

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, February 20, 2020
10:00am – 12:00pm
City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room
23920 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, CA, 91355

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)
Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)
Darren Hernandez (Santa Clarita)
Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Julian Juarez (District)
Rick Viergutz* (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)

Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)
Heather Merenda (Santa Clarita)
Tom Cole (Santa Clarita)
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)
Mike Hennawy* (Santa Clarita)

Committee Members Not Present:

Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

All committee members and the public stood up for the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

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

The Chair, Mr. Darren Hernandez, reminded the committee to sign in, reminded the public that Public Comment cards are available, and pointed out where the restrooms are located.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Darren Hernandez asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 6, 2020. Mr. Jason Gibbs seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 6, 2020 (unanimous).**

3. Committee Member and District Updates and Disclosures

a) Regional Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Mr. CJ Caluag, announced that there are no updates, but reminded the group that the request for statement of qualifications will be coming out shortly for the Watershed Coordinator, and that Connie Adera from Stantec is in attendance today.

b) Scoring Committee Updates

Mr. Caluag informed the group that all 58 projects have been evaluated by the Scoring Committee (SC). Overall, only three projects did not meet the minimum score (60 points) for infrastructure project funding consideration. These three projects were either referred to the Technical Resources Program (TRP) or to be revised and resubmitted for the next call for projects.

Mr. Caluag announced that the General Tax-Based Income Reduction form has been developed and available on the Safe Clean Water (SCW) website, or a simple phone call allows the SCW team to mail out the form to those that do not have internet access.

c) Follow-up discussion from previous meeting

Mr. Bruce Hamamoto provided a brief response to the Hasley Canyon stormwater improvement project questions asked at a previous Committee meeting, stating that the project conducted a modeling exercise involving hydrology, taking into account existing site conditions and any constraints, and what efforts [project size, stormwater improvement type(s)] are required to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) thresholds. Mr. Hamamoto provided a handout to the group and referred to pages 7 and 8 for sampling results in both dry- and wet-weather. Dry-weather conditions have relatively low-flow conditions and the chloride is unexpectedly larger than in wet-weather (speculation is there is a dilution effect with more runoff volume during wet-weather events). On the other hand, bacteria levels are rather high in wet-weather conditions and Mr. Hamamoto can only speculate that animal sources are conveyed downstream. Ms. Sandra Cattell asked if any DNA testing was done on the bacteria sources, and Mr. Hamamoto stated no DNA testing was done; only fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) testing was done as the Rich Watson bacteria special study would consider bacteria sources.

Mr. Rick Viergutz asked if the sampling constituents have existing TMDLs, and Mr. Hamamoto indicated that both chloride and FIB have existing TMDLs in this watershed. Mr. Hamamoto requested that the handout be made available electronically.

The monitoring information can be found attached at the end of these meeting minutes.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Darren Hernandez received one Public Comment Form for agenda item #5.c) Public Comment Period.

Mr. Don Laird of the Acton City Council provided a comment regarding the bacteria scientific study. A copy of comment is attached of the end of these meeting minutes.

5. Discussion Items

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a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

The Committee was asked if there are any disclosures. Ms. Heather Merenda stated she had conversations with Jack Lin and TJ Moon about the City's Newhall project, which also included the Sanitation Districts of LA County and the Santa Clarita Sierra Club. Ms. Kristen Ruffell and Ms. Cattell also stated their participation in this discussion.

b) Stormwater Investment Plan

The Committee was provided the Overview of Scored Projects for WASC Consideration handout, and Mr. Caluag referred the group to Attachment B for the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) criteria. Mr. Caluag referred to the 85%-10%-5% funding distribution within the regional program and that the TRP is in place should a project not have the expertise to award \$300,000 towards developing a feasibility study for that project. Other SIP criteria found in Attachment B include MS4 permit compliance, disadvantaged communities (DAC) benefits – see Attachment C.

Mr. Hernandez asked if the 8% DAC allocation found in Attachment C is an annual allocation. Mr. Caluag believes it is an annual allocation, but noted that not every watershed area has DACs, so there may be exceptions to this criteria. Ms. Cattell stated that there are DAC areas in both the City of Santa Clarita and the unincorporated areas, so the Committee must make sure that the Acton area receives its funding share. Mr. Caluag responded that the Watershed Coordinator once on board, would help balance the appropriate distribution of funds.

