



# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, April 20, 2023

1:30pm – 4:30pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Courtyard) Conference Room C

### Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian, Cordoba/Former LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair

Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles

Diana Tang, Long Beach Utilities

Kristine Guerrero, League of Cities, Vice Chair

Elizabeth Crosson, Metropolitan Water District

Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE, Chair

Carl Blum, LA County Flood Control District (non-voting member)

Norma Camacho, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board (non-voting member)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Belinda Faustinos, Retired NGO & State Agency Executive

Elva Yañez, Prevention Institute

Charles Trevino, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

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

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## 1. Welcome and Introductions

LA County Flood Control District (District) staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

Lauren Ahkiam, Chair of the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), welcomed Committee Members, called the meeting to order, and encouraged Committee Members to verbally note their name before speaking so that participants know who is speaking. Chair Ahkiam noted that the meeting was being simultaneously broadcasted in Spanish and that an interpreter was available online to translate public comments.

District staff welcomed Norma Camacho, a new non-voting member to the Committee. District staff also made brief introductions.

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2022

District staff presented meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Kristine Guerrero motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Barbara Romero. The Committee voted to approve the June 16, 2022 meeting minutes with 5 votes in favor and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

## 3. Committee Member and District Updates

Member Diana Tang thanked District staff for their representation at a public board meeting at Long Beach Utilities.

Member Elizabeth Crosson, a new member on the ROC, expressed excitement to work on the Committee.

District staff provided an update, noting:

- The ROC, Scoring Committee, and Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Community Stakeholder seats are up for reappointment this August. No action is needed if Committee members wish to continue, but members who wish to step down should inform District staff. The

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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timeline and process for appointments is under development, and staff aim to minimize interruptions to Committee tasks.

- The Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) has developed a pilot process which will allow alternative ways for projects submitted in the Round 5 Call for Projects to receive points in the water supply category. The criteria takes into account the concerns that have been shared by applicants and stakeholders, about the inflation for cost effectiveness points and diminishing opportunities as nearby projects may capture more water. Applicants can choose to be evaluated under the existing criteria or the pilot criteria. A memo will be sent to the Scoring Committee and applicants preparing for the Round 5 Call for Projects.
- District staff is seeking Board approval for a sole source agreement with a contractor for the development and administration of a public education and community engagement program. This program is a component of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) District Program which aims to deliver education activities over a three-year period.
- District staff is developing a framework for Watershed Area comprehensive planning efforts, which will serve as a blueprint for developing watershed-specific plans and will ensure overall planning processes align with SCWP Goals.
- District staff shared that the SCWP has received several awards in 2022.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) introduced the Regional Coordination team and shared that all Watershed Coordinators have been reselected by their respective WASCs. Watershed Coordinators are primarily focused on ensuring the program stays coordinated across cities, groups, and agencies. All Watershed Coordinators are or will soon be updating their Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans for approval at their respective WASCs. The Regional Coordination team will return to scheduling several coordinators to give updates at future ROC meetings; they were omitted today because of the length of the agenda. Antos also noted that a consolidated calendar for Watershed Coordinator-led community events is available on the SCWP website.

Member Camacho and Member Carl Blum suggested that the timeline for developing the Watershed Area comprehensive planning framework should be prioritized, citing the SCWP's lack of clear direction. The comprehensive framework can clarify goals and guide Watershed Coordinators, WASC members, and project applicants. Chair Ahkiam underscored the importance of expediting the timeline to develop a comprehensive framework. District staff shared that the framework is in preliminary stages and will consider MMS findings and the existing Watershed Management Plans for each Watershed Area.

District staff shared an anticipated timeline for ROC meetings in 2023. The biennial Safe, Clean Water Program Progress Report input meeting is planned for July. The biennial Safe, Clean Water Program Progress Report is one of the ROC's main responsibilities and provides a summary of the multiple progress reports required by the program, compiles input from outside agencies, and summarizes improvements needed for the SCWP. Member Blum encouraged the ROC to feel a sense of urgency when discussing changes needed to improve the Program and said that it is unfortunate that the MMS will not be complete by the biennial Safe, Clean Water Program Progress Report, though the ROC will look forward to the study's interim findings.

