

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

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Tuesday, November 16, 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 [joined during Item 6]  
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)  
\*Bryan Matsumoto, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)  
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)  
\*Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Frank Lopez, Monterey Park (Municipal)  
James Carlson, Sierra Madre (Municipal)  
Richard Watson, RWA Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Kris Markarian, Pasadena (Municipal)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

Tom Love, Vice Chair of the Rio Hondo WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. The District conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2021**

The District provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes, by Member David Dolphin, seconded by Member Mark Hall. The WASC voted to approve the October 19, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- 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 Round 3 Call for Projects deadline was July 31, 2021. The Rio Hondo WASC received 2 Infrastructure Program, 4 Scientific Study, and 0 Technical Resources Program submittals.

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- The Scoring Committee has started to score projects. The two Infrastructure Program projects submitted for the Rio Hondo Watershed Area are scheduled to be reviewed by the Scoring Committee on November 22. Note that this is a rescheduled date.
- The Board of Supervisors are acting under the authority of Assembly Bill (AB 361) that was signed into law effective October 1 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.
- WebEx meeting recordings are deleted 30 days after meetings are held.

There were no Committee Member updates.

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

Julie Millett (RWA) provided an update on Watershed Coordinator activities (refer to Watershed Coordinator Update Presentation)

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

No communication disclosures.

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

No public comments.

Member Matsumoto asked for recordings of WASC meetings to be made available to the public, sharing that they would be helpful for community engagement and for WASC members to review. Member Matsumoto asked for District staff to revisit this previous request. Watershed Coordinator Watson voiced that WASC meeting recordings would be helpful in reaching out to community members.

Member Daniel Rossman asked about making a motion to agendaize discussion of the meeting videos.

District staff shared that there is an emphasis on live participation and not releasing the meeting recordings, but this WASC's strong encouragement of releasing the recordings will be shared within the District.

Vice Chair Love noted that they need to leave the meeting at 2:00. Chair Kristen Ruffell joined the meeting.

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

##### **a. Presentations for Scientific Studies Program**

##### **i. Additional Funding Request Support to the LRS Adaptation Addressing the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group**

Presentation by Dawn Petschauer from LA Sanitation and Brianna Datti from Craftwater. The study received SCWP funding in Year 1 from the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC. Datti provided a progress update on the work that has been conducted thus far. The additional funding will support the development of an interactive website, continued strategic risk-based monitoring, and human waste source investigations. The study is also requesting funds from the ULAR WASC. The study has the potential to provide region-wide benefits.

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Chair Ruffell asked how the study determined the cost split between the ULAR and Rio Hondo (RH) WASCs, noting that it looks like more monitoring will take place in the ULAR Watershed Area. Datti explained that the split was determined based on the funding contribution made in Year 1 and noted that the results will benefit both Watershed Areas. Petschauer clarified that the funding not only covers monitoring, but the website as well, which benefits both WASCs. Member Rossman asked how drought or dry weather conditions will impact the results of the study. Datti and Petschauer replied that findings collected during dry weather conditions are equally important and explained that drought exacerbates bacterial loads in waterways.

## ii. Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures

Presentation by Brianna Datti and Chad Helmle from Craftwater. The study will evaluate existing Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), determine what they are achieving, and what more can be done to leverage them. The study is requesting funds from ULAR and Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASCs, over the course of two fiscal years.

Member Matsumoto asked whether there are efforts at the County-level to evaluate MCMs that this work might be duplicative of. Helmle replied that the results of the study will be specific to the RH, ULAR, and USGR regions. Given the scale of the project, the applicant decided to limit the scope to just these areas. They noted that it is possible that other WASCs could pick up findings from the study and explore how they might apply to their Watershed Areas. Member Matsumoto asked how the applicant chose to focus on the RH, ULAR, and USGR regions. Helmle replied that these regions were selected because the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments which represents these areas, expressed interest in the effort.

Helmle spoke to how this study is supported by the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, of which the Southern California Coastal Water Research Program (SCCWRP) is a collaborator.

## b. Update Presentations

### i. preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration

Dawn Petschauer (LA Sanitation) and Brad Wardynski provided a presentation on the status of the preSIP scientific study. The study received funding in Round 1 of SCWP to develop a web-based platform and develop meaningful objectives and metrics for the model. The group started with the County's WMMS regional model and adapted it to local conditions to develop their preSIP model. The last phase of the preSIP study is coordinating and supporting parallel plans. Wardynski noted that the preSIP model may also provide better data to support decision-making for those other plans and projects. To date, they have engaged 28 partner organizations and identified and consolidated many more project concepts. The final technical task is to build a dynamic platform to host the project library.

Chair Ruffell asked whether the model will be open-source and publicly available or whether it will be proprietary. Wardynski replied that the model can be made publicly available but noted that a component of their work is to build an interface that is publicly navigable and allows users to run various scenarios. Petschauer elaborated on the functionality that will be available to the public. They shared that because the Rio Hondo Watershed Area is upstream of many other areas, this model has the potential to be a useful tool to inform their watershed planning.

Petschauer offered to provide these updates on a regular, perhaps quarterly, basis.

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## **8. Public Comment Period**

No public comments.

## **9. Voting Items**

a) None

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

a) Presentations for Infrastructure Program

District staff noted that an item for a future, but not the next, meeting is an update from Tree People on the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP).

Member Matsumoto suggested the WASC to add an agenda item to discuss making WASC Meeting Recordings available to the public. The outcome of that discussion could be a recommendation to District staff to post the recordings. Member Alex Tachiki suggested that this discussion should be held at the County-wide level. Tori Klug (Stantec) noted that other WASCs have prepared letters of feedback on the Safe, Clean Water Program to District staff. Klug indicated that in other WASCs, those topics were added to the agenda as discussion and voting items.

Chair Ruffell agreed to add this topic as a discussion and voting item to the next Agenda. The Chair and District staff discussed that WASC member feedback on the draft letter would need to be provided during the WASC meeting, not via email, in order to meet Brown Act requirements.

## **11. Adjournment**

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

**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday December 21, 2021  
1:00PM – 3:00PM  
See SCW website for meeting details



## Attendance

RH WASC - November 16, 2021

Fernando Villaluna	Richard Watson
Brianna Datti	Mark Hall
Mathew Gutierrez (Craftwater)	Melanie Morita
Bryan Matsumoto	Eddie Chan
david dolphin	Julie Millett
Daniel Rossman	Kelly GARDNER
Alex Tachiki	Enrique Baul
Adam acosta	Aric Torreyson
Chad Helmle (Craftwater)	aric
Larry Tran - LACFCD	Brent Maue
James Carlson	Brad Wardynski
Frank A. Lopez	Julian Juarez
Tori Klug	Marisa Perez-Reyes
Oliver Galang (Craftwater)	Kristen Ruffell
Dawn Petschauer	James Tong
Tom Love	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
Vanessa Hevener	Jason Casanova