

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



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## Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, May 14, 2020

2:00pm – 4:00pm

WebEx Meeting – See below or [SCW website](#) for WebEx meeting details

## WebEx Meeting Details:

WASC members and members of the public may participate by joining the WebEx Meeting below. Please refer to the [Video Conferencing-Public Guidelines](#) available on the Safe, Clean Water website for additional information.

### Join via WebEx (recommended)

Meeting number: 960 030 172

Password: mDMA9AanS23

<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=m2ef776f3e724bfe204279fa7755955a2>

### Join by phone

+1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles)

Access code: 960 030 172

## Public Comment:

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to [SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov). All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete the [Comment Card Form](#) available on the Safe, Clean Water website and email to [SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov) by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting.

## Attendees:

### WASC Members Present:

Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)

Max Podemski\* (Los Angeles)

Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles – Sanitation)

Delon Kwan (LA Dept. of Water and Power)

David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith)

Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)

Teresa Villegas\* (Los Angeles)

Patrick DeChellis (La Canada Flintridge)

Miguel Luna (Urban Semilla DakeLuna  
Consultants)

TJ Moon\* (Los Angeles County Public Works)

Gary Hildebrand (Los Angeles County Flood  
Control District)

Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300)

Kris Markarian (Pasadena)

Cathie Santo Domingo (LA Recreation & Parks)

John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park  
Association)

Yazdan Emrani (Glendale)

Rafael Prieto\* (Los Angeles)

### WASC Members Not Present:

None

\*WASC Member Alternate

See attachment for full list of attendees

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

Mr. CJ Caluag provided an overview of the WebEx interface and provided instructions for a member of the public to provide a comment during the Public Comment Period. He facilitated roll call voting for attendance and quorum was established.

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

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 30, 2020**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Nahai asked the WASC members for comments or revisions, there were none. Mr. Gary Hildebrand motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Yazdan Emrani seconded the motion. The WASC did a roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes from April 30, 2020 (unanimous).

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

Mr. Caluag gave updates on the Watershed Coordinator solicitation. The Request for Statement of Qualifications is anticipated to be posted on May 26. The WASC will conduct an interview and ranking process with each of the candidates around August. The process has not been finalized at this time. Then Board approval will be around September.

The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) is scheduled to meet on May 20, June 18, and June 24. See website for meeting details. When the WASC votes on the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP), District Staff will send a SIP submittal to the ROC and the Chairs and project applicants were advised to attend the meeting to answer questions.

#### **4. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Caluag called on public members that submitted Public Comment Cards to the Safe, Clean Water prior to the meeting. See attachment for the Public Comment Cards and letters.

Mr. Shahriar Eftekharzadeh (SEITec) expressed concern that the projects being considered are using inefficient infiltration systems and that costs can be reduced with more optimate infiltration systems.

Ms. Diana Mahmud (City of South Pasadena) recommends that the WASC does not fund projects that request 50 percent of the WASC's funds to consider funding Technical Resources Program and Scientific Studies that help smaller cities that cannot fund feasibility reports for Infrastructure Program projects.

Mr. Edgar Campos (T.R.U.S.T. South Los Angeles) expressed the region's great need of parks and open space and requests that the WASC considers projects that will be transformational to our community by promoting economic opportunity and connectivity to green spaces. See attached letter.

Mr. David Dolphin (City of Alhambra) noted that two of the Scientific Studies were approved for funding in the Rio Hondo WASC and that it would be advantageous for the ULAR WASC to move forward with those studies as well.

Mr. Eli Lipmen (South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone) expressed support for a rail to river project application.

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Mr. Sherilyn Correa (City of Los Angeles – Council District 9) expressed the City of Los Angeles’ great need of parks and open space and expressed support for a project application.

Mr. Shona Calzada Ganguly (The Nature Conservancy and OurWaterLA) expressed the need for multi-benefit projects, that promote equity, and green job creation.

District staff unmuted call-in users. No one spoke.

#### **5. Discussion Items**

##### **a) Ex Parte Communications**

The WASC did not have any ex parte communication disclosures.

