

Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, June 23, 2026
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Progress Park Auditorium/Plaza West
15500 Downey Ave
Paramount, CA 90723
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Ernesto Rivera, Flood Control District (Agency)
Jenn Swart, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Alysha Chan, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Arturo Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
Manny Gonez, TreePeople (Community), Co-Chair
Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Candice Dickens-Russell, Friends of the Los Angeles River (Community)
Bernardo Iniguez, Bell Gardens (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
*Wataru Kumagai, Long Beach (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Joseph Venzon, Los Angeles County (Municipal), Co-Chair
Gladis Deras, City of South Gate (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency)
Danielle Lewis, City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation (Agency)
Freddie Agyin, Vernon (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Joseph Venzon, Co-Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed all Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) staff facilitated a roll call, conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, and provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions for any participants joining online. A quorum was established.

Public Works staff reminded attendees that Spanish interpretation services are provided at the WASC meeting.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2026

Public Works staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Jenn Swart motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Co-Chair Manny Gonez. The Committee voted to approve the April 28, 2026 LLAR WASC meeting minutes with 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 4 in abstention, and 2 absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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3) Committee Member and Program Updates

Member Swart introduced Arthella Vallarta as the new Primary Member representing the Water Replenishment District (WRD). Member Swart also stated that WRD presented on Water Supply Benefits at LA Waterkeeper's Recharge LA Symposium on June 15, 2026. Member Swart noted that Committee Members can request the presentation and associated resources.

Member Adriana Figueroa announced retirement effective mid-August and noted that a colleague will be the new Primary Member representing the City of Paramount.

Member Arturo Gonzalez noted that Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) is redeveloping a golf course in the City of Bell Gardens, upstream of the confluence of the Rio Hondo and Lower Los Angeles Rivers. Member Gonzalez explained that the golf course will become a multi-benefit public green space. Member Gonzalez also noted that the City of Los Angeles has been awarded funds for Broadway Sur, a Green Streets project, and that a watershed-wide community event will be held on July 25, 2026, in the City of Lynwood.

Member Gonzalez highlighted that fire-extinguishing water from the Boyle Heights storage facility fire is entering the sewer system and polluting the LLAR.

Public Works staff provided an update on various Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program activities:

- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY26-27) Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for the North Santa Monica Bay (NSMB), Central Santa Monica Bay (NSMB), Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR), and LLAR WASCs on June 10, 2026.
- The ROC is scheduled to discuss the remaining FY26-27 SIPs on July 8, 2026.
- The 2026 Call for Projects for the FY27-28 SIP 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, 2026, from 9:00am to 11:00am and on May 14, 2026, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. More information and guidance can be found on the [Call for Projects webpage](#).
- 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.

Strategic Advancement Section staff provided an update, noting:

- The Strategic Advancement Section staff hosted a virtual Project Developer Info Session about elements of the Initial Watershed Plans and alignment with the 20th Requirement of the Feasibility Study Guidelines on March 18, 2026. The recording is now available on the [Watershed Planning Initiative webpage](#).
- As part of Adaptive Management efforts, revisions to the Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria for the 2027 Call for Projects are currently underway. Input is being gathered through the SCW Program 2027 Scoring Revision Survey, available on the [SCW Program website](#).
- Post-Construction Monitoring Guidance has been uploaded to the [SCW Program website](#).
- Since the launch of the Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey, 1,900 new survey responses have been collected. 196 responses have been collected for the LLAR WASC.

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) requested that Committee Members fill out a survey noting their preference for hardcopies or digital copies of the SIP Deliberation Workbook.

4) Presentation and Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

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b) FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Presentation

Elyssa Lawrence (HDR) presented on the Regional Program FY25-26 Mid-Year Report Summary. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

c) Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) Presentation

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales presented on the LLAR Watershed FY26-27 SOEP. [Presentation slides](#) and the [SOEP](#) are available on the SCW Program website.

Watershed Coordinator Dales noted their upcoming departure from SGA and that the LLAR WASC will be supported by an interim Watershed Coordinator during the transition period.

Co-Chair Venzon requested specific feedback on school greening efforts. Watershed Coordinator Dales explained that charter schools are less concerned about the liability of bringing offsite water onto campus than larger school districts. Co-Chair Gonez noted that TreePeople has collaborated with the California Charter Schools Association regarding Green Schoolyard Grants distributed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

d) Gateway Area Pathfinding (GAP) Analysis Phase I and II Presentation

Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) presented on the GAP Analysis Phase I and II. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

5) General Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

6) Voting Items

a) Approve Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Co-Chair Gonez motioned to approve the LLAR Watershed Area Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, seconded by Member Figueroa. The WASC voted to approve the motion with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, 0 votes opposed, and 0 absent at the time of voting (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

7) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 28, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for meeting details.

