

# Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, March 27, 2025

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Los Angeles County Sanitation District – Conference Room E&F

1955 Workman Mill Rd

Whittier, CA 90601

WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel District (Agency)

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)

Francisco Guerrero, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)

\*Jose Caprile, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation (Agency)

Manuel D. Perez, Valley Vista Services, Inc. (Community)

David Marquez, Urban Semillas (Community)

Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)

Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal), Vice-Chair

Valerie Velasquez-Santoya, Glendora (Municipal)

\*Nicholas Delgado, Diamond Bar (Municipal)

Mathew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)

\*Marvin Carpio, Duarte (Municipal)

James Cortes, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Jeanette Flores, Charter Oak Unified School District (Community)

Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)

Roberto Ortega, West Covina (Municipal)

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

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## **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Fernando Villaluna, Vice-Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) 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 February 27, 2025**

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from February 27, 2025. Member Drew Ready motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Valerie Velasquez-Santoya. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 1 vote in abstention, and 0 votes opposed, and 1 member was absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Member Velasquez-Santoya shared that the City of Glendora, which has recently struggled with turnover and vacant positions, has hired a new Environmental Management Analyst. Member Velasquez-Santoya

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noted that the new hire, Stephanie Ryan, was present at the USGR WASC meeting and commended the Environmental Management Analyst for helping the City progress on existing projects.

Public Works staff noted that SCW Program and Watershed Planning updates will be deferred to the next meeting. Please visit the [SCW Program website](#) to stay updated on the latest information.

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

Public Works staff shared that Watershed Coordinator James Cortes has deferred updates to the next meeting.

#### **5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

There were no ex parte communications.

#### **6) Public Comment Period**

Public Works staff received one comment card before the 5:00pm deadline. The comment card is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

#### **7) Presentation and Discussion Items**

##### **a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY23-24 Q3 and Q4**

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of the [Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 \(FY23-24\)](#) and highlighted the Regional Program Reporting Timeline and the transition period between Quarterly to Mid-Year, updated Metrics and Monitoring section, and the WASC's responsibility to review the various Reports and status of continuing projects. Ng highlighted that the transition to the Mid-Year Report structure should provide a more streamlined reviewing process and support Committee Members in making more informed decisions. Ng noted that Project Developers were requested to attend WASC meetings to provide updates on current project status and respond to questions about reported activities.

Melanie Rivera (HDR) provided a summary of the FY23-24 Quarterly Reports for Quarter 3 (Q3) (January to March) and Q4 (April to June). Rivera shared that as of June 2024, there were a total of 17 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects and Scientific Studies (SS) in the USGR WASC. Rivera clarified that any projects or studies with "Funds Received to Date" that do not match "Funds Awarded to Date" are awaiting Transfer Agreements or experiencing funding delays due to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance requirements. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Quarterly Reports can be found in the [Reporting Repository](#).

Rivera explained that the Zamora Park Renovation Project had a technical issue with uploading documents and thus reported no expenditures to-date. Rivera also noted that the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study is awaiting approved funding from all nine WASCs. Rivera cited the status of Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project's (hereafter referred to as the Bassett High School Project) CEQA compliance requirements, Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project's (hereafter referred to as Encanto Park Project) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) progress, and the schedule delays at Glendora Avenue Green Streets, Pedley Spreading Grounds, and Pelota Park as critical issues. Rivera noted that the delay at Pedley Spreading Grounds is due to the appropriation of additional funding during the bid and award phase. Watershed Coordinator Cortes shared that the Zamora Park Renovation Project has begun construction. Public Works staff noted that this presentation covers activity from FY23-24 Q3 and Q4, and additional progress after the reporting period may have taken place.

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Member Tom Love inquired when the Committee can expect to receive project updates from July 2024 through December 30, 2024 (FY24-25 Mid-Year Report), which were delayed due to the wildfires in January. Public Works staff shared that the summary presentation should be around Spring or Summer of this year, depending on the schedule of Watershed Planning Workshops at WASC meetings. Project Developers were present at the USGR WASC meeting for questions.

