

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, November 19, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Library Community Room
321 S. Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency), Vice-Chair
Julian Juarez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Lauren Augino, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
*Alysha Chan, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
Hayden Melbourn, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All (Community)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Mark Hall, Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (Community)
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Vacant, (Community)
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)
Vacant, (Municipal)
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Dawn Petschauer, Chair of the Rio Hondo (RH) 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 October 15, 2024

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Vice-Chair Tom Love motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Julian Juarez. The WASC voted to approve the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Program Updates

Member Bryan Matsumoto noted that the Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) on the Living Infrastructure Field Kit's Visioning Tool is available for cities and community members to locate parcels,

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view Best Management Practices (BMPs), evaluate water capture measurements, and view cost estimates. Member Matsumoto expressed interest for a presentation at a future WASC meeting.

Chair Petschauer shared that the Sierra Madre Median Enhancements and Master Plan Project secured \$8.5 million dollars in funding from Caltrans and will no longer need to request funding from the SCW Program. Chair Petschauer added that the City of Pasadena used \$950,000 in local return funds to help finalize the design. Chair Petschauer noted that Caltrans has stormwater funds that are distributed annually in exchange for compliance credits and encouraged cities to connect with Caltrans for more information.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY2023-24) Quarterly Report covering April to June was due on August 15. The FY2023-24 Annual Report, covering July 2023 to June 2024, is due December 31. The Mid-Year Report, covering July to December, previously known as Quarter 1 (Q1) and Quarter 2 (Q2) Reports, will be due on February 15, 2025.
- The SCW Program offers a newsletter subscription to receive email notifications about Regional, Municipal, and District Program updates. Implementation updates can also be viewed on the News and Updates page on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Petschauer confirmed with Public Works staff that SCW Program reporting will be reduced from four times a year to twice a year, concurrent with the May 2024 Ordinance Amendment by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board).

Watershed Planning staff within Public Works provided an update on Watershed Planning and shared that the second Watershed Planning workshop includes updates on the Initial Watershed Plan Framework, the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA), and Program-wide and Watershed Area synthesis of engagement activities from Phase 1 of Watershed Planning. The Initial Watershed Plan Framework, which includes input received from WASCs and interested parties, will be completed and available by the end of November. The Initial Watershed Plan Framework will also detail how Watershed Planning contributes to SCW Program goals and other Los Angeles County targets. The Planning Tool will be available mid-2025, and the CSNA results, displayed as an online dashboard, will also be launching soon. Questions regarding Watershed Planning can be directed to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millet presented on recent and upcoming activities and provided an overview of Watershed Coordinator tasks. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights included a tour of the Plymouth Elementary School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project and the Leveraging the Living Infrastructure Field Kit for SCW Program Educational Grant Success webinar.

Chair Petschauer shared that it was the first SCW Program funded project to be completed in the RH Watershed Area. Chair Petschauer commented on the complexities of the project, since half of the project area is unincorporated, and the other half is owned by the school and City of Monrovia. Chair Petschauer expressed interest in lessons learned about the permitting process and working with multiple jurisdictions and noted that schools are significant opportunities to incorporate stormwater projects.

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson provided an overview of Round 6 Regional Program project submissions, including four Scientific Studies (SSs) and two TRP projects. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Watson confirmed that the proposed Hardscape and Brownfield Transportation Opportunity Study (hereafter referred to as the Hardscape and Brownfield SS) is requesting funding from both the RH and Upper San Gabriel River WASCs. Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that

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SS Applicants will present on the proposed SSs at the December WASC meeting and Committee Members can ask more questions about the application and encouraged the WASC to review the full applications for more detailed information. Chair Petschauer noted that there is an independent SS review and suggested that the third-party reviewer examine already funded studies to identify overlap as part of the SS evaluation.

Member Matsumoto highlighted the similarities between “hardscape” and “parking lot” in the names of the proposed SSs and commented on the potential of helping SS Applicants collaborate to avoid redundancy. Watershed Coordinator Watson stated that while the WASC does not have the authority to require SS Proponents to collaborate, the WASC can approve or deny projects during Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberation.

