

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, January 21, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Library Community Room
321 S. Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Patty Cortez, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency), Vice-Chair
*Lauren Augino, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
Hayden Melbourn, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Brian Tabatabai, Resident - City of West Covina (Community)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
*Jade Nguyen, Nature for All (Community)
Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Marisol Cortez (Community)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)
Vacant (Community)
Vacant (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 December 17, 2024

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Brian Tabatabai motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Alex Tachiki. The WASC voted to approve the December 17, 2024 meeting minutes with 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 3 in abstention, and 2 absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett shared that Day One is running a Teen Zone for Altadena and Pasadena middle and high school students. The Teen Zone will be operating Monday to Friday from 9:00am

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to 3:30pm at [175 N. Euclid Pasadena, California 91101](#). For more information, contact Day One or Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett.

Public Works staff provided a statement addressing the recent fires in Los Angeles County. Public Works' 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, and community needs. The Initial Watershed Plans will refine strategies for fire-impacted areas and identify opportunities to enhance climate resilience. Watershed Planning staff provided additional updates, noting that a methodology has been prepared to develop plans for each Watershed Area, and that the team is starting with the Lower Los Angeles River 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 Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program goals are also being developed.

The Watershed Planning Framework, the [Community Strengths and Needs Assessment \(CSNA\) Survey](#), and a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) 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.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (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 2024 to December 2024, previously known as the Quarter 1 [Q1] and Q2 Reports) will be due on February 15, 2025. A two-week extension (February 28) has been granted for submittals this time-around. Project Developers are to also fill out the new Metric and Measures section, which will also be due on February 28.
- 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, Authorization, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents, as applicable, to execute agreements.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (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 canceled due to the wildfires in Los Angeles County. The next ROC meeting is scheduled for February 12 at 1:00pm. The WASCs and Scoring Committee 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](#).
- Public Works staff shared that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project's Project Modification Request (PMR) was deemed consistent with the approved SIP. The PMR has a like-for-like modification with a schedule change with no impact on future funding allocations. The PMR Project Developer has been notified, and the upcoming progress and expenditure reports in the Reporting Module will reflect the modification. No further action is required from the WASC regarding this PMR. Public Works staff reminded the WASC that PMR forms are publicly accessible through the [Reports Section](#) of the SCW Program Portal.
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are currently being processed and executed by Public Works staff. The first group of Transfer Agreements have been executed and the second group is in progress. The initial disbursements were completed at the end of December 2024. Cities will need to comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement. Public Works is following up with pending Municipalities.

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- The FY23-24 Annual Reports were due December 31, 2024. For questions or concerns regarding the Municipal Program, contact the SCW Team at SCWPMunicipal@pw.lacounty.gov.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program formally launched on September 24, 2024. 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 within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Proposals will be accepted until May 31, 2025 and will be evaluated and awarded on a periodic 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. To keep up with program updates as they are shared, please [subscribe to receive email notifications](#). Implementation updates can also be viewed on the News and Updates page on the [SCW Program website](#).

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Chair Petschauer disclosed communication with Project Proponents after the last WASC meeting, which involved additional discussion on where to locate existing planning tools, such as [Integrated Regional Water Management Plans \(IRWMPs\)](#), [Light Detection and Ranging \(LiDAR\)](#), [LA County Hydrology Map \(manual\)](#) to support the [Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System \(DROPS\) for Los Angeles County Scientific Study](#).

5) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Scientific Studies (SS) Presentation

i) Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study

Presented by Paulina Mejia and Brad Wardynski. *Explore the potential SCW Program benefits of transforming hardscapes and brownfields into permeable, multi-benefit surfaces.*

Paulina Mejia (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)) and Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) presented on the proposed Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study (hereafter referred to as Hardscape and Brownfield SS). The SS proposes transformative solutions for urban stormwater management. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Jill Fosselman inquired if the study is exploring the estimated amount of acre-ft of water that can possibly be recovered for recharging groundwater. Wardynski confirmed that the SS metrics is modeling potential groundwater recharge, along with impervious area transformation and reduction in runoff. Furthermore, they are evaluating opportunities to bring water from offsite into these renovated sites for a potential increase in groundwater capture.

