

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## South Santa Monica Bay

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Torrance City Yard, Public Works Training Room  
20500 Madrona Avenue, Torrance, CA 90530

#### **Attendees:**

##### Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LA County Flood Control District)	Guang Yu Wang (SMB Restoration Commission)
Diane Gatza (Water Replenishment District)	Julio Gonzalez (Carson)
Darryl Ford* (LA Recreations & Parks)	Susie Santilena (LA)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Paul Alva (LA County)
E.J. Caldwell (West Basin)	John Dettle (Torrance)
Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider Foundation South Bay)	Stephanie Katsouleas (Manhattan Beach)
Hany Fangary (Fangary Law Group)	Heecheol Kwon (Hawthorne)
Bo Savage* (LA Conservation Corps)	Ken Rukavina (Palos Verdes Estates)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Alison Suffet-Diaz (Environmental Charter School)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

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

Ms. Gatza of Water Replenishment District, the Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay WASC, called the meeting to order.

All committee members made self-introductions, and quorum was established.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2019**

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Gatza asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Ruffell of Sanitation Districts made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 30, 2019. Ms. Katsouleas of Manhattan Beach seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 30, 2019 (unanimous).**

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

#### **District Updates**

Mr. Allen of the District provided a summary of the Call for Projects info sessions, Ex Parte communications guidelines, release of the final General Income-based Tax Reduction Guidelines, and website information.

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Mr. Allen announced that Mr. Nguyen of the District is the point of contact for the District's Project Conceptual Approval for the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area.

Mr. Caldwell of West Basin asked whether an existing signed Form 700 with another agency be used for the Safe, Clean Water Program. Mr. Allen clarified that committee members need to sign a County 700 Form to acknowledge the appointment for Safe, Clean Water Program.

Ms. Gatza noted that the Water Replenishment District has been contacted by Project applicants for letter of support and is looking for guidance on the response.

Mr. Wang of SMB Restoration Commission requested more detailed discussion regarding Ex Parte communications.

#### **a) Committee Appointment Duration**

Ms. Gatza opened discussion about committee appointment duration for Committee Chair.

Ms. Katsouleas suggested changing the term length for Committee Chair from 1 year to 2 or 3 years. Mr. Allen noted that the change may involve public review and can be considered in the next update of the WASC Operating Guidelines.

Mr. Alva of LA County asked whether the WASC Operating Guidelines need to be uniformed throughout the different WASCs. Mr. Allen confirmed that the proposed change of term length will need to be discussed among the different WASCs.

Mr. Fangary of Fangary Law Group suggested that making a motion to confirm Committee Chair may be easier and less involved.

Ms. Ruffell asked about the term lengths for committee members. Mr. Allen noted that the term lengths for committee members varies from 3 to 5 years and staged for continuity. Mr. Allen also referred committee members to Page 61 of the Regional Program Committee Handbook.

Ms. Gatza suggested discussing Committee Chair appointment again in 6 to 9 months.

Mr. Alva requested that the District initiate a discussion on term length for Committee Chair with other WASCs.

Ms. Ruffell noted that if the term length for Committee Chair is more than 1 year, the Chair may be dismissed as a committee member if not reappointed to the seat.

#### **b) Meeting Location and Time**

Ms. Gatza announced that Mr. Caldwell offers a venue at West Basin in El Segundo to accommodate more public attendees. Mr. Caldwell confirmed that the venue is still available.

Ms. Katsouleas offered a venue in Manhattan Beach as an alternate location.

Ms. Gatza confirmed that the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 1:00pm will be at West Basin, 1935 S. Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245.

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#### 4. Public Comment Period

No public comment

#### 5. Voting Items

None

#### 6. Information Items:

##### a. Regional Coordination Efforts and Preparation for Watershed Coordinators

Mr. Antos of Stantec presented about the recently initiated regional coordination effort, watershed management principles and roles of the Watershed Coordinators in the Safe, Clean Water Program. Mr. Antos discussed and shared with the committee the existing tools and resources available for future watershed coordinators.

##### b. Discussion of watershed area context, priorities, and needs

Mr. Antos initiated discussion to prepare the WASC for upcoming evaluation of submitted Project concepts, Projects, and studies. The committee discussed applicable plans, programs, and related efforts, as well as shared experiences and input.

The committee discussed the water supply opportunities and how stormwater is infiltrated within the Watershed Area.

Mr. Antos displayed a map of the watershed area showing different data sets and priorities that the WASCs should consider when developing the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs).