##### **b) Discussion of project rankings**

Mr. Nahai gave an overview of the current funding request from all the projects and invited the WASC to discuss the project rankings and to discuss the percent allocation. District staff shared the SIP Planning Tool on the screen.

The WASC discussed how the funds are rolled over in the next year. District staff explained that the funds for the ULAR WASC will be rolled over to the next year and the interest accrued from the unused ULAR WASC funds may go to the District funding. District staff will confirm this.

The WASC noted that uncertainties with the pandemic could affect the ULAR WASC funds in the future years and they may want to approach a more conservative percent allocation funding. On the other hand, the WASC discussed the benefits of using the funds to stimulate the economy.

The anticipated revenue for the ULAR WASC this round is approximately \$38.6 million. 80 percent of \$38.6 million is approximately \$30.9 million and 75 percent is approximately \$28.9 million.

The WASC also noted to consider that the next call for projects is in July and Watershed Coordinators will be on board for the next call for projects and funding round.

##### **c) Populate the Stormwater Investment Plan planning tool**

Mr. Caluag shared the WASC’s ranking results on the screen and explained how the “score” was calculated. See the results in the image below.

The WASC requested to redistribute the Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Urban Flow Management Network Project and Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Management Project funding over the five years instead of the current distribution over two years. The project applicant agreed. With all the projects toggled on, the SIP Planning Tool results for Fiscal Year (FY) 20-21, FY 21-22, FY 22-23, FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 funding was 79 percent, 70 percent, 33 percent, 17 percent, and 10 percent, respectively. The WASC expressed concern that their rankings would have been different had they known about the funding redistribution of the two projects. Although the rankings would have been different, there will still be a vote in which WASC members can change their preferences on projects.

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The WASC requested to remove the two Scientific Studies (Coordinated Safe Clean Watershed Plans and Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution) that did not get sufficient rankings from the WASC. In other words, they did not receive a “score”. The SIP Planning Tool results for FY 20-21, FY 21-22, FY 22-23, FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 funding changed to 76 percent, 66 percent, 29 percent, 16 percent, and 10 percent, respectively.

A WASC member expressed concern for funding Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project because it is already fully funded and that there is no guarantee that the reimbursement funds will go towards projects that meet the Safe, Clean Water Program Goals. The project applicant said that the funds will go to new projects within the region to further meet water quality goals. The WASC noted that funding the project does not allow them to approve what the reimbursement funds will be used for. The WASC requested to see the funding scenario where the project is not funded. The SIP Planning Tool results for FY 20-21, FY 21-22, FY 22-23, FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 funding changed to 66 percent, 61 percent, 27 percent, 15 percent, and 9 percent, respectively.

Mr. TJ Moon responded with reasons to support the Franklin D. Roosevelt and reminded the WASC it would be a showcase project for SCW. Mr. TJ Moon motioned to approve the SIP including the project and excluding the two scientific studies mentioned above for the 76 percent allocation for FY 20-21. Mr. Gary Hildebrand seconded the motion. Mr. Nahai opened a discussion on the motion.

The WASC clarified that approving the SIP means approving funding for FY 20-21 and the remaining years are earmarked provided that they comply with the Fund Transfer Agreement. The WASC discussed how the SIP will be formulated in the future years. District staff noted that project applicants will provide quarterly reports to the WASC. At that point, the WASC can ensure that the funds are being used appropriately and reevaluate the funding distribution. If an approved project needs more funds in the future, they will have to resubmit an application for more funding.

The WASC expressed that there should be additional discussions on redistributing funding for other projects over the five years, such as the City of San Fernando Regional Park Infiltration Project.

Mr. Mike Antos reminded the WASC that as the WASC is preparing the next SIP, they can talk to the approved project proponents from this SIP to redistribute funds for the ensuing years.

The WASC requested to redistribute the Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project funds over two years instead of one year. The SIP Planning Tool results for FY 20-21, FY 21-22, FY 22-23, FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 funding changed to 71 percent, 67 percent, 29 percent, 16 percent, and 10 percent, respectively.

The WASC expressed concern for the 67 percent projection for year two (FY 21-22).

