

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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Tuesday, May 19, 2026  
1:00pm – 4:00 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)  
Jesus Rojas, Resident (Community)  
\*Jade Nguyen, Nature for All (Community)  
Allen Ma, Resident (Community)  
Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)  
\*Marvin Carpio, Duarte (Municipal)  
Eddie Chan, Irwindale (Municipal)  
\*Lena Abdullah, Monrovia (Municipal)  
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Chair  
Kara Plourde, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Jenna Cobb, Active San Gabriel Valley (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## Committee Members Not Present:

Patty Cortez, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Marisol Cortez, Resident (Community)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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

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## **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 April 21, 2026**

Public Works staff presented the minutes from April 21, 2026. Member Briget Arndell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Marvin Carpio. The WASC voted to approve the April 21, 2026 meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

## **3) Committee Member and Program Updates**

Committee Member updates were deferred to allow time for Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) deliberation.

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

- 8 of the 9 WASCs have recommended a Stormwater Investment Plan since early April.
- Committee Members may raise their hands and identify themselves to motion, second, discuss, and approve, per Robert's Rule of Order.

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#### **4) Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator updates were deferred to allow time for SIP deliberation.

#### **5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

Committee Members from the City of Monrovia, City of Duarte, City of Arcadia, and Los Angeles County disclosed conversations between representative Committee Members about the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project.

#### **6) Public Comment**

There were 22 public comment cards submitted before the deadline and posted on the [Safe, Clean Water \(SCW\) Program event's page](#), and an additional 50 public comment cards were submitted and posted after the meeting.

Jose Ramirez (Groworks) provided public comment expressing support for the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project, noting that the Project would allow Groworks to expand their gardening program and allow at-risk kids more opportunities to garden.

Noreen Sullivan (City of Pasadena) expressed support for the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project, noting the direct benefits to residents.

Ben Harris (Los Angeles Water Keeper) expressed support for the Quantifying Community Flood Management Benefits of Watershed-Scale Stormwater Capture Scientific Study (SS), noting that the SS will evaluate the individual project benefits on flood management from a watershed perspective.

Chris Klibowitz (Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research) expressed support for the A Holistic Assessment of Trash in Watersheds SS, noting the SS' potential to help the WASC make more informed decisions in the future.

#### **7) Presentations and Discussion Items**

##### **a. Rio Hondo Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan**

Public Works staff reminded the WASC about the SIP deliberation process and provided updates to the WASC from Project Applicants as to whether Project Applicants concurred with partial funding offers from the WASC. Public Works shared that the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project and Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project Applicants cannot accept partial funding. The Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project Applicant submitted a signed Funding Reduction Concurrence (FRC) Form to reduce their funding request to \$200,600 per year for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for five years. The Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project (Eaton Wash Project) Applicant also submitted a signed FRC Form of \$6.5 million for construction for two years, and \$465,900 for O&M for three years.

Chair Petschauer reminded the WASC that the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration PMR was approved to be included in the SIP at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The WASC took a few moments to review the preliminary rankings of Infrastructure Projects and Scientific Studies based on the survey that Public Works distributed.

Member Lena Abdullah suggested a SIP scenario that distributed the Rio Hondo Ecosystem across several years, reallocated the Eaton Wash Projects' funding, and delaying funding from FY28-29 to FY29-30 for the Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project, a continuing Infrastructure Project, with no changes to total funding amount. This scenario included all other new Infrastructure Projects and two new SS with no funding changes. Upon inquiry, Grace Kast (Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management

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Authority, Project Applicant) clarified that the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project Applicant is continuing to pursue grant opportunities, has received 43% match so far, and is requesting only construction funding. Oliver Galang (Craftwater, Project Applicant) clarified that the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project is pursuing three other grant funding opportunities and will receive Caltrans funding in its fourth year. The Committee also explored an option to adjust the Washington Park Stormwater funding for construction only. Chair Petschauer clarified that the funding for the Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project cannot be delayed to FY29-30, as the delay would jeopardize the Project's compliance components and ability to meet Caltrans funding requirements, and that the City of Pasadena does not intend to remove their funding request for O&M as it is relatively low and the funding application process is expensive.

Member Petschauer requested that other Project Applicants explore as many grant opportunities as possible and reduce SCW Program funding requests as much as possible.

