Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Wednesday, March 5, 2025 1:30pm - 4:00pm LA County Public Works Headquarters, 1st Floor (Courtyard), Conference Room C 900 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803 WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Meeting Minutes

Ernesto Rivera, Los Angeles Flood Control District (Agency)

Art Castro, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Agency)

John Huynh, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Agency) Cathie Santo Domingo, Los Angeles Recreation & Parks (Agency)

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Ida Meisami-Fard, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment (Agency)

Ernesto Pantoja, Laborers Local 300 (Community)

Jill Sohm, University of Southern California (Community)

Edith de Guzman, University of California, Los Angeles (Community)

*Roxy Rivas, Pacoima Beautiful (Community)

*Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal)

Karo Torossian, Los Angeles (Municipal), Vice Chair

Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Ted Gerber, South Pasadena (Municipal)

Kristina Kreter, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Alonso Garcia, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Adi Liberman, Environmental Outreach Strategies (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community) Teresa Villegas, Los Angeles (Municipal), Chair Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Karo Torossian, Vice-Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial in English and announced that any public comment made in Spanish will be translated to English. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members, and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2025

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from February 5, 2025. Member Jill Sohm motioned to approve the minutes from February 5, 2025, seconded by Member Dawn Petschauer. The WASC voted to approve the February 5, 2025 meeting minutes with 7 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 3 in abstention, and 3 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

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There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

4) Committee Member and Program Updates

SCWP staff provided updates, noting:

- The 2025 Quarter Three (Q3) Quarterly Funding Report & Matrix is available on the SCW Program website under the Resources tab. Prepared by the Regional Coordination team, the Quarterly Funding Report includes a high-level overview of recent funding policy highlights, and the funding matrix 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.
- The Fiscal Year 2024 2025 (FY24-25) Transfer Agreement and Addendum distribution began in December. An email was sent 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 to execute agreements.
- A Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for March 12. The ROC will begin
 its first Biennial Report Session of the series. Public comment session will be extended from 2 to 5
 minutes to gather public input. To view meeting details and materials, please visit the ROC events
 webpage.
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are currently being processed and executed by the SCWP staff. Cities will need to comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement. The first batch has been executed, and the second batch is in progress.
- The Los Angeles County Flood Control District has partnered with the Water Foundation to administer the 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 Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Applicants may submit proposals from now until May 31, 2025 on the Water Foundation's website. Proposals will be evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis. SCWP staff participated in formulating and approving the grant criteria, which the Water Foundation utilizes to evaluate, score, and approve proposals. Approved proposals will be uploaded on the Water Foundation Website and Public Works will highlight some approved proposals in the Implementation Updates email blasts.

Member Petschauer mentioned that constituents have questions about projects funded by grants and suggested that Public Works staff provide an overview of projects that were approved for grants. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared that none of applications have been issued grant agreements yet, and that the ROC had also requested to see the list of approved projects once it is available to the public.

5) SCW Program Watershed Planning Updates

Public Work's Watershed Planning staff provided updates, noting that the Watershed Planning team is making progress on the Initial Watershed Plans and the Watershed Planning tool. The Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) survey and dashboard are available on the on the SCW Program website. The Watershed Planning Tool, including a GIS map and dashboard, will also be launched to identify Opportunity Areas. The draft Initial Watershed Plans will be available this summer and will be presented to WASCs and the ROC in fall 2025. Initial Watershed Plans will be published in early 2026. For more information, Watershed Planning staff can be reached at watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

Antos provided an overview of the beta version of the CSNA Dashboard, which displays results from the CSNA Survey as well as other surveys conducted by Watershed Coordinators and the WaterTalks Needs Assessment.

