

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, October 22, 2019
9:00am - 11:00am
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	John Beshay (Baldwin Park)
Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)	Amanda Hamilton (Duarte)
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)	Alison Sweet (Glendora)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Joshua Nelson (Industry)
Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)	Paul Alva (LA County)
Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)	Julie Carver (Pomona)
Ed Reyes (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)	Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)
David Diaz (Active SGV)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Alina Bodke (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)	Brian Urias (Former USGVMWD Board Member)
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*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Lafferty of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) welcomed the committee members and members of the public, shared his excitement for this next phase of implementation, and thanked everyone for their dedication to the Safe, Clean Water Program (Program) and regional resilience. Mr. Lafferty introduced Ms. Manning of Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) as the meeting facilitator.

All committee members made self-introductions and shared one reason why the Program was important to them. Members of the public introduced themselves as well.

2. Discussion of Safe, Clean Water Program Goals, Schedule and Timeline

Mr. Frary (District) provided a summary of the Program, including the goals, core themes, funding distribution, governance, and timeline. Mr. Frary emphasized the unique responsibility and opportunity before the committee as well as the importance of thinking regionally, inclusively, and collaboratively in order to best steward public funds. Mr. Frary also provided a brief overview of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area and reviewed the requests made to-date of the WASC members to ensure all members were up to date on communications, requests, and next steps. He committed District staff to the committee to support all efforts going forward.

3. WASCs Roles and Responsibilities

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Ms. Manning reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the WASC, according to the WASC Operating Guidelines, which include but are not limited to the development of Stormwater Investment Plans, quarterly Progress/Expenditure Reports, and Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Reports.

4. Selection of Chair (Voting Item)

Ms. Manning asked committee members to vote, with a show of hands, whether they would like to elect both a Chair and Vice Chair for the committee. Members voted in favor of both a Chair and Vice Chair, where the top vote-getter would serve as Chair and the other would serve as Vice Chair

Nominees for the position of Chair were: Paul Alva (LA County) and David Diaz (Active SGV). Both Mr. Alva and Mr. Diaz provided a short justification for why they should be considered for this role. Following the remarks from both nominees, the committee members voted via paper ballots and included their own names on the ballot for the record.

Mr. Paul Alva (9 votes) was elected as the Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River WASC, and Mr. David Diaz (6 votes) was elected as the Vice Chair. It was announced that LACFCD would finish facilitating the initial meeting and that the chairs would assume their roles immediately thereafter. LACFCD committed to coordinate with the newly elected chairs to coordinate future agendas and details.

5. Selection of Next Meeting Location (Voting Item)

Ms. Manning noted that a series of future meeting dates, times, and venues have been arranged by the District as a resource to ensure the committee has time and space to develop the first Stormwater Investment Plan. Details can be changed any point later on (provided Brown Act requirements are met) and will be coordinated by the Chair(s) and District staff as applicable. Ms. Manning indicated the planned vote was to simply determine whether to hold the current location (and by extension, pencil in the tentative dates/times) or to request the new Chair organize a new location.

The venue offered was:

Location: Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
[1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601](#)

Ms. Manning solicited comments and feedback from committee members. Ms. Enos suggested a rotation of venues, to allow committee members to better connect with their Watershed Area. Ms. Enos suggested the Water Replenishment District facility in Pico Rivera and the River Wilderness Park in Azusa. Ms. O'Brien offered facilities at the City of La Verne.

Mr. Huff commented that rotating meeting venues may cause confusion as to the location of subsequent meetings. Mr. Huff suggested keeping the current venue but revisiting the meeting location if it does not feel suitable after some time.

Committee members voted via paper ballots in favor (unanimous) of the default venue: Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601.

