

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, December 12, 2019
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Los Angeles County Public Works, Headquarters – Room C
900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Gary Hildebrand (District)	Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)
Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)	John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park Association)
Javier Solis* (LA Recreation & Parks)	Yazdan Emrani (Glendale)
Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles – Sanitation)	Liz Crosson* (Los Angeles)
Art Castro* (LA Dept. of Water and Power)	TJ Moon* (Los Angeles County Public Works)
Miguel Luna (Urban Semilla DakeLuna Consultants)	Kris Markarian (Pasadena)
David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300)
Patrick DeChellis (La Canada Flintridge)
Ackley Padilla (Los Angeles)
Jeff Camp (Los Angeles)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Nahai, the Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River WASC, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Frary of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) introduced Mr. Hildebrand as the new committee member for the District.

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

2. Vice-Chair Position

Mr. Nahai provided an overview of the voting results from the previous meeting. There were three nominations. Mr. Nahai was elected as the Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River WASC, and Ms. Osmena was elected as the Vice-Chair. Mr. Delon Kwan received the remaining votes. Since Mr. Hildebrand replaced Ms. Osmena, the committee does not have a Vice-Chair. A motion was made and seconded to put the Vice-Chair position up to a committee member vote in the next meeting.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 31, 2019

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Nahai asked the committee members for comments or revisions, there were none. Mr. Nahai made a motion to approve the

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meeting minutes from October 31, 2019. Mr. Luker seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 31, 2019 (unanimous).**

4. Committee Member and District Updates

The District provided a summary of the call for projects info sessions, ex parte communications preliminary guidelines, release of the final General Income-Based Tax Reduction Guidelines, and the Safe, Clean Water Program website. Mr. Frary highly recommended that the committee members become familiar with the website (www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org) because it will routinely be updated with pertinent information.

Mr. Frary said that the committee members should have received an email notice from the County's COI office requesting members to submit a statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). Mr. Frary clarified that the form is due 30 days from the date of the notice, and not 30 days from the assumed appointment date as stated on the notice.

The committee discussed concerns regarding ex parte communications. Mr. Nahai declined a meeting request with an outside agency who wanted updates on the project submittals, but Mr. Nahai provided a presentation to a different agency on the overall process of the Safe, Clean Water Program. Mr. Luker also expressed that he provided a general presentation on the Safe, Clean Water Program to his community. The committee discussed that it is encouraged to inform communities about the Safe, Clean Water Program, but discouraged to talk to entities on specific SCWP projects.

The committee discussed how one can see how much they will be billed before and after a tax reduction. Mr. Frary clarified that you can access the Tax Lookup & Appeals tool and tax reduction opportunities on the website or call the Safe, Clean Water Program hotline, 833-ASK-SCWP.

Ms. Crosson asked if it is possible that District Staff provide calendar invites. Mr. Frary said that is possible and that at the moment we have GovDelivery sending out notifications for meetings.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comment

6. Voting Items

None

7. Information Items

a. Regional Coordination Efforts and Preparation for Watershed Coordinators

Mr. Mike Antos (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

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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 how the Upper Los Angeles River watershed has many opportunities for stormwater infiltration and multi-benefit projects, therefore, creating many opportunities to augment the local water supply and enhance the surrounding communities. Mr. Hildebrand pointed out that these projects can improve the quality of life of the many Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) within the watershed. Mr. Hildebrand added that a large effort in augmenting local water supply is cleaning up contaminated water, which LA County is already preparing a program for that issue.

Mr. Antos displayed a map of the watershed area showing different data sets and priorities that the WASC should consider when developing the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). He stated that additional datasets can be added to the mapping tools to help inform the WASCs and that the WASCs should consider all Safe, Clean Water Program goals, including water quality, water supply, and public health. The committee recommended a few additional datasets that could be added on the map: parks, flooding problem areas, abandoned water supply wells, impermeable areas, etc.

The committee discussed the Watershed Coordinator position. Mr. Frary stated that the District is currently developing the Request for Statement of Qualifications for the Watershed Coordinator position. The Watershed Coordinators will be available after the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan in June/July 2020. Mr. Frary clarified that Watershed Coordinators will essentially be regional coordination supporters.

Mr. Antos announced that the map of the watershed with the various datasets will eventually be available for the committee to view online.

c. Safe, Clean Water Program Project Module Overview

Mr. Rahimi (District) presented on the Project Module and its usefulness for WASC members and status of submitted Projects.

The committee discussed how projects would be transmitted to the WASCs. Mr. Frary mentioned that District staff will review the Project submittals for completeness. The WASCs will receive a summary of all Project submittals deemed complete. Throughout the process, the District will help facilitate a narrative of the projects submitted.

The committee expressed concern for the possibility of an original project getting disqualified for not fully meeting all the feasibility requirements. Mr. Frary clarified that they are general requirements and not part of the scoring criteria.

Mr. Frary announced that the Board of Supervisors passed a motion to implement Measures W, H, A, and M (WHAM) Committee. This will help streamline feasibility requirement regarding the County-wide anti-displacement policies.

Mr. Nahai asked for clarification on the significance of the November 6, 2018 date for eligible expenditures. Mr. Frary said that date is when Measure W was passed by the voters to ensure a project is not attempting to claim reimbursable funds before this date.

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Mr. Castro asked which entity will ensure a project satisfied all the requirements. Mr. Rahimi clarified that the project module will initially ensure all the requirements include a response. District staff will then check for completeness.

8. Items for next meeting agenda

The District recommends the following items for the next agenda:

- Review the complete list of Projects
- Select Projects to be sent up for scoring
- Select Infrastructure Program Project Applicants and non-Project applicants for potential presentations

Mr. Nahai requested that the conference room be re-configured so that the public and the committee members are facing each other to ensure no committee member's back is turned towards the public. His second request was to add time for a break to ensure the committee's full attention throughout the meeting.

Mr. Frary suggested that the committee not have an expectation for the January meeting to immediately start negotiating and evaluating the projects submitted. The meeting in January will serve as the first steps to discuss what the Upper Los Angeles River WASC can send to the Scoring Committee and if there are other pieces of context that need to be followed up so that the committee is on the same page when evaluating projects.

The committee discussed the timeline for the SIP. The committee wanted a clearer timeline on when the WASC would have had to review all the projects to provide to the Scoring Committee to keep on track with the June/July 2020 SIP deadline. Mr. Frary and the committee agreed that the WASC will have a clearer picture on the timeline after knowing the number of projects submitted by the December 15, 2019 deadline.

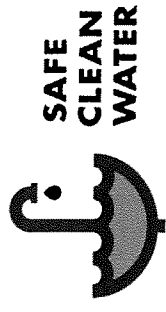
9. Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Nahai thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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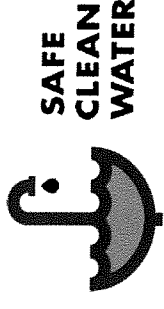


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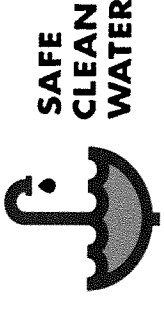
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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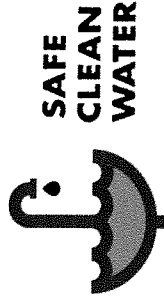


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



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