

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Upper San Gabriel River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Monday, May 18, 2020  
1:30pm-3:30pm  
WebEx Meeting

#### **Attendees:**

##### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)  
Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)  
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)  
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)  
Mark Glassock\* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)  
Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)  
Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)

Wesley Reutimann\* (Active SGV)  
John Beshay (Baldwin Park)  
Kevin Kearney\* and Amanda Hamilton\*\* (Bradbury)  
Alison Sweet (Glendora)  
Joshua Nelson (Industry)  
Paul Alva (LA County)  
Julie Carver (Pomona)  
Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Brian Urias (Former USGVMWD Board Member)  
Ed Reyes (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)

\*Committee Member Alternate

\*\*Ms. Hamilton arrived after Approval of Meeting Minutes

See attached attendance report for the full list of attendees

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Kim (District) went over the various WebEx housekeeping items for both the Committee members and the general public's participation and discussed the process for public comments. Mr. Alva, the Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River WASC, called the meeting to order. The District staff conducted a roll-call of Committee members, and with a majority present, quorum was established.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 4, 2020**

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes from the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on the SCW website. Mr. Tom Love motioned to approve the meeting minutes, with Mr. John Beshay seconding this motion. Mr. Huff and Ms. Ruffell each had comments on the meeting minutes which were noted by the District.

**The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from May 4, 2020 with revisions (unanimous).**

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

Mr. Kevin Kim (District) gave an update on the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC). The next ROC meeting is scheduled for June 18 to discuss the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for the CSMB, SSMB, USGR, ULAR, LLAR, and RH WASCs. A ROC meeting for May 20<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to discuss the SIPs for the LSGR, NSMB, and SCR WASCs. The District is preparing SIP Transmittals to provide to the ROC. This WASC may need to meet after the June ROC meeting to review any ROC feedback. The ROC is scheduled to send the SIP to the Board of Supervisors by August and the Fund Transfer Agreements will follow.

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The Watershed Coordinator Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) is expected to be released May 26<sup>th</sup> and due July 20<sup>th</sup>. A pre-proposal conference will be held on June 8 and June 9. An e-blast will be sent with additional information.

Mr. Reutimann asked if there were any changes made to the deadline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for Projects. The District is considering moving the deadline but hasn't chosen a new date.

Mr. Alva asked about updating the Program's revenue figures for the current fiscal year. The District mentioned no changes in figures. Mr. Alva also asked about any updates to the Municipal and Regional Fund Transfer Agreements. Mr. Kim clarified that comments will be addressed District and the updated agreements will be publicly available for viewing and presented to Board of Supervisors on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **4. Public Comment Period**

The District received public comment cards which will be included in the meeting minutes.

Mr. Bryan Matsumoto with Nature4All and OurWaterLA was called upon to speak. The general comment was to encourage the committee to be fiscally conservative considering the approaching recession by only approving the highest quality projects and waiting for watershed coordinators to help with consideration. Mr. Matsumoto asked the Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi Benefit Project (Bassett) applicant to respond regarding weak community engagement and low detail in application, unclear school support, and to provide confirmation the Phase 2 park will be constructed.

Ms. Laura Santos, lives near Bassett and is requesting outreach to include communities within at least 1.1 miles of the Project as well as the Bassett Unified School District. Ms. Santos also requested a non-profit to engage in community involvement. She voiced her concern for displacing the softball field and for the Phase 2 park potentially not being constructed.

Ms. Ana Morales has lived near Bassett for over 30 years. She supports the Project but is concerned with the lack of community engagement, including the church, and is concerned with impacts to the baseball field. She would like a wall to separate students from the general public.

Ms. Angela de Jesus, Bassett teacher and community member, supports the park and community engagement. She also voiced her concerns with the layout conflicting with the softball field. She suggests coordinating with school principal, Hector Vasquez.

Ms. Eloise Gomez, teacher, is supportive of augmenting watershed student education and concerned with lack of community awareness.

Ms. Dolores Rivera, Bassett Unified School District Board member, supports the Project and is concerned that the community was not notified, and the Project was continuing without input.

