

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



Thursday, January 26, 2023
1:30pm - 3:30pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal), Co-Chair
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District (Agency)
Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (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)
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)
Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)
*Sandy Costandi, Glendora (Municipal)
Michael Sledd, Glendora (Municipal)
Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Sean Woods, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)
James Cortes Rivera, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Paulina Morales, Co-Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (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 November 29, 2022

District staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Drew Ready requested a change in the minutes on Page 2 to alter "Chino Basin Spreading Grounds Project" to "Chino Basin Water Conservation District."

Motion to approve the November 29, 2022 amended minutes by Co-Chair Paulina Morales, seconded by Member Drew Ready. The Committee voted to approve the minutes with 14 members in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 member absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

There were no Committee Member updates.

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District staff provided the following updates:

- 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 teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act. The Board is reviewing its position every 30 days. The COVID-19 state of emergency will end on February 28, 2023, after which meetings may start in person. The Sanitation District's conference room in Whittier has been reserved if and when meetings resume in person.
- District staff emailed and distributed the first batch of Transfer Agreements and Addendums for new and continuing projects approved in Round 3 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). Project developers must provide requested items in a timely manner to help the District execute the Transfer Agreement, Addendums and disburse Safe Clean Water funds.
- Infrastructure Projects (IPs) and Scientific Studies funded in Round 1 and Round 2 were required to submit their first Annual Progress report on December 31, 2022. Project developers who have not yet submitted the report are requested to do so. The Annual Report functionality is available in the Safe Clean Water Reporting Module.
- 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 has not been executed.
- USGR WASC received one Technical Resource Project (TRP) submittal this year.
- 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](#).

District staff confirmed that there is an open Community Stakeholder seat. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided clarification that 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

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera provided an update on events and activity highlights, meetings and project development engagement, common community questions and feedback, and upcoming events and outreach. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Member Drew Ready asked if Watershed Coordinator Cortes Rivera was in conversation with other watershed coordinators about the development of the education program and whether they have received feedback from constituents. Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera explained that the education program is still being rolled out and will provide more details as they become available. District staff also mentioned that a workforce landscape assessment and benchmarking effort are in progress.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

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6. Public Comment Period Jonathan Ableson, with respect to the watershed coordinator update, suggested that Claremont Vermont Foothill Boulevard would be a great tour option.

7. Discussion Items

a. Technical Resources Program (TPR) Project Presentation

i. West Covina Projects and Green Streets

Presentation by John Oskoui, Transtech. *Feasibility study for regional projects and green streets within the City of West Covina. Potential locations have been identified.*

John Oskoui (Project Applicant, City of West Covina) and Cameron McCullough (Project Applicant, JLHA) provided an overview of the TRP project. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Member David Diaz asked about the Community Outreach and Engagement for this project with respect to the Feasibility Study. The project applicants explained that the City of West Covina has very robust outreach programs when projects of these types are considered. The public will be invited to provide input and recommendations as the project goes into the design phase.

Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho asked about the carbon and resource impacts of the construction, material production, traffic, and other associated costs, and the project applicants explained that the project was in a very early stage for those considerations. They would want a design firm to analyze and come up with a solution for the respective considerations.

Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho also noted that there are significant open areas where surface water capture would be both cost effective and feasible. Member Drew Ready encouraged the applicants to engage Community-Based Organizations at this stage.

b. Update presentations from previously funded Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects

i. Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project

Presentation by Oliver Galang, Craftwater Engineering. *Regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility located at Finkbiner Park beneath the open space of the existing park surface.*

ii. Oliver Galang (Craftwater Engineering) presented updates for the project. See slides available on the SCWP website. **Fairplex Stormwater Capture**

Presentation by Jorge Anaya, City of Pomona. *This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery (NDS StormChamber) to be located on the existing Grandstand Field at the Fairplex.*

Julie Carver (City of Pomona) introduced Jorge Anaya (City of Pomona), who presented updates for the project. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Member Drew Ready inquired about the need for another project proposal and review given the potential modifications and consideration as a green infrastructure showcase. Member Drew Ready also asked about the funding based on the new updates. The project proponent explained that the project concept and the main objective of the project remain the same. They are in the process of obtaining more solid information to conduct preliminary studies. They are also willing to work with LA County to facilitate the process with their lease contract of the LA Fairplex. There are no current concerns with the funding resources. The representatives will present an update about the preliminary design in summer of 2023, at which point they will have more information about future funding requirements.

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Watershed Coordinator Cortes Rivera commented that this project is a great opportunity for community feedback and that he would be in touch with the project team.

Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho commented that the updated project is one of the strongest projects the WASC Committees have seen so far and may garner state interest. Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho also commented on the potential for canopy and capture given the extensive areas at the site. Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho asked about timeline and the project proponent answered that the anticipated completion date is Spring of 2025.

8. Public Comment Period

John Mendoza expressed concerns on behalf of community members near the Fairplex about the ongoing housing developments in the area.

9. Voting Items

There were no voting items.

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 pm on February 24, 2023. 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 FY21-23 Q3 and Q4
- c. Reselection of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator for the next term
- d. Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan ([SCW Portal](#)) (if needed)

District staff asked WASC members if they were available for an extended meeting on February 24, 2023. Member Tom Love raised concerns about not being able to attend if the meeting was in person District staff clarified that the meeting will be virtual given the COVID-19 state of emergency will not end until February 28, 2023. No other concerns were raised.

11. Adjournment

Co-Chair Paulina Morales 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 11/29/2022 Meeting Minutes as amended
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	x	Patty Cortez		y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Tony Zampielo		
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods	x	Clement Lau		y
Community Stakeholder						
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	Michael Sledd		Sandy Costandi	x	y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	x	Hal Ghafari		y
Municipal	Industry	Matthew Hudson	x	Don Nguyen		y
Municipal	Baldwin Park	Romany Basilyous	x	Shari Garwick		y
Municipal	Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval	x	Kevin Kearney		
Municipal	West Covina	Paulina Morales	x			y
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortez	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal		7				Approved

Attendance
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Andrew Kim	Julian Juarez
Anthony Ortega	Julie Carver
Brianne Logasa	Katie Harrel
Cameron McCullough	Kayla Kilgo - CWE
Chris Lapaz	Kirk Allen
Cristian Hernandez	Lauren Marshall
David Diaz	Mario Mendoza
David Marquez	Mark Hall GLAmosquito
Don Nguyen	mat
Donna Tran	Melanie Morita-Hu
Drew Ready	Michael Sledd
Ed Othmer	Oliver Galang
Eric Bonilla	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Fernando Villaluna	paulina morales
gabriela gonzalez	Prathmesh Bakshhi
Hal Ghafari	Romany Basilyous
James Cortes-Rivera	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Janeth Rodriguez-Livesey	Sandy Costandi
Jenny Chau	Sean Woods
Joe Venzon - LA County	Stephanie Sandoval
Johnathan Perisho	Tom Love
Jonathan Abelson	Tori Klug
Jorge Anaya	William OBraitis