

# Upper Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

2:00pm - 4:00pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, 1st Floor (Courtyard), Conference Room C

900 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803

WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present:

Ernesto Rivera, Los Angeles Flood Control District (Agency)

\*Conor Mossavi, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Agency)

\*Cara Campbell, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Agency)

\*Kevin Ho, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment (Agency)

\*Gary Lam, Los Angeles Recreation & Parks (Agency)

Ernesto Pantoja, Laborers Local 300 (Community)

\*Scott Applebaum, University of Southern California (Community)

Edith de Guzman, University of California, Los Angeles (Community)

Veronica Padilla-Campos, Pacoima Beautiful (Community)

\*Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal)

Michael Vartanians, City of South Pasadena (Municipal)

Teresa Villegas, Los Angeles (Municipal), Chair

Karo Torossian, Los Angeles (Municipal), Vice-Chair

\*Klara Plourde, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Adi Liberman, Environmental Outreach Strategies (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Alonso Garcia, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Kristina Kreter, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Absent:

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community)

Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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

Teresa Villegas, Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and announced that the Spanish interpreter was not yet available in the online meeting. Public Works staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members, and a quorum was established.

### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2025**

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from April 2, 2025. Member Dawn Petschauer motioned to approve the minutes from April 2, 2025, seconded by Member Edith de Guzman. The WASC voted to approve the April 2, 2025 meeting minutes with 5 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 8 in abstention, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

# Upper Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



#### 3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

#### 4) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 - 2027 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) is July 31, 2025.
- The Projects Application Module is now live for Infrastructure Program Project, Technical Resources Program Project concept, and Scientific Study applicants. Please visit the [Call for Projects webpage](#) for more information, which includes the Projects Module, the Information Session Presentation, and a recording of the Live Demonstration for Applications.
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024 - June 2025) is due on August 15 for Project Developers and Scientific Studies (SS) approved in FY2020 through FY2025 SIPs.
- Project and Study Developers are to submit reports 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 July 9 at 1:00pm where the ROC will be reviewing the last five of the nine FY25-26 SIPs. It is anticipated that the ROC will review the ULAR SIP during the ROC meeting on July 9. Vice-Chair Karo Torossian will be representing the ULAR WASC for SIP review at the ROC meeting.
- A Metrics & Measures section has been added in the Municipal Program Reporting Module. This Metrics & Measures section collects data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program activities to align with and inform the Watershed Planning efforts and SCW Program progress assessments. The SCW Program hosted a virtual workshop on Thursday, May 15 from 10:00am to 11:00am that provided an overview of the Reporting Module and the Metrics and 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 first two rounds of Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program proposals were awarded a total of approximately \$3.1 million. To see a list of approved proposals for Rounds 1 and 2 of the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, please visit the [Water Foundation Website](#). Grant submissions have been closed.
- The Quarter 4 (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.
- Public Works is not waiving SCW Program direct assessments in the fire or other emergency affected areas since they fund services that are still being provided independently of the fires and its aftermath. However, there will be a decrease in the ad valorem revenue the Flood Fund receives since all ad valorem revenues County-wide are receiving a decrease based on general property tax relief in the fire areas.
- To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, please subscribe to receive email notifications. The SCW Program newsletter provides important updates on the Regional, Municipal, and District Programs, designed to help our community stay informed and engaged.

Member Petschauer inquired whether the SCW Public Education and Community Engagement Grant Program would reopen with additional rounds. Public Works staff will gather more information and share with the WASC. Chair Villegas asked if the grants were specifically for Watershed Coordinators, and

# Upper Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes



Member Petschauer clarified that the funding was available to all, with non-profit and community-based organizations, in addition to municipalities, receiving awards so far.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that reporting is necessary to maintain transparency, even if there is no progress made.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff noted that project progress reports are available on the SCW Program website, which includes filters by municipality. Member Padilla-Campos expressed interest in project expenditure data, which Public Works staff affirmed is also accessible online.

Chair Villegas asked if there was a user-friendly website to view what other cities are doing. Public Works staff recommended using the [SCW Dashboard](#) and [Project Map](#), which allows filtering by municipality and funding type, and mentioned upcoming updates to the website.

