

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, July 9, 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)  
\*Chad Oberly, Rivers Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community), Interim Vice-Chair  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal), Interim Chair  
\*Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)  
Wataru Kumagai, Long Beach (Municipal)  
Joseph Venzon, Unincorporated Areas of LA County (Municipal)  
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Not Present

Adam Galia, Resident (Community)  
Len Gorecki, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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

Dan Mueller, Interim 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 Public Works (Public Works) staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. Public Works staff made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2024**

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from April 9, 2024. Interim Vice-Chair Gabrielle Weeks motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Dan Knapp. The Committee voted to approve the April 9, 2024 meeting minutes with 12 Committee Members in favor, 0 opposed, 0 in abstention, and 1 Member absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

### **3) Committee Member and Public Works Updates**

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Round 6 Call for Projects will defer Infrastructure Program (IP) project submissions until Summer 2025. Scientific Studies (SS) and Technical Resource Program (TRP) applications can be submitted by the July 31 Call for Projects deadline. This deferral is in alignment with the recent report by the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) and the Los Angeles County Board of

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Supervisors' (Board) subsequent motion on Progress and Adaptive Management of the SCW Program. The deferral will enable Public Works to prioritize critical efforts informed by all recent reports, recommendations, and discussions with the ROC and key interested parties, while also allowing prospective applicants the opportunity to refine and enhance their project proposals, leverage additional funding, and engage more deeply with the community.

- The SCW Program has initiated Watershed Planning efforts to facilitate regional and watershed-based planning that identifies project opportunity areas and refines Population Indicators (i.e., targets) that will support strategic investments. This effort will build upon past and ongoing work, incorporate meaningful community input, and leverage available data and best practices to create useful, transparent, and accessible plans and tools.
- Facilitated Watershed Planning engagement workshops with the WASCs will kick off in July and August. At subsequent meetings, the SCW Program team and WASCs will continue Watershed Planning discussions. In November, the SCW Program Team will share the Initial Watershed Plans Framework, and mid next year will conclude with development of the final Initial Watershed Area Plans for each Watershed Area. Following, specific and more detailed Adaptive Plans will be developed. A new SCW Program Watershed Planning Section has been created to lead the work.

Member Knapp confirmed with staff that the SCW Program will not be accepting applications for new IP project funding until Summer 2025, and inquired how the five percent funding allocation limit for SS would be determined for Round 6. Public Works staff explained that allocations are still being discussed, but there may be an exception to the five percent allocation cap on SS. Member CJ Caluag added that there are IP projects slated for future years which are also included in the calculation of funding percentages allocated across project types. Member Caluag explained that the projects that have already been approved in the previous SIPs will be factored into the calculation.

Member Caluag provided an update on the County Water Plan. The County Water Plan serves as a guiding framework for regional water resilience strategies with an emphasis on sustainability and equity. Achieving these goals requires collaboration across the region, crossing jurisdictional boundaries to benefit all communities within Los Angeles County. Initial County Water Plan implementation will start with four collaborative task forces. Partnerships are being solidified as several water agencies have begun to formally adopt the County Water Plan as a guiding document to inform water resilience strategies. Public Works staff will distribute informational handouts regarding the County Water Plan to the WASC.

#### **4) Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an update on recent educational outreach events, including Earth Day with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on April 13 and Touch-a-Truck in Whittier on May 22. Watershed Coordinator Anderson mentioned the upcoming Watershed Coordinator Tribal Allyship Working Group meeting, which is intended to share lessons learned across Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans (SOEPs) and improve coordination efforts. The insight from the meeting will be shared at a future WASC meeting. Watershed Coordinator Anderson further shared recent coordination efforts with Surfrider Foundation and the Conservation Corps and mentioned an opportunity to expand education events within LSGR through the upcoming SCW Program Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. Watershed Coordinator Anderson also provided a status overview of the Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture Project.

