

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, February 25, 2025
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Progress Park Auditorium/Plaza West
15500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA 90723
WebEx Meeting

Committee Member Present:

*Enrique Baul, Flood Control District (Agency)
Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency) Co-Chair
*Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency), Co-Chair
*Alysha Chan, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
*Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Mary Hillermeier, TreePeople (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
*Karen Diaz, Rivers and Mountain Conservancy (Community) - Virtual
Candice Dickens-Russell, Friends of the Los Angeles River (Community)
Gina Nila, City of Commerce (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Cecilia Salazar, Long Beach (Municipal)
*Pamela Torres, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, Southgate (Municipal)
Joseph Venzon, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Tara Dales, Stephen Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

*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 January 28, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Pamela Torres motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Gladis Deras. The Committee voted to approve the January 22, 2025 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 4 in abstention, and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Public Works staff informed the WASC that the motion noted the incorrect meeting date and advised the WASC to revise the motion. Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to amend the meeting minutes motion to the correct date of January 28, 2025, and Co-Chair Chen seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the January 28, 2025 meeting minutes, with the date corrected, with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 4 in abstention, and 1 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Mid-Year Report (covering July-Dec 2024, previously known as the Quarter 1 (Q1) & Q2 Reports) was launched on January 17 and is due on February 15, 2025. The deadline for submittals has been extended to February 28.
- The new Metrics & Measures section is now available as a new tile in the Reporting Module for Project Developers approved in Fiscal Year 2020 – 2020 (FY20-21) through FY23-24 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to fill out by February 28th. Project Developers received an email with instructions and a link to the Regional Program Performance Measures Guidelines.
- The 2025 Quarter 3 Quarterly Funding Report & Matrix is available on the [SCW Program website](#). In support of Public Works, the Regional Coordination team prepares quarterly funding reports that include a high-level overview of recent funding policy highlights and a funding matrix that shares currently active and upcoming funding opportunities that may be relevant to SCW Program projects. The Regional Coordination team is monitoring ongoing activity related to Federal funding opportunities.
- FY24-25 Transfer Agreements/Addendum distribution began in December. An email blast 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 their supporting documents, such as the Scope of Work, Authorization, and California Environmental Quality Act documents as applicable to execute their agreements. For questions about your specific projects, please email SafeCleanWaterLA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov.
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 1:00pm, where the ROC will begin its first Biennial Report Session of the series. The meeting will gather public input, and public comment will be extended from 2 to 5 minutes. To view meeting details please visit the ROC events webpage.
- The LA County Flood Control District is partnering with the Water Foundation to administer the Safe, Clean Water Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. The program will support education and community engagement efforts related to stormwater and urban runoff capture within the LA County Flood Control District. The deadline to submit a grant proposal to be evaluated during Round 3 is April 4, 2025. After the Round 3 deadline, proposals will be evaluated and awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis until May 31, 2025, as long as funds are still available. For more information and to submit an application, visit the Water Foundation's link on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Public Works' Watershed Planning staff noted that a methodology has been prepared to develop Initial Watershed Plans for each Watershed Area and 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 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 identify opportunity areas. For more information, Watershed Planning staff can be reached at WatershedPlanning@pw.lacounty.gov.
- To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, please subscribe to receive email notifications on the SCW Program website. This newsletter provides important updates on the Regional, Municipal, and District Programs, designed to help our community stay informed and engaged. Implementation Updates are also available on the News and Updates webpage on the [SCW Program website](#).

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales shared an update about activities in LLAR Watershed Area over the past month. Highlights included connecting with new interested parties in the area that could benefit from conducting Scientific Studies, and sharing recent work that the Watershed Coordinators across the nine Watershed Areas are conducting to track green schoolyards across the Program Area. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

5) Presentation and Discussion Items

a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications.

b. Project Modification Requests (PMRs) Overview for WASC (Presentation by Stantec)

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of PMRs submitted in Round 6 for the LLAR WASC. Ng shared that the LLAR WASC received two PMRs. Public Works staff shared that one project, the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment – Phase 1, was deemed inconsistent with the LLAR SIP. Public Works staff noted that the other project, Gateway Water Management Authority Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis Phase 2), did not need to submit a PMR.

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.

c. Project Modification Request (PMR) for WASC Discussion

i. Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) - Phase 1

Member Figueroa confirmed with Colin Averill (City of Long Beach, Project Developer) that the PMR is requesting five increments of \$1 million, and confirmed that each million is intended to be dedicated to Operations and Maintenance (O&M). Averill added that the project's existing municipal leveraged funding only guarantees one year of funding support for O&M. Public Works staff shared that the first three years of funding for LB-MUST totaled to approximately \$10.8 million, and the second phase totaled to \$10.38 million of SCW Program funding, a combined total of around \$21 million dollars. Public Works staff added that typically, a project that requests additional O&M funding must reapply through the Infrastructure Program (IP) during the Call for Projects stage, however, since IP applications were deferred for FY25-26 Call for Projects, Public Works is temporarily allowing Project Developers to request up to one year of O&M funds through the PMR Form. Averill confirmed that the City will work to submit a new IP Project Application for O&M funding beyond FY25-26.

