

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, January 28, 2020
9:00am-11:00am
Burns Community Center, 2nd floor
5510 Clark Ave. Lakewood, CA

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Meredith Reynolds (City of Long Beach)	Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)
Adam Galia (Resident)	Vicki Smith (Whittier)
Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Michelle Yanez (San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership)	Marissa Christiansen (Friends of the LA River)
Glen Kau (Norwalk)	Kevin Wattier (Central Basin)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Rapp, the Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River WASC, called the meeting to order.

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

2. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2020

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Rapp asked the committee members for comments or revisions. The committee had no comments.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2020 (12 approved, 1 abstained)

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



4. Committee Member and District Updates

Mr. Kevin Kim (District) provided clarification on the Technical Resources Program, a summary of the new Ex Parte and COI Q&A guideline document, and a summary of the scoring progress so far by the Scoring Committee (SC).

The District clarified that the Regional Oversight Committee meetings are open to the public and the 5-year expenditure projections for each project will be provided at the next meeting.

5. Discussion Items:

a. IP: Bolivar Park, Caruthers Park and Mayfair Park (City of Lakewood & City of Bellflower)

Presentation by John Hunter. Three Projects in the Los Cerritos portion of the LSG River Watershed Management Area received Cal Trans Funding totaling \$38 million. These include Bolivar Park, Caruthers Park, and Mayfair Park Projects. All construction cost have been covered by Cal Trans Funding. The cities of Bellflower (Caruthers) and Lakewood (Bolivar and Mayfair) are requesting funding for Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring.

Mr. Knapp asked how the cities planned to fund O&M had Measure W not passed. Mr. Hunter stated that the expenses would be divided based on city jurisdiction within the tributary area.

Mr. Juarez requested clarification on the funding requests. Mr. Hunter noted that the values provided are a combination of projected and actual O&M costs and will be refined as the project progresses. Mr. Juarez also requested clarification of DAC benefits. Mr. Hunter stated that the parks are not directly located in a DAC, but the tributary area of all three projects includes DACs.

Mr. Hunter clarified that the Stormwater Investment Plan would program funds for 5 years, but funding would be requested for subsequent years to sustain O&M activities. The cities may consider leveraging Municipal funds after the initial 5-year period. Periodic pump replacement may also be necessary, but because unused funds must be returned after 5 years, the cities would request additional funding at a later date. 100% of the construction costs were paid for by Caltrans. Mr. Hunter also noted a minor discrepancy with the initial request due to a mathematical error.

The committee discussed information regarding community investment benefits and nature-based solutions. Mr. Hunter clarified that the project would involve replacing play areas, replacing picnic shelters, providing ADA access, additional trees and shrubs, and LID improvements in the parking areas. The applicant is also currently in discussion with the Long Beach Conservation Corp regarding workforce development opportunities.

The committee asked for information regarding drainage area by municipality. The applicant provided the following information:

Bolivar Park		
Jurisdiction	Area (acres)	Percentage Area (%)
Bellflower	219	7%
Downey	233	8%
Lakewood	892	30%
Long Beach	810	27%
Paramount	863	29%
Total	3,018	100%

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Caruthers Park		
Jurisdiction	Area (acres)	Percentage Area (%)
Bellflower	1,276	40.7%
Downey	1,860	59.3%
Total	3,136	100%

Mayfair Park		
Jurisdiction	Area (acres)	Percentage Area (%)
Bellflower	1,723	75%
Downey	6	Neg'l%
Lakewood	407	18%
Paramount	164	7%
Total	2,300	100%

b. IP: El Dorado Park Regional Project (City of Long Beach)

Presentation by John Hunter. El Dorado Park is a regional park in the City of Long Beach along the San Gabriel River. This project's goal is to turn existing and unused open space into a constructed wetland and treat captured stormwater and urban runoff through the wetland. Additionally, a diversion to the sanitation district for recycled water reuse at the park will also be explored.

Ms. Rapp asked about the total construction cost. Mr. Hunter stated that the total construction cost is approximately \$12-13 million. The project cost does not include diversion to the adjacent water treatment facility and assumes water will be discharged back into the channel. The estimate also includes the environmental review process as it is not currently completed.

Ms. Bloxom asked for information regarding water quality and if a parking lot would be incorporated into the design to improve access to the site. Mr. Hunter stated that water quality concerns related to the adjacent advanced water treatment facility this will be investigated as part of the project. The project would be designed to treat bacteria and zinc in by incorporating pre-treatment measures at the diversion to remove the media for bacteria. Mr. Hunter also stated that a parking lot would be investigated as part of the outreach plan.

The committee asked for information regarding drainage area by municipality. The applicant provided the following information:

El Dorado Park		
Jurisdiction	Area (acres)	Percentage Area (%)
Artesia	439	15%
Cerritos	759	26%
Hawaiian Gardens	457	15.5%
Lakewood	680	23.3%
Long Beach	443	15.2%
Norwalk	146	5%
Total	2,924	100%

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



The committee noted the challenges associated with the existing sewer infrastructure and recommended the applicant consider the integrity of the existing sewer infrastructure, the location of other potential utilities, and project phasing.

Ms. Bloxom asked if the wetlands would be perennial or intermittent. Mr. Hunter stated that the project could potentially include both but that it is currently unknown.

The committee discussed DAC benefits. Ms. Reynolds noted that the committee should consider areas utilized by DACs in addition to project located within a DAC. For example, a park may provide educational programs targeted toward DACs that could be tracked. Ms. Ruffell also asked if regulatory relief from MS4 compliance could be considered a DAC benefit.

c. Change of Committee Meeting Time

Lower Los Angeles River WASC changed their meeting location starting March but have not changed the meeting time. Therefore, the Lower San Gabriel River WASC will keep their current meeting time to accommodate extended meetings and travel time.

Ms. Ruffell recommended the committee consider an additional meeting or extending an existing meeting to accommodate the expedited schedule.

6. Voting Items:

None.

7. Items for next agenda

The District recommends the following items for the next agenda:

- Presentations from Infrastructure Program Project applicants.

Ms. Rapp solicited additional recommendations from the committee for the next agenda.

The next meeting was tentatively extended to 11:30am.

8. Adjournment

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