

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, November 18, 2025
1:00pm – 3:30pm
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), Vice-Chair
*Lauren Augino, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
Shannon Bishop, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)
Jeff Khun, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All (Community)
Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)
*Sophia Sousa, Monrovia (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
Ryan Butler, 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:

Brian Tabatabai, Resident (Community)
Marisol Cortez, (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 made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Latoya Waters motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Briget Arndell. The WASC voted to approve the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes with 10 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 SCW Program team is conducting completeness checks for all Project Applications submitted under the Call for Projects. The Scoring Committee will continue evaluating submissions on December 1, with an additional meeting in mid-December to rescore projects that were deemed “unable to be

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



scored”, if needed. Projects that meet the scoring threshold will advance to the WASC for Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) consideration. All six RH Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects have met the Threshold Score.

- The deadline for Project Modification Requests (PMRs) for the FY26-27 SIP was October 31; three PMRs were submitted for the RH Watershed Area.
- The Science Symposium was held on November 12 at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters and included presentations on current stormwater science and ongoing research funded by the SCW Program.
- The next Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is scheduled for December 10 at 1:00pm to discuss the Draft Biennial Progress Report, open the 30-day public comment period, and outline next steps for the Initial Watershed Plans.

Upon inquiry, it was specified that the next Science Symposium is planned for April 2027.

Public Works staff also mentioned that the new Watershed Coordinator contracts are still in progress and updates will be provided at future meetings.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett provided an update on recent Watershed Coordinator activities, including outreach and engagement efforts, upcoming project work, and other SCW Program activities. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

The WASC inquired on agendizing a review Watershed Coordinator activities from other WASCs for cross watershed understanding later in 2026 when agendas are lighter.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Chair Petschauer disclosed prior exposure to Scientific Studies presentations while presenting on behalf of the City of Pasadena as their Stormwater Program Administrator.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Scientific Studies Program Presentations

i. A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds

Dr. Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research (MIPPR), presented the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds, which intends to measure roadside trash loading, harmonize public datasets, and develop watershed models to evaluate WASC Best Management Practices (BMPs). The four-year plan is projected to cost \$366k per WASC. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Bryan Matsumoto noted that trash issues are largely driven by human behavior and questioned why the proposed funding prioritizes analysis over public education. Dr. Cowger explained that both are needed, with quantitative data strengthening education efforts and that the proposed Scientific Study includes community outreach with three nonprofit organizations.

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson shared that the California Stormwater Quality Association's (CASQA) True Source Control Subcommittee and Caltrans have already developed substantial information

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



on source control and recommended coordination with CASQA to explore opportunities for upstream prevention and alignment with existing source-control efforts. Dr. Cowger confirmed that source control is a primary focus and noted that policy changes such as plastic bag bans highlight the need to understand shifting environmental impacts.

Upon inquiry, Dr. Cowger explained that MIPPR intends to maintain the data, adding that they already host global datasets and that long-term maintenance costs are minimal. Dr. Cowger also noted the Scientific Study's potential to use artificial intelligence tools to classify materials, objects, and brands, providing insights into trash patterns and mitigation effectiveness, with possible future expansion of camera-based monitoring.

Upon inquiry, Dr. Cowger stated that the Scientific Study aims to aggregate all existing data into a single accessible interface. It was also clarified that the Scientific Study proposes 60 randomized surveys per Watershed Area, 5 times per year, with costs evenly shared.

Upon inquiry, Dr. Cowger confirmed that the Scientific Study intends to classify trash by material, object, brand, and other categories to support source-control identification.

ii. Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment

Dr. Sanjay Mohanty and Dylan Ahearn (University of California, Los Angeles) presented the Regional Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) and Pollutant Event Mean Concentrations (EMCs) in Stormwater Assessment, which links land use to emerging contaminants, including 6PPDQ, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and microplastics, to inform future BMPs development and planning. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Vice-Chair Tom Love confirmed that interpreting land-use relationships is time-intensive and that data analysis will occur throughout the Scientific Study, shaping the overall schedule.

Chair Petschauer inquired how contaminant levels will be evaluated given the limited reference data for PFAS and related compounds, and questioned what basis would be used for comparison. Dr. Mohanty responded that the Scientific Study will rely on prior data collection, reference points from other regions, and established procedures and best practices (including US EPA Methods 1633 and 1634), noting that research on chronic effects is still emerging.

Chair Petschauer also raised concerns related to BMP performance, noting low PFAS removal efficiencies, long-term soil contamination, and maintenance needs. Dr. Mohanty explained that long-term assessment of PFAS in BMPs are new and that guidance is limited for systems with typical 25-year lifespans. The Scientific Study team added that linking PFAS concentrations to land use may help avoid costly treatment approaches by identifying areas where infiltration should be avoided, as seen at two excluded sites in Orange County due to high PFAS levels.