6. Break

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



7. Call for Projects for FY 20-21 and FY 21-22

Mr. Frary provided an overview of the open Call for Projects which began on October 15, 2019 and has two upcoming deadlines. The deadline for projects to be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 20-21 is December 15, 2019, and the deadline for projects to be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 21-22 is July 31, 2020. Mr. Frary summarized the three types of submissions that will be reviewed for completeness and brought to the committees for consideration (concepts to develop into feasibility studies in the Technical Resources Program, completed feasibility studies for the Infrastructure Program, and scientific studies for the scientific studies program). He explained that concepts, projects with completed feasibility studies, and/or scientific studies can be submitted via an online module, which will generate a project summary sheet for submittal to the District. More information about the Call for Projects and how to apply can be found at www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org and in the most recent Program update email, as well as at upcoming public information sessions in November. Mr. Frary requested that all members share the Call for Projects information with their contacts.

8. Public Comment / Open Discussion

Ms. Ruffell asked whether the 60-point threshold for submitted projects is a requirement, or a goal. Mr. Frary clarified that there is a 60-point minimum (as detailed in the Feasibility Study Guidelines) for projects to be considered in the Infrastructure Program. While the project module allows users to estimate their own score, the Scoring Committee will provide the official and final score for consideration by the committee. The project module serves as an early self-assessment for project proponents to allow for exploration of additional project elements that might improve the overall score.

Mr. Alva asked for clarification about the purpose of the next few meetings. Mr. Frary noted that most of the prescheduled upcoming meetings are between January and March, after the first deadline in the Call for Projects. During these meetings, the WASC can discuss the first Stormwater Investment Plan. Mr. Frary also noted that the group may decide they need more or fewer meetings than are currently scheduled and that the meeting frequency is at the discretion of the committee. Potential meetings in November or December, if held, would serve to further prepare the committees for the upcoming Stormwater Investment Plan development process.

Mr. Alva asked about an update on the Watershed Coordinator. Mr. Frary noted that the Watershed Coordinator will serve as a liaison between the WASC and all other interested parties. The position will be contracted with the District and is expected to be filled around Spring 2020, following a solicitation later this year. The WASC will select a Watershed Coordinator from a list of applicable candidates. In the interim, the District will onboard a consultant to provide some regional coordination efforts that will address certain elements of the Watershed Coordinators and prepare for on-boarding of the Watershed Coordinators. This consultant will likely attend the next WASC meeting to help establish the context and considerations for the WASCs as they move forward.

Mr. Reyes asked how interested community members and groups will be able to participate in the Program if they have limited experience with bureaucratic processes. Mr. Frary noted that the Watershed Coordinator will be tasked with approaching potential community project applicants with information about the Program, and to help connect them with resources to develop project concepts. In the interim, the District staff will work with the regional coordination consultant and committee members (and their networks) to foster as much community involvement as possible.

Ms. Enos requested an update on the community education portion of the Program and asked if projects must be part of an existing plan to be considered for funding. Mr. Frary noted that the Watershed Coordinator will play a part in community education, but that a full plan for continued engagement will be

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



developed by the District beginning early next year. Mr. Frary also announced that community-focused Call for Projects meetings will be held across the County, and that information about dates and times are available on SafeCleanWaterLA.org. Mr. Frary explained that there had been some confusion about whether projects do or do not need to be included in a regional water management plan. The District will assist grassroots projects through the Technical Resources Program. NOTE: Following the meeting, it was confirmed that projects do indeed need to be in an existing plan in accordance with LACFCD Code Section 18.07(B)(1)(c)(3). The online projects module points to this requirement and the District will be available to provide support to those that need it.

Mr. Alva asked who will see the submitted projects first – the WASC or Scoring Committee. Mr. Frary clarified that the WASC will see the submitted projects first and will ask the Scoring Committee to officially score the projects thereafter. Mr. Alva further inquired whether the Watershed Coordinator will facilitate communications between community project proponents and Municipalities for potential collaboration. Mr. Frary confirmed that this is the case and added that community project proponents will be required to obtain a Letter of Support from the local Municipality, which is meant to initiate communications and promote integrated planning.

Ms. Enos asked if long-term Operation & Maintenance costs will be the responsibility of community project proponents, who may not have the capacity to do so. Mr. Frary reminded the committee that one of the requirements for the required Feasibility Study is to identify long-term maintenance plans and agreement of the responsible party, thus forcing the conversation early-on. There are many possibilities: for instance, the District may consider taking on O&M, or a community group qualified to conduct O&M may apply through the Program for funding, etc.