Watershed Coordinator Jenna Cobb asked Chair Petschauer if the City of Pasadena would accept a new funding distribution for the Eaton Wash Project that spreads their two years of construction funding onto three years, through FY28-29. Chair Petschauer expressed concern that the Project would lose its Caltrans funding if it is not constructed with FY26-27 and FY27-28 SCW Program Regional funds.

Committee Members discussed the option of not funding new design-only Infrastructure Projects, Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project and Story Park Stormwater Capture Project, and the option of splitting their funding requests across two years. Galang expressed openness to splitting the requested design funding for the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project evenly over two years.

Committee discussed shifting \$3 million of funding for the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project from FY26-27 to FY29-30 and \$1 million of funding from FY27-28 to FY26-27, but the scenario did not meet the budgeting criteria.

The Committee continued to discuss various scenarios that would fund all new Infrastructure Projects, but with different funding distributions. Many of the suggested scenarios did not meet the budgeting criteria.

Antos reminded the Committee Members that they should not act as representatives of proposed Projects or Scientific Studies in negotiation with one another, and that Committee Members should orient their focus to proposing scenarios that meet the budgeting criteria; Committee Members should call on Project advocates and consultants for information about how funding requests may be reduced or redistributed.

The Committee discussed the removal of only O&M funding for all new Infrastructure Projects from FY29-30 onwards. This scenario still did not meet budgeting criteria.

The Committee also discussed the difference in overall cost of the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project and the Story Park Stormwater Capture Project against the amount of stormwater each Project would capture. Member Plourde requested to view the SIP scenario without funding for the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project, with funding for the Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project redistributed, and adding the amount for Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project (\$1,272,000) to the Eaton Wash Project for FY26-27.

The Committee continued to discuss various scenarios. Member Juarez requested a scenario in which the Eaton Wash Project and all Ss were excluded from the SIP. This scenario met the budgeting criteria. Member Plourde requested to see that scenario adjusted to award the Eaton Wash Project partial funding equal to the funding carryover from FY26-27. This scenario did not meet budgeting criteria. Member Abdullah requested the same scenario be adjusted to provide funding to the Eaton Wash Project to bring the SIP funding allocations in FY27-28, FY28-29, FY29-30, and FY30-31 to 80% or lower.

Antos reminded the WASC that they may not be able to come to a SIP that funds all projects and completely satisfies all Committee Members. Antos suggested that Committee Members start with a SIP scenario that funds the Infrastructure Projects or Scientific Studies that all Committee Members support, and from there,

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motion to add additional ones. Public Works staff encouraged the WASC to move towards a motion on a SIP scenario that satisfies budgeting criteria.

Public Works Staff facilitated the second public comment period.

#### **8) Public Comment Period**

Dylan Ahearn (Herrera) provided public comment in support of the Regional CECs and Pollutant EMCs in Stormwater Assessment SS team, noting that funding for new SS was not in the potential SIP scenario and that the requested funding for SS is much lower than the funding requested by IPs.

Craig Doberstein (Herrera) provided public comment in support of Depave Rio Hondo: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting and Exploring Broader Hardscape Transformation Considerations SS, noting that in last year's SIP deliberation, the Committee requested that 2 SS applications merge, which resulted in the subject SS application.

Samantha Leyva (City of Montebello) provided public comment in support of the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project, noting that the Project helps the Cities of Monterey Park and Montebello achieve the State of California's water goals.

#### **7) Presentations and Discussion Items (Continued)**

##### **a. Rio Hondo Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan**

Member Nguyen requested to see the SIP scenario that included at least one SS and suggested the Depave Rio Hondo: Prioritizing Parking Lots for Green Retrofitting and Exploring Broader Hardscape Transformation Considerations SS. This scenario met budgeting criteria.

Member Waters asked if the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project would actually achieve no stormwater infiltration. Merrill Taylor (Craftwater, Project Applicant) clarified that the Project would accomplish a small amount of infiltration, but that infiltration is not the primary means of treatment and that community benefits would only be realized at the Arcadia City Hall site.

Chair Petschauer requested to remove the Arcadia City Hall Stormwater Capture Project from the SIP scenario.

Member Abdullah motioned to approve the SIP scenario with all Projects, including Arcadia City Hall Project and the Depave Rio Hondo SS, seconded by Member Juarez.

