephanie Tong (District) provided the District update noting: The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 and recommended Stormwater Investments Plans (SIP) from all 9 WASCs to advance to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Electronic communication was sent to WASC approved project proponents requesting transfer agreement and addendum information for infrastructure projects. The Round 3 Call for Regional Projects' deadline was July 31, 2021. The Round 3 projects will be available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) Portal once the District finishes completeness reviews. The Scoring Committee (SC) has tentatively scheduled a meeting to review completed projects on November 16, 2021. Regional Program Fund recipients are required to submit quarterly and annual reports through the online reporting module. The most recent quarterly reports were due August 15, 2021. Regarding the Municipal Program, Annual Plans were due April 1, 2021 and must be submitted to receive annual payments. The District anticipates disbursing payments to Municipalities in September.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Alfredo Camacho (Day One) announced that they were officially onboarded. He indicated that Day One began outreach to gather input from the WASC members, Community Members, and Stakeholders in preparation for the Strategic Outreach Engagement Plan (SOEP).

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

None.

6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Discussion Items:

a) Watershed Coordinator Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Alfredo Camacho and Laurel Hunt (Day One) displayed and discussed their presentation on their draft SOEP.

Miguel Luna asked if Day One had considered the remaining budget of the USGR WASC and managing expectations without discouraging new applicants. Alfredo Camacho responded that they will work on leveraging funds. He added that they will engage with Community Based smaller multi-benefit projects. Miguel Luna commented that more funds will be needed to comply with water quality and that this is an opportunity to educate the community on the importance of using funds to protect our water supply.

Mike Antos (Stantec) commented that the Watershed Coordinator (WC) can connect projects to regional, municipal, and district funds as well as make cross connections at workforce development and education programs. Mike Antos asked if the WC had begun to envision how to engage in cross connections. Alfredo Camacho indicated that they have reviewed the SCWP vision of education of workforce programs and are taking note of programs at schools. He mentioned that additional information will be provided as programs evolve and that the SOEP is a living document that will continue to be developed.

b) Review of WASC roles and responsibilities (Presentation by Stantec)

Mike Antos (Stantec) displayed a presentation and discussed the WASC's roles and responsibilities.

Melanie Morita (District) provided an update and noted that the Round 3 Projects for the USGR WASC are now live on the SCWP SIP Portal with Project Applications and Executive Summaries.

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

Lisa O'Brien nominated Alison Sweet for Chair of the USGR WASC. Alison Sweet accepted the nomination.

Miguel Luna nominated himself for Vice-Chair of the USGR WASC.

d) Disadvantaged Community, Nature Based Solutions, and Partial Funding Interim Guidelines

Mike Antos (Stantec) displayed a presentation on Disadvantaged Community, Nature Based Solutions, and Partial Funding Interim Guidelines.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Kristen Ruffell asked how Partial Funding Interim Guidelines apply to projects that are requesting both design and construction funding when a WASC only wants to fund design portion of the project. She also asked if it is sufficient for a project applicant to indicate that they intend on coming back to the WASC for construction dollars in the future. Mike Antos (Stantec) responded that partial funding applicants have a way to indicate that a funding shortfall would be taken care of in the future with funds from the WASC. He noted that the WASC should be comfortable with the assertions from the project applicant when approving a project with partial funding.

Drew Ready commented that the globally accepted definition of Nature Based Solutions is that they simultaneously provide human well-being and biodiversity benefits. He asked if the SCWP had plans to accept the globally accepted definition of Nature Based Solutions and pointed out the definition as well as the benefits accounting for Nature Based Solutions from The Nature Conservancy and Pacific Institute. He inquired as to if there were any thoughts on the SCWP collaborating with broader programs worldwide. Mike Antos (Stantec) commented that the current goal is to move the Nature Based Solutions Interim Guidance to full guidance by Spring of 2022. Mike Antos (Stantec) mentioned that the District alongside other organizations will be conducting a Metrics and Monitoring Study that will assist with guidance. Lastly, Mike Antos (Stantec) noted that there is language within the SCWP ordinance that constrains how this program defines Nature Based Solutions.

8. Public Comment

Belén Bernal (Nature for All & OurWaterLA) thanked the presenters for their presentations and looks forward to working with Day One as the WC.

9. Voting Items

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

Tom Love made a motion to approve Alison Sweet as Chair and Miguel Luna as Vice-Chair of the USGR WASC. Lisa O'Brien seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve Alison Sweet as Chair and Miguel Luna as Vice-Chair of the USGR WASC. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration

Kristen Ruffell made a motion to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration. Kelly Gardner seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

Project Presentations

11. Adjournment

Melanie Morita (District) thanked the members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

USGR WASC - August 26, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 6/10 Meeting Minutes	Select Alison Sweet as Chair and Miguel Luna as Vice-Chair	Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	X	Patty Cortez		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampielo		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	X	Martha Tremblay		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods		Clement Lau	X	Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Huff Strategies	Bob Huff	X			Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	X			Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos		Jane Tsong	X	A	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna	X			Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y	Y	Y
Municipal	Baldwin Park	John Beshay	X	Sam Gutierrez		Y	Y	Y
Municipal	Duarte	Amanda Hamilton		Kevin Kearney	X		Y	Y
Municipal	Glendora	Alison Sweet	X	Sharon Gallant		Y	Y	Y
Municipal	Industry	Joshua Nelson		John Di Mario				
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Paul Alva		Fernando Villaluna	X	Y	Y	Y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	X	Fabian Aoun		Y	Y	Y
Municipal	La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	X	Shari Garwick		Y	Y	Y
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Alfredo Camacho	X					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	14	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	15	16	16
Municipal		6				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendance
USGR WASC - August 26, 2021

Alexander LACFCD	Kristen Ruffell
Alfredo Camacho	Larry Tran - LACFCD
Alison Sweet	Laurel Hunt
Aydin Pasebani	Lauren Marshall
Bob Huff	Lauro Alvarado
Brandon Willnecker	LISA OBRIEN
Chris Lapaz	Lonnie Chung
Clement Lau	Marcos Molina
Cynthia Gabaldon	Maritsa DRA Inc.
David Diaz	Melanie Morita - SCW
Drew Ready	Michelle Kim
Elizabeth Ruedas	Miguel Luna
Enrique Baull	Mike Antos
Fernando Villaluna	Paul Senker
James Cramsie	Philip Reidy
Jane Tsong	Ramy Gindi
Joe Venzon - LA County	Sharon Gallant
John Beshay	Tammy Takigawa
Johnathan Perisho	Tasia Kieffer
Jon Abelson	Tom Love
Julian Juarez	Uriel Cobian
Julie Carver	William OBraitis
Kelly Gardner	yisak kim
Kevin Kearney	