

Safe, Clean Water Program

South Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, May 6, 2020
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LA County Flood Control District)	Darryl Ford* (Los Angeles Rec & Park)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Stephanie Katsouleas (Manhattan Beach)
Craig Cadwallader (Surfrider Foundation South Bay)	Julio Gonzalez (Carson)
Diane Gatza (Water Replenishment District)	Guang Yu Wang (SMB Restoration Commission)
EJ Caldwell (West Basin)	Mitchell Wagner* (Hawthorne)
John Dettle (Torrance)	Hany Fangary (Fangary Law Group)
TJ Moon (LA County)	Wendy Butts (LA Conservation Corps)
Alfredo Magallanes* (LA)	Ken Rukavina (Palos Verdes Estates)

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 March 4, 2020

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

Craig Cadwallader made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. John Dettle seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes. (unanimous).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen provided the District update, noting: the RFSQ for the watershed coordinator is going through a final round of review by legal counsel and will be released in early June. Kirk Allen also noted that current SCW revenues are not substantially impacted this year but may be impacted in future years. This uncertainty makes it critical that this first year's SIP should be programmed conservatively.

4. Public Comment Period

A member of the public noted that Heal the Bay and Our Water LA requests not to approve the zinc and bacteria studies, and that all fourteen goals of the Safe Clean Water Program be captured within the SIP. A letter has been included and attached to these minutes.

5. Discussion Items:



a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No members have had any ex parte communications to disclose.

b) Fund Transfer Agreement templates

Kirk Allen provided a summary of the current status of the draft fund Transfer Agreements, which are planned to be approved on June 2nd. No discussion was held on the individual items.

i) Regional Program Version

ii) Municipal Program Version

c) South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan - Interactive Planning Tool

The committee discussed setting a potential upper limit conservative percentage for planning the SIP. Additional committee discussion focused on Committee member preference to fund projects, studies, or a combination of both.

The committee reviewed the scientific studies and weighed the merits of each.

The committee reviewed the technical resource program projects and weighed the merits of each. The city of Manhattan Beach announced they were pulling their project for consideration.

The committee re-reviewed the infrastructure projects and weighed which projects should be considered for this year's SIP.

6. Public Comment Period

A member of the public requested that it would be beneficial to know what the outstanding issues are for individual projects ahead of time.

7. Voting Items

a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the SSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.

Voting item held for next meeting.

8. Items for next agenda

Diane Gatza requested finalization of the SIP for next meeting.

9. Adjournment

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

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - MAY 6, 2020

		Quorum Present				Items
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell	X	Alex Heide		N/A
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatz	X	Lyndsey Bloxom		Y
Agency	LAC Sanitation District	Kristen Ruffell	X	Mike Sullivan		Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Environmental Charter School	Alison Suffet-Diaz				
Community Stakeholder	Surfrider Foundation South Bay	Craig Cadwallader	X	Mary Simun		Y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Monica Bay Restoration	Guang Yu Wang	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Fangary Law Group	Hany Fangary	X	Justin Massey		Y
Community Stakeholder	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Wendy Butts	X	Bo Savage		Y
Municipal Members	Carson	Julio Gonzalez	X	Maria E. Williams-		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Susie Santilena		Alfredo Magallanes	X	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	TJ Moon	X	Thuan Nguyen		Y
Municipal Members	Torrance	John Dettle	X	Wilson Mendoza		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Beach Cities	Stephanie Katsouleas	X	Shaw Igoe		Y
Municipal Members	EWMP: Dominguez	Heecheol Kwon		Mitchell Wagner	X	N/A
Municipal Members	EWMP: Peninsula	Ken Rukavina	X	Elias K. Sassoon		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Public Attendees	
Aaron Chiang	Jonathan Abelson
Ann Bechtel	Jud Warren
Ariel Flores	Julie Millet
Brad Wardynski	Kathleen McGowan
Brenda Ponton	Katie
C McLeod	Katie Mika
Cameron McCullough	Lauren Amimoto
Chad Helmle	Mercedes Passanisi
Chandler Sheilds	Michelle Staffield
D Deets	Nancy Shrodes
David Angel	Nate Schreiner
DELLINGERAS	Richard Watson
Dustin Bambic	S. C.
Gordon Hainses	Shahram Kharaghani
Gregor	Shaw Igoe
Hans Tremmel	Sheila Brice
I. R.	Susan Robinson
Jacqueline Mark	T Takigawa
Jason Fussel	Taraneh Nik-Khah
Jim Burton	Thuan Nguyen
John	V Bapna
Jon Ball	Wilson Mendoza