Upon inquiry, Richard Watson (Richard Watson Consultants, Project Developer) highlighted that all nine WASCs have approved the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, and that the lead agency (Gateway Water Management Authority) released a Request for Proposal (RFP) and will evaluate by May. Watson stated that each WASC will have representation during the extent of Task 1 (Stakeholder Process), as well as the relevant environmental and water quality regulators. Watson also shared that a team has been selected to address portions of Tasks 1 and 2 this summer, as well as assess conditions along the coast and inland waters per the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board) request. Watson noted that these procedures are spelled out thoroughly in the proposal and that a fact sheet is available for reference.

Upon request, Watson shared that the duration of the SS is five years, including Task 4. Watson explained that the SS should have sufficient data by the end of three years, and that the last year and a half will be primarily attributed to implementation, permitting, optimization, and providing enough data to the Regional Board to change the fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) Water Quality objective. The last task is necessary, Watson noted, because FIB cannot meet Water Quality standards in wet weather due to defecating organisms. Watson commented that the underlying rationale for the SS is to increase efficiency for permittees and change standards to a risk-based approach, like the current efforts of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

Member Mathew Hudson requested an update on the Bassett High School Project and the Encanto Park Project. Donna Tran (Los Angeles County Public Works, Project Developer) shared that the Bassett High School Project's CEQA has been initiated with intention to complete by end of year. Tran explained that the final design will be completed by the time the CEQA is finalized, and the project is slated to break ground by mid-2026. Oliver Galang (Craftwater, Project Developer) shared that the Encanto Park Project team is finalizing the Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation in March and MND by July. Member Ready clarified with Galang that mitigation monitoring is part of the overall construction cost, not the Project Modification Request (PMR).

## **b) Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Project, Scientific Study, and Project Concept Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY25-26 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)**

Ng provided an overview of SIP Programming and highlighted the current year budget and subsequent four-year projections. Ng provided guidance and reminders for the WASC to consider during SIP deliberations. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Ng provided an overview of resources available to assist with SIP deliberations, including the SIP Tool, meeting minutes, presentation slides, SS applications, SS Peer Review Summaries, and Quarterly Report updates. These resources are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Public Works staff demonstrated the SIP tool onscreen and showed the baseline scenario, where only continuing projects are funded.

Upon request, Public Works staff showed the following SIP Tool scenarios onscreen:

- All continuing projects and both PMRs (Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures SS and Encanto Park Project) funded

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- All continuing projects, all new studies, and both PMRs funded

Public Works staff noted that percent allocation of the budget is an important part of considering new studies and PMR funding requests while staying under budget. The SCW Program recommends allocating no more than 80 percent in future FYs to account for future cost escalations and funding requests.

Member Love clarified with Public Works staff that a shift in allocation would not show on the SIP Tool if Project Developers of continuing projects provide the WASC with updated cash flow. If funding is delayed, it would still be allocated to that FY.

Member Love confirmed with Public Works staff that 20 percent of the budget is recommended to be preserved. Public Works staff also noted that there were no new IP projects submitted this year, meaning the scenario of "All continuing projects, all SS, and both PMRs funded" would represent the maximum possible funds the WASC could allocate for this SIP, including earmarked funds. Public Works staff clarified that the percent allocation does not represent the remaining budget, but the amount that has been allocated.

Public Works staff showed the Committee Members' preliminary project rankings onscreen. A total of 15 Committee Members completed the survey, with each recorded response representing either the Primary or Alternate Committee Member's response. Public Works staff noted that the ranking summary is intended to serve as a resource to guide the Committee's discussions.

Vice-Chair Villaluna thanked Committee Members for submitting rankings and noted that some WASCs had already completed SIP deliberations, including those with the same new studies under consideration. Upon request, Public Works staff shared the status of new studies under consideration across other WASCs.

Vice-Chair Villaluna proposed deliberating in a stepwise fashion, beginning with PMRs and followed by SS. Committee Members chose to first discuss the Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures SS PMR (hereafter referred to as the MCM PMR), which had a funding request of \$479,469. Vice-Chair Villaluna noted that the SS applied to two additional WASCs, the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) and Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASCs.

Upon request, Public Works staff shared that the SS originally received approximately \$393,000 in funding from the LSGR WASC. Brianna Datti (Craftwater, Study Developer) provided an overview of the SS and explained that the requested PMR funds would be used to measure street sweeping efforts with empirical methods. Elizabeth Fassman-Beck (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Study Developer) commented that this effort was necessary to validate the existing model with empirical data. Vice-Chair Villaluna expressed support for the PMR funding request, noting that collecting more data and thus substantiating the model could mean the Watershed Area earns more credits for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance. Upon request, Datti clarified that the MCM PMR extends the schedule by one year.

