

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



Tuesday, March 10, 2026
10:00am – 12:30pm
Lakewood City Hall Executive Board Room
5000 Clark Ave
Lakewood, CA 90712
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present

CJ Caluag, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Agency)
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Francisco Guerrero, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Danielle Lewis, Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community), Co-Chair
Adam Galia, Resident (Community)
*Aydin Pasebani, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
*Ian Patton, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)
*Sofia Taylor, Cerritos (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal), Co-Chair
Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)
*Alexa Reasoner, Long Beach (Municipal)
Noe Negrete, Pico Rivera/Bellflower (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Joseph Venzon, Unincorporated Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Leon Vasquez, Whittier/La Mirada (Municipal)
Andrea Dransfield Kraus, Dudek (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present

Ariel Pe, Business (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Noe Negrete, Vice-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 introduced themselves and established a quorum.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026. Member Dan Mueller motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Konya Vivanti. The WASC voted to approve the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 3 in abstention, and 2 absent at time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff deferred administrative updates for the SCW Program.

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The Watershed Planning Team provided an update, noting:

- 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 Developer Information Session will be held virtually on March 18, 2026. The Session will include information and examples to help Project Developers align their applications with the Watershed Planning Initiative as part of the new 20th requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines. More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Since the launch of the Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey, 1,300 new survey responses have been collected. 57 responses have been collected for the LSGR WASC.

The Watershed Planning Team can be reached at watershedplanning@pw.lacounty.gov.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Andrea Dransfield Kraus introduced themselves as the new Watershed Coordinator and expressed enthusiasm for discussing stormwater issues with Committee Members and the community. Watershed Coordinator Kraus introduced Jane Gray (Dudek) as part of the Watershed Coordinator team.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Public Comment Period

Public Works staff compiled all public comments and uploaded them to the [SCW Program website](#). In-person, virtual and call-in users were invited to provide public comment.

Win Cowger (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research (MIPPR), Study applicant) noted that the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds Scientific Study (SS) has received two letters of support, one from City of Long Beach Councilmember Kristina Duggan and one from the community-based organization Ezrach.

James Cluxton (OhanaVets, Inc.) expressed belief that OhanaVets was removed from the Watershed Coordinator role with short notice and no coordination for transition with the incoming consultant at that time. Cluxton claimed that outside counsel has been contacted regarding the Watershed Coordinator selection process.

7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Lower San Gabriel River Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY26-27) Stormwater Investment Plan

Public Works staff demonstrated use of the Stormwater Investment Planning (SIP) tool to develop funding scenarios for the LSGR Watershed Area.

Upon inquiry, Public Works clarified that the recommendation not to exceed 80% refers to projected fiscal years, not the budgeted year. Public Works staff encouraged Committee Members to reflect on projects that might return for construction or operations and maintenance (O&M) funding.

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Member Francisco Guerrero inquired about the requirement for Scientific Studies to account for no more than 5% of the total budget based on annual revenue generated over a 5-year period. Member Guerrero expressed concern that by including new Scientific Studies in the SIP, the 5% cap would be exceeded for previous SIPs that include FY26-27 in their 5-year period. Public Works staff clarified that the cap is for the current SIP's 5-year period (FY26-31).

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) explained that more funds have been allocated to SS recently because IP projects were not submitted to LSGR WASC for FY26-27 and had been paused for all WASCs in FY25-26. Fossum noted that the Watershed Planning process has identified priorities for future IP projects. Vice-Chair Negrete remarked on the high cost of project implementation.

Member Guerrero asked whether a Scientific Study that solicited multiple WASCs would have to increase its funding request for the LSGR WASC if the other WASCs did not in their SIPs. Public Works staff stated that the funding request would not increase, as SS funding requests from different WASCs should be independent of each other.

Public Works staff highlighted two Projects from previous SIPs that have discussed potentially withdrawing their projects: the La Habra Heights Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System The Park Hacienda Road Project (La Habra Heights Project) and the La Mirada Creek Park Project.

Rafferty Wooldridge (City of La Habra Heights) stated that La Habra Heights Project developers are in discussion with a catch basin filter media manufacturer and are seeking execution of the Transfer Agreement (TA). Upon inquiry, Wooldridge clarified that the La Habra Heights Project is not currently being withdrawn, but the option has been discussed with City Council.

