

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, January 20, 2026
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)
Shannon Bishop, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Jeff Khun, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Brian C. Tabatabai, Resident (Community)
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:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency), Vice-Chair
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
Jill Fosselman, 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 introduced themselves and established quorum.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2025

Public Works staff presented the minutes from November 18, 2025. Member Bryan Matsumoto motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Briget Arndell. The WASC voted to approve the November 18, 2025 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention, and 1 not present at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Members Allen Ma and Kara Plourde introduced themselves as new WASC Members, serving community stakeholder and municipal seats, respectively.

Public Works staff provided an update, noting:

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met on January 14 and approved the Draft Biennial Progress Report for a 30-day Public Comment Period. The Draft Biennial Progress Report can be found on the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program Adaptive Management webpage.
- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) on November 4, 2025.
- As part of the SCW Program Administration, Completeness Checks are conducted to ensure that applications are submitted properly, do not omit key information, and are eligible for Regional Program's Infrastructure Program, Scientific Studies, or Technical Resources Program funds. Three Infrastructure Program (IP) applications did not pass the Scoring threshold. Three applications submitted to the Scientific Study (SS) Program were deemed ineligible for SS Program funding. Public Works and the applicants are in ongoing discussions for pathways to move forward in the SCW Program, such as the SCW Program's District Program.
- The Scoring Committee met six times between September and December 2025 to score Projects.
- Public Works staff are reviewing Project Modification Requests (PMRs) and noted that if PMRs are deemed inconsistent with the associated SIP, the PMR will be presented to the WASC for consideration. One PMR will likely be deemed inconsistent in the RH Watershed Area.
- Public Works staff reminded the Committee that the WASC and Regional Program remain transparent and fair and emphasized the inclusion of *ex parte* disclosures on each agenda. Staff added that Committee Members should avoid using their position as WASC members to advocate for applications from their home entities.
- The Watershed Coordinator for the RH WASC continues to be Richard Watson and Associates Planning until County Counsel has reviewed contracting roles with ActiveSGV, the Watershed Coordinator that the WASC recommended on August 19, 2025. The current Watershed Coordinator contract will continue to operate, pending Counsel's contract review.
- Implementation Updates are available in the [News and Updates webpage](#) on the SCW Program website.

Chair Petschauer asked Public Works for clarification on the ineligible applications submitted to the SS Program and noted that a Committee Member submitted an email asking for a discussion item to be agendized. Chair Petschauer requested Public Works staff publicize completeness check outcomes for the ineligible applications to the SS Program.

Chair Petschauer requested that public comments submitted on draft Initial Watershed Plans and responses to public comments be made public. Chair Petschauer acknowledged that the comments were summarized for the ROC, but expressed that individual comments should be made public.

Chair Petschauer and Member Bryan Matsumoto expressed that some aspects of the Ordinance could benefit from additional clarification and recommended that Public Works consider more reliance on the WASCs' input for applications deemed ineligible for SS Program funding. Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson and Chair Petschauer requested agendizing a discussion on the SS Program definitions in the Ordinance and the ineligible applications to the SS Program. Public Works agreed that it could be agendized as an informational discussion item, after the current SIP deliberations.

Regional Coordinators distributed SIP Deliberation Workbooks to Committee Members containing slides, guiding prompts, a Scoring Rubric, funding assessment materials, and a Scientific Studies summary.

4) Watershed Coordinator Update

Watershed Coordinator Updates were deferred.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Member Jeff Khun and Chair Petschauer disclosed communication with Project applicants for the two City of Pasadena Projects presenting today, which are Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project and Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project.

Chair Petschauer also disclosed communications with the parties in attendance to make public comments regarding the City of Pasadena's Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce in the LA Region Scientific Study proposal that was deemed ineligible for SS Program funding.

Member Plourde disclosed being part of the East LA Sustainable Medians Stormwater Capture O&M Project team.

6) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Safe, Clean Water Program Workforce Development, presentation by Jolene Guerrero, Deputy Director at Los Angeles County Public Works

Public Works staff shared that Jolene Guerrero will now serve as Public Works' Deputy Director for Water Resources. Deputy Director Guerrero's scheduled presentation on the County's Workforce Development efforts was deferred to a later date, though the slides intended for that item are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

b) Scientific Studies Program Presentation

i. Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management Presentation by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)

Mackenzie Bolger (SGVCOG) and Brianna Datti (Craftwater) presented the Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management Scientific Study (SS). Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Member Stephanie Sandoval asked how the information identified by the SS would align with Caltrans or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when agencies or community members apply for reimbursement. Datti shared that Caltrans or FEMA frameworks will be incorporated into the SS proactive prevention and response framework.

