

# Rio Hondo – DRAFT for Approval

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, July 15, 2025  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
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)  
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)  
\*Alysha Chan, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)  
Jeff Khun, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)  
Brian Tabatabai, Resident (Community)  
\*Jade Nguyen, Nature for All (Community)  
Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair  
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)  
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Not Present:

Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)  
Marisol Cortez (Community)

\*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 May 20, 2025**

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Briget Arndell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Brian Tabatabai. The WASC voted to approve the May 20, 2025 meeting minutes with 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 4 in abstention, and 1 absent at time of vote (see vote tracking sheet).

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

Chair Petschauer shared about presenting at the recent Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting, where the ROC recommended for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve the RH Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). Chair Petschauer also highlighted the importance of funding Scientific Studies and raised concerns about the funding frequency for Infrastructure Program (IP) projects.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

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- The Call for Projects deadline for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) is July 31.
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024 to June 2025) is due on August 15. All Project and Study Developers approved in Board-approved SIPs are to submit reports regardless of receiving funds, having expenditures or activities, or having executed the Funds Transfer Agreement.
- The term for WASC Municipal Members is ending. Municipalities within the RH Watershed Area were invited to participate in the Municipal Self-Selection of Non-Designated Seats meeting. Municipal representatives interested in serving for the next three-year term should respond to the surveys sent by Public Works staff no later than July 21. The meeting is anticipated to be scheduled between the end of July to early August.
- The ROC recommended Board approval for all nine SIPs. The SIPs are expected to go to the Board in Fall 2025.
- The upcoming ROC meeting is scheduled for August 13 at 1:00 p.m. where the ROC will receive an overview of Initial Watershed Plans and discuss SCW Program Education Programs. To view meeting details, visit the [ROC events website](#).

Public Works' Watershed Planning staff shared an update on Watershed Planning, noting:

- Drafts of the Initial Watershed Plans and the partially functioning Planning Tool will be available for a public review period between August 12 and September 30. After the comment period, Watershed Planning staff will present the Initial Watershed Plans to each WASC and the ROC between October and November. The technical information session will be held on August 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, see the SCWP: Draft Initial Watershed Plans Technical Info Session event's page.
- A new standalone Watershed Planning webpage on the SCW Program website is now live. It will house all prior and any upcoming resources related to the Watershed Planning effort.
- The Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey has been steadily gaining momentum in the last several months, due largely to engagement efforts led by the Watershed Coordinators. Since the CSNA's launch, 488 new survey responses have been collected, with 29 collected for the RH Watershed Area. A promotional toolkit has been developed and is available to anyone interested in utilizing and promoting the CSNA.
- As part of Adaptive Management, the Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Task Force and Blue Ribbon Panel are currently developing a standard NBS definition and criteria to fill current definitional gaps. Once available, these updates will be incorporated in future Watershed Planning efforts.
- Watershed Planning staff can be reached for questions at [watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov).

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator updates were deferred to the next meeting.

#### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications.

#### 6) Public Comment

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

#### 7) Presentations and Discussion Items

##### a) Watershed Coordinator Selection

##### i. Process Overview

Public Works staff provided an overview of the Watershed Coordinator Interview and Selection process. Presentation slides can be found on the SCW Program website. There is one Watershed Coordinator

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position available for the RH WASC. Two qualified proposers, Advanced Media Works, Inc. (Advanced Media Works) and Active San Gabriel Valley (ActiveSGV), applied for the position. The RH WASC are to select a primary and alternate Watershed Coordinator.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that the Watershed Coordinator Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) selection process occurs every five years.

#### ii. Interviews

Public Works staff and WASC Members conducted interviews with the two proposers, who received the interview questions in advance. Vice-Chair, Tom Love, shared observations from previous Watershed Coordinator selection discussions with other WASCs, noting that representatives from the proposers' organizations are attending the meeting online and can hear the conversation. Vice-Chair Love also expressed concern about a proposer's organization providing a public comment during the public comment period after the interview. Public Works staff explained that public comment periods are open to all members of the public, including proposers' organizations and WASC Members can discuss how to weigh those comments.

##### (1) Advanced Media Works, Inc.

Upon inquiry, Richard Watson (Advanced Media Works) clarified the decision to be affiliated with Advanced Media Works instead of Richard Watson and Associates Planning, citing a strong working relationship and ability to leverage the team's expertise. Upon inquiry, Watson explained that the integration with Advanced Media Works offers an opportunity to enhance engagement by providing various outreach materials, such as short and long-form videos, to visually highlight SCW Program goals and projects. Committee Members discussed with the proposer about how the Watershed Coordinator would tackle limited funding available for the RH WASC, how projects are shifting from planning to construction and implementation, and how the WASC could best support Watershed Coordinators.

##### (2) Active San Gabriel Valley

Chair Petschauer emphasized the importance of community outreach, noting that while engagement is a priority, understanding the Municipal process is crucial. Upon inquiry, David Diaz (ActiveSGV) noted that ActiveSGV can leverage existing partnerships and access technical expertise, including Council for Watershed Health and Redesign LA. Member Tachiki discussed with Diaz regarding larger upcoming projects and the need to balance the diverse needs of Municipalities and ensuring multi-benefit projects.

Following the interviews, WASC Members discussed the strengths of both proposers. WASC Members voiced appreciation for Advanced Media Works' technical expertise and the team's ability to navigate regulatory challenges. They also commended ActiveSGV's deep community roots, creative engagement strategies, and place-based experience. Several WASC Members commented that the SCW Program is a stormwater measure with strong ties to compliance, and technical expertise would be favorable. However, other Committee Members commented that community engagement within the SCW Program could be improved, stressing the value of accessibility and community trust that ActiveSGV already fosters.