Co-Chair Dan Knapp remarked that \$705,348 was awarded to the La Habra Heights Project in the FY23-24 SIP and requested a timeline for the withdrawal decision. Wooldridge explained that funds have not been disbursed and the decision should be finalized within the month. Public Works staff noted that the Project is required to submit Progress Reports even though the funds have yet to be disbursed.

Mark Rounds (City of La Mirada) confirmed that the La Mirada Creek Park Project is being withdrawn since projected construction costs far exceed allocated funds. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that funds were disbursed but no expenditures were made and that the timeline for return of funds will be made available for future SIPs as the procedures are currently being finalized.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff explained that the SCW Program was informed of withdrawal in Fall 2025 but not of the decision-making process. Public Works staff noted that past expenditure reports reflected a lack of progress.

Member Vivanti shared that construction costs have increased significantly and that the Project's withdrawal is not necessarily the fault of the consultant nor of the City of La Mirada. Member Galia stated that the SCW Program should be made aware of issues promptly, given that the Program is taxpayer-funded. Co-Chair Knapp expressed appreciation for the Project's decision to withdraw rather than to request more funds after commencing construction.

Public Works staff displayed the following funding scenarios:

- The baseline funding scenario

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- The baseline scenario with the inclusion of the Project Modification Request (PMR) from the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project
- The baseline scenario with the inclusion of the Bellflower PMR, the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS, and the Regional Contaminants of Emergency Concern (CECs) and Pollutant Event Mean Concentrations (EMCs) in Stormwater Assessment SS

Public Works staff noted that the baseline scenario allocates 90%, 15%, and 1% of the budget in FY26-27, FY27-28, and FY28-29 respectively. Public Works staff also noted that the second scenario allocates 99%, 61%, 1%, in each of the same three fiscal years; the third scenario allocates 100%, 63%, and 2% of the budget in the same three fiscal years, respectively.

Public Works staff displayed potential future requests for construction and O&M costs for previously funded IP Projects with assumptions of 25% and 50% leveraged funds. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff shared that 14 Projects are in the design phase in the LSGR Watershed Area but noted a lag between reporting and current project status.

Public Works staff shared that a ranking survey for the two SS and the one PMR was distributed to Committee Members and provided a summary of the results. Member Guerrero noted that only the number of votes in support, not in opposition, were displayed.

Oliver Galang (Craftwater) explained that the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project PMR, which requested an increase of \$1,750,000 in funding for FY26-27, could be reduced or shifted to the following FY. Galang noted that design will be finalized by June 2026 and the Project advertised for bid by Fall 2026. Len Gorecki (City of Bellflower) shared that the City of Bellflower has submitted multiple grant applications and anticipates results in the coming months. Gorecki stated that the City of Bellflower could reduce the total PMR if the other grant funding is awarded.

Gorecki explained that the Bellflower City Council supports the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project if the funding gap can be closed. Co-Chair Knapp expressed support for the Project but inquired whether applicants should return for funding after the Project goes to bid, so that the WASC could consider a more accurate cost estimate. Gorecki explained that the cost estimate was updated in December 2025 with built-in contingency.

Vice-Chair Negrete asked about next steps if both the PMR and grant applications were to be approved. Gorecki explained that the City of Bellflower would return any excess funding to the LSGR WASC after the Request for Proposal (RFP) and bid and award process.

Member Guerrero asked if SIP programming should be delayed until grant funding is determined. Public Works staff noted that delaying programming the SIP is an option but explained that the LSGR WASC could reduce funding for FY27-28 based on grant results. Member Venzon asked if funding could be split between three fiscal years rather than FY26-27 and FY27-28. Galang stated that \$4,000,000 could be shifted to FY28-29.

Upon inquiry, Gorecki noted that the Project is in plan check with the City, with plans to issue an RFP in May 2026.

Co-Chair Knapp raised the possibility that the grant program may only partially fund the request, in which case the Project Applicant would likely return to the SCW Program for additional funding. Public Works staff explained that shifting funds to FY28-29 would cover this scenario.

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Upon request, Public Works staff displayed the baseline scenario with the inclusion of the PMR and \$4,000,000 in funding shifted to FY28-29. Public Works staff noted that the resulting budget allocations for the current and next two fiscal years would be 99%, 36%, and 16%, with 91% and 5% of the budget allocated to IP Projects and to SS, respectively.

