

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



---

Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Senior Game Room  
119 W. Palm 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)  
Brian Tabatabai, Resident - City of West Covina (Community)  
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All (Community)  
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
\*Sophia Sousa, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)  
Marisol Cortez, (Community)  
Vacant, (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 November 19, 2024**

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member David Dolphin motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Julian Juarez. The WASC voted to approve the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 2 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 Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report is an extension of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). The SIP is a 5-year plan allocating funding for projects, studies, and concepts. The WARPP follows the SIP, providing a summary on the progress of those projects, Scientific Studies, and project concepts based on the Project Developers' previously submitted Quarterly and Annual Expenditure and Progress Reports. The WARPP Report summarizes progress in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) for projects, studies, and project concepts approved in the first three funding rounds. The WARPP does not include new information. All Project Developer reports are publicly accessible through the [SCW Project Portal](#) and the [SCW Reporting Repository](#). The WARPP includes a section on the projected benefits from Round 4 (FY23-24) SIPs. The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) reviewed the 9 new DRAFT WARPP Reports and provided recommendations in January 2024 for adjustments for future WARPP Reports. For details, please refer to the Meeting Minutes from the November 13, 2024 ROC meeting available on the [SCW Program website](#). The next WARPP Report will cover FY23-24 and is anticipated to be released next year.
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are currently being processed and executed. Disbursements are scheduled for the end of December. Cities must comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement.
- The FY23-24 Annual Report (July 2023 to June 2024) will be due December 31, 2024. The Mid-Year Report (covering July to December, previously known as Q1 and Q2 Reports) will be due on February 15th, 2025.
- 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 31, 2025, 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. SCW Program updates can also be viewed on the News and Updates page on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Public Works' Watershed Planning staff noted that the second Watershed Planning workshops were conducted with all nine WASCs to confirm that WASC members' perspectives shared during the first workshops were understood correctly and to solicit additional feedback. The Watershed Planning Framework is completed and available on the [SCW Program website](#). Additionally, the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) and a Frequently Asked Questions document were also launched, and are available on the SCW Program [Adaptive Management website](#). For more information, Watershed Planning staff can be reached at [watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov).

Upon inquiry, Public Works informed the WASC that the Watershed Coordinators would assist with distributing the CSNA survey to the community. Public Works staff encouraged Committee Members to share the survey and added that the FAQ provides guidance on distributing the survey.

Chair Petschauer clarified with Public Works staff about Transfer Agreement submission requirements regarding the Vendor Form and the Authorization Form. These documents can be uploaded to the [Reporting Module](#), along with the signed Transfer Agreement. For further inquiries please contact the SCW Team at [SCWPMunicipal@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SCWPMunicipal@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

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes



included supporting a community outreach meeting at Washington Park, plans to present to San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee on school greening, and planning future outreach and engagement events.

Chair Petschauer expressed gratitude to the Watershed Coordinators for supporting city events. Chair Petschauer mentioned that the community expressed frustrations about the Washington Park Technical Resource Program (TRP) Project due to misunderstandings regarding project duration. Chair Petschauer stressed the need for transparency about the time required to procure funds from the start of the project.

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson provided an overview of Round 6 RH Scientific Study (SS) proposals, which include three multi-WASCs studies and one SS specific to the RH WASC. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Bryan Matsumoto commented on the similarity of the proposed tools from the SS applications and inquired if the tools would be integrated with one another to avoid redundancy. Watershed Coordinator Watson highlighted the value of cross-referencing each SS to build on existing data and provide a more in-depth analysis. Chair Petschauer shared that reviewing individual SS applications could help provide more clarity on each tool.

#### **5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### **6) Presentations and Discussion Items**

Member Matsumoto mentioned that the Technical Resources Program (TRP) funding for two Projects concepts were both eligible for \$400,000, despite one project seeming significantly larger in scope than the other. Member Matsumoto inquired whether project concept applicants could bid for a lower amount and if the TRP funding process includes a verification of how funds will be used.

Chair Petschauer explained that the funding is given to Public Works to facilitate the development of feasibility studies. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the TRP funding increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000 to ensure sufficient funds for geotechnical investigations and community engagement. Antos added that if a TRP is included in an adopted Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP), the funding can be up to \$400,000, with the scope of work to be determined between the selected consultant and Public Works. Antos explained that the two TRPs Member Matsumoto referenced could result in one being more expensive than the other once the scope is finalized with the County. Antos reiterated that funds not spent by a TRP are returned to the WASC for future allocation.