Chair Petschauer requested clarification on the final product of the SS and how SS applicants intend to standardize strategy recommendations across different agencies in the region. Applicants highlighted three core outcomes of the proposed SS. The first outcome would be a set of modeling tools for characterizing regional vulnerability. The second outcome would be a report listing identified potential response strategies, alongside the cost of those strategies in comparison to the cost of inaction. The third outcome would be a separate risk calculator tool allowing users to model the effect of different strategies in specific geographical areas.

Member Alex Tachiki asked how the Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium (LARIAC) could be leveraged to assess existing vulnerability and conditions in the region. SS applicants shared that the inputs and outputs from the vulnerability models that the proposed SS plans to generate could be used to address the lack of GIS data.

Member Ma asked whether data from past natural disasters, particularly the Eaton Fire, would be entered into the tool, and if the SS would compare the modeled and actual effects. Applicants noted that the Fire Effects Study in the ULAR Watershed Management Area SS built a model of the area, prior to the Eaton Fire, to evaluate water quality effects of a potential fire, and that studies after the Eaton Fire include data from the fire. SS applicants noted that the tool has been reworked to incorporate urban areas as well as forested ones; applicants shared that their model was validated by the effects of the Eaton Fire.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Upon inquiry, SS applicants clarified that the SGVCOG and Craftwater would be maintaining the tools and dashboard; the WASC would not incur a separate ongoing maintenance cost.

Upon inquiry, SS applicants clarified that the tool would consider Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and would allow project cost and O&M to be understood in more detail.

Member Bryan Matsumoto commented that the cost of the SS seems high and asked why it is tailored to only the Upper LA River, Rio Hondo, and Upper San Gabriel River. He further asked if the regional climate storm water risk would be better addressed by the County, as a larger goal that would span beyond the three Watershed Areas. Applicants shared that the SS will be tailored to 31 impacted cities which pertain to the three Watershed Areas to best understand existing programs and feasible strategies in those geographic areas.

Member Julian Juarez commented that the SS does not seek to address a District-wide information gap, but rather to answer more specific questions related to the unique characteristics of the three Watershed Areas.

c) Infrastructure Program Presentations

i. Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project (City of Pasadena) Presentation by the City of Pasadena and Craftwater

Courtney Semlow (Craftwater) presented the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Project applicants noted that leverage funding from Caltrans has been secured, and conversations about additional leverage funding from extreme heat mitigation grants are underway.

Upon inquiry, Project applicants further described the noise impact during project construction. Project applicants noted that the Project would include an underground inflow pump station, which would not generate noise audible to residents. Project applicants shared that wet weather pumps will be slightly louder than the relatively quiet dry weather pumps and that the design includes light alarms to indicate pump activation, but do not include sound alarms.

Member Ma asked if the spring water feature will daylight anywhere, if the public would be able to touch the water, and if it will be reviewed by the Department of Public Health. Project applicants noted that dry weather flows will be treated and used to provide a water feature, with any excess flow to be pumped through. Chair Petschauer added that the City of Pasadena would post appropriate advisories to discourage people from playing in the water, noting that if stormwater is not sprayed or aerosolized, it does not become subject to additional regulation. Chair Petschauer commented on the importance of educating residents on the stormwater that flows through their City.

Upon inquiry, Project applicants confirmed that geotechnical analyses have been performed, which indicated that infiltration rates reach approximately one inch/hour after safety factors are applied. Member Shannon Bishop asked if the Project will demonstrate specific maintenance needs. Chair Petschauer commented that a Project of this kind will require O&M and tailored workforce training to prevent a decline in Project performance.

Chair Petschauer highlighted the Annual Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Created metric generated by the SCW Projects Module for this Project, cautioning that the number is unrealistically high and could be seriously misconstrued by the public to assume cities will hire that number of new positions.

ii. East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project (Los Angeles County Public Works) Presentation by Los Angeles County Public Works

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



This item was moved down below Agenda Item 6(c)(iii).

Alexandro Garcia (Los Angeles County Public Works) presented the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Chair Petschauer noted that construction on this Project was completed several years ago and asked for additional clarification regarding the funding request. Project applicant shared that the Project has captured larger amounts of stormwater than initially anticipated and exceeded the projected removal of certain pollutants such as lead, copper and zinc; as a result, O&M needs to be increased.

