

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



Tuesday, January 11, 2022
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Alex Rojas Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Esther Rojas, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Quynh Tran, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Nancy Villaneseñor, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
Adam Galia, Resident (Community)
*Joseph Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)
Delfino Consunji, Downey (Municipal)
Lisa Ann Rapp, Lakewood (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair
Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)
Marlin Munoz, Santa Fe Springs (Municipal)
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

None
See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Melissa You, Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

District staff 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 December 14, 2021

The District presented meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Dan Knapp made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Member Vicki Smith seconded. The Committee voted to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update:

- On December 21, the Board of Supervisors voted to continue meeting virtually, acting under the authority of Assembly Bill 361 which authorizes public committees to meet without complying with all the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when the situation warrants it. The Board is

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reviewing every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.

- The District is continuing to process transfer agreements for Addendums for Year 1 projects and initial transfer agreements for Year 2 projects.
- SIP tool data has been updated for WASC review. Please review and provide feedback as needed.
- The Scoring Committee has scored infrastructure projects across the program. At yesterday's Scoring Committee meeting, three LSGR WASC projects, which previously needed additional information, were scored. Two projects (Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel Stormwater Capture Project and Stormwater Treatment and Reuse at Hacienda Park) did not meet the 60-point threshold. The WASC now has 5 Infrastructure Program projects and 5 Scientific Studies to consider for the Stormwater Investment Plan.
- Under the Municipal Program, Annual Plans are due April 1 to the Safe, Clean Water Program. Annual Plans are required to receive the Municipal Program revenue.
- Claims for the [Low-Income Senior-Owned Special Parcel Tax Exemption](#) and [general income-based tax reduction](#) are due May 1, 2022. More information can be found on the [Safe, Clean Water Program website](#).

Vice Chair Rapp asked for clarification on the projects that did not meet the 60-point threshold. District staff shared that they are in communication with the project proponents that didn't meet the 60-point threshold to see if they want to pursue TRP funding.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators Kekoa Anderson and Grace Kast provided an update on Watershed Coordinator activities:

- Conducting outreach and collaboration meetings with four cities about projects around Bellflower, Pico Rivera, La Mirada, and Huntington Gardens.
- Participating in training workshops and Clean California grants.
- Attending next virtual stakeholder workshop, scheduled for February 17. The workshop will be held jointly with the Lower Los Angeles River WASC Watershed Coordinator.
- Working with the Water Replenishment District on the Groundwater Festival. It is held annually, but has been pushed back due to COVID-19.
- Working on a workshop for Gateway Water Management Authority.
- Engaging the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) subregion to pull together a presentation. The Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Department of Water Resources IRWM Program Implementation Round 2 is out for comment and will solicit projects applications in the next couple of months.
- Expanded the Nature-Based Solution module and outreach trailer for future outreach events.
- Submitted quarterly report, which will likely be included in the next meeting.

Member Adam Galia asked if there is a tentative date on the Groundwater Festival. There is no tentative date right now, but they are hoping for something in the early summer. Member Galia then asked if the February 17 meeting will be the same format as previous meetings. Coordinator Kast confirmed it will be similar, as it is virtual, and the same groups have been invited. Member Galia asked if, with the COVID surge, other coordinators have used different approaches for engaging the public. Coordinator Kast said that groups that have held workshops and events have done so virtually. They will discuss outreach options at the next Watershed Coordinator meeting later in January. Coordinator Kast asked if Tori Klug (Stantec) has heard of other engagement approaches from other Coordinators. Klug said Coordinators are, for the

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most part, pursuing virtual engagement. There are some examples of in-person engagement, including one coordinator holding a meeting at a dog park.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No ex parte communications were disclosed.

6. Public Comment Period

Mark Hall (Greater LA County Vector Control District, or GLACVCD) noted that project proponents in this Watershed Area are not consistently reaching out to the GLACVCD for review of vector minimization plans. Hall expressed concern that projects that proceed too far in the design phase before engaging with vector minimization may incur costs from needing to revise elements of the design.

Vice Chair Lisa Rapp asked when project proponents are required to have vector minimization plans developed. Hall said it is Item 13 of the Feasibility Study.