##### **a) Scientific Studies (SS) Presentation**

##### **i) Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County**

Presented by Natalie Ouwersloot and Chris Tull. Implement the DROPS tool that integrates advanced data analytics with AI to site distributed stormwater capture filtration projects.

Natalie Ouwersloot (Foothill Municipal Water District) and Chris Tull (California Data Collaborative) presented on the Data-Drive Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County SS. The SS proposes the implementation of the DROPS Tool, which integrates advanced data analytics with artificial intelligence for site-distributed stormwater capture and filtration projects. The proposed SS is being presented to all WASCs, as the Study Applicant commented that the SS would be beneficial across all Watershed Areas. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Tull addressed the WASC's concerns about duplicative efforts, explaining that the DROPS Tool will evaluate existing tools to avoid redundancy. Upon inquiry, Tull explained that the DROPS Tool may use remote sensing technology to help with site analysis by evaluating soil characteristics, land use, non-

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



functional turf areas, existing infrastructure, digital elevation models, groundwater basins, water agency boundaries, and locations of disadvantaged communities.

Upon inquiry, Tull explained that the interface and output of the DROPS Tool will be informed by the user research phase, which plans to involve interviews with professionals to understand how the Tool would fit into existing workflows. Member Dolphin mentioned the preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration SS (hereafter to referred to as the preSIP SS) and inquired how the preSIP SS would be integrated into the DROPS Tool. Tull expressed support in promoting open data and would like to integrate that preSIP SS data into the DROPS Tool. Chair Petschauer added that the preSIP SS helped create a list of projects in addition to identifying optimal locations. Chair Petschauer noted that smaller cities without master plans that lack resources may benefit from a tool that incorporates existing relevant data. Tull noted that the DROPS Tool would be owned by Foothill Municipal Water District but published using Opensource. Tull also mentioned that artificial intelligence technology will be explored as a pilot study.

Upon inquiry, Ouwersloot confirmed that the pilot study is anticipated to begin in January and end in the summer of 2025. Public Works staff confirmed that the WASC is anticipated to begin SIP deliberations in February or March.

Member Lauren Augino inquired whether the DROPS Tool will assess the impact of site infiltration on operable units or areas of contamination, and Ouwersloot agreed that brownfields, superfund sites, and operable units should be considered in the DROPS Tool.

Member Matsumoto commented that the funding request is split evenly between the nine WASCs and expressed interest in revising the distribution. Chair Petschauer added that past funding requests have typically been proportional to the size of each Watershed Area.

## **ii) Depave LA: Prioritizing Lots for Green Retrofitting**

*Presented by Council for Watershed Health. Create a tool to identify, rank, and prioritize parking lots for greening, water quality, and/or water supply focused retrofits.*

Jason Casanova (Council for Watershed Health) and Craig Doberstein (Herrerra Environmental) presented on the Depave LA: Prioritizing Lots for Green Retrofitting Project (hereafter referred to as the Depave LA Toolkit). The primary objective of the proposed SS is to locate parking lots where retrofit projects offer the greatest water quality, water supply, and other multi-benefit outcomes. The proposed SS intends to prioritize retrofits across the Central Santa Monica Bay, Lower San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo, South Santa Monica Bay, and Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Areas. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon request, Casanova explained that the Depave LA Toolkit is requesting funds from five of the nine Watershed Areas due to the potential complications associated with Watershed Coordinator contract held by Council for Watershed Health and added that the chosen Watershed Areas represent regions with different city codes. Casanova also mentioned that the upper Santa Clara and North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Areas do not have as many impervious surfaces.

Chair Petschauer commented that commercial tenants have become more interested in depaving due to the Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial (CII) permit. Casanova confirmed that both public and private parking lots will be evaluated. Casanova highlighted the importance of collaborating with community organizations and schools to identify suitable parking lots.

Member Matsumoto confirmed with Casanova that the SS would consider cost-effectiveness to help identify less expensive retrofit options in addition to more complex retrofit options. The Depave LA Toolkit also intends to rely on community feedback to identify the most optimal solutions. Chair Petschauer inquired if parking overflow would be considered, referencing proposed improvements to the Rose Bowl parking lot.