The Committee discussed how to evaluate progress towards meeting SCWP Goals and mentioned that a model to easily track the water quality benefits of each project would be useful. Understanding actual and projected benefits along with a timeline of completion would help manage expectations. While monitoring information can be found in progress reports on the SCWP project module, there should be more accessible ways of presenting the SCWP's results to the public.

It was noted that there were significantly fewer project applications under Round 4. Member Romero noted that there are a lot of projects out there but that project proponents may need support and guidance to develop competitive applications. Ensuring adequate technical support for smaller projects or organizations is critical.

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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#### 4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Mehranian will abstain from voting for the South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB), Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB), and North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP). A quorum will still be met without Member Mehranian.

Chair Ahkiam was made aware of some of the comment letters being submitted today but did not take part in preparing those comments.

Member Elizabeth Crosson and Member Romero each have standing meetings with OurWaterLA, where SCWP related items are often discussed.

#### 5. Public Comment Period

District staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, loaded them to the SCWP website, and displayed them on-screen. Participants on the Spanish translation line and call-in users were also invited to provide public comment.

There were thirteen public comment cards received and the authors of those letters were invited to speak.

Maggie Gardner (OurWaterLA) highlighted OurWaterLA's recommendations to the ROC regarding SIP approval. OurWaterLA recommends that the CSMB SIP be returned so that the WASC can reconsider the disadvantaged community benefit assigned to the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project, although OurWaterLA does support the project as a whole. OurWaterLA also recommends that the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) SIP be returned to the WASC as the approval process may have been rushed. The Bowtie Demonstration Project proponents were interested in applying for partial funding but were not given enough time to return to the WASC for that request.

Mark Graham's (Groundswell Technology) comment card was shared onscreen. Graham voiced supported for the technology used in the Groundwater Quality Monitoring: Studying Pollution Removal in Stormwater Drywells and Monitoring the Spatial and Temporal Effects of Stormwater Drywells on Local Groundwater Quality scientific study (hereafter referred to as the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study).

Hugo Loaiciga's (UC Santa Barbara) comment card was shared onscreen. Loaiciga voiced support for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study, which had applied to be part of the ULAR SIP.

Laura Santos (Mt. San Antonio College/Bassett Community) requested an update on the Bassett High School project.

Ignacio Ramirez (Cal Poly Pomona (CPP)) voiced support for funding the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study, citing first-hand experience working on SCWP funded studies and how it was useful for students.

Fernando Garcia de Alba (CPP) also expressed support for Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study, and noted how important CPP's previously funded scientific study was for first generation college students.

Mehrad Kamalzare (CPP) noted that the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study had the highest rank from the external reviewers. The study was removed from the ULAR SIP because of a misstated comment that said the study would be duplicative of Los Angeles County Public Work's (County) own studies. This has since been cleared up with County staff and determined to be a misunderstanding.

Misgana Muleta (Cal Poly SLO) also voiced support for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study.

Christian Santonil (CPP) mentioned the importance of the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study for developing hands-on experience for students.

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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Ali Sharbat (CPP) mentioned support for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study and that clarifying discussions were conducted with County staff that the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study is not duplicative with the County's studies.

Dr. Yasser Salem (CPP) provided support for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study.

Alan Fuchs, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Advancement at CPP, and highlighted CPP's status as a Minority Serving Institution and Hispanic Serving Institution. Fuchs voiced support for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study and asked the ROC to send the ULAR SIP back to the WASC for them to include the study.

Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper and OurWaterLA) underscored the importance of the biennial report. Reznik is on the SCWP Scoring Committee, has participated in evaluating the SCWP with the ARLA Working Group, and was a stakeholder for the MMS. Reznik has firsthand experience evaluating the SCWP and noted the large quantity of work needed for the ROC's biennial report. The ROC meeting scheduled for July does not provide enough time for the ROC to adequately review and provide recommendations for the Program. Because the biennial report is one of the primary responsibilities of the ROC, Reznik suggested the Committee start on it no later than May.

