

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



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

Committee Members Present

*Daniel Bradbury, 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
*Aydin Pasebani, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
Chris Kuebert, Cerritos (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal), Co-Chair
Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)
Wataru Kumagai, Long Beach (Municipal)
*Len Gorecki, 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

Adam Galia, Resident (Community)
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)
Ariel Pe, Business (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Dan Mueller, Co-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 March 10, 2026

Public Works staff presented the meeting minutes from March 10, 2026. Member Len Gorecki motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Co-Chair Dan Knapp. The WASC voted to approve the March 10, 2026 meeting minutes with 12 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 in abstention, and 0 absent at time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Public Works staff provided updates, noting:

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- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) voted to approve the 2026 Biennial Progress Report for submission to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) on March 8, 2026. The report, along with public comments received, is available on the [Adaptive Management webpage](#).
- As of May 12, 2026, eight WASCs have each recommended a Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
- Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program staff will prepare the SIP Transmittal Reports for the ROC on behalf of the WASCs. This year, the SIP Transmittal Report is being updated based on prior feedback and information from the Initial Watershed Plans.
- The ROC is scheduled to discuss the recommended FY26-27 SIPs on June 10 and July 8, 2026.
- The 2026 Call for Projects will begin accepting applications in June, with a submission deadline of July 31, 2026. Call for Projects Info Sessions will be held on May 13 from 9:00am to 11:00am and on May 14 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. For more information and updated guidance, please visit the [Call for Projects webpage](#).
- All twelve Watershed Coordinator contracts are now fully executed. The Watershed Coordinators are continuing to provide services under the new agreements.
- The SCWP Municipal Program Team is now offering project support services to all cities with an updated City Services Contract with Los Angeles County Public Works. Current available services are limited to initial project planning and project design. Cities interested in utilizing these services or seeking clarification can contact the SCW Municipal Program Team at SCWPMunicipal@pw.lacounty.gov. Additional details on the scope and availability of future services will be shared in the coming months.
- To keep up with Program Updates as they are shared, the public can subscribe to receive email notifications on the SCW Program website. Implementation Updates are also located in the [News and Updates webpage](#) on the SCW Program website.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Andrea Dransfield Kraus and Shannon Heffernan (Dudek Watershed Coordination team) provided updates on Watershed Coordinator activities. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Heffernan also provided information on their experience in community planning, outreach, and engagement for SCW Program-funded projects.

Member Jenn Swart notified Committee Members that the Water Replenishment District is hosting the SoCal Water Summit in Pico Rivera on June 13, 2026.

Co-Chair Mueller expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming presentation on the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP).

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.

James Cluxton (OhanaVets, Inc.) expressed concerns regarding the Watershed Coordinator selection process and requested that Committee Members seek clarification from Public Works staff on procedural differences between the 2021 and 2025 Watershed Coordinator selection processes, the transition coordination, and the handling of contract closeout and Public Records Act requests.

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7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Key Areas of Interest for 2026 Call for Projects

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented on the Round 8 (FY27-28) Call for Projects Key Areas of Interest and Priorities. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Strategic Advancement Section staff, formerly the Watershed Planning Section, described the 20th requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines. Upon inquiry, Strategic Advancement Section staff noted that targets for all seven planning themes and SCW Program goals were developed as part of the Initial Watershed Plans. Strategic Advancement Section staff explained that Committee Members should prioritize projects that progress these goals. Co-Chair Knapp highlighted the 2045 SCW Program targets for stormwater capture and groundwater recharge and storage as examples.

Member Daniel Bradbury inquired whether all project applications should be reviewed in the context of the Watershed Planning targets. Fossum noted that the 20th requirement requires applicants to explain how a project aligns with the Watershed Plan and that data from proposed projects will be integrated into the Watershed Planning Dashboard to see how new projects contribute towards targets during SIP deliberations.

Upon inquiry, Strategic Advancement Section staff explained that monitoring data will replace anticipated benefits as they become available. Public Works staff noted that post-construction monitoring guidelines will be released in the upcoming months, with updated Metrics and Measures next year.

