

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, December 18, 2019
9:00am – 11:00am
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Board Room
27234 Bouquet Canyon, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)
Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)
Darren Hernandez (Santa Clarita)
Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)
Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Julian Juarez (District)

Steve Cole (Santa Clarita Valley Water District)
Heather Merenda (Santa Clarita)
Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)
Tom Cole (Santa Clarita)
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)
Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Matthew Frary, the facilitator of the December 18, 2019 Santa Clara River WASC, called the meeting to order.

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

Mr. Robert Newman motioned to move agenda #5 (Voting Items) after agenda #2 (Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2019). Mr. Jason Gibbs seconded the motion.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2019

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Matthew Frary asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Committee members pointed a spelling correction on page 2.

Mr. Robert Newman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 7, 2019 with the revisions noted above. Mr. Tom Cole seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from November 7, 2019 (unanimous).

3. Voting Items

A member of the public asked if we could have an additional public comment period after agenda #3 (Committee Member and District Updates). The committee agreed to move the agenda item.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



a) Selection of Chair(s)

Mr. Tom Cole, Mr. Julian Juarez, and Mr. Jason Gibbs were nominated during the previous meeting for the Chair position. Voting ended in a tie and, therefore, the Chair position was not chosen. The committee decided to re-nominate the Chair(s) and Vice Chair(s) positions and vote again during this meeting.

Mr. Matthew Frary reminded the committee of the Chair responsibilities.

Nominees for the position of Chair were: Mr. Darren Hernandez (Santa Clarita), Mr. Julian Juarez (District) and Mr. Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies). Each nominee provided an overview of their qualifications for the Chair position. As decided at the last meeting, the committee would first vote for the Chair position and then another round of voting for the Vice Chair position.

For transparency purposes, the committee did a verbal vote as District staff tallied the votes on a poster board for the committee's and the public's view.

Mr. Darren Hernandez (11 votes) was elected as the Chair of the Santa Clara River WASC. Mr. Julian Juarez and Mr. Jason Gibbs received the remaining votes.

Mr. Jason Gibbs (11 votes) was elected as the Vice Chair of the Santa Clara River WASC. Mr. Julian Juarez received the remaining votes.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff 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. Matthew Frary highly recommended that the committee members become familiar with the website (www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org) because it will routinely be updated with pertinent information.

The committee discussed ex parte communications. Mr. Matthew Frary clarified that any member of the public interested in the Safe, Clean Water Program is encouraged to attend the WASC meetings to gather and share information. Mr. Matthew Frary mentioned that committee members are encouraged to communicate with outside organizations about the Safe, Clean Water Program, but it is not recommended that a committee member attend a meeting where an outside organization is specifically engaging on one of their projects.

The committee expressed concern regarding conflict of interest. Mr. Matthew Frary explained that essentially there is a conflict of interest if there is a direct, personal financial interest and that more information can be found in the Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Program Committee Handbook. If one is representing a municipality, for example, it is not anticipated that there is a conflict of interest since one is acting on behalf of the municipality.

5. Public Comment Period

A member of the public expressed concern regarding ex parte communications and liability on the status of funded projects in the future.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Another member of the public shared statistics and his concerns on fecal coliform pollution from dog waste. He recommended a program where dog waste DNA is tested to hold the dog owner accountable.

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. Mike 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. Mike 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.

The committee discussed how the northern, more rural areas of the Santa Clara River watershed rely on wells and how there are a lot of non-native invasive species that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Mike 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: blue line streams and tributaries. Mr. Mike Antos announced that the map of the watershed with the various datasets will eventually be available for the committee to view online.

The committee discussed the disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Santa Clara River watershed and how a certain amount of funds needs to benefit DACs. The committee also discussed the differences between a DAC and an underrepresented or underserved community.

c) Safe, Clean Water Program Project Module Overview

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

The committee discussed the timeline for the SIP. The goal is to get a draft SIP to the Board by June 2020.

The committee discussed the necessity of the frequency of the upcoming WASC meetings. Project leads can give presentations during the upcoming WASC meetings.

The committee discussed how the projects are chosen. Mr. Matthew Frary clarified that District Staff will review for completeness before the WASC can review before sending projects to the Scoring Committee.

7. Items for next agenda (1st meeting in January)

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



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 the projects proposals and how they will be chosen by the WASC to send to the Scoring Committee. Mr. Matthew Frary said that this will likely be the main topic of discussion during the next meeting in January and recommended that committee members continue to get familiar with the Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Program Committee Handbook to be ready for the discussion on the projects.

Mr. Matthew Frary reminded the committee that in order to send projects to the Scoring Committee the committee will have to first vote to add this item to the following meeting's agenda and that scientific studies do not require scoring, therefore, it may be ideal to send the scientific studies up as soon as possible.

The committee discussed the possibility of avoiding having a Santa Clara River WASC meeting on the second Thursday of the month due to schedule conflicts with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board public meetings and to cancel the next January 9, 2020 WASC meeting.

The motion was amended to proceed as planned and for District staff to coordinate with the Chair and Vice Chair. All committee members approved this motion.

A member of the public requested that the public be informed in advance of the public access to the project proposals.

8. Meeting Adjourned

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

Santa Clara River

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



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
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Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts	mtremblay@lacsdsd.org	A	
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Wayne Crawford	Santa Clarita Concrete	waynescc@social.rr.com	P	
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Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	zuliebear@aol.com	P	

Santa Clara River

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





Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
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Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
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Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
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MILE ANTOS		Starec	
Jon Abulson		Starec	

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