Member Venzon expressed concern about postponing SIP programming since the Project applicants might not have bid information prepared until next year. Co-Chair Mueller also highlighted the possibility of partial grant funding. Gorecki noted that the City of Bellflower applied for \$4,000,000 in grants, with no expectation for partial funding but rather full approval or disapproval.

Upon request, Public Works staff displayed the baseline scenario with the inclusion of the PMR, \$4,000,000 in funding shifted to FY28-29, and the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS. Public Works staff noted that the resulting budget allocations for the current and next fiscal years would be 100%, 37%, and 17%, with roughly \$1,900 in remaining funds for FY26-27.

Upon inquiry, Cowger shared that the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS was included in the recommended Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) and Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) SIPs, and not included in the recommended Santa Clara River (SCR) WASC and Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) SIPs. Upon inquiry, Cowger explained that approval from all nine WASCs would have scaled up the resulting model, but noted that the LLAR and LSGR Watershed Areas are the highest priority for the SS team.

Dylan Ahearn (Herrera, Study applicant) explained that the ULAR WASC requested that their Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment SS coordinate with applicants for a similar SS, the Assessment and Treatment of CECs SS, and reapply for consideration in that WASC for FY27-28. Ahearn shared that the SS was proposed to six WASCs; the three WASCs that they did not apply to did not have sufficient available funding for the SS.

Upon inquiry, Public Works staff noted that six Committee Members voted in support of, and seven in opposition to, both SS under consideration.

Member Vivanti expressed the opinion that the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS is duplicative, since many cities have Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits and must comply with statewide trash requirements. Member Ian Patton noted that the City of Long Beach continues to experience increasing trash levels despite upstream interventions.

Vice-Chair Negrete expressed concern about the deliverables of both SS under consideration. Vice-Chair Negrete commented that SCW Program funding might not be appropriate for these SS and suggested that the City of Long Beach fund the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS. Member Vivanti seconded Vice-Chair Negrete and suggested the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) or the California State Water Resources Control Board as possible alternate funding sources. Member Patton affirmed that the SS was deemed eligible for SCW Program funding and noted that multiple cities continue to struggle with trash levels despite existing Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Cowger explained that the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS intends to reduce trash, potentially by determining prevention strategies that would reduce trash capture devices and thus costs across the region. Cowger emphasized that feedback from a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) would inform the SS priorities.

Committee Members conducted two straw polls to gauge support for the SS.

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Upon inquiry, Public Works staff noted that SS can re-apply the following year if not included in a given year's SIP.

Upon inquiry, Cowger noted that partners of the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS include the 5 Gyres Institute, Algalita Marine Research and Education, and Friends of the Los Angeles River, and California State Water Resources Control Board.

8) Public Comment Period

Dylan Ahearn (Herrera, Study applicant) expressed interest in reapplying during the next Call for Projects and requested that Committee Members reflect on the number of Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects discharging into groundwater without knowledge of CECs.

9) Voting Item

- b) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendation for the Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review**

Member Venzon motioned to approve the final FY26-27 SIP for the LSGR Watershed Area, including the budget for the Watershed Coordinator, and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All continuing Projects and Scientific Studies (with no funding changes); 1 Full PMR Project (with funding distributed over 3 years - Bellflower Simms Construction)"). The motion was seconded by Member Caluag and passed with 13 votes in favor, 1 vote opposed, 1 in abstention, and 0 absent at time of time (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2026, from 10:00am to 12:30pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

Member Vivanti noted that OhanaVets has been anticipated to participate in an upcoming outreach event for the City of Lakewood and questioned the transition process. Upon inquiry, Public Works staff clarified that the Watershed Coordinator selection process is followed by extensive discussion with Los Angeles County Counsel and that the new Watershed Coordinator is developing a Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan (SOEP). Public Works staff added that Regional Coordination, on behalf of the County, reached out to OhanaVets on multiple occasions to facilitate the transition.

Fossum stated that the SOEP is due twelve weeks after the Watershed Coordinator contract begins and that the Watershed Coordinator will begin reaching out to Committee Members for feedback as part of the onboarding process.

