

Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, August 26, 2025
1:00pm – 3:30pm
East Rancho Dominguez Library
4420 E Rose Street, East Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Ernesto Rivera, Flood Control District (Agency)
Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency), Co-Chair
Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency), Co-Chair
Shannon Bishop, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Danielle Lewis, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Arturo Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
*Mary Hillemeier, TreePeople (Community)
*Ryan Mayeda, Friends of the Los Angeles River (Community)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Alexa Reasoner, Long Beach (Municipal)
Freddie Agyin, Vernon (Municipal)
*Michelle Tse, Paramount (Municipal)
Joseph Venzon, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

James Vernon, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Madeline Chen, Co-Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed all Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated a roll call, conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, and provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions for any participants joining online. A quorum was established.

Co-Chair Chen noted that Agenda Items 5d and 7a were removed due to a lack of Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Applications to the LLAR WASC.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Arturo Gonzalez motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Freddie Agyin. The Committee voted to approve the June 24, 2025 LLAR WASC meeting minutes with 6 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 9 in abstention, and 0 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Co-Chair Asha Kreiling announced the release of a Technical Bulletin (TB) from the Water Replenishment District (WRD) entitled "Increasing Water Supply by Capturing Stormwater in Southern Los Angeles County." The TB focuses on aquifer geology within WRD's service area, and the difficulty associated with infiltrating into usable aquifers. Information on requesting concurrence from WRD on Water Supply Benefits for projects in their service area is also provided. See the [WRD website](#) for the full TB.

Public Works staff provided an update on various SCW Program activities:

- Applications for the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 (FY25-26) Low Income Senior Owned Exemptions and General Income Based Tax Reduction were due on May 1, 2025. The form can be found on the Exemptions and Reductions section of the [SCW Program website](#).
- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the FY2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) was July 31, 2025. The [Call for Projects webpage](#), located in the top banner of the SCW Program website, contains all the information related to the application.
- The Regional Program Annual Report (covering July 2024 - June 2025) was due on August 15, 2025, for Project Developers and Scientific Studies approved in FY2020 through FY2025 SIPs. Reports must be submitted regardless of whether funding was received, expenditures or activities occurred, or a Funds Transfer Agreement was executed.
- The upcoming Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for September 10 at 1:00pm.
- Municipalities were asked to input Metrics & Measures in the Reporting Module by June 16. This will collect data for performance metrics specific to Municipal Program Project activities to align with and inform Watershed Planning efforts and SCW Program-wide progress assessments. The SCW Program hosted a virtual workshop on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 10:00am to 11:00am that provided an overview of the Reporting Module and the Metrics and Measures tile functionality. To access the workshop's presentation slides, recording, and Q&A document, please visit the [SCW Program website](#).
- Applications are no longer being accepted for the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program. To see a list of approved proposals for Rounds 1, 2 and 3 of the Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, please visit the [Water Foundation Website](#).
- The Quarter 1 2026 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.
- Implementation Updates are available on the [News and Updates webpage](#) on the SCW Website.

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

- The SCW Watershed Planning Team hosted a virtual Technical Info Session on August 12, 2025 that was open to WASC Members and the public. During the Session, Watershed Planning staff shared the analytical processes used to produce the Watershed Area Baselines and Targets in the Draft Initial Watershed Plans and how they contribute to their respective Countywide Goals. A meeting recording and material has been posted to the [Watershed Planning page](#) on the SCW Program website.
- Drafts of the Initial Watershed Plans are now posted on the [SCW Program website](#) for review and public comment. Comments may be submitted, using an online form, from now until September 28, 2025. Workshop #4 will be held for each WASC during their October or November meetings to present on the Draft Initial Watershed Plans. In early 2026, the Initial Watershed Plans will be published.

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- The Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey has been gaining momentum in the last several months from engagement efforts led by the Watershed Coordinators. Since the CSNA's launch, 590 new survey responses have been collected. 64 responses have been collected in the LLAR watershed area. To aid in spreading awareness of the survey, a promotional toolkit has been developed and is available on the new [Watershed Planning webpage](#), alongside the CSNA Survey and Dashboard. The toolkit is available to anyone, such as municipalities, non-governmental organizations/community-based organizations, and others interested in utilizing and promoting the CSNA.
- Watershed Planning staff can be reached for questions at watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

5) Presentation and Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

b) Regional Program FY24-25 Mid-Year Report Summary

Elyssa Lawrence (HDR) presented on the Regional Program Mid-Year Report for FY24-25. The reporting period spanned July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

c) Summary of Submitted Infrastructure Program Projects, Scientific Studies and Technical Resources Program Project Concepts

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales provided an overview of submitted IP, Scientific Study (SS), and Technical Resources Program (TRP) projects for FY26-27. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Dales noted that the LLAR WASC received four SS applications, which will be reviewed by a third-party after the WASC's initial review.

d) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration

No feasibility studies were submitted to this WASC.

e) Review of Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an overview of WASC roles and responsibilities. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Dales offered to present a summary of all past applications to new Committee Members at a future meeting.

Co-Chair Kreiling inquired whether Public Works or Regional Coordination staff have noticed any decrease in tax revenue from those requesting exemptions for their properties. Public Works staff shared that annual tax collection has been consistent over the past five years. Fossum noted that the SCW Program's Landcover Survey, which is used to calculate parcels' Safe Clean Water Tax, is being updated for FY25-26 and may result in a change of revenue collected.

f) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair or Co-chairs

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Public Works staff provided an overview of the selection of Chair and Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs for the upcoming term.