Public Comment Form

Name:* Nancy Shrodes Organization*: Heal the Bay
Email*: nshrodes@healthebay.org Phone*: 310-451-1500 x128
Meeting: SSMB WASC Date: 5/6/2020

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

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

- Good afternoon. My name is Nancy Shrodes and I'm the Associate Director of Policy & Outreach at Heal the Bay, here to relay some feedback from Heal the Bay and OurWaterLA.
- To reiterate my comments from March, we oppose both the Zinc and Bacteria scientific studies, and I would like to share in more depth why we don't believe the Regional Scientific Study on Bacteriological Pollution should be funded through this program.
 - o There are serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study, including how it has no hypothesis or clear methodology.
 - o An LA River study found human markers everywhere. How will human source identification happen if there is human marker everywhere? Clear methodology must be laid out in the study proposal. Otherwise, we are earmarking money, \$10 million over the next 5 years to be exact, for the promise of a result, with no clear plan of how those results will be achieved.
 - o The QMRA study at Cabrillo Beach attempted to accomplish a similar goal as the proposed study. But it was not successful in setting alternative water quality criteria because the study could never identify and eliminate all human sources of bacteria at the beach. The State Water Resources Control Board spent millions of dollars eliminating potential sources to no avail.
 - o All in all, significant work has been done to better understand bacteriological pollution throughout southern California. We would encourage the SSMB WASC to invite scientific experts to present at a future WASC meeting about the work that has been done on bacteriological pollution, and what potential next steps should be taken to refine this work through legitimate scientific studies in the future.
 - o There are other potential funding sources that would be much more appropriate for a study like this, including the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, State Water Board, Regional Water Board, CASAQ, and partnerships with academics or NGOs.
 - o Our funding should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects that actually support the program goals.
- I'd also like to share recommendations concerning best practices for public participation, now as we meet virtually and in the future.
- o First, notify the public of all meetings and hearings at least 72 hours in advance. Information on public meeting and links to all materials should be easy to find on the SCWP website home page and within the meeting agendas (currently not the case).
 - I find it particularly concerning that the SIP will be voted on today, when the proposed SIP has not been shared out with the public, denying any opportunity for others to weigh in, outside of the few of us who were able to join today.
- o Please also consider participation barriers, like not having access to the internet or computer, and having information translated and interpretation provided if needed.
- o You can find more detail about the OurWaterLA recommendations in the April 24 Letter, which is included in your agenda packets.
- The stormwater investment plan must achieve the fourteen programmatic goals clearly laid out in the SCWP Implementation Ordinance including the goals to improve water quality, prioritize nature-based solutions, foster community engagement, ensure the equitable distribution of funds, and provide local quality jobs.
- I understand that resources are limited, and that is why I urge you to fund only the best of these projects; ones that truly exemplify the goals the Program. Consider reserving the remainder of your funds for exemplary projects that may be proposed in the next few rounds of funding allocation.
- Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program, and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the stormwater investment plan.

