

# Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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Thursday, February 26, 2026  
1:30pm – 4:30pm  
Los Angeles County Sanitation District – Conference Room E&F  
1955 Workman Mill Rd  
Whittier, CA 90601  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Katherine Vazquez, Upper San Gabriel District (Agency)  
\*Lauren Augino, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)  
Francisco Guerrero, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Agency)  
Andrea Vona, Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation (Agency)  
Manuel D. Perez, Valley Vista Services, Inc (Community)  
Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)  
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)  
\*Briget Arndell, Glendora/Arcadia (Municipal)  
\*Joshua Nelson, Industry (Municipal)  
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)  
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)  
Kara Plourde, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
James Cortes, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## Committee Members Not Present:

David Marquez, Urban Semillas (Community)  
Jeanette Flores, Charter Oak Unified School District (Community)  
Nicholas Delgado, Diamond Bar (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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## **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff welcomed Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Members and called the meeting to order. Public Works staff facilitated the meeting in absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair's. Public Works staff facilitated Committee Member introductions and established quorum. Public Works staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial.

Public Works staff provided a reminder that, per Article V, Section C of the WASC Operating Guidelines, Members who are absent from more than three meetings in one year will be considered a failure to attend meetings and will make a WASC Member eligible for removal.

## **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2026**

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from January 22, 2026. Member Julie Carver motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Joshua Nelson. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, 0 votes opposed, and 1 absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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### 3) Committee Member and Program Updates

There were no Committee Member updates.

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- No Project Modification Requests (PMRs) were submitted within the USGR WASC Watershed Area.
- The Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program Strategic Advancement Section, formerly known as the Watershed Planning Section, shared an update on the Initial Watershed Plans. Staff noted that the final Initial Watershed Plans are set to be published at the end of February 2026. Since the launch of the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA), the Program has received 1,300 responses across all nine Watershed Areas, 193 of which come from the USGR Watershed Area. The CSNA has been updated to include a story map that will help users navigate the Dashboard.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that Initial Watershed Plans will be available in February 2026.

### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator updates were deferred.

### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex-parte communication disclosures.

### 6) Presentations and Discussion Items

#### a.) Infrastructure Program (IP) Presentations ([SCW Portal](#))

##### i.) ESGVWVG Drywells Project (City of Pomona)

Anthony Ortega (City of Pomona) and Gurjot Kohli (Stantec) presented the ESGVWVG Drywells IP Project. The Project proposes four drywells that would capture and infiltrate dry weather flows at existing outfalls into San Jose Creek and Marshall Creek. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Kohli clarified that the “Completion of 30 to 100% Designs” cost item is the cost to take the project from the 30% design phase to the 100% design phase.

Upon inquiry, Kohli clarified that the Project team decided on the June 14, 2026 implementation date in order to meet the dry weather bacteria deadline set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). A time schedule order has been submitted to extend the date of compliance to 2031.

Upon inquiry, Kohli clarified that the Project team intends to maximize the area of treatment per dollar but is open to implementing more visible nature-based solutions.

##### ii.) Ganesha Park Stormwater Capture Project (City of Pomona)

Courtney Semlow (Craftwater) and Jorge Anaya (City of Pomona) presented the Ganesha Park Stormwater Capture IP Project. The Project proposes to capture, infiltrate, and treat stormwater from the San Jose Creek Channel, which is adjacent to Ganesha Park. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Oliver Galang (Craftwater) clarified that Caltrans would provide 25% of the Project funding in exchange for 25% of the stormwater credits associated with the Project. Upon further inquiry, Galang clarified that the City would relinquish these credits to Caltrans, but because of the expected high performance of the Project, this would not present an issue.

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Upon inquiry, Anaya clarified that the Project team is not pursuing State grant funding at this time, given that the City of Pomona is already pursuing Caltrans funding and SCW Program funding and wants to limit the number of parties involved. Upon further inquiry and mention that this Project would occupy approximately 30% of available WASC funds, Anaya clarified that the City of Pomona is open to pursuing additional funding opportunities. Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) reminded the WASC that the IP Project Funding Assessments (Funding Assessments) outline potential funding opportunities that might be aligned with IP project applications, were provided to WASC Members, and posted on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Semlow stated that shade provided by trees was a consideration in Project development, and that 11 out of the 20 trees to be removed as a part of the Project are very small and do not provide shade. Semlow added that existing large trees along the San Jose Wash Channel would be preserved.

Upon inquiry, Semlow stated that the City of Pomona designed the Project to increase public awareness and education of the underground stormwater storage; the Project would include educational signage.

### **iii.) Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Operations and Maintenance Project (City of El Monte)**

Katie Harrel (CWE) presented the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Operations and Maintenance IP Project. The Project will address frequent flooding at the Garvey Avenue underpass by capturing, retaining, and infiltrating first flush stormwater runoff and some flood flows, improving water quality downstream. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Harrel clarified that construction is still underway, and new stormwater infrastructure did not receive flow from recent storms.

Upon inquiry, Harrel clarified that operations and maintenance (O&M) work will be contract work and cost estimates are based on Los Angeles County's methodology.

Upon inquiry, Harrel clarified that the Project will be completed before the end of 2026.

### **b.) Scientific Studies Peer Review Summaries**

#### **i.) A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research)**

Dr. Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) responded to the Peer Review Summary of the Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Scientific Study (SS). The Peer Review Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Cowger clarified that the scientific study would prepare WASC-specific reports, as models may differ between WASCs.

Upon inquiry, Cowger provided a brief overview of the scientific study interests of the Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research, but clarified that this SS focuses on trash in general and not specifically on microplastics.

