

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



Tuesday, October 11, 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)
*Alysha Chan, 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)
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:

Rob Beste, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)

See attached attendance 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 September 13, 2022

District Staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting, which occurred on September 13, 2022. Vice-Chair Lisa Rapp motioned to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Member Madeline Chen. The Committee voted to approve the September 13, 2022 meeting minutes, with fifteen members in favor and zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- On September 27, 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 Board is reviewing its position every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and

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committees under their authority. This will also act as an indicator for when in-person meetings may resume. District Staff noted that if the Board decides to no longer approve findings to continue teleconference meetings under Assembly Bill 361 and the region is still in a state of emergency, the WASC has the authority to make their own Assembly Bill 361 findings. District Staff can provide additional guidance if this occurs.

- On October 4, the Board approved all 9 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for funding. The District is in the process of drafting the Regional Program Transfer Agreements and will be ready within the coming months.
- Fiscal Year 22-23 Quarter 1 quarterly reports from the period of July to October are due on November 15. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project.
- During the August committee meeting, the LSGR WASC voted to send all 5 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects to the Scoring Committee. The Scoring Committee meeting is on November 3 at 9:00am to discuss and score LSGR IP projects.
- Attending meetings regularly is a requirement for WASC members under Article 5 of the WASC Operating Guidelines. An absence of two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in one year will be considered failure to attend meetings and may result in the absentee member's removal from the WASC.
- 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 Coordinators' role in soliciting and developing new projects. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared there will be an upcoming Community Outreach and Engagement meeting to develop a new SCWP IP project, the Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project.

Watershed Coordinator Kast provided an update on past activities. See slides available on the SCWP website

Watershed Coordinator Kast presented an overview of the LSGR Prioritization WASC Survey. 16 out of 17 WASC member seats responded. Anonymous survey results were sent to all WASC members on October 4th.

Watershed Coordinator Kast shared the LSGR WASC Community Needs Survey is still taking responses. The Community Needs Survey can be found at www.cleanwatervision.com

Member Noya Wang asked if there were any notable patterns behind the survey responses. Watershed Coordinator Kast replied that the results will be further discussed in the later agenda item.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion

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

District Staff shared screen, displaying a summary table of the Quarterly Reports. The summary table can be found on the SCWP website. Activity concerns are flagged on the Quarterly Report Summary Table. Full project-reports are found on the [Projects Map tab](#) of the SCWP website.

Member Kelli Pickler provided an update on the Mayfair Park project. Mayfair Park has experienced delays with electronic components because of supply chain and certified technician issues.

b) **Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area priorities**

Watershed Coordinator Kast presented a detailed report on the LSGR WASC priorities survey results. Survey results can be found on the SCWP website. Watershed Coordinator Kast noted this survey is not meant to override or modify the scoring criteria or any other SCWP-wide requirements but is a way to communicate priorities of the LSGR Watershed Area.

Watershed Coordinator Kast presented survey results on whether minimum catchments areas for projects should be considered. Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp and Member Dan Knapp discussed thoughts on the importance of minimum catchment areas. Minimum catchment areas should be considered on a case-by-case basis to promote inclusivity in the projects chosen. Watershed Coordinator Kast presented survey results on how the LSGR WASC should define small, medium, and large-sized projects.

Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp suggested the following definition:

- Small Projects: Projects under \$1 million for construction.
- Medium Projects: Projects between \$1 million and \$10 million for construction.
- Large Projects: Projects over \$10 million.

Member Noya Wang and Member Dan Knapp asked for clarification on the dollar amount. Chair Melissa You and Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp clarified the dollar amounts refer to total project costs (regardless of whether there is a cost-share) over multiple years.

Watershed Coordinator Kast presented survey results on funding match priorities for projects with nature-based design, projects benefitting disadvantaged communities, and projects of small, medium, and large scales. Members discussed the level of difficulty in obtaining match funding and the ability for project applicants to leverage local funding.

Tori Klug (Regional Coordination, Stantec) added that municipalities are not always SCWP project applicants, and Community-Based Organizations may not have access to municipal returns if there is no partnership with the municipality. Klug additionally shared a study on equity and stormwater investments to further provide guidance into projects benefitting disadvantaged communities. The study may be found [here](#).

Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp and Member Noya Wang expressed support on the demonstration of local funding. Member Joseph Gonzalez stated the funding match should be prioritized, but not required especially for disadvantaged community benefit projects.

Members discussed that projects with Nature-Based Solutions and Disadvantaged Community Benefit projects should show a “good faith effort” to acquire matching funds, but it is not required.

Chair Melissa You recommended averaging survey responses to capture the WASC’s priorities for minimum percent of funding match for varying size projects. LSGR WASC small-sized projects should demonstrate 10 percent of matched funding, while medium and large-sized projects should demonstrate 15 percent and 20 percent of matched funding, respectively.

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Watershed Coordinator Kast presented survey results on reserving funds for small-sized projects and operation & maintenance (O&M) funding requests. Member Dan Knapp and Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp suggested reserving \$1.5 million for small-sized projects. If there are no small-sized project applicants, this reserve amount will be accessible to all other LSGR projects. Survey responses on reserving funds for O&M received mixed support in survey responses. Chair You suggested deferring discussion on O&M reserve funding for the next meeting.

Watershed Coordinator Kast presented survey results on funding caps for Construction and O&M. Chair You recommended that the WASC not consider funding caps for construction funding, based on the majority response from the survey results. Further discussion on O&M funding caps was tabled for the next meeting.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

- a) **Formalize Lower San Gabriel River Watershed funding priorities (as needed).**

Chair You requested this item be postponed for the next meeting upon completion of the survey results discussion.

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 8. See the SCWP website for meeting details, including timing and length. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361
- b) Gateway Area Pathfinding (GAP) Analysis Phase 1 Presentation (Presentation by Craftwater Engineering, Inc.)

Chair You requested to additionally add the following items to the next meeting agenda:

- Discuss priorities regarding reserving and capping funds for O&M requests
- Formalize Lower San Gabriel River Watershed funding priorities (as needed)

11. Adjournment

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

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve September 13, 2022 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes		
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y		
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao				
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Alysha Chan	x	y		
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor	x	y		
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Noya Wang	x	y		
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	x	y		
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks						
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Lisa Ann Rapp	x			y		
Municipal	Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Len Gorecki		y		
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	x	Sergio Huizar		y		
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y		
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler	x	Konya Vivanti		y		
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagi		y		
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y		
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y		
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson		Grace Kast				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	15	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	0	0
Municipal		7				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

Attendance

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Alysha Chan

Andrew Kim

Aric Martinez

Bernie Iniguez

Dan Knapp

Dan Mueller

Dillon O'Donohue

Donna Tran

Elizabeth Lambe

Emily Ng

Eugene Serrano

Fernando Villaluna

Grace Kast

Joe Venzon - LA County

Joseph Gonzalez

Julian Juarez

Kekoa Anderson

Kelli Pickler

Larry Tran

Lisa Rapp

Madeline Chen

Mark Rounds

Melanie Morita-Hu

Melissa You

Michelle Kim

Mike O'Grady

Nancy Villasenor

Noya Wang

Oliver Galang

Roberto Gomez

Ryanna Fossum

Tori Klug (Regional Coordination)

Traci Gleason

Vicki Smith

Wataru Kumagi

Yisak Kim