#### **5. Discussion and Voting Items**

##### **a) Discussion of project rankings**

Ms. Morita (District) summarized project ranking results and SIP Planning tool. Finkbiner Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project (Finkbiner Park) and Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution (Regional Scientific Study) were not recommended by the majority of members and did not receive a ranking.

Mr. Glassock asked for clarification on the ranking totals. The District clarified that the rankings are an aggregate of the committee members' rankings (e.g. a #1 ranking would receive 13 points).

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#### **b) Populate the Stormwater Investment Plan planning tool**

Ms. Deborah Enos wanted to discuss parameters when considering percentage of budget to allocate.

Mr. Alva considered removing Finkbiner Park and the Regional Scientific Study. Even so, allocation is not between 50% and 80%. Mr. Alva asked the Bassett Project applicant if the budget can be reallocated to spread between fiscal years and to address public comments.

Ms. Tseng thanked the community for their comments and proposed a new funding request of \$3M for first year, \$7.2M for second year, and \$7MM for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> years. Ms. Tseng assured community outreach will be enhanced in the first year. The applicant will be answering questions at the May 26<sup>th</sup> Bassett Unified monthly Board meeting.

Ms. Enos ranked Bassett highly and emphasized funding the multi-benefit Project.

Ms. Sweet emphasized MS4 compliance via regional projects that benefit multiple agencies including Glendora. Ms. Gardner brought attention to municipal and regional funding and distinguished between funding and benefits. Ms. Sweet compared minimal municipal funding amount relative to the regional funding amount and agency cooperation. The District clarified the program goal is for projects to be spread around the region as the program progresses.

Mr. Reutimann spoke on Mr. Diaz's behalf who ranked Bassett highly as a multi-benefit, leveraged project. He encouraged less spending on the first fiscal year to incorporate watershed coordinators earlier in spending.

Mr. Love highlighted the high-cost projects and the high commitment required over the 5 years. He suggested holding off on larger projects.

Mr. Alva asked if other project applicants will consider reallocating funding request to be spread over 5 years. He highlighted that approved applications will submit quarterly progress reports, water quality is considered in evaluating projects, and that city contributions and benefits will be reviewed over a 5-year rolling period. Mr. Alva considered spatial distribution, project partners, and TRP projects, when ranking the projects.

Mr. Glasscock emphasized projects DAC benefits and multi-benefit projects so that this first round will inform what kind of projects will be selected in the future. He emphasized projects may not be evenly distributed, but instead may be concentrated in high-need areas.

Mr. Alva asked the project applicants for the Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvements Project (Garvey Avenue) and the Finkbiner Park Project to consider spreading out funding over more years. Mr. Ed Suher will be willing to approach the City of El Monte to consider spreading the funding over two years. Ms. Sweet highlighted Finkbiner Park's project designs are in 30% plans phase and offered reallocation of funds.

Mr. Nelson wanted clarification on the WASC's commitment to a Project once included in the SIP and if changes can be approved. He also asked if design projects can have another step of approval before construction begins. Mr. Kim clarified the WASC can review project changes before each year of funding.

Mr. Huff endorsed Finkbiner Park project as it may benefit a DAC despite how it's listed and is in an area with large MS4 requirements.

Ms. O'Brien suggested being conservative when allocating funds. She emphasized the Program's goal of safe, clean water, and that parks are a secondary benefit. She mentioned constituents voted for the funds to be allocated across the County, not just in DAC. NPDES requirements apply regardless of funding.

Mr. Reutimann emphasized saving funding for later years and warned against a "wait and see" approach of committing to projects. He also emphasized voters are looking for multi-benefit projects.

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Mr. Love highlighted the lower-ranked Pedley Spreading Grounds, Garvey Avenue, and Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project (Wingate Park) as potential projects to defund. He suggested staying under 50% for all years.

Mr. Alva considered defunding the unranked Finkbiner Park and Regional Scientific Study.

Mr. Huff emphasized that Finkbiner Park is in an area with great MS4 need. Lack of DAC benefits may have been a consideration when members didn't rank it.

Ms. Enos advocated for a SIP including the Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-benefit Project, Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project, Fairplex Regional Stormwater Project, MacLaren Hall Property Park and Sports Fields Project, Glendora Avenue Green Street Feasibility Study and the San Gabriel Valley of Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates Projects as a balanced approach with funding saved for projects in future years, projects in a variety of regions, and a variety of types of projects.

