

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



Tuesday, January 24, 2023
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency)
Rob Beste, 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)
Irene Lopez-Muro, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Melissa Bahmanpour, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (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, Long Beach (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Julian Lee, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)
Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Cindy Montanez, TreePeople (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 November 1, 2022

District staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to approve, seconded by Member Dan Mueller. The Committee voted to approve the November 1, 2022 meeting minutes, with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 4 in abstention, and 1 member absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- On January 10, 2023, 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.

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- The District released the Regional Program Process Funding Handbook (Handbook). The Handbook provides consolidated information on existing regional program requirements and guidance. The Handbook is available under the Regional Program Call for Projects tab on the SCWP website.
- The District distributed the first batch of transfer agreements and addendums for new and continuing projects approved in the Round 3 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). Last fall, project developers should have received detailed instructions on steps to create an account on the portal and submit the Infrastructure Project (IP) project developer form, signed agreement or addendum, scope of work, resolution, or authorization to execute the agreement, and vendor identification form. If a project requires California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, proponents should send their CEQA documentation so that the District can make determinations.
- Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Quarter 2 reports are due on February 15. Quarterly reports are still required by project developers even if there was no project activity or the transfer agreement hasn't been executed.
- Annual reports for FY21-22 for projects and studies funded in Round 1 and Round 2 SIPs were due on December 31, 2022. For the Municipal Program, the annual reports were due on December 31, 2022, and the Municipal Annual Plans are due April 1, 2023.
- 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.
- 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.
- WASC Community Stakeholders seats are up for reappointment August 2023, under Article 4, Section 5 of the WASC operating guidelines. Individuals interested in serving as a Community Stakeholder should submit the Interest to Serve Form, [available here](#).

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) introduced Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) as the new Regional Coordinator for this WASC. Antos will continue to lead the Regional Coordination team, but following this meeting, Fossum will be the primary Regional Coordinator for all meetings held by this WASC.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales shared an overview of their work completed between Q1 and Q3 (April to December 2022), with particular mention of the five coordinator focus areas: 1) understand community needs and priorities in watershed; 2) solicit new projects; 3) support current project applicants; 4) raise public awareness about SCWP; and 5) support WASCs. 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.

Michelle Kim (John L. Hunter and Associates) provided an update about design changes to the Spane Park project. The current request proposes construction of a stormwater capture storage vault with a capacity of 8.6 acre-feet. However, after the low water supply benefit awarded by the Scoring Committee, it was determined that a smaller vault could be constructed. The City of Paramount has asked to reduce the project design capacity from 8.6 to 5.3 acre-feet, which would decrease construction costs from \$18.9

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million to \$14.3 million. Kim noted that this project was submitted as a dry weather project and change should not affect the Scoring Committee's scoring totals.

6. Discussion Items

a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Chair Nila held a meeting with John Hunter (John L. Hunter and Associates) to discuss changes to the Spane Park design and funding request.

b. Reselection of Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Coordinator for next term.

The Committee discussed whether to reselect Watershed Coordinator Dales for the new term. This would be a one-year contract under the same terms as the existing one. The Committee had the option to not renew the contract, which would involve extending the existing contract for an additional 6 months, during which the Committee would work to select a new Watershed Coordinator.

Members of the WASC expressed support for the reselection of Watershed Coordinator Dales.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

a. Reselection of Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Coordinator for the next term.

Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to reselect Watershed Coordinator Dales as Watershed Coordinator for the new term, from April 2023 to April 2024. Member Melissa Bahmanpour seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the motion with 16 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the Agenda include:

- a. Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (if needed)
- b. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY21-22, Q3 and Q4.
- c. FY23-24, Round 4, Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Discussion.

District staff noted that the February 28 will be the last virtual meeting, as the COVID-19 state of emergency ends on that day. District staff recommended the WASC complete the approval of the Round 4 Stormwater Investment Plan during this meeting, before the transition to in-person meetings.

The venue for in-person meetings has not been confirmed yet but will likely be at either Progress Park or Clearwater Council of Governments in the City of Paramount. A notification will be sent to all members with future meeting details and will also be posted on the SCWP website.

10. Adjournment

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

LLAR WASC - January 24th, 2023

			Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 11-01-2022 Meeting Minutes	Reselect the current Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Coordinator for the next term
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	a	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste	x	Asha Kreiling		a	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Alysha Chan	x	y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro	x	Isabelle Campiformio		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Melissa Bahmanpour	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez		Manny Gonez			
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Erica Maceda	x			y	y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila*	x	Thomas Bekele		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You**	x	Cecilia Salazar		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee	x			y	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		y	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Thuan Nguyen	x	Fred Gonzalez		a	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)	11	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
January 24, 2023

Ernesto Rivera	Robert Beste	Erica Maceda
Adriana Garcia	Irene Lopez-Muro	Oliver Galang
Asha Kreiling	Fred Gonzalez	Dylan Porter
Adriana Figueroa	Alysha Chan	Gina Nila
Dan Mueller	Mark Hall GLAmosquito	gabriela gonzalez
Melissa You	Melissa Bahmanpour	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Steven Ochoa	Mayra Cabrera	Gladis Deras
Mayra Martinez	Andrea Prado Iriarte	Haris Harouny - LACFCD
Patrick Kelley	Justin Jones - LACFCD	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Jenny Chau	Dustin Herrmann (TreePeople)	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)
Julio Soria	Tara Dales Watershed Coordinator	Michelle Kim
Michelle Staffield	Cecilia Cecilia I Salazar	Video user
Julian Lee	Madeline Chen	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD
Safe Clean Water LA	Aric Martinez	
Stephen Scott	Thuan Nguyen	