

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, October 15, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Pasadena Washington Park Community House
700 E. Washington Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Alysha Chan, LA County Sanitation District (Agency)
*Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
*Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All (Community)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)
*Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, LA County (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
*Julie Millet, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency), Vice-Chair
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)
Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (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 August 20, 2024

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Mark Hall motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Chair Petschauer. The WASC voted to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



- The Business Relations and Contracts Division released the Watershed Coordinators [Request for Statement of Qualifications](#). The deadline to submit a [Statement of Qualifications](#) is on October 31, 2024 at 5:30 pm.
- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Quarterly Report covering April to June was due on August 15. The FY 2023-24 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 Municipal Program Reporting Module has been updated to streamline the renewal process for the Municipal Transfer Agreements. SCW Program Payments are generally available for disbursement by December 31, based on the timing of revenues collected by the Program.
- The Municipal Program will be transferred to another team within Public Works in the coming months.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program formally launched on September 24. The Public and Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, in collaboration with the Water Foundation, will support education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture. Proposals will be accepted until May 31, 2025 and will be evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis. More information can be found on the [Water Foundation website](#).

Member Bryan Matsumoto confirmed with Public Works staff that the vacant Community Stakeholder seats on the WASC are appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board). Public Works staff noted that Member Matsumoto will be the primary Committee Member representing Nature for All due to recent seat vacancies.

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 include participating in the Watershed Coordinators' Tribal Allyship Working Group and attending Active San Gabriel Valley's Noche de las Luminarias event. Watershed Coordinator Millet also noted that funds through the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program must be spent no later than July 2026.

Upon inquiry, Chair Petschauer clarified that the three Load Reduction Strategy (LRS) projects mentioned in the presentation are in Eaton Wash, Rubio Wash, and Alhambra Wash, all of which were identified as downstream solutions to meet compliance requirements. Chair Petschauer noted that while the design has been delayed, the LRS projects are considering ultraviolet treatments instead of sanitary sewer diversions. Watershed Coordinator Millet noted that although three projects are being designed, only the most promising project will move forward. Chair Petschauer informed the WASC that despite the LRS projects achieving Water Quality Benefits, the City of Pasadena decided against proceeding with construction after determining that the benefits did not justify the costs; other cities involved with the LRS projects will be moving forward with the most promising LRS project.

Upon inquiry, Public Work staff confirmed that the current Watershed Coordinator contract will continue through the end of calendar year 2025, with a new contract beginning in January 2026. Public Works staff also explained that Watershed Coordinator contracts need to be reviewed on a yearly basis due to annual budget allocation.

Chair Petschauer shared that the City of Pasadena is conducting a community outreach event on October 19 at the Victory Park Farmers Market to solicit feedback on the Sierra Madre Median Enhancement and Master Plan Project. The project intends to enhance medians along the 1.25 miles of Sierra Madre Boulevard and involves the addition of 800 new trees and 60,000 square feet of vegetation. Chair Petschauer mentioned that the project was a SCW Program Technical Resources Program (TRP) project,

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



the Sierra Madre Boulevard Green Street Stormwater Capture Project, and noted that design is being funded by the City of Pasadena. Upon inquiry, Chair Petschauer confirmed that the project does not plan to interfere with the Tournament of Roses float parking area. Chair Petschauer also expressed interest in collaborating with Active San Gabriel Valley and highlighted the organization's efforts to add bikeways near the Sierra Madre corridor, along Eaton Wash. Member Brent Maue referenced Huntington Drive as an example of medians that have been enhanced and modified to take water from the street.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Watershed Planning Recap

i) Watershed Planning Recap Phase 1

Public Work's SCW Program Watershed Planning (Watershed Planning) staff within Public Works presented on the Watershed Planning progress, including an update on the Initial Plan Framework and the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA). Mike Antos (Stantec) also provided an overview of the outcomes from the Phase 1 Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Watershed Planning engagement workshops held during previous WASC meetings for all nine SCW Watershed Areas, which included a Program-wide and Watershed Area specific synthesis of the feedback received during the workshops. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson shared that it would be beneficial to understand the level of development permitted in the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's right-of-way, referencing the Eaton Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project. Watson also emphasized the importance of considering the interrelationships among the six different Rio Hondo Watershed Area washes to better coordinate projects.

Member Tom Love agreed with the synthesis presented and highlighted the value of understanding how projects are distributed throughout the County. Member Love also mentioned that the number of acres of open space per population could be a metric that is considered when defining disadvantaged communities. Antos noted that the Initial Watershed Plans will integrate data from the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment Plus, which discusses park accessibility across the region.

Chair Petschauer mentioned that while existing parks are ideal locations for projects, there is also an interest in developing undeveloped, city-owned properties into green space. Antos inquired if cities have publicly accessible datasets listing undeveloped, city-owned properties, as such data would be beneficial to add to the Watershed Planning database.