Upon inquiry, Cowger clarified that this SS will help to inform the WASC about where stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be placed by incorporating BMP data from municipalities into the model, then assessing the efficacy of these BMPs in trash capture. Cowger commented that this would help predict trash movement if more BMPs were implemented.

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## **ii.) Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments)**

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

Upon inquiry, Datti clarified that this SS would focus on vulnerability during stormwater events, but may eventually be able to fit into other SCW Program Scientific Studies and Watershed Plans. Upon inquiry, Datti stated that this scientific study could impact how stormwater infrastructure is designed, referencing similar scientific studies on wildfire resiliency which informed infrastructure design in the past.

## **iii.) Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment (UCLA)**

Dr. Sanjay Mohanty (University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)), Dr. Dylan Ahearn (Herera), and Dr. Jian Peng (AtkinsRealis) responded to the Peer Review Summary of the Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment . The Peer Review Summary is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Ahearn clarified that the scientific study team has not yet selected its sampling locations, and that sample collection will not begin until the second year of the scientific study. Upon inquiry, Peng clarified that since CECs are not currently regulated by the RWQCB, the scientific study team did not seek support from this agency. However, the scientific study team did reach out to the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) and State Water Resources Control Board Storms Coordinator and received support.

## **c.) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Programming Guidelines Presentation**

Ng and Watershed Coordinator James Cortes presented on the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Programming Guidelines. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Ng clarified that it is up to each WASC to determine whether to fund projects or scientific studies requesting funding across multiple WASCs. Public Works staff commented that SS applicants were required to submit WASC-specific applications.

Member Nelson commented that in certain cases, while projects are not located inside of disadvantaged communities, the drainage areas for those projects fall within disadvantaged communities. Nelson commented that oftentimes projects are not considered to be in disadvantaged communities because they are in sparsely populated areas, but are still located in close proximity to disadvantaged communities.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Cortes clarified that it is the WASC's responsibility to evaluate and determine whether to confirm direct benefits to disadvantaged communities on a case-by-case basis. Public Works staff clarified that it is up to WASCs to ask questions of applicants and verify claimed Disadvantaged Community Benefits.

## **7) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 1:30pm to 4:00pm, to be held at the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#). Items on the next agenda include:

- a) Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Report Summary

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- b) Upper San Gabriel River Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan

## **9) Adjournment**

Public Works Staff thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WASC MEETING - FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 1/22/2026 Meeting Minutes
Agency	Los Angeles County FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Tom Love		Katherine Vazquez	x	y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	Justin Nakano		Lauren Augino	x	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Andrea Vona	x	Mayra Martinez Yasumura		
Community Stakeholder	Valley Vista Services, Inc	Manuel D. Perez	x			y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	David Marquez				
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	x	Jason Casanova		y
Community Stakeholder	Charter Oak Unified School District	Jeanette Flores				
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Duarte/Bradbury	Stephanie Sandoval	x	Kevin Kearney		y
Municipal Members	Diamond Bar	Nicholas Delgado				
Municipal Members	Glendora / Arcadia	Stephanie Ryan		Briget Arndell	x	a
Municipal Members	Industry	Mathew Hudson		Joshua Nelson	x	y
Municipal Members	Irwindale	Eddie Chan	x			y
Municipal Members	Pomona	Julie Carver	x	Lauren Marshall		y
Municipal Members	Unincorporated LA County	Kara Plourde	x	Rafael Piamonte		a
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortes	x			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	10
Total Voting Members Present		13			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	12
Municipal Members		6				Approved

**Webex Attendees**  
**Upper San Gabriel River WASC Meeting**  
**February 26, 2026**

Ali Rahmani (LA Water Board)  
Call-in User\_1  
Cas, CWH  
Craig Doberstein  
Daria Antonova | LACDPW  
David Diaz  
Dylan Ahearn (Herrera)

Emily Ng (Regional Coordination)  
James Carpenter - SCWP  
Jason Pepito  
Jenna Cobb  
Jenny Chau  
John Mendoza  
Jonathan Abelson

Jorge Anaya  
Katie Harrel (CWE)  
Kristina  
Lauren Marshall  
Liana U Poghosyan  
Linet Khecahtoorian  
Manuel Gonzalez

Mayra Cabrera - LACPW  
Mei-Lin Hanna (JLHA)  
Milo Yukimoto  
Rafael  
Sophia Catalan  
USGR WASC  
Win Cowger

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Alynn Sun	FCD	Alternate	
Andrea Vona	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Primary	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	Alternate	
Christopher Lapaz	Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
David Marquez	California Consulting, INC	Alternate	
Drew Ready	Council for Watershed Health	Primary	
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	Primary	
Francisco Guerrero	Sanitation Districts	Primary	
James Cortes	Day One	WC	
Jason Casanova	Council for Watershed Health	Alternate	
Jeanette Flores	Charter Oak Unified School District	Primary	
Joshua Nelson	Industry	Alternate	
Julian Juarez	FCD	Primary	
Julie Carver	Pomona	Primary	
Justin Nakano	Main San Gabriel Basin	Primary	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Kara Plourde	Los Angeles County	Primary	<i>Kara Plourde</i>
Katherine Vazquez	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Alternate	<i>Katherine Vazquez</i>
Kevin Kearney	Bradbury	Alternate	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin	Alternate	<i>Lauren Augino</i>
Lauren Marshall	San Dimas	Alternate	
Manuel D. Perez	Valley Vista Services, Inc.	Primary	<i>Manuel D. Perez</i>
Mathew Hudson	Industry	Primary	
Mayra Martinez Yasumura	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Alternate	
Nicholas Delgado	City of Diamond Bar	Primary	
Rafael Piamonte	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Stephanie Ryan	Glendora	Primary	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	Primary	<i>Stephanie Sandoval</i>
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Primary	