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6) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators Kristina Kreter, Alonso Garcia, and Adi Liberman provided updates on Watershed Coordinator activities, noting that Watershed Coordinators:

- Supported for Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program applicants, including offering grant-writing support to Anawakalmekak Indigenous School.
- Assessed project opportunities, including one proposed by Watts Labor Community Action Committee
- Engaged with the Cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, and Monterey Park to learn about current and new projects.
- Supported Project Developers with SCW Program-funded projects, including the Bowtie Demonstration Project and the Green Street Demonstration Project on Main Street.
- Tabled at numerous recent community events, including at a community engagement workshop with the City of Alhambra, Woodland Hills Farmers Market, and Calabasas Farmers Market. Watershed Coordinators plan to table at several future events with the City of Alhambra and the community engagement kick-off event for the Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project with the City of Pasadena. Watershed Coordinators plan to administer the CSNA Survey at future community events.
- Hosted a tour of Nogales Park and Roosevelt Park and organized a tour of Oros Street on March 27. More information about the upcoming tour is available on the SCW Program website.
- Reached out to the Project Developer of the Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation Scientific Study (SS) about hosting a public workshop on their SS findings.
- Met with all Watershed Coordinators across the SCW Program to discuss how the SCW Program can contribute to increased fire resilience while continuing to meet SCW Program goals.

Watershed Coordinators Kreter and Garcia presented on Disadvantaged Community Programming, including SCW Program policies and Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits claimed by projects applying for FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) funding. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program website.

Members Edith de Guzman and Member Sohm requested clarification on the disadvantaged community funding requirement. Antos explained that the SCW Program requires WASCs to allocate a minimum percentage of available funding to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. The minimum percentage is equal to 110% of the portion of the population within the Watershed Area that resides in a disadvantaged community as defined by the State of California. This minimum disadvantaged community funding requirement must be met in every SIP.

Upon inquiry, Antos clarified that the disadvantaged community benefits requirement does not apply to the SS program. Antos also clarified that the SCW Program does not use the severely disadvantaged community category in quantifying disadvantaged community benefits.

7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) FY25-26 Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary

Peer reviews were conducted for the Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) Study, Street Sweeping Study, and Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture Study.

The peer review summary of the Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) Scientific Study is available on the SCW Program website. Christopher Tull (California Data Collaborative)

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and Natalie Ouwersloot (Foothill Municipal Water District) were present to answer questions from the ULAR WASC Members.

Member Petschauer suggested that WASC Members share relevant data sets with the DROPS SS Project Developers even if this WASC decides not to fund this SS. Upon inquiry, Tull shared that if all WASCs do not fund this study, development of the DROPS tool would be scaled to stay within available funding.

Member de Guzman inquired how the Project Developers incorporated feedback provided by the independent reviewers. Tull shared that key points made are addressed in a pilot study currently being conducted by the Project Developers. Tull shared that the Project Developers are in the process of determining what datasets will be included in the SS and are interested in evaluating the feasibility of including datasets that this WASC shares. Additionally, Tull noted that the completed DROPS tool will likely be publicly available, but there may be some private data. Lastly, Tull mentioned that the DROPS tool will highlight locations of disadvantaged communities.

Member Sohm inquired how the Project Developer will update the DROPS tool over time to incorporate additional datasets. Tull explained that they plan to federate publicly hosted data sources to pull the most recent data from the internet. For datasets that may not be publicly available long-term, the Project Developer plans to host the data internally. The Project Developer is considering several options for maintaining the DROPS tool in the long-term, including hosting it with the California Data Collaborative or requesting additional funding from the SCW Program to cover the costs of hosting the tool.

The peer review summary of the Street Sweeping SS is available on the <u>SCW Program website</u>. Jon Ball (City of Los Angeles) was present to answer questions from WASC Members.

Member Petschauer inquired if this SS can be scaled up to other municipalities. Ball shared that sampling locations chosen for this SS are intended to be representative of different types of streets found in municipalities that conduct street sweeping. Ball shared that different types of street sweepers will be evaluated in the SS, and the SS will provide a recommendation on the most effective sweeper. Member Petschauer inquired how this SS differs from a previous street sweeping study that the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services completed in 2023. Ball shared that this SS is built on the previous study conducted by the Bureau of Street Services but is specifically focused on Water Quality benefits.