Member Ready referenced the public comment submitted related to the MCM PMR and requested an explanation of other minimum control measures and how street sweeping compares in scale. Datti listed other minimum control measures as illicit discharge and detection efforts, irrigation reduction, and rain barrel installations. Datti noted that the empirical methods come from peer-reviewed efforts of the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) and that there were currently no other methods to differentiate swept and un-swept street runoff water quality prior to the SMC's methods. Member Ready expressed concern that the scope of the MCM PMR did not go through the same third-party peer review process that SS typically undergo. Upon inquiry, Datti confirmed that this SS has not been studied in other regions. Fassman-Beck offered to provide a detailed literature review of existing street sweeping studies if there is further interest.

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The Committee Members and Datti discussed concerns related to the project delays. While Datti clarified that the LSGR WASC including this SS in their SIP would not cause any delays to the SS efforts as it related to the USGR WASC, submitting a new SS Application would cause delay by an additional year. Member Ready also expressed concern that the PMR was a new SS compared to the existing SS, and that granting the PMR would set precedent for future SS. Datti explained that the efforts funded by the MCM PMR would use methods developed during the original SS and that the MCM PMR was an additional opportunity to improve street sweeping tools. Upon inquiry, Datti and Fassman-Beck explained that the data collection method mentioned in the PMR was not included in the original SS scope because it did not exist at the time and commented that the MCM PMR funding request intends to update the initial model rather than begin a new SS scope.

Member Kelly Gardner noted that the PMR additional funding request is \$479,469 in addition to the previously awarded \$393,000. Watershed Coordinator Cortes confirmed with Datti that the original SS could be completed without additional funding. Datti added that there would be significant benefit from approving the PMR.

Galang provided an overview of the Encanto Park PMR, which requests additional funding of \$4.98 million. Galang cited construction cost escalation post-pandemic as the reason for this increase. Galang shared that 60% design has been finalized and CEQA documents are expected to be completed in the summer. Galang also explained that the team has pursued additional funding, but changes to the federal government funding landscape have led to funding challenges.

Member Gardner noted that the original funding request in 2021 was \$2.48 million, noting that costs attributed to construction have doubled the original request. Upon inquiry from Member Gardner, Galang shared that the cities involved in the Rio Hondo San Gabriel River Watershed Authority (RHSGR WMA) have not increased their contribution as a result. Galang noted that these cities would consider increasing their contributions if the Committee asked, and that \$250,000 of the current project budget comes from the municipalities. Upon inquiry, Galang explained that the team attempted to obtain funds from the Caltrans Clean California Local Grant and Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Stormwater for Recharge Pilot Program but was unsuccessful.

The Committee discussed the project's construction schedule and subsequent cost escalation. Galang explained that if the design is finalized this year, the project will go to bid next summer. Galang explained that escalation costs of approximately 4% are included in the current construction estimate. Member Ready referenced a California Department of General Services (DGS) source that shows cost escalation at 10% across each of the three years and down to 2.4% the year prior, or approximately a 34% increase since the project was proposed, compared to the 200% cited in the project team's estimate. Galang explained that materials and baseline costs have increased significantly and that small project prices have increased relative to larger infrastructure projects. Upon inquiry, Galang shared that construction will cost approximately \$6 million. Member Ready clarified with Galang that the cost estimate was derived from communication with manufacturers. Member Ready inquired if a letter from the manufacturer was possible confirming this cost increase and emphasized that the WASC should encourage Project Developers to find leverage funding. Galang explained that smaller projects are more sensitive to cost escalations for equipment and material.

Galang clarified that the Encanto Park PMR funding request will primarily be for construction and construction management, as the team is fully funded to complete design. Member Ready noted a discrepancy between the actual and listed percentage change between the approved total funding allocations and the revised estimate of total funding from the Regional Program and suggested more clarified guidance be provided to Applicants to provide these calculations.



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Member Gardner noted that the design cost has increased significantly and inquired if the design had changed. Galang confirmed that the scope of design has not changed, and that it should be completed using the original funds allocated to design. Member Perez expressed concern over the design being incomplete after four years. Galang explained that during project submission, the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was formed, and governance was required to establish support staff. Design templates had to be established for JPA, rather than the City of Duarte, and these posed similar constraints imposed on the CEQA, project oversight, and O&M processes.