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes



Doberstein noted that Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA) prepared a study that includes steps on how to evaluate and modify underutilized parking lots.

#### **iii) Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient Los Angeles County**

Presented by Tree People. *A study assessing existing systems and delivering modeled next generation designs for resilient, multi-benefit bioretention systems.*

Dustin Herrmann (TreePeople), Igor Bronz (TreePeople) and Craig Doberstein (Herrera) presented on the Next Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient Los Angeles County Project (hereafter referred to as the Next Gen Bioretention Project). The primary objective of the proposed SS is to establish an optimized design framework that adapts to future ecological inputs and demands. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Herrmann explained that the final deliverable of the SS will be a standard design, featuring customizable elements tailored to the size and location of a project site. Herrmann added that the SS would include parameters to analyze the system's performance. Doberstein noted that this SS plans to identify projects and develop solutions to address identified issues related to existing bioretention systems. Herrmann added that the SS intends to include a review of existing bioretention infrastructure conditions to inform the final designs.

Upon inquiry, Bronz confirmed that field testing will evaluate contaminants, including heavy metals and volatile organic compounds. Member Hayden Melbourn inquired about the scale of the bioretention designs and whether municipalities would be expected to adopt a standard specification. Herrmann clarified that the designs would encompass both larger linear configurations for public rights-of-way in addition to more compact designs for individual parcels.

#### **iv) Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study**

Presented by San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG). *Explore the potential SCW Program benefits of transforming hardscapes and brownfields into permeable, multi-benefit surfaces.*

Due to time constraints, this presentation was rescheduled to the next WASC meeting.

#### **b) WASC Update to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC)**

Chair Petschauer shared that WASCs have been invited to share highlights and unique Watershed Area characteristics at the upcoming ROC meeting in January and solicited content suggestions from Committee Members. Public Works staff added that WASC members can also share comments with the Watershed Coordinators, who will then relay comments to the Chairs. This update can also be an opportunity for the WASC to share recommendations for the ROC's upcoming Biennial Report, which will be developed throughout 2025.

Chair Petschauer noted that the Chairs plan to discuss the Board's May 7, 2024 Ordinance Amendment, which gave discretion to the Chief Engineer to request SCW Program proposals on either an annual or biennial basis. Antos reminded that the ordinance change left discretion for the call-for-projects with the Chief Engineer, and recommended comments be directed at that decision-making. Antos confirmed that no slides would be required for the ROC meeting.

Chair Petschauer highlighted recurring themes unique to the RH WASC, such as approving the most SS proposals and recognizing the value of SS that guide better decision-making. Chair Petschauer also commented that the RH WASC is strategic with spending to ensure ongoing projects receive adequate future funding.

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Member Matsumoto suggested that progress on previously funded projects be easier to access, and Vice-Chair Love commented that Public Works staff may be more equipped to address that suggestion than the ROC. Progress and expenditure reports on previously funded Projects and SS may be viewed in the SCW Program Portal – [Reporting Repository](#).

#### **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 January 21, 2025 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items to be discussed at the next meeting may include:

- a) Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study
- b) Project Modification Requests (PMR) for WASC Discussion
- c) Continuing IP Projects and SS Update (Presentation by Watershed Coordinator)
- d) Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project – Lessons Learned (Presentation by Amigos de los Rios)