Member Konya Vivanti commented on the educational trailer display and asked why similar resources are not available for use in other watersheds. Watershed Coordinator Anderson and Interim Vice-Chair Weeks explained that the trailer is large and difficult to build. The trailer display was a result project efforts that the WASC eventually inherited. Watershed Coordinator Anderson confirmed that the trailer display is an OhanaVets asset and was not paid for by the WASC. Watershed Coordinator Anderson explained that the Watershed Coordination scope covers two educational events a year, but compensation would be needed to support additional events in other watersheds. Member Vivanti inquired if other watersheds can apply for

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grants to build an educational trailer. Member Knapp noted the value of collaborating and sharing resources with other watersheds. Interim Chair Mueller clarified that the concern is spending the LSGR scope for activities used in other watersheds. Watershed Coordinator Anderson explained that the Safe, Clean Water Program's Public Education and Community Engagement grant is available to nonprofit or Municipal Applicants.

Member Asha Kreiling recounted a San Gabriel River cleanup event with the Surfrider Foundation in June and shared positive feedback.

#### **5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### **6) Public Comment Period**

Public Works staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting and uploaded them to the SCW Program website. There were no public comments.

#### **7) Discussion**

##### **a) WASC Roles and Responsibilities**

##### **Presentation by Regional Coordination**

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of the SCW Program structure, timeline, and WASC roles and responsibilities. The presentation can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Anderson inquired about project proportionality and noted that while Municipalities generate varying amounts of tax revenue, the number and scale of projects may not necessarily correspond to those figures. Fossum noted that project distribution is indicated on a map which does not show a cost comparison. However, better quantifying Municipality Benefits may be addressed during the Watershed Planning process to better understand gaps and identify areas where investment should be prioritized.

Upon inquiry, Member Knapp confirmed that 85 percent of the budget is being deferred. Fossum added that TRP and SS applications are considered for Round 6 and IPs are being deferred to Round 7. Fossum explained that the 5 percent cap refers to projects that have been earmarked across the next five years, including funding to continuing IP projects.

Member Caluag mentioned the need to consider Project Modification Requests (PMRs), which will adjust the percentage allocation. Watershed Coordinator Anderson pointed to the Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture Project as an example and noted that there is a possibility that the WASC will be requested to allocate additional funding to move this project forward. Fossum noted that it has been a challenge across the WASCs to balance new projects with ongoing projects requesting additional funds. Member Knapp suggested increasing the contingency line and adding that to the budget to account for varying construction costs and inflation. Member Caluag added that other grant programs are usually a reimbursement process, but the SCW Program provides up-front funding. Watershed Coordinator Anderson mentioned that the Scoring Criteria includes leveraging funds to help prioritize and rank projects.

##### **b) Updated Fiscal Year 2024-25 (FY24-25) LSGR Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)**

Watershed Coordinator Anderson provided an overview of the FY24-25 LSGR SOEP. The draft FY24-25 LSGR SOEP can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Anderson explained that the SOEP is intended to be a living document to reflect community input. Watershed Coordinator Anderson informed the WASC that the FY24-25 LSGR SOEP will be adjusted after the Watershed

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Coordinator Tribal Allyship Working Group meeting today at 1:00 p.m. Watershed Coordinator Anderson suggested voting to adopt the final FY24-25 LSGR SOEP at a future WASC meeting.

#### **c) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q1 and Q2**

Public Works staff displayed the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q1 and Q2 on screen which included total disbursements and funds remaining. The Quarterly Report Summary can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff additionally demonstrated how to view Quarterly Reports through the SCW Program portal.

Member Caluag asked if the Quarterly Report Summary highlights potential issues encountered by projects. Public Works staff explained that highlighting issues or concerns on the spreadsheet could be incorporated into future Quarterly Report Summaries for the LSGR WASC.

Member Kreiling inquired about the minimal expenditure allocated for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) projects. Public Works staff noted that the expenditure column has a typo and should say "Expenditures During Period" instead of "Expenditures to Date." Watershed Coordinator Anderson and Member Knapp suggested adding columns for balance remaining and total funding award.

Public Works staff announced that the SCW Program is switching from Quarterly Reports to two Semi-Annual Reports. Semi-Annual Reports would cover the periods from July to December and January to June.

