

Safe, Clean Water Program

North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
10:00am - 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)	Jessica Forte (Agoura Hills)
Russ Bryden* (LACWD)	Alex Farassati (Calabasas)
Chad Christensen (MRCA)	Joe Bellomo* (Hidden Hills)
Madelyn Glickfeld (UCLA)	Sophie Freeman* (LAC Supervisor District 3)
Doug Marian (CPMCA)	Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Tevin Schmitt (WCFCV)	Mark Johnson (Malibu)
Fran Diamond* (Community Stakeholder)	Roxanne Hughes (Westlake Village)

Committee Members Not Present:

David Pedersen (LVMWD)
Patricia Torres (LA Area Chamber of Commerce)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Madelyn Glickfeld, Vice Chair of the North Santa Monica Bay WASC, welcomed the WASC members and called the meeting to order. All WASC members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

Madelyn Glickfeld welcomed Melina Watts, Watershed Coordinator (WC) for NSMB WASC.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2021

The District provided a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting. Madelyn Glickfeld asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Alex Farassati made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Doug Marian seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes (11 Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

None.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Melina Watts, of Melina Sempill Watts Consulting (MSWC), discussed the WC roles and responsibilities via a slide presentation.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

Safe, Clean Water Program

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6. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Bruce Hamamoto disclosed having a phone discussion with Melina Watts; both of them attended a field meeting on March 31, 2021 with residents near the proposed Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project.

Joe Bellomo made a general disclosure that both City and County representatives attended their Watershed Management Plan Updates meeting. He also had communication with Melina Watts.

Madelyn Glickfeld had discussions with Melina Watts and Joe Edmondson.

b) Guidelines for Watershed Coordinator Communications with WASC Members

Melina Watts (WC) had communication with David Pedersen, Madelyn Glickfeld, Bruce Hamamoto and Kirk Allen. She expressed her concerns about the difficulty of not being able to communicate with other WASC members outside of the WASC meetings due to potential Brown Act violations.

Kirk Allen (District) indicated that David Pedersen provided draft guidelines for communication between the WC and WASC members, which will be reviewed by County Counsel and Brown Act Council. Once Brown Act Council provides guidance on WC communications it will be shared with Melina Watts, NSMB WASC, and other WCs and WASCs.

c) North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & NSMB Scoring Rubric)

i) Technical Resources Program (TRP)

- (1) Las Virgenes Creek Restoration – Phase III – City of Calabasas
- (2) Liberty Canyon Green Improvement – LA County Public Works
- (3) Watershed Coordinator

Alex Farassati asked if funds could be borrowed from future years to fund Feasibility Studies. Kirk Allen (District) indicated that total SIP funding is \$9.2M and that the WASC can allocate 10% of the SIP towards TRP less the funds allocated to the WC.

Jessica Forte commented that TRP funding should go to smaller municipalities that do not have the funding for a Feasibility Studies instead of large entities, such as the County, that have the funds. Alex Farassati supports funding smaller Cities' TRPs, like Calabasas', that are relying on Measure W funds.

Madelyn Glickfeld expressed her disappointment that the WASC has rollover funds but still does not have enough to fund a TRP based on limitation of 10% allocation.

Cung Nguyen expressed that the purpose of the SCW Program is to fund MS4 Compliance Stormwater Capture Projects. He noted that the County has spent over \$500 million on compliance with MS4 and that the County and LACFCD should not be penalized for being a large agency. He noted that the Liberty Canyon Project would complement other projects that are already funded by the County.

Madelyn Glickfeld asked if the County will return for Infrastructure funding if the Liberty Canyon TRP is funded. Bruce Hamamoto responded that although the County submitted the TRP application, the

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North Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



beneficiary is Agoura Hills. He remarked that if the Project proved to be viable that the County would provide matching funds and would ask the WASC for a commensurate share including partial funding.

Jessica Forte commented that Agoura Hills does not have available matching funds for the Liberty Canyon Project. Jessica Forte suggested that the WASC review Annual Plans from each City to review their local funding.

Mark Johnson commented that the City of Malibu does not have the funding to put together a TRP application and that their Projects would more than likely not meet the minimum scoring criteria. He noted that their funds have been reduced due to the Woolsey Fire and the Pandemic.

Roxanne Hughes commented that the WASC should vet projects before voting and work with the WC to obtain additional information on the project's feasibility studies.

Joe Bellomo stated that the Annual Plans by Hidden Hills were submitted and that it may be possible for their consultant to present EWMP updates. Madelyn Glickfeld suggested that the WC attend their next EWMP meeting. Joe Bellomo noted that regional money is supposed to be returned to the area it was collected. *[Refer to FCD Ordinance 18.07.B.2.d (Each Municipality shall receive benefits in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred ten percent(110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible, to be evaluated annually over a rolling five (5) year period.)]*

Alex Farassati commented in favor of approving a TRP and borrowing from future years rather than waiting to accrue funds.

Russ Bryden suggested that the goals of the TRP be reviewed at the next meeting. He suggested that the Cities present their Annual Plans in a 2-minute summary.

Chad Christensen agreed with Jessica Forte that reviewing Annual Plans from Municipalities would help inform funding decisions. He has asked if the WASC reviews Municipal reports at the next meeting, would the WASC be required to vote in the meeting.

Bruce Hamamoto responded that the County is saving its Municipal funds and applying it as a local match to the eventual implementation of the Liberty Canyon Project.

Melina Watts agreed to assist with presenting Annual Plans and suggested that the Cities create a one-page summary.

Voting and discussion of TRP and IP Projects will be tabled until next month.

ii) Infrastructure Program (IP)

(1) Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvements Project – LA County Public Works

d) RWQCB Conditional Waiver for Trash

The WASC agreed to move this discussion until after SIP voting is complete.

7. Voting Items:

a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the NSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review

Safe, Clean Water Program

North Santa Monica Bay

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Voting has been postponed until next meeting.

8. Monthly Meeting Schedule

- a) 2nd Wednesday, 10AM to 12PM (proposed): May 12th
- b) 4th Thursday, 10AM to 12:30PM (current): May 27th

Next meeting will be held May 12, 2021 10am – 12pm. The WASC will continue to have discussions regarding their monthly meeting schedule.

9. Items for next agenda

- a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the NSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review
- b) RWQCB Conditional Waiver for Trash
- c) Cities will provide summaries of their annual plans
- d) Watershed Coordinator Update

10. Adjournment

Madelyn Glickfeld thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

