Rio Hondo
Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Library Community Room
321 S. Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016
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)
Dave Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
Jeff Khun, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Brian Tabatabai, Resident (Community)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All (Community)
Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Sophia Sousa, Monrovia (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:
Marisol Cortez, (Community)
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

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1) Welcome and Introductions

Dawn Petschauer, Chair of the Rio Hondo (RH) 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 March 18, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Tom Love motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Brian Tabatabai. The WASC voted to approve the March 18, 2025 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 2 in abstention, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Chair Petschauer shared that there will be an Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project Community Outreach event on May 24, 2025, at Eaton Blanche Park. The City of Pasadena hopes to leverage funds from Caltrans.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) is July 31. Informational sessions will be held virtually on May 21 from 9:00am to 11:00am and 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, facilities, or right-of-way, the deadline to request a letter for conceptual approval from LACFCD is May 31.
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024-June 2025) is due on August 15. This will be required for Project Developers and Scientific Studies approved in Fiscal Years 2020 through 2025 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). The module is anticipated to be available in July. Project and Study Developers are to submit reports regardless of receiving funds, having expenditures or activities, or having executed the Funds Transfer Agreement.
- 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 Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for June 11 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. The ROC will review the Central Santa Monica Bay, Lower Los Angeles River, Lower San Gabriel River, and Santa Clara River SIPs. To view meeting details please visit the ROC events website.
- 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 has been added in the Municipal Program Reporting Module. This section collects data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program activities to align with and inform the Watershed Planning efforts and Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program progress assessments. The SCW Program hosted a virtual workshop on Thursday, May 15 that provided an overview of the 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, 2025.
- The first round of Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program proposals were awarded at a total of approximately $3.1 million. To see a list of approved proposals for the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, please visit the Water Foundation Website.
- 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.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that the Metrics & Measures section aims to track progress from projects at all stages. The Watershed Planning Team will use this data to build project baselines, supplementing existing analyses for Watershed Planning. If data is not readily available, placeholders can be included into the Metrics & Measures as the data will still help assess benefits and performance indicators that have already been established with the current reported data, which will serve as a baseline. The intent is to branch out the baseline with further aspirational targets as this ongoing data is developed.

4) **Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

There were no ex parte communications.

5) **Presentations and Discussion Items**

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a) Watershed Planning Phase 3

Public Works' Watershed Planning Team (Watershed Planning Team) gave a presentation on the Watershed Planning effort to date. Highlights from the presentation included:

- The Initial Watershed Plans in development will include targets, strategies, actions, and opportunities to address Watershed Area (WA) Needs and achieve the SCW Program Goals. Needs are determined as 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 and partially functioning Planning Tool will be available for a 30-day public review period in Fall 2025, presented to the WASC later in Fall, and updated editions will be published in early 2026.

Presentation slides are available on the SCW Program website. More information on Watershed Planning, can be found on the Watershed Planning webpage on the SCW Program website. For any questions related to Watershed Planning, contact watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

The Watershed Planning Team shared an example of the two types of targets that will be present in the Initial Watershed Plans. Using Lower Los Angeles River WASC data, the Watershed Planning Team differentiated targets that are based on existing countywide targets that the SCW Program can directly contribute to, versus targets that are specific to the SCW Program and not necessarily rooted in an existing countywide target. The Watershed Planning Team clarified that the latter can be contributing to other Water Supply, Water Quality, and Community Investment Benefits as per the SCW Program Ordinance.

Upon inquiry, Rebecca Kaliff (Paradigm, Watershed Planning Team) responded that major sources for the slide in question included the County Water Plan, the Metrics and Monitoring Study among many others. The Watershed Planning Team noted that during the first phase of engagement, all WASC Members were asked to suggest datasets or plans. The Watershed Planning Team added that an appendix in the Initial Plans will list over all data sources used.

