

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



Thursday, October 27, 2022

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Sean Woods, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)
Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)
Johnathan Perisho, Watershed Conservation Authority (Community), Co-Chair
*David Marquez, Urban Semillas (Community)
David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)
Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)
Andrea Ampig, Glendora (Municipal)
Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)
Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal), Co-Chair
James Cortes-Rivera, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)
Bob Huff, Former CA State Senator (Community)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Johnathan Perisho, Co-Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASC, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

District Staff made self-introductions and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the August 25, 2022 minutes by Member Drew Ready, seconded by Member Paulina Morales. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Member Romany Basilyous introduced themselves as the new Committee Member representing the City of Baldwin Park.

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Member Drew Ready announced that on December 8th the Council for Watershed Health, TreePeople, and Stantec will host a WaterTalks workshop on Community Engagement. Member David Diaz and Member Drew Ready will be presenting at the workshop with a focus on stormwater projects, and Watershed Coordinator Cortes-Rivera will briefly speak.

District Staff provided the following update:

- On October 18th, 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. The Board is reviewing its position every 30 days. If the Board decides to no longer approve findings to continue teleconferencing meetings under AB 361, the WASC has the authority to make their own AB 361 findings. District staff will provide additional guidance if and when that occurs.
- On October 4, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs).
- The Quarterly Reports for IP and Scientific Study (SS) projects of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY 21-22) Q1 will be 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. The USGR WASC received 0 IP, 0 SS, and 1 TRP application.
- 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 five 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.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

James Cortes-Rivera (the new Watershed Coordinator from Day One) provided an update on activities from August through October, upcoming events, and future outreach. See slides available on the SCWP website. Watershed Coordinator Cortes-Rivera introduced an Activity Tracker, which is shared with the WASC members and updated on a weekly basis. WASC members should send feedback on what they would like to see included in the activity tracker.

Watershed Coordinator Cortes-Rivera shared that participants at public events tend to have questions related to recreation and their respective area's parks and open spaces. The WASC discussed developing a more formal method of tracking feedback received during outreach events. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the Watershed Coordinator is a member of the WASC and may directly contribute to WASC discussions or provide formal report-outs.

Member Drew Ready suggested that Watershed Coordinator Cortes-Rivera connect with City staff who are not WASC members. Current WASC members may be able to provide points of contact. The Watershed Coordinator can act as a bridge between City staff and members of local communities.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

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7. Discussion Items

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

District Staff provided an overview of the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY21-22 Q1 and Q2 and demonstrated where Quarterly Reports may be viewed on the SCWP website.

Donna Tran (Project Proponent) shared information about the Basset High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project A-10 Work Schedule and Completion Date modifications. The planning completion date changed due to delays in pre-design activities. Additional coordination was needed amongst stakeholders of the project to identify owners for maintenance and operation. The project is on schedule for construction starting in 2024 and completion by 2027.

Katie Harrel (Project Proponent) provided information about the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project Activity Concern. The project's plans and specifications were expanded to provide additional benefits to the community such as widening the streets, adding sidewalks, adding landscape medians, and ensuring ADA compliance. The project is seeking additional funding to support the added benefits.

Katie Harrel also provided an update on the Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project. The City of Covina completed project design and is ready to go out to bid; however, it cannot until construction funds have been secured. Since the SCWP planned to allocate funds over 5 fiscal years, the project will be delayed until the funds are allocated. Katie Harrel asked the WASC to consider providing the funds on an earlier basis if possible so the project can go out to bid.

The WASC discussed inviting all past project applicants back for 10-minute update presentations. These updates are important, particularly to ensure requested changes are handled in a timely manner. Co-Chair Johnathan Perisho will follow-up with District Staff to add project update presentations to the agenda for upcoming WASC meetings.

b) Request for Previously Funded Projects to Provide Project Updates/Presentation during Future WASC Meetings

There was no further discussion on this agenda item. It was decided in Agenda Item 7a that project applicants will give brief project updates to the USGR WASC during the next few WASC meetings.

c) Future WASC Meeting Schedule and Frequency

Members of the WASC requested pushing the start time for future meetings to 1:30 p.m.

District Staff noted that the November and December WASC meetings have been cancelled due to conflicts with holidays, and the next meetings are scheduled on monthly basis for the beginning of 2023. WASC meetings may be moved to bi-monthly or quarterly once the SIP is approved in April.

The Committee discussed whether they could schedule a meeting in November or December, to start covering the project update presentations. Ultimately, it was determined that there was not enough time for project applicants to prepare presentations in advance of the potential November 17 date.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

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9. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 pm on January 26, 2023. See the SCWP website for details. Agenda items include:

- a) Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (if needed)
- b) Project Update Presentations
- c) Regional Program Technical Resources Program Project Presentation

11. Adjournment

Co-Chair Johnathan Perisho thanked 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 8/25/2022 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love		Patty Cortez		
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Tony Zampiello		
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	X	Y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods	X	Clement Lau		Y
Community Stakeholder	Huff Strategies	Bob Huff				
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	X	Jason Casanova		Y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Johnathan Perisho	X	Jane Tsong		Y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna		David Marquez	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	X	Joseph Venzon		Y
Municipal	Glendora	Andrea Ampig	X	Sandy Costandi		Y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	X	Fabian Aoun		Y
Municipal	Industry	Matthew Hudson	X	Don Nguyen		Y
Municipal	Baldwin Park	Romany Basilyous	X	Shari Garwick		Y
Municipal	Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval		Kevin Kearney		
Municipal	West Covina	Paulina Morales	X			Y
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortes Rivera	X			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	13
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13
Municipal		6				Approved

Attendance
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Andrea Ampig	Joe Venzon - LA County
Andrew Kim	Johnathan Perisho
Anthony Ortega	Julian Juarez
Austine Racelis	Julie Carver
Belen Bernal	Katie Harrel
Brianne Logasa	Mark Hall GLAmosquito
Brianne Logasa	Mathew Hudson
Bridget Childs	Mathew Hudson
Chris Lapaz	Melanie Morita-Hu
Christy Zamani	Michael Flores Jr
David Diaz	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)
David Marquez	Oliver Galang
Diego Carrizo	Paulina Morales
Don Nguyen	Rafael Fajardo
Drew Ready	Romany Basilyous
Eric Bonilla	Ryan Kearns - CWE
Fernando Villaluna	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
gabriela gonzalez	Sandy Costandi
Greg Jaquez	Sean Woods
james cortes rivera	Tran Donna
Janeth Rodriguez Livesey	yisak kim