

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Santa Clara River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Thursday, March 5, 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)  
Mike Alvord\* (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)

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)  
Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

None

\*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 20, 2020**

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

Ms. Sandra Cattell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 20, 2020. Ms. Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 20, 2020 (unanimous, with Mr. Robert Newman and Mr. Mike Alvord abstaining as neither attended the February 20, 2020 meeting).**

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

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Mr. CJ Caluag referred the Committee members to the WASC review sheet to begin the discussion on projects. Ms. Sandra Cattell asked how and when the two infrastructure projects have engaged the community, and that this needs to be asked now and for future projects. Mr. Bruce Hamamoto stated that the WASC review sheet on page two includes a question pertaining to community engagement. Mr. Mike Antos stated that when a project is submitted, there is a question regarding community support, and once a watershed coordinator is hired, he/she will need to ensure the communities are engaged.

## 4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Hernandez received one Public Comment Form for agenda item #5.b), one Public Comment Form for agenda item #5.c), and one Public Comment Form for agenda item #7.b) Public Comment Period.

Ms. Jacqueline Ayer of the Acton Town Council provided a comment regarding the Stormwater Investment Programming (SIP) guidelines stating that a lot of the restrictions discussed at these meetings are not written in the SCW Ordinance and appear to be nothing, but policies/guidelines and asked if the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted these policies/guidelines or not.

Ms. Shona Sangudy of The Nature Conservancy agreed with Ms. Cattell's earlier comments pertaining to projects needing to include a community outreach process. A copy of these comments are included in the meeting minutes.

Ms. Ayer also provided a comment regarding the bacteria scientific study and reaffirmed that the Acton Town Council is not in support of this study as currently proposed.

## 5. Discussion Items

### a) Ex Parte Communications

The Committee was asked if there are any disclosures. Mr. Bruce Hamamoto explained that he had discussions with Mr. Hernandez on February 20<sup>th</sup> after that day's SCR WASC meeting regarding 1) Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) projects and schedules, 2) in future years, L.A. County will pursue future funding at no more than a fifty-percent allocation request for park stormwater improvement projects as well as green streets, and 3) the associated benefits with the bacteria scientific study while acknowledging the actions requested by the Acton Town Council. Mr. Hernandez added that discussions with Mr. Hamamoto also included a future Via Princessa Park and Newhall Park improvement projects, and pursuing joint projects in both city and unincorporated area limits.

### b) SIP Programming Guidelines

The Committee was provided a copy of the SIP Programming Guidelines and Mr. Caluag walked the group through Attachment A, which presents potential project funding scenarios that the Committee will need to weigh and consider. Ms. Cattell asked about a scenario where someone seeks \$30 million in funding and this WASC only has \$25 million; would this WASC be able to fund the \$25 million and have the applicant seek the \$5 million elsewhere. Mr. Caluag stated that the WASC must earmark the full requested amount, and in this particular scenario, that would mean funding the first year and earmarking the balance in future years for the full \$30 million.

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Mr. Jason Gibbs requested confirmation on whether the WASC needs to fund the entire project amount being sought, and Mr. Caluag emphasized that projects considered for funding must be fully funded, with future years getting earmarked for funding. Ms. Mary Johnson asked if there is any way to partially fund a project. Mr. Hernandez reminded the WASC that the two infrastructure projects seeking funding cannot be fully funded in the first year, and that the WASC can only approve funding for the first fiscal year, with future years only as earmarked and that this is to remind the WASC of what needs to be considered in future year allocations. Ms. Cattell stated that this is not how future funding was explained to her, and asked that projects earmarked for future funding may not get funding in the future. Mr. Hernandez confirmed this to be the case, and Mr. Caluag stated that every year, the WASC will decide what projects get funded and what projects do not get funded.

## **c) Projects and studies**

Mr. Caluag reminded the WASC that there are 2 infrastructure projects for this group. Mr. Hernandez asked if there are any questions pertaining to these 2 projects.

