

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



Tuesday, September 13, 2022
10:00am – 12:00 pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control 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)
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Noya Wang, 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
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair
Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)
Kelli Pickler, Lakewood (Municipal)
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Alex Rojas, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)

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

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.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 9, 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 August 9, 2022 meeting minutes, with thirteen members in favor and three abstaining (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- On August 30, the Board of Supervisors (Board) 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

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

- All nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Regional Oversight Committee for advancement to the Board for approval. The Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 4.
- The Round 4 Call for Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) closed on July 31, 2022. District Staff is currently conducting completeness checks. The preliminary count of applications is as follows: 33 Infrastructure Program (IP), 4 Scientific Study (SS), and 4 Technical Resource Program (TRP) applicants. In this WASC, there were 5 IPs and 2 SSs. There were no TRP applications submitted for this area.
- Quarterly reports for IP and SS developers were due on August 15 and will be discussed at a future WASC meeting.
- Every Committee Member is required to fill out Form 700. A Form 700 is required when a member is assuming office for the first time (part of the onboarding process), continuing to serve on a committee (annual requirement), leaving a committee (part of the offboarding process), or changing roles within the committee. District Staff will contact individuals who need to fill out these forms.

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. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached. Watershed Coordinators Anderson and Kast provided an update on upcoming activities, including:

- Joint Workshop at the Los Angeles River with Gateway Chamber Alliance on September 27
- Potential future educational outreach event with Los Cerritos Wetlands Trust

Watershed Coordinator Kast shared the draft LSGR WASC Member Survey to solicit input for the development of a project criteria prioritization process for the LSGR WASC. The survey is seeking one response per appointed seat, and features questions on topics such as project size classification, funding match, and disadvantaged community benefits.

Members Dan Knapp and Joseph Gonzalez suggested the Watershed Coordinators clarify the definitions of funding match and disadvantaged community. Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination) suggested adding references from the SCWP ordinance and guidance document language throughout the survey.

Member Noya Wang suggested further clarification of survey language regarding funding caps to express that a LSGR WASC funding cap would not apply to other sources of leverage funding outside of SCWP nor to funding from other WASCs, just for the LSGR Watershed Area.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Kelli Pickler and Vice Chair Rapp disclosed communication with the two Scientific Studies applicants.

6. Public Comment Period

District Staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting. No comment cards were received prior and no public comment was provided during the meeting.

7. Discussion

- a) **Presentation on the distribution of projects and funding (Presentation by Watershed Coordinators).**

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Watershed Coordinator Anderson reviewed the Infrastructure Program project scoring criteria and shared a map of LSGR's projects that are funded and under consideration. More information about these projects can be found in the related project fact sheet at: www.cleanwatervision.com

b) Summary of submitted Infrastructure Program projects and Scientific Studies (Presentation by Watershed Coordinators).

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared a brief overview of the IP and SS projects submitted in Round 4. There are 5 IP and 2 SS projects. No new TRPs were submitted. The submitted IP projects are:

- Artesia Park Urban Runoff Capture Project
- La Mirada Creek Park Project
- Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel Stormwater Capture Project
- La Habra Heights Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System at The Park Hacienda Road
- Progress Park Stormwater Capture Project

The 2 SS projects include:

- Regional Pathogen Reduction Study
- Targeted Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria Related Compliance Objectives for the Los Cerritos Channel

Slides summarizing the projects are available on the SCWP website and attached.

c) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration.

Klug responded to a request for clarification from the Committee regarding "Stormwater Improvement Plan (SIP) year" versus "Funding Year," as the terms are used in the map of projects and project summaries. The WASC is currently deliberating for the 2023-2024 SIP year. In this context, the project proponents' request for Year 1 corresponds to FY23-24.

d) Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area priorities

Member Gonzalez suggested adding a question to the Member Survey to investigate whether the WASC wants to prioritize projects with a minimum catchment area.

Watershed Coordinator Kast expressed gratitude for all the suggestions to improve the survey. The suggestions will be implemented, and the finalized version will be sent out to WASC members to complete shortly.

8. Public Comment Period

Mark Hall (Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District) requested verification that all five IP projects are compliant with Item 13 Vector Minimalization Plan of the SCWP Feasibility Study Guidelines. Hall has reviewed vector plans from three of the five projects but has not seen plans from the La Mirada Creek Park Project or the La Habra Heights Stormwater Treatment and Reuse Project. District Staff replied that this question would be better suited for a future meeting when the project applicants are present.

9. Voting Items

a) Vote to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration.

Member Knapp clarified that sending all feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee does not result in the automatic award of funds to the applicants. District Staff provided clarification that feasibility studies refer to Infrastructure Program applications. Scientific Studies will go through a separate, peer-reviewed process and will be evaluated for funding afterwards.

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Member Knapp motioned to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration, seconded by Vice Chair Rapp. The motion was approved, with sixteen 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, October 11. See the SCWP website for meeting details, including timing and length. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY21-22 Q1 and Q2

Chair You shared that Craftwater has provided a preview of the GAP study to Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA). The GAP study is expected to be completed in February 2023. GWMA requested that Craftwater deliver a presentation to the LSGR WASC. District Staff replied they will work with Craftwater to schedule a presentation at an upcoming WASC meeting.

11. Adjournment

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