Member Dan Mueller asked about external costs that may increase overall project costs, and Averill shared that some work cannot be done in-house, so external contractors are sometimes necessary. Averill shared that the City is actively searching for leverage funds opportunities in the region that support Low Impact Development and O&M opportunities.

Member Dylan Porter asked about the potential impacts of LB-MUST Phase II in the event that the WASC does not fund the PMR request and Averill confirmed that LB-MUST Phase II will proceed with Design however, the project may experience limited operational capabilities post-construction due to restrictions imposed by the current budget.

Member Figueroa confirmed with Public Works staff that LB-MUST can use Municipal Program funding to cover a portion of their O&M. Public Works staff also noted that SIP deliberations will begin at the next LLAR WASC meeting. Averill shared that the LB-MUST Wetland is open to the public and encouraged the WASC to visit. The PMR Form can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

d. Scientific Study (SS) Peer Review

Chair Chen provided a brief overview of the Scientific Scientific Study Peer Review process and introduced Chris Tull to address questions from the WASC.

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

The DROPS SS Peer Review Summary can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Dales asked about the source of the data in the DROPS SS. Chris Tull (California Data Collaborative, Project Developer) shared that the data sources may be contributed by federal agencies, interested parties, stakeholders, and other sources.

Member Alysha Chan asked if there are any existing similar studies or tools and how the DROPS Tool would differ. Tull shared that existing tools have different audiences and that the DROPS Tool is primarily intended to be used water agency staff. Tule added that the co-benefits of SCW Program projects will be added as a layer in the DROPS Tool.

Co-Chair Chen referred to a Peer Review comment that asked about extending the project timeline by two years. Tule clarified that the Project Team is still planning for a one-year timeline. Public Works staff shared that the project could submit a PMR for an extension of the project timeline upon a year of completion or the WASC may choose to extend the requested funds over multiple fiscal years in this Stormwater Investment Plan

ii. Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures (MCM)

The MCM SS Peer Review Summary can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Brianna Datti (Craftwater Engineering, Project Developer) shared that the data used for the SS is being calibrated alongside the development of SCW Program monitoring tools. Datti also added that the benefits from MCM implementation, such as pollutant load reduction, will be tracked via a management dashboard. Upon inquiry, Datti clarified that water quality monitoring is not a part of this SS; the SS is a modelling exercise to create a tool to refine such monitoring programs.

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, March 25, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for details. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q3 & Q4
- b) Lower Los Angeles River Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan

Member Figueroa shared that the City of Paramount is undergoing construction at the current location of the LLAR WASC meetings. Public Works staff requested WASC Members to share possible meeting locations. Public Works staff shared that an attendance survey, with a question to extend the next WASC meeting by thirty minutes, will be distributed to WASC Members to better accommodate SIP deliberations.

9) Adjournment

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

LLAR WASC - February 25, 2025

			Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 1-22-2025 Meeting Minutes	Ammend Meeting Minutes approved to correct date to 1-28-2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera		Enrique Baul	x	a	y
Agency	Central Basin	Madeline Chen*	x	Alex Rojas		y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Asha Kreiling*		Jenn Swart	x	a	a
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	x	a	a
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x	Todd Leland		a	a
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro		Isabelle Campiformio	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Karen Diaz	x	not present at time of vote	not present at time of vote
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez		Mary Hillemeier	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Friends of the Los Angeles River	Candice Dickens-Russell	x			y	y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila		Thomas Bekele			
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller					
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Cecilia Salazar	x	Wataru Kumagai		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee		Pamela Torres	x	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x			y	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			y	y
Watershed Coordinator							
Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	10	11
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	3
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	14	14
Municipal Members		5				Approved	Approved

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
February 25, 2025

Aric M JLHA

Carlos Preciado

Christopher Tull, CaDC

David Lee - LACFCD

Emily

Emily Ng

Fred Gonzalez - LA County

J Luis Escajeda

Jenny Chau

JonPaul Sarro

Jose Castro - LACPW

Jose Luis Escajeda

Karen Diaz

Michelle Kim

Rob G

Robert Blankenship

SCWP Staff Anthony Barreras

SCWP Staff Larry Tran

SCWP LLAR WASC




Lower Los Angeles River
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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles		A	
Gladis Deras	South Gate		P	
Tara Dales	SGA Marketing			
COLIN AVERILL	CITY OF LONG BEACH			

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

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
HIYAT B	RAUL	STANTEC	
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	

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