11) Adjournment

Vice-Chair Negrete thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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			Quorum Present			Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 2/10/2026 Meeting Minutes	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for LSGR Watershed Area including the budget for the Watershed Coordinator and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All continuing Projects and Scientific Studies (with no funding changes); 1 Full PMR Project (with funding distributed over 3 years - Bellflower Simms Construction)"
Agency	Los Angeles County FCD	CJ Caluag	x	Daniel Bradbury		y	y
Agency	Central Basin						
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	x			y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Alysha Chan		y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Danielle Lewis	x	Todd Leland			y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	David Sall		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Aydin Pasebani	x	a	y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks		Ian Patton	x		a
Community Stakeholder	Business	Ariel Pe					
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Chris Kuebert		Sofia Taylor	x	a	y
Municipal Members	Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Joe Alejandria		y	y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Konya Vivanti	x	Kelli Pickler		y	y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Wataru Kumagai		Alexa Reasoner	x	a	n
Municipal Members	Pico Rivera / Bellflower	Noe Negrete	x	Len Gorecki		y	y
Municipal Members	Unincorporated	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y	y
Municipal Members	Whittier / La Mirada	Leon Vasquez	x	Mark Rounds		y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	Watershed Coordinator	Andrea Dransfield Kraus	x	Jane Gray			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	10	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0	1
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	3	1
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	15
Municipal Members		7			Approved		Approved

Webex Attendees
Lower San Gabriel River WASC Meeting
March 10, 2026

Ali Sharbat (Cal Poly Pomona)
Andrew Kim
Anthony Barreras
David Coghiel
David Lee
Denise Dolor
Dusadee Corhiran
Dylan Ahearn (Herrera)
Fred Gonzalez - LACPW

James Cluxton
Jane Gray (Dudek)
Jenny Chau
Jessica Pearson
JonPaul Sarro
Jose L. Escajeda
Kristina
LSGR WASC
Lauren Anderson

Linet Khechatoorian
Marisela Velasquez
Mark Rounds
Mayra Cabrera - LACPW
Mei-Lin Hanna (JLHA)
Michelle Kim
Richard Watson
Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordinator)
Sophia Catalan, Stantec

Steve
Taylor Paez
Theodore Von Bitner
Tim Fairbank, Craftwater
Veronica Carrillo
wataru kumagai

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	Primary	<i>Jenn Swart</i>
Jim Cluxton <i>Andrea Dransfield</i>	Watershed Coordinator	Alternate	<i>Andrea Dransfield</i>
Joe Alejandria	Downey	Alternate	
Joseph Venzon	Unincorporated	Primary	<i>JV</i>
Kekoa Anderson	Watershed Coordinator	Primary	
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood	Primary <i>Alternate</i>	
Konya Vivanti	Lakewood	Alternate <i>Primary</i>	<i>Konya Vivanti</i>
Len Gorecki	Bellflower	Alternate	<i>Len Gorecki</i>
Leon Vasquez	Whittier	Alternate	<i>Leon Vasquez</i>
Mark Rounds	La Mirada	Alternate	
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Primary	
Noe Negrete	Pico Rivera	Primary	<i>Noe Negrete</i>
Sofia Taylor	Cerritos	Alternate	<i>Sofia Taylor</i>
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Alternate	
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach	Primary	



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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Adam Galia	Resident	Primary	
Alexa Reasoner	Long Beach	Alternate	<i>AR</i>
Alysha Chan	Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Ariel Pe	Business	Primary	
Chris Kuebert	Cerritos	Primary	
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County FCD	Primary	<i>CJ Caluag</i>
Dan Knapp	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Primary	<i>Dan Knapp</i>
Dan Mueller	Downey	Primary	<i>Dan Mueller</i>
Daniel Bradbury	Los Angeles County FCD	Alternate	
Danielle Lewis	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Primary	<i>Danielle Lewis</i>
David Sall	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Alternate	
Francisco Guerrero	Sanitation Districts	Primary	<i>Francisco Guerrero</i>
Fred Gonzalez	Unincorporated	Alternate	
Gabrielle Weeks	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Primary	
Ian Patton	Resident	Alternate	

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Rafferty	Woodbridge	La Habra Heights	Rwoodbridge@LHcity.org
Aydia	Pasebani	RMC	apasebani@rmc.ca.gov
Victoria	Corto	Blade & Vealch	cortov@bv.com

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

