

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Lakewood City Hall Executive Board Room  
WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present

CJ Caluag, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Madeline Chen, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)  
\*Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
Francisco Guerrero, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
Todd Leland, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
Adam Galia, Resident (Community)  
\*Chad Oberly, Rivers Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)  
\*Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair  
Fernando Villaluna, Unincorporated Areas of LA County (Municipal)  
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Not Present

Len Gorecki, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

---

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

Melissa You, Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. District staff made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024**

District staff presented the meeting minutes from February 13, 2024. Member Konya Vivanti motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Gabrielle Weeks. The Committee voted to approve the February 13, 2024 meeting minutes with 13 Committee Members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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

Chair You informed the WASC of their upcoming departure and noted that today will be their last day serving as LSGR WASC Chair. Chair You will transition to a new position with the City of Irvine.

District staff provided an update, noting:

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



- Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Regional Program Annual Reports were due December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The reports must still be completed even if there were no activities completed for the project or if the Transfer Agreement has not yet been executed. The last Quarterly Report was due February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the next Quarterly Report is due May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) prepared the Biennial Report, also known as the Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program Progress Report, which includes a summary of the progress of the Regional Program, Municipal Program, and the District Program. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, the ROC voted to send the Biennial Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board). The ROC began discussing next steps at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. More details can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Municipal Annual Reports were due December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Municipal Annual Plans are due April 1<sup>st</sup> each year before the start of the upcoming FY and the Annual Reports are due in December after the end of the FY.
- Round 4 Transfer Agreements and Addendums are available for download in the Transfer Agreement Module. District staff sent an email on January 24<sup>th</sup> with instructions on how to navigate the new Module. Transfer Agreements will not be downloadable until the Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Developer contract information is uploaded. The new Module is for projects included in Round 4 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) and future SIPs only. Projects included in previous SIPs can continue submitting documents via email.
- WASC Members whose job connects to specific projects should ask colleagues or consultants to attend WASC meetings to share about or advocate for those projects during SIP deliberations to ensure a fair and transparent process.

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) informed the WASC that the Regional Coordination team prepared the first Quarterly Funding Report, now available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Funding Report includes a high-level overview of recent funding policy highlights and a funding matrix that shares currently active and upcoming funding opportunities that may be relevant to the SCWP infrastructure projects. This is the first of what will be provided quarterly for participants in the SCWP.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an update on recent and upcoming educational outreach events, including an Earth Walk in the City of Lakewood, the Groundwater Festival, and the Touch-a-Truck event. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Anderson also shared a refresher on the LSGR WASC Prioritization Criteria and provided an overview of funded projects and project applications to-date.

#### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### 6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

#### 7) Discussion

##### a) Project Presentations

- i) **Infrastructure Program – El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project Construction**  
**Presentation by Craftwater Engineering, Inc. *Regional stormwater capture, surface ponds, diversion to sanitary sewer, and filtration facility at El Dorado Regional Park, Construction.***

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Oliver Galang (Craftwater Engineering, Inc.) presented on the El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project and provided an overview of the project and summarized primary benefits, including improving water quality within the Coyote Creek and LSGR watershed area, enhancing park amenities, and reducing the heat island effect. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Galang confirmed that the project is located in City of Long Beach Council District 4 and shared that ten community members attended the Zoom outreach event meeting. Galang added that this level of turnout is typical for virtual outreach event and agreed that in-person pop-up events are more effective. A website was also created to reach a broader audience.

When asked about additional funding sources, Galang stated that the City of Long Beach has been exploring leveraged funding opportunities. However, Galang shared that securing other funding sources has been challenging because the project is not located in a disadvantaged community. Upon inquiry, Galang clarified that the project is not seeking funding for operations and maintenance (O&M).

Watershed Coordinator Anderson highlighted that the Scoring Committee awarded the project a low score for community outreach and suggested that the shared runoff capture from I-605 is an opportunity to leverage state funding and potentially partner with Caltrans. Watershed Coordinator Anderson also commented on the problems related to increasing construction costs and implementing projects that don't have designated O&M. Galang informed the WASC that there is an option to phase the project to help with construction costs, since project components can be constructed independently.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson was unaware of the virtual Zoom outreach event held by the project team and requested that project teams inform the Watershed Coordination team about future outreach events to collaborate and ensure attendance.