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ID	Program	Project Name	# of Rankings	Score	Program Place
8	IP	Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project	17	174	1
4	IP	Fernangeles Park Stormwater Capture Proj	17	161	2
9	IP	Strathern Park North Stormwater Capture	16	151	3
2	IP	City of San Fernando Regional Park Infil	16	120	4
11	IP	Valley Village Park Stormwater Capture P	16	116	5
6	IP	Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Urban Fl	12	89	6
10	IP	The Distributed Drywell System Project	16	89	6
7	IP	Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Manageme	9	71	8
1	IP	Active Transportation Rail to River Corr	12	69	9
3	IP	Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation	9	58	10
5	IP	Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional Stor	11	53	11
12	IP	Walnut Park Pocket Park Project	11	53	11

ID	Program	Project Name	# of Rankings	Score	Program Place
1	TRP	Arroyo Seco Projects	15	66	1
4	TRP	Pasadena Unified School District Campus	14	51	2
2	TRP	Upper Los Angeles River Green Street Dem	15	47	3
3	TRP	Hay Canyon Channel / FIS Sports Faciliti	11	30	4
5	TRP	Winery Canyon Channel / Descanso Gardens	11	21	5

ID	Program	Project Name	# of Rankings	Score	Program Place
4	SS	LRS Adaptation to Address the LA River B	12	48	1
3	SS	Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc Criter	12	46	2
5	SS	preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science	9	30	3
1	SS	Regional Scientific Study to Support Pro	7		
2	SS	Coordinated Safe Clean Watershed Plans	8		

#### d) Public Comment Period

Ms. Diana Mahmud (City of South Pasadena) expressed support for funding Technical Resources Program and Scientific Studies to support smaller cities' development of projects.

Mr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh (SEITec) expressed concern for the current projects that use infiltration wells that he believes are not optimal and the funding for those projects can be reduced significantly with more efficient infiltration wells.

Mr. David Dolphin (City of Alhambra) expressed that Technical Resources Program is what small cities rely on to be able to present viable projects for their taxpayers. He strongly supports funding Technical Resources Program.

Mr. Vic Bapna requested to speak via chat function on WebEx, but the Chair motioned to adjourn the meeting. District staff acknowledged this and asked Mr. Bapna to speak during the next meeting's Public Comment Period.

#### e) [Voting Item] – Assign Percent allocation target

The WASC did not vote. This will be included in the next agenda.

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**f) [Voting Item] – Confirm Final Stormwater Investment Plan (*if time permits*)**

The WASC did not vote. This will be included in the next agenda.

**6. Break**

The WASC did not take a break.

**7. Items for next agenda**

Mr. TJ Moon withdrew his motion. The WASC discussed that the next meeting will involve a continuation of discussing and voting on the SIP.

**8. Adjournment**

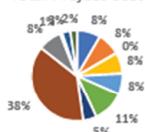
Mr. Nahai thanked the WASC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting Date and Times:**  
**Thursday, May 28, 2020, 2:00pm – 4:00pm**  
**WebEx Meeting – See [SCW website](#) for meeting details**

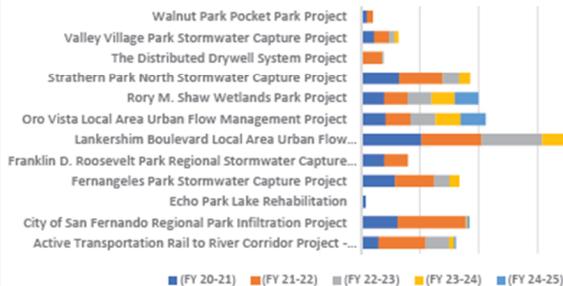
Tentative Meeting:  
Thursday, June 11, 2020, 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
WebEx Meeting – See [SCW website](#) for meeting details