### **6. Review/Discussion of FY 23-24 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Submittals**

District staff provided an overview of the SIP development and approval process, including the ROC's role in determining whether, or the extent to which, each SIP meets SCWP goals. The ROC can either approve a SIP or send it back to the WASC with comments. District staff shared that representatives from all nine WASCs were invited to attend this meeting to respond to questions. An overview of each WASC's SIP was shared onscreen.

#### **Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Watershed Area**

Member Crosson asked the CSMB representative to explain the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project's Disadvantaged Community Benefit, particularly in light of how a majority of the WASC's funds are going to that project this year. Susie Santilena, Chair of the CSMB WASC, replied that the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project was the only Infrastructure Program project submitted to CSMB under this round. During SIP deliberation, the project applicant made detailed arguments about why the project should qualify for Disadvantaged Community Benefits. The project includes connectivity to the ocean which is used by disadvantaged communities, and Los Angeles World Airport employees (many of which are from disadvantaged communities) are able to use the project on their work commute. The CSMB Watershed Coordinators had also delivered a presentation on which projects are recommended as providing disadvantaged benefits. The WASC would still meet the required disadvantaged community project ratio without the project, and the project would still be eligible to be included in the SIP without the designation, due to its water quality benefits. The Committee held a vote to remove the project's Disadvantaged Community Benefit status in February which received 4 votes in favor, 10 votes opposed, and 2 votes in abstention.

The ROC discussed whether to send the SIP back to the CSMB WASC with a comment recommending the WASC change the project's designation as a Disadvantaged Community Benefit, or to vote to approve the CSMB SIP and include a comment regarding the decision in a letter to the Board. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) mentioned that the policy of the SCWP is that Disadvantaged Community Benefits are given to projects that are directly located in a disadvantaged community or projects that provide direct benefit to a disadvantaged community. The WASC is the group that decides the validity of the second qualification. The project does not affect the CSMB's current ability to meet the required disadvantaged community ratio of projects, but leaving the designation would affect future rounds because the project would count towards the overall Disadvantaged Community project ratio and therefore give less reason for the WASC to consider funding a project located within a disadvantaged community. This would also establish an operational (but not formal) precedence for future projects. The Committee agreed that this is

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes



a concern, especially since this conversation has been underway since the beginning of the SCWP. The Committee agreed that this issue should be addressed in the biennial report.

Member Crosson confirmed with District staff and the Regional Coordination team that sending the SIP back to the WASC would still allow the project to be funded under this round of funding, but that the timeline for delivering the SIP to the Board of Supervisors may be delayed.

### **Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Area**

Vice-Chair Guerrero expressed appreciation for the public comments offered about the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study and confirmed with District staff that there was no one present from the District who could provide clarification regarding the potentially duplicative nature of the scientific study. Teresa Villegas, Chair of the ULAR WASC, summarized the WASC's discussion related to the study during the February WASC meeting and mentioned that CPP received funding in Round 2 for an evaluation of infiltration testing methods. In this round, CPP requested around 1.7 million dollars for a more intensive study of contaminants in groundwater. When the WASC was deliberating, the WASC was told that there was an LA County project also conducting extensive investigations into drywell technologies and believed that the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study would be redundant. Villegas confirmed with ROC members that including this study would impact the ULAR WASC's future funding availability as well as require the WASC to recompile the existing SIP.

Villegas encouraged the project applicant to apply again in the next round. Member Blum mentioned the time-critical nature of the study, given that many local municipalities are using drywell technology. Member Blum also mentioned that continuity seems to be critical for monitoring. Villegas mentioned that although CPP received funds in Round 2 to investigate drywells, they haven't provided an update on that to the WASC. Villegas added that the ULAR WASC has funded drywell Infrastructure Projects that will provide monitoring reports.