Ms. Merenda had a question on Item I in Attachment B – at the last SC meeting, the SC chair stated that WASCs are allowed to award projects funding even if they did not meet the minimum passing score from the SC. Mr. Caluag stated that it was his understanding that the minimum passing score is necessary for a project to be considered for funding from the WASC. Ms. Merenda asked that this please be confirmed.

Mr. Jason Gibbs asked that if a project is scored below the 60-point minimum threshold, if there is an appeals process. Mr. Caluag does not believe there is an appeals process, as the project would either go through the TRP process or need to be revised and resubmitted. Ms. Ruffell mentioned there appears to be no specific process in place, but nothing in the SCW ordinance prevents the appeals process. Mr. Julian Juarez added that just because the project does not meet the 60-point threshold does not mean that the project is permanently eliminated. Ms. Ruffell added that there is a timing issue with seeking funding. Mr. Caluag reminded the Committee that there is a call for projects that is due in July 2020. Ms. Merenda stated that nothing prevents us from appealing and all we were given was five days to respond and resubmit; Ms. Merenda hopes for a better scoring process.

Mr. Caluag introduced the Committee to the SIP tool developed to look at projects and the regional project funding allowance. At this time, \$5.97 million per year is estimated for the Santa Clara River (SCR) regional program. By using this tool and by entering the projects, this group is over its allocation. The Committee is strongly advised to not request 100% of its funding allocation as the allocation at this time is only an estimate as the parcel appeals, parcel credits, and some parcels not paying will lessen the anticipated revenues and thus the funding allocations for all the WASC groups. Ms. Ruffell stated that it is up to this WASC to determine if we want to request 70% or 90% or whatever percent of the funds. Mr. Hernandez said that 70% is too conservative and believes the group should consider requesting 90% or 95% of the funds.

Mr. Caluag asked how this WASC would like to vote on project allocation. Mr. Hernandez said he would like to hear from the committee on this matter. Ms. Cattell stated that the City of Santa

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Clarita gets a certain amount from its own Stormwater Tax. Mr. Hernandez stated that the \$3 million/year collected, is a separate tax, and is fully allocated to operational and maintenance (O&M) efforts.

Mr. Gibbs asked what the process would be if this group allocates a funding percentage larger than the actual funding allocated to the group. Mr. Caluag stated is was not certain what would happen, but most likely the SIP may come back to the WASC to be adjusted.

Ms. Cattell referred to the funding tool and stated that the annual funding amounts appear to be decreasing in future years. Mr. Caluag responded that the percent decrease in the table is the specific allocation per year. Ms. Ruffell stated that the funding tool is not showing how communities are proportional benefiting, and will LA County develop a tool to demonstrate this. Mr. Caluag noted that currently, there isn't a method developed to measure this benefit and this would need to be evaluated over a rolling five year period.

Ms. Ruffell stated that this WASC has a larger funding request than can be allocated to the two projects, and asked if the two projects have the ability to stretch the funds over more years to lessen the annual requests. Mr. Hamamoto stated that for the LA County project, funding could be stretched out over more years and that LA County could front the funding upfront if necessary. Ms. Merenda stated that the City project could be phased, but stated that this is bondable money. Ms. Merenda asked if the WASC can allocate funding for a bond, and stated that the City is also applying for grant funding. Mr. Caluag stated that the group can treat the process similar to IRWMP and possibly reduce and/or shift funds.

Ms. Ruffell stated that the WASC needs to decide its funding priorities and take into account that the TRP (Watershed Coordinator) is a non-negotiable item and decide on the scientific study, where if it not endorsed for funding, that funding goes back into the infrastructure allocation. Ultimately, each WASC member can champion a project or the scientific study and vote accordingly.

c) Public Comment Period

d) Future Meetings (April, May)

The next WASC meeting is scheduled for March 5th, and there's another one scheduled for March 19th. By April, the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) will review the SIPs. We will reserve two dates in April should we need to convene.

6. Break

Committee decided not to take a break.

7. Voting Items

None.

