

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Upper Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Wednesday, December 16, 2020  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Video Conferencing

#### **Attendees**

##### Committee Members

Paul Lui (LA Dept. of Water and Power)	Yazdan Emrani (Glendale)
Alfredo Magallanes (Los Angeles – Sanitation)	Kris Markarian (Pasadena)
Art Castro* (LA Dept. of Water and Power)	TJ Moon* (Los Angeles County Public Works)
David Nahai (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith)	Genevieve Osmena (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Veronica Padilla-Campos (Pacoima Beautiful)	John Luker (Santa Susana Mountain Park Association)
Teresa Villegas* (Los Angeles)	Max Podemski* (Los Angeles)
Patrick DeChellis (La Canada Flintridge)	Rafael Prieto* (Los Angeles)
Miguel Luna (Urban Semilla DakeLuna Consultants)	
Cathie Santo Domingo (LA Recreation & Parks)	
Ernesto Pantoja (Laborers Local 300)	

##### Committee Members Not Present:

None

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attachment for full list of attendees

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. CJ Caluag of the District called the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC meeting to order.

District staff facilitated roll call voting for attendance and quorum was established. He 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.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2020**

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes from the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, and asked the WASC members for comments or revisions, there were none. The WASC did a roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes from November 4, 2020 (unanimous).

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

For the District, a few items were discussed regarding projects scoring. The Scoring Committee began reviewing projects submitted to the Infrastructure Program for official scoring at their upcoming meetings and will invite applicants to provide additional details as needed.

As discussed at the last meeting, there were 67 Watershed Coordinator proposals from 21 different applicants. Phase 1 evaluation was done by LA County Public Works' Business Relations and Contracts

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Division. Phase 2 of the Watershed Coordinator selection process involves the WASC interviews, which are being conducted in today's meeting, with the Watershed Coordinator selection happening in January and the on-boarding of the Watershed Coordinators in February.

The District distributed 86 municipal Transfer Agreements to the cities and unincorporated LA County. A reminder to each agency was provided to execute and submit their signed Transfer Agreements, the resolution, and their Annual Plans as soon as possible. The Scope of work is due 45 days after LA County Board of Supervisors adoption, which was the end of November and accompanied by California Environmental Quality Act evaluation and determination.

Mr. David Nahai asked when the WASC will be able to start reviewing the projects. District staff mentioned they are anticipating starting in January or February.

#### **4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

None provided.

#### **5. Public Comment**

No public comment provided.

#### **6. Discussion Items:**

##### **a) Watershed Coordinator Selection**

##### **i) Process Overview**

During the interview process, District staff will read each interview question out loud and have the questions presented on the screen. Each Watershed Coordinator proposer will be allowed 20 minutes to respond to all the questions and 10 minutes for questions and answers. All proposers received questions in advance, and all will be asked the same set of questions. Committee members were sent the set of questions, note-taking sheet, the Watershed Coordinator roles/responsibilities, and each Watershed Coordinator's Statement of Qualifications. It is highly advised to write notes to remember critical information when voting at the next meeting. If the Committee member present at today's meeting will not be present at the following meeting the meeting notes should be passed onto the alternate member for voting purposes. If any Committee member has a financial link to any of the Watershed Coordinator proposers, these Committee Members must recuse themselves from the Watershed Coordinator selection process. The selection process and voting will occur during the January meeting.

##### **ii) Interviews**

The following firms and respective presenters conducted the Watershed Coordinator interviews by answering the interview questions and individual WASC member questions.

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#### **(1) Day One**

Presented by Christy Zamani and Laurel Hunt.

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Mr. David Nahai, Mr. Max Podemski, Ms. Genevieve Osmena.

#### **(2) Fresh Coast Capital, LLC dba Greenprint Partners**

Presented by April Mendez, Jim Sparber and Ben Shorofsky.

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Mr. David Nahai, Mr. Max Podemski, Mr. Miguel Luna, Ms. Teresa Villegas, Mr. Ernesto Pantoja and Mr. Yazdan Emrani.

#### **(3) Environmental Outreach Strategies**

Presented by Adi Liberman, Arlene Guzman, and Jennifer Amarant.

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Mr. Miguel Luna and Mr. David Nahai.

#### **(4) Council for Watershed Health**

Presented by Eileen Alduenda, Carlos Moran, Clarasophia Gust, Pauline Louie, and Jason Casanova.

WASC individual member with specific questions after the interview was Mr. David Nahai.

#### **(5) EW Consulting Inc.**

Presented by Eliza Jane Whiteman

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Mr. Max Podemski and Mr. David Nahai.

## **7. Public Comment Period**

Jesus Alvarez (Tataviam Land Conservancy) – comment card memorialized in the minutes.

Laura Muraida (Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education) – comment card memorialized in the minutes.

Lisa Hart (Los Angeles's Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance) – comment card memorialized in the minutes.

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#### 8. Voting Items:

##### a) Selection of Vice-Chair

The election of any Chair and Vice-Chair should be revisited on an annual basis per the SCWP WASC Operating Guidelines.

Mr. Miguel Luna nominated Mr. Max Podemski for Vice-Chair with Ms. Veronica Padilla-Campos seconding this motion. Mr. Caluag then proceeded with the roll call for each WASC members to vote. The WASC approved Mr. Podemski as the Vice-Chair unanimously.

#### 9. Meeting Schedule

1st Wednesday of every month, 2PM-4PM (placeholder from February to May 2021)

As mentioned previously, 24 projects were submitted for SCW funding. The committee may need to meet more frequently to accommodate the project presentations and Stormwater Investment Plan deliberations. A suggestion is to hold meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

#### 10. Items for the next agenda

Mr. Caluag stated the future agenda item will include Watershed Coordinator Selection (Voting Item). He noted Watershed Coordinators will be invited to answer questions any follow up questions from the committee. The committee can reflect on the information presented. In addition, Project applicants may be invited to provide presentations on their IP/TRP/SS project.