Member Alysha Chan asked the City of Pasadena about the possibility of losing Caltrans funding. Member Petschauer clarified that accepting reduced funding for the City's Projects could put the Caltrans funding at risk.

The Committee discussed the other SIP scenario with all Projects, except the Arcadia City Hall Project, and the Depave Rio Hondo SS. Member Jeff Khun motioned to approve the SIP scenario without the Arcadia City Hall Project included, seconded by Member Waters.

#### **8) Voting Items**

- a. Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for RH Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinators and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All Continuing Projects and Scientific Studies (with funding reallocation for Washington and El Monte Norwood, no funding changes); 1 Full PMR (Plymouth School), 6 New Infrastructure Projects (East Los Angeles Sustainable, Rio Hondo Ecosystem, Eaton**

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#### **Wash Stormwater – pending submittal of Funding Reduction Concurrence form, Sierra Madre Boulevard, Story Park, Arcadia City Hall); 1 SS (Depave Rio Hondo)”**

The WASC voted to not approve the SIP with 6 votes in favor, 8 opposed, and 0 in abstention (not approved, see vote tracking sheet).

- b. Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for RH Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinators and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario “All Continuing Projects and Scientific Studies (with funding reallocation for Washington and El Monte Norwood, no funding changes); 1 Full PMR (Plymouth School), 5 New Infrastructure Projects (East Los Angeles Sustainable, Rio Hondo Ecosystem, Eaton Wash Stormwater – pending submittal of Funding Reduction Concurrence form, Sierra Madre Boulevard, Story Park); 1 SS (Depave Rio Hondo)”**

The WASC voted to approve the SIP with 13 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

#### **7) Presentations and Discussion Items (Continued)**

##### **b. Key Areas of Interest for 2026 Call for Projects**

Mike Antos (Stantec), Regional Coordination and Public Works staff presented the Round 8 (FY27-28) Call for Projects RH WASC Priorities. Full presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Antos clarified that the anticipated benefits for planned Projects do not include projected benefits from TRP Project Concepts. Public Works staff further clarified that the Watershed Planning Tool will be updated as Infrastructure Projects are funded and will continue to monitor data from TRP Project Concepts and SS to fill data gaps.

Member Petschauer commented that Proposition 4 will provide good funding opportunities for Project Proponents in the coming years. Antos agreed but cautioned that Prop 4 offers only slightly more than two years' worth of SCW Program funding and is spread across the entire state of California.

The Committee expressed desire to see applications from smaller cities within the Rio Hondo Watershed Area.

Member Allen Ma expressed interest in seeing an application that focuses on the reduction of contamination on stormwater quality from manufactured products. Antos replied that the way this usually manifests in the SCW Program is through SS on the topic of emerging contaminants.

WASC Members commented that the SIP deliberation workbooks provided by the Regional Coordination team were generally helpful.

#### **9) Items for Next Agenda**

During the next Rio Hondo WASC meeting, the WASC will discuss:

- a. Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)
- b. Regional Program FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Summary

Additionally, by the July 21<sup>st</sup> RH WASC meeting, the ROC will have reviewed the RH WASC's recommended SIP. ROC comments on the SIP, if any, will be a discussion item at the July 21<sup>st</sup> RH WASC meeting.

More information is available on the [SCW Program website](#).

