

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



Tuesday, October 26, 2021  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

## **Attendees**

### Committee Members Present:

Esterno Rivera (LA County Flood Control District (District))  
Rob Beste (Water Replenishment District)  
Dr. Quynh Tran (LA County Sanitation Districts)\*  
Stephen Scott (Long Beach Parks & Recreation)  
Dylan Porter\* (Port of Long Beach)  
Kedrin Hopkins (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)  
Joe Gonzalez (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)\*  
Gina Nila (Commerce), Chair  
Dan Mueller (Downey)  
Melissa You (Long Beach), Vice Chair  
Adriana Figueroa (Paramount)  
Gladis Deras (South Gate)  
Tara Dales (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member – SGA Marketing)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Alex Rojas (Central Basin)  
Cindy Montanez (TreePeople)  
Melissa Bahmanpour (River in Action)  
Laura Ochoa (Lynwood)  
Cecil Looney (Signal Hill)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Melissa You, Vice Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River WASC, welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

District staff conducted the roll call and with a majority present, quorum was established. The District provided an overview of the WebEx functions and housekeeping items.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2021**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the September 28, 2021 meeting. Vice Chair You asked for a motion to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting minutes.

Member Gonzalez noted that the spelling of their name should be corrected.

Member Gonzalez motioned to approve the meeting minutes, with Member Figueroa seconding the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 28, 2021. (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet)

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### 3. Committee Member and District Updates

Member Gonzalez noted that their participation will be withdrawn from the committee in 60 days.

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- The District has initiated the process of sending fund transfer agreements. Addendums for Year 1 projects have been distributed and initial agreements for Year 2 projects will be sent soon.
- The Scoring Committee has started to score projects across the program. All three infrastructure projects will be scored on November 22, 2021.
- Quarterly reports will be submitted by October 31<sup>st</sup> and summarized and presented to the WASC following submittal.
- On October 7, the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) received an implementation update presentation from District staff regarding the progress of the SCWP. The update was well-received. The slides are available on the SCWP website, under the ROC page.
- 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. The next round of quarterly reports is due November 15.
- The Board of Supervisors are acting under the authority of a new bill (AB 361) that was signed into law effective 10/1 which authorizes public committees to continue meeting without complying with all the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when the situation warrants it. The Board is reviewing every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.
- When an approved SIP includes a technical resources program (TRP) project, the District authorizes a Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to support the proponent in development of a feasibility study, which is an application for the infrastructure program. In a round one the LLAR WASC approved the *Parque Dos Rios Bioswale* TRP project. The TAT investigated the site and found it was previously used for waste disposal, meaning it is infeasible to use for infiltration. The consultant recommended halting the feasibility study. The project proponent plans to further engage with nearby sites and with regulatory authorities and may resubmit in the future. The District closed the TAT task order, and will return remaining funds to the WASC.

### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales provided an update, noting:

- Additional resources may be required to complete projects previously supported by the WASC, including project funding and cost-share partnerships, as completion is not necessarily covered by SCWP funds. Projects may need to reapply and be rescored in the future for access to additional funding. Not all proponents understand the funding required for operations and maintenance activities. Chair Nila asked if total future funding needed for projects awarded to date is known. Watershed Coordinator Dales will send the number following the meeting.
- A presentation about the TRP application process has been developed and is being approved by Stantec. A community flyer and other educational materials have also been developed.
- Watershed Coordinators will meet with the City of Fabrick, Lynwood School District, and other organizations to discuss community outreach activities.
- A community needs board and watershed model have been developed for outreach event presentations.

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- A nine-question survey about community water concerns has been distributed at recent events. People have indicated a desire for improvement and beautification.
- Next month's work will include a focus on stakeholder outreach meetings and potential TRP applicant assistance.

