

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## South Santa Monica Bay

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility,  
1935 S. Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245

#### **Attendees**

##### Committee Members Present:

Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider Foundation South Bay)	John Dettle (Torrance)
Cung Nguyen (LA County Flood Control District)	Julio Gonzalez (Carson)
Diane Gatza (Water Replenishment District)	Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)
E.J. Caldwell (West Basin)	Shaw Igoe * (Manhattan Beach)
Guang Yu Wang (SMB Restoration Commission)	Susie Santilena (LA)
Hany Fangary (Fangary Law Group)	TJ Moon * (LA County)
Heecheol Kwon (Hawthorne)	Wendy Butts (LA Conservation Corps)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Alison Suffet-Diaz (Environmental Charter School)  
Ken Rukavina (Palos Verdes Estates)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Diane Gatza, the Chair of the South Santa Monica Bay WASC, called the meeting to order.

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

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2019**

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Diane Gatza asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Mr. E.J. Caldwell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 18, 2019. Mr. Craig Cadwallader seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from December 18, 2019 (unanimous).

#### **3. Committee Member and District Updates**

##### **a) Regional Watershed Coordinator Updates**

District Consultant Stantec announced that the draft online mapping tool and technical assistant service will be available within the next few weeks.

Mr. Kirk Allen provided an update on the Watershed Coordinator Solicitation Process

##### **b) Follow-up discussion from previous meeting**

Ms. Diane Gatza noted the standing discussion items include Chair term and scoring Criteria

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Ms. Susie Santilena requested to see the process of the Scoring Criteria for the first round of submittals and that no changes should be made at this time.

**c) Public Comment Period**

No public comments were received

**4. Discussion Items:**

**a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

Mr. Kirk Allen announced that the Ex Parte Guidelines and COI Q&A will be available in a few weeks. The SCW team will facilitate and seek guidance from County Counsel if there are any concerns.

**b) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts and scientific studies submitted for South Santa Monica Bay WASC for consideration.**

Mr. Kirk Allen provided an overview of the Project Submittals. It was noted that project scores are only one factor for the WASC to consider. It is ultimately up to the committee to decide which projects fit the need of the Watershed Area. For the Technical Resource Program (TRP), the Watershed Area has a total maximum funding of \$1.84-million. A total of \$1.02-million has been submitted for the TRP. Scientific Studies are to be scheduled for presentations.

Ms. Diane Gatza asked when will the committee need decide on the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). Mr. Kirk Allen noted the SIP will need to be finalized by the WASC by the end of March.

Ms. Diane Gatza asked when the Scoring Committee (SC) will finish the scoring. Mr. Kirk Allen noted that the District is anticipated to have the final scores by the end of February. Mr. TJ Moon noted that the SC is anticipating to score all project submittals, that some projects may drop below the 60 point threshold, and that SC may prioritize certain watershed areas to help with presentation scheduling at the different WASCs.

Ms. Diane Gatza suggested to invite all applicants to present, knowing that some may drop below the 60 points threshold. Ms. Kristen Ruffell agreed that the committee can always refer the project to the TRP if they fall below the 60 point threshold.

Ms. Diane Gatza noted that committee members can begin reviewing the Projects online. Ms. Kristen Ruffell inquired if spatial information was available for the projects. Mr. Kirk Allen noted that special data would only exist if the project applicant had provided that data.

Mr. E.J. Caldwell suggested that SCW Team should create a template for consistent presentations. Mr. Kirk Allen asked what information committee would want to see in addition to funding stream. Mr. John Dettle suggested that the IRWMP presentation template may work. Mr. E.J. Caldwell explained the IRWMP presentation process and agreed to email the SCW Team a copy of the presentation.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked how are DAC benefits being quantified. Ms. Diane Gatza and Mr. John Dettle noted that quantification of DAC benefits is largely a judgment call. Mr. TJ Moon clarified that the 110% DAC benefits requirement is based on total project cost.

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Ms. Diane Gatza discussed with the committee to develop the presentation schedule, suggesting a schedule for presentations for the next few meetings, each no more than 15 minutes: 10 minutes for presentation, and 5 minutes for Q&A:

- Wednesday January 22, 2020
  - #37 Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project (City of Torrance)
  - #35 Alondra Park Multi Benefit Stormwater Capture Project (LA County)
- Wednesday February 5, 2020
  - #36 Harbor City Greenway O&M (City of LA)
  - #38 Wilmington Q Street Local Urban Area Flow Management (City of LA)
  - All 3 Technical Resource Program applicants
- Wednesday February 19, 2020
  - All 4 Scientific Studies Program (SSP) applicants
- Wednesday March 4, 2020 and March 18, 2020
  - Discussion of scoring and funding

Mr. Hany Fangary inquired if outside discussion is allowed. Mr. Kirk Allen pointed out that committee members will need to disclose any outside discussion to the committee in a public forum.

Mr. TJ Moon noted that there are projects within SSP that spread into different WASCs and WASC chairs may want to coordinate on the decision.

Ms. Diane Gatza suggested key information for presentation from applicants, including: Key milestones, Funding stream, Summary of DAC benefits, and Breakdown of their score by category

Mr. Kirk Allen provided an overview of the Project Module and SCW website for committee to view Project Submittals.

Mr. Heechoel Kwon asked about community investment benefits and 110% DAC benefits. Ms. Susie Santilena noted that the committee will have to define and each WASC may define it differently. Mr. Darryl Ford noted DAC boundary may change in future. Mr. Kirk Allen clarified that a DAC Benefit is defined as Water Quality, Water Supply, and/or Community Investment benefits located in a DAC or providing benefits to a DAC population (Page 2 of Handbook).

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

A member of the public asked if a TRP is awarded funding, would the District or the applicant receive the funds. Mr. Kirk Allen noted that the District would receive the funds and utilize a consultant to develop the TRP concept into a feasibility study.

A member of the Public encouraged the committee to consider DAC benefits as only being only those with a direct benefit to a DAC.

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## 6. Voting Items:

a) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for scoring

Ms. Diane Gatza made a motion to proceed sending all completed feasibility studies to the SC for scoring. Ms. Kristen Ruffell seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve sending all completed feasibility studies to the SC for scoring. (unanimous).

## 7. Items for next agenda

Ms. Diane Gatza requested committee & District Updates, an update from SC, an update on Ex Parte, and a schedule of the presentations for the next agenda.

## 8. Adjournment

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

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