

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Long Beach City Hall, Beach Conference Room, 2nd Floor

411 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802

Attendees

Committee Members

Dan Sharp (District)

Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)

Stephen Scott (Long Beach Parks and Recreation)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Kevin Wattier (Central Basin)

Nick Jiles (Páó Strategies)

Marybeth Vergara * (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)

James Vernon (Port of Long Beach)

Melissa Bahmanpour (River in Action)

Cindy Montanez (TreePeople)

Gina Nila (Commerce)

Dan Mueller (Downey)

Melissa You (Long Beach)

Laura Ochoa (Lynwood)

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount)

Cecil Looney* (Signal Hill)

Gladis Deras (South Gate)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Vernon, the Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River WASC, called the meeting to order.

All committee members made self-introductions and quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2019

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Vernon asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Committee members pointed out one grammar and two spelling corrections.

Mr. Vernon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2019 with the revisions noted above. Mr. Looney, Ms. Vergara, and Mr. Mueller abstained. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2019 (unanimous).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Mr. Sharp mentioned that there have been several projects that have been forwarded to the LA County Flood Control District for conceptual approval for projects involving LA County Flood Control District infrastructure, facilities, or right-of-way. Mr. Sharp said that the committee may want to consider how that can be formally acknowledged with the committee.

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Ms. Bloxom added that the Water Replenishment District has been dealing with similar inquiries, in that they have been providing a general support letter with the caveat that design engineers will be providing individual support level when applicable.

Mr. Rahimi provided a summary of the call for projects info sessions, ex parte communications preliminary guidelines, release of the final General Income-Based Tax Reduction Guidelines, and the Safe, Clean Water Program website. Mr. Rahimi highly recommended that the committee members become familiar with the website (www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org) because it will routinely be updated with pertinent information.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comment

5. Voting Item

None.

Mr. Vernon received two voting requests to change the meeting time and the meeting location. The committee discussed the possibility starting the meeting later in the afternoon.

Ms. Figueroa said that the City of Paramount is a potential meeting location for future meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to add these voting items in the next meeting agenda so that the committee can discuss alternate meeting times and locations during the next meeting.

6. Information Items

a) Regional Coordination Efforts and Preparation for Watershed Coordinators

Mr. Mike Antos (Stantec) presented about the recently initiated regional coordination effort, watershed management principles and roles of the Watershed Coordinators in the Safe, Clean Water Program. Mr. Antos discussed and shared with the committee the existing tools and resources available for future Watershed Coordinators.

b) Discussion of watershed area context, priorities, and needs

Mr. Antos initiated discussion to prepare the WASC for upcoming evaluation of submitted Project concepts, Projects, and studies. The committee discussed applicable plans, programs, and related efforts, as well as shared experiences and input.

Ms. Nila shared that she is familiar with current regional projects such as the Long Beach Airport Project, that the committee may see funding requests from projects that have multiple phases, and that there is an opportunity through Senate Bill No. 485 for the Sanitation Districts to develop projects.

Ms. Ruffell shared that she is familiar with which Sanitation Districts facilities have the capacity to produce additional reclaimed water, such as the Metropolitan Water District's proposal to purify wastewater to produce reclaimed water and allow for groundwater recharge.

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Ms. Bloxom shared that one of the items in the application asks if the water infiltrated would be able to access an active underground aquifer, and that is where the Water Replenishment District has been providing general support.

The committee discussed the importance of surface infiltration opportunities in the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and the need for multi-benefit projects in disadvantaged communities.

The committee discussed how disadvantaged communities lack green spaces and that one can access an interactive map with this data through LA County's Parks Needs Assessment.

Mr. Antos displayed a map of the watershed area showing different data sets and priorities that the WASC should consider when developing the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). He stated that additional datasets can be added to the mapping tools to help inform the WASCs and that the WASCs should consider all Safe, Clean Water Program goals, including water quality, water supply, and public health. The committee recommended a few additional datasets that could be added on the map: "hot spots" for disadvantaged communities, Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan opportunity areas, tree canopy, storm drain system, etc.

Mr. Antos announced that the map of the watershed with the various datasets will eventually be available for the committee to view online.

c) Safe, Clean Water Program Project Module Overview

Mr. Rahimi (District) presented on the Project Module and its usefulness for WASC members and status of submitted Projects.

The committee discussed the Watershed Coordinator position and project funding. Mr. Antos pointed out that leverage funding will probably be applied during the project development process. A committee member asked if there is a distinction between small and larger projects. The 10% of funding for technical assistance is available to develop feasibility studies for projects and the cities can leverage their own funding for technical assistance.

7. Items for next meeting agenda

The committee requests to vote to select meeting times and/or meeting locations and then vote on choices.

The District recommends the following items for the next agenda:

- Review the complete list of Projects
- Select Projects to be sent up for scoring
- Select Infrastructure Program Project Applicants and non-Project applicants for potential presentations

The committee discussed how and when projects can be chosen to go to the Scoring Committee. District staff will check the submittals for completeness and will provide the committee an overview of project submittals for the next meeting.

Mr. Antos added that the committee can consider getting presentations from the projects prior to scoring.

The committee discussed how projects receiving an eligible score of 60 compared to a project receiving a much higher score will not determine the prioritization for the projects. The final score is still under the committee's discretion.

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The committee discussed how projects submitted for the Lower Los Angeles River watershed may lack groundwater infiltration compared to other watersheds, so scores in this region may be lower than projects in other watersheds.

8. Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Vernon thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
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Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach	dylan.porter@polb.com	A	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
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*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public