

# Lower Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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

#### Committee Member Present:

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

#### Committee Members Not Present:

Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
Gina Nila, City of Commerce (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Asha Kreiling, 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 February 25, 2025**

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Co-Chair Madeline Chen. The Committee voted to approve the February 25, 2025 LLAR WASC meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 2 in abstention, and 2 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### **3) Committee Member and Program Updates**

Public Works Staff deferred Program Updates to the next LLAR WASC meeting to prioritize Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberations for the remainder of the meeting.

### **4) Watershed Coordinator Updates**

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Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales shared an update about activities in the LLAR Watershed Area over the past month:

- Met with various researchers to discuss studies on microplastics and soils.
- Met with Better World Group, Friends of the Los Angeles River, and USC Public Exchange staff to discuss potential SCW Program project applications.
- Reviewed leverage funding opportunities and connected with SCW Program Project Developers to identify additional funding sources for continuing projects.
- Engaged with the Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission (Commission), conducting community engagement with youth to support the growth of the Commission and develop climate stewardship in the LLAR Watershed Area.

Watershed Coordinator Dales also shared that current Project Applicants are being asked to develop a stakeholder impact form. Watershed Coordinator Dales also shared that the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC collaborated with the LLAR WASC to run a stormwater Best Management Practice workshop for the Garden School Foundation to continue supporting school greening efforts. Watershed Coordinator Dales plans to attend upcoming environmental events in the Cities of Paramount, Bell, and Downey.

#### **5) Public Comment Period.**

There were no public comments.

#### **6) Presentation and Discussion Items**

##### **a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

There were no ex parte communications.

##### **b. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24, Q3 and Q4**

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) and Alex Ov (HDR) presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (FY23-24) Quarter 3 (Q3) and Q4 reports. The Q3 and Q4 reports are prepared by Project Developers to provide the WASC with updates to project status, covering January 2024 through June 2024. Ng explained recent changes to the Regional Program's Reporting requirements, and Ov summarized funding allocations and status updates of projects in the LLAR Watershed Area as of June 2024. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Public Works staff shared that the consultant, HDR, was onboarded to support completeness checks for Reports and to help follow up with Project Developers. For questions on the LLAR WASC Report, please reach out to [SCWPReporting@HDR.inc](mailto:SCWPReporting@HDR.inc).

Co-Chair Kreiling suggested that Reports be streamlined with fewer pages and Public Works staff shared that these considerations are in development.

Member Rivera inquired regarding Willow Springs Renovation Project's missing Quarterly Report and Public Works staff shared that the report has been received by the Safe Clean Water Program before this WASC meeting and after the deadline for submission.

Members Karen Diaz and Gladis Deras noted that the Urban Orchard Project is expected to be complete in June 2025.

##### **c. Lower Los Angeles River Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan**

Ng presented an overview of the SIP Programming process, including tools available to WASC Members to aid in SIP deliberation. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

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The first SIP scenario presented was funding both the Data-Driven Resource and Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) for Los Angeles County and Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures Scientific Studies (SS) but no additional funding for the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project – Phase 1 (hereafter referred to as the LB-MUST Project) Project Modification Request (PMR). Public Works staff noted that the LB-MUST Project Developers initially requested five years of operations and maintenance (O&M) that totaled to \$5 million. Since Infrastructure Program (IP) projects were paused, the SCW Program allowed a PMR for a one-year interim funding amount to ensure continued O&M for the project. The PMR is requesting one million dollars over the next year.

A second SIP scenario was shared that did not fund any of the new requests received this year, neither the PMR nor any SSs. A third SIP scenario included only funding the PMR.

Public Works staff sent a preliminary poll to the Committee to gauge preferences and showed that the rankings reflected preference to fund the PMR and the Maximizing the Impact of Minimum Control Measures SS (hereafter referred to as the MCM SS).

Member Manny Gonez clarified with Public Works staff that it is up to the WASCs discretion to fund the full or partial amount requested in the PMR. Public Works staff added that the SIP is a five-year investment plan, with allocations to FY25-26 and earmarks for the subsequent four years.

Public Works staff presented each scenario in the SIP tool and identified which scenarios would be feasible given the recommended funding thresholds. Public Works staff recommends keeping allocation of funds under 80%.

Member Figueroa asked to see a SIP scenario where only the MCM SS is funded. Co-Chair Kreiling asked Public Works staff if the SIP tool considers the increasing cost of construction over time. Public Works staff noted that the SIP tool includes various buffers that consider taxes and inflation over time.

Public Works staff invited LB-MUST Project Developer Colin Averill (City of Long Beach) to confirm if partially funding the PMR would be acceptable. Averill noted that funds would need to be redistributed among existing projects and could consider a partial PMR. Member Figueroa noted that the WASC has allocated funds for LB-MUST two times, for a total of around \$21 million from the SCW Program and commented that there is a need for the MCM SS in the WASC.