#### 5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

The Committee deferred this Agenda Item to the next meeting to allow adequate time for agenda items.

#### 6) Presentations and Discussion Items

##### a) Watershed Planning Phase 3 Engagement

Public Works' SCW Watershed Planning Team gave a presentation on the Watershed Planning effort to date. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). For more information on Watershed Planning, visit the [Watershed Planning page](#) of the SCW Program website. Highlights from the presentation included:

- The Initial Watershed Plans in development will include targets, strategies, actions, and opportunities to address Watershed Area Needs and achieve 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 Watershed Area 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 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 Watershed Area 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.
- 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.

Chair Villegas asked about the specificity of the targets and data shown on screen. The Watershed Planning team explained that these figures contribute to broader goals at the WASC, the Program, and County levels. The Watershed Planning team also noted that updated numbers would be included in the Initial Plans. Upon inquiry, the Watershed Planning team clarified that while the County Water Plan goal is 580,000 acre-feet per year (AF/year), 300,000 AF/year is the ROC's target based on the 2023 Biennial Progress Report. Of that, 110,000 AF/year is what the SCW Program aims to contribute, with each WASC contributing based on its watershed characteristics.

Upon inquiry, the Watershed Planning team emphasized that the data supports multi-benefit Project Concepts rather than prescribing specific solutions. Member Petschauer commented that each WASC would use the Planning Tool differently. Chair Villegas highlighted the importance of using the Planning Tool to understand the broader context and asked how it could help target high-need areas or complement

# Upper Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



other agency studies, referencing the County Parks Needs Assessment. The Watershed Planning team responded that municipalities would be invited to an information session before the public review period begins. Chair Villegas commented that the Tool could be used as a prompt for developing multi-benefit projects that optimize community benefits.

Member de Guzman confirmed with Public Works staff that the Opportunities mentioned were not specific projects. Rebecca Kaliff (Ulteig, Watershed Planning) explained that pollutants like zinc, phosphorus, and bacteria were prioritized based on Watershed Management Plan analysis. Chair Villegas asked how to address pollutants beyond the three indicators, and Kaliff clarified that this was a separate discussion related to SCW Program progress towards Goal A (Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements) in the SCW Program Ordinance. Member Petschauer added that addressing one pollutant, like zinc, often helps reduce others due to the interrelated nature of pollutants. Member Petschauer also asked whether the focus was on volume captured or zinc concentration. Kaliff responded that while metrics like zinc reduction (e.g., 4,000 lbs/year) are tracked, storage capacity is a more universally accepted metric.

Chair Villegas confirmed with Public Works staff that the Planning Tool would be available with the release of the Initial Watershed Plans. When asked how the Plans and Tools would benefit the WASC, Member de Guzman commented that the Tools shared could help visualize how investments align with geospatial and temporal goals in the WASC and across the County. Vice-Chair Torossian added that the Tools could help support strategic funding decisions to meet SCW Program goals.

Member Petschauer suggested adding a layer to show construction progress and compare projected versus actual outcomes, noting that some areas, like unincorporated County, are not ready for construction due to underinvestment. Member Petschauer commented that while larger municipalities, such as the City of Los Angeles, can have a more streamlined construction project timeline, political support can still cause delays. Member Conor Mossavi emphasized the importance of timelines and understanding how needs evolve, especially as projects move into construction.

Member Mossavi clarified with Public Works staff that the data sources for targets are based on the first three years of SCW Program funded projects. Member Mossavi also confirmed with Public Works staff that the data is reflected in the Metrics tile of the Projects Module. Public Works staff noted the Projects Portal preliminary scores projects and all new project applications must still go through Scoring Committee for final score. Member Mossavi also emphasized that future changes made to scoring through Adaptive Management efforts also be reflected in project data.

Chair Villegas confirmed with Watershed Planning staff that the Planning Tool would be embedded in the SCW Program website. Chair Villegas expressed appreciation for the Tools and suggested that WASC meetings allocate time for thorough project review using the tools in future Agenda Items.

