

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



Thursday, May 22, 2025
1:00pm – 3:30pm
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)
*Lauren Augino, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
*Jose Caprile, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation (Agency)
David Marquez, Urban Semillas (Community)
Jeanette Flores, Charter Oak Unified School District (Community)
*Sandy Costandi, Glendora (Municipal)
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal), Chair
Mathew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)
James Cortes, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)

Committee Members Not Present:

Manuel D. Perez, Valley Vista Services, Inc (Community)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Shari Garwick, San Dimas (Municipal)
Roberto Ortega, West Covina (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Julie Carver, 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 facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial.

Member Drew Ready attended online and provided just cause under AB 2449.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2025

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from March 27, 2025. Member Ready requested the following correction to the meeting minutes:

On Page 5 of the March 27, 2025 meeting minutes, change the thirty three percent to two hundred percent to more accurately reflect the discussion.

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Member Ready commented that thirty three percent is one order of magnitude lower than the cost increase presented during the March 27, 2025 meeting. Public Works staff noted that the March 27, 2025 meeting minutes will be updated to reflect that detail and plan to return the meeting minutes to the USGR WASC at the next meeting for review and approval.

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Chair Carver noted that the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) invited the WASC Chair and Vice-Chair to present on the USGR WASC Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) on July 9, 2025, however, neither are available to attend this meeting. Chair Carver requested a volunteer from the WASC to present at the July 9 ROC meeting. The Committee discussed that Member Tom Love is tentatively available to attend the ROC meeting with Member Drew Ready as an alternate.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for FY26-27 is July 31. An informational sessions was held virtually on May 21. Another will be held May 22 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Both sessions will contain the same information. For proposed projects involving Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) infrastructure or facilities, the deadline to request a letter for conceptual approval from LACFCD is May 31.
- Mid-Year Reports covering July to December 2024, 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 June 11 at 1:00pm. The ROC will review 4 of the 9 WASC SIPs. To view meeting details please visit the [ROC events website](#).
- FY25-26 Municipal Annual Plans were due on April 1, 2025.
- 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 has been added as a section in the Municipal Program Reporting Module. The SCW Program hosted a virtual workshop on May 15 that provided an overview of the Municipal Program Reporting Module and the Metrics & Measures tile functionality. Municipalities received an email with instructions to fill out the section along with a link to the [workshop event page](#); the information should be filled out by June 16.
- The Q4 2025 Funding Report has been posted to the SCW Program website under the [Resources tab](#). In support of Public Works, the Regional Coordination team prepares quarterly funding reports that include a high-level overview of recent funding policy highlights and a funding matrix that shares currently active and upcoming funding opportunities that may be relevant to SCW Program projects. Public Works staff and Regional Coordination are actively tracking activity to better understand impacts to future funding.

3) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes deferred Watershed Coordinator updates to the next meeting to accommodate for time. Presentation slides from the update from the Watershed Coordinator can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

4) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications.

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5) Discussion Items

a. Watershed Planning Phase 3

Public Works' Watershed Planning Team (Watershed Planning Team) provided a presentation on the Watershed Planning efforts to date. Highlights from the presentation include:

- The Initial Watershed Plans in development will include targets, strategies, actions, and opportunities to address Watershed Area (WA) Needs and achieve the SCW Program's Goals. Needs are determined by the difference between targets and the benefit baselines of previously funded SCW Program projects. Strategies explain how to meet the WA Needs, actions outline what types of projects or programs to implement, and Opportunities identify where to implement projects for the highest impact.
- A companion to the Initial Watershed Plans, an online Watershed Planning Tool (Planning Tool) is in development that consists of a Planning Map and Dashboard, which will support visualization of Opportunities and track progress toward the established targets and WA Needs. Composite layers in the Planning Map will assist in identifying multi-benefit opportunities, which combine various Planning Themes (based on the SCW Program Goals) such as drought preparedness, public health improvement, nature-based solutions, and equitable benefit distribution; and
- The Draft Initial Watershed Plans will be available for a 30-day public review period in Fall 2025 and updated editions will be published in early 2026.

Upon inquiry, the Watershed Planning Team noted that multiple interested parties, including the USGR WASC, school representatives, and community groups were engaged within the context of the Watershed Planning effort.

Chair Carver confirmed with the Watershed Planning Team that the baseline data includes the last three years of projects funded to-date. Watershed Coordinator Cortes asked about the Planning. Upon inquiry, Rebecca Kaliff (Paradigm, Watershed Planning) explained that the nine Planning Themes came from the Metrics and Monitoring Study and that the Planning Themes are an attempt to aggregate the data to display progress towards targets. Watershed Coordinator Cortes commented that prioritizing meaningful engagement should be part of every theme. Upon inquiry, the Watershed Planning Team noted that the County Water Plan Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Blue Ribbon Panel is developing metrics for measuring NBS and developing criteria and definitions to understand what will be included in the Adaptive Management of the Initial Watershed Plans, since those recommendations will not be ready in time for the Initial Watershed Plans.