Ms. Cattell stated that her big concern is community engagement and buy-in, and asked whether the public was contacted before each project presented, or are park users aware of the proposed improvements. Mr. Darin Seegmiller, City project manager, stated that community outreach is vital and the City must engage. The balancing act is not promising anything we cannot do. The concept right now is to develop a multi-purpose facility and we will certainly reach out to the community. Ms. Cattell stated that is not community engagement, and that this should not happen again on any project. Ms. Sangudy stated her concurrence of needing to include a robust community outreach process. Ms. Merenda added that the Newhall project included in the EWMP had multiple public outreach meetings, and that the attendance was low at these meetings as both L.A. County and City staff came to these night-time meetings in public places to accommodate the public's attendance and participation. Unfortunately, most people are not interested in water and do not attend water meetings.

## **d) Public Comment Period**

Mr. Hernandez reminded the WASC that at this moment in the agenda, this is a discussion and that there is no voting at this time.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell requested a recap of the recent Chair meeting/call. Mr. Caluag stated that generally, the intent of the meeting was to gather how all the WASC groups are doing while trying to address any outstanding issues to get every group on the same path. Mr. Antos added that in context of the current discussions with the bacteria scientific study, the study was discussed in general terms with no decisions/votes taking place.

Mr. Hernandez asked the Committee if anyone had questions for Mr. Rich Watson on the bacteria scientific study as he has to leave early. Mr. Rick Viergutz reviewed the proposal and asked how the monitoring is or will be different than traditional bacteria sampling. Mr. Watson stated that the physical sampling sites have not been determined, but will be selected per the MS4 permit, and that the focus of the study is to get a handle on human waste through fecal coliform sampling, which is the leading method of identifying human waste sources. Ultimately, we will end up with a package of human markers.

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Ms. Ayer stated that this study is to include community outreach, and asked what will happen in a case where the public's request is not entertained and your study proceeds with a different path – how does our community prevent miscommunication from happening. Mr. Watson stated that individuals will represent all communities, and that the detailed scope is not set, so any participants will help build and finish the final scope. Mr. Watson also mentioned that the study will likely not monitor the Acton/Agua Dulce areas as the study will be sampling at MS4 (point-source storm drain) systems, and he estimates two to four sampling locations up here in the Santa Clara River watershed. Ms. Ayer said being at the table and getting what you request are two different matters, and Mr. Watson responded that he cannot state exactly how the process and scope get finalized, but that Ms. Ayer and other members of the public can be part of the technical advisory committee (TAC). Mr. Hamamoto stated that L.A. County has been involved with looking at this study, and that the goal is to look at human health risks. Fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) testing has been in place, but asked if there are better human indicators.

Ms. Mary Johnson asked if there is a lead agency for this study, and Mr. Watson stated that it is the Gateway Authority, which is a joint-powers authority made up of 27 cities formed to address water supply and water quality issues.

Ms. Heather Merenda asked if the fund transfer agreement is approved, would the Gateway Authority sign the agreement. Mr. Watson said yes, the Gateway Authority would sign the fund transfer agreement.

Ms. Cattell stated that the L.A. County Sanitation District treated effluent is discharged into the river, and asked if the discharge will be sampled as part of this study. Mr. Watson stated that the intent will be to sample downstream of the effluent discharge point and stated that the wastewater treatment process kills bacteria, but not the DNA and that as a result, reclaimed water used for irrigation is likely an issue/source of bacteria reintroduction.

Mr. Hamamoto stated that the City and L.A. County joined on the EWMP to cost-share the efforts, and believes the region needs to try and distribute costs to make the scientific study more cost effective. Mr. Watson responded that ideally, the study needs seven of the nine watershed management areas (WMAs) to support the study, and where if five or less WMAs supported the study, the study efforts would get postponed.

Ms. Cattell stated that her area has a college campus completely on septic systems, and asked when a major polluter is identified, do the monitoring study proponents attempt to recoup their costs from the polluter. Mr. Watson stated that they do not have a mechanism to recoup their costs. Ms. Merenda stated that the City collaborates with L.A. County on bacteria monitoring, and when the results indicate that there are exceedances, the City sends out inspectors to attempt to locate/identify the source(s) of bacteria. For reference, stormwater has the highest bacteria loading allocation in the Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). As such, the City is in support of this study to find out who is contributing to the bacteria issues as all we find right now are that many raccoons live in storm drains. Ultimately, we need to know what are the human causes and when we find this, we need to focus our resources and efforts on that pollution.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that it appears that Mr. Watson contacted both the City and L.A. County about this study. Mr. Watson stated that all nine WASC groups were contacted and that all regulated agencies have been involved, and that at one time, the City of Los Angeles was the lead agency on these efforts. Ultimately, Mr. Watson said the study team has had contact with both the City and L.A. County staff.