Chair Petschauer inquired whether the SS Applicant for the Hardscape and Brownfield SS is working with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) or other regulators for compliance, since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had previously raised concerns to the local Watermaster on a prior brownfield project. Chair Petschauer commented on the importance of supporting SS Applicants and requested that Member Kelly Gardner follow up with the WASC to provide more information pertaining to the EPA and associated brownfield concerns.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that the Board’s May 2024 Ordinance Amendment included an amendment authorizing flexibility for the Chief Engineer to request proposals for Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects on either an annual or biennial basis for the SCW Program.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY2023-24 Q1 and Q2

Public Works staff shared that Projects and SS from Rounds 1, 2, and 3 have submitted Quarterly Reports for FY2023-24 Q1 and Q2, and Project Developers that flagged an Activity Delay or Concern have been invited to this meeting. Quarterly Reports are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Matsumoto pointed out that the “Funds Received to Date” value for the Merced Avenue Greenway Project exceeded the “Funding Projected.” Public Works staff noted the output error and will revise.

Chair Petschauer suggested clarifying the “Funding Projected” column title for clarity. Public Work staff clarified that the “Funding Projected” column includes the total SCW Program request from the Project Developer, including the budgeted amount(s) and the earmarked funding amount(s) per the SIP; “Funds Received to Date” column reflects the amount of funding the Project Developer has received to date per the budgeted amount(s) from the SIP and executed Funds Transfer Agreements; and the “Cost Share Expenditures to Date” column reflects leveraged funding amount received outside of the SCW Regional Program.

Upon request, Public Works staff will include an “Awarded to Date” column in future Regional Program report summaries to reflect the budgeted amount to date from the approved SIPs, which is different than the “Funding Projected” column.

Chair Petschauer commented on the highlighted cells for Plymouth Elementary School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project and noted that Amigos de los Rios experienced some issues submitting reports due to difficulty navigating the online Reporting Module. Chair Petschauer explained there are no current concerns with the project since it was recently constructed.

b) Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concept Presentations

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i) **Klingerman Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project**

Presented by Sam Guterrez, Larry Tortuya, and Gerald Greene. Conduct a feasibility study of the Klingerman Park Project to assess urban runoff capture and contribute to meeting RH and Los Angeles River Water Quality objectives.

Albert Leung (City of Rosemead) and Larry Tortuya (CWE) presented on the Klingerman Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project (hereafter referred to as the Klingerman Park Project). The primary objective is to capture, pretreat, and infiltrate dry and wet-weather urban runoff. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Gerald Greene (CWE) clarified that the annual capture volume is expected to be between 30 to 40 acre-feet. Greene noted that the 48.5 acre-feet was identified in the Water Management Plan (WMP) as the required capture treatment volumes within the City of Rosemead. Chair Petschauer shared that more outreach was required than expected for the two previous Pasadena TRPs and recommended that the project concept team collaborate early on with Public Works staff to meet outreach expectations.

Greene highlighted that the project is in a severely disadvantaged community and may divert from another storm drain at the southwest corner of the site.

Upon inquiry, Greene explained that there is currently no flooding at the site and the park is currently a passive facility, but active facilities can be considered during outreach. Greene added that there are some concerns around managing active facilities due to the project's remote location. Member Matsumoto commented that since the project is at a smaller park, park improvements may be limited, and enhancements should focus on native habitat and educational elements rather than active fields.

Chair Petschauer explained that the project includes a subsurface infiltration component when Member Jill Fosselman inquired how such a small park can capture all the stormwater in the City of Rosemead. Greene referenced a diagram from John Antson Ford Park showing a double layer infiltration cistern and explained that the facility can be 10 to 20 feet deep. Greene added that since the project is located at the end of a street, the facility could potentially extend into the street.

Greene noted that among the five projects prepared for the City of Rosemead, this project's site is the most optimal. Chair Petschauer commented that smaller cities benefit from TRPs since a feasibility study is required before the design phase. Chair Petschauer confirmed that the City of Rosemead is mandated to divert 49 acre-feet of water to address compliance issues. Upon inquiry, Greene specified that the storm drain intended for the connection would have a diameter of 60 inches or larger.

ii) **City of Montebello Stormwater Capture Project**

Presented by Cesar Roldan, Larry Tortuya, and Gerald Greene. Undertake a feasibility study to identify a preferred project location to capture urban runoff and contribute to meeting RH and Los Angeles River Water Quality objectives.

