

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, March 17, 2026
1:00pm – 3:30 pm
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)
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)
Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair
Kara Plourde, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Jenna Cobb, Active San Gabriel Valley (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
David Diaz, Active San Gabriel Valley (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Patty Cortez, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)
Jesus Rojas, Resident (Community)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Marisol Cortez, Resident (Community)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)

*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.

David Diaz, Wesley Reutimann, and Jenna Cobb (Active San Gabriel Valley (ActiveSGV), Watershed Coordinators) provided introductions and shared that ActiveSGV has terminated contracts in the RH Watershed Area in order to prioritize ActiveSGV's role as Watershed Coordinator. Watershed Coordinator Cobb stated plans to meet individually with WASC Members to better understand each Member's goals.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2026

Public Works staff presented the minutes from February 17, 2026. Member Jeff Khun motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Alex Tachiki. The WASC voted to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes with 11 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Chair Petschauer announced the City of Pasadena, several non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations received grant awards from the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Open Space District (LARPOSD).

Chair Petschauer provided an update on a recent community meeting for the Jefferson Park Stormwater Capture Project, noting that the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Municipal Program local return funds and SCW [Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program](#) were used to conduct a Feasibility Study. Chair Petschauer also reminded the Committee that the Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project confirmed leveraged funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, resulting in a reduction of the Project's original funding request by \$8 million. Additionally, Chair Petschauer also noted the ability to defer funding for the Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project by two years for the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberation.

Public Works deferred updates to the next meeting to allow sufficient time for the discussion items.

Public Works' SCW Program Strategic Advancement Team provided updates:

- The Initial Watershed Plans and the companion online Planning Tool have officially been released and are available on the [SCW Program website](#).
- A Watershed Planning Project Developer Information Session will be held virtually on March 18. The session will include information and examples to help Project Developers align applications with the Watershed Planning Initiative as part of the new requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines. More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Since its launch, the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) received 1,400 new survey responses, including 151 responses in the RH WASC. To contact the Public Works' SCW Program Strategic Advancement Team, please reach out to watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

Upon inquiry, Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) confirmed that the CSNA is designed to be a permanent resource for the SCW Program, with results continuously populating the online map and CSNA Dashboard.

Antos mentioned that the Watershed Coordinators can include CSNA updates in their required reporting through the promotional [ToolKit](#). Watershed Coordinator Cobb highlighted outreach efforts to distribute the CSNA survey, while also engaging in community outreach events, green school tours, newsletters, and social media promotion.

Antos added that the CSNA Dashboard can be used outside of the SCW Program and referenced the promotional [ToolKit](#)—available on the [SCW Program website](#)—that allows for additional customization and engagement.

WASC Members discussed the value of receiving responses specific to the RH Watershed Area, rather than Countywide results.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator updates were deferred to the next meeting to allow sufficient time for the discussion items.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communications.

6) Public Comment

Public Works staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day prior. Eleven public comments were submitted and posted on the [SCW Program website](#).

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Grace Kast (Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA)), expressed support for the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration and the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Projects, noting that they contribute to the five cities to improve watershed health.

Mackenzie Bolger (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) shared that the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) WASC included the Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management Scientific Study (SS) in the ULAR SIP for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 (26-27) and that this SS advances goals of the SCW Program.

Maggie Gardner (Our Water Los Angeles) expressed support for Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project and the operations and maintenance of the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project. Gardner also noted that the Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project effectively incorporates nature-based solutions. Gardner also expressed support for the Climate Resistance and Resiliency: An Adaptive Framework for Stormwater Risk Management SS.

Benjamin Harris (Los Angeles Water Keeper) expressed support for the Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture SS, noting that the SCW Program's mechanisms to evaluate project benefits are limited to neighborhood-level impacts. Harris stated that this SS would help develop tools and methodologies to assess flood risks at a larger scale.

7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Regional Program Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Report Summary

Elyssa Lawrence (HDR) presented a summary of the SCW Program Regional Program FY24-25 Annual Reports submitted by Project Developers and Scientific Study Developers in the RH Watershed Area. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Allen Ma raised questions regarding whether recurring project delay issues are being tracked and incorporated into the SCW Program applications to prevent funding from being tied up in Projects that are not shelf-ready. Public Works staff noted that the Project application requires detailed information (e.g., schedule, status, cost) on all project phases and anticipated timelines (e.g., California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) completion). Public Works staff acknowledged that earlier funding rounds of Project applications had cost estimates and schedules that have changed significantly, but since then, SCW Program has adaptively managed to allow Projects to apply for design-only or combined design and construction funds based on their current phase. Starting in July 2026, Project applications will further branch to include operations and maintenance (O&M) only, which is expected to improve early cost estimates. Public Works staff also mentioned that the Biennial Progress Report recommended developing standard methods for financial forecasting and contingency setting, which will be incorporated into the application in future cycles.