7. Discussion

a. Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary

i. Quarter 3 (January – March 2021) and Quarter 4 (April – June 2021)

The summary report is located on the LSGR WASC page of the SCWP website and the full reports are located on the SCWP Portal. Member Galia asked if any of the activity concerns noted in the report are related to finances. The District does not recall activity concerns related to financial issues, and noted that they can go through the list by project and attending project developers can provide information as needed.

The El Dorado Regional Project is at 30% design and progressing according to schedule.

Vice Chair Rapp said the construction for Mayfair Park is 99% complete. They are waiting for a final control panel to be installed, then they will begin commissioning, testing, and putting the plant into operation. Supply chain issues and COVID have delayed project completion. As soon as the project is constructed, the O&M funds can be used. The District noted that funding must be used within five years of issuance.

Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture Project is 30% completed. The CEQA schedule will need to be confirmed in order to use funds for construction phase.

b. Selection of the Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator for the next term

The District noted that the Watershed Coordinator contract ends in March.

Vice Chair Rapp said they have not heard of anyone who felt that OhanaVets was not completing their responsibilities and they are familiar with the watershed area. Vice Chair Rapp sees no reason to not renew their contract. Chair You agreed. Member Delifino Consunji asked the District to cover the contract specifics and asked whether rates will change if the contract is extended. Mike Antos (Stantec) said they cannot answer the questions specifically, but there is a budget limit of \$200,000

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for the Watershed Coordinators. The scopes of work and funding for the Watershed Coordinators cannot change.

Member Consunji said that if there would be no change in funding, they would vote to keep OhanaVets. Member Vicki Smith praised the in-person engagement by the LSGR Watershed Coordinator at a community concert and voiced support for continuing with OhanaVets. Member Dan Knapp said that the LSGR Watershed Coordinator helps keep the WASC ahead of others on many fronts and supports continuing with OhanaVets.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

- a) Reselect the current Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator for the next term

Member Rojas made a motion to reselect the current Watershed Coordinator. Vice Chair Rapp seconded. The Committee voted to reselect the current Watershed Coordinator (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is Tuesday February 8, 2022 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. See the SCWP website for meeting details.

- a) Summary of projects and studies submitted for Lower San Gabriel River WASC for consideration

District staff will send out project ranking sheet before the February meeting, to receive all WASC members' project rankings and use it as a basis of discussion for SIP development.

Vice Chair Rapp asked about representing projected construction funds in the SIP Tool for projects that are currently only requesting design funds. District staff shared that they can manually create the scenario and add that into the SIP Tool to help the WASC with decision-making.

11. Adjournment

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

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 12-14-2021 Meeting Minutes	Reselect the current LSGR Watershed Coordinator for the next term
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	x	Jeremy Melendez		y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Esther Rojas	x	y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Quynh Tran	x	y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	x	Thalia Campos		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder							
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Downey	Delfino Consunji	x	Dan Mueller		y	y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Lisa Ann Rapp	x	Konya Vivanti		y	y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai		y	y
Municipal Members	Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Glen Kau		y	y
Municipal Members	La Mirada	Marlin Munoz	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	OhanaVets	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast		NA	NA
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	16	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Attendance

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Adam Galia	Mark Hall GLACVCD
Alex Rojas	Marlin Munoz
Alexander LACFCD	Melanie Morita
Andrew Kim	Melissa You
Bernie Iniguez	Michael Lurenana
Bryce Lee	Michelle Kim
Cecilia Salazar	Mike Antos (Regional Coord.)
Dan Knapp	Mike O'Grady
Delfino Consunji	Nancy Villasenor
Donna Tran	Oliver Galang (Craftwater Engineering)
emily ramos	Quynh Tran
Esther Rojas	Richard Watson
G Weeks	Robert Beste
Gabrielle	Robert Gomez
Grace Kast	Ryan Edgley
Joe Venzon	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
john HUNTER	Tori Klug
Joseph Gonzalez	Traci Gleason
Julian Juarez	Vicki Smith
Kala Anderson	Wataru Kumagai
Kekoa Anderson	Yoshi Andersen
kelli tunnicliff	Yvana H
Lisa Rapp	