

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, February 17, 2026
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Library Community Room
321 S Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Lauren Augino, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
*Alysha Chan, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Jeff Khun, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All (Community)
Allen Ma, Resident (Community)
Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)
Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
Kara Plourde, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Julie Millett, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Patty Cortez, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Marisol Cortez, Resident (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

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 introduced themselves and established quorum.

Chair Petschauer noted that Marisol Cortez, a community stakeholder member, has not attended a meeting and is subject for removal. Chair Petschauer suggested including a link to the interest form on the next meeting agenda. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) added that the interest form to join the WASC is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026

Public Works staff presented the minutes from January 20, 2026. Member Briget Arndell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Alex Tachiki. The WASC voted to approve the January 20, 2026 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

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Member Bryan Matsumoto shared that there will be a Depave LA online seminar tomorrow, hosted by Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA), from 9:00am-10:30am that could be helpful information for the WASC.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- Two Project Modification Requests (PMRs) were submitted within the RH Watershed Area. One was deemed consistent with the previously approved Stormwater Improvement Plan; the City of Alhambra Burke Heritage Park and Marengo Stormwater Capture Project included a schedule change that had no impact on future funding. The second PMR, the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project, was deemed inconsistent and will be discussed later in the agenda.
- Watershed Coordinator contracts are currently underway. The current Rio Hondo Watershed Area contract will expire on February 18, after which Active San Gabriel Valley (ActiveSGV) will begin as the new Watershed Coordinator.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that County Counsel's review of ActiveSGV serving as the Watershed Coordinator for the Rio Hondo Watershed Area has been complete.

Antos reminded the WASC that the SIP Deliberation Workbooks provided for the Committee Members contain useful information to reference during the meeting.

Public Works' Strategic Advancement Team, formally known as the Watershed Planning staff, provided updates, noting that the final release of the Initial Watershed Plans and the companion online Planning Tool is expected at the end of February. Since the launch, the Community Service Needs Assessment (CSNA) received 1,300 new survey responses, including 126 responses in the RH WASC. The CSNA StoryMap was also prepared to serve as a tutorial on how to navigate the CSNA Dashboard. To contact the Public Works' Strategic Advancement Team, please reach out to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Millett shared that activities since January 27 involved transitioning out of the current Watershed Coordinator role. Watershed Coordinator Millett noted that Watershed Coordinator Watson has also been involved in conversations with two workforce development proposals that were deemed illegible for funding through the Scientific Studies Program, which could potentially be funded through SCW District Program Stormwater Education Programs. Watershed Coordinator Millett concluded by expressing appreciation for the Committee Members and the opportunity to support the WASC's work.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Public Works staff reminded the Committee that the WASC and the work of the SCW Regional Program remain transparent and fair and emphasized the inclusion of *ex parte* disclosures on each agenda. Public Works staff added that Committee Members should avoid using their position as Committee members to advocate for applications from their home organizations.

Member Arndell, member Tachiki, and member Stephanie Sandoval disclosed having involvement in two Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects, the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project and the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project.

Member Latoya Waters disclosed having involvement in the Story Park Stormwater Capture Project and the PMR for the Burke Heritage Park and Marengo Yard Stormwater Capture Project.

6) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Workforce Development

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Jolene Guerrero (Public Works, Deputy Director of Water Resources) presented an update on Public Works' Workforce Development Program, which involves collaboration with and funding from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to support SCW Program Goals. The Workforce Development Program intends to grow the construction workforce and operations and maintenance (O&M) workforce for green infrastructure and water quality projects in Los Angeles County. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Committee Members discussed coordination with Job Centers of America, the County's targeting strategy, and how future project needs would be integrated into planning. Guerrero explained that the current focus is on identifying and filling immediate vacancies within the cities and contractors working on active projects, with longer-term workforce planning to follow. Upon inquiry, Guerrero explained that curriculum development will be dependent on the skills required for these vacancies, and no specific training program has been finalized.