Member CJ Caluag noted that the project's funding request is large compared to the WASC's available funds and asked about the possibility of deferring funding to future years. Galang stated that delayed funding was considered since 75% of funds need to be available before releasing construction bids. The City of Long Beach may decide to get reimbursed in the future through the SCWP.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson referenced the Prioritization Criteria, noting that large-sized projects greater than \$10 million should provide a 20% minimum funding match. Chair You also noted that construction was not initially estimated to be this high. Galang confirmed that excavation costs were not expected to be as high, which resulted in construction cost escalation.

Member Asha Kreiling asked whether the applicant is considering using Municipal return funding to offset costs. Chair You, on behalf of the City of Long Beach, stated that Municipal funding may be limited and distribution of those funds would require internal discussion.

Member Caluag inquired if phasing the project would prompt a rescore and resubmittal. Galang and District staff confirmed that phasing would fall under the SCWP's definition of partial funding. Fossum added that the proponent would need to provide an explanation of how the applicant intends to fill the funding gap to achieve the full project benefits as stated in the application, per the Partial Funding Guidelines. A proponent would only need to reapply again if there are significant changes to the project scope. Upon inquiry, Galang clarified that the Technical Resources Program (TRP) funding listed in the funding memo is a typo; the project was awarded design funds.

#### **b) FY24-25 Scientific Studies (SS) Peer Review Summary**

Chair You facilitated the discussion of the FY24-25 SS Peer Review Summary. The intent of this independent and rapid review was to provide an unbiased evaluation of the technical adequacy and

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



robustness of each proposal. The SS Peer Review Summary is intended to be a resource for WASC decision making. The Peer Review Summaries can be found on the [SCWP website](#). Peer Review Summaries were provided for the following SS:

- The Application of Innovative Technology for Microbiological Testing in the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed
  - Representative: Richard Watson (Richard Watson & Associates)
- Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity
  - Representatives: Ali Sharbat (Cal Poly Pomona), Mehrad Kamalzare (Cal Poly Pomona)

Upon inquiry, Ali Sharbat and Mehrad Kamalzare confirmed that two of the WASCs, Lower Los Angeles River and Santa Clara River, approved the drywell study in each respective SIP.

Member Kreiling commented on the project's technical approach, highlighting the dissatisfaction documented by the study's peer reviewers. Sharbat and Kamalzare explained that the criticism is on the study's exclusion of water quality components. However, the study emphasizes infiltration capacity rather than water quality. Sharbat also explained that the study has the capacity to include Water Quality Benefits, but some well owners expressed concerns about including that component. As such, the study opted to exclude Water Quality Benefits to maintain greater flexibility for all WASCs. Including Water Quality Benefits in the study would be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the site owner. Member Dan Knapp concurred that the project title accurately reflects the study's focus on infiltration capacity.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson inquired about the potential impact on the project scope if the number of sites deviated from the proposed count. Sharbat noted that securing funding for all 24 sites across the nine watersheds would be ideal, but the study would still proceed even if there were fewer sites. The budget was designed to be proportional to the funding allocated by each WASC.

Upon inquiry, Sharbat stated that the study needs at least three samples to observe trends. The 24 sites in the Los Angeles County area were deemed to be a good sample size. The final count was determined after careful deliberation in order to balance the need for an adequate sample size with efficient use of taxpayer funds.

#### **c) Selection of Interim Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs**

District staff solicited input regarding Committee Members' interest in assuming the role of interim Chair and Vice-Chair. District staff informed the WASC that the selection process is an interim vote to complete the remainder of the SIP cycle. The WASC will nominate and vote again for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions once the new cycle begins in August.

Member Weeks volunteered to serve as interim Vice-Chair. District staff shared information outlining Chair and Co-Chair responsibilities via email and displayed the descriptions on the screen during the meeting. District staff noted that the main responsibilities of the Chair include running WASC meetings and representing the LSGR WASC during ROC meetings. Chair You added that the LSGR WASC would likely not convene for some time after SIP deliberations are completed for Round 5.

