

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

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Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
10:00am – 12:00 pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Madeline Chen, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)  
\*Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
\*Nancy Villaseñor, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
\*Irene Lopez-Muro, 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)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, Resident (Community), Vice Chair  
\*Sergio Hulzar, Cerritos (Municipal)  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair  
Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Kelli Pickler, Lakewood (Municipal)  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

There were no committee members absent.

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Melissa You, Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (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.

District Staff announced there is currently a vacant seat on the Steering Committee and asked interested individuals to follow-up to initiate self-selection process.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2022**

District Staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Vice Chair Lisa Rapp motioned to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Member Julian Juarez. The Committee voted to approve the May 10, 2022 meeting minutes, with ten members in favor and five abstaining (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

District Staff provided an update, noting:

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- On July 12, 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 its position every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.
- The County's Executive Office issued a memo on April 8 in preparation for returning to in-person committee meetings. The Committee may start meeting again in-person, with the City of Lakewood's Executive Board Room as the potential meeting location.
- The call for projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) closed on July 31.
- Quarterly reports for Infrastructure Program and Scientific Studies are due August 15.
- All nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Regional Oversight Committee for advancement to the Board for approval. The Board of Supervisors meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 4.

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators Kekoa Anderson and Grace Kast provided an overview of the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP), including descriptions of the process and timeline and the Watershed Coordinator's role in soliciting and developing new projects. Watershed Coordinators Anderson and Kast provided an update on recent and upcoming activities, including:

- Participation in workshops and public events such as "Touch a Truck" in Downey on May 7,
- Reviewing and updating fact sheets for all projects submitted and updating the LSGR Project Mapping on the website: <https://cleanwatervision.com/>,
- Meeting with potential project proponents such as the Los Cerritos Wetlands Trust to facilitate conversations and notify the WASC of potential upcoming projects,
- Presenting at an upcoming workshop scheduled with the Gateway Chamber Alliance on September 27 at noon, and
- Potentially holding an educational event with Los Cerritos Wetlands Trust this fall.

Member Joseph Gonzalez inquired about the Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis and how it will inform project opportunities in the next year. Watershed Coordinator Kast invited WASC members to attend the upcoming Gateway Water Management Authority Board meeting on September 8 at noon to hear a presentation of the draft tool and how its finalized version will aid WASCs in visualizing and manipulating data.

Watershed Coordinator Kast clarified that although no Technical Resource Projects were submitted this year, there may be projects next year.

Member Gonzalez requested the Watershed Coordinators provide the WASC with information about the Scientific Studies in the context of regional studies submitted to other WASCs and those underway at the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared that the Watershed Coordinators are currently preparing presentations for the WASCs on the submitted projects, which will include this information.

#### 5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### 6. Public Comment Period

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District staff will compile all public comment cards received and include them in the meeting minutes that will be uploaded to the SCWP website as “Meeting Minutes Attachment.” During the meeting, District Staff shared on the screen those public comment cards that were received prior to the deadline of at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting.

District Staff shared screen to display a public comment card from Joe Sullivan (NECA-IBEW of Los Angeles), regarding Project Labor Agreements. The comment card can be found on the SCWP site.

## **7. Discussion**

### **a) Review of WASC roles and responsibilities**

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the WASC, projects received in the FY22-23 call for projects, Interim Guidance and the Metrics and Monitoring Study, and an update on funding. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Member Gonzalez asked if project labor agreements count towards community investment benefits. District Staff and Antos clarified that there are some workforce development requirements in the Funds Transfer Agreement, but it is within a WASC’s discretion to make those agreements a priority. District Staff will follow up with more details.

### **b) Selection of Chair, Vice Chair, or Co-Chairs**

Chair You and Vice Chair Rapp expressed interested in continuing to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for the next year.

### **c) Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Priorities**

Watershed Coordinator Anderson presented on the watershed area’s priorities and asked the Committee for input on the proposed Project Scoring Criteria.

Member Kelli Pickler asked how the LSGR WASC can make sure to achieve the SCWP requirements for benefits distribution, including the Disadvantaged Community return and municipal benefits. District Staff indicated that the Disadvantaged Community allocation data is posted on the SCWP website and reported that they are working to provide further guidance on distributing municipal benefits, though they noted that distribution is focused on outcomes rather than dollar amounts. Member Kristen Ruffell suggested the District work with municipalities and stakeholders to quantify the distribution of municipal benefits and to ensure their considerations are heard. Antos added that the Metrics and Monitoring Study’s Stakeholder Advisory Committee has been working to engage municipalities.

The Committee noted the value of incorporating multi-benefit elements into projects, noting that such projects are able to leverage additional funding, such as the County’s Measure A funds.

Member Nancy Villaseñor noted that projects deliver unique and varied benefits and therefore expressed interest in evaluating funding on an individual basis without predetermined caps.

Vice Chair Rapp proposed conducting a survey about the priorities presented today, which will allow WASC members more time to provide input. District Staff confirmed this practice complies with the Brown Act, provided that no information is discussed or shared between committee members prior to the next WASC on September 13. Watershed Coordinator will distribute the survey to WASC members shortly.

## **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

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## **9. Voting Items**

### **a) Selection of Chair, Vice Chair, or Co-Chairs**

Chair Melissa You to serve as Chair and Vice Chair Rapp to serve as Vice Chair for the next year.

Chair You and Vice Chair Rapp nominated themselves to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Member Bernie Iniguez made a motion for Chair You and Vice Chair Rapp to continue to serve in their roles. The motion was seconded by Member Ruffell. The motion was approved with 16 votes in favor and zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday September 13. See the SCWP website for meeting details, including timing and length. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for this WASC**
- b) Vote to send Infrastructure Program projects to Scoring Committee**

Watershed Coordinator Anderson requested to additionally add the following items to the next meeting agenda:

- Presentation on the distribution of projects and funding
- Discussion on the results of the LSGR WASC Priorities survey

## **11. Adjournment**

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

LSGR WASC - August 9, 2022							
		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 5-10-2022 Meeting Minutes	Approve Melissa You to serve as Chair and Lisa Rapp to serve as Vice-Chair
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x		y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Quynh Tran		a	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		Irene Lopez-Muro	x	a	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	x	Noya Wang	x	a	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	Resident	Lisa Ann Rapp	x			y	y
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady		Sergio Huizar	x	y	y
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			a	y
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler	x	Konya Vivanti		y	y
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagi		y	y
Municipal	Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Len Gorecki		y	y
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		a	y
Municipal							
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson		Grace Kast			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	10	16
Total Voting Members Present		17			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	5	0
Community Stakeholder		6			Total	15	16
Municipal		6				Approved	Approved

Attendance  
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Adam Galia	Kelli Pickler
Aimee Zhao (A)	Kristen Ruffell
Alexander Iglesias - LACFCD	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Andrew Kim	Larry Tran - LACFCD
Angel Ruiz	Len Gorecki
Aric Martinez	Lisa Rapp
Bernie Iniguez	Lynda Bybee
Dan Mueller	Madeline Chen
Denise Dolor	Melanie Morita-Hu
Donna Tran	Melissa You
Emily Ng	Michelle Kim
Eugene Serrano	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)
Fernando Villaluna	Nancy Villasenor
Gabrielle	Noya Wang
Grace Kast	Quynh Tran
I EC	Robert Gomez
Irene Lopez-Muro	Ryanna Fossum
Joseph Gonzalez	Sergio Huizar (A)
Julian Juarez	Tori Klug (Regional Coord.)
Julie Millett	Traci Gleason
Kala Anderson	Vicki Smith
Kekoa Anderson	Wateru Kumagi