

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, August 27, 2024
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Progress Park Auditorium/-Plaza West
15500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA 90723
WebEx Meeting

Committee Member Present:

Emesto Rivera, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency) Co-Chair
Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency) Co-Chair
Dave Pierce, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Erica Maceda, River in Action (Community)
*Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Karen Diaz, Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (Community)
Manny Gonez, Tree People (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Erica Maceda, River in Action (Community)
Gina Nila, Commerce (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, City of Downey (Municipal)
Cecilia Salazar, Long Beach (Municipal)
*Pamela Torres, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Thuan Ngyuen, County (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA Marketing, Watershed Coordinator (non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Asha Kreiling, Co-Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed all Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions for any participants joining online. Public Works staff facilitated a roll call, Committee Members made self-introductions, and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2024

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Manny Gonez motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Adriana Figueroa. The Committee voted to approve the July 23, 2024 meeting minutes with 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 5 in abstention and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

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- Round 6 Call for Projects will defer Infrastructure Program (IP) project submissions until Summer 2025. The deadline for Scientific Study (SS) and Technical Resource Program (TRP) applications was July 31. Public Works staff will conduct completeness checks on applications brought to the WASC.
- The Quarter 1 Funding Report is now available on the [SCW Program website](#) under the Resources tab. In support of Public Works, the Regional Coordination team prepares quarterly funding reports that include 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 SCW Program projects.

SCW Program Watershed Planning staff within Public Works provided an update on Watershed Planning and shared that the first Watershed Planning workshops were held at all WASCs. The Watershed Planning Team, consisting of SCW Program Watershed Planning staff within Public Works and consultants, will return to WASCs in October for an additional engagement session.

Feedback has been received from Committee Members on existing data, including from previously funding projects and the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS), in addition to local and regional plans. This data will be compiled and synthesized to begin identifying Watershed Area Needs and Opportunity Areas, which are the building blocks for developing initial Watershed Plans. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff clarified that these Watershed Plans are not project-specific, and Watershed Plans are intended to guide applicants, WASCs, and other interested parties through Population Indicators and Opportunity Areas that will be outlined in the Watershed Plan, specific to each Watershed Area. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff shared that the Watershed Plans are being developed alongside the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment, which will gather feedback from the community-at-large across the SCW Program area. The Assessment builds off previous engagement efforts with the community, including surveys conducted by Watershed Coordinators and previous countywide efforts.

Upon inquiry, SCW Program Watershed Planning staff noted that Lower San Gabriel River is the final WASC to complete its Watershed Planning Workshop, with the meeting set for August 28.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales presented a summary of the two Round 6 SS recently submitted to the LLAR WASC for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 and provided an update on recent outreach and engagement activities. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) and Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures (MCM) SS are requesting \$49,111 and \$270,000 from the LLAR WASC, respectively. Watershed Coordinator Dales shared that recent outreach efforts included participation in the City of Cudahy's National Night Out, a meeting with USC Dornsife College's Public Exchange team, engagement with the City of Bell, and outreach to 19 environmental clubs.

Member Gonez expressed interest in participating in the SCW Program School Working Group. Watershed Coordinator Dales and Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the Working Group meetings are currently internal to Watershed Coordinators, but information about items discussed can be shared with WASC Members.

5) 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.

6) Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

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There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

b) Gateway Water Management Authority Presentation

Grace Kast (Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA)) provided an overview of the background and history of the group. Over the years, GWMA has provided oversight to address regional water needs, requiring a comprehensive approach to water supply, groundwater management, water conservation and drought response, recycled water, and stormwater/urban runoff management. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Figueroa highlighted the collaborative activities of GWMA with other authorities around compliance efforts, noting that these meetings consistently engage in regional water-related issues and planning documents that are updated periodically. The Watershed Management Plans (WMP) groups meet monthly and can serve as a valuable resource for the LLAR WASC.

Co-Chair Kreiling inquired if GWMA would be an applicant for any construction projects. Member Figueroa clarified that GWMA would not apply for construction projects, as those are managed by the individual cities. Kast further explained that the GWMA Board decided early on not to apply for any construction projects but instead to assist cities in applying for and regionalizing projects.

Watershed Coordinator Dales noted that the intent of the presentation was to share the planning documents of GWMA and its overlap with the SCW Program's Watershed Planning efforts. Member Figueroa mentioned that these plans are available on the GWMA website and have been shared with the SCW Program Watershed Planning Team for review. SCW Program Watershed Planning staff acknowledged awareness of the plans and indicated the plans will be used as a resource for LLAR Watershed Planning.

c) Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities

Ng provided an overview on WASC Roles and Responsibilities. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). To date, the LLAR WASC has funded 22 Regional Projects, including 13 IPs, 2 TRPs, 6 SS, and the support of the Watershed Coordinator.

Upon inquiry, Ng noted that Round 6 Project Modification Requests (PMRs) are due by October 31. There are two types of PMRs: those consistent with the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) and those inconsistent with it. Public Works staff will review all PMRs and determine whether PMR's are consistent or inconsistent with the SIP. Inconsistent PMRs will be referred to the WASC for review and will be considered during SIP deliberations.

Member Gonez inquired about the 85/10/5 allocation split across IPs, TRPs, and SS, asking if it is a requirement of the SCW Program. Public Works staff confirmed that this split is mandated by the SCW Program Ordinance and is a program requirement.

Member Thuan Nguyen suggested adding "Water Supply" and "Water Quality" to presentation slides 12-13 and requested that these elements be categorized based on Scoring Criteria, as the elements are crucial components in the evaluation of projects

d) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chair

Co-Chair Kreiling and Co-Chair Madeline Chen expressed interest in continuing to serve as Co-Chairs of the LLAR WASC.

Member Gonez expressed interest and volunteered the WASC Members from TreePeople to serve as either Chair or Co-Chair for the next cycle, to spread responsibility throughout the WASC.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

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8) Voting Items

a) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chair

Member Figueroa motioned to select Asha Kreiling and Madeline Chen as Co-Chairs of the LLAR WASC, seconded by Member Gopez. The motion was approved with 15 votes in favor, 0 votes in opposition and 0 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 24, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. See the SCW Program website for details. Items on the next agenda include:

a) Scientific Study Presentations

10) Adjournment

Co-Chair Kreiling thanked WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public