Public Works staff added that some projects that have been awarded funding may not have expended funds yet, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance is also a process that Project Developers consider when applying for funding. CEQA compliance informs the funding timeline for a Project Developer, because construction could occur at a later time. Co-Chair Kreiling confirmed with Public Works staff that funding in future Fiscal Years would be earmarked to the Project Developer even if CEQA delays occur, unless the WASC decides to discontinue or modify funding for that project in the SIP recommendation.

Watershed Coordinator Dales asked the WASC about the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project and mentioned that the Project Developer had previously expressed willingness to explore leverage fund opportunities outside of the SCW Program. The Project Developer noted that the Project is experiencing delays in design because the Project Proponent wants to incorporate lessons learned from existing IP projects. Member Figueroa commented that construction cost requests continue to increase.

Member Cecilia Salazar noted that Phase 1 of the LB-MUST project is nearing completion and suggested that the WASC should support projects that will fulfill what the SCW Program stands for in terms of Water Quality and Community Investment Benefits. Member Salazar commented that not funding the LB-MUST PMR would be detrimental to the SCW Program and asked the Committee to speak with the Project Developer to understand the possibility of transferring funds across phases of the Project.

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Member Salazar suggested a scenario where Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment – Phase 2 defers \$1M of funding to a future fiscal year in order to fund the PMR for LB-MUST project.

Watershed Coordinator Dales asked if O&M can be done in-house instead of contracting consultants. Averill shared that the cost prepared for the consultant includes minimum operations efforts. Averill noted that their consultant was procured from the City of Long Beach's existing list of consultants, who supported the City in finding a subconsultant, Water Quality Solutions, to do O&M. Member Diaz asked Member Salazar if the City of Long Beach considered other funding sources. Member Salazar noted that the City of Long Beach is also looking into funding from its internal Low Impact Development Program. Averill noted that The City of Long Beach plans to use Municipal Funds for the first year of O&M, the PMR funds for the following year, and are looking for leverage funding sources for subsequent years.

Co-Chair Kreiling confirmed with the Averill that partially funding the PMR is not an ideal situation but that the City can investigate whether other project funds can be reallocated to prioritize the O&M of LB-MUST.

Member Joseph Venzon commented that it is good practice to see projects plan long-term for O&M. Co-Chair Kreiling concurred and commented that funding the LB-MUST PMR may set a precedent and create expectations for Project Developers when applying to the SCW Program.

Public Works staff then demonstrated a SIP scenario showing funding of MCM and partial funding of the LB-MUST at various increments, starting at 80% of the PMR and ending with 20% of the PMR.

The Committee asked the Project Developer of Spane Park (City of Paramount) to discuss funding for FY25-26 and FY26-27. Member Figueroa noted that the project plans to advertise the project for construction soon and therefore cannot shift funds because of the timing for construction. Member Figueroa shared that the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project is in the same situation, where the Project Developer is unable to advertise for construction if funds are moved around.

Watershed Coordinator Dales asked about the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study that is requesting funds from all nine WASCs. SS Proponent Richard Watson (Richard Watson and Associates Planning) was unable to commit to moving SS funds across fiscal years, as this decision would need to be made by the lead agency, Gateway Water Management Authority.

Member Dylan Porter commented that if the LB-MUST PMR is partially approved, the City of Long Beach must understand that this is not traditional of the SCW Program to do. Member Porter expressed support for the MCM SS.

Member Gonez requested a summary of the preliminary ranking survey regarding the PMR and Public Works staff provided a detailed summary of the number of rankings which supported additional funding and which did not support additional funding.

Member Venzon commented the LB-MUST Project Developers submitted a PMR because there were no IP Project Applications this year, and under normal circumstances, the project would have been an IP application rather than a PMR. Member Venzon commented that this PMR should be evaluated similar to an IP project, where leverage funding is a factor of consideration.

#### **7) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **8) Voting Items**

- a. Approve the final Fiscal Year 25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan recommendations for the LLAR Watershed area and submission to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review**

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The Committee decided to vote on the FY25-26 SIP as separate voting items.

Member Gonez motioned to not fund the LB-MUST PMR in the FY25-26 SIP. The motion was seconded by Member Figueroa. The motion was approved to not fund the LB-MUST PMR with 9 in favor, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention.

#### **6) Discussion**

##### **a. Lower Los Angeles River Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan**

The Committee reopened Agenda Item #6 and discussed the DROPs and MCM SSs proposed. Member Deras asked Public Works staff about consequences of over-extending the budget (e.g., negative funds in the next fiscal year). Public Works staff noted that the WASC should aim to use only 80% of the budget to account for tax discrepancies and other future funding requests.