8. Items for next agenda

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The WASC needs to determine how it wants to vote on the infrastructure projects. Ms. Cattell stated that a 95% allocation is too aggressive. Mr. Hernandez restated that 70% is too low of an allocation. Ms. Ruffell stated that the WASC can establish a series of votes and vote whether we want to fund the scientific study.

As a recap, Mr. Caluag understands the following votes occurring at the next WASC meeting: 1) determine the percent allocation of the anticipated infrastructure allocation; 2) support or eliminate from consideration the scientific study; and 3) prioritize the 2 infrastructure projects for funding.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked if the WASC was going to get more information pertaining to the scientific study. Ms. Ruffell stated that there is a WASC chair meeting occurring our next WASC meeting on March 5th, so this WASC should have an idea of how the WASC chairs feel about the scientific study. Mr. Hernandez requested consultant staff be at the next WASC meeting. Mr. Braly asked for TRP, does the WASC have to set aside these funds. Mr. Caluag clarified that the infrastructure funds (not less than 85 percent) are separate from the TRP funds (up to 10 percent).

9. Meeting Adjourned

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

Next Meeting:

**Thursday, March 5, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room
23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA 91355**

Future Meetings:

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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	
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Steve Cole	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	scole@scvwa.org	
Rick Viergutz	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	rviergutz@scvwa.org	
Janine Prado	City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	JPRADO@santa-clarita.com	
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita	tpldger@santa-clarita.com	
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsds.org	
Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts	mtremblay@lacsds.org	
Dirk Marks	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	dmarks@scvwa.org	
Mike Alvord	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	malvord@scvwa.org	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery	hbraly@pooleshaffery.com	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council	maryjohnson767@gmail.com	
Jason Gibbs	GP Strategies	jgibbs@gpstrategies.com	
Frederick Andre Hollings	CA Department of Tax and Fee Administration	fahollings1@gmail.com	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	zuliebear@aol.com	

Santa Clara River

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Heidi Webber	Community Hiking Club	hwebber50@gmail.com	A
Sandra Cattell	Sierra Club	sumcatt@yahoo.com	P
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	BHAMAMO@dpw.lacounty.gov	P
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	AMA@dpw.lacounty.gov	A
Darren Hernandez	Santa Clarita	dhernandez@santa-clarita.com	P
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita	Dseegmiller@santa-clarita.com	A
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita	HMERENDA@santa-clarita.com	P
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A
Robert Newman	Santa Clarita	rnewman@santa-clarita.com	P
Milke Hennawy	Santa Clarita	mhennawy@santa-clarita.com	A
Tom Cole	Santa Clarita	tcole@santa-clarita.com	P
David Peterson	Santa Clarita	Dpeterson@santa-clarita.com	A

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
CONNIE	ADERA	Stantec	Connie.adera@stantec.com
JOSIE	GUTIERREZ	LACDPW	jgutierr@dps.lacounty.gov
Don	LAIRD	ACTON	rte248@yahoo.com

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

INTER-OFFICE TECHNICAL MEMO
Stormwater Quality Division

TO:	Alberto Grajeda (UA West)	DATE: 8/23/2018
FROM:	Emiko Innes (Environmental Planning)	
SUBJECT:	Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Capture Project Pre-Construction Monitoring Report	

Background

The proposed Project is in Castaic within the Santa Clara River Watershed. The goal of the Project is to divert and treat up to the 85th percentile flow of a 24-hour storm runoff (5.09 acre-feet) from the surrounding tributary area of 150 acres. The treatment facility will involve construction of bioretention swales, a diversion structure and pipe to divert flows from the storm drain to an underground cistern, and infiltration gallery.