Chair Petschauer noted that many Projects are holding onto construction funds and encouraged deferring funding when possible. Chair Petschauer noted that the City of Pasadena's priorities shifted to emergency response following the Eaton Fire, resulting in the City delaying design of the Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project, which allowed construction funding request to be deferred. Cesar Ramirez (City of Pasadena) added that the design for the Project will start June 2026.

Public Works staff reminded the WASC that continuing Projects with earmarked funding in the FY26-27 Stormwater Investment Plan can defer or reallocate said funds.

Upon inquiry, it was noted that the delay in the South El Monte High School Stormwater Improvement Project was due to staff turnover at the school district. Public Works staff will follow up with the El Monte Union High School District to verify progress.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Upon inquiry, Mei-Lin Hanna (John L. Hunter Associates) provided an update on the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project, noting that the City of San Gabriel requested that the County serve as the lead agency and a Transfer Agreement has not yet been executed. Public Works staff will coordinate the discussion between the City of San Gabriel and the appropriate Unincorporated Area contacts from the County. Chair Petschauer expressed concern over unused construction funds that are likely now underestimated due to escalating costs.

The WASC discussed the timeline related to delays in executing a Transfer Agreement and questioned how long a Project could remain inactive before being cancelled and its funds returned to the SCW Program. Public Works staff noted that guidelines are being developed for earlier Projects that have experienced challenges in executing Transfer Agreements and that the timeline is at the discretion of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District).

Upon inquiry, Nan Jia (CWE) explained that delays to the Alhambra Wash, Eaton Wash, and Rubio Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Projects are due to ongoing environmental permitting process and that they are in 90% design. Jia added that land acquisition is needed for Alhambra Wash and Rubio Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Projects. Jia confirmed that the property required to achieve the preferred design currently contains a residential structure.

Chair Petschauer requested that the Project Developer, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, be present at a future RH WASC meeting to speak about these three Dry-Weather Diversion Projects. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff will check whether land acquisition was included at the time of application. Applications are located in the [SCW Program Portal](#).

Jia confirmed that outreach for these Dry-Weather Diversion Projects has been conducted, including an open house and ongoing educational efforts through 2025. Public Works staff added that for Projects with funds disbursed in FY20-21, lapsed funding deadlines are approaching, prompting proponents to request time extensions. Decisions regarding extensions or use of funds not earmarked remain at the District's discretion.

b) Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Community Support for Project Applicants

Antos presented an overview of the SCW Program Disadvantaged Community programming requirements in the RH Watershed Area. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Public Works added that the WASC has the discretion to determine whether a Project provides Disadvantaged Community Benefits. Several Projects, including the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project, are not located in a Disadvantaged Community but claim to provide Disadvantaged Community Benefits because they serve a Disadvantaged Community.

Upon inquiry, Ramirez clarified that the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project will have Disadvantaged Community Benefits through its partnership with GroWORKS, providing community garden plots for low-income students, and proposed improvements, including a pedestrian bridge, expanded parking, and three site access points.

The WASC discussed how Disadvantaged Community Benefits are evaluated when Projects are not physically located within a Disadvantaged Community but serve Disadvantaged Communities through partnerships or proximity to community-serving facilities.

The WASC emphasized that enhancing amenities, accessibility, and usability in existing parks can increase attendance and provide Community Investment Benefits. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff confirmed that the Metrics and Measures Section in the Projects Module distinguishes between new parks and improvements to existing parks.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



c) RH Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan

Public Works staff provided a tutorial on the SIP Tool and reviewed several possible funding scenarios. The SIP Tool is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Public Works staff showed the “All Considered + PMR (For Discussion Purposes Only)” funding scenario, which represents all considered applications, all continuing projects, the Project Modification Request (PMR) submitted in October 2025, the \$8M reduced funding ask for the Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project, and reminded the WASC to keep earmarked funding allocations under 80% to allow funding for future applications. Public Works staff also showed SIP Tool scenarios with potential future Infrastructure Project costs and assumed cost share of 50% and 25%. Public Works staff shared the RH WASC Preliminary Project Rankings FY26-27 on screen for WASC consideration.

Chair Petschauer facilitated the SIP deliberation discussion with the WASC. The majority of WASC Members supported the inclusion of the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration PMR.

Chair Petschauer suggested first reviewing continuing Projects with earmarked funds. Chair Petschauer also expressed support for Projects requesting O&M funds, emphasizing the importance of maintaining completed Projects that provide direct benefits.

Upon request, Public Works staff adjusted the Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project to defer construction funding, moving funding allocations from FY26-27 to FY28-29, from FY27-28 to FY29-30, and from FY28-29 to FY30-31.

Upon inquiry, Edna Robidas (Trust of Public Land) reported that CEQA for the El Monte Norwood Elementary School Stormwater Capture Project is complete and the Transfer Agreement is underway with the District. Robidas added that the Project is advancing toward design procurement, with construction targeted for FY27-28. Robidas noted that a construction agreement cannot be executed until all funds are secured for FY27-28, and confirmed that construction funding will align with the approved design. Robidas noted that a Transfer Agreement needs to be in place before finalizing the design. Public Works staff noted that FY26-27 funds would not be distributed until 2027, which may be tight but feasible.