Chair Petschauer expressed concerns about overlap of this SS with the [Depave LA: Prioritizing Lots for Green Retrofitting SS](#) (hereafter referred to as the Depave LA SS), and questioned why the Los Angeles River Watershed Areas, which have significantly more hardscape, were not considered for the study. Wardynski clarified that, as the lead agency, SGVCOG encompasses member agencies within the RH and Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Watershed Areas. Wardynski added that while there is an opportunity to expand this SS to other Watershed Areas in the future, the intention is to keep the pilot study focused on a limited number Watershed Areas. Wardynski elaborated on the key differences between this study and the Depave LA SS, explaining that the Hardscape and Brownfield SS adopts a more programmatic approach to quantify benefits on a larger scale, whereas the Depave LA SS focuses on detailed parking lot retrofit options. Wardynski added that potential collaboration with the Depave LA SS might not be feasible since proposed SS study applications are funded based on how they are submitted.

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Chair Petschauer inquired if the proposed study is looking into Projects across the region that will help identify areas of hardscape removal, or possibly brownfields, allowing agencies to identify optimal areas to work with, or if this is simply metrics on how to look at potential hardscapes in cities. Wardynski clarified that the SS metrics will be used to identify the most optimal parcels for transformation. Additionally, an online dashboard will be published on the SGVCOG website and will be available for two years to help prioritize resources. Chair Petschauer questioned the two-year timeline dashboard for the proposed study. Wardynski noted that the Hardscape and Brownfield SS could seek additional funding for ongoing maintenance past the initial two-year period, either from SGVCOG's member agencies using the data, or the SCW Program through a PMR.

Committee member Fosselman asked what type of locations are being investigated for this proposed study, and if roads are eligible. Wardynski mentioned that the Hardscape and Brownfield SS would primarily be analyzing underutilized parking lots and paved plazas. Wardynski commented that redeveloping roadways is challenging due to the involvement of multiple owners and the complexity of underground infrastructure.

Chair Petschauer confirmed with Wardynski that the SS collaborative partners will include water agencies and brownfield regulators, given the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) reservations regarding implementing stormwater capture on brownfield sites.

b) Project Modification Request (PMR) Overview

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of PMRs in relation to the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) timelines. Ng summarized that Public Works staff will review PMRs and categorize the PMR as either consistent or inconsistent with the SIP. If consistent, Public Works staff will work with Project Developers to update the Scope of Work for the Transfer Agreement and notify WASC Members. If inconsistent, Public Works staff will refer the PMR to the WASC for discussion. Ng reminded the WASC that the Baldwin Lake Tule Pond Restoration Project PMR was deemed consistent with the SIP. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). PMR Guidelines can be found on the [SCW Program website](#), under the Adaptive Management tab.

Upon inquiry, Public Work staff explained the Baldwin Lake Tule Pond Restoration Project PMR was deemed consistent with the SIP because the PMR presented a minor schedule change without delaying the completion of the Project. It also did not request additional funding from the SCW Program. Public Works staff reminded the WASC that PMRs with additional funding requests would be deemed inconsistent with what was originally approved in the SIP. Upon request, Project Proponent Travis Diaz (Los Angeles County Flood Control District) explained that the schedule change was due to design revisions and CEQA documentation. Diaz added that while construction costs increased due to labor and materials, the Baldwin Lake Tule Pond Restoration Project will not be requesting additional funding from the WASC.

c) Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project – Lessons Learned

Presented by Amigos de los Rios

Claire Robinson (Amigos de los Rios) shared lessons learned from the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project and highlighted the importance of connecting students to the greater Watershed Area. Robinson shared the benefits and challenges of school greening and provided examples of transformed schoolyards. Robison also emphasized the value of stewardship, workforce training, and prioritizing student safety and health to secure greater support from school staff. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Petschauer suggested developing a Master Plan for School Districts to evaluate campuses city-wide and explore potential greening concepts for each campus.

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Chair Petschauer acknowledged the permitting difficulties between municipalities for this project, since the street is co-owned by the City of Monrovia and Los Angeles County. Chair Petschauer highlighted the importance of transparency in the planning and permitting process to reduce costs and ensure alignment with the SCW Program.

Robinson noted that while asphalt is believed to be cost effective, there is a cost associated with its degradation. Robinson added that considering alternative options offers more benefits, and clear communication is essential to ensure School Districts consider the long-term benefits.

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson also mentioned progress on a proposal for workforce development.

6) Public Comment Period

Public Works staff compiled all public comments and have uploaded them to the SCW Program website. In person, virtual and call-in users were invited to provide public comment. Public Works staff received one public comment card from ARLA, which can be found on the SCW Program website, under [Public Comment Cards](#).