Figure 1 Study Location



Study Objectives

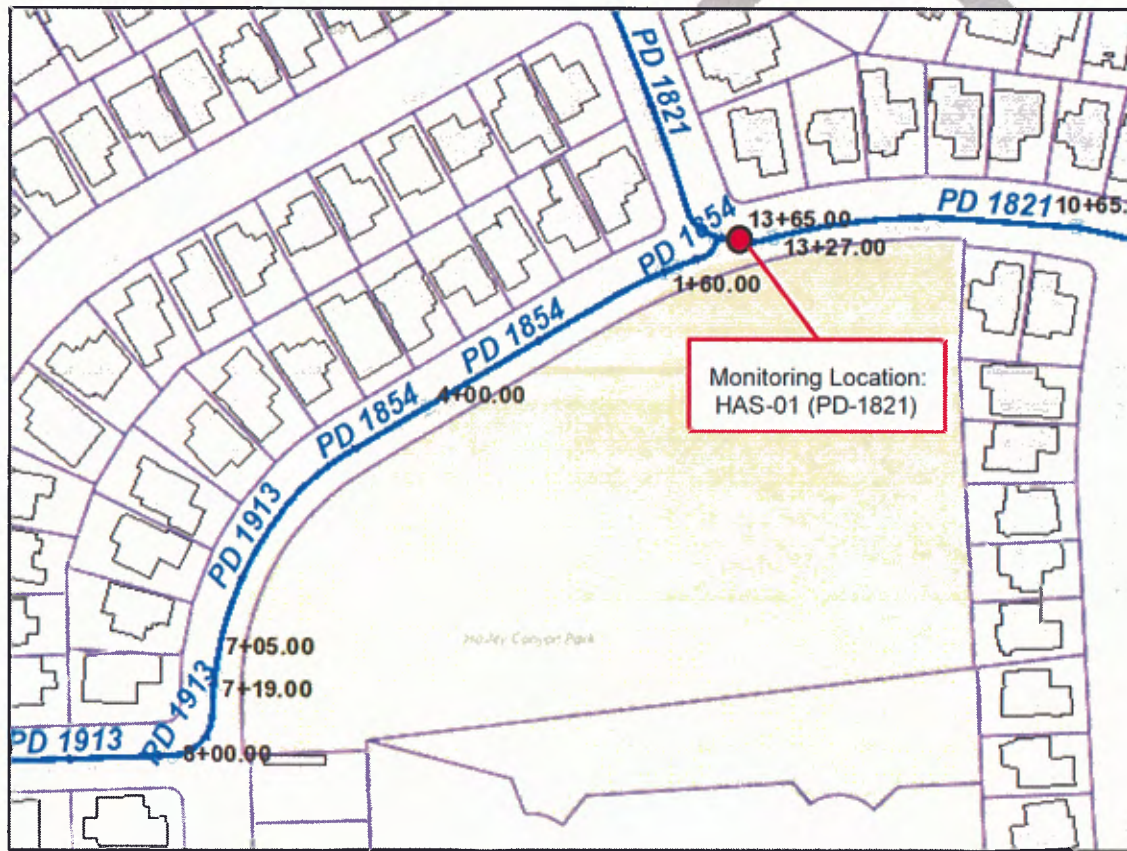
The purpose of the pre-construction monitoring is to characterize the existing dry and wet weather water quality conditions and flow of the project's drainage area.

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Monitoring Method

The monitoring site (station ID# HAS-01) is located on 27803-27727 Quincy St at the intersection of Cambridge Ave (latitude: 34.452874, longitude: -118.619665). The manhole 13+65.00 is located within the storm drain PD 1821 (Figure 2). The storm drain is an 84-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP). Dry weather samples were collected using grab sampling technique while wet weather samples were collected using flow-weighted composite sampling technique. Bacteria samples in dry and wet weather were collected by grab sampling technique. Field parameters were measured when the grab sample was collected. Flow sensors were installed to measure continuous flow. A 60° V-notch weir was installed to measure dry weather flow. For water quality analysis, constituents targeted in the Santa Clara River TMDLs and 303(d) listed pollutants for Santa Clara River Reach 6 were measured.

Figure 2 Monitoring Location



Results

Event Summary

Six dry weather samples were collected in July and August of 2017. Four wet weather conditions were monitored between January and March 2018 (Table 1 and Table 2).

