

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, September 1, 2022
3:00pm - 5:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Dirk Marks, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency), Vice Chair
Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Jerrid McKenna, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)
Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community)
Ivan Volschenk, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, Santa Clarita Valley Community Hiking Club (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Tyler Pledger, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Heather Merenda, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Damon Letz, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Darin Seegmiller, Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
Peter Massey, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Absent:

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) WASC, welcomed Committee Members. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) Staff gave a brief WebEx tutorial, then called the meeting to order.

District Staff 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 4, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve meeting minutes by Member Sandra Cattell, seconded by Member Bruce Hamamoto. The Committee voted to approve the August 4, 2022 meeting minutes, with 15 votes in favor and 1 abstained (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Chair Seegmiller provided an update that the letter regarding the video recording policy was sent to District Staff and is being reviewed.

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Member Bruce Hamamoto noted that the questions made last meeting regarding the Pico Canyon Park and Jake Kuredjian Park projects were addressed in a letter, which was presented on screen and can be found on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.

District Staff provided an update:

- On August 30, 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 call for projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) closed on July 31. 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. This WASC has 1 Infrastructure Project submitted.
- Quarterly reports for IP and SS developers were due on August 15 and will be discussed at a future WASC meeting.
- 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.
- District Staff reminded members of the established guidelines on attendance for WASC meetings per Article 5 of the WASC Operating Guidelines. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in one year makes the member eligible for removal from the WASC. If attendance is not possible, it is expected that the Alternate will be present.
- Every member of the Committee is required to fill out Form 700. This includes those assuming office, continuing to serve, leaving, or changing roles. District Staff will contact individuals who need to fill out these forms.

Member Cattell provided an update about the efforts in changing the “No Dumping” signage in the area, citing conversations with LA County Department of Public Works. Chair Seegmiller noted that the City of Santa Clarita is also working to address the concern.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Peter Massey presented an update, and the presentation can be found on the SCWP website. Upcoming events include the River Rally on September 17, an application deadline to Strategic Growth Council on October 5, and three Tribal Allyship workshops on October 12, 19 and 26. There will be two more agency/elected workshops happening soon. Updates on the WaterTalks program projects were also shared.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Chair Seegmiller, Member Heather Merenda, and Member Cattell met to discuss the submitted infrastructure project.

Chair Seegmiller, Member Cattell, and Member Hunt Braly met to discuss the video recording policy letter sent to District Staff.

6. Public Comment Period

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



District Staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, posted them to the SCWP website, and displayed them on-screen. Speaker cards or other correspondence received after 5:00pm will be added to the minutes.

The letter received from District Staff discussing the Pico Canyon Park and Jake Kuredjian Park projects will be attached to the meeting minutes.

7. Discussion Items

a. Summary of submitted Infrastructure Program project

The infrastructure project submitted to this WASC is the Via Princessa Park and Regional Best Management Practices (BMP) Project. The proposed location in the City of Santa Clarita will include an underground filtration BMP system and a new park. This project had a project concept approved by the WASC in the TRP last year and is now applying through the IP for construction funding of around \$20 million, with an estimated completion in 2025.

Watershed Coordinator Massey went over the requirements needed to advance a project to the Scoring Committee and explained that upon approval, the project will be sent to the Scoring Committee for scoring, and then will be sent back to the WASC for consideration in the Stormwater Investment Plan.

Member Cattell suggested that any permeable area created in the project be permeable asphalt, citing that a net gain of water is preferable. Regarding the creation of grassy fields, Member Cattell also suggested that research be done to choose grasses that require less water and for the project to consider using purple piping for any reclaimed water being used as irrigation.

District Staff shared that the project information can be found in the project application posted on the dashboard on the SCWP website.

Member Hamamoto voiced support for the project and mentioned that because the Santa Clara River is adjacent to the park, the project applicant should address any floodplain management or erosion control considerations being made.

b. Project Sites Tour

The Pico Canyon and Jake Kuredjian Park projects site tour will be attended by less than a quorum of committee members, in compliance with the Brown Act. Member Hamamoto noted the possibility of conducting multiple site tours to avoid a quorum being in attendance at one tour.

Chair Seegmiller and Watershed Coordinator Massey confirmed interest for a project site tour among committee members. Unincorporated Los Angeles County Staff and Watershed Coordinator Massey will facilitate scheduling so that all interested parties can tour the project sites.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

a. Send submitted Infrastructure Program Project to Scoring Committee for scoring

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



District Staff provided an overview of the scoring process. WASCs have been recommended to prioritize which projects are sent to the Scoring Committee.

Chair Seegmiller noted that additional WASC deliberation will occur after the Scoring Committee scores the project.

Member Cattell motioned to send the Via Princessa Park and Regional BMP project to the Scoring Committee, seconded by Member Braly. The motion was approved, with 17 votes in favor (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

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

Chair Seegmiller requested an overview of the Metrics and Monitoring Study; District Staff will check to see if any notable progress updates are available.

Member Cattell noted that a presentation of the WASC area overlaid with stormwater drain locations would be useful to the WASC. Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared a link to the SCWP Spatial Data Library that can display stormwater drains in the area and offered to present on how to use the Spatial Data Library at a future WASC meeting.

Chair Seegmiller noted that the Scoring Committee will be discussing the Via Princessa Park and Regional BMP project on October 6 at 9am in case any committee members are interested in attending.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6 3:00pm – 5:00pm. See the SCWP website for details.

11. Adjournment

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

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 8-4-2022 Meeting Minutes	Send submitted Infrastructure Program Project to Scoring Committee for scoring
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Dirk Marks**	x			Y	Y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		Y	Y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	Y	Y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna	x	Susan Nelson		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	x			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	x	Diane Trautman		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk	x			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber			Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		Y	Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		Y	Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs		Tyler Pledger	x	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda	x	Oliver Cramer		A	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz	x	Dan Duncan		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Sarona Vivanco		Y	Y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Peter Massey	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	15	17
Total Voting Members Present		17			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16	17
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
September 1, 2022

Dirk Marks	Julian Juarez	Cherise Thompson	Serena Zhu
Ryanna Fossum	Heather Merenda	Diane Trautman	Roland Pacheco
Uriel Cobian - LACFCD	Tyler Pledger	Damon Letz	Allen Ma - LACo Public Works
Dan Duncan	Steve Cole	Darin Seegmiller	Tori Klug (Regional Coordination)
Jackie Lillio	Leslie Frazier	Bruce Hamamoto	Lauro Alvarado
Christopher Lapaz	Kayla Kilgo -CWE	Hunt Braly	Sandra Cattell
Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Mary Johnson	Amanda Begley	Oliver Cramer
Peter Massey	Ivan Volschenk	Jerrid McKenna	