

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Tuesday, October 14, 2025  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
Lakewood City Hall Executive Board Room  
WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present

CJ Caluag, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Madeline Chen, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
Francisco Guerrero, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)  
\*Todd Leland, Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
\*David Sall, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
Adam Galia, Resident (Community)  
\*Ian Patton, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Ariel Pe, Business (Community)  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal), Co-Chair  
\*Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)  
Wataru Kumagai, Long Beach (Municipal)  
Noe Negrete, Pico Rivera (Municipal), Vice-Chair  
\*Fred Gonzalez, Unincorporated Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
\*Mark Rounds, La Mirada (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

#### Committee Members Not Present

Mark Stanley, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Chris Kuebert, Cerritos (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

---

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

Dan Mueller, Co-Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) 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 August 12, 2025**

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from August 12, 2025. Vice-Chair Noe Negrete motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Konya Vivanti. The Committee voted to approve the August 12, 2025 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 3 in abstention, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

- The Call for Projects deadline for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Call for Projects was July 31, 2025. 29 Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects, 7 Technical Resources Program (TRP) Project Concepts, and 12 unique Scientific Study (SS) applications were submitted Program wide. The LSGR WASC received 3 SS applications for FY26-27.

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



- Public works staff are conducting completeness checks of all Project Applications. Feasibility studies for IP Projects that are deemed complete will be scored by the Scoring Committee.
- The Scoring Committee began scoring projects on September 15, 2025. The Scoring Committee will continue scoring projects at meetings on October 20, October 27, November 10, and December 1, 2025. If projects need to be rescored by the Scoring Committee, they will meet again in December. Projects that score above the threshold score will be sent to the WASC for consideration in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
- The deadline to submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) for consideration in the FY26-27 SIP is October 31, 2025. The SCW Program is transitioning from the current PMR form to an online, direct submittal through the Reporting Module. This change will streamline integration with the SIP Tool and other modules. To access the PMR form for a project, navigate to the Reporting Module, select the appropriate project, and then click on the new tile labeled "Project Modification Request". More information can be found in the Guidelines for Project Modifications section on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- The first Science Symposium is scheduled for November 12, 2025, at 1:00pm. The latest science in stormwater best management practice (BMP) treatment technology will be showcased. The Symposium will also include a panel discussion regarding the future of stormwater sciences within the framework of the SCW Program.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting took place on October 8, 2025, at 1:00pm. During the meeting, the ROC discussed the 2025 Draft SCW Program Biennial Progress Report and reviewed the Initial Watershed Planning public comments. The next ROC meeting is scheduled on December 10.
- The annual disbursements for FY24-25 have been completed for municipalities that met all eligibility requirements. A total of 77 cities received over \$95 million collectively in local return.
- The Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program received an overwhelming response, with a high volume of strong and competitive applications. A total of \$8.5 million of grant funding has been allocated across 52 approved projects, and proposed grant activities have begun. Detailed information about funded projects from all three rounds is available on [The Water Foundation's website](#).
- The SCW Program's Landcover Survey was updated for FY25-26. This Landcover Survey provides the aerial imagery used to calculate parcels' Safe Clean Water Tax. A parcel's impermeable area may have changed although the tax rate of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable area has not. Approximately \$10 million in additional annual revenue is expected as a result of the update. Each parcel's new impermeable area is anticipated to remain in effect until the next update in approximately three years or until revised per appeal.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson presented an overview of current and upcoming activities. The presentation can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Vivanti inquired if public education and outreach activities occurred at schools within cities included in the LSGR Watershed Area, and how many have occurred. Member Vivanti and Co-Chair Mueller both noted that these activities can be included in a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Annual Report. Watershed Coordinator Anderson stated that a list of schools and associated events can be compiled for this purpose.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Anderson confirmed that the Hermosillo Park Stormwater Capture and Park Rehabilitation Project groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for December 6, 2025, with day-of details pending.

#### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Co-Chair Mueller disclosed receiving an email from James Cluxton (OhanaVets) regarding the July 8, 2025 LSGR WASC meeting. Public Works staff noted that Cluxton submitted a public comment regarding the same topic.

#### **6) Discussion Items**

##### **a) Watershed Planning Phase 4 Engagement**

Watershed Planning staff presented the Draft Initial Watershed Plan for the LSGR Watershed Area. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Planning staff explained that the Plans were developed between the County, a consultant team, and a third-party reviewer, and that engagement occurred with residents and community-based organizations (CBOs) during their development. Watershed Planning staff confirmed that SIPs approved since the inception of the SCW Program were included in the assessment of baseline strategies, from which targets and opportunity areas were developed.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff clarified that a new Feasibility Study Guideline Requirement #20 is planned, which will require Project Applicants to show alignment with the Watershed Plan. Member Asha Kreiling inquired if Public Works staff would provide a template for applicants to address this requirement, and Watershed Planning staff stated that coordination on resources for Project Applicants is in progress. Supplemental guidance will also be provided for Feasibility Study Guideline Requirement #20. Upon inquiry, Watershed Planning staff explained that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors motioned to accelerate the SCW Program implementation and develop Watershed Area Plans so WASCs could receive centralized leadership and guidance.

Member Adam Galia requested further information on engagement activities with CBOs. Watershed Planning staff cited Our Water LA as an example and noted that public comments on the initial Plans would be discussed later in the presentation.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Watershed Planning) facilitated a discussion regarding the Initial Watershed Plans and their expected impact on FY27-28 Project Applications. Member Caluag expected project applications to exhibit subtle shifts in alignment with the Plan and hoped for a simplified SIP deliberation process. Member Kreiling echoed this sentiment and noted that the features of the Planning Tool would allow for more data-driven deliberation. Co-Chair Mueller expressed hope that larger IP Projects would secure more matching funds.

The Committee discussed a scenario in which a submitted project is misaligned with the Watershed Plan but financially feasible for the WASC. Member Negrete commented that the WASC should direct such applicants to a better fit for funding. Watershed Coordinator Anderson remarked that WASC Members have expressed concerns about the lack of tangible data from funded SS.

Member Ian Patton asked whether WASCs have approved projects that do not align with SCW Program goals. Antos stated that while all approved projects have been in alignment, the SCW Program has multiple goals that have been pursued unevenly, and the Watershed Plans seek to strengthen WASC's deliberation of priority strategies to fund. Member Vivanti cited compliance as a priority for incoming projects.

Antos reminded the Committee that lack of space was cited a challenge for project build out in this watershed, and Co-Chair Mueller suggested public-private-partnerships and consideration of underground cisterns as potential solutions for Project Applicants.

Member Negrete inquired about the benefits realized for completed projects across the SCW Program. Watershed Planning staff explained that the Planning Map will allow users to view constructed or monitored benefits for individual projects. Watershed Planning staff also noted that guidance related to post-construction reporting and monitoring will be released by summer 2026.

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Antos added that the Watershed Planning tools can be used by municipalities and design consultants to evaluate potential projects.

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

Public Works staff compiled all public comments and uploaded them to the [SCW Program website](https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2025/10/LSGR-WASC-Public-Comment-20251014.pdf). In-person, virtual and call-in users were invited to provide public comment.

<https://safecleanwaterla.org/content/uploads/2025/10/LSGR-WASC-Public-Comment-20251014.pdf>

Jim Cluxton (OhanaVets) submitted a public comment card and summarized the comment in-person. Cluxton expressed concerns about potential Brown Act issues related to the selection of a Watershed Coordinator for the LSGR WASC. Cluxton noted that OhanaVets pursued administrative channels to seek clarification and resolution.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Scientific Studies Program (SS) Presentations

#### **9) Adjournment**

Co-Chair Mueller thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.