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Table 1 Monitoring Event Summary for Dry Weather Condition

Event #	Sample Date	Flow Measurement	WQ Sample	Note
Dry 1	7/26/2017	No	Yes	Reliable dry weather flow was measured between 10/15 – 10/18/2017 (Figure 3)
Dry 2	7/27/2017	No	Yes	
Dry 3	7/31/2017	No	Yes	
Dry 4	8/2/2017	No	Yes	
Dry 5	8/15/2017	No	Yes	
Dry 6	8/17/2017	No	Yes	

Table 2 Monitoring Event Summary for Wet Weather Condition

Event #	Sampling Start	Sampling End	Rain (in)	Runoff Volume (acre-feet)	Field Measure.	WQ Sample
Wet 1	1/8/2018 7:00	1/9/2018 16:00	2.72	2.49	Yes	Yes
Wet 2	3/2/2018 1:00	3/2/2018 17:00	0.91	1.48	Yes	Yes*
Wet 3	3/10/2018 16:00	3/11/2018 6:00	0.55	1.63	Yes	Yes
Wet 4	3/21/2018 8:00	3/23/2018 1:00	2.87	2.49	No	Yes

*Partial composite sample due to auto-sampler malfunction

Field Parameters

Field measurements were recorded twice per sampling event, and the average measurements are summarized in Table 3. High conductivity levels during dry weather may indicate some groundwater influence in the runoff.

Table 3 Summary of Field Parameters Results

Event #	Date	Time	Average				
			Temperature (°C)	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Specific Conductivity (uS/cm)	Salinity (ppt)
Dry 1	7/26/2017	11:45 AM	27.3	7.7	7.4	1220	NM
Dry 2	7/27/2017	11:04 AM	26.5	8.0	6.4	1228	NM
Dry 3	7/31/2017	1:00 PM	27.4	7.5	5.2	2379	1.2
Dry 4	8/2/2017	10:45 AM	27.4	8.0	4.6	1367	0.7
Dry 5	8/15/2017	11:30 AM	26.2	8.3	5.8	1287	NM
Dry 6	8/17/2017	11:20 AM	24.6	8.3	5.6	1232	NM
Wet 1	1/8/2018	10:30 AM	15.8	8.5	9.0	449	NM
Wet 2	3/2/2018	6:30 AM	13.8	7.6	8.0	283	NM
Wet 3	3/10/2018	4:44 PM	15.6	8.2	9.2	99	NM
Wet 4	3/21/2018	10:45 AM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM

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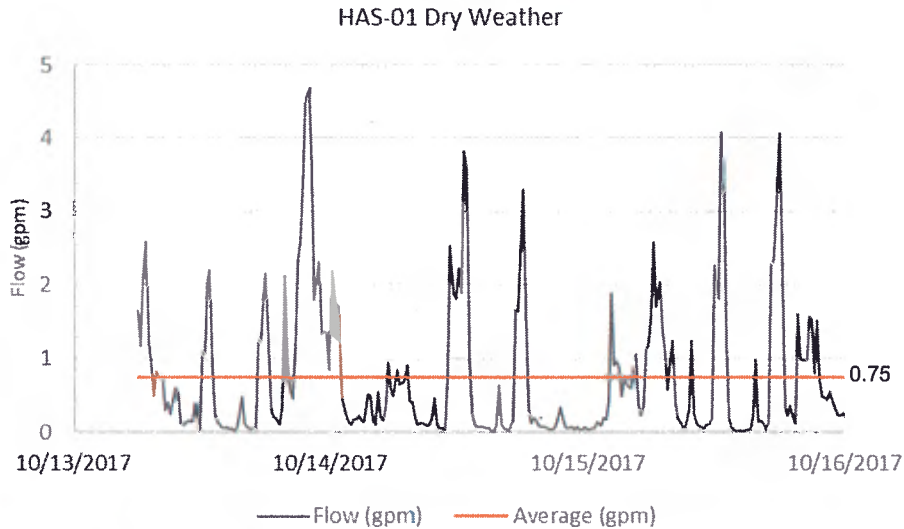
Flow Data

A 60° v-notch weir was installed for the continuous monitoring. After inspecting the hydrograph and rain records, usable dry weather flow records were identified between October 15 and October 18, 2017. The average dry weather flow was 0.75 gallons per minute (gpm), or 1080 gallons per day (gpd).

For wet weather flow monitoring, the weir was uninstalled and the Manning's Equation was used to calculate flow volume. Due to difficulties in predicting the storm flow for flow-weighted composite sampling, time-weighted composite samples were collected during the first, third and fourth events.

