

Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, January 28, 2025
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Progress Park Auditorium/Plaza West
15500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA 90723
WebEx Meeting

Committee Member Present:

Ernesto Rivera, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency) Co-Chair
Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency) Co-Chair
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Todd Leland, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
*Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
*Karen Diaz, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Candice Dickens-Russell, Friends of the Los Angeles River (Community)
Manny Gonez, TreePeople (Community)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Cecilia Salazar, Long Beach (Municipal)
*Pamela Torres, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Joseph Venzon, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, City of Southgate (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA Marketing, Watershed Coordinator (non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Gina Nila, City of Commerce (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Madeline Chen, 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 facilitated a roll call, conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, and provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions for any participants joining online. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 22, 2024

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Pamela Torres motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Co-Chair Asha Kreiling. The Committee voted to approve the October 22, 2024 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 4 in abstention and 1 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report is intended to be an extension of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) and provides a summary on the progress of those

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projects, Scientific Studies (SS), and project concepts based on Project Developers' previously submitted Quarterly and Annual progress reports and does not include new information. This WARPP report summarizes progress in Fiscal Year 2022–2023 (FY22-23). All Project Developer reports are publicly accessible through the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Portal Dashboard and the [Reporting Repository](#). The WARPP has one section that mentions the projected benefits from Round 4 (FY23-24) SIPs. The first WARPP reports were drafted last year and served as a reference for the first SCW Program Biennial Progress Report, which was approved by the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) in January 2024. This year's WARPP report has been updated to align with the structure and format of the SCW Program Biennial Progress Report. During the ROC meeting on November 13, 2024, the ROC reviewed the nine new draft WARPP Reports and provided recommendations for adjustments for future WARPP Reports. For details, please refer to the [Meeting Minutes](#). Public Works Staff is to collect any input, feedback, or requests from WASCs to improve future WARPP Reports. The next WARPP Report will cover FY23-24 and is anticipated next year.

- The FY23-24 Annual Report (July 2023 to June 2024) was due December 31, 2024. Project Developers should address comments and resubmit as soon as possible. The Regional Program Reporting Module has been updated and is now available.
- The Mid-Year Report (covering July to December, previously known as the Quarter 1 (Q1) and Q2 Reports) will be due on February 15, 2025. A two-week extension was granted for submittals. Project Developers are required to fill out a new Metric and Measures section by mid-March. New reports, the Metrics and Measures sections, and supporting guidance are anticipated to launch next week.
- The FY24-25 Transfer Agreements/Addendum distribution began December 2024. An email was sent out to new and continuing Project Developers with instructions on how to use the Transfer Agreement functionality within the Reporting Module. Project Developers are advised to start uploading support documents, such as the Scope of Work (SOW), Authorization, and California Quality Act (CEQA) documents as applicable to execute agreements. For questions about specific projects, email safecleanwaterla@subscriptions.lacounty.gov.
- The ROC met on December 11, 2024 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. The ROC discussed the Watershed Planning presentation on Framework, County Water Plan Overview, Implementation Update, and Interconnectivity of Initiatives. The meeting scheduled for January 8 was cancelled due to the wildfires in the region. The next ROC meeting is scheduled for February 12 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. WASC and Scoring Committee (SC) Chairs will be reinvited to provide updates and recommendations. The ROC will also discuss updates on the SCW Program Adaptive Management. More information can be found on the [ROC events webpage](#).
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are currently being processed and executed by the Public Works staff. FY23-24 Annual Reports were due December 31, 2024. Disbursements were scheduled for the end of December 2024. Cities will need to comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program formally launched on September 24. The Public 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 21 and will be evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis. More information can be found on the [Water Foundation website](#).
- 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](#).

Public Works' Watershed Planning staff provided updates:

- Watershed Planning staff emphasized the importance of resilient planning given the recent fires. Watershed Planning staff outlined how lessons learned from these disasters can be integrated into the Initial Watershed Plans to better understand the changes to local landscapes, water quality,

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and community needs. The Initial Watershed Plans will refine strategies for fire-impacted areas and identify opportunities to enhance climate resilience. A methodology has been prepared to develop plans for each Watershed Area, and Watershed Planning team is starting with the LLAR Watershed Area to ensure quality control and consistency across all nine Watershed Areas. Watershed Planning staff shared that based on baseline findings and benefit forecasts, strategies to achieve SCW Program goals are also being developed.

- The Watershed Planning Framework is available on the SCW Program website under the [Adaptive Management](#) tab. The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey and a Frequently Asked Questions document have also been launched and are available on the [SCW Program website](#). The Watershed Planning Tool, including a GIS map and dashboard, will also be launched to illustrate survey results and identify opportunity areas. For more information, Watershed Planning staff can be reached at watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales presented on the LLAR Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report from October 2024 to January 2025. The presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Dales noted that a community-based organization repository is kept and maintained for the LLAR Watershed Area. Watershed Coordinator Dales added that the contacts database is available to the WASC, and reminded the WASC that the Watershed Coordinator role is a resource to connect WASC Members, Project Proponents, and community members on topics related to the SCW Program. Watershed Coordinator Dales also elevated potential projects and collaborators for the upcoming year.