Chair Petschauer recommended that Water Quality Benefits be quantified during post-construction. Chair Petschauer also highlighted the importance of understanding the priorities of communities located in Unincorporated Los Angeles County. Upon inquiry, Chair Petschauer noted that the accumulation of different programs, such as trash compliance, community education, and street sweeping, has contributed to improved water quality.

Member Jill Fosselman cautioned about an overconcentration of projects in certain areas and expressed interest in discussing methods to ensure balanced project distribution through the Watershed Planning effort.

Upon inquiry, Antos confirmed that the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan is being evaluated during the Watershed Planning process.

ii) What We Are Doing Next

Watershed Planning staff provided an overview of the Initial Watershed Plan Framework.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Chair Petschauer recommended that constructed project's water quality data, not just modeled data, be included in the Watershed Planning analysis to ensure that water quality effects can be accurately quantified. Chair Petschauer referenced the preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration SCW Program Scientific Study, as an example analysis that utilized existing project data. Antos noted that the setting of Water Quality targets is still being evaluated.

Watershed Planning staff shared about the Watershed Planning methodology and process being conducted to develop the Initial Watershed Plans and accompanying online planning tool. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that the planning tool will be publicly available. Member Fosselman inquired if the planning tool can be used to filter out projects that do not meet community needs. Watershed Planning staff explained that planning tool and Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Tool may be used collectively as resources to assist WASCs in make informed decisions when considering funding projects.

Watershed Planning staff also confirmed that potential Scoring Criteria revisions may be implemented, however, they are not directly associated with the Watershed Planning effort. Watershed Planning staff added that project applicants will eventually be required to include an explanation in their applications describing how proposed projects align with a WASC's priorities and targets specified in the Watershed Area's Initial Watershed Plan, once available.

Watershed Planning staff stated that the Watershed Planning process is adaptive, and the Initial Watershed Plan is scheduled to be completed by June 2025. Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff explained that there will be another engagement session with WASCs to review the Initial Watershed Plan before June 2025. Watershed Planning staff shared that focused engagement with specific interested parties has also been conducted.

Antos provided an overview of the proposed CSNA survey and explained that once it is launched and LA County communities begin taking the survey to identify their needs and priorities, the results will be displayed in an online dashboard and will be included in the [Spatial Data Library \(SDL\)](#). Member Love expressed support for the CSNA and noted how the findings can guide funding decisions and be used as a resource for the WASC during project prioritization discussions. Hayat Rasul (Stantec) added that data from previous surveys administered by the Watershed Coordinators will also be incorporated into the CSNA dashboard. Chair Petschauer voiced the value of tracking survey data over time and continued coordination with municipalities to better understand their efforts.

Upon questioning, Antos shared that the survey data is not meant to be weighted based on whether a response is from an individual or an organization. Antos added that the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program can be used by organizations towards community engagement, including survey distribution, that can contribute to the CSNA.

iii) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Member Love volunteered for the position of Vice-Chair.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Voting Items

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

Member Maue motioned to select Member Love as Vice-Chair, seconded by Member Matsumoto. The motion was passed with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



9) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items to be discussed at the next meeting include:

- a) Regional Program Quarterly Summary for FY2023-24 Q1 and Q2
- b) Summary of Submitted Infrastructure Program Projects and Scientific Studies (Presentation by Watershed Coordinators)

10) Adjournment

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

RH WASC - October 15th, 2024						
	Quorum Present				Voting Item	
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 08/20/2024 Meeting Minutes	Tom Love for Vice-Chair of the Rio Hondo WASC
Agency	Julian Juarez	x	Jennifer Aborida		y	y
Agency	Tom Love	x	Jennifer Aguilar		y	y
Agency	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino			
Agency	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	x	y	y
Agency	Richard Yee		Brent Maue	x	a	y
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong		Bryan Matsumoto	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	x	Mark Daniel		y	y
Community Stakeholder						
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman		Liliana Griego			
Municipal Members	David Dolphin		Latoya Waters	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Briget Arndell	x	Paul Cranmer		y	y
Municipal Members	Fernando Villaluna	x	Paul Choy		y	y
Municipal Members	Alex Tachiki		Sophia Sousa			
Municipal Members	Dawn Petschauer	x	James Tong		y	y
Municipal Members	Eddie Chan					
Municipal Members						
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson		Julie Millett	x		
Total Non-Vacant Seats	15			Yay (Y)	10	11
Total Voting Members Present	11			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency	4			Abstain (A)	1	0
Community Stakeholder	3			Total	11	11
Municipal Members	4				Approved	Approved

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

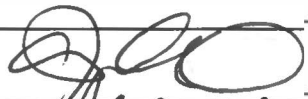




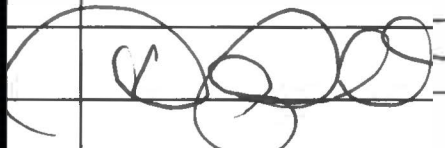
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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

Rio Hondo
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Jennifer Aguilar	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		P	
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 Dawn Peterson	753 Pasadena			
Richard Watson	RWA			
Julie Millett	RWA			