Member Petschauer suggested that debris released by the Eaton Fire and Palisades Fire may skew results of this SS and inquired how wildfire effects would be considered. Ball shared that the SS will be conducted at monitoring stations outside of the areas directly impacted by wildfires, such as in the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area.

The peer review summary of the Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture SS is available on the <u>SCW Program website</u>. Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) and Paulina Mejia (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) were present to represent the Project Developer and answer questions from WASC Members.

Member de Guzman inquired if the Project Developer has modified the project based on the peer review comments. Wardynski mentioned that a peer review comment about defining benchmarks for flood reduction will be addressed in the SS. Member Sohm inquired if the model developed in this SS would be verified by field observations. Wardynski shared that Project Developers will engage with storm drain operators in the pilot watershed to validate the model. Member Petschauer inquired if the Project Developer is aware of the Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study being conducted by Los Angeles County. Wardynski shared that Los Angeles County's study will be a resource for this SS, and the purpose of this SS is unique because it intends to quantify the flood benefits of projects funded by the SCW Program.

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Member Petschauer inquired if the Project Developer has considered how effects of the Eaton Fire may impact this SS, and Wardynski explained that the model incorporates the Eaton Fire burn areas. Additionally, Craftwater plans to represent changes in runoff sediment due to fires in the model.

Upon inquiry, Wardynski shared that Phase 1 of the SS plans to estimate the flood benefits of all SCW Program-funded projects in the ULAR Watershed Area during a 100-year storm event. Phase 2 intends to quantify the flood benefits of each project in the Arroyo Seco watershed and identify additional opportunities to reduce flooding. Phase 2 also intends to consider future climate scenarios using data from the University of California, Los Angeles' Climate Data Center and a flood model developed by researchers at the University of California, Irvine.

b) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY23-24 Q3 & Q4

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) and Melanie Rivera (HDR) presented a summary of the Regional Program FY23-24 Q3 & Q4 Reports. The Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY23-24 Q3 & Q4 provides the WASC with updates on project's status from January 2024 through June 2024. Antos explained recent changes to the Regional Program reporting requirements, and Rivera summarized project funding in the ULAR Watershed Area as of June 2024. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program website.

Upon inquiry, Rivera elaborated that the Regional Coordination team will attempt to contact Project Developers that did not submit FY23-24 Q4 reports. Vice-Chair Torossian expressed that this WASC may consider cutting funding from projects that are consistently out of compliance with the reporting requirements. Member Petschauer mentioned that non-profit organizations often have more difficulty with meeting reporting deadlines than agencies.

c) ULAR Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)

Antos presented an overview of FY25-26 SIP Programming Guidelines. The SIP Programming Guidelines aid WASC members in reviewing and recommending Project Concepts and/or Studies aligned with strategic prioritization and long-term planning. The guidelines are available on the SCW Program website.

Vice-Chair Torossian inquired whether Los Angeles County has paused the collection of property taxes in areas impacted by the Palisades Fire and Eaton Fire, and how that will affect funding for the SCW Program. SCWP staff clarified that tax collection is still ongoing and will provide updates if otherwise.

Member de Guzman clarified the WASC's responsibility to the long-term success of projects funded under the SCW Program's Infrastructure Program. Antos explained that the SCW Program allows projects to apply for operations and maintenance (O&M) funding from WASCs, and that this WASC can prioritize whether to reserve funding for potential future O&M funding requests from IP Project Developers.

SCWP staff provided additional background information on the SIP deliberation process, including tools available to WASC members. SCWP staff recommended that the WASC prioritize funding allocations for continuing projects and studies that are in the final stages of implementation, and that the WASC account for new Project Applications and possible Project Modification Requests (PMRs).

