

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



## Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

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 (LA County – Sanitation)

Nick Jiles (Páó Strategies)

Marybeth Vergara\* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)

James Vernon (Port of Long Beach)

Melissa Bahmanpour (River in Action)

Carlos Moran\* (TreePeople)

Dan Mueller (Downey)

Melissa You (Long Beach)

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount)

Gina Nila (Commerce)

Laura Ochoa (Lynwood)

Kelli Tunnicliff (Signal Hill)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Gladis Deras (South Gate)

Kevin Wattier (Central Basin)

\*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 December 10, 2019

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Vernon asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Ms. Ruffell pointed out a correction in the last paragraph of page 2. The District noted the changes.

Ms. Nila made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2019 with the revision noted above. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2019 (unanimous).**

## 3. Committee Member and District Updates and Disclosures

Mr. Vernon shared that he had a general discussion with Mr. Richard Watson regarding Mr. Watson's scientific study that was submitted for Safe, Clean Water funding.

Ms. Ruffell shared that she made the same disclosure.

Ms. Nila shared that she had a general discussion with several project proponents.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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District staff provided a summary of the Infrastructure Projects, Technical Resources and Scientific Studies received for FY 20-21. The District also noted there were no updates on current status for the conflict of interest and ex parte communication guidance documents and the Watershed Coordinators/funding transfer agreement. District staff also recommended that the committee members continue to visit the website ([www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)) for pertinent information that will be regularly updated.

#### 4. Public Comment Period

No public comment

#### 5. Discussion Items

##### a) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts and scientific studies submitted for Upper Los Angeles River WASC for consideration

District staff provided a copy of the Overview of Project Submittals for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 for Lower Los Angeles River WASC consideration.

District staff provided an overview of the project submittals: seven (7) to the Infrastructure Program, four (4) to the Technical Resources Program, and one (1) to the Scientific Studies Program.

Mr. Vernon suggested that every committee member review all the projects from the Infrastructure Program, Technical Resources Program, and Scientific Studies Program for the Lower Los Angeles River watershed in the online project module.

##### b) Presentation:

##### i. Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution (Scientific Study Program) – Mr. Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc.

Mr. Watson gave a PowerPoint presentation of a proposed Regional Scientific Study that will use the latest available technologies and approaches to measure waterborne pathogens across Safe Clean Water Program watersheds to help identify key sources of human health risk, develop cost-effective strategies that better protect human health, and support the regulatory shift needed to accommodate a modernized approach.

A member of the public asked for clarification on a few mentioned water quality-based acronyms. Mr. Watson responded with the answers.

The committee discussed and compared the breakdown of the funding request for this study versus the other scientific studies.

Since this Scientific Study was proposed for all the watershed areas, the committee asked how will the study be affected if it is supported by all the WASCs or if some of the WASCs opt out. Also, the committee asked if there would be any deliverables for the first year. Mr. Watson responded that everything will be scaled according to the total funding from the WASC(s) and the watershed areas that do not fund it would not receive the Scientific Study. Mr. Watson further explained that deliverables won't be available till the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It was

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



suggested that WASC Chairs meet after all the project presentations to ultimately decide how to fund this study.

The committee discussed if the WASC decides to go forward with the study, it is committed to funding it over the next 5 years. District staff noted that the budget supplied on the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) is not guaranteed for anything after the first year. The budgeted amounts on the SIP are only projections.

Mr. Sharp asked if Mr. Watson considered using a subset of land for the study with generally similar land uses as the watershed. Mr. Watson explained that using a subset is not ideal because of the variability between areas. Mr. Watson noted that homelessness could exist in one area and not the next.

Mr. Mueller asked if the study could be compressed from proposed 5 years to 3 years. Mr. Watson said that it's possible to compress the schedule, but it mainly would be dependent on the stakeholder groups involvement and the type of monitoring.

**ii. 1931-2099 E. 27th Street, Vernon, CA. 90058 (Technical Resources Program) – Mr. Steve Fraser**

Mr. Fraser verbally explained why he seeks funding through Technical Resource Program to address flooding issues.

Mr. Fraser mentioned that 90% of his property is impervious and that it's a private street that is used as a public street.

Mr. Fraser said he has the option to either invest in professional engineering advice to help alleviate the flooding issues or request funding through the Safe, Clean Water Program.

The committee and District staff explained why the Safe, Clean Water Program includes the Technical Resource Program and explained the process of how projects are scored by the Scoring Committee and essentially chosen by the WASC to include in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).

