

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Scoring Committee



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### **Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

### **Attendees**

#### Committee Members Present:

Matt Stone (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)  
Jill Sourial (The Nature Conservancy)  
Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper)

Dave Sorem (Mike Bubalo Construction Co., Inc)  
TJ Moon (LA County Public Works)

#### Committee Members Not Present:

None.

### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Bruce Reznik, Chair of the Scoring Committee (SC), welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. All committee members in attendance made self-introductions, and quorum was established.

### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021**

The approval of the meeting minutes from April 6, 2021, is scheduled for approval in the next SC meeting.

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

Kirk Allen (District) provided the District updates noting: Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs) the first annual plans were uploaded to the SCW website. Approximately 70% of the Cities have received their first annual payment translating into \$80M disbursed. For Cities that have not returned their TAs, they were urged to do so as soon as possible. Second Annual Plans were due on April 1, 2021, in order to receive the second annual payments scheduled for August 1, 2021. Regarding the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) tool there is a new online SIP planning tool replacing the excel tool used last year. The new SIP tool interface shows how the WASCs are programming their projects for round two. WASCs were encouraged to finalize their SIP by early May. So far, the CSMB WASC has approved their SIP with other WASCs to follow suit. The Regional Oversight Committee will be meeting in June to review all SIPs to provide recommendations to the WASCs.

Regarding Watershed Coordinators (WC), 7 out of 12 WCs have executed agreements to begin work. There are two fully executed contracts with approved work plans. Mike Antos (Stantec), Regional WC is working on the coordination efforts and onboarding of WCs.

14 Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects have been approved and received Notice to Proceed. The deadline for Round 3 Call for Projects is July 31, 2021. There will be two recorded information sessions for Round 3 Call for Projects scheduled for May 27, 2021, 9:00AM-10:30AM and June 3, 2021, 3:00PM-4:30PM.

Applicants were reminded that the LACFCD and local sewer/sanitation agency conceptual plan approval is required two months in advance of project deadlines. Regarding reporting, funding recipients are required to submit their first quarterly report by May 15, 2021. Round 2 funding recipients have started to receive funding and are required to submit their first quarterly reports.

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Tax relief applications' deadline to apply was May 1, 2021; Low-Income Senior-Owned (LISO) properties and General Income-Based Tax Reductions (GIBTR) are available for individuals meeting the minimum income and/or age thresholds.

Nature-based Solutions and Disadvantaged Community interim guidelines were recently released and are available on the SCW program website on Regional Program page. The District is working with Accelerate LA (ARLA) on modeling opportunities to establish metrics for monitoring projects.

#### **4) Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items**

No Public comments received.

#### **5) Discussion Items:**

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

Bruce Reznik noted to have attended OurWaterLA meetings and had discussions with LACFCD and several Supervisorial offices on interim guidance, longer term guidelines, and filling the Scoring Committee vacancy. He also noted to have attended ARLA meetings.

TJ Moon noted to have had discussions with Mike Antos and Melinda Watts (NSMB WC) on a project that did not get approved.

##### **b) Assessment of Round 2 Project Submissions**

###### **i) Round 1 Recommendations (draft recommendations)**

###### **ii) Round 2 Assessment**

##### **c) Areas for SCWP/Scoring Improvements (Scoring Criteria, Application Process/Project Module)**

##### **d) Useful Data for Scoring Committee**

Bruce Reznik led discussion on ways that the Scoring Committee can offer input for the pre-submittal workshops for stronger applications. Jill Sourial asked if there will be a discussion on the Nature-based Solutions interim guidelines at the pre-submittal workshops and if the District could provide an overview of the guidance. The District provided a brief overview and indicated that the key takeaway is the application's prioritization of Nature-based Solutions.

TJ Moon noted to meeting with the Safe, Clean Water staff and created suggestions for online application updates. He provided an overview of the minor changes that were suggested to the consultant.

The Committee discussed taking a stronger position on applications with missing information such as hydrology report, geotechnical reports, and construction costs. Committee members made additional suggestions for application updates. The District clarified that changes that require a criteria change must undergo a 30-day review and not necessarily wait for the Bi-annual review in 2023. The District commented that the goal of scoring the applications is to make sure that the projects are regional. Bruce Reznik asked if requiring geotechnical reports would cause a disadvantage to NGOs and smaller municipalities. TJ Moon responded that there is flexibility based on the magnitude of the project and that there is accessible data for smaller scope projects.

