

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



Tuesday, April 22, 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)
*Braden Yu, Central Basin (Agency) Co-Chair
Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency), Co-Chair
*Alysha Chan, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
*Karen Diaz, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
*Mary Hillemeier, TreePeople (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
*Matt Robertson, Downey (Municipal)
Alexa Reasoner, Long Beach (Municipal)
Joseph Venzon, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)
Tara Dales, Stephen Groner Associates (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Candice Dickens-Russell, Friends of the Los Angeles River (Community)
Gina Nila, City of Commerce (Municipal)
Julian Lee, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

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 March 25, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Joseph Venzon motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Gladis Deras. The Committee voted to approve the March 25, 2025 LLAR WASC meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

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Co-Chair Kreiling shared that the Water Replenishment District is having their Annual Groundwater Day on May 3 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Member Alexa Reasoner provided a self-introduction as the new Committee Member representative for City of Long Beach.

Public Works staff provided an update on various SCW Program activities:

- Applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 25-26 Low Income Senior Owned Exemptions and General Income Based Tax Reduction are due on May 1. For more information, see the Exemptions and Reductions section of the [SCW Program webpage](#).
- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the FY26-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) is July 31. Info Sessions will be held virtually on May 21 from 9:00-11:00am and May 22 from 3:00-5:00pm. Both sessions will contain the same information. For proposed projects involving Los Angeles County Flood Control District infrastructure or facilities, the deadline to request a letter for conceptual approval from the Flood Control District is May 31.
- Mid-Year Reports covering July to December 2024, (previously known as Q1 & Q2 Reports) were due in February. Project and Study Developers must address comments and resubmit as soon as possible, regardless of receiving funds, having expenditures or activities, or having executed the Funds Transfer Agreement.
- The upcoming ROC meeting is scheduled for May 14 at 1:00 pm. The ROC will receive updates from the Watershed Planning Water Quality Working Group and Community Investment Benefits and Benefit Ratio Working Group. The meeting will also include an update from Watershed Coordinators. To view meeting details please visit the [ROC events webpage](#).
- FY25-26 Municipal Annual Plans were due on April 1.
- The 2024 Municipal Transfer Agreements are being processed and executed by Public Works. The fifth Disbursements are ongoing. Cities will need to comply with all reporting requirements to receive the fifth disbursement.
- A Metrics & Measures section is being developed as a new tile in the Municipal Program Reporting Module. This Metrics & Measures section will collect data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program activities to align with and inform the Watershed Planning efforts and Program-wide progress assessments. A release date and instructions for municipalities to provide data will be provided soon.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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

- Conducting an educational stormwater workshop for the Garden School Foundation, using the Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) Living Infrastructure Toolkit, a planning tool developed for community-engagement;
- Conducting outreach to Undaunted K12, an organization to increase climate resilient school campuses;
- Connecting with Roots of Unity, a community-based organization that is visioning stormwater solutions;
- Engaging with Los Angeles Waterkeeper on Education Grant-funded projects in the LLAR watershed;
- Connecting with University of Southern California (USC) Public Exchange, a research office focusing on public policy at USC;
- Watershed Coordinator Dales additionally shared plans for an upcoming educational workshop with the organization WE ARE R.I.S.E, Inc.

Chair Kreiling asked for more information about the ARLA Living Infrastructure Toolkit. Watershed Coordinator Dales encouraged WASC Members to further explore this tool.

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Chair Kreiling additionally asked if Watershed Coordinators typically reach out to all funded Scientific Studies (SS) and Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concept Applicants. Watershed Coordinator Dales shared intentions to be proactive and connected with SS to see if additional funding or community engagement support is needed.

5) Public Comment Period.

There were no public comments.

