

Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, April 19, 2022
1:00pm - 3:30pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency), Co-Vice Chair
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency), Chair
*Kris Markarian, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
*Bryan Matsumoto, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community), Co-Vice Chair
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)
Edward Belden, Resident (Community)
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)
*Eddie Chan, Arcadia (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Gloria Crudgington, Monrovia (Municipal)
James Tong, Pasadena (Municipal)
James Carlson, Sierra Madre (Municipal)
Richard Watson, RWA Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Frank Lopez, Monterey Park (Municipal)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the Rio Hondo WASC, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. District staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2022

District Staff provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Co-Vice Chair Tom Love, seconded by Member David Dolphin. The WASC voted to approve the March 15, 2022 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update:

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



- On March 29, 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 reviewing every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority. A memo was issued to the Committee Members on April 8 regarding in-person meetings. In-person meetings may begin as soon as May. The District is currently looking at the City of Monrovia's Meeting Room as a possible venue. A feedback survey about in-person venues will be sent soon.
- A notice has been sent to Committee members to report their vaccination status. Committee members who do not provide proof of vaccination will no longer be able to serve in their positions once meetings return to in-person.
- Under the Municipal Program, FY 22-23 Annual Plans were due April 1 to the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). Annual Plans are required to receive the Municipal Program revenue. If any municipality has not submitted their Annual Plan, please do so promptly. The reporting module has been updated to increase functionality and streamline the Annual Plan process.
- The 30-day public review period for the SCWP Interim Guidance document ended on March 27, 2022. District is now compiling and reviewing comments.
- Per Section 16.10.C of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Code, individuals that both own and reside on a residential parcel within the District, are head of household or are the sole providers of maintaining the costs of the home, and whose household income does not exceed the Very Low-Income or Extremely Low-Income limits, may apply for a reduction from the SCWP Special Parcel Tax. General Income-Based Tax Reduction form and documentation must be submitted on an annual basis and are due no later than May 1.
- Quarter 3 Quarterly Reports are due May 15, which should capture all expenditures through March. This applies for projects approved in Round 2 of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) (Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022).

Chair Ruffell and Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson met with District Staff to answer questions from the past WASC meetings. The answers to these questions will be discussed during Agenda Item 7: Discussion Items.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson (RWA) provided an update on recent on Watershed Coordinator activities (refer to Watershed Coordinator Update Presentation).

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

Bruce Hamamoto (Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles Department of Public Works) expressed availability to answer questions about the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Five WASCs (Santa Clara River, South Santa Monica Bay, North Santa Monica Bay, Upper San Gabriel River, and Lower Los Angeles River) have committed to funding the study in their FY22-23 SIPs.

7. Discussion

- a) Selection of Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator for the next term**

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



The Committee discussed whether Watershed Coordinator Watson's role in the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study presented a conflict of interest with their role as Watershed Coordinator for the Rio Hondo WASC. To mitigate the conflict of interest, Bruce Hamamoto will speak to the Rio Hondo WASC as the study's proponent. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the Gateway Water Management Authority is the study applicant and will use their procurement policy to select a consultant team to carry out the work, if the WASC decided to fund the study.

The WASC expressed support for keeping the current Watershed Coordinators in the role.

8. Public Comment Period (moved up on the Agenda)

There were no public comments about the selection of the watershed coordinator.

9. Voting Items (moved up on the Agenda)

a) Reselect the current Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator for the next term (moved up in the Agenda)

Co-Vice Chair Love motioned to reselect the current Watershed Coordinators for the next term. Member Gardner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

7. Discussion (continued)

b) Rio Hondo (RH) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2022- 23 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal)

- i. Infrastructure Program (IP)
 - (1) Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project - City of San Gabriel
- ii. Scientific Studies (SS)
 - (1) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study - Gateway Water Management Authority
 - (2) Additional Funding Request to Support the LRS Adaptation Addressing the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
 - (3) Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
 - (4) Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation - Los Angeles Community Garden Council

District Staff noted that the WASC must consider the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project as it was submitted. If the WASC does not support the project with its current design, the proponents could revise the design and resubmit this upcoming Call for Projects in July. District Staff also clarified that the WASC had no authority to change the scope of the previously approved Alhambra Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project downstream. Changes to projects cannot be a condition of approval for funding. Part of the Watershed Coordinator's role is to educate project applicants on what the WASC is looking for. Further, during WASC meetings, the Committee can signal to future applicants what they are interested in seeing (e.g., not duplicating capture), allowing project applicants the opportunity to modify their projects prior to submission.

District Staff also noted the WASC could approve a SIP which allocates more than 5% of its budget to Scientific Studies if they include a statement to the Regional Oversight Committee attesting that they will hold back on funding Scientific Studies in future rounds.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



The WASC discussed the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project. Although the Vincent Lugo Park Project would provide more community investment benefits than the previously approved Alhambra Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project, the Committee is concerned about the duplication of stormwater capture. Both projects are dry weather projects in the same catchment. Chair Ruffell suggested the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project could be rescope to include wet weather benefits and resubmitted in an upcoming round.