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#### e) Ranking process

See item 7.

#### 6. Break

Committee decided not to take a break.

#### 7. Voting Items

##### a) Assign percent allocation target

Mr. Hernandez stated that L.A. County request for Hasley Canyon infrastructure project is \$2.9 million and the City's request for Newhall Park is \$3 million. Mr. Hernandez recommended that the WASC fully fund 1) Hasley Canyon, 2) the TRP (\$200,000 for a watershed coordinator), 3) allocating \$1.8 million to Newhall Park, and 4) fund \$111,397 towards the regional bacterial scientific study for a total of \$5 million for the first year, which is an 84-percent allocation.

Mr. Robert Newman asked why the \$200,000 for the watershed coordinator is not part of the 10 percent allocation received by the District, and Mr. Antos responded that the \$200,000 is under the TRP as defined by the SCW program. Mr. Newman asked for a breakdown of what L.A. County is doing with their 10 percent allocation.

Mr. Hernandez asked for a motion to approve the percent allocation and Stormwater Investment Plan as displayed. Ms. Cattell made a motion to support the motion with Mr. Gibbs seconding the motion (See Stormwater Investment Plan attached).

At this stage, the voting occurred as follows:

**Those in favor: 16**

**Those opposed : 0**

*(Hunt Braly left the meeting early and did not vote on this matter)*

##### b) Scientific Study

For approval consideration of the bacteria scientific study, a draft motion and copy was passed out to all WASC members (see attached). Mr. Hernandez asked if the group would like to make a formal motion to approve the study with the language provided.

Ms. Cattell stated that if the group puts off the study voting until the next WASC meeting, would the consultant talking to the Acton Town Council be possible. Mr. Hernandez stated that asking the consultant to meet with the Acton Town Council now would be a scope change. Furthermore, Mr. Hamamoto stated that the consultant, Larry Walker & Associates, is located in Seattle, Washington and until they are officially brought on board, they do not have the budget to fly down and entertain a meeting or more at this time. Mr. Gibbs asked if the group is changing what the consultant was supposed to have done, but Mr. Hernandez said there would be outreach if the study is approved for funding. Ms. Ruffell stated that she does not believe this is a scope change and that it is just confirming what Mr. Watson already said.

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Mr. Robert Newman made a motion to approve the written language as is, with Mr. Tom Cole seconding the motion. Mr. Gibbs asked if the WASC needs to allocate funding now. Ms. Johnson stated that from her area and perspective, she is having a very hard time moving forward with this study as she feels many specifics are lacking and that Acton and Agua Dulce are getting shortchanged with no clear answers addressing the raised concerns.

Mr. Gibbs stated that the WASC is supposed to fund this study in its first year, but is the group obligated to fund the study in future years. Mr. Caluag stated that the group is not required to fund the study in future years, per the 85/10/5 percent breakdowns.

At this stage, the voting occurred as follows:

**Those in favor of the study: 14**  
**Those opposed to the study: 2**

*(Hunt Braly left the meeting early and did not vote on this matter)*

- c) Confirm Final Stormwater Investment Plan

See Agenda Item 7) a)

#### **8. Items for next agenda**

The WASC will not meet on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The next meeting will be in April 2020 to discuss any comments the ROC may have on the SIP before the SIP is sent to the BOS for approval.