## 6. Voting Items

**a) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration**

District staff recommended this action for all WASC committees due to the expedited timeline.

The committee had a discussion on what it means for a project to be deemed complete in regard to the quality of their feasibility study. District staff explained that District, to the extent possible, deemed some projects incomplete because they did not meet the minimum requirements from the feasibility guidelines. After Scoring Committee review, the WASC will still be able to discuss the project before being programmed into the SIP and receive presentations in February.

The committee requested that the District provide clarification on the overall process of how a project is programmed in to the SIP and guidance on how to monetize disadvantage communities benefits.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Mr. Vernon made a motion to approve. Ms. Ruffell seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration (unanimous).

#### **b) Establish consensus on future standing meetings, time and venue**

The committee voted via paper ballots whether to keep the current meeting time of 1:00pm – 3:00pm and whether to keep the current meeting location at Long Beach City Hall.

**The committee voted to keep the current meeting time of 1:00pm – 3:00pm (9 Votes).** The remaining votes (6 Votes) was to change the meeting time.

**The committee voted to change the current meeting location at Long Beach City Hall to Progress Park at 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723 (10 Votes).** Although, Mr. Vernon said that the Lower Los Angeles River WASC meetings will continue to be held at the current location at Long Beach City Hall for the January 28, February 11, and February 25, 2020 due to a conflict. Starting March 2020, the meetings will be held at the new location in Paramount.

The committee discussed agenda items for next meeting:

- Lower Los Angeles River watershed priorities
- Overall process of how projects are chosen to be sent to the Scoring Committee
- Clarification from the District if Safe, Clean Water funds can be rolled over to the next Call for Projects

#### **7. Adjournment**

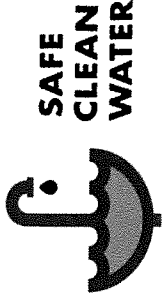
Mr. Vernon thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Long Beach City Hall, Beach Conference Room, 2nd Floor  
411 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802**

# Lower Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

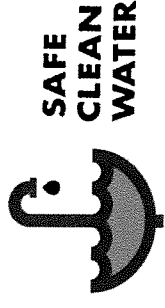


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Dan Sharp	FCD	DSHARP@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Diane Gatza	Water Replenishment District	dgatza@wrd.org	
Lyndsey Bloxom	Water Replenishment District	lbloxom@wrd.org	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov	
Sharon Gates	City of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation and Marine	Sharon.Gates@longbeach.gov	
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsds.org	
Mike Sullivan	Sanitation Districts	msullivan@lacsds.org	
Kevin Wattier	Central Basin	kevinw@centralbasin.org	
Nick Jiles	Páo Strategies	nick@paostrategies.org	
Kedrin Hopkins	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	khopkins@cclb-corps.org	
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	mstanley@rmc.ca.gov	
Marybeth Vergara	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	Mvergara@rmc.ca.gov	
James Vernon	Port of Long Beach	james.vernon@polb.com	
Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach	dylan.porter@polb.com	

# Lower Los Angeles River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



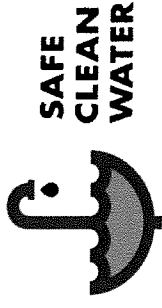
Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Melissa Bahmanpour	River in Action	melbahmanpour@gmail.com	
Erica Maceda	River in Action	ericamaceda@gmail.com	
Cindy Montanez	Tree People	CMontanez@treepeople.org	
Carlos Moran	Tree People	cmoran@treepeople.org	
Gina Nila	Commerce	ginan@ci.commerce.ca.us	
Chau Vu	Bell Gardens	CVu@bellgardens.org	
Dan Mueller	Downey	dmueller@downeyca.org	
Delfino Consunji	Downey	dconsunji@downeyca.org	
Melissa You	Long Beach	Melissa.You@longbeach.gov	
Alvin Papa	Long Beach	Alvin.Papa@longbeach.gov	
Laura Ochoa	Lynwood	Lochoa@Lynwood.ca.us	
Noe Martinez	Lynwood	nmartinez@lynwood.ca.us	
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount	afigueroa@paramountcity.com	
Sarah Ho	Paramount	sho@paramountcity.com	
Kelli Tunnickliff	Signal Hill	ktunnickliff@cityofsignalhill.org	



Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Richard	Watson	RWA	rwatson@rwaplanning.com
Kelie	Hamel	CWE	khamel@checorp.com
Fred	Gonzalez	LACFD	fgonzalez@pw.lacounty.gov
Olivier	Salas	craftwater.org	olivier.salas@craftwater.org
Ed	Arroyo	DAUM	ed.arroyo@downcomm.org
Michelle	Kim	JLHA	
Courtney	Bonilla	Council for Watershed Health	courtney@watershedhealth.org

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









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# Overview of Proposed Scientific Study

Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. (RWA)

Presentation to Lower LA River WASC

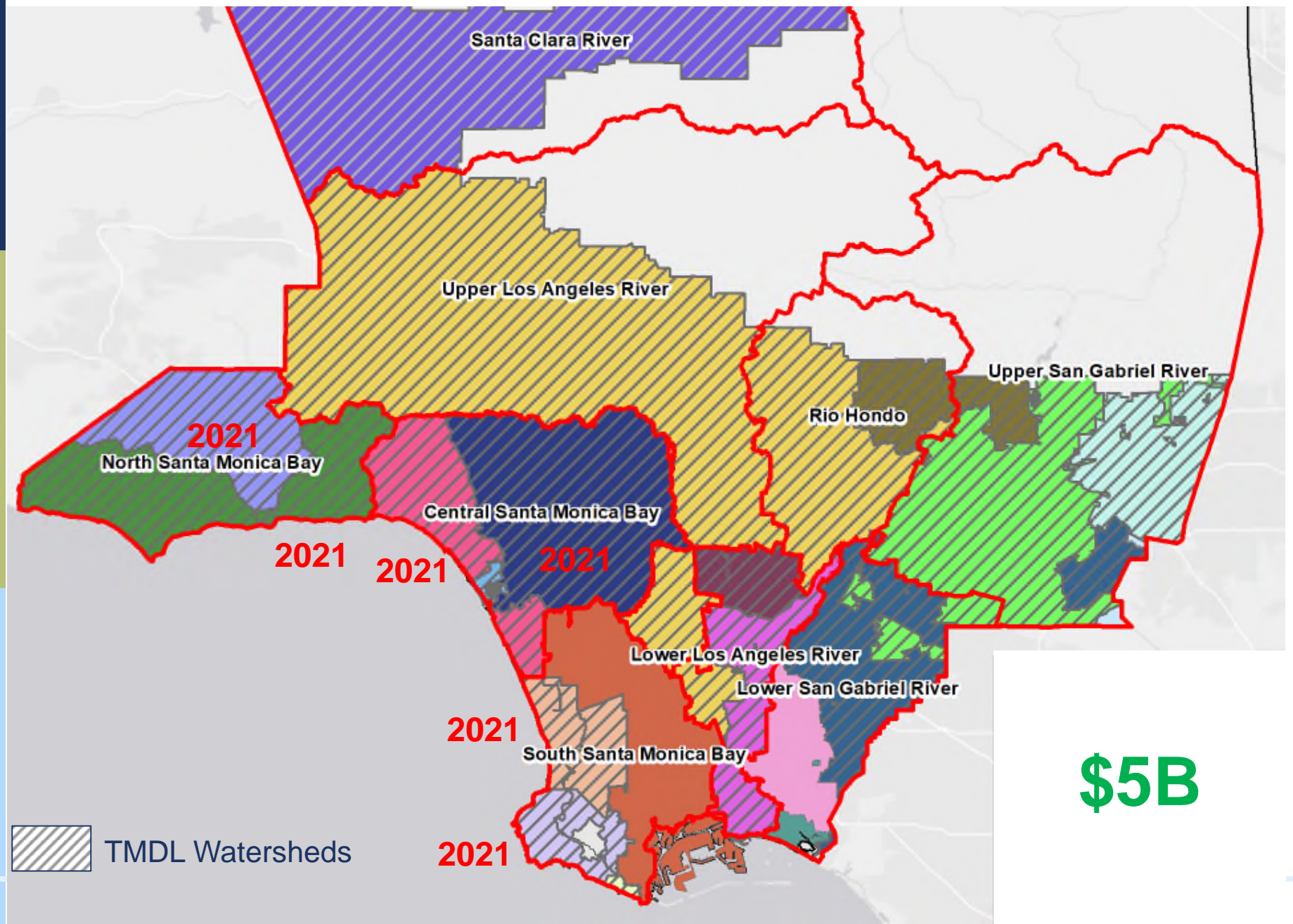
14 January 2020

# Overview

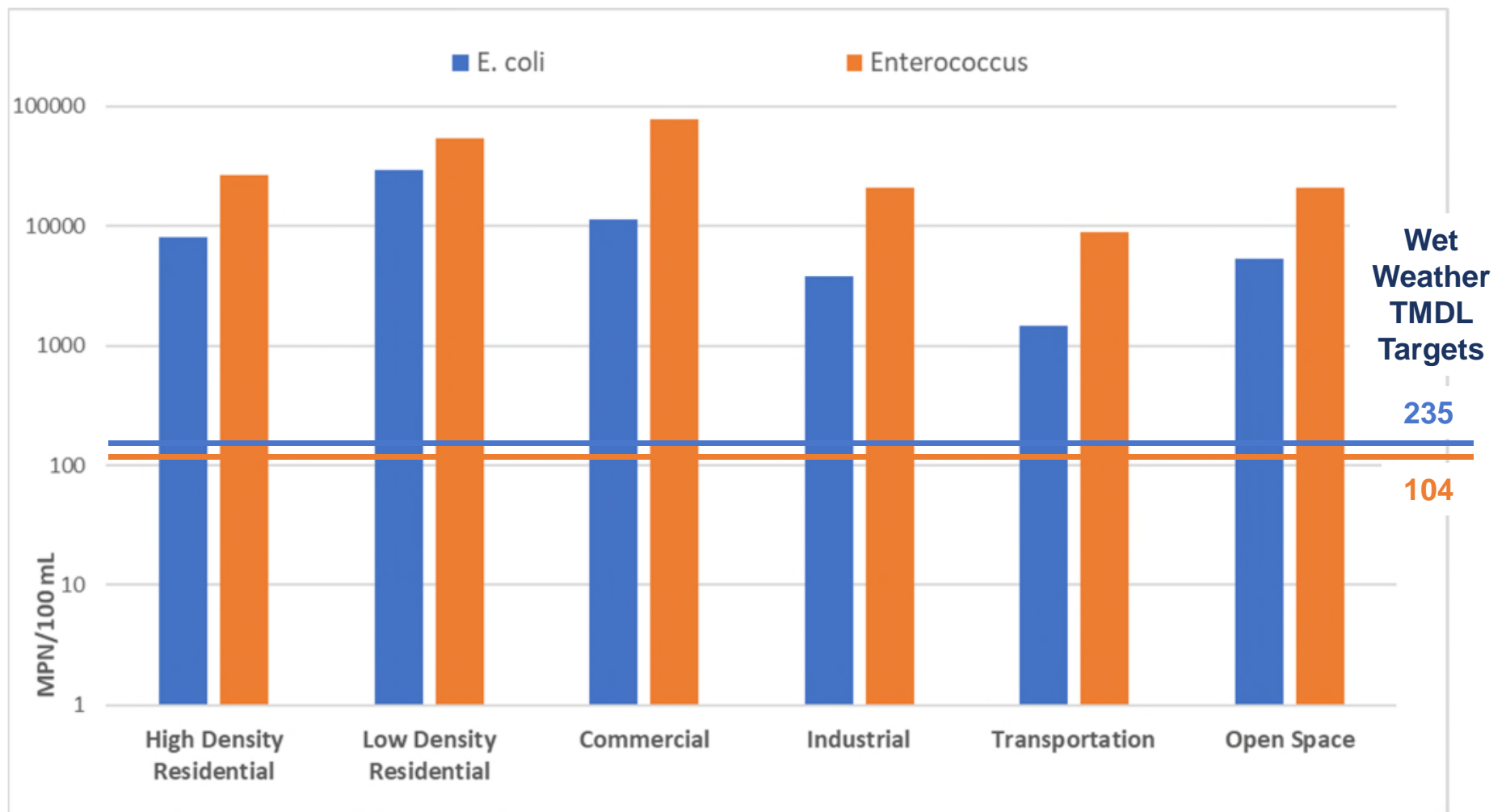
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- Bacteria Challenges
- Scientific Study Approach
- Scientific Study Schedule and Cost Estimate
- Summary

# E/WMP Groups Addressing Bacteria



# Wet Weather Average Concentrations: LA County Land Uses



Source: LA County land use pollutant loading (SCCWRP 2007)