Co-Vice Chair Love reported that the SGVCOG Technical Advisory Committee is currently evaluating the benefits of the LRS Adaptation Addressing the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group Study.

Member Crudgington underscored the Regional Water Board's support for the Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures Study, adding that the study will help the watershed achieve compliance with the Clean Water Act. Member James Carlson also expressed support for the study, noting that the study is intrinsic for permit compliance and answers necessary questions.

The WASC discussed whether funding the Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation study is an appropriate use of SCWP funds. Juan Diaz-Carreras (Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation Project Proponent) shared that study would evaluate if SCWP goals can be achieved at community garden sites. The study would evaluate the feasibility of the sites to do so and would provide a blueprint on how these sites can be leveraged.

The WASC agreed to vote to add projects to the SIP one at a time.

8. Public Comment Period (continued)

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items (continued)

b) Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the RH Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.

A motion was made by Co-Vice Chair Love to approve the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project in the FY22-23 SIP. The motion was seconded by Member Daniel Rossman. The vote was approved.

A motion was made by Member Fernando Villaluna to approve the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study in the FY22-23 SIP. The motion was seconded by Member Crudgington. The vote was not approved.

A motion was made by Member Dolphin to include the Additional Funding Request to Support the LRS Adaptation Addressing the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group Study in the FY22-23 SIP. The motion was seconded by Member Belden. The vote was approved.

A motion was made by Member Crudgington to include the Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures study in the FY22-23 SIP. The motion was seconded by Co-Vice Chair Love. The vote was approved.

A motion was made by Member Crudgington to approve the Final FY22-23 SIP funding recommendations for the Rio Hondo Watershed Area including 1 Infrastructure Program project and 2 Scientific Studies and submit the SIP to the Regional Oversight Committee for review. The motion was seconded by Member Dolphin. The vote was approved.

Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 16, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

11. Adjournment

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

RH WASC - April 19, 2022

| RH WASC - April 19, 2022 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Member Type | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Item | | | | | | |
| | Member | Voting/ Present? | Alternate | Voting/ Present? | Approve 3/15/2022 Meeting Minutes | Reselect the current Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator for the next term | Approve to include Vincent Lugo to the FY22-23 RH SIP | Approve to include Additional Funding Request to Support the LRS Adaptation Addressing the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group to the FY 22-23 RH SIP | Approve to include Regional Pathogen Reduction Study to the FY22-23 RH SIP | Approve to include Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures to the FY22-23 RH SIP | Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the RH Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review including 1 IP and 2 SS |
| Agency | Julian Juarez | X | Ramy Gindi | | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Agency | Tom Love | X | Patty Cortez | | Y | Y | Y | Y | A | Y | Y |
| Agency | Kelly Gardner | X | Tony Zampielo | | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Agency | Kristen Ruffell | X | Quynh Tran | | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Agency | Brent Maue | | Kris Markarian | X | A | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Thomas Wong | | Bryan Matsumoto | X | Y | Y | N | Y | A | Y | A |
| Community Stakeholder | Jill Fosselman | X | | | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Mark Hall | X | Mark Daniel | | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Edward Belden | X | | | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Daniel Rossman | X | Liliana Griego | | A | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | David Dolphin | X | Latoya Waters | | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Vanessa Hevener | | Eddie Chan | X | | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Fernando Villaluna | X | Ruby Wang | | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Gloria Crudgington | X | Alex Tachiki | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Frank Lopez | | Bonnie Tam | | | | | | | | |
| Municipal Members | James Tong | X | Kris Markarian | | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | James Carlson | X | Chris Cimino | | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning) | Richard Watson | X | Julie Millett | X | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | 17 | | | Yay (Y) | 12 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 16 | 15 |
| Total Voting Members Present | 16 | | | Nay (N) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Agency | 5 | | | Abstain (A) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Community Stakeholder | 5 | | | Total | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Municipal Members | 6 | | | | Approved | Approved | Approved | Approved | Not Approved | Approved | Approved |

Attendance
RH WASC - April 19, 2022

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Kristen Ruffell | Julie Millett |
| Dawn Petschauer | Bridget Childs |
| Laureen Abustan Brown and Caldwell | Kris Markarian |
| Mike Antos (Regional Coord.) | Edward Belden |
| Eric Bonilla | Pablo Forni |
| Greg de Vinck | Mark Hall |
| WSP Diaz-Carreras | Jason Casanova |
| Nature for All Matsumoto | Richard Watson |
| I EC | LACPW Hamamoto |
| Aric Torreyson | Jill Fosselman |
| City Of Pasadena Public Works Tong | Julian juarez |
| Main San Gabriel Basin Watermast Gardner | Oliver Galang |
| James Carlson | Daniel Rossman |
| Fernando Villaluna | Enrique Baul |
| William OBraitis | Gloria Crudgington |
| Kevin Kunz | LA Garden Council Campos |
| Upper District Love | Topher Caldwell |
| Eddie Chan | Brianna Datti |
| Brown and Caldwell Herr | Melanie Morita |
| Vik Bapna | DAVID DOLPHIN |