**Project Details**

Total Project Cost

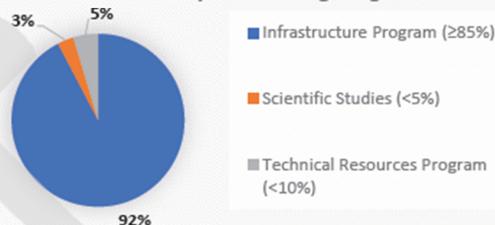


SCW Funding Requested



Required DAC Ratio	50%
Required Funding for DACs FY 20-25 (110%)	\$ 50,612,868.92
Funding Allocated for DACs FY 20-25	\$ 80,657,798.03

Distribution by SIP Funding Program



**Stormwater Investment Plan Preview**

	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
<b>A. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Collected</b>	\$38.63 M		<b>\$193.13 M</b>				
<b>B. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Available (A+D)</b>	\$38.63 M	\$49.94 M	\$55.10 M	\$77.80 M	\$103.94 M		
<b>C. Total Allocated in the SIP</b>	\$27.32 M	\$33.46 M	\$15.93 M	\$12.48 M	\$10.10 M	\$0.38 M	<b>\$99.29 M</b>
<b>D. Remaining Balance/Rollover Funds (B-C)</b>	\$11.31 M	\$16.48 M	\$39.17 M	\$65.32 M	\$93.84 M		
<b>E. Percent Allocated (C/B)</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>10%</b>		<b>51%</b>

Row Labels	DAC	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
<b>Infrastructure Program</b>		\$ 24,135,094.32	\$ 31,634,429.21	\$ 14,497,404.70	\$ 11,881,569.80	\$ 9,499,900.00	\$ 375,000.00	\$ 92,023,398.03
Active Transportation Rail to River	Yes	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 425,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 375,000.00	\$ 8,425,000.00
City of San Fernando Regional Park	Yes	\$ 3,115,000.00	\$ 5,785,000.00	\$ 100,400.00	\$ 100,400.00	\$ 100,400.00	\$ -	\$ 9,201,200.00
Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation	No	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000.00
Fernangeles Park Stormwater Capture	Yes	\$ 2,926,261.89	\$ 3,344,299.31	\$ 1,254,112.24	\$ 836,074.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,360,748.27
Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional Stormwater	Yes	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00
Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Urban Flow	Yes	\$ 5,139,380.00	\$ 5,139,380.00	\$ 5,139,380.00	\$ 5,139,380.00	\$ 5,139,380.00	\$ -	\$ 25,696,900.00
Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Management	No	\$ 2,118,120.00	\$ 2,118,120.00	\$ 2,118,120.00	\$ 2,118,120.00	\$ 2,118,120.00	\$ -	\$ 10,590,600.00
Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project	Yes	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000.00
Strathern Park North Stormwater Capture	Yes	\$ 3,247,511.94	\$ 3,711,442.21	\$ 1,391,790.83	\$ 927,860.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,278,605.53
The Distributed Drywell System Project	Yes	\$ 76,750.00	\$ 1,765,250.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,893,000.00
Valley Village Park Stormwater Capture	Yes	\$ 1,112,070.49	\$ 1,270,937.69	\$ 476,601.63	\$ 317,734.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,177,344.23
Walnut Park Pocket Park Project	Yes	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00
<b>Scientific Studies</b>		\$ 980,707.00	\$ 1,226,133.00	\$ 831,491.00			\$ -	\$ 3,038,331.00
LRS Adaptation to Address the LA River	(blank)	\$ 192,500.00	\$ 385,000.00	\$ 308,000.00			\$ -	\$ 885,500.00
preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science	(blank)	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 400,000.00			\$ -	\$ 1,800,000.00
Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc	(blank)	\$ 88,207.00	\$ 141,133.00	\$ 123,491.00			\$ -	\$ 352,831.00
<b>Technical Resources Program</b>		\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,600,000.00
Green Street Demonstration Project	(blank)	\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Hay Canyon Channel / FIS Sports Facility	(blank)	\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Pasadena Unified School District Construction	(blank)	\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #1	(blank)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #2	(blank)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #3	(blank)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Winery Canyon Channel / Descanso Gateway	(blank)	\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Arroyo Seco Projects: Constructed	(blank)	\$ 400,000.00					\$ -	\$ 400,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$ 27,315,801.32	\$ 33,460,562.21	\$ 15,928,895.70	\$ 12,481,569.80	\$ 10,099,900.00	\$ 375,000.00	\$ 99,661,729.03