Watershed Coordinator Alonso Garcia confirmed with the Watershed Planning team that youth may also participate in the CSNA Survey. The CSNA Survey and Dashboard were introduced, and a Committee Member demonstrated taking the CSNA Survey.

Public Works staff 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.

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

There were no public comments.

# Upper Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



#### **8) Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday July 2, 2025 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Public Works Headquarters. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Watershed Coordinator Proposer Presentations
- b) LRS Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR WMG SS Presentation

Public Works staff noted that a survey will be disseminated to the WASC to discuss future meeting lengths and frequency.

#### **9) Adjournment**

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

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



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Adi Liberman	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		<i>Adi Liberman</i>
Alonso Garcia	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		<i>Alonso Garcia</i>
Anteneh Tesfaye	City of South Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	
Arlene Guzman	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Art Castro	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Primary	
Blayne Sutton-Wills	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Alternate	
Brent Maue	City of Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	
Cara Campbell	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Alternate	<i>Cara Campbell</i>
Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Agency	Primary	
Conor Mossavi	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Alternate	<i>Conor Mossavi</i>
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	<i>Dawn Petschauer</i>
Edith de Guzman	University of California, Los Angeles	Community Stakeholder	Primary	<i>Edith de Guzman</i>



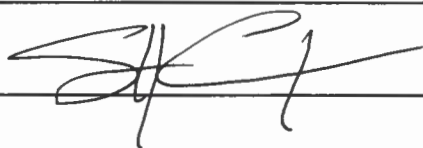

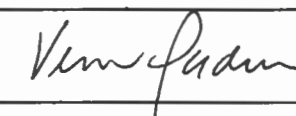
Upper Los Angeles River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Ernesto Pantoja	Laborers Local 300	Community Stakeholder	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Ernesto Rivera	LA County Flood Control District	Agency	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Gary Lam	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Agency	Alternate	<i>[Signature]</i>
Gregory Pierce	University of California, Los Angeles	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Ida Meisami-Fard	LA Sanitation and Environment	Agency	Primary	
Jason Casanova	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Jill Sohm	University of Southern California	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
John Huynh	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Primary	
Kara Plourde	Los Angeles County	Municipal	Alternate	<i>[Signature]</i>
Karo Torossian	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kevin Ho	LA Sanitation and Environment	Agency	Alternate	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kristina Kreter	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		

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



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Miguel Luna	Urban Semillas	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Rafael Prieto	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	
Roxy Rivas	Pacoima Beautiful	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Satenig Marjanian	LA County Flood Control District	Agency	Alternate	
Scott Applebaum	University of Southern California	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Sergio Rascon	Laborers Local 300	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Michael Vartanians	City of South Pasadena	Municipal	Primary	
Teresa Villegas	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	
Thuan Nguyen	Los Angeles County	Municipal	Primary	
Veronica Padilla-Campos	Pacoima Beautiful	Community Stakeholder	Primary	



Upper Los Angeles River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
HAYAT	RASH	STANTEC	-

## WebEx Webinar Attendees

### Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - June 18, 2025

Alonso	Kristina Kreter	SCWP Staff - Larry Tran	Spanish Interpreter- Alejandra
Anthony Barreras - SCW Staff	Larry Tran	Shaun	Theodore Von Bitner
Brenda Ponton	Larry Tran - SCW Staff	Shaun Stringer	William OBraitis
Bryan Igboke - LACPW	Linnet Khechatoorian	Nayda	christopher vong
Carl L Blum	Michelle Struthers Stantec she/her	Nayda	johanna chang
Chris Lee	Mike Antos Stantec	Ng, Emily	valeria
Christopher Vong	Nayda	Norma Camacho	
De Vera, Alex	Nayda	Pearl Azizian	
Eileen Alduenda	Ng, Emily	Rebecca Kaliff	
Giselle Ramirez	Norma Camacho	SCW ULAR WASC	
Jaime Godinez	Pearl Azizian	SCWP Staff - Larry Tran	
Jason Casanova, CWH	Rebecca Kaliff	Shaun	
Jose Castro - SCW Staff	SCW ULAR WASC	Shaun Stringer	