SCWP staff shared that continuing project developers were asked to provide potential allocated funding adjustments to avoid future budget constraints. The City of Los Angeles agreed to delay funding for the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Green Street Network, Hollenbeck Park Lake Rehabilitation Project, Sylmar Channel Project, and Eagle Rock Boulevard Multi-Model Stormwater Capture Project. Additional received proposals will be included in the next meeting.

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Vice-Chair Torossian requested that SCWP staff provide a list of projects with overdue reports during the next ULAR WASC meeting. Member Art Castro suggested that SCWP staff quantify funding allocated to projects that were non-responsive to recent required reporting. Member Petschauer recommended that Project Developers with overdue reports are invited to share project updates in a future WASC meeting. Project Developers and Applicants were present to answer questions from the ULAR WASC Members.

Philip Reidy (Geosyntec) and Juliann Rooke (Descanso Gardens Foundation) presented an overview of the PMR for the Winery Canyon Channel and Descanso Gardens Stormwater Capture and Reuse Project. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program website.

Upon inquiry, Rooke confirmed that the Project Developers had performed value engineering. Rooke also shared that if the PMR is not approved, construction on the project would be delayed. Construction is scheduled to start in Spring 2025, using bridge loans to support the implementation. Reidy shared that the project is near the Eaton Fire burn area and could provide water to fire-fighting helicopters if another wildfire were to occur in the area.

Daniel Apt (Olaunu) presented an overview of the PMR to the Los Angeles Pierce College Northeast Campus Stormwater Capture & Use and Biofiltration Project. Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program website.

Upon inquiry, Apt shared that if the PMR is not approved, the full project would likely not be implemented, so the project would be scaled down. Member Thuan Nguyen inquired why the engineering cost estimate increased since the initial Project Application. Apt shared that the costs of installing subsurface tanks, biofiltration systems, and bioretention systems have all increased. Subsurface irrigation was eliminated from the project scope because it became cost prohibitive, so a groundwater energy passive system (GEPS) is planned to be implemented instead. Upon inquiry, Apt shared that the design is complete and the California Environmental Quality Act permitting process has been initiated and is expected to be complete in a few months.

Member Petschauer inquired if the PMR funding request could be spread across multiple years, and Apt expressed willingness to revise the PMR accordingly. Vice-Chair Torossian requested that the revised PMR be submit to SCWP staff before the next ULAR WASC meeting.

8) Public Comment

Paulina Mejia (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) provided public comment on behalf of the Project Developers of the Fire Effects Study in the ULAR Watershed Management Area. Mejia shared that the Project Developer had complied with all reporting requirements except for the FY23-24 Q4 report. Mejia explained the Project Developer was confused by the reporting requirements and was unaware that the FY23-24 Q4 report had to be submitted even though the project had completed its scope of work prior to the earlier PMR being approved.

Natalie Ouwersloot (Foothill Municipal Water District) expressed support for the Crescenta Valley Park Stormwater Capture Project. Ouwersloot commented on the importance of building resilient systems and noted that this project would increase resiliency in the face of extreme weather fluctuations.

Frank Colcord (Friends of Rosemont Preserve) expressed support for Crescenta Valley Park Stormwater Capture Project and La Cañada Town Center Stormwater Infiltration Galleries Project. Colcord commented that these projects utilize existing stormwater management infrastructure for groundwater recharge and highlighted that importing water into the community is costly because of its high elevation.

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Brian Ahn (City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services) requested more information on applying for O&M funding and SCWP staff shared that Project Applicants can apply for up to 5 years of O&M funding at a time.

9) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm at Public Works Headquarters. Items for the next agenda may include:

a) ULAR Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Stormwater Investment Plan

11) Adjournment

Vice-Chair Torossian thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Adi Liberman	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		Hai Hu
Alonso Garcia	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		115
Anteneh Tesfaye	City of South Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	
Arlene Guzman	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Art Castro	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Primary	ACA.
Blayne Sutton-Wills	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Alternate	
Brent Maue	City of Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	
Cara Campbell	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Alternate	
Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Agency	Primary	C Sonto Ring
Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Alternate	
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	A

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Edith de Guzman	University of California, Los Angeles	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Ernesto Pantoja	Laborers Local 300	Community Stakeholder	Primary	(p)
Ernesto Rivera	LA County Flood Control District	Agency	Primary	El Thu
Gary Lam	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Agency	Alternate	Hry 2
Gregory Pierce	University of California, Los Angeles	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Ida Meisami-Fard	LA Sanitation and Environment	Agency	Primary	
Jason Casanova	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		***
Jill Sohm	University of Southern California	Community Stakeholder	Primary	Jill John
John Huynh	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Primary	
Kara Plourde	Los Angeles County	Municipal	Alternate	
Karo Torossian	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Kristina Kreter	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coo (Non-Voting Me		The state of the s
Miguel Luna	Urban Semillas	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Rafael Prieto	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	
Roxy Rivas	Pacoima Beautiful	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	KM
Satenig Marjanian	LA County Flood Control District	Agency	Alternate	
Sergio Rascon	Laborers Local 300	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Ted Gerber	City of South Pasadena	Municipal	Primary	HTC
Teresa Villegas	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	
Thuan Nguyen	Los Angeles County	Municipal	Primary	Xm.
Veronica Padilla- Campos	Pacoima Beautiful	Community Stakeholder	Primary	

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Carla	Dillon	Crescenta Valley W.D.	cdillon acvws.com
Jon	bal)	City LA/LASAN	ion balle / det tu. ora
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	brianna datti a graftwater. com
Pautina	Mejia	SAVCUCT	priejac squcoq. org
Brad	Wardynsk	Craftwater	brad wordynstill caftuater an
Kevin	Ho	City of 4/ LASAN	Kevin-ho@ lacity.org
Karo	Tonocsian	City of CA	
Albut	Kan	Grees LA	albert. kam a lacity. or
David	Pineda	TreePeople	doineda@ treepeapleara
Natalie Ouwerslo	ot	Foothill MWD	natalies @fmwd.com
John Hayan	Mynh	LADWP	John. hogal Cladage. con
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^{*}Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

WebEx Webinar Attendees Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - March 5, 2025

Nathaly Moreno she/her

Nayda Cantabrana

Albert Arteaga Carlos Preciado Alejandro Carlos Rodriguez Alejandro TreePeople Chris Lee Alexander Iglesias Christopher Tull, CaDC Alexander Ov Christopher Vong Ali Sharbat Cal Poly Clara Dahl Amy Scop Conor Mossavi Anabelle Del Valle Daniel Apt Anabelle's OtterPilot David H Pohl Angineh Shahnazarian Drew Ready CWH **Anthony Barreras** Dusadee Corhiran Armine Sargsyan Dustin Herrmann TreePeople

Armine Sargsyan

Brian Ahn

Call-in User_2

Call-in User_3

Call-in User_4

Call-in User_5

Call-in User_5

Jennifer Amarant
Campbell, Cara

Dustin Herrmann T

Emily

Enrique I Baul

Eric Bonilla

Frank Colcord

Jennifer Amarant

Johanna Chang Pablo Forni
JonPaul Sarro Peter Tonthat
Jonathan Ontiveros Raymond Lam
Jose A | Geosyntec Richard Atwater
Jose Castro - LACPW Richard Watson
Kara Plourde Rob G
Leslie Martinez Ryan Parks LWA

Lisa (Jin) Kim

Marisela Velasquez

Mark Hall GLAmosquito

Mark Nguyen

SCWP Larry Tran

Safe Clean Water Program ULAR WASC

Safe, Clean Water - Host

Samantha Torres

Mark Nguyen Samantha i Mei-Lin Hanna JLHA Serena Zhu Melanie Rivera Seta

Mike Antos Regional CoordSomer Sherwood-WhiteMiller ZouSpanish Interpreter- AlejandraMonitorStacy Luell

Susie Santilena Uriel Cobian Valeria Vicki Friesen Brett Perry Steve Wallock