

Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, October 18, 2022
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (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)
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)
James Tong, Pasadena (Municipal)
Sarah Rocha, Irwindale (Municipal)
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
Edward Belden, Resident (Community)
Carmen Masud, Arcadia (Municipal)
Sal Mendez, El Monte (Municipal)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

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. A quorum was established.

District Staff and Chair Ruffell provided a brief WebEx tutorial and direction on submission of public comments to the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022

Because of late distribution of the meeting minutes due to a technical error, voting to approve the meeting minutes was deferred to the next WASC meeting.

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting the following:

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- On September 27, 2022, 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 committees under their authority.
- On October 4, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). The District is in the process of drafting the Regional Program Transfer Agreements and they will be ready within the coming months.
- FY 22-23 Q1 Quarterly Reports for Infrastructure Program (IP) and Scientific Study (SS) projects are due November 15, 2022, and past-due reports must still be completed even if no project activities have occurred.
- The Round 4 Call for Projects for FY23-24 closed on July 31, 2022. For the RH WASC, there were 4 IP, 1 SS, and 0 Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects submitted during this round of applications. On September 20, the RH WASC voted to send all IP projects to the Scoring Committee.
- 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. If attendance by the Primary member is not possible for a particular meeting, it is requested that the Alternate member be present at the meeting.

There were no updates from Committee Members.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millet provided an update on recent and upcoming activities. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson presented on:

- The California Bacteria Summit, held jointly by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Ideas regarding load reduction strategy (LRS) projects and future pathogen requirements. Original LRS agreement approved in 2016 and addendum developed in 2017 do not consider upstream water capture projects.
- Research on potential microplastic requirements and possible impacts on RH projects. It is anticipated that the State Water Board will release new requirements soon.
- Research on current and future metal requirements and possible impacts on RH projects. There are potential changes to copper and zinc water quality standards.

See slides available on the SCWP website.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items

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

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District Staff displayed the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY21-22 Q1 and Q2 on the screen and noted that they are available on the SCWP site.

Concerns were noted for the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration (Baldwin Lake) Infrastructure Project and the LRS Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group (LRS Adaptation) Scientific Study.

An update was brought onto the screen from the LRS Adaptation Scientific Study project proponents. The update stated that additional data collection began in September of 2021 and required further coordination of local agencies and potential local stakeholders. Data collection was completed in December of 2021 and did not delay any further items in the study.

Joshua Felton (project proponent, Baldwin Lake Project) gave an update on the project progress. Approval of the final Project Design Concept Report (PDC) was delayed due to delays from partner feedback on the report. The PDC was originally submitted in October of 2021 and detailed 30% design, scope of work, cost estimates and project schedule. The delay in the PDC's approval caused delays in other dependent parts of the project. Joshua Felton made himself available for further comments and questions.

Member Brent Maue noted that during a meeting on October 17, 2022, the consultants for the LRS Adaptation Scientific Study stated there were right-of-way issues with at least two of the three locations identified in the LRS Adaptation Scientific Study. Watershed Coordinator Watson further detailed issues surrounding the study's sites and estimated that the project was 12-18 months from study's implementation phase construction activities. Per the update, the project proponents for the LRS Adaptation Study agreed during the October 17th meeting to meet more frequently to make further progress on the study.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Items proposed for the next meeting agenda include:

- Approval of the September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Regional Program Infrastructure Projects and Scientific Study Presentations
- Continued selection of RH WASC Co-Chair or Vice-Chair

10. Adjournment

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

RH WASC - October 18, 2022

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Quorum Present				
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi	
Agency	Tom Love		Patty Cortez	
Agency	Kelly Gardner		Tony Zampiello	
Agency	Kristen Ruffell	X	Alysha Chan	
Agency	Brent Maue	X	Kris Markarian	
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong	X	Bryan Matsumoto	
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman	X		
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel	
Community Stakeholder	Edward Belden			
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman	X	Liliana Griego	
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	X	Latoya Waters	
Municipal Members	Carmen Masud		Paul Cranmer	
Municipal Members	Jalaine Verdiner	X	Fernando Villaluna	
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington		Alex Tachiki	X
Municipal Members	Sal Mendez			
Municipal Members	James Tong	X	Kris Markarian	
Municipal Members	Sarah Rocha	X		
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	X	Julie Millett	
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)
Total Voting Members Present	12			Nay (N)
Agency	3			Abstain (A)
Community Stakeholder	4			Total
Municipal Members	5			

Attendance
RH WASC - October 18, 2022

JALAINE VERDINER
kristen Ruffell
Alex Tachiki
Sarah Rocha
Thomas Wong
Mark Hall
Don Nguyen
yisak kim
Julian Juarez
Paul Choy
Melanie Morita-Hu
Julie Millett
Brent Maue
Fernando Villaluna
Richard Watson

Eric Bonilla
DAVID DOLPHIN
James Tong
Chris Lee
Greg Jaquez
Robert Gomez
Katie Harrel
Alysha Chan
Rossman
Joshua Felton
Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)
Ernesto Rivera
Jill Fosselman
Bridget Childs