The WASC also raised questions around the Workforce Development Program's broader vision, including its relationship to SCW Programs, best management practices (BMPs), and potential collaboration with the Conservation Corps. Guerrero clarified that while BMPs and lessons learned from Project's O&M will be useful inform for training, they are part of separate County efforts. Guerrero shared that the Conversation Corps will be part of the discussion, and the Workforce Development Program aims to work with the DEO in developing tailored training programs, entry level programs, and career placement pipeline opportunities. These pathways aim to target hard-to-reach populations with the goal to expand to existing municipalities that are seeking support in workforce advancement. Committee Members also asked about metrics for evaluating success, which will be included in the Biennial Reports. Guerrero noted that funding for the Workforce Development Program comes from the SCW District Program, which also supports outreach and public education activities.

Upon inquiry, Guerrero clarified that the County is paying for the training through DEO and available grants, including a portion of the SCW District Program funds.

b) Infrastructure Program Presentations

i. Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project (Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Authority)

Tracy Gleason (Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Authority) and Courtney Semlow (Craftwater Engineering) presented on the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project is a regional capture and treatment facility proposed within the 180-acre Peck Road Water Conservation Park. The purpose of the Project is to improve water quality, recharge the local groundwater basin, create new park facilities, and add habitat and diversify vegetation. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Tachiki shared that the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA) received a \$1 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant, which increases the Project's leveraged funding. Member Tachiki also added that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance is underway, and the bike network component aligns with the County's Greenway Network Plan and involves substantial coordination with County departments. The team is currently working to finalize design documents before pursuing additional grant opportunities, such as Measure A.

Semlow clarified that the Project will conduct two diversion components. One will be a treatment and release component for inlets entering the Peck Road Spreading Basin via the Sawpit Wash and Santa Anita Channel. The second component will be an infiltration, where approximately 183 acre-ft will be infiltrated, prior to the remaining outflow discharging into the Rio Hondo River Channel. Semlow also confirmed that this is a dry-weather Project and not sized for an 85th percentile storm.

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Upon inquiry, Semlow clarified long-term management, noting, the JPA is expected to manage below-ground infrastructure while responsibility for above ground elements is still under consideration. Member Tachiki added that once plans reach 100% design, all departments will have clarity regarding above-and below-ground features and associated maintenance responsibilities.

ii. Story Park Stormwater Capture Project (City of Alhambra)

Merrill Taylor (Craftwater) presented on the Story Park Stormwater Capture Project, a design-only application requesting \$1.65 million. The Story Park Stormwater Capture Project aims to capture and store stormwater from two separate diversions, one being a local storm drain owned and operated by the City of Alhambra, and the second by the San Pascual Wash, which provide broader regional benefits. The Story Park Stormwater Capture Project also includes community park enhancements and water-quality improvements. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry Taylor further explained the mentioned of larger amounts of water going through the site since the Project is considered small. Taylor explained that the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group (ULAR WMG) has identified a list of Projects that will meet the Rio Hondo Watershed compliance targets, and the Story Park Stormwater Capture Project is one of these Projects. This Project, in conjunction with the others, will meet a large set of metrics and targets when summed together. Chair Petschauer commented on the complex conditions of the wash and added that since the City of Pasadena is upstream of the City of Alhambra, the City of Pasadena also receives benefit.

iii. Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project (Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Authority)

Gleason and Taylor presented on the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project. The Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project is intended to improve water quality within the Rio Hondo Watershed and improve Arcadia City Hall's community amenities and benefits. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Taylor explained that although the Project site receives a large volume of flow, its treatment system is intentionally sized smaller because the watershed management approach relies on multiple coordinated Projects. The Regional Watershed Management Program has identified five to six Projects designed to collectively meet compliance targets, with each Project contributing a portion of that required treatment. Watershed Coordinator Watson added that the RH Watershed Area includes multiple washes, and the planning effort considers how all Projects function together, including downstream impacts.

Member Tachiki confirmed that the JPA and the five cities involved would all contribute local return towards the cost share for both the design and construction. Member Tachiki added that the Project is also seeking federal funding.

Upon inquiry, Taylor shared that early design concepts had considered Arcadia Community Regional Park, but due to potential delay obtaining County buy-in, the Project prioritized city-owned parcels.

Chair Petschauer requested that Public Works staff directly email Project Developers about releasing unused funds and added that, for example, funding for the Washington Park Project may be reallocated. Public Works staff stated that the PMR process and online SIP Tool are being used to identify Projects that may be candidates for reallocation.

c) Scientific Studies Peer Review Summaries

Scientific Studies Program Project Applicants were invited to answer questions from the RH WASC on the Scientific Studies Peer Review Summaries.

i. A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds

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The Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary of the Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) provided an overview of the Scientific Study. Cowger noted that despite many existing BMPs, significant roadside trash still enters stormwater systems and accumulates downstream. Cowger emphasized the need for improved BMPs and more advanced modeling as current systems may not be able to keep pace with storm flows.