The discussion also included potential conflicts of interest, specifically related to Diaz's current seat on the Scoring Committee and ActiveSGV's current involvement in SCW Program projects within the RH Watershed Area. In response to concerns about his seat, Diaz stated that he would be willing to step down from the Scoring Committee, if necessary to be selected as the Watershed Coordinator. However, ActiveSGV is also a subconsultant on six projects in the RH Watershed Area supporting outreach efforts. WASC Members noted that their respective Municipalities have hired ActiveSGV for outreach tasks which are currently being funded through the SCW Program. WASC Members noted that ActiveSGV was involved in the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration, El Monte Norwood Elementary School Stormwater Capture, Merced Avenue Stormwater Capture, and the Burke Heritage & Marengo Yard Stormwater Capture Projects. WASC Members expressed concern regarding whether prime consultants would be able to hire ActiveSGV as a subconsultant, if ActiveSGV is selected as the RH Watershed Coordinator. Public Works

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will assess the potential implications of ActiveSGV serving as the RH Watershed Coordinator on both existing and future projects within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area. Public Works is also reviewing the issue of Diaz serving on the Scoring Committee and will consult with County Counsel regarding this and other potential and related conflict of interest issues.

Vice-Chair Love encouraged the WASC Members to review the Watershed Coordinator role description, which was sent via email, to help determine who may be a better fit for the role.

The WASC decided to defer the vote for the Watershed Coordinator until the next meeting, citing the need for clarification from Public Works and County Counsel. Public Works will provide an update and advise the WASC accordingly.

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

Jean Park (API Forward Movement) expressed support for Advanced Media Works, highlighting Julie Millett's (Advanced Media Works) guidance and technical expertise in facilitating engagement around school greening projects at the Alhambra Unified School District.

Debbie Enos (Council for Watershed Health) expressed support for ActiveSGV, highlighting the organization's community engagement expertise and ongoing stewardship of projects. Enos emphasized the importance of ActiveSGV's role in promoting community interest and understanding of water projects. Enos also highlighted the organization's ability to make technical aspects more accessible. Enos further noted that ActiveSGV's work aligns with the Board's interest in nature-based solutions.

Oliver Galang (Craftwater Engineering) expressed support for Advanced Media Works, Richard Watson's (Advanced Media Works) unique understanding of the RH Watershed Area and the SCW Regional Program, and success in obtaining funding for stormwater projects. Galang emphasized Watson's strong technical background.

Christy Zamani (Day One) expressed support for ActiveSGV, highlighting the organization's role in educating, building capacity, and facilitating meaningful community engagement. Zamani emphasized ActiveSGV's deep connection to the community, partnerships with public agencies, and creativity in outreach efforts.

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

##### **a) Selection of Watershed Coordinator for the RH Watershed Area**

Selection of the Watershed Coordinator for the RH Watershed Area was deferred to the August meeting.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Items to be discussed at the next meeting include:

- a) Selection of Watershed Coordinator for the RH Watershed Area
- b) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs
- c) FY24-25 Regional Program Mid-Year Report Summary
- d) Summary of Submitted Projects, Project Concepts, and Scientific Studies for FY26-27

Public Works staff indicated that the next meeting will be extended to accommodate agenda items. Public Works staff also encouraged Primary Members to brief their Alternate Members ahead of the next meeting to make sure Alternates are well-informed and prepared to select the Watershed Coordinator.

#### **11) Adjournment**

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

## RH WASC - July 15, 2025

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 5/20/2025 Meeting Minutes	Appoint ___ as the Primary Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator and ___ as the Alternate Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y	
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	x	Patty Cortez			
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	x	Lauren Augino		y	
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	x	a	
Agency	Pasadena Public Works	Jeff Khun	x	Brent Maue		y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Brian C. Tabatabai	x			y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jill Fosselman					
Community Stakeholder		Marisol Cortez					
Community Stakeholder							
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto		Jade Nguyen	x	a	
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	x	Sophia Sousa		a	
Municipal Members	City of Pasadena	Dawn Petschauer*	x	James Tong		y	
Municipal Members	City of Irwindale	Eddie Chan	x			a	
Municipal Members							
Watershed Coordinator							
Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	RWA Planning	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett	x		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		15			Yay (Y)	8	
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0	
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	12	
Municipal Members		6				Approved	

## Attendees

### Rio Hondo WASC Meeting July 15, 2025

Alexander Iglesias	Dusadee Corhiran - LACPW	Oliver Galang Craftwater
Alonso	Emily Huang Stantec	Pablo Forni
Amanda	Isabelle Russell	Safe Clean Water LA
Aric M	James	Theodore Von Bitner
Bryan Igboke - LACPW	Jean Park	Uriel Cobian
Call-in User_2	Linet Khechatoorian	Valeria
Chris	MB	Wayne Lee
David Pang	Marisela Velasquez - LACPW	CC
Debbie Enos	Mayra Cabrera - LACPW	Christy Zamani
Drew Ready CWH	Ng, Emily	WMR

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	
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	
Dave Pierce	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	
Jeff Khun	Pasadena		
Brent Maue	Pasadena	A	
Brian C. Tabatabai	Resident - City of West Covina	P	
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	
Marisol Cortez	Mayor Pro Tem - City of El Monte	P	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	
Jade Nguyen	Nature For All	A	
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	

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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	<i>Briget Arndell</i>
Paul Cranmer	Arcadia	A	
Fernando Villaluna	LA County Public Works	P	<i>Fernando Villaluna</i>
Paul Choy	LA County Public Works	A	
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	P	
Sophia Sousa	Monrovia	A	
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	P	
James Tong	Pasadena	A	
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	P	
Richard Watson	RWA	WC	<i>RW</i>
Julie Millett	RWA	WC	<i>Julie Millett</i>