Larry Tortuya (CWE) presented on the Montebello Stormwater Capture Project. The primary objective is to capture, pretreat, and infiltrate dry and wet-weather urban runoff in the City of Montebello. The feasibility study would identify the top three project sites based on community investment benefits. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Petschauer noted the similarities between the feasibility study and existing stormwater master plans and expressed concern that examining nine sites may be too broad. Greene explained that a feasibility study of similar scale was conducted for the City of San Fernando at a lower budget. Greene noted that the City of Montebello Stormwater Capture Project would use a prioritization matrix to quickly narrow down potential sites and leverage existing city master plans to guide the matrix. Cesar Roldan (City of Montebello) added that the City of Montebello has collaborated with CWE to identify key opportunity areas in the City

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of Montebello that would benefit from stormwater projects, such as a section for a complete streets corridor along Olympic Boulevard. Roldan commented that this area has historically been overlooked by stormwater projects and stated that this feasibility study can help the City of Montebello deliver greater benefits.

Greene emphasized the importance of treating water before water reaches the nearby spreading grounds and underscored the importance to include sites in Montebello, since the City of Montebello is located above the monitoring site. Greene referred to a storm drain with higher concentrations of E. Coli as an example indicator that would drive the analysis of the project. Member Mark Hall commented on the importance of engaging with the Vector Control District for this project.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items to be discussed at the next meeting include four SS presentations:

a) SS Presentations

- i) Data-Drive Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County (Foothill Municipal Water District)
- ii) Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting (Council for Watershed Health)
- iii) Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient Los Angeles County (TreePeople)
- iv) Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments)

10) Adjournment

Chair Petschauer thanked the WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

RH WASC - November 19th, 2024					
	Quorum Present				Voting Item
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 10/15/2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		Y
Agency	Tom Love**	x	Patty Cortez		Y
Agency	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino	x	A
Agency	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	x	A
Agency	Hayden Melbourn	x	Brent Maue		A
Community Stakeholder	Bryan Matsumoto	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	x	Mark Daniel		Y
Community Stakeholder					
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman		Liliana Griego		
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	x	Latoya Waters		Y
Municipal Members	Briget Arndell	x	Paul Cranmer		Y
Municipal Members	Fernando Villaluna	x	Paul Choy		Y
Municipal Members	Alex Tachiki	x	Sophia Sousa		Y
Municipal Members	Dawn Petschauer*	x	James Tong		Y
Municipal Members	Eddie Chan				
Municipal Members					
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett		
Total Non-Vacant Seats	15			Yay (Y)	10
Total Voting Members Present	13			Nay (N)	0
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder	3			Total	13
Municipal Members	5				Approved

Attendees
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November 19, 2024

Albert Leung	Debbie Enos	Matt Rich
Brad Wardynski	Emily Huang Stantec	Oliver Galang Craftwater
Brianna Datti	Emily Ng	Pablo Forni - LACPW
Call-in User_2	G2	Paul Choy
Call-in User_3	Jason Casanova, CWH	Robert Gomez
Call-in User_4	Kara Plourde	SCWP - Presenter
Cesar Roldan	Larry Tortuya - CWE	Travis Diaz LACFCD
Chris	Latoya Waters	Turner Lott
Craig Doberstein	Luis Perez SCW WP	Vasilisa
Daniel Apt	Marisela Velasquez - LACPW	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN





Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District		✓	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel District			
Kelly Gardner <i>Camren Angino</i>	Main San Gabriel Basin			
Dave Pierce	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts			
Richard Yee <i>Hayden Melbourne</i>	Pasadena			
Thomas Wong	San Gabriel Valley MWD Division 3			
Jill Fosselman	Resident			
Mark Hall	Vector Control			
Daniel Rossman	The Wilderness Society			
David Dolphin	Alhambra			
Briget Arndell	Arcadia		gov	
Fernando Villaluna	LA County Public Works			
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia			
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena			
Eddie Chan	Irwindale			
Alynn Sun	Los Angeles County Flood Control District			

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel District			
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster			
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts		A	
Brent Maue	Pasadena			
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All			
Mark Daniel	Vector Control			
Liliana Griego	Friends of the Los Angeles River			
Latoya Waters	Alhambra			
Paul Cranmer	Arcadia			
Paul Choy	LA County Public Works			
Sophia Sousa	Monrovia			
James Tong	Pasadena			
Richard Watson	RWA			RW _____
Julie Millett	RWA			 _____

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Mike Antos	Stantec			
Hayat Rasul	Stantec			
Ryanna Fossum	Stantec			
Emily Ng	Stantec			