Hydrographs for dry weather and wet weather conditions are included in Figure 3 - 7.

Figure 3 Dry Weather Hydrograph



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Figure 4 Wet Weather #1 Hydrograph

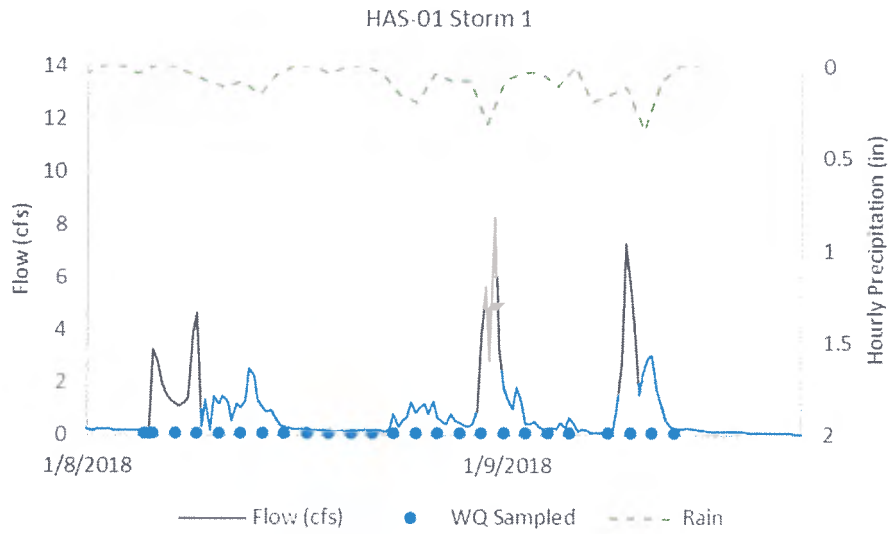
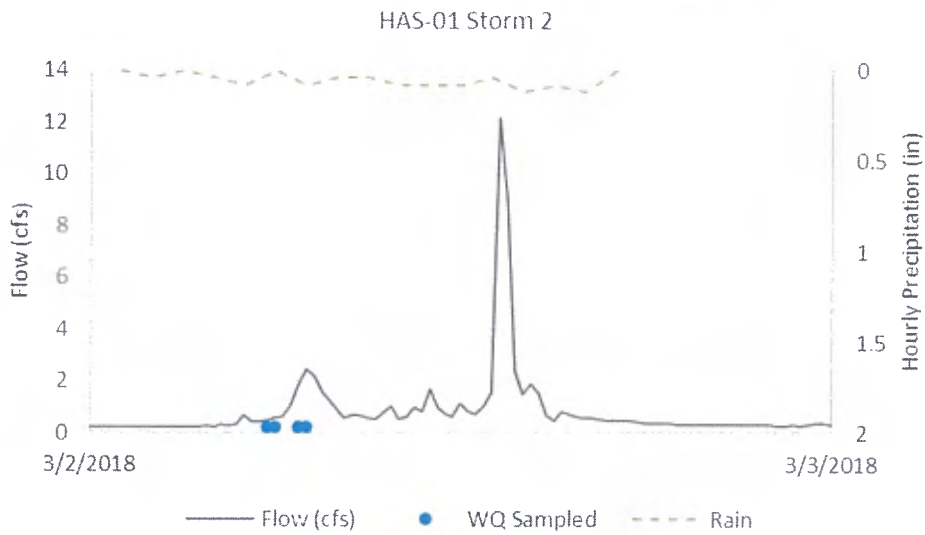


Figure 5 Wet Weather #2 Hydrograph



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Figure 6 Wet Weather #3 Hydrograph