6) Presentation and Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

b) Watershed Planning Phase 3 Engagement

Watershed Planning staff within Public Works provided the WASC with a presentation on the Watershed Planning effort to-date. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights from the presentation include:

- The Initial Watershed Plans are developing strategies, actions, and opportunities to address Watershed Area needs and achieve SCW Program goals. Needs are determined by the difference between targets and the benefits from SCWP-funded projects. Strategies explain how to meet these needs, actions outline what types of projects to implement, and Opportunities identify where to implement them for the highest impact.
- For example, in the LLAR Watershed Area, the need for zinc load reduction involves prioritizing high-performance wet weather projects with large drainage areas and mapping areas with the highest potential to reduce water quality pollutants.
- Composite layers are being developed to identify multi-benefit opportunities, combining various planning themes such as drought preparedness, public health improvement, nature-based solutions, and equitable benefit distribution; and
- The Initial Watershed Plans and Planning Tool will help interested parties and project applicants plan, track, and guide the implementation of impactful multi-benefit stormwater projects. The plans will be presented at upcoming meetings, followed by a public review period, and finalized in early 2026.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion on the potential use of the Planning Tools. Antos additionally conducted a demonstration of the CSNA Survey and Dashboard. Member Deras worked with Antos to submit a survey response to demonstrate the survey questions.

Committee Member Karen Diaz inquired about including information from the County Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), particularly regarding PNA 2.0 initiatives such as achieving the 30x30 goal that Los Angeles County has in connection with statewide and national goals of conserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by 2030 to address climate change and protect biodiversity. Member Diaz also inquired about the integration of disadvantaged communities and zoning in different Watershed Areas. Member Diaz mentioned that a PNA 2.0 report would be released in the summer, and recommended that it would be beneficial for Public Works Watershed Planning staff to track that plan. Co-Chair Kreiling added that the data in the Watershed Planning Tool and the CSNA Dashboard will be useful for everyone and asked about the timeline for data availability. Committee Member Ernesto Rivera highlighted the need to align WASC needs with CSNA needs on the Dashboard and noted its utility during SIP deliberations. Watershed Coordinator Dales emphasized the importance of strategic decision-making and maximizing impact with available funds in the WASC. Watershed Coordinator Dales noted upcoming surveys and outreach efforts, including bilingual promotional toolkits. Co-Chair Kreiling inquired about public demonstrations, and Public Works staff will confirm updates on possible public demonstrations.

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Watershed Planning staff within Public Works shared the upcoming Watershed Planning timeline, noting a 30-day public review period upon the publication of the Initial Watershed Area Plans in August 2025. Committee Members are encouraged to visit the [Adaptive Management webpage](#) on the SCW Program website for more information on Watershed Planning. Questions related to Watershed Planning can be directed to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Voting Items

a) None

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

a) None

Public Works staff shared that there are currently no agenda items for the LLAR WASC meeting scheduled in May, and the meeting may be cancelled.

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 - April 22, 2025

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			Quorum Present			
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 3-25-2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Enrique Baul		y
Agency	Central Basin	Madeline Chen*		Braden Yu	x	a
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Asha Kreiling*	x	Jenn Swart		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	x	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreat	Stephen Scott	x	Todd Leland		a
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Isabelle Campiformio		Maria Madrigal		
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Karen Diaz	x	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez		Mary Hillemeier	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Friends of the Los Angeles River	Candice Dickens-Russell		Vanessa Perez		
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila		Thomas Bekele		
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller		Matt Robertson	x	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Alexa Reasoner	x	Wataru Kumagai		a
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee		Pamela Torres		
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa				
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	9
Total Voting Members Present		12			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	12
Municipal Members		4				Approved

Attendees
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Aric M	Hayat Rasul	Ng, Emily
Brenda Rojas Cala	J Luis Escajeda	Raina
Bryan Igboke	Jose Castro - Presenter	Rebecca Kaliff
Carlos Rodriguez	Jose L Escajeda	SCWP LLAR WASC
David Coghiel	Kerry Quinlan	Sarah Followill
David Lee - LACFCD	Linet Khechatoorian	Travis Diaz LACFCD
Emily	Luis Perez SCW WP	
Emily Ng	Michelle Kim	
Fred Gonzalez - LA County	Mike Watershed Planning	