#### **Adjournment**

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

## RH WASC - December 17th, 2024

|  |                    | Quorum Present      |               |                     | Voting Item                              |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Member Type  | Member             | Voting/<br>Present? | Alternate     | Voting/<br>Present? | Approve<br>11/19/2024<br>Meeting Minutes |
| Agency   | Julian Juarez      | x                   | Alynn Sun     |                     | y  |
| Agency   | Tom Love**         | x                   | Patty Cortez  |                     | y  |
| Agency   | Kelly Gardner      |                     | Lauren Augino | x                   | y  |
| Agency   | Dave Pierce        |                     | Alysha Chan   | x                   | y  |
| Agency   | Hayden Melbourn    | x                   | Brent Maue    |                     | y  |
| Community Stakeholder  | Brian Tabatabai    | x                   |               |                     | a  |
| Community Stakeholder  | Jill Fosselman     |                     |               |                     |  |
| Community Stakeholder  | Marisol Cortez     |                     |               |                     |  |
| Community Stakeholder  |                    |                     |               |                     |  |
| Community Stakeholder  | Bryan Matsumoto    | x                   |               |                     | y  |
| 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       |                     | Sophia Sousa  | x                   | a  |
| Municipal Members  | Dawn Petschauer*   | x                   | James Tong    |                     | y  |
| Municipal Members  | Eddie Chan         |                     |               |                     |  |
| Municipal Members  |                    |                     |               |                     |  |
| Watershed Coordinator<br>Non-Voting Member (RWA<br>Planning) | Richard Watson     | x                   | Julie Millett |                     |  |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats                                       | 16                 |                     |               | Yay (Y)             | 10                                       |
| Total Voting Members Present                                 | 12                 |                     |               | Nay (N)             | 0  |
| Agency   | 5                  |                     |               | Abstain (A)         | 2  |
| Community Stakeholder  | 2                  |                     |               | Total               | 12                                       |
| Municipal Members  | 5                  |                     |               |                     | Approved                                 |

**Attendees**  
**Rio Hondo WASC Meeting**  
**December 17, 2024**

Brad Wardynski  
Carlos Rodriguez  
Chris  
Emily Huang Stantec  
Jade Nguyen  
JonPaul Sarro  
Jonathan Ontiveros

Marisela Velasquez - LACDPW  
Mark Hall GLAмосquito  
Pablo Forni - LACPW  
Paul Choy  
Rob Garcia Jr.  
Robert Gomez  
SCWP - Presenter

Stacy Luell  
Susana Vargas  
Thom Epps Craftwater  
Turner Lott  
Uriel Cobian



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



| Member Name        | Municipality/<br>Organization             | P/A | Signature          |
|--------------------|---|-----|--------------------|
| Julian Juarez      | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Tom Love           | Upper San Gabriel District                |     |                    |
| Kelly Gardner      | Main San Gabriel Basin                    | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Dave Pierce        | Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts   |     |                    |
| Hayden Melbourn    | Pasadena                                  |     | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Brian Tabatabaia   | Resident - City of West Covina            | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Jill Fosselman     | Resident                                  |     |                    |
| Marisol Cortez     |   |     |                    |
| Bryan Matsumoto    | Nature For All                            | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| David Dolphin      | Alhambra                                  | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Briget Arndell     | Arcadia                                   | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Fernando Villaluna | LA County Public Works                    |     |                    |
| Alex Tachiki       | Monrovia                                  | A   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Dawn Petschauer    | Pasadena                                  | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Eddie Chan         | Irwindale                                 |     |                    |
| Alynn Sun          | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | P   | <i>[Signature]</i> |

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



| Member Name    | Municipality/<br>Organization              | P/A | Signature            |
|----------------|--|-----|----------------------|
| Patty Cortez   | Upper San Gabriel District                 |     |                      |
| Lauren Augino  | Main San Gabriel Basin<br>Watermaster      | A   | <i>Lauren Augino</i> |
| Alysha Chan    | Los Angeles County Sanitation<br>Districts | A   | <i>Alysha Chan</i>   |
| Brent Maue     | Pasadena                                   |     |                      |
| Latoya Waters  | Alhambra                                   |     |                      |
| Paul Cranmer   | Arcadia                                    |     |                      |
| Paul Choy      | LA County Public Works                     |     |                      |
| Sophia Sousa   | Monrovia                                   |     |                      |
| James Tong     | Pasadena                                   |     |                      |
| Richard Watson | RWA  | P   | <i>RW</i>            |
| Julie Millett  | RWA  | P   | <i>Julie Millett</i> |
|                |  |     |                      |
|                |  |     |                      |
|                |  |     |                      |
|                |  |     |                      |

Rio Hondo  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



| First Name  | Last Name  | Municipality/Organization | Email Address |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Cruz        | Robertson  | Herrera                   |               |
| Jason       | Casanova   | CWIT                      |               |
| Christopher | Tull       | CaDC                      |               |
| Natalie     | Duwersloot | Foothill MWD              |               |
| Dustin      | HERDMAN    | TREE PEOPLE               |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |
|             |            |                           |               |

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