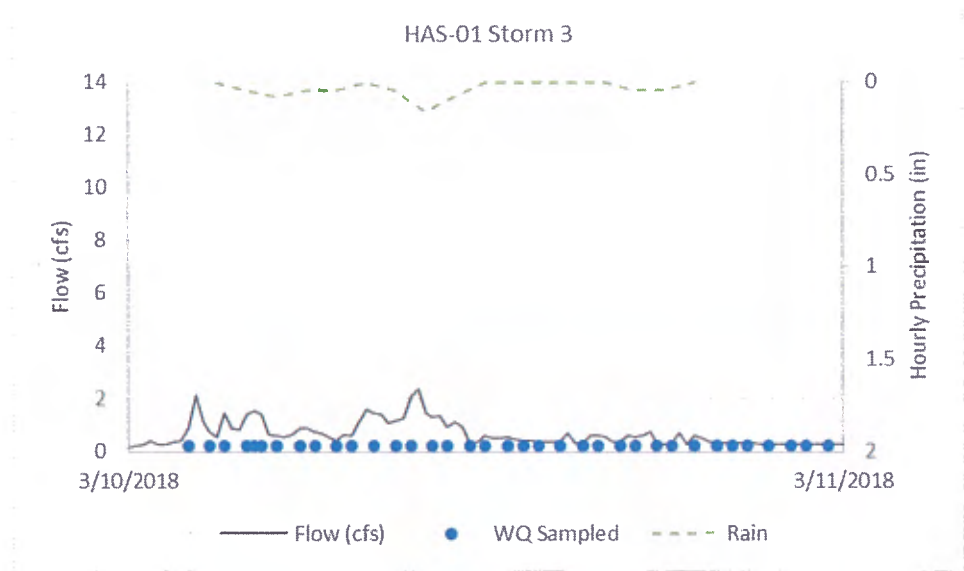
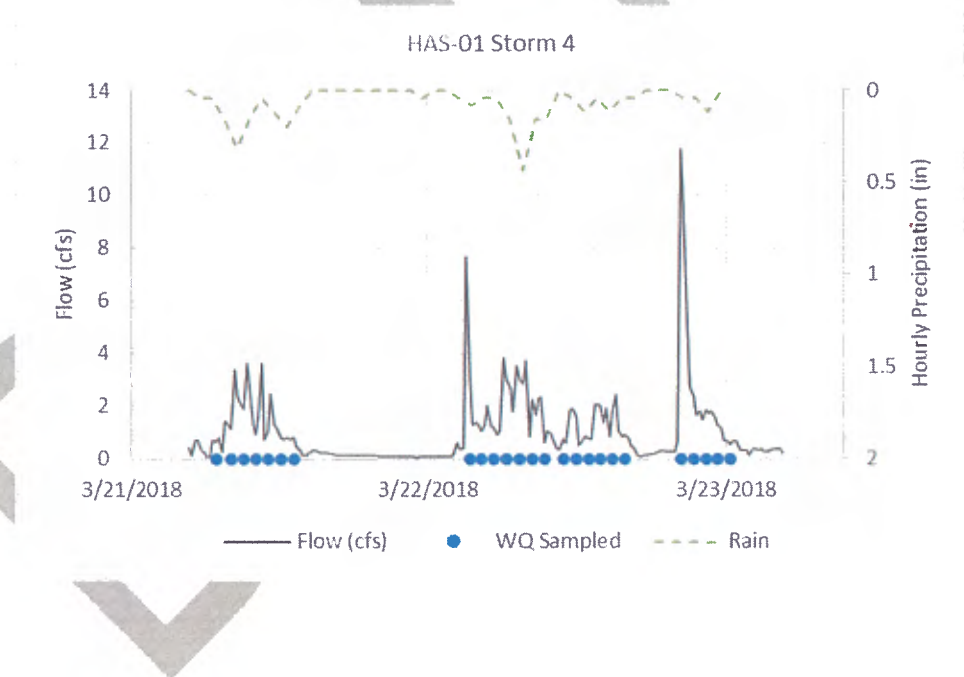


Figure 7 Wet Weather #4 Hydrograph



Water Quality Data

The water quality for the dry and wet weather events were measured, and the average values are listed in Table 4 and Table 5.

