

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



Thursday, February 23, 2023
1:00pm - 4:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (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)
Michael Sledd, 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)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)

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. LA County Flood Control District (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 made a motion to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes, seconded Co-Chair Morales. The Committee voted to approve the minutes with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 2 members absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided the following updates:

- On February 7, 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.

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- District staff shared an update on how WASC meetings will be conducted after the State of Emergency for California ends on February 28, 2023. The presentation is available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website and includes information regarding future teleconferencing requirements. This WASC's in-person meeting location will be the Sanitation District conference room in Whittier. WebEx teleconferencing will be used for any future hybrid meetings.
- The District released the Regional Program Process Funding Handbook (Handbook) which 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.
- Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Quarter 2 reports were 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.
- The District has started to execute Round 3 Transfer Agreements and Transfer Agreements Addendums and distribute funds to new and continuing projects included in the fiscal year. Details have been sent to the project developers.
- 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](#).
- FY 23-24 Municipal Annual Plans are due April 1, 2023.
- It is important for the WASC and the work of the Regional Program to remain transparent and fair. These principles are built into the SCWP and are represented by the ex parte disclosure item on each agenda. WASC members whose job connects them to specific projects should ask colleagues or consultants to attend WASC meetings to share about, or advocate for those projects during Stormwater Investment Program (SIP) deliberations and should avoid using their position as WASC members to advocate for projects from their home entities.

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.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Kelly Gardner disclosed a call with a project proponent from the City of Glendora to discuss the project in general.

6. Public Comment Period

Hector Bordas, formerly of LA County Public Works, shared that they now work for Woodard & Curran.

7. Discussion Items

a. Reselection of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator for the next term

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera left the meeting. District Staff and Regional Coordinator Ryanna Fossum (Stantec Consulting Services) explained the procedure for either reselecting or replacing the Watershed Coordinator. Members of the WASC expressed support for reselection of DayOne.

8. Public Comment Period (advanced on the Agenda)

There were no public comments regarding the reselection of the Watershed Coordinator.

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9. Voting Items (advanced on the Agenda)

- a. **Approve Reselection of DayOne as the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator for the next term**

Member Julie Carver made a motion to reselect DayOne as the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator for the next term, seconded by Member David Marquez. The Committee voted to reselect the Watershed Coordinator with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 member absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet). The Watershed Coordinator was invited to rejoin the meeting.

7. Discussion Items (continued)

- b. **Project Updates for Previously Funded Projects**

- i. **Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY 21-22 Q3 and Q4**

District staff presented a summary of the Regional Program Quarterly Report with details provided by the Project Developers. The Project Developers were invited to the meeting to address questions from the Committee Members. There were no questions or discussion from Committee Members.

- ii. **Project Updates and Budget Confirmation for Projects with Continued Funding**

District staff displayed the SIP Tool to showcase projected budgets for projects funded under previous rounds of funding.

Member Matthew Hudson asked about the funding timelines for all projects. District staff confirmed that all projects are on the same timeline as before with the exception of the Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project, which has requested to move up the timeline.

- c. **Upper San Gabriel River Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan ([SCW Portal](#) & [Summary of Resources](#))**

District staff presented various budget scenarios in the SIP Tool. Under the first scenario, all considered projects would be funded (including the proposed Technical Resources Program (TRP) project in West Covina) which would result in a 98% allocation for FY23-24 and 100% allocation for FY24-25, which leaves little room to consider future projects.

The second scenario assumed projected construction costs of projects and the third scenario considered shifting funds for the Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project from FY 24-25 to FY 23-24. Both the second and third scenarios resulted in over allocations of the budget.

Upon request for clarification by the WASC, District staff explained that highlighted cells in the SIP tool indicate that changes have been made to a project's annual budget allocations from the amount specified in the project application (*Note: changes are confirmed by project developers*).

Member David Diaz asked for clarification regarding the scenario showing insufficient budget for projects already funded. District staff explained that that case would be reviewed with the SIP budget for next year.

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Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho reflected that the budget exceeds 100% for FY 24-25, FY 25-26, and FY 26-27 once projected construction costs are considered. District staff clarified that those funds have not been committed yet and Project Developers are strongly encouraged to seek outside funding.

Member Drew Ready expressed concerns about constraints on the budget and asked how other WASCs in similar conditions are operating. District staff noted that if SIP budgets are overallocated, the WASC will not be able to consider including new projects in future years. District staff also noted that the actual amount of tax-collected funds available may be lower than projected. Regional Coordinator Ryanna Fossum (Stantec Consulting Services) added that the Upper Los Angeles River WASC is also operating under a tight budget. Some WASCs have recommended committing no more than 80% of any FY budget, which helps to accommodate potential reductions in tax collections.

Member Drew Ready expressed support for the West Covina TRP project, noting that the costs are not significant and the benefits to communities are worth the investment.

8. Public Comment Period (continued)

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items (continued)

- b. Approve the final Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review (as needed).**

Member Drew Ready made a motion to approve the FY23-24 SIP under the “All Considered Projects” scenario, including DayOne as Watershed Coordinator, and send it to the Regional Oversight Committee for review. The motion was seconded by Member Julie Carver. The Committee voted to approve the motion with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 member absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 pm on March 23, 2023 (IF NEEDED). See the SCWP website for details.

11. Adjournment

Co-Chair Paulina Morales thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

USGR WASC - February 23, 2023

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 1/26/2023 Meeting Minutes	Reselect DayOne as the USGR Watershed Coordinator for the next term	Approve Scenario "All Considered Projects" as the final Fiscal Year 2023-24 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for USGR Watershed Area, including DayOne as Watershed Coordinator and advance to the Regional Oversight Committee for review
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y	y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love		Patty Cortez				
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	x	Tony Zampielo		y	y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	y	y	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	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Johnathan Perisho	x	Jane Tsong		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna		David Marquez	x	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	x	Wesley Reutimann		y	y	y
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y	y	y
Municipal	Glendora	Michael Sledd	x	Sandy Costandi		y	y	y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	x	Hal Ghafari		y	y	y
Municipal	Industry	Matthew Hudson	x	Don Nguyen		y	y	y
Municipal	Baldwin Park	Romany Basilyous	x	Shari Garwick	x	a	y	y
Municipal	Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval		Kevin Kearney				
Municipal	West Covina	Paulina Morales	x			y	y	y
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortez	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	13	13	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	1	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14	13	13
Municipal		7				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendance

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alexander iglesias	Jonathan Abelson
Andrew Kim	Julian Juarez
Brandon Willnecker	Julie Carver
Brenda Ponton	Katie Harrel
Cas, CWH	Kelly GARDNER
Chris Lapaz	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Christine E McLeod	Lauren Marshall
David Diaz	Lee Torres
David Marquez	Lisa Skutecki
Don Nguyen	Mario Mendoza
Donna Tran	Mathew Hudson
Drew Ready	Michael Flores Jr
Ed Suher, CASC	Michael Sledd
Edna Robidas - TPL	Oliver Galang
Eric Bonilla	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Fernando Villaluna	Paulina Morales
gabriela gonzalez	Prathmesh Bakshhi
Haris Harouny	Priya Aggarwal
Hector Bordas	Ramy Gindi
Hugo Garcia	romany basilyous
James Cortes-Rivera	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Janeth Rodriguez Livesey	Sean Woods
Jenny Chau	Shari Garwick
Joe Venzon - LA County	w obraitis
John Oskoui	William OBraitis
Johnathan Perisho	