#### **7) Public Comment Period**

The Committee reopened Agenda Item #7. There were no public comments.

#### **8) Voting Items**

##### **a. Approve the final Fiscal Year 25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan recommendations for the LLAR Watershed area and submission to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review**

The Committee reopened Agenda Item #8 to continue voting on the FY25-26 SIP.

Member Venzon motioned to approve the final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 SIP for LLAR Watershed Area, including Watershed Coordinator, and approve submission to the ROC for review: funding scenario “All continuing projects and Scientific Studies (with no funding changes); 1 New SS (Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures),” seconded by Member Gonez. The motion was approved with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, with all present at the time of the vote.

#### **9) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for details. Items on the next agenda include:

##### **a. Watershed Planning Workshop #3 (tentative)**

Member Figueroa suggested that the next LLAR WASC meeting be held at a different location due to construction outside of the current venue. Public Works staff is coordinating an alternate location.

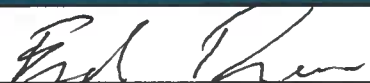

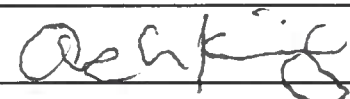

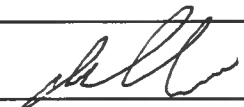
#### **10) Adjournment**

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

LLAR WASC - March 25, 2025								
		Quorum Present						
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 2-25-2025 Meeting Minutes	Not to fund PMR for LB Must Phase 1 in SIP FY25-26.	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan for LLAR Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario *All continuing projects and scientific studies (with no funding changes); 1 New SS (Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures)*)
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Enrique Baul		a	n	y
Agency	Central Basin	Madeline Chen*	x	Braden Yu		y	y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Asha Kreiling*	x	Jenn Swart		a	y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	x	y	y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreat	Stephen Scott		Todd Leland				
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Isabelle Campiformio	x	Maria Madrigal		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Karen Diaz			n	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez	x	Mary Hillemeier		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y	n	y
Community Stakeholder	Friends of the Los Angeles River	Candice Dickens-Russell	x			y	n	y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila		Thomas Bekele				
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Cecilia Salazar	x	Wataru Kumagai		y	a	y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee		Pamela Torres	x	y	n	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x			y	y	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			Not present at time of vote	y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	11	9	15
Total Voting Members Present		14			No (N)	0	5	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	2	1	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	15	15
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Approved


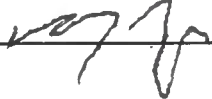

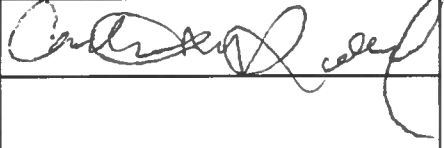
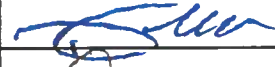

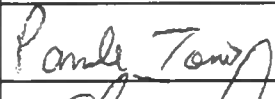

Lower Los Angeles River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ernesto Rivera	FCD		P	
Enrique Baul	FCD		A	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin		P	
Braden Yu	Central Basin		A	
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District		P	
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District		A	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts		P	
Alysha Chan	LA County Sanitation Districts		A	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation		P	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation		A	
Isabelle Campiformio	Conservation Corps of Long Beach		P	
Maria Madrigal	Conservation Corps of Long Beach		A	
Mark Stanley	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy		P	

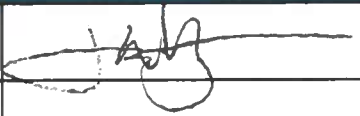


Lower Los Angeles River  
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Joseph Venzon	County of Los Angeles		P	
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles		A	
Gladis Deras	South Gate		P	
Tara Dales	SGA Marketing			

Lower Los Angeles River  
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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	

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

March 25, 2025

**Attendees**  
**Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting**  
**March 25, 2025**

Alexa Reasoner	Christopher Tull, CaDC	Jose L Escajeda
Alexander Ov	Colin Averill	Linnet Khechatoorian
Ali Sharbat Cal Poly	David Lee - LACFCD	Mark Hall GLAmosquito
Aric M	Fred Gonzalez - LA County	Mehrad Kamalzare - CPP
Call-in User_2	JLHA	Michelle Kim
Carlos Preciado	Jenny Chau	Ng, Emily
Carlos Rodriguez	JonPaul Sarro	Oliver Galang Craftwater
Richard Watson	SCWP LLAR Presenter	SCWP Staff Buddy Barreras
Rob Garcia Jr.	SCWP LLAR WASC	Samantha Torres
		Wataru Kumagai