Vice-Chair Guerrero expressed concern that the ULAR WASC may have based their decision on misinformation (that the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study was redundant with County projects). Vice-Chair Guerrero also said that information shared by County Committee Members in WASCs have a large influence on WASC members because of County staff's organizational knowledge of the program, given the County's involvement in the facilitation of the SCWP. Committee Members remarked that whether the study is duplicative or not is still unclear, and District staff should be responsible for providing proof of those claims.

Member Romero emphasized that the study's service-learning components meet a goal of the SCWP. Member Romero suggested the study might be funded through the Technical Resources Program (TRP) this round if funds aren't available in the ULAR SIP. Antos mentioned that the ROC does not have authority over how TRP funds are distributed. Villegas mentioned that funding the study through the WASC's TRP allocation would still impact future budgets. District staff shared that CPP has reached out to County staff regarding the matter. District staff also noted that the State Water Resource Control Board published the 2020 California Dry Well Guidance, that provides guidance for project developers to use as a resource for drywell design.

Villegas said the ULAR SIP currently fulfills the goals of the SCWP. Villegas requested District staff provide progress updates to the WASCs on studies funded in Rounds 1, 2, or 3.

### **Santa Clara River Watershed Area**

Member Crosson applauded the SCR SIP's strong water supply benefits, noting that this is an area where the SCWP needs to be improved.

### **Lower Los Angeles River, Lower San Gabriel River, Upper San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo, North Santa Monica Bay, and South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Areas**

There were no comments or discussion related to the LLAR, LSGR, NSMB, RH, SSMB, or USGR SIPs.

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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### 7. Public Comment Period

Mehrad Kamalzare (CPP) reiterated that project applicants met with County staff who definitively clarified that topics included in the CPP study is not included in any existing or proposed studies from the County. Kamalzare also noted that site photos from the previously funded CPP scientific study are available within progress reports. The continuity of the project is critical, and a one-year gap in funding would present issues.

Chair Ahkiam appreciated the clarification and is interested to see the result of CPP's scientific studies.

Ali Sharbat (CPP) provided public comment that the CPP scientific study was ranked higher than the other scientific study that was submitted to the ULAR WASC, and the funding request was smaller. Sharbat mentioned CPP offered to distribute the correspondence with County staff that clearly states there is no duplication between the studies.

Alan Fuchs (CPP) expressed appreciation for the Committee's discussion on continuity and service learning, which are both critical to the university's values. Fuchs mentioned that a gap in the project will affect the project, even if it were to be funded in future years. Fuchs emphasized that research at CPP advances workforce development.

Bruce Reznik (OurWaterLA) reiterated that if the ULAR SIP is sent back, the WASC will have another opportunity to revisit the partial funding request for the Bowtie Demonstration Project. Also, OurWaterLA recognized all the good that is being done among the SIPs, but still recommends sending the CSMB and ULAR SIPs back to their WASCs. Reznik noted that he sits on the CSMB WASC. Reznik also reiterated the comment related to the biennial report, noting that will take more work than what is currently planned for in the ROC workplan schedule.

Annelisa Moe (Heal the Bay and OurWaterLA) reiterated points about the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project's Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation. The implementation ordinance clearly states how projects benefitting a disadvantaged community need to provide 110% benefit to the disadvantaged community. Moe does not want to water down the SCWP's goals to invest in disadvantaged communities. Removing this project's designation also will not affect the ability for the project to be funded; doing so will provide incentive for future projects to provide Disadvantaged Community Benefit. Moe also commented that the ULAR SIP should be sent back so that the Bowtie Demonstration Project can be considered for full or partial funding, as the project strongly aligns with SCWP goals.

### 8. Voting Items

- a) Approval of one of more of the 9 FY 23-24 SIP Submittals

The Committee confirmed that a quorum is still present after Member Mehranian left. District staff described the procedures for voting. District staff will record Committee Member motions verbatim in the spreadsheet shown onscreen to ensure clear and precise motions.