Upon inquiry, Cowger added that the Scientific Study model would allow cross-city comparison while remaining flexible for watershed-specific conditions, with each WASC receiving a tailored technical report.

ii. Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management

The SS Peer Review Summary of the Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management SS is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Brianna Datti (Craftwater) provided an overview of the SS. Datti clarified that the SS would leverage existing tools to evaluate the impact of disasters on stormwater quality and volume on green infrastructure. Datti shared that the SS would involve forming a technical stakeholder group to work with cities in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to help focus on city-specific vulnerabilities. Datti added that the Peer Review Summary acknowledged that the work would provide valuable tools for decision-making and project prioritization, and that the findings may help the WASC identify vulnerable areas and inform project design elements that may mitigate disaster impacts.

iii. Depave Rio Hondo: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting and Exploring Broader Hardscape Transformation Considerations

The Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary of the Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting and Exploring Broader Hardscape Transformation Considerations SS is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Brad Wardynski (Craftwater), Craig Doberstein (Herrera), and Jason Casanova (Council for Watershed Health) addressed questions about linking basin-wide impervious analysis to more core focus parking lots, noting that the Peer Reviewers may not have been aware of the combined Scientific Studies. Wardynski explained that the analysis would evaluate how removing hardscape could provide quantifiable benefits through the SCW Program and assess potential programmatic pathways, such as the County's tax credit or credit training program, to incentivize this type of work. Doberstein referred to Question 9 of the Peer Review Summary as a good overview that summarizes the value of the Scientific Study benefits and SCW Program. Project Applicants added that the tool leverages ARLA data, and reminded the WASC about the Depave LA seminar hosted by ARLA.

Chair Petschauer noted the importance of staying aligned with Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) Permit requirements for large commercial establishments, as this Scientific Study would help identify opportunities related to those regulatory needs.

iv. Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture

The Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary of the Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture SS is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Mackenzie Bolger (SGVCOG) and Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) provided an overview of the Scientific Study, noting that it builds on the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Area effort to quantify flood-management benefits of SCW Program Projects. Wardynski shared that the Scientific Study would apply calibrated watershed and climate models, with support from the University of California, Los Angeles and

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University of California, Irvine, to assess volume and peak-flow reductions in the RH Watershed and develop tools for SCW Program performance evaluation. Upon inquiry, Wardynski explained that higher cost is due to new monitoring infrastructure needed in the RH Watershed Area, though building on methods developed in the ULAR Watershed Area will increase cost efficiency.

v. Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment

The Scientific Studies Peer Review Summary of the Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment SS is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Sanjay Mohanty (University of California Los Angeles, Project applicant) clarified that the Scientific Study intends to mitigate uncertainty of the monitoring system by collecting composite samples over three years.

Jian Peng (Atkins Realis) noted prior experience managing BMP monitoring programs in Orange County, including conducting power analyses and applying similar technology for this Scientific Study. Peng commented that despite a limited number of sites, the proposed design, which covers multiple land uses and approximately 27 storm samples across three years, would yield reliable data.

d) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Programming Guidance Presentation

Chair Petschauer asked how the new Scientific Studies and associated metrics will be incorporated into the Watershed Plans. Public Works staff explained that the Watershed Plans are designed as adaptive five-year documents that can integrate new information as it becomes available. The five-year planning cycle can be re-evaluated and adjusted as needed based on SCW Program timelines.

Antos presented a summary of the SIP deliberation process, including guidance on reserving funds for future years and integration of the Watershed Planning Tool. Antos noted that the Watershed Planning Tool will be live in a few weeks. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Chair Petschauer whether the District has considered amending the two and a half cents tax to account for escalating costs. Antos responded that any such change would require voter approval.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that Project Mid-Year and Annual Reports explain delays for carryover Projects. Antos added that the SIP Tool allows Committee Members to explore funding projections and adjust scenarios. Chair Petschauer encouraged Committee Members to review the Tool, especially given this year's larger number of applications and limited funding.