Fossum requested Committee Members' reflections on funded projects to date and noted that having multiple projects in the planning and design phase is not uncommon across the nine WASCs. Co-Chair Knapp expressed hope that more projects will begin construction shortly. Member Swart noted that 16 projects are in planning and design and inquired which would be finalized within the next six months to a year. Public Works staff shared that updated information from Mid-Year Reports will be summarized at the next LSGR WASC meeting.

Fossum highlighted that projects funded within the LSGR WASC have 35.9% in leveraged funding. Co-Chair Mueller requested the average percentage of leveraged funding across all WASCs. Public Works staff reported percentages for the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB), Rio Hondo (RH), Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR), Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR), and North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB) WASCs as 56%, 42%, 39%, 39%, and 26%, respectively.

Fossum noted that the LSGR WASC chose to fund only one Project Modification Request (PMR) for FY26-27, with no funding toward new Projects or Scientific Studies, and has significant budget remaining for future years. Co-Chair Mueller expressed support for project proponents that demonstrate effort in pursuing leveraged funds and noted that shovel-ready projects should take precedence in deliberations. Co-Chair Knapp commended the LSGR WASC for incorporating 35.9% leveraged funding.

Fossum inquired whether the WASC would hold larger municipalities to the same leveraged funding standard. Co-Chair Knapp proposed 50% as the leveraged funding standard. Member Joseph Venzon noted the complications of leveraged funding standards given varied municipal funding and suggested inter-municipal project partnerships to demonstrate regional benefits. Co-Chair Knapp expressed support for case-by-case evaluations, given that the LSGR Watershed Area lacks larger community-based organizations (CBOs) to take on partnerships. Co-Chair Mueller recommended that the WASC communicate its expectation that large projects should pursue high proportions of leveraged funding but noted that leveraged funding requirements should not deter or detract from quality projects. Fossum explained that leveraged funding opportunities are scarce for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) projects and suggested that the leveraged funding expectation be phase-dependent as well.

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Fossum noted potential areas of interest for future projects as demonstrated by the Watershed Planning Tool. Co-Chair Knapp inquired whether the northern part of the LSGR Watershed Area with the highest multi-benefit opportunity was the unincorporated part of the City of Whittier. Co-Chair Knapp explained that the County CEO identified this area as high priority for climate resiliency actions. Member Swart highlighted the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds as a key location for Water Supply benefits due to the presence of unconfined aquifers.

Fossum asked if Committee Members were aware of location-specific project barriers in the northern LSGR Watershed Area. Member Venzon noted the presence of green street projects, during which geotechnical investigations revealed that infiltration was infeasible in certain locations.

Fossum commented that the Watershed Planning tool could assist Watershed Coordinators with early-stage project ideation.

Member Venzon noted that the USGR and LSGR Watershed Management Group boundaries, as outlined by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, do not directly align with the Watershed Area boundaries of the SCW Program. Member Venzon explained that certain areas may lack projects due to jurisdictional discrepancy, and recommended outreach to municipalities within nearby Watershed Planning Groups.

Fossum inquired whether Committee Members were comfortable with the distribution of project types, targets, and funding represented to date. Co-Chair Mueller noted that multiple projects currently appear relatively inexpensive, but that such funding represents funding for the projects' design phase only; those projects will increase in cost if also funded for construction. Member Vivanti noted that three of the lower-cost projects were for O&M. Member Vivanti commented that the Lakewood Equestrian Center Project was withdrawn and did not receive funds from the SCW Program.

Member Swart stated that Project proponents should align proposals with the Watershed Planning Tool's targets and language and prepare to discuss this alignment.

Co-Chair Knapp requested data that differentiates projects by phase, use of nature-based solutions, and Disadvantaged Community benefits. Fossum noted that another WASC has requested a comparison matrix of projects. Co-Chair Knapp stated that nature-based solutions like bioswales and greater tree canopy are important due to visibility and public perception.

Fossum asked whether Committee Members would prioritize any watershed-specific Scientific Studies (SS), given that the County is developing a SS Advisory Panel to signal countywide scientific priorities and review guidelines for the Program. Upon inquiry, Fossum noted that the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) will be involved in the panel but that membership on the panel has not yet been announced.

Member Swart suggested researching the mitigation of escalating construction costs. Member Gorecki recommended constructing a consistent series of projects to the minimum standard for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) compliance requirements and ensuring O&M is feasible to prevent cost overrun.

