

# Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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Thursday, October 28, 2021  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

## **Attendees**

### Committee Members Present:

\*Ramy Gindi, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District (Agency)  
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)  
\*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
Sean Woods, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)  
Bob Huff, Former CA State Senator (Community)  
Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)  
\*Jane Tsong, Watershed Conservation Authority (Community)  
Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community), Vice Chair  
David Diaz, Active SGV, (Community)  
John Beshay, Baldwin Park (Municipal)  
Alison Sweet, Glendora (Municipal), Chair  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)  
Lisa O'Brien, La Verne (Municipal)  
Alfredo Camacho, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Amanda Hamilton (Duarte)  
Joshua Nelson (Industry)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Alison Sweet, Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

District Staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2021**

District Staff provided the meeting minutes from the previous meetings. Chair Sweet asked the WASC for comments or revisions. There were none. Vice Chair Miguel Luna made a motion to approve the September 23, 2021, meeting minutes. Member Bob Huff seconded the motion. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 23, 2021. (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

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

There were no Committee Member updates.

District Staff provided an update, noting:

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- The District has initiated the process of sending fund transfer agreements. Addendums for Year 1 projects and initial agreements for Year 2 projects have been distributed .
- The Scoring Committee has started to score projects across the program. Three projects from the USGR watershed area will be reviewed on November 22.
- Regional Program project proponents are required to submit quarterly and annual reports. The District has provided comments to the proponents so they can resubmit their quarterly reports. Reports will be summarized in a table to present to the WASC at a future meeting. The next round of quarterly reports are due November 15.
- The Board of Supervisors are acting under the authority of a new Assembly Bill (AB 361) that was signed into law effective October 1, 2021 which continues suspension of some Brown Act teleconference requirements. The Board is reviewing every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.
- As part of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) each year the WASC allocates resources, within the TRP, to fund the watershed coordinator position. The existing coordinator was selected last year and is on a one-year contract with three optional extensions. The WASC must act to affirm the existing coordinator for another year if they are satisfied with the coordinator to-date, or, if the WASC is unsatisfied, it can decide to return to the existing qualified list to select a different coordinator. An upcoming meeting agenda item will support discussion and action on this topic.
- Members who wish to resign from the WASC should provide a 60-day prior notice.
- Former USGR Vice-Chair Bryan Urias passed away on October 24, 2021.

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Alfredo Camacho provided the coordinator update for each of the Watershed Coordinator tasks, noting:

- In-person and virtual outreach events have been conducted, in addition to meetings with partners and community organizations to develop connections for Task 1.
- Presentations, fact sheets and other resources on the Technical Resource Program have been distributed for Task 2 & 3.
- A USGR watershed community survey (digital and physical copies, in English and Spanish) has been developed to gauge community understanding about the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) for Task 4. Watershed Coordinator Camacho has also been working with the Barnes Park project applicant and connecting with various project leads.
- Connections with communities, partners and local networks are being developed for Task 5.
- Watershed Coordinators are developing a funding source list to compile funding opportunities for applicants, municipalities, and community partners for Tasks 6 & 7.
- Meetings with elected officials, commissions, committees, and workgroups throughout the Watershed Area are being scheduled for Task 8.
- Watershed Coordinator Camacho is collaborating with the Rio Hondo and Lower San Gabriel River WASCs on community outreach efforts for Task 9.

Member Beshay asked when the WASC will be able to see public outreach events. Watershed Coordinator Camacho noted that efforts have been focused on outreach specific to communities, identified stakeholders and project applicants and suggested the WASC direct a public campaign or event. Watershed Coordinator Camacho encouraged suggestions for outreach, guest speaker events and direction from WASC members.

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Member Ready asked Watershed Coordinator Camacho to provide details about how the Coordinators are identifying cities in USGR that have not been participating in the SCWP thus far. Watershed Coordinator Camacho noted that the efforts have been focused on communities that are not represented in the WASC, per previous instructions from the WASC, and those that have gaps in the SIP.

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

No Ex Parte Communications were disclosed.

## **6. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

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

### **A) Infrastructure Program Presentations**

#### **i. Glendora Avenue Green Streets**

Presentation by Curt Roth (DRP Engineering). The project includes capture, diversion, treatment, and infiltration with green street elements within the public rights-of-way in downtown Glendora.

Member Ready asked where the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for the project will come from. Chair Sweet replied that municipal funds will cover O&M costs. Funding requested from the SCWP will be used to design the green streets portion of the project. Member Ready encouraged the project applicant to consider signage and requested specific trees for consideration.