Upon inquiry, Galang confirmed that the JPA is now fully established, with a Technical Advisory Committee, Administration Group, and Board of Directors that meets quarterly. Galang explained that establishment has allowed the project team to complete the AB 52 requirement. Several Committee Members stated that approval of this project should have been delayed until JPA was established.

Member Ready expressed concern about the precedent set by approving the Encanto Park PMR and the potential of other delayed projects returning for funding after a significant increase in construction costs.

Committee Members expressed concern over the MCM PMR funding request given the lack of third-party scientific review and commented that the project should be submitted as a new SS Application instead. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that there is no established process for ensuring third-party independent reviews of SS PMRs. Public Works staff shared that the SS Program is expected to expand in the future, and Public Works is exploring the idea of an annual symposium for SS Developers to address such issues is being developed. Several other Committee Members expressed support for the MCM PMR funding request, commenting that additional, empirical data could increase the opportunity for identifying additional MS4 credits and commented that delaying the MCM SS by a year would be detrimental. Upon inquiry, Datti explained that the SS would focus on other Watershed Areas if the PMR funding request was not approved by the USGR WASC. Datti confirmed data would still be collected, but extending to the USGR Watershed Area would be a challenge.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that a straw poll can be performed to gauge support for inclusion of the PMR in the SIP. Public Works staff also noted that the MCM SS was proposed as a new SS at the LLAR and LSGR WASCs and would thus go through the SCW Program's standard third-party scientific review. Datti clarified that the review would be for a different Watershed Area with the same scope. Upon inquiry, Datti explained that the varying attributes of watersheds can affect the SS results due to variation in pollution removal implementation, conditions of different roadways, and how each municipality conducts street sweeping programs. Datti shared that the SS would work with municipalities in each Watershed Area to address different program components.

Public Works staff showed the "All continuing projects, all new studies, and both PMRs funded" scenario onscreen. Vice-Chair Villaluna noted that the percent allocation of budget for FY25-26, shown with this scenario, is 95%. Member Hudson questioned if the Bassett High School Project required its full allocation or if this could be broken up.

Public Works staff showed the baseline scenario onscreen. Committee Members noted that the baseline scenario showed a percent allocation of 78% and confirmed with Ng that the recommendation of reserving 20% funding allocation is more important in future years to reserve funding for new proposals that come in through the Call for Projects and future PMRs. Multiple Committee Members agreed that the WASC was in a good financial position at its baseline considering that no new projects requested funding.

Vice-Chair Villaluna conducted a straw poll to gauge support of granting the MCM PMR the full requested amount, to which the majority of the WASC supported. Member Ready emphasized that future PMRs should still consider the issues raised today.

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Vice-Chair Villaluna expressed support for the Encanto Park PMR, noting that the Project was allocated an approved budget four years ago and that costs have escalated since. Vice-Chair Villaluna commented that the WASC was partially responsible for the funding gap because the WASC approved and allocated construction funds so far in advance.

Several Committee Members expressed concerns over the Encanto Park PMR funding request and the project's associated costs and leveraged funds. Member Love questioned if the WASC would have approved the project if the original funding request was the current total request. Vice-Chair Villaluna commented that the WASC is more meticulous about PMR funding compared to Project Applications. Member Marvin Carpio commented that there has been an overwhelming cost increase since 2022. The Committee raised points about cost increases related to the wildfires' effects on the supply chain and the impact of water conservation from infiltration projects.

Member Love proposed partially approving the request and noted that the bidding process might reveal increased costs for many other projects at this time. Member Hudson inquired if the full requested amount was required in the first year, or if the allocation can be split to decrease funding in the first year. Galang shared that the RHSGR WMA originally committed \$250,000, and an increase in contribution is possible if the PMR is granted with \$500,000 less than the requested amount. Vice-Chair Villaluna proposed an adjustment to the requested funding of \$2.03 million for the first year and \$2.45 million for the next year.