Chair Petschauer emphasized the importance of checking in with continuing Project Applicants about whether previously earmarked funds are still needed, as unused funds may be reallocated to support this year's SIP.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that Project Applicants would need to demonstrate alignment with the Watershed Plans through a narrative section in the application starting next Call for Projects. Committee Members were reminded to contact Public Works staff with any SIP Tool questions and to review the upcoming preliminary ranking survey.

e) Project Modification Request (PMR) for WASC Discussion

Antos presented an overview of PMRs, including the procedure for submitting a PMR, types of PMRs, PMR SIP deliberation, and PMRs received by the RH WASC for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the District determines whether a PMR is consistent or inconsistent with the SIP. Projects deemed inconsistent are evaluated by the WASC.

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Claire Robinson (Amigos de los Rios) presented the PMR for the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Demonstration Project, which has been completed. The submitted PMR Form is available on the [SCW Program website](#). The PMR requested one year of additional funding for monitoring because the original grant underestimated these costs. The request includes storm-event monitoring equipment, water-quality testing, and preparation of a formal monitoring plan. Robinson noted that this request represents about four percent of the overall Project cost and is critical for verifying performance and informing future school-based projects. Without funding, Amigos de los Rios could maintain site care, but would be unable to conduct the required technical monitoring. Future O&M funds would be requested through a separate Project application.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, from 1:00pm-3:30pm. More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#). Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- a) Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Report Summary
- b) Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits and Community Support for Project Applications
- c) Rio Hondo Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY26-27 SIP

Public Work staff will distribute the preliminary ranking survey to Committee Members in preparation for the SIP deliberations and noted that next month's meeting may be extended if needed.

10) Adjournment

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

Rio Hondo WASC - February 17, 2026

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 1/20/2026 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Patty Cortez		Katherine Vazquez		
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino	x	a
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Shannon Bishop		Alysha Chan	x	a
Agency	Pasadena Public Works	Jeff Khun	x	Brent Maue		y
Community Stakeholder	Resident					
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jill Fosselman				
Community Stakeholder	Mayor Pro Tem - City of El Monte	Marisol Cortez				
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto	x	Jade Nguyen		y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Allen Ma	x			y
Municipal Members	City of Alhambra	Latoya Waters	x	Eddie Villegas		y
Municipal Members	City of Arcadia	Briget Arndell	x	Carmen Masud		y
Municipal Members	City of Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval	x	Marvin Carpio		y
Municipal Members	City of Irwindale	Eddie Chan	x			y
Municipal Members	City of Monrovia	Alex Tachiki	x	Sophia Sousa		y
Municipal Members	City of Pasadena	Dawn Petschauer*	x	James Tong		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Kara Plourde	x	Donna Tran		y
Watershed Coordinator (RWA Planning)	RWA Planning	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett	x	
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	13
Municipal Members		7				Approved

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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	<i>Julian Juarez</i>
Alynn Sun	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel District	P	
Katherine Vazquez	Upper San Gabriel District	A	
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	P	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	A	<i>Lauren Augino</i>
Shannon Bishop	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	<i>Alysha Chan</i>
Jeff Khun	Pasadena	P	<i>Jeff Khun</i>
Brent Maue	Pasadena	A	
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	
Marisol Cortez		P	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	<i>Bryan Matsumoto</i>
Jade Nguyen	Nature For All	A	
Allen Ma	Resident	P	<i>Allen Ma</i>
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	<i>Latoya Waters</i>

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Eddie Villegas	Alhambra	A	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	P	<i>B Arndell</i>
Carmen Masud	Arcadia	A	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	P	<i>S Sandoval</i>
Marvin Carpio	Duarte	A	
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	P	
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	P	<i>Alex Tachiki</i>
Sophia Sousa	Monrovia	A	
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	P	
James Tong	Pasadena	A	
Kara Plourde	LA County Public Works	P	<i>Kara Plourde</i>
Donna Tran	LA County Public Works	A	
Richard Watson	RWA	WC	<i>Richard A. Watson</i>
Julie Millett	RWA	WC	

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Courtney	Semlow	Craftwater	
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	
Mackenzie	Bolger	SBVLO	
Claire	Robinson	Amigos de los Rios	
Jian	Pong	Atkins Realis	

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public