#### **9. Meeting Adjourned**

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

**Next Meeting:**

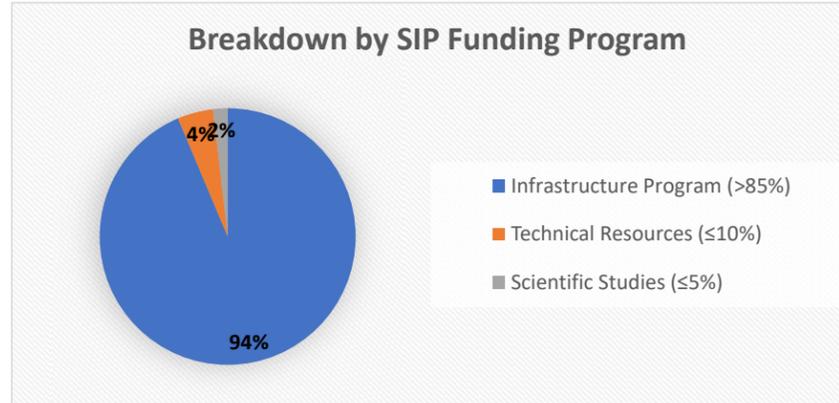
**None (tentatively)**

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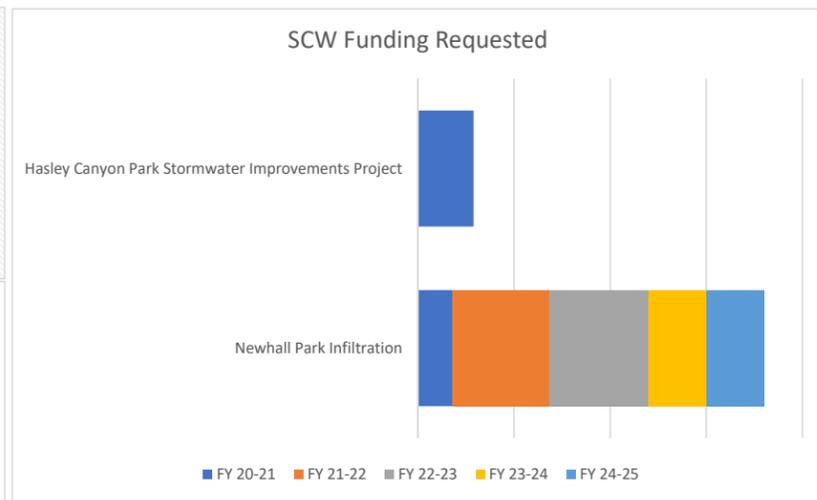
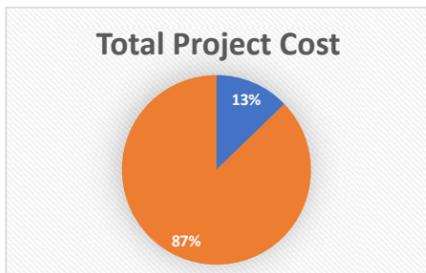
### Regional Program Overview by Watershed

Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds: \$5.97 M

Fiscal Year	Infrastructure Program (>85%)	Technical Resources (≤10%)	Scientific Studies (≤5%)	TOTAL	Percent Allocated
FY 20-21	\$ 4,688,603.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 111,397.00	\$5,000,000.00	84%
FY 21-22	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 111,397.00	\$5,311,397.00	89%
FY 22-23	\$ 5,198,897.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 111,397.00	\$5,510,294.00	92%
FY 23-24	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 39,219.00	\$3,239,219.00	54%
FY 24-25	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 39,219.00	\$3,239,219.00	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,887,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 412,629.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,300,129.00</b>	<b>75%</b>



### Infrastructure Program Breakdown By Watershed



Required DAC Ratio	8%
Required Funding for DACs FY 20-25 (110%)	\$ 1,838,100.00
Funding Allocated for DACs FY 20-25	\$ 18,000,000.00

Project Name	DAC	Municipality
Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements	No	Unincorporated
Newhall Park Infiltration	Yes	Santa Clarita

### Toggle Projects

**Watershed Area**

- Central Santa Monica Bay
- Lower Los Angeles River
- Lower San Gabriel River
- Rio Hondo
- Santa Clara River
- South Santa Monica Bay
- Upper Los Angeles River
- Upper San Gabriel River
- North Santa Monica Bay

**Infrastructure Prog...**

- Hasley Canyon Park Stor...
- Newhall Park Infiltration

**Watershed Area**

- Central Santa Monica Bay
- Lower Los Angeles River
- Lower San Gabriel River
- North Santa Monica Bay
- Rio Hondo
- Santa Clara River
- South Santa Monica Bay
- Upper Los Angeles River
- Upper San Gabriel River

**Technical Resource...**

- Watershed Coordinator #1

**Watershed Area**

- Central Santa Monica ...
- Lower Los Angeles Riv...
- Lower San Gabriel River
- North Santa Monica B...
- Rio Hondo
- Santa Clara River
- South Santa Monica B...
- Upper Los Angeles Ri...

**Scientific Studies**

- Regional Scientific Study t...