## 5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

## 6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

## 7. Discussion Items:

### a) **Scientific Studies (SS) Presentation** ([SCW Portal](#))

The presentation order was reversed because the presenter for the *Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-Based BMPs Starting with Gaffey Nature Century Facility* was not present when the time for this agenda item arrived.

#### i. **Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis) – Phase 2**

Presentation by Brad Wardynski. Phase 2 will scale-up the methods tested in Phase 1 to find and analyze projects in a watershed context to recommend a longer-term, project-by-project pathway to safe, clean water.

Member Gonzalez asked when Phase I updates will be available. Wardynski responded that work will probably begin in December, so updates will be available in early 2022.

Member Figueroa asked if the project would communicate with the local cities during execution of Phase 2. Wardynski confirmed they will. Member Figueroa asked how the project would coordinate with other projects and entities. Wardynski responded that the project will assess all parcels regardless of ownership. The project would like to assess the best places for stormwater capture and will begin with a wide aperture. Working with cities, the project will narrow down the scope to more feasible and applicable locations.

#### ii. **Community-Centered Optimization of Nature-Based BMPs Starting with the Gaffey Nature Center Facility**

Presentation by Shahriar Eftekhazadeh. This study aims to optimize plant varieties and species used in the design and O&M of nature-based biofiltration BMPs, with special focus on the community.

Watershed Coordinator Dales asked how the microclimate of the site would allow the project to test success for projects across the region. Deborah Deets responded on behalf of the project that they can calibrate site conditions to test different scenarios.

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## **8. Public Comment Period**

Deborah Deets commented that all projects with vegetated landscapes seeking healthy soils and equity need a lifetime supply of water. Deets asked that future SCWP committees ask projects how they will obtain a lifetime supply of water as costs increase over time.

## **9. Voting Items**

The District proposed postponement of the next meeting until after all the infrastructure projects are scored.

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

- a) Presentations from FY22-23 Infrastructure Projects Applicants ([SCW Portal](#))

## **12. Adjournment**

Vice Chair You thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 25, 2022**  
**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**  
See [SCW website](#) for meeting details.

**LLAR WASC - October 26, 2021**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 9-28-2021 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	X	Ramy Gindi		Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Jeremy Melendez		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste	X	Esther Rojas		Y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Dr. Quynh Tran	X	A
Agency	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Kedrin Hopkins	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joe Gonzalez	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez		Manny Gonez		
Community Stakeholder	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Melissa Bahmanpour		Erica Maceda		
Municipal Members	City of Commerce					
Municipal Members	City of Bell Gardens	Gina Nila	X			Y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	X	Delfino Consunji		Y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You	X	Cecilia Salazar		Y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Laura Ochoa		Noe Martinez		
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	X	Sarah Ho		Y
Municipal Members	City of Signal Hill	Cecil Looney				
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	X	Clint Herrera		Y
Watershed Coordinator						
Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	X			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		12			No (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	12
Municipal Members		5				Approved

**Attendees**  
**Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting**  
**October 26, 2021**

Adriana Figueroa  
Alex Rojas  
Amanda Begley  
Annelisa (she/her)  
Brad Wardynski  
Bryce Lee  
Carlos Moran  
Cecilia Salazar  
Dan Mueller  
deborah deets  
Dylan Porter  
emily ramos  
erica maceda

Ernesto Rivera  
Fred Gonzalez  
Gina Nila  
Gladis Deras  
I EC  
Joseph Gonzalez  
Justin Jones - LACFCD  
Kedrin Hopkins  
Lauro Alvarado  
Manny Gonez  
Mayra Cabrera  
Melissa You  
Michelle Kim

Mike Antos (Regional Coord)  
Quynh Tran  
Robert Beste  
Robert Blankenship  
Ryan Edgley  
Safe Clean Water LA  
Shahriar Eftekharzadeh  
Stephen Scott  
Stephen  
Tara Dales (Watershed Coordinator)  
Tasia Cerrell  
Thuan Chi  
Uriel Cobian - LACFCD