Upon inquiry, Dr. Mohanty clarified that the Scientific Study will not identify individual polluters but will assess where elevated contaminants are likely based on land-use patterns. Chair Petschauer commented that atmospheric deposition has historically contributed to PFAS contamination, complicating source identification.

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

Jason Casanova (Council for Watershed Health), Craig Doberstein (Herrera), and Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) presented the Depave Rio Hondo: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting and Exploring Broader Hardscape Transformation Considerations, which identifies and prioritizes parking lots for green retrofits, develops resources to support future retrofit project planning, and examines broader opportunities

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



to convert hardscapes into multi-benefit sites at scale. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Casanova stated that the team can incorporate agency and WASC-specific needs to identify stormwater-related benefit opportunities. It was also clarified that school sites are not excluded but may lower priority due to limited stormwater contribution, though future parking-lot design requirements could increase their relevance.

Wardynski explained that the Scientific Study aims to understand how the SCW Program can support depaving, with community and stakeholder engagement helping shape policies and incentives. Casanova added that the team is also reviewing general plans and municipal design standards to identify barriers and opportunities for green retrofits.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Watson explained that Initial Watershed Plans generally avoid listing specific parking-lot project locations to prevent regulatory triggers but address concepts like reducing impervious surfaces. He noted that school districts may be more receptive where flooding issues exist and emphasized combining stormwater capture with greening. Doberstein added that the Scientific Study's tool is intended to help evaluate parcel ownership, vacancy status, and similar attributes.

Watershed Coordinator Watson commented that schools often require large capital improvements. Casanova noted that the Los Angeles Unified School District has previously received support for parking-lot retrofit concepts. Member Fosselman emphasized giving information directly to residents and business owners, suggesting incentives like tax credits or other municipal programs to advance retrofit opportunities.

Chair Petschauer inquired whether the Scientific Study includes pathways for project development, noting that the SCW Program's Community Education and Engagement Grants provide some avenues but that the Scientific Study appears to be more narrowly focused. Casanova stated that the Scientific Study aligns with SCW Program metrics and provides a framework for identifying opportunities, although depaving and hardscape removal currently have a limited applicability within the SCW Program. Public Works staff added that the Initial Watershed Plans acknowledge this topic as a gap in the SCW Program. Chair Petschauer confirmed with Public Works staff that integration of Study findings into the Initial Watershed Plans may occur as Watershed Planning effort evolves.

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

Mackenzie Bolger (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) and Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) presented the Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture, which intends to expand flood-management analysis from the pilot Arroyo Seco watershed to the Upper Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo Watershed Areas, and plans to integrate advanced hydraulic modeling to assess channel capacity in the Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo River. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that previous stormwater capture projects did not achieve flood control benefits despite capturing 31 acre-feet (approximately 10 million gallons). Wardynski stated that the Scientific Study aims to evaluate potential projects and assess how real-time operations might affect flows.

Chair Petschauer expressed concern about the Scientific Study's high cost for a one-year effort. Wardynski explained that the Scientific Study is site- and watershed-specific and requires innovative modeling not currently available in the region. Lessons from earlier pilot phases will be incorporated, and robust modeling is necessary to produce scientific results.

Chair Petschauer questioned the Scientific Study's claim that there is a "gap" in the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) Code and whether it should be funded by the SCW Program's District Program. Chair Petschauer added that the Scientific Study seems broader than the WASC's scope.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Member Julian Juarez clarified that use of the District Program funds, which is 10% of SCW Program funds, for flood-related Scientific Studies would be guided by the SCW Program.

Upon inquiry, Member Juarez stated that no suitable model exists for the site-specific safety and watershed needs. Wardynski added that the Scientific Study will develop new, site-specific modeling and identify meaningful metrics by reviewing previous Scientific Studies and consulting with an Interested Party Advisory Committee and local operations staff. The goal of the Scientific Study is to link SCW Program Projects with opportunities to mitigate localized flooding. Vice-Chair Love noted potential metrics such as reduced runoff volume, lower peak flows, and use of real-time operations.

8) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, December 16 from 1:00pm – 3:30pm. Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Scientific Studies Program Presentations ([SCW Portal](#))
 - i. Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments)
- b) Infrastructure Program Presentations ([SCW Portal](#))
 - i. Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project (City of Monrovia)
 - ii. Story Park Stormwater Capture Project (City of Alhambra)
- c) Workforce Development, presentation by Jolene Guerrero, Assistant Deputy Director at Los Angeles County Public Works

Committee Members requested that Public Works provide an update on the allowable allocation for Scientific Studies funding so the WASC can understand the maximum amount available before reviewing all Scientific Studies applications. Public Works staff noted that the Fiscal Year 2025-26 SIPs was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 4, and the Watershed Planning Tool and SIP Tool visualization are being updated for the current Fiscal Year 2026-27 SIP deliberations. Public Works staff displayed the existing SIP Tool and provided an overview of the FY26-27 Regional Program budget for the RH Watershed Area, noting that it is expected to be available February 2026 and will help the WASC better evaluate funding constraints.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the 5% cap on Scientific Studies applies across the entire five-year rolling window, not to a single year of funding. Some funds have already been allocated in previous SIP cycles, and remaining Scientific Studies funding will roll over.

11) Adjournment

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

Rio Hondo WASC - November 18, 2025						
		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 10/21/2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love**	x	Patty Cortez		y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino	x	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Shannon Bishop	x	Alysha Chan		y
Agency	Pasadena Public Works	Jeff Khun	x	Brent Maue		y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Brian C. Tabatabai				
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jill Fosselman	x			a
Community Stakeholder	Mayor Pro Tem - City of El Monte	Marisol Cortez				
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto	x	Jade Nguyen		a
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	City of Alhambra	Latoya Waters	x	Gehovanny Herrera		y
Municipal Members	City of Arcadia	Briget Arndell	x	Carmen Masud		y
Municipal Members	City of Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval	x	Marvin Carpio		a
Municipal Members	City of Irwindale	Eddie Chan	x			Not Present
Municipal Members	City of Monrovia	Alex Tachiki		Sophia Sousa	x	y
Municipal Members	City of Pasadena	Dawn Petschauer*	x	James Tong		y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Ryan Butler	x	Donna Tran		y
Watershed CoordinatorNon-Voting Member	RWA Planning	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett	x	
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	10
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	13
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendees

Rio Hondo WASC Meeting November 18, 2025

Brad Wardynski - Craftwater

Carlos Rodriguez - LACPW

Chris Zabalza - LACPW

Dee Corhiran - LACPW

Donna Tran - LACPW

Dylan Ahearn - Herrera

Eileen Alduenda - Watershed Health

Jenna Cobb - ActiveSGV

Linh

Marisela Velasquez - LACPW

Mayra Cabrera - LACPW

Nancy

RH AV

Ryanna Fossum - Regional Coordination

Sofia Cardenas - Regional Coordination

Tim Fairbank - Craftwater

Rio Hondo
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



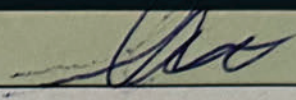
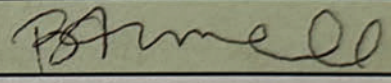
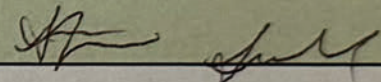
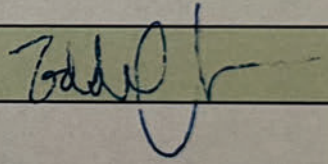
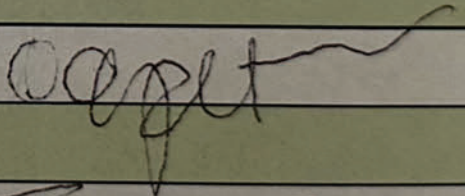
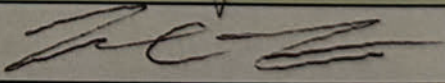
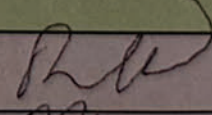
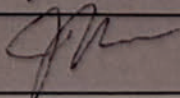
Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	<i>Julian Juarez</i>
Alynn Sun	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel District	P	
Patty Cortez	Upper San Gabriel District	A	
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin	P	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	A	<i>Lauren Augino</i>
Shannon Bishop	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	<i>Shannon Bishop</i>
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	
Jeff Khun	Pasadena	P	
Brent Maue	Pasadena	A	
Brian C. Tabatabai	Resident - City of West Covina	P	
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	<i>Jill Fosselman</i>
Marisol Cortez		P	
Vacant		P	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	<i>Bryan Matsumoto</i>
Jade Nguyen	Nature For All	A	

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	
Gehovanny Herrera	Alhambra	A	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	P	
Carmen Masud	Arcadia	A	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	P	
Marvin Carpio	Duarte	A	
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	P	
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	P	
Sophia Sousa	Monrovia	A	
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	P	
James Tong	Pasadena	A	
Ryan Butler	LA County Public Works	P	
Donna Tran	LA County Public Works	A	
Richard Watson	RWA	WC	
Julie Millett	RWA	WC	

Rio Hondo

Rio Hondo
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



SAFE CLEAN WATER

[illegible]