Ms. Manning opened the public comment period. No members of the public wished to comment.

9. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Manning thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Upper San Gabriel River
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 October 22, 2019



Municipality/ Organization	Member Name	Email Address	Signature
Active SGV	Wesley Reutimann	wes@activesgv.org	
Active SGV	David Diaz	david@activesgv.org	<i>David Diaz</i>
Baldwin Park	John Beshay	JBeshay@baldwinpark.com	<i>John Beshay</i>
Bradbury	Kevin Kearney	kkearney@cityofbradbury.org	<i>Kevin Kearney</i>
Covina	Sharon Gallant	SGallant@covinaca.gov	<i>S. Gallant</i>
Diamond Bar	Fabian Aoun	faoun@diamondbarca.gov	<i>Fabian Aoun</i>
Duarte	Amanda Hamilton	ahamilton@accessduarte.com	<i>Amanda Hamilton</i>
Ed P. Reyes & Associates	Ed Reyes	ed.p.reyesla@gmail.com	<i>Ed P. Reyes</i>
FCD	Carolina Hernandez	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
FCD	Julian Juarez	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	<i>Julian J.</i>
Former USGVMWD Board Member	Bryan Urias	b.urias@yahoo.com	
Glendora	Alison Sweet ✓	asweet@cityofglendora.org	<i>Alison Sweet</i>
Huff Strategies	Bob Huff	bob@huffstrategies.com	<i>Bob Huff</i>
Industry	Joshua Nelson	JNelson@cityofindustry.org	<i>Joshua Nelson</i>
La Puente	John Di Mario	jdimario@lapuente.org	<i>John Di Mario</i>

Upper San Gabriel River
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
 October 22, 2019



Municipality/ Organization	Member Name	Email Address	Signature
La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	lobrien@cityoflaverne.org	<i>Lisa O'Brien</i>
Los Angeles County	Mark Lombos / Fernando Villaluna	MLOMBOS@dpw.lacounty.gov / FVILLALUNA@dpw.lacounty.gov	<i>Mark Lombos</i>
Los Angeles County	Paul Alva	PALVA@dpw.lacounty.gov	<i>Paul Alva</i>
Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Alina Bodke	Abokde@parks.lacounty.gov	<i>Alina Bodke</i>
Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner ✓	kelly@watermaster.org	<i>Kelly Gardner</i>
Pomona	Julie Carver/Chris Giggs	Julie_Carver@ci.pomona.ca.us ; chris_diggs@ci.pomona.ca.us	<i>Julie Carver</i>
San Dimas	Shari Garwick	SGarwick@sandimasca.gov	
Sanitation Districts	Martha Tremblay	mtremblay@lacsds.org	
Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	kruffell@lacsds.org	<i>Kristen Ruffell</i>
Upper San Gabriel District	Robert O. Tock	robert@usgvmwd.org; christy@usgvmwd.org	<i>Robert O. Tock</i>
Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	tom@usgvmwd.org	<i>Tom Love</i>
Watershed Conservation Authority	Jane Tsong	jtsong@wca.ca.gov	
Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos	denos@wca.ca.gov	<i>Debbie Enos</i>
West Covina	Romany Basilyous	RBasilyous@westcovina.org	
MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN ^(ACT)	Tony Zampriello	TONY@WATERMASTER.ORG	<i>Tony Zampriello</i>

Upper San Gabriel River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

October 22, 2019

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



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address
BLAKE	WHITTINGTON	SELF	
Belinda	Fausstinos	Nature for All	belindaw@natureforall.org
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Tony	ZAMPIELLO	MAIN BASIN WATERMASTER	Tony@WATERMASTER.ORG
Kevin	Kearney	City of Bradbury	vkearney@cityofbradbury.org
Elizabeth	Lee	Nature FOR ALL	eizabeth@natureforall.org