

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency), Vice Chair  
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)  
Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency), Chair  
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)  
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community), Vice Chair  
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)  
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)  
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Vanessa Hevener, Arcadia (Municipal)  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Frank Lopez, Monterey Park (Municipal)  
Kris Markarian, Pasadena (Municipal)  
James Carlson, Sierra Madre (Municipal)  
Richard Watson, RWA Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## Committee Members Not Present:

Gloria Crudgington, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Vacant (Community)  
Vacant (Community)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the Rio Hondo 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 August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes, by Member Dolphin, seconded by Member Lopez. The WASC voted to approve the August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

There were no Committee Member Updates.

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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District Staff provided the District update, noting:

- The Regional Oversight Committee submitted the 2021 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to Board of Supervisors for approval. All 9 SIPs were reviewed and approved at the Board meeting on September 15.
- Round 3 Call for Projects deadline was July 31. The program received 41 Infrastructure Projects, 8 Scientific Studies and 7 Technical Resources Program submittals.
- For Rio Hondo, there are 2 Infrastructure Program, 4 Scientific Studies, 0 Technical Resources Program submittals. The IP are scheduled for review at the Scoring Committee on November 16.
- Regional Program project applicants are required to submit quarterly and annual reports. Quarterly reports were due August 15 from current projects and will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.
- As part of the Municipal Program, each municipality must report Fiscal Year 21-22 Annual Plan by April 1 to receive annual payment, which will be dispersed October 2021.

Chair Ruffell asked about the timing for District staff to bring the collected Quarterly Reports before the WASC for information or action. Staff shared that both Q3 and Q4 quarterly reports have been received and are under review by the District. This District will submit comments and request revisions, as appropriate. Once complete, quarterly reports will be brought to the committee as a summary, possibly both quarters together.

#### **4. Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that there is only one city in the Rio Hondo Watershed Area that hasn't submitted an annual report, and that they will engage with that City. The past month was focused on the SOEP, and coordination with neighboring watershed coordinators.

Chair Ruffell asked that the coordinator walk through what has been funded and what is on the committee's plate for the future funding round and the outstanding funding needs for future projects. Watershed Coordinator Watson responded that they will be prepared to start that in two different increments. Chair Ruffell expressed concern regarding available implementation funding for projects that receive Technical Resources Program support.

#### **5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

No communication disclosures.

#### **6. Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

#### **7. Presentation and Discussion Items:**

##### **a) Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) – RWA**

Presentation by Watershed Coordinator Watson and Julie Millet (RWA), (see Draft SOEP Presentation on WASC website).

Member Dolphin mentioned that there is a project discussed in the Upper Los Angeles River WASC meeting that will reduce the amount of drainage for a project further downstream and asked how agencies should

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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coordinate with other committees to address the issue. Watershed Coordinator Watson acknowledged the need to ensure that projects should work together but will need to review the specific project. In response to a question from Chair Ruffell, Member Dolphin noted that a draft of the results from the PreSIP will be available shortly.

Member Wong asked whether communities of other primary languages will be engaged through nonprofit groups or NGOs. Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that other languages will be engaged, in addition to the three primary ones mentioned in the presentation.

Member Wong asked for clarification on whether the coordinator is reaching out to neighboring Watershed Coordinators. Watershed Coordinator Watson said neighboring coordinators were engaged to understand the watershed boundaries, specifically with ULAR and USGR. Coordinators are meeting on a monthly basis.

Member Wong referred to page 13 of the SOEP and asked whether Huntington Library was included. Watershed Coordinator Watson said they evaluated campus and large parcels only above 50 acres under a single owner. He will check to see if the Huntington Library qualifies.

Member Rossman asked how much time will be allocated toward DAC outreach versus general outreach. Watershed Coordinator Watson said a lot of their engagement will be in DACs, but not sure how much yet.

#### **b) Disadvantaged Community, Nature Based Solutions, Partial Funding Interim Guidelines**

Presentation by Mike Antos (Stantec) regarding three guidance documents produced for SCW Program.

Chair Ruffell asked if the WASC wants to fund only the design portion of a submittal, a partial funding offer would be made, and the proponent could describe their future funding as coming from the WASC at a later time. District staff concurred that this is a valid use of the partial funding guidance.

Member Wong asked about Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) being conducted by TreePeople, and asked if that program could brief the WASC at a later meeting. Watershed Coordinator Watson will facilitate that at an upcoming meeting.

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

Dawn Petschauer (ULAR Watershed Management Group Lead) noted that they met with the Craftwater Engineering and Coordinator Watson about the PreSIP. It would be advantageous to have Scientific Study engage the WASC to ensure the benefits of the study are being delivered. The first deliverable will be coming in the first week of October. Petschauer expressed interest in attending meetings to update the WASC with the PreSIP and other studies. Chair Ruffell offered to work on getting the PreSIP updates on the agenda.

Bryan Matsumoto (Nature For All) asked whether there were plans to share how nature-based solutions are being used within the Program. District staff noted that there is an educational program that is still under development that could include the transfer of knowledge from completed projects.

Member Wong asked District staff about the process to fill vacancies in the committee. District staff responded that the vacant Community seats need to be appointed by Board of Supervisors at any point or they can wait until the next term. District staff has notified the Board and is waiting for a response. Any recommendations for vacant seats should be emailed to District staff.

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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## 9. Voting Items

- a) No voting items.

## 10. Items for Next Agenda

- a) District staff has noted that the presentations for the Scientific Studies Program and Infrastructure Program will be included for the next agenda.
- b) At future meetings, the Committee would like presentations on:
- Update on progress of the PreSIP scientific study.
  - TreePeople and the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program
  - Watershed Coordinator Presentation on overview of funding for projects that have been submitted in past and upcoming SIPs.

## 11. Adjournment

Chair Ruffell thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday, October 19, 2021  
1:00PM – 3:00PM  
See SCW website for meeting details



**Attendance**  
**RH WASC - September 21, 2021**

Kelly GARDNER	Larry Tran - LACFCD
Quynh Tran	Ramy Gindi
Frank Lopez	Julian Juarez
Melanie Morita - SCW	Mike Antos
Bryan Matsumoto	Julie Millett
Enrique Baul	Dawn Petschauer
Darin Son	Ruby Wang
Daniel Rossman	Tom Love
Stephanie Tong - LACFCD	Amanda Zeidner
David Dolphin	Kristen Ruffell
Dorothy Wong	Mark Hall
Brent Maue	Trevor Davis
James Carlson	Thomas Wong
Eddie Chan	Kris Markarian
Jason Casanova	Latoya Waters
William OBraitis	Brandon Willnecker (Tt)
Richard Watson	Katie Harrel
Fernando Villaluna	Vanessa Hevener
Alex Tachiki	