Fossum inquired whether Member Gorecki would support a SS that compared cost drivers in projects over a certain period. Member Gorecki expressed support and emphasized potential benefits of using a consistent project model without excessive technologies or sophistication. Member Danielle Lewis highlighted that each project site has unique constraints.

Fossum requested the Committee Members' input on the SIP Deliberation Workbooks. Co-Chair Mueller expressed support for the workbooks. Member Swart also expressed appreciation and suggested the use of digital copies. Fossum noted that data summarizing SCW Program projects funded to date could be added to the Workbooks.

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Public Works staff noted that project applicants will be reminded of the WASCs' discussions at the Call for Projects Info Sessions and noted that the LSGR WASC has greater budget flexibility than others.

8) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

9) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 9, 2026, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details. Items for the next agenda include:

- a) Lower San Gabriel River Project Prioritization and Selection Discuss for Populating the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Stormwater Investment Plan (if needed, based on Regional Oversight Committee comments)
- b) WASC Roles and Responsibilities
- c) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs
- d) Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)
- e) Regional Program FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Summary
- f) Summary of Submitted Infrastructure Program Projects, Technical Resources Program Project concepts, and Scientific Studies for FY27-28

10) Adjournment

Co-Chair Mueller 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)

Approve
3/10/2026
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Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	
Agency	Los Angeles County FCD	CJ Caluag		Daniel Bradbury	x	a
Agency	Central Basin					
Agency	Water Replentishment District	Jenn Swart	x			y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Alysha Chan		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
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia				
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Aydin Pasebani	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks		Ian Patton		
Community Stakeholder	Business	Ariel Pe				
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Chris Kuebert	x	Sofia Taylor		y
Municipal Members	Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Joe Alejandria		y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Konya Vivanti	x	Kelli Pickler		y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Wataru Kumagai	x	Alexa Reasoner		y
Municipal Members	Pico Rivera / Bellflower	Noe Negrete		Len Gorecki	x	y
Municipal Members	Unincorporated	Joseph Venzon	x	Fred Gonzalez		y
Municipal Members	Whittier / La Mirada	Leon Vasquez	x	Mark Rounds		y
Watershed Coordinator						
Non-Voting Member	Watershed Coordinator	Andrea Dransfield Kraus	x	Shannon Heffernan		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	12
Total Voting Members Present		13			No (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	13
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Webex Attendees
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Albert Mendoza	James Carpenter - SCWP	LSGR AV	Michelle Kim
Alexa Reasoner	Jason Jade Pepito	LSGR WASC	Ryanna Fossum
Andrew Kim	Jenny Chau	Lauren Anderson	Veronica Carrillo
Chloe Ebright (JLHA)	Jessica Pearson	Linet Khechatoorian	kmoreno
David Coghiel	Jim Cluxton	Luis	
David Lee	JonPaul Sarro	Mario Mera - Norwalk	
Fred Gonzalez	Justin Jones	Mayra Cabrera - LA County Public Works	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Adam Galia	Resident	Primary	
Alexa Reasoner	Long Beach	Alternate	
Alysha Chan	Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Ariel Pe	Business	Primary	
Chris Kuebert	Cerritos	Primary	<i>Chris Kuebert</i>
CJ Caluag	Los Angeles County FCD	Primary	
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	<i>Dan Bradbury</i>
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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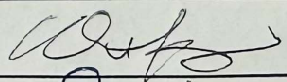
Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	Primary	
Jim Cluxton	Watershed Coordinator	Alternate	
Joe Alejandria	Downey	Alternate	
Joseph Venzon	Unincorporated	Primary	
Kekoa Anderson	Watershed Coordinator	Primary	
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood	Primary Alternate	
Konya Vivanti	Lakewood	Alternate Primary	
Len Gorecki	Bellflower	Alternate	
Leon Vasquez	Whittier	Alternate	
Mark Rounds	La Mirada	Alternate	
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Primary	
Aydin Pasebani	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Alternate	
Noe Negrete	Pico Rivera	Primary	
Sofia Taylor	Cerritos	Alternate	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Alternate	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach	Primary	

Shannon Heffernan Watershed Coordinator

Andrea Dunsford Lewis " "