Member Nicholas Delgado commented that municipalities look to the SCW Program for special funding and do not use General Funds for projects like the Encanto Park Project. Member Delgado commented that not many IP projects are being finalized compared to SS. Member Ready explained that the Encanto Park Project's cost effectiveness of the Water Quality and Water Supply Benefits has now decreased given the cost escalations and commented on how cost effectiveness is used to compare different Project Applications when first presented to the WASC. Member Ready emphasized that grants and municipal funding are available, and that Project Developers should examine those funds when submitting a PMR to show due diligence. Member Ready commented that the Project Developers struggling to find contractors should reach out to the Watershed Coordinator team, expressing concern that yearly PMR funding requests will impact the WASC's overall funding capabilities. Member Perez expressed concern with insinuating that the SCW Program should fund entire IP projects and commented on the importance of leveraged funding.

Member Julian Juarez proposed moving to vote on the SIP. Vice-Chair Villaluna confirmed with Committee Members that there was a majority in supporting the partial funding proposal for the Encanto Park PMR funding request.

Vice-Chair Villaluna noted that the Next-Gen Bioretention: Towards Living and Adaptive Stormwater Systems for a Resilient Los Angeles County SS was ranked first by Committee Members and has been recommended for funding in the LSGR and Rio Hondo (RH) WASCs. No comments or concerns were expressed by the Committee Members regarding the SS.

Vice-Chair Villaluna shared that the Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS) SS was ranked second by Committee Members and has been recommended for funding by the Santa Clara River (SCR) WASC, not recommended by the LLAR, LSGR, and RH WASCs, and is pending a decision in the remaining four WASCs. Vice-Chair Villaluna noted that the SS applied with distributed funding amounts through every WASC and Vice-Chair Villaluna expressed concern with the number of WASCs not approving the SS.

Member Francisco Guerrero confirmed with the Christopher Tull (California Data Collaborative, Study Applicant) that the scope of the SS would need to be scaled based on the number of approved WASCs, but the software aspect of the SS allows for flexibility in scaling features or incorporated datasets. Tull highlighted that the SS team would be working with a target user group to prioritize different features

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regardless of the funding amount, but some lower priority features would not be included. The project team plans to scale back scope appropriately while working with WASCs who do approve the SS. Tull shared that the tool will be made available County-wide, but the input of stakeholders who approve the SS will be prioritized.

Member Ready expressed hesitation with evaluating projects based on how other WASCs voted and asserted that the funding request was satisfactory considering the topography, rainfall, land use, and socioeconomic data that would be made available to the Watershed Area. Member Love expressed support for the region-wide benefits of the DROPS SS.

Member Gardner inquired if the \$50,000 funding request attributed to WASCs that did not recommend the SS for funding will be reallocated or increased. Vice-Chair Villaluna commented that the funding request would not increase, but the SS scope would shrink, and the SS results would diminish proportionally. Vice-Chair Villaluna is also a Committee Member of the RH WASC and expressed concern that the DROPS SS is duplicative of existing efforts, which was brought up during the RH WASC SIP deliberation.

Member Hudson expressed concern for long term maintenance of the DROPS tool and requested clarification on whether membership fees would be required for improved tools. Vice-Chair Villaluna expressed an assumption that data would be updated on an annual basis and commented that O&M funding was not included in the funding request. Vice-Chair Villaluna commented that the WASC appeared to be evenly split on supporting the DROP SS.

The Committee discussed the Depave LA: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting SS (hereafter referred to as the Depave LA SS). Member Ready noted that the Depave LA SS had a strong scientific review and commented that the SS would be useful regionwide and for municipalities.

Member Guerrero inquired if the scope of the SS changes if the SS does not receive approval from all WASCs, as Vice-Chair Villaluna noted that two WASCs have not included the Depave LA SS in their recommended SIPs. Craig Doberstein (Herrera, Study Applicant) explained that if less than four WASCs approve the SS, the SS team will work with the WASCs who approve the SS to prioritize deliverables considered the most valuable. Doberstein noted that the toolkit, which includes cost estimate guidelines, conceptual designs, and O&M guidelines for small and medium parking lot projects, would be reduced.

Vice-Chair Villaluna clarified with Doberstein that Depave LA will use publicly available GIS data from studies on impermeable surfaces developed by Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) but clarified that the Depave LA SS is not directly tied to the Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study, which also intends to use ARLA data.

Upon inquiry regarding the inclusion of schools in the Depave LA SS, Doberstein shared that the SS encompasses all parking lots without differentiation.