Jill Sourial commented that the Community Benefits section is binary and that there should be more delineation. She also suggested more coordination with projects up front and monitoring performance

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metrics on the back end. Bruce Reznik commented that some of the binary questions could use a section for the applicant to show their work and suggested providing applicants with exemplars.

The Committee discussed the vagueness of the strong Community Support requirement and a potential bright line test. Jill Sourial pointed out that the SC has been lenient thus far only requiring one letter. TJ Moon suggested allowing applicants to turn in letters after the submittal date noting that outreach efforts have been challenging. Bruce Reznik clarified that not having letters does not disqualify applicants it only disqualifies them for Community Support points. TJ Moon recommended giving one point per letter with a max of 4 points instead of it being 0 or 4 points. The District responded that giving additional guidance would be helpful and that they cannot prescribe a certain number of letters. The District agreed that providing examples would be helpful. Jill Sourial suggested adding a section on the application asking about the types of Community Support and Engagement. Bruce Reznik commented on the importance of not conflating Community Outreach with Community Support. He pointed out the Amigos De Los Rios and Slauson Connect projects as good examples of Community Support. TJ Moon encouraged more specificity regarding the guidance for Community Support and Engagement.

Matt Stone commented that there is difficulty in concluding if a project will increase Water Supply Benefits. He expressed the difficulty of scoring multi-benefit projects that have not sorted out the benefits and reducing subjectivity. Matt Stone provided feedback that may be useful to deploy some funds for planning before construction to improve projects. He suggested creating a screening tool that puts forth tributary areas that are moving forward with recycled water and need additional flows. The Committee discussed the outcomes if projects do not meet their recycled water goals. TJ Moon commented that things can change as projects progress and that it should be evaluated in the moment. Dave Sorem agreed that it is important to set aside the needs that they have now. The District responded that there could be additional language added in the future and that there will be more information once project developers begin submitting reports on monitoring of projects. The District discussed importance of project developers coordinating with waste treatment plants to be sure that their systems are not adversely affected.

Bruce Reznik discussed the goals of requiring a letter from the Watermaster and applicants that are relying on the Regional Recycled Water Program. He commented that many Watermasters are reluctant to confirm Water Supply Benefits. Matt Stone commented that an acknowledgement from a higher up that water will reach a usable aquifer or not would suffice. Matt Stone commented that the reluctance from Watermasters may be based on what the letter is asking them to say and suggested asking for feedback from those that were hesitant. Bruce Reznik suggested bringing up the concerns on Water Supply guidance to the ROC and working with District staff to request feedback from the Watermasters.

### **6) Public Comment Period for Agenda Items**

Richard Watson (Los Cerritos Watershed Group) commented that it can be difficult to gather support for a project without a feasibility study. He asked if the Community Support letters should be geared towards feasibility since project specifics are difficult to convey until the feasibility study is complete. Bruce Reznik commented that the letters should demonstrate that the Community likes the direction of the project and that their feedback has been taken into consideration.

Katie Mika suggested the drafting of a summary of the Scoring Committee's discussions as well as the specific duties of the District, Scoring Committee, ROC, and WASCs. Bruce Reznik commented that it is possible to work on a slide deck with highlights for the WASCs and discuss with the District.

### **7) Voting items:**

None.

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## **8) Items for Next Agenda**

There was a consensus to cancel the June 1, 2021 meeting and have the next meeting on July 6, 2021.

## **9) Adjournment**

Bruce Reznik reminded Committee members that the next meeting will be held on July 6, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and adjourned the meeting.

## SCORING COMMITTEE MEETING - May 4, 2021

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Quorum Present		
Member Type	Member	Voting?
Water Supply	Matt Stone	x
Water Supply / Water Quality	<b>J.R. De Shazo</b>	
Nature-Based Solutions / Community Investments Benefits	Jill Sourial	x
Nature-Based Solutions / Water Quality	<b><u>Bruce Reznik</u></b>	x
Water Quality	Dave Sorem	x
Water Quality	TJ Moon	x
Total Non-Vacant Seats	6	Yay (Y)
Total Voting Members Present	5	Nay (N)
		Abstain (A)
		Total

Other Attendees	
Christine McLeod	Nick S
Conor Mossavi	Richard Watson
Gus Orozco	Samantha Matthews
Hans Tremmel	Sheila Brice
Heather Merenda	Thom Epps
I EC	Brittany Rivas
Johanna Chang	Alfredo Magallanes
Katie	Vik Bapna
Kelsey Jessup	Yvana Hrovat
Lorena Matos	Melanie Rivera