

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



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

## Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Ali Elhassan, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)  
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)  
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:

Ivan Volschenk, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)  
See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and gave a brief WebEx tutorial, then called the meeting to order. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (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 November 3, 2022**

District staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve meeting minutes by Member Sandra Cattell. The motion was seconded by a Member Heather Merenda. The Committee voted to approve November 3, 2022 meeting minutes, with 15 votes in favor (note that the member from Los Angeles County represented three votes) and one member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### **3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

Members Cattell and Heather Merenda disclosed a conversation regarding the projects being discussed today.

### **4. Committee Member and District Updates**

Member Bruce Hamamoto invited Alexandro Garcia (LA County Public Works) to provide a brief update on the Pico Canyon Project and Jake Kuredjian Park Project. Garcia presented a document of frequently asked questions related to those projects; the document can be found on the Safe, Clean Water Program

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(SCWP) website. Allen Ma (LA County of Public Works) explained that the two projects can be combined, but the Pico Canyon Project would still be required to capture the required storm event. An additional pump, pre-treatment unit, and cistern would be required to combine the projects.

Committee Members had a conversation about how the project would address flows polluted from old oil fields with untapped oil wells. Member Hamamoto explained that if the oil has leaked into the stream flows, the stream flows would end up in the debris basin and not be infiltrated. Only flows from storm drains would be diverted for infiltration.

Member Hunt Braly requested that presentations and related documents be included on the agenda prior to the meeting, in order for Committee Members to have enough time to adequately review and prepare comments or questions.

Chair Seegmiller noted that the Jake Kuredjian Park Project had applied for the Technical Resources Program. The project will eventually be presented again to the Committee and more discussion can occur then.

District staff provided an update:

- On November 15, 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.
- Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Quarter 1 Quarterly Reports from the period of July to October were due November 15, 2022. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project.
- Annual report functionality is now available on the SCWP Reporting Module. The District sent an email to project developers to notify of the new annual report functionality.
- The Scoring Committee met December 1, 2022 at 9:00am to rescore previously unscorable projects. The Via Princessa Park and Regional Infiltration BMP Project received a passing score and is being presented today.
- 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.

Member Ali Elhassan, new director for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's Water Resources department, provided a self-introduction as the WASC's newest member.

Member Braly confirmed with District staff that this WASC does not yet have the required safety guidelines in place to meet in person and awaits further direction from District staff on how to move forward.

#### **5. Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator Peter Massey presented an update on various projects and community events; the presentation can be found on the SCWP website and attached. Watershed Coordinator Massey can share more about high speed rail and its effects on water if requested. There is a WaterTalks webinar on

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December 13, 2022 from 10:00am – 12:00pm for the SCR area; the recording will be made available online.

Member Braly requested that these presentations be uploaded prior the meeting. Watershed Coordinator Massey confirmed this is possible, and the information will also be available in the quarterly report.

## **6. 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 and no comments were made in the meeting.

## **7. Discussion Items**

### **a. Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Presentation**

Chair Seegmiller prefaced the presentation by reminding the WASC that this is the time to ask clarifying questions to the applicant. Deliberations about whether to include the project in the WASC's Stormwater Investment Plan will occur at a future meeting.

Leslie Frazier (Project Applicant) presented the Via Princessa Park and Regional Infiltration BMP Project, which previously received funding under the Technical Resources Program. The presentation can be found on the SCWP website and attached.

Member Cattell commended the project on soliciting outreach early in project design. Member Cattell confirmed with the project applicant that local native plants will be used, not merely drought tolerant native plants. The project applicant also explained that the copper pollutant was included due to copper coming from brake pads in vehicles that pass through the region.

Member Braly asked if (1) the City Council approved the project for design and (2) whether the project will be designing the park and the stormwater elements at the same time. Member Braly also asked why the Scoring Committee awarded fewer points than the applicant anticipated in their self-score. The applicant requested to answer these questions at a later meeting.

The Committee discussed the value of developing a consolidated database of previous projects' costs and benefits, to use for comparison with future project applications. District staff noted the suggestion and will provide further updates on this tool.

## **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **9. Voting Items**

### **a. Selection of Vice Chair**

Chair Seegmiller recommended that this voting item be moved to a future meeting to provide Committee Members more time to consider nominations.

## **10. Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2023, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the Agenda include:

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

## **11. Adjournment**

Chair Seegmiller 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)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 11-3-2022 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan	x			
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna	x	Susan Nelson		y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	x	Diane Trautman		y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk				
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
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs		Tyler Pledger	x	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda	x	Oliver Cramer		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz	x	Dan Duncan		y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x	Sarona Vivanco		y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Peter Massey	x	Amanda Begley		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	15
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved

**Attendees**  
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**December 1, 2022**

Amanda Begley	Darin Seegmiller	Jerrid McKenna	Serena Zhu
Allen Ma	Graciela Cruz Sierra	Kayla Kilgo - CWE	Sandra Cattell
Bruce Hamamoto	Hunt Braly	Mary Johnson	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD
Chris Lapaz	Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)	Veronica Carrillo
Diane Trautman	Heather Merenda	Oliver Cramer	Dianne Hellrigel
Dan Duncan	Ivan Volschenk	Pablo Forni LACFCD	
Damon Letz	Jason Gibbs	Rick Viergutz	
Dirk Marks	Julian Juarez	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)	