

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, November 1, 2022
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency)
*Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
*Alysa Chan, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Ernesto Rivera, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Melissa Bahmanpour, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
Cindy Montanez, TreePeople (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Erica Maceda, River in Action (Community)
Gina Nila, Commerce (Municipal), Chair
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Melissa You, City of Long Beach (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Julian Lee, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)
*Fred Gonzalez, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Irene Lopez-Muro, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

District Staff and Gina Nila, Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) WASC, welcomed all Committee Members. New members made self-introductions.

District Staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions, and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 27, 2022. Member Gladis Deras seconded. The Committee approved the meeting minutes with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and one in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

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- On October 18, 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. 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 approved Board letter is available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website under the resources drop down menu and this includes funding for the continuing projects. Project Managers of continuing projects from previous years should submit transfer agreement executions for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23).
- Scoring Committee reviews began on October 6. The Scoring Committee schedule can be found on the SCWP website [here](#).
- FY22 Quarterly Reports for Q3 and Q4 for Infrastructure Program (IP) and Scientific Study (SS) developers were due on August 15, 2022. A summary of these reports will be discussed in early 2023.
- FY23 Q1 Quarterly Reports from the period of July to October are due November 14, 2022. Quarterly Reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales provided an update including an overview of recent stakeholder engagement events, general information obtained from the LA County Parks Needs Assessment Plus (specifically regarding population vulnerability and priority areas for conservation and restoration), and updates on Infrastructure LA. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

5. Public Comment Period

District Staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting. No comment cards were received before the meeting.

Dennis Mabasa, chief operating officer of the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR), expressed full support for the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project and shared that it will be the first multi-benefit stormwater capture site along the lower Los Angeles River to clean, conserve, and educate the public about stormwater runoff.

6. Discussion Items

a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

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

i. John Anson Ford Park Infiltration Cistern Developer: City of Bell Gardens

There were no project representatives present and no comments or questions were received.

ii. Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) – Phase 1 Developer: City of Long Beach

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Project consultants were available to answer any questions. No comments or questions were received.

c. Infrastructure Projects (IP) Presentation ([SCW Portal](#))

i. Spane Park

Presented by Michelle Kim and Oliver Galang. Construction of a regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility located at Paramount's Spane Park beneath the existing park surface.

Michelle Kim (John L. Hunter and Associates) and Oliver Galang (Craftwater) provided an overview of the IP Project in Spane Park including a list of the project goals and benefits, as well as more specific project details, such as information on the 60% design, the hydrological analysis, cost estimate, and funding request. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Upon inquiry, Galang noted that plans to use the existing lake for infiltration purposes were initially considered but were disregarded as an option after holding public discussions where community members expressed that the lake is an important asset and has value to the community.

If received, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Proposition 1 grant funds will go towards surface improvements to the onsite lake and the recirculation stream. The goal is to create a system that cleans water without mechanical components, depending solely on the recirculation stream and vegetation.

Kim and Galang emphasized the importance of community outreach and engagement and shared examples of the efforts that have been made.

ii. Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) – Phase 2

Presented by Ed Othmer and Colin Averill. Phase 2 includes construction of a new park with pump station and cistern and connecting 5 existing pump stations to the LB MUST Facility.

Ed Othmer (Stantec) provided an overview of the primary and secondary objectives of the project, its benefits, and an update on its status. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Upon inquiry, it was noted that parking was created as part of the LBMUST Project across the street from the site. The City's priority for accessibility has been recognized and it was confirmed that there is enough parking connecting the facilities along the LA River.

d. Scientific Studies (SS) Presentation ([SCW Portal](#))

i. Ground Truth: Guiding a soils-based strategy for impactful nature-based solutions.

Presented by Dustin Herrmann. A study delivering mechanisms, calculations, sites, and designs for leveraging impactful nature-based solutions.

Dustin Herrmann (Tree People) shared details about the research being conducted regarding soils-based strategies and the focus on nature-based solutions. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached

Herrmann provided clarifying details about the study based on questions from Committee Members:

- The study will provide guidance for an optimum soil profile and the design of appropriate plant system and management, calculating the associated stormwater capture.
- The site-selection methodology included community engagement.

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- Part of the design involves a detailed cost analysis that will highlight the feasibility for implementation of the project, once guidelines on soil optimization are provided.
 - Phosphorus and nitrogen can be pollutants when present in water, but when present in the ground, they become a useful resource for vegetation.
- e. Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis) – Phase 1 Update**
Presented by Brad Wardynski. A study to find and analyze new projects in a watershed context to plot a coordinated, project-by-project pathway to safe, clean water.

Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) provided an update on Phase 1 of the GAP analysis, whose purpose is to build a detailed list of project opportunities for the studied area as a web map. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Wardynski showed the GAP Project dashboard, which has been developed using the collected data, and demonstrated how the tool can be used to understand the type of coverage that already exists and identify gaps.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

- a. None

9. Items for Next Agenda

- a. **Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (if needed)**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. If the Board of Supervisors does not make their own findings regarding AB 361, the WASC may need to meet before January 24 to vote to act under AB 361. See the SCWP website for details.

10. Adjournment

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

LLAR WASC - November 1st, 2022

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 09-27-2022 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Ramy Gindi		y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Alysha Chan	x	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro		Isabelle Campiformio		
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Melissa Bahmanpour	x	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez	x	Manny Gonez		
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Erica Maceda	x			y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila*	x	Thomas Bekele		y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji		y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You**	x	Cecilia Salazar		y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee	x			a
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Thuan Nguyen		Fred Gonzalez	x	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			y
Watershed Coordinator						
Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	13
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendees
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November 1, 2022

Adriana Figueroa	Emily Tyrer	Melissa Bahmanpour
Aimee Zhao	Erica Maceda	Melissa You
Alysha Chan	Ernesto Rivera	Michelle Kim
Amanda Begley (TreePeople)	Fred Gonzalaez	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)
Andrea Prado Iriarte	gabriela gonzalez	Nathan Schreiner
Aric Martinez	Gina Nila	Oliver Galang
Brad Wardynski	Gladis Deras	Quinn Pettit
Brenna Humann	Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Chuck Mills	Hoori Ajami	Safe Clean Water LA
Cindy Montanez	Julian Lee	Stephen Scott
Colin Averill	Julio Soria	Tara Dales
Dan Mueller	JUSTIN JONES	Thom Epps
Daniel Hirmas	Lia Soorenian	Thomas Bekele
Dennis Mabasa	Lisa Skutecki	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD
Dustin Herrmann	Madeline Chen	Video user
Dylan Porter	Mark HALL, GLA mosquito	
Ed Othmer	Mary Hillemeier	