I make a motion to fund the Santa Clara River Watershed's portion of the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution, in an amount not to exceed \$412,629, with the requirement that the consultants preparing the study meet with the Acton Town Council to receive community input and clearly explain how the data will be used and what the possible implications may be for the communities in unincorporated Los Angeles County within the Santa Clara River Watershed.

# 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

## Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

### 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 <i>Sandra Cattell</i>
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	BHAMAMO@dpw.lacounty.gov	P <i>Bruce Hamamoto</i>
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	AMA@dpw.lacounty.gov	A <i>Allen Ma</i>
Darren Hernandez	Santa Clarita	dhernandez@santa-clarita.com	P <i>Darren Hernandez</i>
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita	Dseegmiller@santa-clarita.com	A <i>Darin Seegmiller</i>
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita	HMERENDA@santa-clarita.com	P <i>Heather Merenda</i>
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A <i>Oliver Cramer</i>
Robert Newman	Santa Clarita	rnewman@santa-clarita.com	P <i>Robert Newman</i>
Mike Hennawy	Santa Clarita	mhennawy@santa-clarita.com	A
Tom Cole	Santa Clarita	tcole@santa-clarita.com	P <i>Tom Cole</i>
David Peterson	Santa Clarita	Dpeterson@santa-clarita.com	A <i>David Peterson</i>

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Don	Lain	Acton	rte248@yahoo.com
Richard	WATSON	RWA	r.watson@rwaplaning.com
Kevin	Cheng	LACPW	k.cheng@pw.lacounty.gov
Jose	Gonzalez		Joseffg64@yahoo.com
AGUELINE	Ayer	FRONT TOWN COMM	atz@actontown.com! cag
TRACY	Cistan	Acton Resident	bestbelly@hotmail.com
Shona	Ganguly	The Nature Conservancy	Sganguly@tnc.org
Hans	Tennel	Western Solution	hans.tennel@westernsolutions.com

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



# Public Comment Form

Name: Jackson Ayer Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

## Comments

SB

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit [www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)

Comments can be mailed to:

ATTN: Safe, Clean Water Program  
LA County Public Works  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460



# Public Comment Form

Name: ACQUELINE AYER Organization: ACTON TOWN COUNCIL  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting: SANTA CLARA WASC Date: 3/5/20

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

## Comments

AGENDA ITEM 7B

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit [www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)

Comments can be mailed to: ATTN: Safe, Clean Water Program  
LA County Public Works  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460



# Public Comment Form

Name: Shona Sanguly

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Email: sganguly@tnc.org

Phone: 213-787-9415

Meeting: SCR WASC

Date: 3/5/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

## Comments

I agree with comments made by Sandra Cattell of Sierra Club about innovative nature-based projects such as wetland creation/restorations. The Nature Conservancy is currently working on daylighting a storm drain, adding native habitat and features, doing robust community engagement and capacity building, and enabling public access.

Projects that provide multiple benefits should be prioritized, especially if leveraging other funds (e.g. TAM).

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit [www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org](http://www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org)

Comments can be mailed to:

ATTN: Safe, Clean Water Program  
LA County Public Works  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

**Santa Clara River March 5, 2020 Hand Ballot Voting**

Primary	Alternate	Assign % Allocation Target				Scientific Study			Confirm Final SIP			
		%	%	%	%	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	No	Absent	
Julian Juarez ✓	Carolina Hernandez	X				X						
Dirk Marks	Mike Alvord ✓	X				X						
Steve Cole	Rick Viergutz ✓	X				X						
Kristen Ruffell ✓	Martha Tremblay	X				X						
Janine Prado ✓	Tyler Pledger	X				X						
Hunt Braly ✓ (BERT FAY)		X										
Mary Johnson ✓		X										
Sandra Cattell ✓	Diane Trautman	X					X					
Jason Gibbs ✓	Frederick Andre Hollings	X										
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel ✓	Heidi Webber	X				X						
Bruce Hamamoto ✓	Allen Ma	X				X						
Bruce Hamamoto ✓	Allen Ma	X				X						
Bruce Hamamoto ✓	Allen Ma	X				X						
Bruce Hamamoto ✓	Allen Ma	X				X						
Darren Hernandez ✓	Darin Seegmiller	X				X						
Heather Merenda ✓	Oliver Cramer	X				X						
Robert Newman ✓	Mike Hennawy	X				X						
Tom Cole ✓	David Peterson	X				X						