Chair Petschauer asked whether the process would be iterative and if targets would change. The Watershed Planning Team clarified that the baseline will remain unchanged, but progress toward targets will be shown and the online Planning Tool will be updated annually. Chair Petschauer also inquired whether EWMPs rely on modeled data or actual water quality data, emphasizing the importance of real data for Municipalities to validate claims. The Watershed Planning Team explained that the Planning Tool distinguishes between funded and completed projects. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff also confirmed that, according to the Funds Transfer Agreement, Project Developers must show progress for three years after the first year of operation and provide post-project performance data.

Upon inquiry, the Watershed Planning Team noted that most baseline data reflect progress to-date. For instance, for Water Quality data, targets are based on Total Maximum Daily Load goals and standards, with SCW Program projects' data layered on top. The Watershed Planning Team highlighted that the EWMPs provide a framework of compliance to estimate implementation costs in Watershed Areas.

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The Committee discussed a situation where a proposed park is no longer necessary according to Watershed Planning efforts. The Watershed Planning Team shared that Opportunity Areas help prioritize projects within each Watershed Area. Upon request, the Watershed Planning Team confirmed that the SCW Program would be hosting the Watershed Planning Tool.

Regarding workforce development, the Watershed Planning Team referenced the Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) report, The Collaborative Advantage, as part of the Watershed Planning effort. Chair Petschauer pointed out Principle 8 in the report, which details the importance of a strong green workforce for climate resilient outcomes related to multi-benefit projects.

Upon request, the Watershed Planning Team explained that percentages that display Watershed Area progress towards achieving targets were developed using a blend of realistic and aspirational approaches. The method aims to iterate targets to find a realistic goal within aspirational bounds, focusing on the narrative of the result rather than just the inputs. The Watershed Planning Team added that the Initial Watershed Plans reference a five-year lookahead and revenue projections, noting that some WASCs already have set aside allocations. The Watershed Planning Team noted that strategies like leveraging 50% funding, setting interim targets, and using the online Watershed Planning Tool to overlay layers and identify multi-benefit projects can also help maximize SCW Program funding. The Watershed Planning Team noted that some opportunities were previously undefined, but with better coordination and emphasis on co-benefits, the SCW Program could exceed baseline progress.

Member Dave Pierce clarified with Watershed Planning staff that the presentation illustrates both bottom-up and top-down approaches of acreage figures to determine what is realistic for the SCW Program. Member Pierce suggested using percentages instead of totals to better reflect perspectives.

Watershed Coordinator Watson brought up the California Toxics Rule, noting recent changes in zinc and copper levels. The Watershed Planning Team described the development of a runoff time series using Los Angeles County's Watershed Management Modeling System 2.0, which identifies the areas with the top quartile of highest pollutant loads and subtracting areas already served by existing wet weather projects.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning Team shared that the assumption in the presentation is that SCW Program-funded projects will be constructed, and the goal is to highlight the best opportunities. Kaliff explained that the darker areas on slide 14 represent subwatersheds, where downstream projects can capture upstream runoff. The Committee noted that working at the subwatershed scale can be expensive.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning Team) stated that EWMP projects aim for compliance, but the SCW Program can support both compliance and multi-benefit goals. Chair Petschauer emphasized that the Watershed Planning Team should consider both subwatershed and receiving water levels and asked about the difference between identifying multi-benefit opportunities and delivering multi-benefit projects. The Watershed Planning Team responded that the difference depends on what is needed and desired, referencing the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA).

Antos from the Watershed Planning Team introduced various planning tools, including the CSNA Survey and Dashboard, and noted that these resources are available to help strengthen project selection during SIP deliberations.

