

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

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Tuesday, August 16, 2022  
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), Co-Vice Chair  
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)  
Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency), Chair  
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)  
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community), Co-Vice Chair  
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)  
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)  
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)  
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Jalaine Verdiner, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
\*Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Sal Mendez, El Monte (Municipal)  
James Tong, Pasadena (Municipal)  
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Edward Belden, Resident (Community)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the Rio Hondo (RH) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) Staff and Chair Ruffell facilitated Committee Member introductions and introduced Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination). A quorum was established.

District Staff mentioned that there are new Members as well as some vacant seats on the Committee. See the roster above and the vote tracking sheet for new members and vacancies.

District Staff and Chair Ruffell provided a brief WebEx tutorial and direction on submission of public comments to the SCWP website.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2022**

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the last meeting, which occurred on April 19. Member Julian Juarez motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Member Mark Hall seconded the motion. The WASC voted to approve the April 19, 2022 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

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District Staff provided an update, noting the following:

- On August 9, 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.
- On June 24, the County Executive Office issued a memo establishing that the Board of Supervisors will resume in-person meetings once the COVID-19 transmission rate remains at a low for seven consecutive days. This may be a good predictor of when AB 361 will be discontinued. When in-person Committee meetings resume, the City of Monrovia's Executive Board Room is a potential meeting location.
- On June 16, the Regional Oversight Committee voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 4.
- Quarterly Reports for Infrastructure Program (IP) and Scientific Studies projects were due August 15, and past-due reports must still be completed even if no project activities have occurred.
- For the Municipal Program, 68 out of the 86 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) plans have been submitted. Cities need to submit their annual plan and comply with all of the previous year's requirements in order to receive their next municipal disbursement.
- The call for projects for FY23-24 closed on July 31. For the RH WASC, there were 4 IP, 1 Scientific Study (SS), and 0 Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects submitted during this round of applications.

There were no updates from Committee Members.

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

Watershed Coordinators Richard Watson and Julie Millet provided an overview of Watershed Coordinator responsibilities and expectations, processes for identifying community groups and providing technical assistance, and engaging with stakeholders. The Watershed Coordinators provided an update on recent and upcoming activities. Refer to Watershed Coordinator Update Presentation.

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

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

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

District Staff noted that public comment cards received will be compiled and included 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 public comment cards that were received prior to the deadline of at least 5:00pm the day prior to this meeting.

The first comment displayed on screen was from Joe Sullivan (NECA-IBEW of Los Angeles), regarding Project Labor Agreements.

The subsequent comment displayed was from Sandy Snider of Save Baldwin Lake Task Force regarding the Baldwin Lake-Tule Pond who is looking for the project's FY21-22 Quarterly Reports. Member Juarez will follow up with Snider.

#### **7. Discussion Items**

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## **a) Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)**

Presentation by Watershed Coordinator Watson and Julie Millet (RWA), (see Draft SOEP Presentation on WASC website).

Watershed Coordinator Millet identified changes to the Updated SOEP, including: updated information on the work of the WHAM Taskforce (Measures W, H, A, and M), demographics, interested parties, goals and event dates, Local Return Estimates for FY22-23, the latest highlights from the San Gabriel Valley Water Quality Authority Annual Report, and a map including people and groups engaged by the Watershed Coordinators in the past year.

Member Jill Fosselman asked Watershed Coordinators Watson and Millet about the steps that come after a community member proposes an idea. Watershed Coordinator Watson responded that the next steps depend on the idea presented. Next steps for a school-related project, for instance, would include meeting with the school board to both understand what their goals are and to educate school board members on opportunities available through SCWP. The Watershed Coordinators seek to avoid project duplication while also incorporating all innovative ideas presented.

## **b) Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities**

Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared a presentation on themes that the SCWP engages with, the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the WASC, projects received in the FY22-23 call for projects, information on the 2022 Interim Guidance and the Metrics and Monitoring Study, and an update on Program funding. Slides are available on the SCWP website.

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

Chair Ruffell volunteered to either continue in their role as Chair or hand the position to another member. Members of the Committee expressed support for Chair Ruffell's continued leadership.

