

Safe, Clean Water Program

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

1:00pm - 3:00pm

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

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LA County Flood Control District)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)
Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider Foundation South Bay)
Diane Gatza (Water Replenishment District)
EJ Caldwell (West Basin)
Wilson Mendoza* (Torrance)
Susie Santilena (LA)
TJ Moon* (LA County)
Ken Rukavina (Palos Verdes Estates)

Wendy Butts (LA Conservation Corps)
Darryl Ford* (Los Angeles Rec & Park)
Shawn Igoe* (Manhattan Beach)
Julio Gonzalez (Carson)
Guang Yu Wang (SMB Restoration Commission)
Heecheol Kwon (Hawthorne)
Hany Fangary (Fangary Law Group)

Committee Members Not Present:

Alison Suffet-Diaz (Environmental Charter School)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Diane Gatza asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Kristen Ruffell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Susie Santilena seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes. (unanimous).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

a) Regional Watershed Coordinator Updates

Kirk Allen provided the District update, noting: the request for statement of qualifications for Watershed Coordinators is expected in April, with proposals due in May; the WASC GIS Tool is now available; the draft fund transfer agreement is expected in March, with board approval in May; the General Low Income Tax Reduction form is now available online; and that stipends are available for eligible committee members.

b) Scoring Committee Update

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Kirk Allen provided an update on the Scoring Committee (SC) and their progress, noting that the final round of scoring is now complete. Within the SSMB, all projects have passed the threshold score, and a scoring sheet has been made available for the SSMB WASC.

c) Follow-up discussion from previous meeting

Diane Gatza noted the recommendation to add a second comment period has been made available in this current agenda.

4. Public Comment Period

No public comments received

5. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No members have had any ex parte communications to disclose

b) Presentations

i) Eastview Park (Rancho Palos Verdes)

Craig Cadwallader inquired why the current concept is exploring a longer pipe, when a shorter route exists. Rancho Palos Verdes noted that the shorter pipe would have to go through private property.

Susie Santilena inquired if this was the only regional projects in the EWMP. Rancho Palos Verdes noted that this was the only project for Palos Verdes.

Wendy Butts requested the TRP funding amount. Rancho Palos Verdes noted that the TRP ask was only for \$300k. Kirk Allen clarified that the LACFCD would be handling the development of TRP projects and that this would be a service provided by LACFCD on behalf of the applicants.

Kristen Ruffell inquired what level of effort LACFCD would provide for the TRP. Kirk Allen clarified that each project will have different requirements, such as a geotechnical investigation, so the level of effort will be different for each TRP.

TJ Moon inquired if the treatment system can be built on top of the trunk lines, or if the project can discharge back into the trunk line. Rancho Palos Verdes noted that the line discharges into the ocean and could not be used for that purpose.

ii) Coordinated Safe Clean Watershed Plans (City of Los Angeles)

Wilson Mendoza inquired if this plan was just an update to the EWMP. Los Angeles noted that it would require a partner funded effort to update to the RAA.

Diane Gatza inquired if the \$1.22M would be requested for the first year. Los Angeles noted that the funding request would be broken primarily into two years.

Diane Gatza inquired if this study fits within the scientific studies program. Los Angeles noted that the modeling effort for water quality would be a major part of the special study.

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Guang Yu Wang inquired how this project differs from the original EWMP plans. Los Angeles noted that the monitoring data has become higher resolution and better data is now available compared to the original EWMP. This will allow this study to improve understanding of water quality issues.

Kristen Ruffell inquired if the city is coordinating with other cities. Los Angeles noted that it is coordinating with the Dominguez group.

Diane Gatza inquired what would happen if the study only received partial funding. Los Angeles noted that the scope would likely change, but that it would depend on how much funding was awarded.

iii) Recalculation of Zinc Wet Weather Criterion (City of Los Angeles)

Guang Yu Wang inquired if the Regional Board supports this study. Los Angeles noted that the Regional Board is aware of this project, and that there have been site specific objectives for zinc.

Guang Yu Wang requested the data sources used for the study. Los Angeles noted that sources include national studies on zinc impact studies on different species.

Kristen Ruffell inquired if internal staff or a consultant will be used for this process. Los Angeles noted that it would be a consultant to carry out this study.

Diane Gatza inquired if this would be a study on ocean or freshwater. Los Angeles noted that it would be a study on freshwater at the outfalls for wet weather targets, and that the study would only be done on existing monitoring data. Diane Gatza inquired if the City's intent was to reduce the standard set by the Regional Board. Los Angeles noted that it is the hope that this study will lead to a more achievable goal for zinc, but that the standard could potentially go higher.

iv) Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution (Rich Watson)

Heecheol Kwon inquired what groups are currently working on this study. Rich Watson noted that he has been working with a number of other groups on this study. Heecheol Kwan noted that this study may overlap with an existing bacteria study. Rich Watson noted that the Upper LA River studies will be similar but will feed into each other, and that this study will look into human markers specifically.

Heecheol Kwon inquired if this study could be part of the MS4 requirements. Rich Watson noted that those requirements are why this study is being presented, and this study is aiming to narrow down the focus to human markers.

Susie Santilena inquired if this study would establish a limit on human markers. Rich Watson noted that he has been in contact with SCCRWP to discuss this topic and provide that data to the Regional Board to set critical bacteria levels for the region.

Diane Gatza inquired how this study will impact regulation. Rich Watson noted that this study would provide the Water Quality Control Boards with better local data, who are open to updating standards.

v) South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Innovation Platform (City of Carson on behalf of the Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Group) – Pending Confirmation

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Kristen Ruffell inquired about phasing the funds. Carson noted that implementation is intended to be conducted rapidly, so the pace of the project could be adjusted to make it work.

Guang Yu Wang inquired how this project relates to the Los Angeles Study or if it will fit into that study. Carson noted that the study is intended to determine specifics between IGP and the MS4, and there could be opportunities to expand the knowledge for the EWMPs.

Kristen Ruffell inquired that with IGP compliance deadlines due this year, how would the study be impacted. Carson noted that while the targets and deadlines are this year, there is still uncertainty for how permittees can comply with those targets, and that industrial dischargers are eager to find out more about this study. Kristen Ruffell inquired if Carson has asked the Regional Board to extend the deadlines. Carson noted that without this study, it will be difficult to reach these goals.

Susie Santilena inquired if this study will explore other permittees other than IGP. Carson noted that yes other types would be explored.

6. Public Comment Period

No public comments received

7. Decision Making and Scoring Process Discussion:

Kirk Allen noted that a tool is being developed to help the WASC budget and schedule projects, concepts, and studies for the SIP for the upcoming meetings. The tool is not yet available, but will be ready in time for the next discussion meeting.

Diane Gatza requested the District send a table on all projects and the phased funding ask for the next meeting.

Kristen Ruffell requested the District provide a table with city benefit breakdown is for each project program.

Diane Gatza clarified that only the first year is being budgeted, and that future years will be a projection.

Diane Gatza requested the District provide a summary of municipal returns within the SSMB WASC.

8. Voting Items

None

9. Items for next agenda

Diane Gatza suggested that meetings should shift to once a month after March.

9. Adjournment

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