Watershed Area
Upper Los Angeles River

Projects
IP 10-Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation
IP 11-Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional...
IP 11-Walnut Park Pocket Park Project
IP 1-Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project
IP 2-Fernangeles Park Stormwater Captu...
IP 3-Strathern Park North Stormwater C...
IP 4-City of San Fernando Regional Park I...
IP 5-Valley Village Park Stormwater Capt...
IP 6-Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Ur...
IP 6-The Distributed Drywell System Proj...
IP 8-Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Ma...
IP 9-Active Transportation Rail to River C...
SS 1-LRS Adaptation to Address the LA Ri...
SS 2-Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc ...
SS 3-preSIP: A Platform for Watershed S...
SS -Coordinated Safe Clean Watershed P...
SS -Regional Scientific Study to Support ...
TRP 1-Arroyo Seco Projects: Constructed...
TRP 2-Pasadena Unified School District C...
TRP 3-Green Street Demonstration Proje...
TRP 4-Hay Canyon Channel / FIS Sports F...
TRP 5-Winery Canyon Channel / Descanso...
TRP -Watershed Coordinator #1
TRP -Watershed Coordinator #2
TRP -Watershed Coordinator #3

**Upper Los Angeles River  
Thursday, May 14, 2020**

Upper Los Angeles River Thursday, May 14, 2020					Quorum Present	Voting Items
Member Type	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	
Agency	Gary Hildebrand	x	Genevieve Osmena		y	
Agency	Delon Kwan	x	Art Castro		y	
Agency	Paul Liu	x	Rafael Villegas		y	
Agency	Alfredo Magallanes	x	Ariel Flores		y	
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	x	Javier Solis		y	
Community Stakeholder	Ernesto Pantoja	x	Sergio Rascon			
Community Stakeholder	Miguel Luna	x	Yvette Lopez-Ledesma		y	
Community Stakeholder	John Luker	x	Wendi Gladstone		y	
Community Stakeholder	David Nahai	x	Jacob Lipa		y	
Community Stakeholder	Veronica Padilla-Campos	x	Felipe Escobar		y	
Municipal Members	Yazdan Emrani	x	Chris Chew		y	
Municipal Members	Patrick DeChellis	x			y	
Municipal Members	Barbara Romero		Teresa Villegas	x	y	
Municipal Members	Ackley Padilla	x	Max Podemski		y	
Municipal Members	Jeff Camp		Rafael Prieto	x	y	
Municipal Members	Paul Alva		TJ Moon	x	y	
Municipal Members	Kris Markarian	x	Sean Singletary		y	
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	16	
Total Voting Members Present	17			Nay (N)	0	
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	
Community Stakeholder	5			Total	16	
Municipal Members	7				Approved	