5) Presentation and Discussion Items

a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

b. Scientific Study Presentations

i. Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS)

Presentation by Foothill Municipal Water District. *Implement the DROPS tool that integrates advanced data analytics with AI to site distributed stormwater capture and filtration projects.*

Christopher Tull (California Data Collaborative) presented on the SS. The project objective is to develop tools for Project Developers to understand the water supply landscape in California. Tull mentioned the tool is primarily meant to be user-friendly and accessible. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Co-Chair Kreiling shared with the Project Applicants that the SS should shift focus from Water Supply to Water Quality, as only a few WASCs in the SCW Program have high groundwater infiltration capacity. Co-Chair Kreiling added that Water Supply can be achieved in WASCs that have low infiltration capacity through other strategies like sewer diversions and on-site irrigation.

Watershed Coordinator Dales asked the Project Applicants about the funding flexibility of the SS. Watershed Coordinator Dales also asked the Project Applicants if the tool intends to generate site-specific strategies for Watershed Areas. The Project Applicants shared that the use-cases of the tool are still being developed.

Member Karen Diaz expressed concern over the amount of water used to power artificial intelligence (AI) technology and the Project Applicants explained that AI models are becoming more efficient, so the AI water use for this SS is likely negligible.

Member Adrian Figueroa clarified with the Project Applicants that the tool is predominantly geared towards water supply agencies, but would also be useful for property owners, WASCs, and the general public.

ii. Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures

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Presentation by Craftwater Engineering, Inc. *Develop tools to quantitatively estimate effectiveness and support optimization of Minimum Control Measures (MCMs)*

Brianna Datti (Craftwater Engineering) presented on Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures in Los Angeles County and shared that Gateway Water Management Authority will be leading this project with Craftwater Engineering as the proposed developer. The objective of the SS is to optimize the effectiveness of MCMs. The presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Dylan Porter asked if the California State Water Resources Control Board (Regional Board) is on board with the SS and existing water quality permits. The Project Applicant shared that the Regional Board has submitted a letter of support for a previous iteration of this SS concept. The Project Applicant intends to continually engage the Regional Board.

Member Figueroa commented that MCM optimization will be useful for water quality improvements at the city level.

Upon inquiry, the Project Applicant shared that contaminants differ across the Watershed Area, and that LLAR would focus on Zinc and total suspended solids. The Project Applicant added that MCM programs do work towards Total Maximum Daily Load compliance. Regarding an inquiry about data availability, the Project Applicant explained that implementation activities often result in data, and that supplemental data could be provided by agencies, such as street sweeping data, to inform debris removal metrics.

Watershed Coordinator Dales asked the Project Applicant if there is a public education component to the SS regarding irrigation and runoff, and the Project Applicant explained that while the SS team is involved in tracking public education efforts, those efforts are not represented in the SS tool.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for details. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Scientific Study Peer Reviews
- b) Project Modification Requests (PMR) for WASC consideration

9) Adjournment

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

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 10-22-2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Enrique Baul		a
Agency	Central Basin	Madeline Chen*	x	Alex Rojas		y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Asha Kreiling*	x	Aimee Zhao		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce	x	Alysha Chan		a
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott		Todd Leland	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro		Isabelle Campiformio	x	a
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Karen Diaz	x	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez	x	Mary Hillemeier		not present at vote
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Friends of the Los Angeles River	Candice Dickens-Russell	x			y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila		Thomas Bekele		
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Cecilia Salazar	x	Wataru Kumagai		y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee		Pamela Torres	x	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x			y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			a
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	15
Municipal Members		6				Approved

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ernesto Rivera	FCD		P	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Enrique Baul	FCD		A	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin		P	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Alex Rojas	Central Basin		A	
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District		P	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Aime Zhao	Water Replenishment District		A	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts		P	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Alysha Chan	LA County Sanitation Districts		A	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation		P	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation		A	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Irene Lopez-Muro	Conservation Corps of Long Beach		P	
Isabelle Campiformio	Conservation Corps of Long Beach		A	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Mark Stanley	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy		P	
Karen Diaz	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy		A	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Manny Gonez	TreePeople		P	
Mary Hillemeier	TreePeople		A	
James Vernon	Port of Long Beach		P	
Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach		A	
Candice Dickens-Russell	Friends of the Los Angeles River		P	
			A	
Gina Nila	Commerce		P	
Thomas Bekele	Signal Hill		A	
Dan Mueller	Downey		P	
			A	
Cecilia Salazar	Long Beach		P	
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach		A	
Julian Lee	Lynwood		P	
Pamena Torres	Lynwood		A	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount	[REDACTED]	P	<i>Adriana Figueroa</i>
			A	
Joseph Venzon	County of Los Angeles		P	<i>JV</i>
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles		A	
Gladis Deras	South Gate		P	<i>GD</i>
Tara Dales	SGA Marketing			<i>Tara Dales</i>

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	
Erica	Maceda	River in Action	

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

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
January 28, 2025

Alysha Chan

Aric JLHA

Bryan Igboke

Call-in User_2

Carlos Preciado

Christopher Tull, CaDC

Clara Dahl

David Lee

Emily Ng

Jenny Chau

JonPaul Sarro

Lisa

Lisa Skutecki

Michelle Kim JLHA

Pablo Forni

Robert Blankenship

Ryanna Fossum

SCWP Anthony Barreras

SCWP LLAR WASC

SCWP Larry Tran