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

Public Works staff outlined the process to select the next Chair, Vice-Chair, and Co-Chairs for the LSGR WASC for the term spanning between August 2024 and July 2025. Public Works staff explained that Committee Members can nominate Committee Members during the meeting. Public Works staff described the responsibilities of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Co-Chairs and will additionally send the information to WASC Members following the meeting.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that Co-Chairs alternate chairing responsibilities during meetings, based on availability. Member Knapp volunteered to be Co-Chair along with Interim-Chair Mueller.

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

There were no public comments.

### **9) Voting Items**

#### **a) Approve the updated FY24-25 LSGR SOEP**

Watershed Coordinator Anderson proposed rescheduling the adoption of the FY24-25 LSGR SOEP to the next WASC meeting to incorporate input from the Tribal Allyship Working Group meeting and ensure adequate review time. Watershed Coordinator Anderson reiterated that the SOEP is a living document, so revisions can be made in the future. Public Works staff explained that as part of the contract, Watershed Coordinators are required to update the SOEP and present it to the WASC annually.

Member Vivanti made a motion to approve the updated FY24-25 LSGR SOEP during the next meeting to incorporate suggestions from the July 9 Tribal Allyship Working Group meeting. Interim Vice-Chair Weeks seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Member Vivanti voiced a preference for Chair and Vice-Chair instead of Co-Chairs.

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Member Todd Leland made a motion to approve the selection of Interim-Chair Mueller and Member Knapp as Co-Chairs, seconded By Member Kreiling. The motion was passed with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

- a) Initial Watershed Planning Discussion**
- b) Approve the updated FY24-25 LSGR SOEP**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. See the [SCW Program website](#) for details.

Upon inquiry, Fossum provided a general overview of the upcoming Watershed Planning discussion. Fossum explained that while the agenda is still under development, the format will be an interactive workshop featuring presentations from the Watershed Planning group, a review of existing plans and datasets, a reevaluation of SCW Program goals in relation to the LSGR watershed, and an activity to identify priority strategies for the watershed. The primary objective is to strategize how Watershed Areas can take a more proactive approach in planning for future investments.

#### **11) Adjournment**

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

LSGR WASC - July 9, 2024									
		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)			
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve the April 9, 2024 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve Selection of Dan Mueller and Dan Knapp as Co-Chairs for LSGR WASC	Approve the Updated FY24-25 Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan during next meeting, incorporating suggestions from 7/9 Tribal Meeting	
Agency	FCD	Cl Caluag	x	Mark Beltran		y	y	y	
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y	y	y	
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Asha Kreiling	x	y	y	y	
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Alysha Chan		y	y	y	
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Todd Leland	x	Stephen Scott		y	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Noya Wang					
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Chad Oberly	x	y	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y	y	y	
Community Stakeholder									
Municipal	Bellflower	Len Gorecki							
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady		Sergio Huizar					
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y	y	y	
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler		Konya Vivanti	x	not present at vote	y	y	
Municipal	Long Beach	Wataru Kumagai	x			y	y	y	
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna		Joseph Venzon	x	y	y	y	
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y	y	y	
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	12	13	13	0
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	12	13	13	0
Municipal		5				Approved	Approved	Approved	Not Approved

WebEx Webinar Attendees  
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Alexander Iglesias Rosales  
Alysha Chan  
Andrew Kim  
Anthony Barreras  
Cecilia Salazar  
Donna  
Elizabeth Lambe

Emily Huang Stantec  
Eric Bonilla - LACPW  
Haley Johnson  
Haris Harouny  
Jacqueline Mak  
Jenny Chau  
Jessica Pearson

Jim C.  
Julie Millett  
Kerry Quinlan  
Kerry Quinlan  
Larry Tran - LACPW  
Marisela Velasquez - LACPW  
Mark Hall

Mei-Lin Hanna JLHA  
Michelle Kim JLHA  
Paul Mead  
Richard Watson  
Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination  
SCWP LSGR WASC  
Sofia Cardenas



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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	<i>Francisco Guerrero</i>
Alysha Chan	Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Primary	<i>Todd 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	

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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		
Traci Gleason	Watershed Coordinator		
STEVEN MENDOZA	RIVERS MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY	ALTERNATE	

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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	
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	
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood	Primary	



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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Alex	Reasner	City of LB	
Ryan	Chen	City of Norwalk	