Upon inquiry, District staff conveyed to the WASC that if there are no volunteers, representatives holding the agency Flood Control District and Unincorporated County seats may fill the vacant interim positions.

Member Adam Galia inquired about dates for the ROC meeting. District staff noted that the next ROC meeting date that would require WASC representation would likely occur in May or June, depending on when the WASC is able to recommend a SIP and ROC meeting schedule.

Member Dan Mueller volunteered to serve as interim Chair.

#### **8) Public Comment Period**

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



There were no public comments.

#### **9) Voting Items**

##### **a) Selection of Interim Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs**

Member Vivanti motioned to approve Member Mueller as interim Chair and Member Weeks as interim Vice-Chair. Member Kreiling seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 14 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

#### **10) Items for Next Agenda**

##### **a) LSGR Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the FY24-25 SIP**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

District staff will send Committee Members the project ranking survey for both IP projects and SS prior to the next meeting along with materials needed to make a well-informed decision. Materials will include a link to the SIP tool with pre-populated scenarios, LSGR Project Prioritization Criteria, IP and SS Presentations, and project/study ranking results.

#### **11) Adjournment**

Chair You thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

LSGR WASC - March 12, 2024								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve the February 13, 2024 LSGR WASC meeting minutes	Select Dan Mueller as interim chair and Gabrielle Weeks as interim vice-chair	
Agency	FCD	CJ Caluag	x	Mark Beltran		y	y	
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y	y	
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Asha Kreiling	x	y	y	
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Alysha Chan		y	y	
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Todd Leland	x	Stephen Scott		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	x	Noya Wang		a	y	
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Chad Oberly	x	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder								
Municipal	Bellflower	Len Gorecki						
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady		Sergio Huizar				
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y	y	
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler		Konya Vivanti	x	y	y	
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai	x	y	y	
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y	y	
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y	y	
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	13	14	0
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14	14	0
Municipal		6				Approved	Approved	Not Approved



Lower San Gabriel River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Primary	<i>CJ Caluag</i>
Mark Beltran	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Alternate	
Alex Rojas	Central Basin	Primary	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin	Alternate	<i>Madeline Chen</i>
Rob Beste	Water Replenishment District	Primary	
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	Alternate	<i>Asha Kreiling</i>
Francisco Guerrero	Sanitation Districts	Primary	
Alysha Chan	Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Primary	<i>T. Leland</i>
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Alternate	
Dan Knapp	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Primary	<i>Dan Knapp</i>
Irene Lopez-Muro	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Alternate	

March 12, 2024

Lower San Gabriel River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Adam Galia	Resident	Primary	
Noya Wang	City of Alhambra	Alternate	
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Primary	
Chad Oberly	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Alternate	<i>Chad O</i>
Gabrielle Weeks	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Primary	
Len Gorecki	Bellflower	Pimary	
Natalie Rivera-Estrada	Bellflower	Alternate	
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos	Primary	
Sergio Huizar	Cerritos	Alternate	
Dan Mueller	Downey	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood	Primary	



Lower San Gabriel River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Konya Vivanti	Lakewood	Alternate	
Melissa You	Long Beach	Primary	
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach	Alternate	
Fernando Villaluna	Los Angeles County	Primary	
Joseph Venzon	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Vicki Smith	Whittier	Primary	
Kyle Cason	Whittier	Alternate	
Kekoa Anderson	Watershed Coordinator		
Grace Kast	Watershed Coordinator		
Traci Gleason	Watershed Coordinator		

Lower San Gabriel River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Mehrad	KamalZare	Cal Poly Pomona	
Oliver	Galang	Craftwater Eng	
Ali	Sharbat	Cal Poly Pomona	
Shaun	Peng	Cal Poly Pomona	
GABRIELLE	WEEKS	US CFAE	
<del>KEVIN</del>	<del>Watson</del>	<del>ESG</del>	
Dominic	Kader	Cal Poly Pomona	
MICHELLE	YEH	Fluidion	
RICHARD	WATSON	RWA	