

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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### **Meeting Minutes:**

Thursday, May 28, 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: 965 852 032

Password: QkS5EYJ3yu6

<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=me0f077d4dba612645e911090af6a89e1>

#### Join by phone

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

Access code: 965 852 032

### **Public Comment:**

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.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@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.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)  
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:

Ackley Padilla (Los Angeles)

\*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 May 14, 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. Yazdan Emrani motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Teresa Villegas seconded the motion. The WASC did a roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes from May 14, 2020 (unanimous).

Note Ms. Cathie Santo Domingo, Mr. Ernesto Pantoja and Mr. Ackley Padilla were not present during this agenda item.

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

Mr. Caluag announced that seven out of nine WASCs have approved their Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to date and that the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) is scheduled to meet on June 18, 2020 and June 24, 2020 to review the SIPs. Mr. Caluag advised the WASC chairs to be in attendance and District staff will invite project applicants to attend the meeting and to be ready to answer any questions brought forth from the ROC.

Mr. Caluag noted that the fund Transfer Agreement templates will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda on June 9, 2020.

Lastly, Mr. Caluag gave an update on the Watershed Coordinator position. He noted that the Request for Statement of Qualifications for the Watershed Coordinator Services is posted on the SCW website and will close on July 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM. Mr. Caluag also noted that 2 webinar proposers conferences are scheduled for June 8 and June 9, 2020.

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

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

Ms. Effie Turnbull Sanders (South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone) expressed support for a project that provides green space, water conservation, and connectivity among communities.

Mr. Shahriar Eftekharzadeh (SEITec) expressed concern and a series of questions on the WASC's evaluation of two infrastructure projects under SIP consideration.

Ms. Sherilyn Correa (City of Los Angeles – Council District 9), on behalf of Office Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., expressed support for one project under SIP consideration that will bring much needed investment for South Los Angeles.

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Mr. Edgar Campos (T.R.U.S.T. South Los Angeles) expressed support for the Active Transportation Rail to River Corridor Project investments because of the region's great need of parks and open space and requests.

Mr. Dustin Bambic (Water Resources Engineer) expressed concern for the WASC's process of considering Scientific Studies in the SIP from the project rankings.

Mr. Carlos Moran (TreePeople) expressed similar support for Active Transportation Rail to River Corridor Project investments as mentioned because its equitable distribution of resources for Angelinos.

District staff asked call-in users to speak, but had no response. The public comment letters are attached within these minutes.

## 5. Discussion Items

### a) Ex Parte Communications

The WASC did not have any ex parte communication disclosures.

### b) Populate the Stormwater Investment Plan planning tool

Mr. Caluag shared the SIP Planning Tool on the screen with the results that were discussed at the end of the last meeting. This SIP included all projects submitted to the Infrastructure Program and Technical Resources Program, three out of the five Scientific Studies, and three Watershed Coordinator positions. The funding percent allocation for Fiscal Year (FY) 20-21, FY 21-22, FY 22-23, FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 funding was 71 percent, 67 percent, 29 percent, 16 percent, and 10 percent, respectively.

Mr. Nahai reminded the WASC that the current SIP allows the WASC to fund almost all of the projects, while being below the 80 percent funding allocation for the first year. He added that the current SIP would allow for \$16.48M to be used to fund new projects after earmarking 67% of the funds for FY 21-22.

District staff reminded the WASC that the projects submitted to the Technical Resources Program may come to fruition into the Infrastructure Program around year three or four where there is a substantial amount of unallocated funds for future projects during years according to the current SIP.

### c) Public Comment Period

Mr. Vic Bapna (CWE) explained why redistributing funds for the City of Fernando Regional Infiltration Project was not possible at this time.

Ms. Diana Mahmud (City of South Pasadena) expressed support for funding Scientific Studies and expressed concern about operation and maintenance costs in the future, which may not be supported by the current percent funding allocations shown on the SIP.

Mr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh (SEITec) agreed with Ms. Diana Mahmud's comments and expressed support for a more conservative funding allocation.

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District staff asked call-in users to speak, but had no response

#### **d) [Voting Item] – Confirm Final Stormwater Investment Plan**

District staff shared a simplified version of the SIP to the WASC members prior to the meeting. The WASC expressed that it was a helpful tool for SIP discussion.

Mr. Nahai motioned to approve the SIP as shown. Ms. Teresa Villegas seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously. The recommended SIP is shown attached.

#### **6. Break**

The WASC did not take a break.

#### **7. Items for next agenda**

No items were discussed for the next agenda. It was stated there will not be a ULAR WASC meeting in June. The next ULAR WASC meeting will be tentatively scheduled if needed to address any recommendations provided by the ROC after they have reviewed the ULAR SIP.

Mr. Nahai invited the WASC members to join him at the ROC meetings. District staff will invite project applicants to the ROC meetings.

#### **8. Adjournment**

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