Chair Ahkiam motioned for approval to advance seven SIPs (LLAR, LSGR, NSMB, RH, SCR, SSMB, and USGR) to the Board for consideration, seconded by Member Tang. The motion was approved with five votes in favor and one member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Member Romero confirmed with the Regional Coordination team and District staff that when the ROC sends a SIP back to the WASC, a WASC meeting must be scheduled to reevaluate the SIP according to the ROC's comments. Then, the WASC will vote to send the reevaluated SIP to the ROC. This reevaluation is built into the SCWP and can affect the timeline for the Board of Supervisors to receive all nine SIPs. District staff noted that at least two WASC meetings may need to be scheduled if a WASC elects to consider a partial funding award for a project, potentially delaying the SIP transmittal process by months.

Member Tang made a motion to approve the ULAR SIP and to express the ROC's desire that the District continue engaging with the proponents from Cal Poly Pomona.

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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The Committee expressed a desire for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study to advance in some fashion. Since the ULAR WASC elected to not include it in the SIP and because the District Program workforce development program is still in progress, the ROC requested the District engage with the proponents to identify other paths forward for the study.

Vice-Chair Guerrero expressed hesitancy to send any SIPs back to their respective WASCs, given that it would delay transmittal of all the SIPs to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee discussed the significant nature of the operational and guidance issues which surround the topics of concern and encouraged a more coordinated approach for the scientific studies portion of the Program.

Member Tang expressed a desire to find funds for the Groundwater Quality and Monitoring scientific study and because the workforce development funds are not yet available, the motion on the floor would help the project proponents advance their project in other ways. Vice-Chair Guerrero seconded the motion made by Member Tang.

Chair Ahkiam expressed concern about the possibility that the ULAR SIP decision was made due to a misunderstanding during deliberation. The ROC had also articulated a process last year for how a project can be considered for partial funding. That process should be available for project applicants to pursue and not be limited due to a meeting's time constraints. While it is the responsibility of the WASC to initiate the request for a project applicant's partial funding interest, ULAR WASC Chair Villegas mentioned that the WASC did not decide to move forward with partial funding after discussion at the WASC meeting in February. Villegas maintained that the ULAR WASC did not rush the deliberation process.

Chair Ahkiam reiterated the ROC's authority to send SIPs back to their respective WASCs and emphasized that it is built into process. The Committee voted to approve the motion on the floor. The motion was approved, with four votes in favor, one vote in abstention, and one member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Member Crosson motioned to send the CSMB SIP back to the WASC to reconsider the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation; the motion was seconded by Chair Ahkiam. Member Crosson is in support for that project generally but is concerned with the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation. District staff confirmed with the Committee that the ROC does not have the ability to approve the SIP while simultaneously revoking the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation, as that authority lies with the WASCs.

There was a discussion among Committee Members regarding the implications of sending the CSMB SIP back, and how it may potentially delay all nine SIPs being transmitted to the Board of Supervisors. Committee Members confirmed with District staff that sending this SIP back may result in a month-long delay. District staff has always sent all nine SIPs to the Board in one package, as the administrative process itself is lengthy. Chair Ahkiam shared that if the ROC is hesitant to send back SIPs because of the timeline, then adjustments to the operating schedule must be made in the future to ensure that this reason does not prevent the ROC from exerting its authority to return SIPs for reevaluation at WASCs, emphasizing that evaluating the SIPs is one of the main responsibilities of the ROC. Some Committee Members noted that sending a SIP back to its WASC may not result in any changes, especially since WASCs have not received updated guidelines.

The Committee asked District staff to check the ordinance and consider sending two packages of SIPs to the Board of Supervisors, so that approved SIPs have no delay in their funding and SIPs that need to be reevaluated have time to be sent back to WASCs. District staff responded that they would look into the matter but noted that it may be complicated due to the long administrative timeline.

Vice-Chair Guerrero confirmed with District staff that the ROC can note their hesitations about the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation when they transmit the SIP to the Board. The ROC can also include in the recommendation to the Board to prioritize making the interim guidance clearer so that these

# Regional Oversight Committee

## Meeting Minutes

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situations are not repeated in future rounds. The Committee discussed spending time at the next meeting to prepare this recommendation message to the Board.