Oliver Galang (Craftwater) reported that the design for the Merced Avenue Stormwater Capture Project is approximately 90% complete. Galang added that increases in construction cost created a funding shortfall and that the City of El Monte is pursuing additional grant opportunities, particularly given Disadvantaged Community eligibility. A one-year funding shift may be possible pending City approval, and Galang will provide an update at the next meeting. The City of El Monte staff shared that the total estimated cost was initially \$7 million; however, the inclusion of a park component necessitated a higher funding request. Chair Petschauer stated that a PMR would be required and due in October, and that the Project would need to return next year for further consideration. Chair Petschauer added that many agencies would be willing to provide letters of support to help the Project pursue additional funding. The City staff stated that out of the \$2.9 million allocation, approximately \$1 million is designated for design, while construction would require an estimated \$10 million.

8) Public Comment

Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) expressed support for A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS, noting that the SS directly addresses Disadvantaged Community needs, with trash identified as many communities’ top priority, and that this SS offers unique elements.

9) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, from 1:00pm-4:00pm. More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#). Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- a) Rio Hondo Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the FY26-27 SIP

Public Works also confirmed that they will follow up with the continuing Projects if any earmarked funds can be adjusted. Additionally, Public Works staff confirmed that WASC Members who wish to adjust Project Rankings can resubmit the survey, and updated rankings will be available at the next meeting.

11) Adjournment

Chair Petschauer thanked the WASC Members, the public, Applicants, and Developers for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting.

Rio Hondo WASC - March 17, 2026

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 2/17/2026 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	Lauren Augino	x	Justin Nakano		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero		Alysha Chan	x	y
Agency	Pasadena Public Works	Jeff Khun	x	Brent Maue		y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jesus Rojas				
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jill Fosselman				
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Marisol Cortez				
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto	x	Jade Nguyen		a
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		Marvin Carpio		
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 (Non-Voting Member)	Active San Gabriel Valley	Jenna Cobb	x	David Diaz	x	
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	11
Total Voting Members Present		12			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	12
Municipal Members		6			Result	Approved

WebEx Attendees

Rio Hondo WASC Meeting March 17, 2026

Alynn Sun - LACPW
Anthony Barreras - LACPW
Benjamin Harris - LA Water Keeper
Brad Wardynski - Craftwater
Brendan Loudermilk
Call-in User_1
Cas - CWH
Chris Zabala - LACPW
Chris Lee - LACPW
Craig Doberstein - Herrera
Daniel Apt - Olaunu
David Tran - Craftwater
Debbie Enos - CWH
Don Nguyen
Donna Tran - LACFCD
Drew Ready - Watershed Health
Dusadee Corhiran - SCW
Dylan Ahearn - Herrera
Elyssa Lawrence - HDR

Emily Huang - Regional Coordination
Esther McDowell
Grey Crisanto - SCW
Harumi Goya - Water Boards
James C. - Go Day One
James Carpenter - SCW
Janneth Juarez
Jason Fussel - Tetra Tech
Jason Jade Pepito - SCW
Jenny Chau - SCW
Jian Peng
Jose Castro - SCW
Joshua Montion - Craftwater
Kristina Moreno - LACFCD
Liz Benbrooks
Maggie Gardner - LA Water Keeper
Maria Badillo
Mariam Rizk - LACFCD
Marisela Velasquez - SCW

Marisol Ramirez - City of El Monte
Mayra Cabrera - SCW
Mehrad Kamalzare - CPP
Mei-Lin Hanna - JLHA
Mike Antos - Regional Coordination
Morgan
Nan Jia - CWE
Nancy - Go Day One
Nicole Rieger - Dudek
Oliver Galang - Craftwater
Pablo Forni - SCW
RH AV
Sofia Cardenas - LACPW
Sophia Catalan - Regional Coordination
Travis Diaz - LACFCD
Uriel Cobian - SCW
Win Cowger
Edna Robidas - TPL



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	
Lauren Augino	Main San Gabriel Basin	P	<i>Lauren Augino</i>
Justin Nakano	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	A	
Francisco Guerrero	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	<i>Alysha Chan</i>
Jeff Khun	Pasadena	P	
Brent Maue	Pasadena	A	
Jesus Rojas	Resident	P	
Jill Fosselman	Resident	P	
Marisol Cortez		P	
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All	P	
Jade Nguyen	Nature For All	A	
Allen Ma	Resident	P	<i>Allen Ma</i>

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	
Eddie Villegas	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	
Kara Plourde	LA County Public Works	P	
Donna Tran	LA County Public Works	A	
Jenna Cobb	Active SGV	WC	
David Diaz	Active SGV	WC	



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Grace	Kast	Rio Hondo/SGR JPA	
MERRILL	TRINCE	CRAFTWATER	
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	
JESSICA	Rivas	Pasadena PW	
CESAR	RAMIREZ	PASADENA PW	
Maackenzie	Bolger	SGVCOG	
Courtney	Semlow	Craftwater	
Ana	Anam	El Monte	

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