Co-Vice Chair Thomas Wong shared that they are no longer able to act as Co-Vice Chair in the coming year due to scheduling conflicts, particularly if in-person meetings are to occur in 2023.

Member Brent Maue (Pasadena) expressed interest in acting as Vice Chair, but shared that their team is hiring a new Stormwater Program Administrator who will be involved with the WASC and SCWP moving forward. Member Maue asked whether the WASC would need to hold a new vote if this staff member takes their place on the Committee. District Staff noted that although the WASC typically votes an individual into the role, they could phrase the motion differently so that the Vice Chair seat would be awarded to City of Pasadena Public Works. Members of the Committee expressed support for appointing the Vice Chair seat to the City of Pasadena. Tori Klug later provided further guidance on this question, under item 9b.

District Staff noted that Co-Vice Chair Tom Love had to leave the call and join another meeting, so the Committee cannot confirm whether their interest in continuing in the position of Co-Vice Chair.

## **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **9. Voting Items**

### **a) Approve the Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan**

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Member Dolphin motioned to approve the Updated Rio Hondo SOEP, seconded by Member Tachiki. The motion was approved with 13 in favor and 0 opposed (approved, see voting tracking sheet).

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

Regional Coordinator Tori Klug shared that the Vice Chair seat needs to go to a specific person and reminded the Committee of the option to delay the vote until the new person at City of Pasadena Public Works is appointed to the Committee.

Member Maue motioned for Chair Ruffell to continue as Chair and to delay voting for Vice Chair until a later meeting. Member Dolphin seconded this motion.

Chair Ruffell asked whether District Staff can facilitate the next WASC meeting, in the event that they are unable to attend and the Committee does not have acting Vice Chairs. The District confirmed they can facilitate a WASC meeting in the absence of a Chair or Vice Chair.

The motion was approved with 13 in favor and 0 opposed (approved, see voting tracking sheet).

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

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 20, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Items proposed for the next meeting agenda include:

- Receiving a summary by Watershed Coordinator of the Technical Resource Projects, Infrastructure Projects, and Scientific Studies that were submitted to this WASC
- Voting to send IP projects to the Scoring Committee

District Staff clarified that these agenda items are adapted from previous years and the Watershed Coordinator will help the WASC members learn high-level information about the submitted IP projects prior to voting to send them to the Scoring Committee.

#### **11. Adjournment**

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

**RH WASC - August 16, 2022**

RH WASC - August 16, 2022							
Quorum Present					Voting Item		
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 4-19- 2022 Meeting Minutes	Approve Kristen Ruffell to serve as Chair and to postponed selection for Vice-Chair	Approve the Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Tom Love	X	Patty Cortez		Y		
Agency	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampiello		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Kristen Ruffell	X	Quynh Tran		Y	Y	Y
Agency	Brent Maue	X	Kris Markarian		Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong	X	Bryan Matsumoto		Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman	X			Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel		Y	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Edward Belden						
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman	X	Liliana Griego		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	X	Latoya Waters		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members							
Municipal Members	Jalaine Verdiner	X	Fernando Villaluna		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington		Alex Tachiki	X	Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Sal Mendez	X			Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members	James Tong	X	Kris Markarian		Y	Y	Y
Municipal Members							
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	X	Julie Millett		N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Non-Vacant Seats	15			Yay (Y)	14	13	13
Total Voting Members Present	14			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder	4			Total	14	13	13
Municipal Members	5				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendance  
RH WASC - August 16, 2022

Ryanna Fossum	Sal Mendez
Julian Juarez	Rochelle Wilson
Roberto Gomez	Fernando Villaluna
Melanie Morita-Hu	Mark Hall
James Tong	Hayat Rasul
Eric Bonilla	Jalaine Verdiner
Chris Lee	William OBraitis
Kristen Ruffell	Larry Tran - LACFCD
Kelly Gardner	Alex Tachiki
Thomas Wong	Bruce Hamamoto
DAVID DOLPHIN	Sarah Otto
Tom Love	Tori Klug (Regional Coord.)
Tay Costa	dawn petschauer
Julie Millett	Aric Torreyson
Richard Watson	yisak kim
Bryan Matsumoto	Joshua Felton
Jill Fosselman	Brent Maue
Daniel Rossman	