## Attendees

### Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - May 14, 2020

Ariel Flores - LASAN	Donna Bloom-Crook	Christine Wartman	Joe Bellomo
Julian Lee	Aydin Pasebani	Kris Markarian	John Luker
CMcLeod	Cameron McCullough (JLHA)	CJ Caluag - LACFCD	effietlaw
Joyce	Humberto Quintana	Thuan Nguyen	Ryan Aghakhani
TESTER	delon	Anthony Nercessian	William O'Braitis
Carmen Andrade	Committee-Gary Hildebrand(P)	Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources	Jon Ball
bbaldauf	noel.le@ladwp.com	BradWardynski	VBapna
Private Email	volunteer	Shahram Kharaghani	Jessica Quach
Aydin Pasebani, Office of Supervisor Solis	Joe Venzon - LA County	Diana Mahmud	Samantha Matthews (SGVCOG)
pliu	Mackenzie Domann - LA County	chowk	Diana Mahmud
Shahid Abbas	BW	Mike Antos (Stantec)	Alvin Cruz
Teresa Villegas	Eli Lipmen	KMarkarian	David Dolphin
david nahai	27519	Michael Gagan	Sheila Brice
Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources	Dustin Bambic	Ann Bechtel	Dustin Bambic
Rafael Prieto	Dustin Bambic	Yazdan Emrani	Edgar Campos
Antony Karongo	C O	cchew	390000
Mike Antos (Stantec)	Katie Harrel	Danielle Chupa	E. Rivera
Wendi Gladstone	Patrick DeChellis	Oscar Monge	cchew
Miguel Luna	Dawn Petschauer	Luis	eve sinclair
Shona Calzada Ganguly	justin	Luis	VBapna
Cantwella	Katie Ward (SGVCOG)	Aydin Pasebani, (Sup. Solis)	Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources
Susie	gjaquez	Safe Clean Water LA	53834
Conor Mossavi - LADWP	ackley padilla	Safe Clean Water LA	Myrka Martinez
Heather Repenning	i.r.	Sherilyn Correa	Joe Bellomo
EPantoja	i.r.	Jill Sourial	Default
Clint Boschen	Bronwyn	Genevieve Osmena	Evan Rosenberg
Taraneh Nik-Khah	David	Shahriar	53834
Chad Helmle - Craftwater	ptonth	Tracey Chavira	Art
A Magallanes	cchew	Johanna	Katie Mika
Brianna Datti	TJ Moon - LA County	Daphne	Katie Mika









May 14, 2020

**Board of Directors:**

Benjamin Torres, Chair  
Organizational Representative  
(CD Tech)

Nancy H. Ibrahim, Vice Chair  
Organizational Representative  
(Esperanza Community Housing)

Araceli Alvarado, Secretary  
General Representative

Nakea Brown, Treasurer  
Lessee Representative

Alma Ruth Andrade,  
General Representative

John London  
General Representative

Maritza Lopez  
General Representative

Emmanuel Louis  
Lessee Representative

Rosa Perez  
General Representative

**Executive Team:**

Edgar Campos  
Executive Director

Oscar Monge  
Associate Director

Arrens Castro  
Finance Director

To: Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Area Steering  
Committee Upper Los Angeles River  
Fr: Edgar Campos, T.R.U.S.T. South LA Executive Director  
Re: Railway to River Project Investments

Dear Committee Members

T.R.U.S.T. South LA was established in 2005 as a permanent and democratic steward of land in South Los Angeles. Since its inception the group has expanded its community membership, has raised and dedicated millions in funds in its effort to improve the way of life for thousands of local residents, businesses, and stakeholders. T.R.U.S.T. South LA is a community-based effort that works to stabilize the neighborhoods south of Downtown LA, where increased property values and rents have pushed out many long-term residents. Our mission is to serve as a steward for community-controlled land; to be a catalyst for values-driven, community-serving development; to build awareness and community leadership in issues of housing, transportation and recreation; and to create programs and initiatives that encourage community building and economic opportunity.

On behalf of TRUST South LA and South L.A residents across the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> District, I am writing to share that our region in the City of Los Angeles is in great need of parks and open space. According to the Parks Needs Assessment conducted by the County of Los Angeles in 2016 the majority of the district is in high need of additional park, recreation, and open space investments. Considering that parks are a key infrastructure element in improving the quality of life of the community. Residents are eager to identify new park locations and opportunities to bring in the necessary infrastructure improvements the area deserves. As example of our efforts we have put forward \$2M dollars towards acquisition and revitalizing a property adjacent to the railway.

After decades post deindustrialization the Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor has sat blighted for decades after the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Company abandoned their rail line and Metro subsequently acquired the right of way in hopes of future redevelopment. The railway extends from the soon to be completed Crenshaw/LAX line to the A-line station at Slauson and Long Beach Avenue.

Our members strongly support the Active Transportation Rail to River Corridor Project - Segment A for consideration of Measure W Regional Program funding. We believe this project will be transformational to our community by promoting economic opportunity and connectivity to green spaces in addition to enhancing water quality. We urge the Committee to consider an equity lens when discussion the communities served by this project and when determining the best use of these tax revenues. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions [edgar@trustsouthla.org](mailto:edgar@trustsouthla.org).

Thank you,  
Edgar Campos

Executive Director  
T.R.U.S.T. South LA