Vice-Chair Guerrero provided a substitute motion for approval to advance the CSMB SIP as recommended by the WASC to the Board for consideration and include a formal communication from the ROC on the concerns regarding the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation of the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project. Member Romero added a friendly amendment to Vice-Chair Guerrero's motion—to include a recommendation that the Board remove the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation for the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project. Vice-Chair Guerrero accepted the amendment and Member Romero seconded the motion.

Antos mentioned to the Committee that the ROC has sent SIPs back to WASCs in previous rounds.

The Committee discussed how the complicated motions being made today are a workaround to an administrative issue with SIP transmittal packages. The ROC should not just be a "rubber stamp" committee between the WASCs and the Board. There have been frustrations in the operation of the ROC and Member Tang mentioned that workforce education, Disadvantaged Community Benefit designations, and MMS need to be discussed in a way that matters.

The Committee voted on the motion to advance the CSMB SIP as recommended by the WASC to the Board for consideration and recommend to the Board to remove the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation for the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project. The motion was approved, with four votes in favor, one vote in abstention, and one member absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### **9. Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 11 at 1:30pm – 4:30pm to address policy recommendations. The Committee requested the District include an agenda item to start preliminary discussions on the biennial report. The Committee also requested that the District provide clarification on the administrative processes surrounding the ability to send SIP submittals to the Board in multiple packages.

### **10. Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Ahkiam thanked ROC members and the public and adjourned the meeting.



# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Fiscal Year 2023-2024

### Stormwater Investment Plans



The ROC recommends all 9 SIPs be approved as is with comments as described below.

## 2 Summary of ROC Comments

Below is a summary of the ROC comments, and additional details are available in the ROC meeting minutes on the website (<https://safecleanwaterla.org/regional-oversight-committee/>).

The District will make sure that these comments are considered as the ROC develops its biennial progress review report. Report development began this summer and the final report is currently expected to be submitted to the Board before the end of the calendar year following a public review period.

- **Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, ROC members expressed concern over the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project's Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation. Chair of CSMB WASC Susie Santilena shared that the project applicant designated the project as providing Disadvantaged Community Benefits, since the project proposes to enhance the existing bike path that the applicant claims is used to travel to the nearby beach and airport by residents from disadvantaged communities. Additionally, during SIP deliberations, the WASC held a vote to remove the project's Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation since some WASC members argued that the project should not be designated as benefitting a Disadvantaged Community since the project is located 2.5 miles away from the nearest 2018 Disadvantaged Community Census Block Group and scored in the 36th percentile on the CalEnviroScreen. The majority of the voters opposed the removal of the project's Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation. It should be noted that the WASC would still meet the required Disadvantaged Community funding allocation for the watershed area without including the project in the SIP, and the project can still be included in the SIP without the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation, due to its water quality and other benefits.

Some of the ROC members maintained their hesitancy about the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation. Vice-Chair Guerrero motioned to advance the CSMB SIP, as recommended by the WASC, to the Board of Supervisors with the following comments: (1) there is an urgent need to further define protocols for determining what constitutes a Disadvantaged Community Benefits, and (2) a recommendation for the Board to remove the Disadvantaged Community Benefit designation from the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project. This type of revision to one detail/designation of a project is outside the ROC's authority (per the Operating Guidelines), which was the primary factor that the SIP was still advanced to the Board. Nonetheless, it's an important comment for the Board to consider, since there is a nexus to the ROCs purview of evaluating whether each suite of SIPs is effectively advancing the goals of the SCWP. This important comment is also indicative of broad stakeholder interest in further developing the methods and justifications for determining a project's benefits to a Disadvantaged Community, which was discussed in the 2022 Interim Guidelines and will also be further evaluated as part of the 2023 Biennial Progress Review report. Additionally, the ROC expressed concern

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Fiscal Year 2023-2024

### Stormwater Investment Plans

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about having to send all the SIP to the Board at once, meaning all move ahead together or all are delayed together while concerns with a subset are discussed further.