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Table 4 Summary of Water Quality Results for Dry Weather Events

Constituent	Unit	Dry 1	Dry 2	Dry 3	Dry 4	Dry 5	Dry 6	Average	WQO
Chloride	mg/L	92	140	210	150	140	130	144	100
Ammonia as N	mg/L	ND	ND	0.13	ND	ND	ND	0.13	1.75
Nitrate as N	mg/L	1.5	1.3	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.7	-
Nitrite as N	mg/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	-
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	mg/L	1.6	1.4	4	2.1	1.5	1.6	2.0	6.8
Coliform, Fecal	MPN/100mL	8000	ND	10000	75000	12000	500	21100	400
Coliform, Total	MPN/100mL	90000	ND	56000	120000	55000	35000	71200	10000
E. coli	MPN/100mL	2700	ND	690	24000	5500	490	6676	235
Copper, Total	ug/L	6.2	15	32	12	15	5.1	14.2	HD
Copper, Dissolved	ug/L	4.9	11	15	8	13	4.1	9.3	-
Iron	ug/L	290	220	190	1000	570	230	417	-
Iron, Dissolved	ug/L	16	23	25	28	48	43	30.5	-
Mercury	ug/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	0.05
Mercury, Dissolved	ug/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	-
Hardness as CaCO3	mg/L	300	277	373	385	348	371	342	-
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	7	12	9	29	180	ND	47.4	-
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	740	720	890	830	760	780	787	1000

WQO – Water Quality Objective

HD – Hardness Dependent

NS – Not Sampled

ND* – Not Detected; analyzed by EPA 608

Bolded Result – Above WQO

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Table 5 Summary of Water Quality Results for Wet Weather Events

Constituent	Unit	Wet 1	Wet 2	Wet 3	Wet 4	Average	WQO
Chloride	mg/L	85	7.6	73	50	53.9	100
Ammonia as N	mg/L	0.28	0.33	0.22	0.15	0.25	1.75
Nitrate as N	mg/L	2.2	0.39	1.9	1.3	1.45	-
Nitrite as N	mg/L	ND	0.072	0.095	0.077	0.08	-
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	mg/L	2.2	0.39	1.9	1.3	1.45	6.8
Coliform, Fecal	MPN/100mL	30000	24000	4500	11000	17375	400
Coliform, Total	MPN/100mL	50000	35000	13000	35000	33250	10000
E. coli	MPN/100mL	52000	4400	4100	10000	17625	235
Copper	ug/L	21	13	13	14	15.25	HD
Copper, Dissolved	ug/L	14	5.9	10	8.3	9.55	-
Iron	ug/L	2300	2000	450	2200	1737.5	-
Iron, Dissolved	ug/L	64	44	23	41	43	-
Mercury	ug/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	0.05
Mercury, Dissolved	ug/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	-
Hardness as CaCO3	mg/L	192	37.2	172	116	129.3	-
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	450	86	380	300	304	1000
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	28	62	11	50	37.8	-

WQO – Water Quality Objective
 HD – Hardness Dependent
 NS – Not Sampled
 ND – Not Detected
 Bolded Result – Above WQO

Don LAIRD

Read ~~Statement~~ Statement from
AZTON City Council ON
approving funds for Study of
testing water samples from Santa
Clara River

Thank you

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ACTON TOWN COUNCIL

It is imperative that no measure W funds be approved for sampling until the public is informed regarding where the sampling will be done, and how the data will be used. If sampling is proposed in an unincorporated community, then the WASC should not approve the project until 1) It is clearly explained to community residents how the data will be used and what the possible implications are for the community, and 2) The Community gives its support to the project. On the other hand, there would be far fewer objections if the sampling were limited to those outfalls within the City of Santa Clarita where sampling is already being conducted under the EWMP, *though this restriction would have to be spelled out explicitly as a condition of approval by the WASC.*

To address any lingering doubt about whether Acton's septic systems contribute to bacterial pollutants in the Santa Clara River, please note that the Acton Town Council has obtained historic water quality data from Water Works District 37 which operates 3 wells in the Santa Clara riverbed at a location down stream of, and downhill from, most Acton residences. These data shows that bacterial contamination is not a problem, and they confirm that Acton's septic systems **do not cause** bacterial contamination in the Santa Clara River.

Given these facts, the Community of Acton is looking to the members of this WASC in general, and the County members in particular, to ensure that no monitoring outside the City of Santa Clarita is approved for Measure W funding unless and until the communities where such monitoring will occur are invited to meaningfully participate in, and direct the planning, development and implementation of, any monitoring efforts that occur in their community.

Thank you

The Acton City Council