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## **10) Adjournment**

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

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Member Type	Position	Quorum Present				Voting Items		
		Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 4/21/2026 Meeting Minutes	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for RH Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinators and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All Continuing Projects and Scientific Studies (with funding reallocation for Washington and El Monte Norwood, no funding changes); 1 Full PMR (Plymouth School), 6 New Infrastructure Projects (East Los Angeles Sustainable, Rio Hondo Ecosystem, Eaton Wash Stormwater - pending submittal of Funding Reduction Concurrence form, Sierra Madre Boulevard, Story Park, Arcadia City Hall); 1 SS (Depave Rio Hondo)")	Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Stormwater Investment Plan for RH Watershed Area including Watershed Coordinators and approve submission to the ROC for review (funding scenario "All Continuing Projects and Scientific Studies (with funding reallocation for Washington and El Monte Norwood, no funding changes); 1 Full PMR (Plymouth School), 5 New Infrastructure Projects (East Los Angeles Sustainable, Rio Hondo Ecosystem, Eaton Wash Stormwater - pending submittal of Funding Reduction Concurrence form, Sierra Madre Boulevard, Story Park), 1 New SS (Depave Rio Hondo)
Agency	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	Julian Juarez	x	Alynn Sun		y	y	y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Patty Cortez		Katherine Vazquez				
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Lauren Augino	x	Justin Nakano		y	n	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero		Alysha Chan	x	a	n	y
Agency	Pasadena Public Works	Jeff Khun	x	Brent Maue		y	n	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Jesus Rojas	x			y	y	y
Community Stakeholder								
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Marisol Cortez						
Community Stakeholder	Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto		Jade Nguyen	x	a	n	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Allen Ma	x			a	n	y
Municipal Members	City of Alhambra	Latoya Waters	x	Eddie Villegas		y	n	y
Municipal Members	City of Arcadia	Briget Arndell	x	Carmen Masud		y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval		Marvin Carpio	x	y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Irwindale	Eddie Chan	x			y	n	y
Municipal Members	City of Monrovia	Alex Tachiki		Lena Abdullah	x	y	y	n
Municipal Members	City of Pasadena	Dawn Petschauer*	x	Richard Yee		y	n	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Kara Plourde	x	Donna Tran		a	y	y
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Active San Gabriel Valley	Jenna Cobb	x	David Diaz				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16				10	6	13
Total Voting Members Present		14				0	8	1
Agency		4				4	0	0
Community Stakeholder		3				14	14	14
Municipal Members		7				Result	Not Approved	Approved

## Attendees

### Rio Hondo WASC Meeting May 19, 2026

Ben Harris - LA Waterkeeper

Brad Wardynski - Craftwater

Dr. Kamalzare - CPP

Chris Klibowitz - Moore Institute

Craig Doberstein

Donna Tran - LACPW

Dusadee Corhiran - SCWP

Dylan Ahearn - Herrera

Grace Kast

Grey Crisanto - LACPW

Guest

Harumi Goya - Waterboards

James Carpenter - SCWP

Jason Jade Pepito - SCWP

Jenny Chau - LACPW

Joe Venzon - LACPW

John Beshay - SGVCOG

Justin Jones- LACPW

Katie Harrel - CWE

Linnet Khechatoorian - LACPW

Linh - GoDayOne

Lisa Kim - LACPW

Mariam Rizk - LACPW

Manuel Gonzalez - LACPW

Marisela Velasquez - SCWP

Mayra Cabrera - SCWP

Mei-Lin Hanna

Melanie Rivera - LACPW

Melissa Romero - SGVCOG

Nan Jia- CWE

Nancy - GoDayOne

Pauline Nguyen - Craftwater

RH AV

Rafael Pimonte - LACPW

Richard Watson - RWA Planning

Samantha Leyva - City of Montebello

Sean Singletary - Culver City

Sofia Cardenas - Regional Coordination

Soledad Sinada - LACPW

Traci Gleason - Koa Consulting

Uriel Cobian - LACPW

Eddie Villegas - City of Alhambra

Kristina Moreno - LACPW

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### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



**SAFE  
CLEAN  
WATER**

Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District	P	
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	
Justin Nakano	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	A	
Francisco Guerrero	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	P	
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	A	
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	

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### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	P/A	Signature
Latoya Waters	Alhambra	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Eddie Villegas	Alhambra	A	
Briget Arndell	Arcadia	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Carmen Masud	Arcadia	A	
Stephanie Sandoval	Duarte	P	
Marvin Carpio	Duarte	A	<i>[Signature]</i>
Eddie Chan	Irwindale	P	
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	P	
Lena Abdullah	Monrovia	A	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Richard Yee	Pasadena	A	
Kara Plourde	LA County Public Works	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Donna Tran	LA County Public Works	A	
Jenna Cobb	Active SGV	WC	<i>[Signature]</i>
David Diaz	Active SGV	WC	

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ana <del>Ana</del>	Anahol	El Monte	
Brianna	Datti	Craftwater	
Merrill	Taylor	Craftwater	
Jessica	Rivas	Pasadena PW	
CESAR	RAMIREZ	PASADENA PW	
Jose	Ramirez	Pasadena	
Wackenzie	Bolger	SGVCOG	
Kevin	Lai	SGVCOG	
Victoria	Urena	SGVCOG	
Oliver	Galang	Craftwater	
Courtney	Semton	Craftwater	

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