#### 11. Adjournment

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

**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting – WebEx Event**

**Upper Los Angeles River  
December 16, 2020**

		Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	Vice Chair
Agency	Genevieve Osmena	x	Carolina Hernandez		y	y
Agency	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	x	y	y
Agency	Paul Liu	x	Rafael Villegas		y	y
Agency	Alfredo Magallanes	x	Michael Scaduto		y	y
Agency	Cathie Santo Domingo	x	Javier Solis		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Ernesto Pantoja	x	Sergio Rascon		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Miguel Luna	x	Yvette Lopez-Ledesma			y
Community Stakeholder	John Luker	x	Wendi Gladstone		y	y
Community Stakeholder	David Nahai	x	Jacob Lipa		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Veronica Padilla-Campos	x	Felipe Escobar		y	y
Municipal Members	Yazdan Emrani	x			a	y
Municipal Members	Patrick DeChellis	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Barbara Romero		Teresa Villegas	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Max Podemski	x	Ackley Padilla		y	y
Municipal Members	Jeff Camp		Rafael Prieto	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Paul Alva		TJ Moon	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Kris Markarian	x	Sean Singletary		a	a
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	14	16
Total Voting Members Present	17			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	2	1
Community Stakeholder	5			Total	16	17
Municipal Members	7				Approved	Approved

## Attendees

### Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - December 16, 2020

Safe Clean Water LA	Wendi Gladstone	ilene Ramirez	Kirk Allen - LACFCD (SCWP)
Justin Jones	Teresa Villegas	Miguel Luna	sheila brice
Mayra Cabrera - LACFCD	david nahai	Jim Sparber	Humphrey Egekeze
CJ Caluag - LACFCD	Carlos Moran	CHRISTY ZAMANI	sheila brice
Alfredo Magallanes	Clarasophia Gust	Laurel Hunt	Eileen Alduenda
Justin Jones	Patrick DeChellis	Thuan Nguyen	Tracey Chavira
John Luker	Ernesto Pantoja	Benjamin Shorofsky	Pauline Louie
sheila brice	Justin Jones	April Mendez	Courtney Bonilla
Paul Liu	Megan Murray	Jason Casanova	Sheila Brice
Alvin Cruz - LACFCD	Yazdan Emrani	Sarai Bhaga	Courtney Bonilla
Alexander Iglesias - SCW	William OBraitis	YSanchez	Courtney Bonilla
Gustavo Orozco	Jon Ball	David Angel	Courtney Bonilla
Art Castro	Ryanna Fossum	Ernesto Pantoja	D Ready
Mike Antos	katie m	Susie Santilena	YSanchez
Genevieve Osmena (P)	D Ready	Blake Whittington	John Robinson
Veronica Padilla	David Angel	Kimberly Henry	Sheila Brice
Conor Mossavi	max Podemski	Jesus Alvarez	Kris Markarian
Taraneh Nik-Khah	Kris Markarian	Gustavo Orozco	Thuan Nguyen
Rafael Prieto	Melissa Levitt	D Ready	Jon Ball
TJ Moon	Cathie Santo Domingo	Adi Liberman	Teresa Villegas
Johanna Chang	Thuan Nguyen	eliza jane whitman	D Ready
Julian Lee	Adi Liberman	Arlene Guzman	macshorty
Christine McLeod	Hans Tremmel	Jennifer Amarant	D Ready
Michael Scaduto	Paul Glenn (GHD)	Julian Lee	Eileen Alduenda



# Public Comment Form

Name:\* Jesus Alvarez Organization\*: Tataviam Land Conservancy  
Email\*: jesus.alvarez@tataviam-nsn.us Phone\*: 818-425-9438  
Meeting: Safe, Clean Water Program Date: 12/15/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

\*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

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 this form and email to [SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov) by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

## Comments

Dear Committee Co-Chairs and members. My name is Jesus Alvarez. I am a Tribal Senator for the Fernandño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, a native sovereign nation of northern Los Angeles County. Our ancestral land covers a large portion of this committee's watershed boundaries. Therefore, it is my hopes for our Fernandño Tataviam Tribal Government to be engaged and given the opportunity to participate in the Safe Clean Water Program. Of the people you are interviewing today I can attest that Carlos Moran from the Council for Watershed Health is the right person to meaningfully and authentically engage with my Tribe. I have worked with Carlos during community activations to give away hundreds of fruit trees to local residents, plant trees in our lands and connect LA youth with indigenous elders from the Amazon Forest to address climate change. I strongly support Carlos Moran and the Council for Watershed Health team to be our Watershed Coordinators for the Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program.



# Public Comment Form

Name:\* Lisa Hart Organization\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email\*: lisamariehart@gmail.com Phone\*: 323.660.2780  
Meeting: WASC-ULAR Date: 12/16/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

\*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

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## Comments

My name is Lisa Hart. I am on the board of Los Angeles's Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, writing on my own behalf. I have been working with neighborhood council and city leaders across Los Angeles to improve stormwater capture, and we hope to participate in the Safe Clean Water Program. I do not know the other applicants, but I do know Carlos Moran and the Council for Watershed Health. They both have strong track records of community engagement and are well positioned to further that engagement through this program. Carlos worked with me to successfully submit a community grant application to LADWP, and I know that he will continue to support other similar sustainable efforts across the region. I strongly support Carlos Moran and the Council for Watershed Health team for the positions of Watershed Coordinators.