8) Adjournment

Co-Chair Venzon thanked WASC Members, Public Works staff, and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

LLAR WASC - June 23, 2026

LLAR WASC - June 23, 2026							
		Quorum Present					
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes	Approve the FY26-27 Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Enrique Baul		y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Madeline Chen		Braden Yu			
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Jenn Swart	x			y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero		Alysha Chan	x	y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Danielle Lewis		Todd Leland			
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Isabelle Campiformio	x	Maria Madrigal		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Arturo Gonzalez	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez*	x	Mary Hillemeier		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	Dylan Porter	x	Loriana Tonner		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Friends of the Los Angeles River	Candice Dickens-Russell	x	Ryan Mayeda		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Bell Gardens	Bernardo Iniguez	x	Natalie Rivera-Estrada			y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Matt Robertson		a	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Alexa Reasoner		Wataru Kumagai	x	a	y
Municipal Members	City of Vernon	Freddie Agyin					
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Michelle Tse		a	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Joseph Venzon*	x	Fred Gonzalez		y	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			absent at vote	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	8	14
Total Voting Members Present		14			No (N)	0	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	4	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	12	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
June 23, 2026

Andrew Gray	Emily Ng (Regional Coordination)	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Andrew K	Fred Gonzalez	SCWP - Anthony Barreras
Aric M	Grey Crisanto	SCWP - Larry Tran
Ashlyn Nance (she/her)	Jason Jade Pepito	SCWP - Timothy Lim
Azucena Ramirez (Consultant)	Jenny Chau	Spanish Interpreter-Alejandra
Brad Wardynski	JonPaul Sarro	Thom Epps (Craftwater)
Call-in User_1	Julio Gonzalez	kmoreno
Call-in User_2	LLAR AV	
Craig Doberstein	Lauren Anderson	
David Lee	Michelle Kim	
Elyssa Lawrence (HDR)	Nicole Wong	

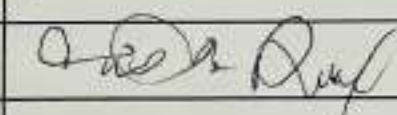
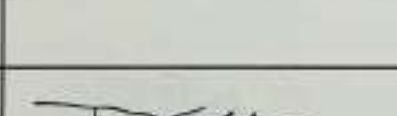
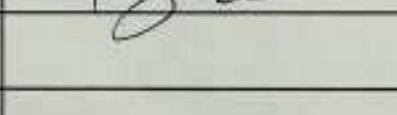
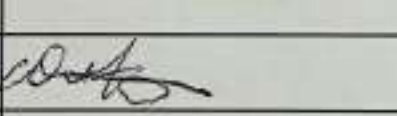
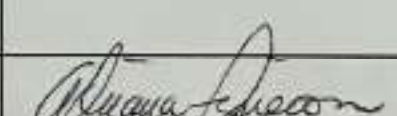
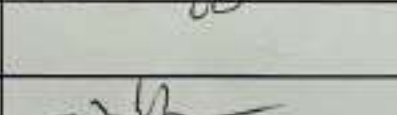
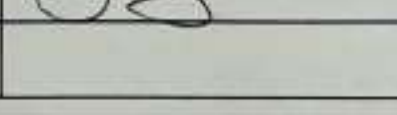
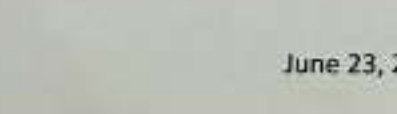
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Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Ernesto Rivera	FCD	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Enrique Baul	FCD	A	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin	P	
Braden Yu	Central Basin	A	
Jenn Swart	Water Replenishment District	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Francisco Guerrero	LA County Sanitation Districts	P	
Alysha Chan	LA County Sanitation Districts	A	<i>[Signature]</i>
Danielle Lewis	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	P	
Todd Leland	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	A	
Isabelle Campiformio	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	P	<i>[Signature]</i>
Maria Madrigal	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	A	
Mark Stanley	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	P	
Arturo Gonzalez	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	A	<i>[Signature]</i>
Manny Gonez	TreePeople	P	
Mary Hillemeier	TreePeople	A	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach		P 
Loriana Tonner	Port of Long Beach		A 
Candice Dickens-Russell	Friends of the Los Angeles River		P 
Ryan Mayeda	Friends of the Los Angeles River		A 
Bernardo Iniguez	Bell Gardens		P 
Natalie Rivera-Estrada	Bell Gardens		A 
Dan Mueller	Downey		P 
Matt Robertson	Downey		A 
Alexa Reasoner	Long Beach		P 
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach		A 
Freddie Agyin	Vernon		P
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount		A
Michelle Tse	Paramount		P
Joseph Venzon	County of Los Angeles		A
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles		P

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Gladis Deras	South Gate		P	
Tara Dales	SGA Marketing		P	
Clint Herrera	South Gate		A	
Azucena Ramirez	SGA Marketing			

Lower Los Angeles River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Arthella	Vallarta	WRD	
Ali Rahmani	Rahmani	LA Water Board	