- **Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the LLAR SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the LSGR SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the NSMB SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **Rio Hondo (RH) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the RH SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **Santa Clara River (SCR) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the SCR SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the SSMB SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC expressed a desire to fund the Groundwater Quality Monitoring: Studying Pollution Removal in Stormwater Drywells and Monitoring the Spatial and Temporal Effects of Stormwater Drywells on Local Groundwater Quality scientific study (hereafter referred to as the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study). It was noted that, during ULAR SIP deliberations, the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study was not included in the final SIP in part due to some Committee Members' desires to wait for the outcome of other on-going studies and efforts related to drywells and pretreatment devices whereas others simply did not identify it as a current priority. Chair Teresa Villegas ULAR WASC also, expressed desire to wait for the outcome of the current study regarding drywells being conducted by the same scientific study proponent, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The ROC requested the District continue to engage with the scientific study proponent, and to further investigate ways to

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

## Stormwater Investment Plans

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SAFE  
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WATER

improve the process/structure that some believe led to this study's exclusion from the recommended SIPs on the premise it may be a redundant effort.

Additionally, Chair Ahkiam expressed concern about the possibility that the Bowtie Demonstration Project was not included in the ULAR SIP due to the lack of availability for the project applicant to pursue partial funding. Chair Teresa Villegas ULAR WASC shared that the WASC did not initiate a request for partial funding and decided to not move forward with partial funding after discussions with the WASC during the SIP deliberation process.

Member Tang made a motion to advance the ULAR SIP as recommended by the WASC to the Board of Supervisors while expressing the ROC's desire that the District continue engaging with the proponents for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring scientific study.

- **Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) SIP**

On April 20, 2023, the ROC did not have any specific feedback on the USGR SIP and recommended the SIP for Board consideration.

- **General SCW Program Recommendations (from 4/20/23 meeting of ROC)**

- The District should expedite the timeline for developing the Watershed Area comprehensive planning framework to clarify goals and guide Watershed Coordinators, WASC Members, and project applicants.
- The District should consider the development of an easily accessible model to track the water quality benefits of each project.
- The District should continue to ensure that smaller projects or organizations are receiving adequate technical support.
- The District should consider multiple transmittals to the Board if/when the ROC deems it prudent to spend additional time on a certain subset of SIPs.

As noted above, the District will make sure that these comments are considered as the ROC develops its biennial progress review report. Report development began this summer and the final report is currently expected to be submitted to the Board before the end of the calendar year following a public review period.

## Regional Oversight Committee - April 20th, 2023

Regional Oversight Committee - April 20th, 2023						
Quorum Present						
Member Type	Member	Present?	Approval of the June 16, 2022 meeting minutes	Approval to advance the LLAR, LSGR, NSMB, RH, SCR, SSMB, and USGR SIPs as recommended by the WASC to the Board for consideration.	Approval to advance the ULAR SIP as recommended by the WASC to the Board for consideration and to express the ROC's desire that the District should continue engaging with the proponents from Cal Poly Pomona.	Approval to advance the CSMB SIP as recommended by the WASC to the Board for consideration and recommend to the Board to remove the DAC designation for the Imperial Highway Green Infrastructure Project.
Voting Member	Maria Mehranian	x	y	not present	not present	not present
Voting Member	Barbara Romero	x	y	y	y	y
Voting Member	Diana Tang	x	y	y	y	y
Voting Member	Kristine Guerrero	x	y	y	y	y
Voting Member	Belinda Faustinos			not present	not present	not present
Voting Member	Elizabeth Crosson	x	a	y	y	y
Voting Member	Lauren Ahkiam	x	y	y	a	a
Voting Member	Elva Yanez				not present	
Voting Member	Charles Trevino				not present	
Non-Voting Member	Carl Blum	x				
Non-Voting Member	Norma Camacho	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats	9	Yay (Y)	5	5	4	4
Present	6	Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
		Abstain (A)	1	0	1	1
		Total	6	5	5	5
			Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved

# Regional Oversight Committee Meeting

## COMMITTEE MEMBER SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Barbara Romero	City of Los Angeles	[Redacted]	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Belinda Faustinos	Nature For All		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Carl Blum	Flood Control District		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Charles Trevino	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD		
Diana Tang	City of Long Beach		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Elizabeth Crosson	Metropolitant Water District		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Elva Yanez	Prevention Institute		
Kristine Guerrero	League of Cities		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Lauren Ahkiam	LAANE		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Maria Mehranian	Cordoba / Former RWQCB Chair		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Norma Camacho	LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Chair		<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>



Regional Oversight Committee Meeting  
PUBLIC SIGN-IN

First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Mehrad	Kamalzare	Cal Poly Pomona	[Redacted]
Alan	Fuchs	Cal Poly Pomona	
Ali	Sharbat	Cal Poly Pomona	
Sammy	Lezano	Cal Poly Pomona	
SEBENA	ZHU	STANTEC	
Kirk	Allen	LA County Public Works	
MICHAEL	GUZMAN	CAL POLY POMONA	
Christopher	leao	Cal Poly Pomona	
Oliver Sagastume	Sagastume	Cal Poly Pomona	
Ignacio Ramirez	Ramirez	Cal Poly Pomona	
Ryanna Fossum	Fossum	Stantec	
Mike Andos	Andos	Stantec	
Dimitar Dimitrov →		Cal Poly Pomona	
Carolina	Hernandez?	LACo PW	

on

# Regional Oversight Committee Meeting

## PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Bruce	Reznick	LA Waterkeeper	
Angel	Saranso	Cal Poly Pomona	
Amic Bourica	Zavar	Cal Poly Pomona	
Fernando	Garcia de Alba	Cal Poly Pomona	

\*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

# Regional Oversight Committee Meeting

## PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Abonso	Garcia	Council for Watershed	[REDACTED]
Kristina	Kreter	"11" CWH	

\*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public



Virtual Attendance - WebEx  
Regional Oversight Committee - April 20, 2023

390000	Julie Millett
Alexander LACFCD	Justin
Andrew Kim	Justin Jones - LACFCD
Annelisa Moe she/her	katie
Aric Martinez JLHA	Kirk Allen
Ariel	Kristen Ruffell
Austine Racelis	Larry Tran - LACFCD
Ava Farriday	lesliej
Bruce Hamamoto	Lesliej
Call-in User_2	Lidia Rivera
Call-in User_3	lisa skutecki
Carmen Andrade	Lorena Matos
Carolina T Hernandez	Luis (LACFCD)
Cas, CWH	Maggie Gardner
Christine McLeod	Majid Sadeghi
Christine McLeod	mark gold
Christopher Vong	Mark Nguyen
CityUser	Mayra Cabrera - LACFCD
Conor Mossavi	Melania Gaboyan
Craig Cadwallader– SSMB WASC Surfrider South Bay	Melissa
Craig Cadwallader–Surfrider South Bay	Melissa You
Craig W. Cadwallader	michelle
Dan Duncan	Michelle struthers
Daniel Rydberg	Mikaela Randolph
Darin Seegmiller	Mike Antos
David Dolphin	Mossavi, Conor
David Pedersen	Nancy Shrodes she/her
Dawn Petschauer	Pablo Forni
Dee Corhiran	Paige Bistromowitz
Defeng Chen	paulina
Devon Provo	Peter Massey
Donna T	Priya
Edna Robidas - TPL	Raina
Eric Bonilla	Ramy Gindi
Fernando Villaluna	Richard Watson
Francisco PBH	Rita Kampalath she/her
Gabriela Gonzalez	Robin Paragas
Gina Nila	Safe Clean Water LA
Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Sarina
Ida Meisami LASAN	Serena Zhu
Jacqueline Mak	Sienna Saucedo
Jalaine Verdiner	Susie Santilena
Jeannette Spanish Interpreter	Tara Dales LLAR Coordinator
Jenny Chau	Teresa Villegas
jnewman	Tyler Pham
Joe Venzon - LA County	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD
John Bodenchak	Vik Bapna - CWE
Johnathan Perisho	Yen Pham
Julie Allen	Yisak Kim