##### c. Safe, Clean Water Program Project Module Overview

Presentation from Mr. Allen on the Project Module and its usefulness for committee members and status of submitted Projects.

The committee discussed the scoring process. Ms. Katsouleas noted that maximum point for this Watershed Area may only be 85 points due difficulty to receive points for Water Supply Benefits. Ms. Gatza agreed that this WASC may not receive a lot of Project applications.

Mr. Alva suggested that the District think about changing the scoring criteria to fit each individual Watershed Area. Mr. Allen noted that the current scoring criteria is just a starting point and things can change in the future.

Mr. Allen updated the committee on the numbers of submitted Projects:

- Infrastructure Program: 4 Feasibility Studies
- Technical Resources Program: 3 concepts for Feasibility Studies
- Scientific Studies Program: 4 applications for non-Projects

Mr. Allen noted that the committee will be encouraged to send all Feasibility Studies deemed complete to the Scoring Committee at the next meeting to initiate the scoring process. The

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committee may still choose to send Projects in phases to the Scoring Committee in subsequent meetings. The Scoring Committee will provide an official score and Projects must meet or exceed the Threshold Score of 60 points in order to be eligible for Infrastructure Program funding. The WASCs are not required to include the highest scoring Projects in the SIP and are encouraged to consider Safe Clean Water Program Goals, regional benefits, and watershed priorities when making determinations.

The committee discussed how projects would be transmitted to the WASCs. Mr. Allen clarified that District staff would review the Project submittals for completeness. The WASCs will receive a summary sheet of all Project submittals deemed complete. If a Project is deemed incomplete, the Project applicant will be notified and referred to Technical Resources Program or encouraged to apply for the next Fiscal Year through the Infrastructure Program.

Ms. Katsouleas asked whether there is an appeal process in place for Projects that did not meet the Threshold Score of 60 points. Mr. Allen clarified that the applicants can apply for the Technical Resources Program or implement tips provided on the Project Module to improve their score.

Ms. Ruffle asked on how to add helpful tips on the Project Module. Mr. Allen noted that committee members can send suggested tips to the Safe, Clean Water Program email to the District to review and add to Project Module.

Mr. Dettle of Torrance suggested the Watershed Coordinators can provide assistance to the Project applicants. Mr. Allen noted that Watershed Coordinators may not be technical and one of their main roles is to connect different agencies, organizations, and communities.

Ms. Santilena of LA asked for schedule for the Watershed Coordinators and Transfer Agreements. Mr. Allen noted the following tentative schedule:

- Watershed Coordinators
  - Request for Proposal in January/February 2020
  - Final selection in second year of SIPs.
- Transfer Agreements
  - Public review in January/February 2020
  - Approval from County of LA Board of Supervisors in April/May 2020

#### 7. Items for next agenda

The District recommends the following items for the next agenda:

- Review the complete list of Projects
- Select Projects to send to the Scoring Committee for scoring
- Select Technical Resources and Scientific Program Project Applicants for potential presentations
- Ex Parte Discussion

Ms. Gatza solicited additional recommendations from the committee for the next agenda.

Mr. Dettle suggested discussion on multiple year funding.

Mr. Alva requested public comment period after each discussion item.

Mr. Alva requested a standing agenda item for updates from Mr. Antos. Mr. Antos clarified that he can provide updates on his efforts, but he is not the Watershed Coordinator or tasked with its assignments.

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#### **8. Adjournment**

Ms. Gatza thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
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Diane Gatza	Water Replenishment District	dgatza@wrdd.org	P	✓
Lyndsey Bloxom	Water Replenishment District	lbloxom@wrdd.org	A	
Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org	P	
Darryl Ford	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Darryl.Ford@lacity.org	A	
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Mike Sullivan	Sanitation Districts	msullivan@lacsdsd.org	A	
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Alison Suffet-Diaz	Environmental Charter School	alison@ecsonline.org	P	
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Mary Simun	Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter	entamoebatrex@hotmail.com	A	
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Justin Massey			A	
Wendy Butts	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	wbutts@lacorps.org	P	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Bo Savage	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	bsavage@lacorps.org	A	
Guang Yu Wang	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission	Guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov	P	
Julio Gonzalez	Carson	JGonzalez@carson.ca.us	P	✓
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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Lauren Amimoto	EWMP: Dominguez (Inglewood)	lamimoto@cityofinglewood.org	A	
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<i>CHANDLER SHEILDS</i>	<i>SBCCOG</i>	<i>chandler@southbaycities.org</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>



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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



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

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