# Scientific Study: Initial Steps

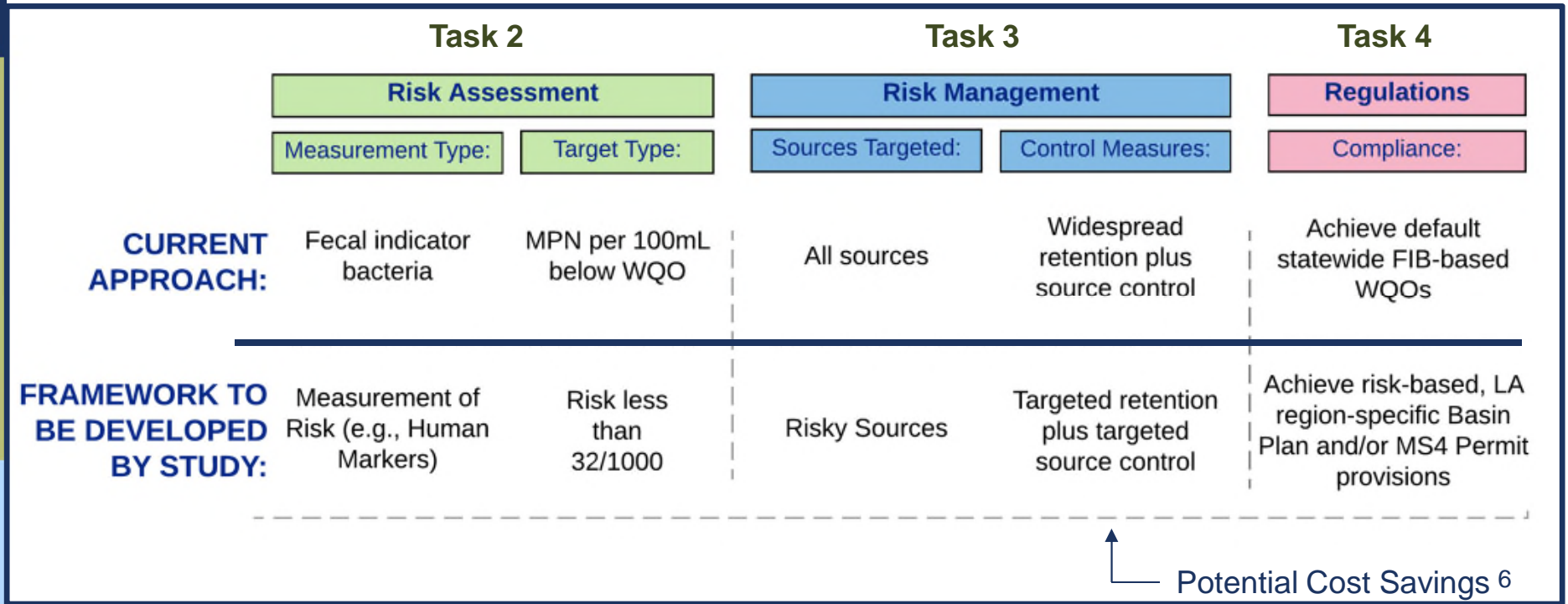
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- Small Group Initiated Discussions
  - City and County of LA; LLC, LLAR, LSGR; and LWA
- Developed Special Study Approach
  - Apply state of the science to LA County specific issues
  - Built a scope for Measure W Regional Program funded study that each group can elect to participate (or not)
- Presented Approach E/WMP Groups
- Discussed with Regional Board staff



# What will the study do?

## Task 1 Stakeholder Process





# Study Schedule

Task	Year									
	1	2	3	4	5					
Task 1 – Stakeholder Process										
Task 2 – Risk Assessment										
Task 3 – Risk Management										
Task 4 – Regulatory Revisions										

# Measure W Scientific Study Funding

- Funding is now available to address issue through studies
- Multi-year studies eligible for scientific study funding (5% of regional program funds)

Watershed Area	Estimated Available Regional Funding for Special Studies	
	Annual*	5 Years*
Central Santa Monica Bay	\$890,000	\$4,450,000
Lower Los Angeles River	\$640,000	\$3,200,000
Lower San Gabriel River	\$835,000	\$4,175,000
North Santa Monica Bay	\$90,000	\$450,000
Rio Hondo	\$575,000	\$2,875,000
Santa Clara River	\$300,000	\$1,500,000
South Santa Monica Bay	\$920,000	\$4,600,000
Upper Los Angeles River	\$1,930,000	\$9,650,000
Upper San Gabriel River	\$945,000	\$4,725,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,125,000</b>	<b>\$35,625,000</b>

\* Assumes Measure W revenue of \$285,000,000/year.