Member Tsong asked whether the project will be able to address the biodiversity valued by the City of Glendora. Chair Sweet and Roth noted that native and drought tolerant plants are in consideration for design.

#### **ii. Marchant Park**

Presentation by Lauren Marshall (City of San Dimas) and Jon Abelson (Stantec). This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery to be located within Marchant Park, along with park improvements. Chris Ann Horsley, Senior Director of Elementary Curriculum at Bonita Unified School District, was also invited to the meeting.

Member Tsong asked whether above-ground stormwater retention methods have been considered. Abelson noted that they have, but the community has expressed the need and desire for a park and the limited space available was prioritized for community needs.

Member Gardner asked how greater infiltration leads to lower construction costs. Abelson explained that the cost of underground units is primarily for storage. Greater infiltration would reduce costs by reducing the amount of storage volume that needs to be excavated, as water will be able to flow into the ground faster.

#### **iii. Pelota Park**

Presentation by Lisa O'Brien (City of La Verne) and Jon Abelson (Stantec). This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery to be located within Pelota Park, along with park improvements.

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Member Gardner provided clarification on a statement made regarding the project having support from the water districts - the project is viewed positively, but the water districts do not consider water supplies entering the basin as a result of this project to be "new," as the water has already been accounted for.

Member Ready praised the project applicant for engaging the Metropolitan Water District and incorporating many community investment benefits. Member Ready asked whether the school grounds could be further improved, such as the development of outdoor classrooms. Abelson noted that the project team has engaged the Metropolitan Water District for the dry weather irrigation program to offset potable water use with stormwater reuse. Abelson also noted that the eastern ballfields are owned and managed by the elementary schools, while the three western ballfields are owned and managed by the City of La Verne; outdoor education opportunities will likely take place in the rain garden on the City of La Verne's side of the park, in addition to the ballfields on the school's side of the park.

Member Ready thanked Abelson for the presentation and requested more information on existing impediments to using stormwater for irrigation. O'Brien noted that they will follow up with these details.

## **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **9. Voting Items**

A) None

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

- The District noted that there were no other project presentations for the WASC and that future meetings may be cancelled. The District will coordinate with the Chair.
- The District noted that Member Ruffell had previously asked for an update on the funding status of approved projects and will coordinate with the Watershed Coordinators for future agenda items.
- Member Ready requested a written update from the Watershed Coordinator before the end of the year. The Member would like to see specific information about individual cities, city councils, and commissions the Watershed Coordinator has met with.

## **11. Adjournment**

Chair Sweet thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

## USGR WASC - October 28, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 9/23 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez		Ramy Gindi	X	A
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	X	Patty Cortez		Y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampiello		
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	X	Y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods	X	Clement Lau		Y
Community Stakeholder	Huff Strategies	Bob Huff	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	X	Jason Casanova		Y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos		Jane Tsong	X	A
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y
Municipal	Baldwin Park	John Beshay	X	Sam Gutierrez		Y
Municipal	Duarte	Amanda Hamilton		Kevin Kearney		
Municipal	Glendora	Alison Sweet	X	Sharon Gallant		Y
Municipal	Industry	Joshua Nelson		John Di Mario		
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	X	Joseph Venzon		Y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	X	Fabian Aoun		Y
Municipal	La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	X	Shari Garwick		A
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Alfredo Camacho	X			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	14
Municipal		5				Approved

**Attendance**  
**USGR WASC - October 28, 2021**

Alexander LACFCD	John Beshay
Alfredo Camacho	Johnathan Perisho
Algis Marciuska	Jon Abelson
Alison Sweet	Joseph Gonzalez
Andrea Ampig	Joshua Nelson
Andrew Kim	Julie Carver
Aydin Pasebani	Kam Cheema
Azeneth Martinez	Kelly GARDNER
Bob Huff	Larry Tran
Brianne Logasa	Lauren Marshall
Chris Ann Horsley	Lauro Alvarado
Chris Lapaz	LISA OBRIEN
Connie Adera	lonnie chung
Curt Roth	Mark Hall
Darin Son (NoteTaker)	Melanie Morita
David Diaz	Miguel Luna
David Marquez	Pablo Forni LACFCD
Donna Tran	Paul Senker
Drew Ready	Ramiro Pinedo Jr
Ed Othmer	Ramy Gindi (A)
Enrique Baul	Sean Woods
Fabian Aoun	Sharon Gallant
Fernando Villaluna	Tammy Takigawa
Gurjot Kohli	Timery DeBoer
James Cramsie	Tom Love
Jane Tsong	