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org



DATE: March 10, 2020

TO: WASC Chair & Members
CC: LAC SCWP Staff

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations Concerning the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for 2019-2020**

OurWaterLA (OWLA) is a diverse coalition that has engaged communities, businesses, and organizations across Los Angeles County, building support to reinvent and reinvest in our water future using nature based infrastructure that provides community health benefits, environmental health benefits, and economic benefits. OWLA recommends that funding priority be given to the projects that best exemplify the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP), and that consideration should be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR STORMWATER PROJECTS

The Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) must achieve the fourteen programmatic goals clearly laid out in the SCWP Implementation Ordinance (Attachment 1), including the goals to improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements, as well as multiple additional community investments such as prioritization of nature based solutions, community engagement, equity, and quality jobs. Our top issues are shown below in bullet point format and described more robustly in Attachment 1.

Nature Based Solutions

The prioritization of nature based solutions is a specific programmatic goal of the SCWP, and therefore must be reflected in the projects for the SIP.

Community Engagement

A plan for future community outreach is not sufficient for true community engagement in a project. Priority should be given to projects for which local community engagement, designed specifically for the proposed project, has already been initiated.

Equity

One of the most innovative aspects of the SCWP is the written requirements for the equitable distribution of community investments. When assessing the 110% benefit return on investments

for disadvantaged communities, it is important to clarify what type of benefits a project provides, and whether the proposed investments directly benefit the receiving community and verified by local community groups.

Quality Jobs

At a minimum, funding through the SCWP SIP must be contingent upon providing direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities.

We recommend that all of these programmatic goals be considered when selecting projects for full or partial funding for the 2019-2020 SIP, and that consideration be given to reserving future funds for future exemplary projects. One opportunity to reserve future funding is to fund projects in phases, to get projects through initial project development, such as project design.

FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

There have also been proposals for funding through the SCWP Scientific Studies Program. The purpose of the Scientific Studies Program is to provide funding for scientific and technical activities, including, but not limited to, scientific studies, technical studies, monitoring, and modeling related to *stormwater and urban runoff capture and pollution reduction*.

OWLA recommends that no funding be allocated for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study. It has no hypothesis or clear methodology, and no scientific professionals were involved in the development of the study, as is required under the SCWP Scientific Studies Program when feasible.

This proposal is asking for nearly \$10 million region-wide over the next five years to target a specific source of a specific pollutant rather than providing multiple benefits, and to potentially weaken water quality objectives rather than improving our water quality. This proposed study will not support many of the program goals, listed in Attachment 1. Additionally, there are other potential funding sources for this study including the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, which already has a similar study in its 5-year plan. **This nearly \$10 million should be spent to invest in our communities with multi-benefit stormwater capture projects.**

Further, for those WASCs considering the Wet Weather Zinc study, this proposal is asking for \$500K to potentially weaken water quality objectives, rather than improving our water quality. Funds should instead be spent on multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. The Safe, Clean Water Program is not the right funding source for this study because this study does not support many of the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program or its Scientific Studies Program. There are other potential ways to achieve this type of recalculation, including working with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Thank you all for the considerable time and effort that you have contributed to the implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with each of you, with the County of Los Angeles, and with our communities to most efficiently and effectively reinvest in our water future. Many of us, including WASC members, recognize that this is a complex process, and we would be remiss not to stop and strongly re-evaluate the context for making these critically important funding recommendations. OWLA core team members want to work with you to be part of the solution for meeting water quality standards by implementing multi-benefit projects. Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

OWLA Core Team

ATTACHMENT 1

Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance: Section 18.04 SCW Program Goals.

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements.
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins.
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCW Program Goals.
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits.
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions.
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales.
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices.
- I. Invest in independent scientific research.
- J. Provide DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the DAC population to the total population in each Watershed Area.
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefiting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to DACs, to the extent feasible.
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management.
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways.
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects.



DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), Scoring and Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) Members
Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program Staff
Los Angeles County Board Public Works Deputies

RE: **OurWaterLA Recommendations - Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plan for 2019-2020**

On March 10, 2020 OurWaterLA (OWLA) submitted a memo for distribution to the WASC committees specifying our recommendations for the Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) under consideration by the WASCs prior to the Safer at Home order. However, only a few of the WASC groups had the opportunity to review the memo. Given our new reality and the conditions under which extremely important decisions will be considered by the WASCs we wish to summarize and update the points we believe are extremely important to ensure that the decision-making process is transparent and results in only the best projects being funded during these unprecedented times.