Maggie Gardner (Los Angeles Waterkeeper) expressed support for the Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Scientific Study. Gardner's support is for general projects aiming to remove hardscape, with the intent of promoting green schoolyards. Gardner highlighted the value of quantifying the benefits of hardscape transformation.

7) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Items to be discussed at the next meeting include:

- a) Continuing Infrastructure Program Projects and Scientific Studies – Status Update (Presentation by Watershed Coordinator)
- b) Project Modification Requests for WASC Discussion
- c) Scientific Studies Peer Review Summaries
- d) Rio Hondo Stormwater Investment Plan Tool Preview

Public Works staff displayed last year's Rio Hondo SIP Tool on-screen and shared that the SIP Tool and the Rio Hondo SIP Programming Guidelines are anticipated to be available by the next meeting or before SIP deliberations.

9) Adjournment

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

RH WASC - January 21, 2025						
		Quorum Present				Voting Item
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 12/17/2024 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love**		Patty Cortez	x	y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino	x	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce	x	Alysha Chan		a
Agency	Pasadena	Hayden Melbourn	x	Brent Maue		y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Brian Tabatabai	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jill Fosselman	x			absent during voting
Community Stakeholder		Marisol Cortez				
Community Stakeholder						
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto		Jade Nguyen	x	a
Municipal Members	City of Alhambra	Latoya Waters	x	Gehovanny Herrera		absent during voting
Municipal Members	City of Arcadia	Briget Arndell		Paul Cranmer		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Fernando Villaluna	x	Paul Choy		y
Municipal Members	City of Monrovia	Alex Tachiki	x	Sophia Sousa		y
Municipal Members	City of Pasadena	Dawn Petschauer*	x	James Tong		y
Municipal Members	City of Irwindale	Eddie Chan	x			a
Municipal Members						
Watershed Coordinator						
Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	RWA Planning	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		15			Yay (Y)	8
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	11
Municipal Members		5				Approved

Attendees
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Alynn Sun LACFCD
Brad Wardynski
Call-in User_2
Carlos Preciado
Claire
Craig Doberstein
Debbie Enos
Dusadee Corhiran - LACPW
Emily Huang Stantec
Emily Ng

Enrique I Baul
Jason Pepito - SCW WP
Jenny Chau
Lisa Skutecki
Mackenzie Bolger - SGVCOG
Maggie Gardner
Marisela Velasquez - LACPW
Michelle Loekman
Pablo Forni - LACPW
Paul Choy

Paulina Mejia
Robert Gomez
Ryanna Fossum
SCWP
Soledad LACPW
Travis Diaz LACFCD
Uriel Cobian
Latoya

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	
Alynn Sun	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel District	P	
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel District	A	
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	P	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	A	
Dave Pierce	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	
Hayden Melbourn	Pasadena	P	
Brent Maue	Pasadena	A	
Brian C. Tabatabai	Resident - City of West Covina	P	
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	
Marisol Cortez		P	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	
Jade Nguyen	Nature For All	A	
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	

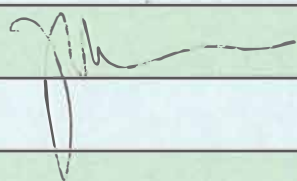
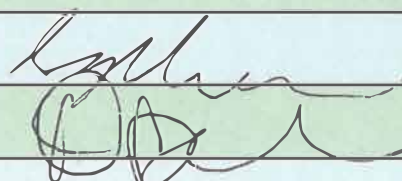

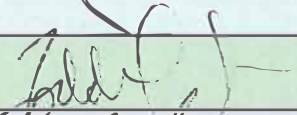
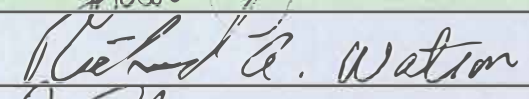

January 21st, 2025

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



**CLEAN
WATER**

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Gehovanny Herrera	Alhambra	A	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	P	
Paul Cranmer	Arcadia	A	
Fernando Villaluna	LA County Public Works	P	
Paul Choy	LA County Public Works	A	
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	P	
Sophia Sousa	Monrovia	A	
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	P	
James Tong	Pasadena	A	
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	P	
Richard Watson	RWA	WC	 Richard E. Watson
Julie Millett	RWA	WC	

January 21st, 2025

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Claire	Robinson	Amigos de los Rios	