# Cost Estimate

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<b>Tasks</b>		<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Task 1-	Stakeholder Process	\$490,000
Task 2-	Risk Assessment	\$5,880,000
Task 3-	Risk Management	\$2,940,000
Task 4-	Regulatory Revisions	\$490,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$9,800,000</b>

## Watershed Area Cost Allocations – Los Angeles County Bacteria Scientific Study

Watershed Area	% Share of Budget for Study <sup>2</sup>	Projected SCWP Scientific Study Funds		Study Contribution by Watershed Area	Percent of SCWP Scientific Study Funds over 5-Years
		Annual	5-Year		
Central Santa Monica Bay	12.5%	\$890,000	\$4,450,000	\$1,181,920	28%
Lower Los Angeles River	9.0%	\$640,000	\$3,200,000	\$909,031	
Lower San Gabriel River	11.7%	\$835,000	\$4,175,000	\$1,137,470	
North Santa Monica Bay	1.3%	\$90,000	\$450,000	\$141,252	
Rio Hondo	8.1%	\$575,000	\$2,875,000	\$782,646	
Santa Clara River	4.2%	\$300,000	\$1,500,000	\$462,119	
South Santa Monica Bay	12.9%	\$920,000	\$4,600,000	\$1,272,424	
Upper Los Angeles River	27.1%	\$1,930,000	\$9,650,000	\$2,604,041	
Upper San Gabriel River	13.3%	\$945,000	\$4,725,000	\$1,309,097	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,125,000</b>	<b>\$35,625,000</b>	<b>\$9,800,000</b>	

1. Costs assume participation by all Watershed Areas, which increases efficiency of the study. Costs will need to be recalculated if not all Watershed Areas participate. Projected SCWP Scientific Study Funds are based on \$142.5 million in annual funds for the regional program (5% of which is available for scientific studies).
2. Percent of Total Budget is based on a proportional distribution of the costs based on the SCWP taxable impervious area.

## Watershed Area Cost Allocations – Annual Cost Estimates to Implement Bacteria Study

Watershed Area	Study Year					Total Budget	Projected Scientific Study	
	1	2	3	4	5		Funds Available	% of Funds
Central Santa Monica Bay	\$330,518	\$330,518	\$330,518	\$116,293	\$116,293	\$1,224,140	\$4,450,000	28%
Lower Los Angeles River	\$237,676	\$237,676	\$237,676	\$83,627	\$83,627	\$880,281	\$3,200,000	
Lower San Gabriel River	\$310,093	\$310,093	\$310,093	\$109,107	\$109,107	\$1,148,491	\$4,175,000	
North Santa Monica Bay	\$33,423	\$33,423	\$33,423	\$11,760	\$11,760	\$123,789	\$450,000	
Rio Hondo	\$213,537	\$213,537	\$213,537	\$75,133	\$75,133	\$790,877	\$2,875,000	
Santa Clara River	\$111,411	\$111,411	\$111,411	\$39,200	\$39,200	\$412,632	\$1,500,000	
South Santa Monica Bay	\$341,659	\$341,659	\$341,659	\$120,213	\$120,213	\$1,265,404	\$4,600,000	
Upper Los Angeles River	\$716,741	\$716,741	\$716,741	\$252,187	\$252,187	\$2,654,596	\$9,650,000	
Upper San Gabriel River	\$350,943	\$350,943	\$350,943	\$123,480	\$123,480	\$1,299,789	\$4,725,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,646,000</b>	<b>\$2,646,000</b>	<b>\$2,646,000</b>	<b>\$931,000</b>	<b>\$931,000</b>	<b>\$9,800,000</b>	<b>\$35,625,000</b>	

1. Costs assume participation by all Watershed Areas, which increases efficiency of the study. Costs will need to be recalculated if not all Watershed Areas participate. Projected SCWP Scientific Study Funds are based on \$142.5 million in annual funds for the regional program (5% of which is available for scientific studies).
2. Percent of Total Budget is based on a proportional distribution of the costs based on the SCWP taxable impervious area.

# Summary

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- Time is right
- To make this successful, can't just be technical
- LA Specific Study is needed to identify the best way to focus on risk in the region

# Questions and Thank You

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Richard Watson  
Richard Watson & Associates  
[rwatson@rwaplanning.com](mailto:rwatson@rwaplanning.com)  
(949) 394-8495