Co-Chair Chen indicated a desire to vacate the position after this term. Co-Chair Kreiling expressed willingness to continue serving as Co-Chair if no one else was interested in filling the role.

Member Mary Hillemeier confirmed that Member Manny Gonez, who Member Hillemeier acts as an alternate for, is interested in serving as Co-Chair.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that a Chair or Co-Chair cannot have an alternate. The Vice-Chair or Co-Chair would fulfill these duties, respectively, if there is an absence. In the event that both Co-Chairs or the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, Public Works staff would lead the WASC Meeting.

Member Joseph Vernon expressed interest in serving as Co-Chair. Co-Chair Kreiling supported a nomination for Member Vernon and commented that Member Vernon's participation has been valuable at multiple WASC meetings.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Voting Items

- a) **Vote to send none, some or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

No feasibility studies were submitted to this WASC.

b) Selection of Chair, Vice-chair or Co-Chairs for the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area

Member Gonzalez motioned to select Joseph Venzon and Manny Gonez as Co-Chairs for the LLAR WASC, seconded by Member Agyin. The WASC voted to approve the motion with 13 votes in favor, 2 in abstention, 0 opposed and 0 absent during the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

8) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details. There are currently no agenda items for the upcoming meeting.

9) Adjournment

Co-Chair Chen thanked WASC Members, Public Works staff, and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

LLAR WASC - August 26, 2025

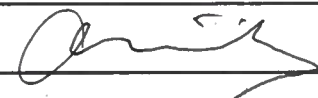
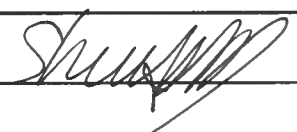
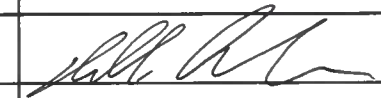
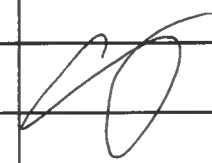
LLAR WASC - August 26, 2025							
		Quorum Present					
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve June 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes	Select Joseph Venzon and Manny Gonez as Co-Chair for the LLAR WASC
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Enrique Baul		a	y
Agency	Central Basin	Madeline Chen*	x	Braden Yu		y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Asha Kreiling*	x	Jenn Swart		y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Shannon Bishop	x	Alysha Chan		a	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Danielle Lewis	x	Todd Leland		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Isabelle Campiformio	x	Maria Madrigal		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Arturo Gonzalez	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez		Mary Hillemeier	x	y	a
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter			
Community Stakeholder	Friends of the Los Angeles River	Candice Dickens-Russell		Ryan Mayeda	x	a	y
Municipal Members	City of Lakewood	Konya Vivanti					
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Matt Robertson		a	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Alexa Reasoner	x	Wataru Kumagai		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Vernon	Freddie Agyin	x			a	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa		Michelle Tse	x	a	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y	a
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			a	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	6	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	9	2
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	15
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved

Attendees
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Adriana Morales	Bryan Igboke	Emily
Alexander Escobedo	Carlos Rodriguez - SCWP	Fred Gonzalez - LA County
Alysha Chan	David	G Kast
Andrew Kim	David Coghiel	Kayla Urbina
Anthony Barreras - SCWP	Dr. Mehrad Kamalzare - CPP	LLAR WASC
Aric M	Elyssa Lawrence - HDR	Larry Tran - SCWP
Ryanna Fossum	Wayne Lee - SCWP	Lauren Anderson
Thom Epps Craftwater	Michelle Kim JLHA	Linet Khechatoorian

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

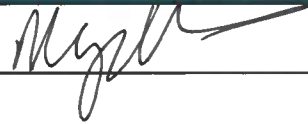
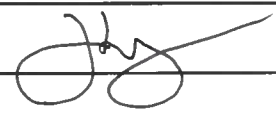


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ernesto Rivera	FCD		P	
Enrique Baul	FCD		A	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin		P	
Braden Yu	Central Basin		A	
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District		P	
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District		A	
Shannon Bishop	LA County Sanitation Districts		P	
Alysha Chan	LA County Sanitation Districts		A	
Danielle Lewis	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation		P	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation		A	
Isabelle Campiformio	Conservation Corps of Long Beach		P	
Maria Madrigal	Conservation Corps of Long Beach		A	
Mark Stanley	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy		P	
Arturo Gonzalez	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy		A	
Manny Gonez	TreePeople		P	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Mary Hillemeier	TreePeople		A	
James Vernon	Port of Long Beach		P	
Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach		A	
Candice Dickens-Russell	Friends of the Los Angeles River		P	
Ryan Mayeda	Friends of the Los Angeles River		A	
Konya Vivanti	Lakewood		P	
Dan Mueller	Downey		P	
Matt Robertson	Downey		A	
Alexa Reasoner	Long Beach		P	
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach		A	
Freddie Agyin	Vernon		P	
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount		A	
Michelle Tse	Paramount		P	
Joseph Venzon	County of Los Angeles		A	
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles		P	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Gladis Deras	South Gate		P	
Tara Dales	SGA Marketing		P	