

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Monday, October 28, 2019

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Los Angeles County Public Works

900 South Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Barbara Romero (City of Los Angeles)

Maria Mehranian (Cordoba Corp.)

Diana Tang (City of Long Beach)

Kristine Guerrero (League of Cities)

Belinda Faustinos (Nature For All)

Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay)

Lauren Ahkiam (LAANE)

Elva Yanez (Prevention Institute)

Carl Blum* (LA County Flood Control District)

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Trevino (Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District)

Irma Munoz* (LA Regional Water Quality Control
Board)

*Non-voting members

See sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Daniel 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 Pamela Manning of Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) as the meeting facilitator.

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

Director Mark Pestrella (District) also greeted the committee members and thanked the committee for their service to the Program. He emphasized that the committee's role of making recommendations to the LA County Board of Supervisors will enable the Program to become the most robust and trusted use of taxpayer funds and provide critical guidance and considerations for the Program in the future.

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

Matthew 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 governing committees. and reviewed the requests made to-date of the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) 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.

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3. WASCs Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. Manning reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the ROC according to the ROC Operating Guidelines, which include but are not limited to the review of Stormwater Investment Plans, review of annual Municipal Progress/Expenditure Reports, review of annual Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Reports, and the development of biennial reports and public hearings.

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 instead voted in favor of Co-Chairs and a Vice Chair.

Nominees for the positions of Co-Chairs were: Barbara Romero (Los Angeles) and Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay). The only nomination for Vice Chair was Lauren Ahkiam (LAANE). Ms. Romero and Ms. Luce provided a short justification for why they should be considered for the role of Co-Chair. Lauren Ahkiam provided a short justification for why she should be considered for the role of Vice Chair. Following the remarks from all nominees and some additional discussion, the committee proposed to vote on electing the combined co-chairs and vice chair collectively. Members voted via paper ballots and included their own names on the ballot for the record.

Ms Romero and Ms. Luce were elected as Co-Chairs of the Regional Oversight Committee, and Ms. Lauren Ahkiam was elected as the Vice Chair unanimously. 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 venue had been arranged by the District as a resource to ensure the committee has a consistent space to conduct its business. Details can be changed any point later on (provided Brown Act requirements are met) and will be coordinated by the Co-Chair(s) and District staff as applicable. Ms. Manning indicated the planned vote was to simply determine whether to hold the current location or to request the new Chair organize a new location instead.

The venue offered was:

Location: Los Angeles County Public Works
[900 South Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91802](#)

Ms. Manning solicited comments and feedback from committee members.

Committee members voted via paper ballots in favor (unanimous) for the default venue: Los Angeles County Public Works, 900 South Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 901802.

6. Break

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

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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). Mr. Frary 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. Faustinos asked if the ROC has responsibility for the scientific studies, technical resources, and infrastructure projects. Mr. Frary explained that the ROC has the responsibility to review and recommend the Stormwater Investment Plans from each WASC that include the studies and projects. The ROC would make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Yanez asked how the long-term bigger picture implementation would be managed and suggested to utilize a third-party academic researcher. Mr. Frary explained that the funds for scientific studies would be allocated from the watershed-specific Regional Program funds and potential supplements from District fund allocations could be discussed at a later time.

Ms. Tang asked if the projects are constrained by the amount of money allocated. Mr. Frary explained that project proponents are encouraged to leverage other funding sources and that the WASCs are encouraged to consider multiple-year projects, contingencies, potential WASC and project budget changes, etc, in their recommendations. Additional allocations must be approved in a subsequent Stormwater Investment Plan.

Ms. Mehranian asked how much of the scoring information is sent to the ROC for review. Ms. Faustinos explained that if the project passes the threshold score the selection process for inclusion in the SIP is not based solely on the score. Mr. Frary elaborated that scoring information can be made available to the ROC upon request and that LACFCD intends to provide a narrative to the ROC summarizing recommendations, process, and additional available information.

Ms. Ahkiam asked if projects are required to be submitted through the Projects Module. Mr. Frary confirmed that all Project concepts, scientific studies, and feasibility studies must all be submitted through the Projects Module and that District staff is available to provide support as needed. Following the Call For Projects, District staff will check for completeness. During scoring, if a project does not score the minimum 60 points, it may be referred for subsequent SIP consideration either in the Technical Resources Program (if resources needed) or in the Infrastructure Program (if revised or modified by applicant). He explained the ROC could likely begin reviewing SIPs from each watershed area as they become available. After ROC review, the intention is for all SIPs to be sent to the Board at once.

Ms. Faustinos asked how the WASC would assess regional issues. Mr. Frary explained that the interim Regional Coordinator (Mike Antos, Stantec) was expected to facilitate an exercise to build consensus on context and priorities of each watershed at the next WASC meetings, which will provide crucial regional background before they start considering projects. Mr. Frary noted that the eventual 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 hoped to be filled around Spring 2020, following an anticipated solicitation later this year. The WASC will help select a Watershed Coordinator from a list of applicable candidates. In the interim, the District's regional coordination efforts will address certain elements of the Watershed Coordinators and prepare for on-boarding of the Watershed Coordinators.

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Ms. Luce indicated she would like to include a presentation of maps prioritizing drainage needs.

Ms. Manning opened the public comment period.

A member of the public asked how operations and maintenance that would exceed the 5-year period shown on the SIP would be handled. Mr. Frary replied O&M would be funded for the life of the project, as necessary, and would be earmarked for future SIPs.

Ms. Ahkiam would like for the public to make comments before each voting item. Ms. Faustinos suggested the notetaker would be able to capture public comments without the need for comment forms to be collected.

9. Meeting Adjourned

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

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