Antos from the Watershed Planning Team conducted a demonstration of the CSNA Survey and Dashboard and shared that Regional Coordination will provide interim updates on the CSNA findings and mentioned that city representatives have reported using the CSNA data to support local planning efforts. Chair Petschauer noted that the City of Pasadena has been conducting similar efforts through surveys and asked how that information would be incorporated. Antos responded that Watershed Coordinators are helping to gather this information, and Regional Coordinators may occasionally produce SCW Program-wide summaries. Antos added that the CSNA Dashboard and the existing Spatial Data Library already contain relevant existing data, and the Watershed Planning Tool will also include relevant data. Antos emphasized

that while the data may not be statistically significant, the goal of its use is for a community member to speak once and be heard many times.

Chair Petschauer suggested revisiting the CSNA findings after approving this year's SIP to cross-check that community-identified needs, strengths, and priorities are possible via chosen projects. Antos added that the Watershed Coordinators are working to establish consistent practices for how WASCs consider proposed projects in relation to disadvantaged communities and CSNA data. The Watershed Planning Team noted that the CSNA includes a promotional toolkit, which Municipalities are actively using, and confirmed the RH WASC will be notified when receiving the RH Initial Watershed Plan.

6) Public Comment Period

One comment card was received prior to the meeting and can be found on the SCW Program website.

7) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting scheduled for June 17 is tentatively cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, July 15 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Items to be discussed at the next meeting include:

a) Watershed Coordinator Selection

9) Adjournment

Chair Petschauer thanked the WASC Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

RH WASC - May 20, 2025

Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 3/18/2025 Meeting Minutes
		Quorum Present				**Voting Items**
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love**	x	Patty Cortez		y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino	x	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce	x	Alysha Chan		a
Agency	Pasadena Public Works	Jeff Khun	x	Brent Maue		a
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Brian C. Tabatabai	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jill Fosselman	x			
Community Stakeholder		Marisol Cortez				
Community Stakeholder						
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto	x	Jade Nguyen		y
Municipal Members	City of Alhambra	Latoya Waters	x	Gehovanny Herrera		y
Municipal Members	City of Arcadia	Briget Arndell	x	Paul Cranmer		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Fernando Villaluna	x	Paul Choy		y
Municipal Members	City of Monrovia	Alex Tachiki		Sophia Sousa	x	y
Municipal Members	City of Pasadena	Dawn Petschauer*	x	James Tong		y
Municipal Members	City of Irwindale	Eddie Chan				
Municipal Members						
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	RWA Planning	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		15			Yay (Y)	10
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	12
Municipal Members		5				Approved

Attendees
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Allen	Jenny Chau	Mike Antos - Stantec
Alysha Chan	Jose Castro - LACPW	Ng, Emily
Bryan Igboke	Julie Millett	Paul Choy
Chris	Katelynn Webb	Rebecca Kaliff
Dusadee Corhiran - LACPW	Linet Khechatoorian	Rob Garcia Jr.
Eddie	Marisela Velasquez - LACPW	SCWP
Jack Mikesell	Mayra Cabrera - LACPW	john mendoza
James	Mei-Lin Hanna JLHA	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

SAFE CLEAN WATER

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	*(signature)*
Alynn Sun	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel District	P	
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel District	A	
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	P	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	A	*(signature)*
Dave Pierce	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	*(signature)*
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	
Jeff Khun	Pasadena	P	*(signature)*
Brent Maue	Pasadena	A	
Brian C. Tabatabai	Resident - City of West Covina	P	*(signature)*
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	*(signature)*
Marisol Cortez	City of El Monte - Mayor Pro Tem	P	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	*(signature)*
Jade Nguyen	Nature For All	A	
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	*(signature)*

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Gehovanny Herrera	Alhambra	A	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	P	*(signature)*
Paul Cranmer	Arcadia	A	
Fernando Villaluna	LA County Public Works	P	*(signature)*
Paul Choy	LA County Public Works	A	
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	P	
Sophia Sousa	Monrovia	A	
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	P	*(signature)*
James Tong	Pasadena	A	
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	P	
Richard Watson	RWA	WC	
Julie Millett	RWA	WC	

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