Member Delgado clarified with Doberstein that while identifying municipal codes to ensure compliance with existing standards was not currently a specific deliverable, such a deliverable could be identified during the screening process. Jason Casanova (Council for Watershed Health, Study Applicant) shared that the intent is to provide concept design templates that follow existing codes. Doberstein clarified that the Depave LA SS is not completing parking lot retrofits but providing resources to promote retrofitting.

Member Delgado emphasized that property owners should not be deterred from retrofitting by ineligibility due to municipal code and encouraged Depave LA to also consider jurisdictional issues. Doberstein highlighted that the Depave LA SS intends to eliminate barriers and share information with community-based organizations and project proponents. Member Delgado suggested additional funding or working with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to increase the scope of the SS.



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Vice-Chair Villaluna shared a comment made in the RH WASC that there are multiple tools like the Depave LA SS tool that should exist under one umbrella. Member Ready expressed support for the Depave LA SS and its usefulness regionwide. Member Ready noted that the tool would work without Member Delgado's suggestion but should eventually have that deliverable incorporated for the benefit of green infrastructure project proponents.

Member Love commented that the Depave LA SS was worth pursuing despite concerns about similarity between tools.

Vice-Chair Villaluna requested a straw poll for Committee support of the Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study; a majority support was not shown. Vice-Chair Villaluna confirmed that Committee Members did not have any further discussion questions.

#### **8) Public Comment Period**

Mackenzie Bolger (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) commented that the SCW Program has mainly supported infrastructure projects to capture runoff to-date, with few projects targeting the source of runoff by converting impermeable surfaces to permeable, multi-benefit green surfaces. Bolger commented that a report for Los Angeles Waterkeeper showed only six of 101 projects in the region would create a new park space or contribute to greening schools, with the majority rehabilitating existing parks with stormwater capture features. Bolger also noted that only 30 acres of hardscape have been removed, while 27 acres of hardscape have been added. Bolger commented that while the Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study identifies opportunities to remediate brownfields, it is not advocating for infiltration and primarily focuses on hardscape transformation at schoolyards.

#### **9) Voting Items**

- a) Approve the final FY25-26 funding recommendations for the USGR Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review**

Member Love made a motion to include the Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study in the final FY25-26 SIP for USGR Watershed Area. The motion was seconded by Member Juarez. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor, 5 votes opposed, 0 in abstention, and 1 absent at time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

Member Love made a motion to approve the final FY25-26 SIP for USGR Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinators and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All continuing projects and scientific studies (with no funding changes); one full PMR Project (Maximum Impacts of MCM), one partial PMR Project (Encanto Park), four new SS (Data-Drive Resource Optimization, Depave LA, Next Gen Bioretention and the Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation Opportunity Study). The motion was seconded by Member Hudson and passed with 11 votes in favor, 1 vote opposed, 1 in abstention, and 0 absent at time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

#### **10) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Items to be discussed at the next meeting include:

- a. Watershed Planning Workshop #3

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## **11) Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Villaluna thanked the WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WASC MEETING - MARCH 27, 2025								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 2/27/2025 Meeting Minutes	Include the Hardscape and Brownfield Study as part of the FY25-26 SIP	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Stormwater Investment Plan for USGR Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All continuing project and scientific studies (with no funding changes); 1 Full PMR Project (Maximizing Impacts of MCM), 1 Partial PMR Project (Encanto Park), 4 New Studies (Data-Driven Resource Optimization, Depave LA, Hardscape and Brownfield Transformation, Next Gen Bioretention))"
Agency	Los Angeles County FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y	y	y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Tom Love	x	Patty Cortez			y	y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	Kelly Gardner	x	Lauren Augino		y	y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		y	n	n
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Andrea Vona		Jose Caprile	x	y		y
Community Stakeholder	Valley Vista Services, Inc	Manuel D. Perez	x			y	n	y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	David Marquez	x			y	n	y
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	x	Jason Casanova		y	n	a
Community Stakeholder	Charter Oak Unified School District	Jeanette Flores						
Community Stakeholder								
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	x	Rafael Piamonte		y	n	y
Municipal Members	Glendora / Covina	Valerie Velasquez-Santoya	x	Sandy Costandi		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Pomona / Diamond Bar	Julie Carver		Nicholas Delgado	x	a	y	y
Municipal Members	Industry / El Monte	Mathew Hudson	x	Don Nguyen		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Baldwin Park / San Dimas	Romany Basilyous		Shari Garwick				
Municipal Members	Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval		Marvin Carpio	x	y	y	y
Municipal Members	West Covina	Roberto Ortega						
Watershed Coordinator								
Non-Voting Member	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortes						
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	11	7	11
Total Voting Members Present		13			No (N)	0	5	1
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0	1
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	12	12	13
Municipal Members		5				Approved	Approved	Approved

# Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

## COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Alynn Sun	FCD	asun@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Andrea Vona	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	avona@parks.lacounty.gov	P	
Christopher Lapaz	Sanitation Districts	christopherlapaz@lacsds.org	A	
David Marquez	California Consulting, INC	jhdm.david@gmail.com	A	
Don Nguyen	El Monte	dnguyen@elmonteca.gov	A	
Drew Ready	Council for Watershed Health	drew@watershedhealth.org	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Fernando Villaluna	Los Angeles County	FVILLALUNA@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Francisco Guerrero	Sanitation Districts	fguerrero@lacsds.org	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
James Cortes Rivera	Day One	james@godayone.orgv	WC	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jason Casanova	Council for Watershed Health	cas@watershedhealth.org	A	
Jeanette Flores	Charter Oak Unified School District	jeanettevflores@gmail.com	P	
Jose Caprile	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	JCaprile@parks.lacounty.gov	A	
Joseph Venzon	Los Angeles County	jvenzon@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Julie Carver	Pomona	Julie.Carver@pomona.gov; chris_diggs@ci.pomona.ca.us	P	

# Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

## COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	kelly@watermaster.org	P	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin	Lauren@watermaster.org	A	
Manuel D. Perez	Valley Vista Services, Inc.	manny@myvvs.com	P	<i>Manuel D. Perez</i>
Marvin Carpio	Duarte	mcarpio@accessduarte.com	A	<i>Marvin Carpio</i>
Mathew Hudson	Industry	mHUDSON@cityofindustry.org	P	<i>Mathew Hudson</i>
Nicholas Delgado	City of Diamond Bar	ndelgado@diamondbarca.gov	A	<i>Nicholas Delgado</i>
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	patty@usgvmwd.org	A	
Roberto Ortega	West Covina	Rortega@westcovina.org	P	
Romany Basilyous	Baldwin Park	RBasilyous@baldwinpark.com	P	
Sandy Costandi	Covina	SCostandi@covinaca.gov	A	
Shari Garwick	San Dimas	SGarwick@sandimasca.gov	A	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	ssandoval@accessduarte.com	P	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	tom@usgvmwd.org	P	
Valerie Velasquez-Santoya	Glendora	vvelasquez@cityofglendora.org	P	<i>Valerie Velasquez-Santoya</i>



Upper San Gabriel River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	brianna.datti@craftwater.com
Anthony	Ortega	City of Pomona	Anthony.Ortega@pomona.ca.gov
Stephanie	Ryan	City of Glendora	sryan2@cityofglendora.gov
Oliver	Galang	Craftwater	oliver.galang@craftwater.com
Craig	Dobertus	Hennepin	cdobertus@hennepin.org
Mackenzie	Bolger	SGVCOG	mbolger@sgvcog.org
Paulina	Mejia	SGVCOG	pmejia@sgvcog.org

**Webex Attendees**  
**Upper San Gabriel River WASC Meeting**  
**March 27, 2025**

Ali Sharbat Cal Poly	James Valdez	RG
Aric M	Jason Pepito - SCW WP	Rafael Piamonte
Call-in User_2	Jenny Chau	Richard Watson
Call-in User_3	Katie Harrel CWE	Sandy Costandi - Covina
Carlos Preciado	Larry Tran	Thom Epps Craftwater
Christopher Tull	Lauren Anderson	USGR WASC
Christopher Tull, CaDC	Leslie Martinez - LA County PW	USGR WASC - Host
Daria Antonova - LACPW	Liana Poghosyan	Imarshall
Donna T	Linet Khechatoorian	
Ed Suher CASC	Mehrad Kamalzare - CPP	
Elizabeth Fassman-Beck	Melanie Rivera	
Grant Garcia - City of San Dimas	Melineh Aghakhabian	
Igor Bronz TreePeople	Nathaly	
India	Ng, Emily	
	Pablo Forni	