The following are the major issues that we believe are critically important for your consideration as you deliberate on the recommendations you will be making for this first round of funding recommendations. Given the vast number of issues you will have to consider we are providing "bullet" points but encourage all members to review our more in-depth recommendations provided in the attached March 10, 2020 memo (Attachment 3). OWLA recommends the following:

Best Practices for Public Participation

- Notify the public of all meetings and hearings at least 72 hours in advance. Information on public meeting times, topics, and how public comments will be received should be easy to find on the SCWP website home page and within the meeting agendas (*currently not the case*). This information, as well as any additional accompanying meeting materials, should be translated into at least Spanish and Mandarin.

- Ensure language access needs are met by providing interpretation during public meetings. For remote meetings, use teleconference lines or audio channels.
- Consider participation barriers for members of the public that may not have access to the internet or a computer. Provide adequate telephone options, with interpretation, for virtual meetings and receiving public comments. Having multiple avenues to engage in a given meeting will ensure more robust dialogue and input.
- Use best practices for public comment periods in virtual hearings and meetings. This includes giving ample time for the public to submit comments prior to a meeting through multiple avenues and live during a meeting.
- Provide links to all materials including presentations at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Project Funding Recommendations

- Fund projects that best exemplify the goals (Attachment 2) of the SCWP. The best projects out of the 53 that are eligible for funding are listed in Attachment 1.
- No funding for the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution. We have serious concerns about the legitimacy of this proposed study.
- Fund projects in phases to get projects through initial project development, such as project design in order to preserve funds for future years.
- Require that all Technical Resources allocations include the development and implementation of a Community Engagement Plan.

Community Engagement, Equity, Community Investments & DAC Benefits

- Require that all project funding recommendations include a sustained community engagement element with the assistance of local experienced NGOs from design through construction and operations and maintenance.
- Require that all projects which claim points for Community Investments submit letters from local community groups verifying that the project includes tangible community investments.
- Those projects which claim that jobs will provide direct community investments, such as high quality local job and training opportunities must include documentation as to how they will achieve this goal.

ATTACHMENT 1

Projects Recommended for Funding

Project Name	WASC	Notes
MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project	Central Santa Monica Bay	<u>SCORE: 70</u> A strong water quality improvement project that uses nature-based solutions and provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Monteith Park and View Park Green Alley Stormwater Improvements Project	Central Santa Monica Bay	<u>SCORE: 80</u> A strong nature-based water quality improvement project that provides DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Salt Lake Park Infiltration Cistern	Lower Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 76</u> A strong nature-based water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds to provide DAC benefits and some additional community investment benefits.
Hermosillo Park Regional Stormwater Project	Lower San Gabriel River	<u>SCORE: 84</u> A good water quality improvement project which will provide additional community investment benefits.
East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project	Rio Hondo	<u>SCORE: 83</u> A good water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide significant water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project	Santa Clara	<u>SCORE: 63</u> A good water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide some additional community investment benefits.
Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project	Upper Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 96</u> Strong water quality improvement project that is leveraging funds and using nature-based solutions to provide significant water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
Strathern North Stormwater Capture Project	Upper Los Angeles River	<u>SCORE: 89</u> Good water quality, nature-based elements and community benefits project that would benefit DAC communities and had support letters from local groups.

Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project	Upper San Gabriel River	<u>SCORE: 92</u> Strong water quality improvement project that leverages funds and uses nature-based solutions to provide some water supply benefits, DAC benefits, and some additional community investment benefits.
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Attachment 2

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Attachment 3
March 10, 2020 Letter from OWLA to WASCs



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TO: WASC Chair & Members
CC: LAC SCWP Staff

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