Members Flores and Love commented that the presentation on the Planning Tools is incredibly complex and recommended that the presentation be adjusted to be a more effective engagement tool.

Member Jose Caprile commented that it may be difficult to discern how legacy contaminants are taking priority over new and emerging contaminants in Water Quality targets. Member Caprile suggested that biological species monitoring needs to occur, commenting on bioaccumulation of toxins, as well as benthic macroinvertebrate and soil monitoring. Antos shared that community science testing is a possible visioning scenario using the Planning Tools.

Committee members agreed that if the Watershed Planning Tool, if integrated in a way to optimize project planning, would help with collaboration across programs.

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Antos presented on and conducted a demonstration of the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey and Dashboard, noting that these resources are available to help with project selection during SIP deliberations.

Member Stephanie Sandoval emphasized the need for accessible data. Antos noted that the goal of the CSNA is to capture community engagement in a single, comprehensive location. Watershed Coordinator Cortes explained that survey responses will be used to identify key themes and that themes that may not be captured in the survey responses will be reported in the Watershed Coordinator Updates section of WASC meetings.

The Watershed Planning Team announced that they would return to the WASC for further discussion, including a public review period, this Fall.

For presentation slides that include a USGR Watershed Planning snapshot, visit the [SCW Program website](#). Visit the [Watershed Planning webpage](#) for more information. For any questions related to Watershed Planning, contact watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Items for the Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2025 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. Items on the next agenda include:

a. Watershed Coordinator Selection

8) Adjournment

Chair Carver thanked the Committee Members and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WASC MEETING - MAY 22, 2025

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 3/27/2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		
Agency	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Tom Love	x	Patty Cortez		
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino	x	
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero		Christopher Lapaz	x	
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Andrea Vona		Jose Caprile	x	
Community Stakeholder	Valley Vista Services, Inc	Manuel D. Perez				
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	David Marquez	x			
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	x	Jason Casanova		
Community Stakeholder	Charter Oak Unified School District	Jeanette Flores	x			
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna		Rafael Piamonte		
Municipal Members	Glendora / Covina	Stephanie Ryan		Sandy Costandi	x	
Municipal Members	Pomona / Diamond Bar	Julie Carver	x	Nicholas Delgado		
Municipal Members	Industry / El Monte	Mathew Hudson	x	Don Nguyen		
Municipal Members	San Dimas	Shari Garwick				
Municipal Members	Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval	x	Marvin Carpio		
Municipal Members	West Covina	Roberto Ortega				
Watershed Coordinator						
Non-Voting Member	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortes	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	0
Total Voting Members Present		12			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	0
Municipal Members		4				Not Approved


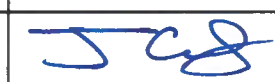
Webex Attendees
Upper San Gabriel River WASC Meeting
May 22, 2025

Andrew Kim	Jason Casanova, CWH	Rebecca Kaliff
Anthony Ortega	Jenny Chau	Ricardo Cano Day One
Brenda Rojas	Leslie Martinez - LACPW	Rob Garcia Jr.
Bryan Igboke - LACPW	Liana Poghosyan	SCWP - USGR WASC
Bryant Alvarado	Luis Perez	Sofia Cardenas - LACDPW
Connor Rudmann	Mayra Cabrera - LACPW	ricardo
Daria Antonova - LACPW	Mei-Lin Hanna JLHA	
Dr. Win Cowger MIPPR	Melineh Aghakhabian	
Drew Ready CWH	Melineh Aghakhabian	
Ed Suher CASC	Mike Antos - Regional Coordination	
Grant Garcia - City of San Dimas	Ng, Emily	

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	
Fernando Villaluna	Los Angeles County	fvillaluna@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Francisco Guerrero	Sanitation Districts	fguerrero@lacsds.org	P	
James Cortes Rivera	Day One	james@godayone.org	WC	
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	
Julian Juarez	FCD	jjuarez@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Julie Carver	Pomona	julie.carver@pomona.gov	P	
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	kelly@watermaster.org	P	

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin	Lauren@watermaster.org	A	
Manuel D. Perez	Valley Vista Services, Inc.	manny@myvvs.com	P	
Marvin Carpio	Duarte	mcarpio@accessduarte.com	A	
Mathew Hudson	Industry	mHUDSON@cityofindustry.org	P	
Nicholas Delgado	City of Diamond Bar	ndelgado@diamondbarca.gov	A	
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	patty@usgvmwd.org	A	
Rafael Piamonte	Los Angeles County	rpiamonte@dpw.lacounty.gov	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 Ryan	Covina	sryan2@cityofglendora.gov	P	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	ssandoval@accessduarte.com	P	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	tom@usgvmwd.org	P	