Member Ma asked if a performance study was conducted to assess the efficiency of the Project's BMPs across the years. Project applicant shared that the Project system exceeds projections, and that continual monitoring will be necessary to observe any changes or potential strategies for further improvement.

Upon inquiry, Project applicant confirmed that there are existing maintenance records for each individual Project component, particularly from the Northside Drive components, which capture a large portion of the dry weather flow.

Member Sandoval expressed appreciation for the Project's service to the community at all levels and demonstration of the essential work of the SCW Program coming to fruition.

Chair Petschauer asked how Public Works is currently facilitating maintenance. Project applicant shared that an internal Public Works team covers below ground maintenance, while a contractor performs above ground maintenance. Part of maintenance scope includes the design of the diversion structure and pretreatment systems. Due to its current design, constant maintenance and inspection are required to ensure the site is ready before a rainy event. Project applicant further mentioned that part of maintenance is related to lessons learned for future Projects. In this instance, specifications that work through the constructability may not work on the maintenance side, such as rails and gates that may be too heavy for the maintenance team to move on their own.

iii. Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project (City of Pasadena) Presentation by City of Pasadena

This item was moved up above Agenda Item 6(c)(ii).

Merril Taylor (Craftwater) presented the Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Member Matsumoto noted that Project applicant anticipate Caltrans funding but is still requesting the full amount from the SCW Program, and asked whether the WASC will have to commit the full funding amount regardless. Project applicant noted that the necessary permits are not yet secured and must be obtained quickly to meet Caltrans grant funding requirements. Project applicant also confirmed that the Caltrans funding would decrease the funding request from the SCW Program. Member Sandoval noted that the Project could still proceed absent of Caltrans funding; once constructed, the Project could return to the SCW Program or the City of Pasadena for O&M funds.

Member Matsumoto noted that the Project combines a mixture of BMPs and asked what considerations informed that design. Project applicant explained that drywells are relatively inexpensive compared to other infiltration BMP, but drywells do not generally treat large amounts of water at a time unless the drywells have high infiltration rates, which led to the combination of multiple practices.

Upon inquiry, Project applicant clarified that the Project received a categorical exemption for CEQA because it would modify an existing system. Chair Petschauer and Member Khun added that the Project could be located in the public right-of-way and would not change the land use of the area, so it does not require a new CEQA review.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



7) Public Comment Period

There were 10 public comment cards submitted before 5:00 pm the day before this meeting. Comments from the December Meeting were also included, due to the cancellation of the December meeting from lack of quorum. Public Comments are available on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Claire Robinson (Amigos de los Rios) commented in support of the Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot proposal by Amigos de los Rios, noting that the SS Program is intended to invest in regional stormwater science and inform the development of more holistic and cost-effective stormwater management practices. Robinson noted the application's relevance to SCW Program Goals and urged investment in O&M and workforce training to protect the efficacy of SCW Program infrastructure.

Mikaela Randolph (Green Schoolyards America) expressed support for the proposed Living Schoolyard Maintenance Training Pilot proposal, noting its focus on advancing regional stormwater science and identifying gaps in management practices. Randolph emphasized the importance of developing a strong workforce infrastructure to support region-wide green schoolyard maintenance.

Sonali Abraham (Pacific Institute) expressed support for the proposed Living Schoolyard Maintenance Training Pilot proposal, noting that the SS Program intends to advance stormwater science and management across the County and highlighted the SS application's potential to advance that goal. Abraham emphasized the need to develop a robust workforce infrastructure that will enable the maintenance of green schoolyards at scale.

Marci Raney (Children's Hospital) expressed support for the proposed Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot proposal, noting the significant health and academic benefits associated with green schoolyards and emphasized the potential of the SS application to help protect these benefits for students and schools. Raney expressed support in investing in the development of new technical knowledge and training programs in order to protect the investment of public dollars in stormwater infrastructure.

Carson Risner (Earth Economics) commented in support of the proposed Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot proposal, noting the importance of technically precise, practical, and cost-effective monitoring and maintenance of green schoolyards. Risner expressed support in investing in the development of a robust workforce to protect public investment in stormwater infrastructure.

Amanda Pollack (Center for Watershed Protection) commented on the Center for Watershed Protection's history of leadership in stormwater management and professional training. Pollack highlighted the Center's workforce development efforts and pathways to provide stormwater maintenance training and credentials. Pollack expressed excitement about the Center's partnership with the City of Pasadena and commitment to expanding high-quality workforce development opportunities across the region.

Christina Monde (City of Pasadena) commented on the City of Pasadena's Municipal Assistance, Solutions, and Hiring (MASH) Program and urged the WASC to request that the City of Pasadena's proposed Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce SS be allowed to present. Monde commented on the projected timeline to build out a County Workforce Development Program and expressed the hope that the District would champion all credible workforce training opportunities.

Jessica Rivas (City of Pasadena) commented on the City of Pasadena's workforce development outreach and the need to develop a trained workforce at the same pace at which green infrastructure is being constructed. Rivas noted that the City of Pasadena has committed \$500,000 local dollars to the continued development of their SS application and encouraged stakeholders to reach out to the City of Pasadena to stay engaged with these efforts.

Katie Evers (Center for Watershed Protection) commented on the importance of workforce development and emphasized the need to invest in O&M training in order to realize the full benefits of the SCW Program's

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



investment in stormwater infrastructure. Evers highlighted the Clean Water Certificate Program and its potential to prepare workers and the region for the future demands of stormwater infrastructure.

Sherreeta White (City of Pasadena) commented on the efficacy of the MASH program and the importance of workforce development. White highlighted the City of Pasadena's ongoing commitment to workforce development and to advancing green infrastructure training programs in the region.

Upon inquiry, Public Works provided more information on the Living Schoolyard Operations and Maintenance Training Pilot and Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce proposals that were deemed ineligible for SS Program funding. Public Works staff shared that it is the District's responsibility to verify the completeness and eligibility of applications according to SCW Program Ordinance. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that supplemental guidance for SS applicants is being developed and clarified that proposals deemed ineligible could be agendized for the WASC as informational items after SIP deliberations are complete.

8) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

- a) Infrastructure Program Presentations (SCW Portal)
- b) Scientific Studies Peer Review Summaries
- c) Project Modification Request for WASC Discussion
- d) Stormwater Investment Plan Deliberation Overview Presentation

Chair Petschauer requested that an update on the County's workforce development efforts be agendized for a future meeting.

10) Adjournment

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

Rio Hondo WASC - January 20, 2026

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 11/18/2025 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love**		Patty Cortez		
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Lauren Augino		
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	x			y
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			a
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		a
Watershed Coordinator (RWA Planning)	RWA Planning	Richard Watson	x	Julie Millett	x	
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		13			Nay (N)	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	13
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendees

Rio Hondo WASC Meeting January 20, 2026

Alexander Iglesias Rosales - LACPW
Alonso Garcia - Watershed Health
Alysha Chan - Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Amanda Pollack - Center for Watershed Protection
Cas - Watershed Health
Chris Zabalza - LACPW
Chris Lee - LACPW
David
Donna Tran - LACPW
Eric Bonilla - LACPW
Hans Tremmel - Brown and Caldwell
Jenna Cobb - Active SGV
Jenny Chau - LACPW

Jessica Rivas - City of Pasadena
John Mendoza - Craftwater
Joshua Montion - Craftwater
Kristina Moreno - LACPW
Larry Tran - LACPW
Leslie Martinez - LACPW
Linnet Khechatoorian - LACPW
Linh - Day One
Lisa (Jin) Kim - LACPW
Manuel Gonzalez - LACPW
Mayra Cabrera - LACPW
Mei-Lin Hanna - JLHA
Nicole Rieger - Dudek

Oliver Galang - Craftwater
Pauline Nguyen - Craftwater
RH AV
Rafael Piamonte - LACPW
Safe Clean Water LA
Sherreeta White - City of Pasadena MASH
Sofia Cardenas - Stantec
Taylor Paez - Greywater Corps
Thomas Le - LACPW
Thuan Nguyen - LACPW
Veronica Carrillo - LACPW
Valeria Mena - Watershed Health



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Alynn Sun	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	A	<i>[Signature]</i>
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	
Shannon Bishop	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	<i>[Signature]</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	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	
Marisol Cortez		P	
Vacant <i>Allen Ma</i>	<i>Resident - City of West Covina</i>	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	<i>[Signature]</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	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Eddie Villegas	Alhambra	A	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	P	<i>Briget Arndell</i>
Carmen Masud	Arcadia	A	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	P	
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>
Richard Watson	RWA	WC	
Julie Millett	RWA	WC	