Ms. Enos added that Bassett is a multi-benefit Project, has community support, and is in an area of need. Garvey Avenue is ready for construction and in an area of need. TRPs are spread across the region could be developed into good projects.

Ms. Carver gave input on potentially spreading Pedley Spreading Grounds project funding over more years. She also clarified that Pedley Spreading Grounds is in the Six Basins.

Mr. Glasscock endorsed proposal for 50% allocation as a guideline for the fiscal year and potential contingency and escalation. He suggested verifying leveraged funding before submitting to the ROC. The District will include a requirement to report leveraged funds in the progress reports.

Mr. Alva requested clarification on the Wingate Park funding. Ms. Sharon Gallant clarified that the first two years would be for design and permitting. The last 3 years would be construction.

Mr. Alva asked the committee for any requests to add or remove projects to the SIP tool. Mr. Beshay encouraged removing low-vote, low-score projects. He wanted to include Barnes Park. Ms. Ruffell considered Pedley Spreading Grounds a high cost per acre served and suggested removing it from the SIP tool. Mr. Nelson wanted access to SIP tool before taking action. The District will consider sharing the tool.

Mr. Kim asked Ms. Gallant for a clarification for the total Wingate Park funding. Ms. Gallant clarified the total project cost is \$24M while the request for the first year of funding is \$950k.

Ms. Amanda Hamilton wanted to allow applicants to provide revised 5-year funding. She emphasized that smaller projects like Encanto Park have value. The District added that the applicants have already had a chance to revise the 5-year funding requests.

Mr. Kim gave insight from other WASCs to make the tough decision to reject projects.

Mr. Huff is interested in using the SIP Planning Tool and voting on Projects next meeting. He suggested voting on the process at the beginning of next meeting to then implement.

Ms. Enos pointed out how the SIP might not be able to include all the multi-million-dollar projects and emphasized providing a target percent allocation and selecting a mix of Project types. She suggested removing Barnes Park, Encanto Park, and Wingate Park. She cautioned including lower-ranked projects over any higher-ranked projects that are removed.

Mr. Nelson recommended the option of providing PDFs of the tool.

Ms. Carver prefers Wingate Park over Garvey Avenue as Wingate Park would be more multi-benefit.

Ms. Ruffell shared that some WASCs were able to come to consensus organically, but for this WASC, warned against voting in slates, and suggested voting project by project for the next meeting.

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Mr. Glassock agreed with Ms. Ruffell's recommendation and endorsed Ms. Enos' recommendation to allocate decreasing funds year over year.

Mr. Reutimann asked for Scoring documentation. The District clarified the Scoring Committee documentation is on the Scoring Committee website. [After the meeting, Mr. Reutimann contacted District staff clarifying this comment. He was referring to the score of the ranking worksheet, not the score from the scoring committee.] Mr. Reutimann encouraged voting with the highest-scoring project first and voting down the list. He also suggested keeping allocations below 50% and even accelerating projects so they're not inefficiently stretched out.

Ms. Gallant confirmed the funding requests are correct for Wingate park. Funding requests may decrease if Proposition 1 funds become available.

Mr. Beshay asked if the Bassett project can reduce their funding request.

Mr. Alva summarized that the committee wants access to the SIP Planning Tool before voting Project by Project down the scored list. He noted the committee's consensus to allocate below 50% for the first year and for subsequent years' allocations to decrease. Mr. Kim advised the WASC allocate 3 hours for the next meeting if the SIP is to be voted on project by project.

#### **c) Public Comment Period**

Mr. Bryan Matsumoto encouraged staying around 45% allocation for the first year with decreasing funding allocations each year.

#### **d) [Voting item] - Confirm final Stormwater Investment Plan**

There was not sufficient time to confirm final SIP. This will be included or discussed at the next agenda.

### **6. Items for next agenda**

Mr. Alva mentioned that the District will send out a version of the SIP Planning Tool to the committee members. Items for next agenda (June 1) include agreeing on the process to confirm the final SIP and confirming final SIP.

### **7. Adjournment**

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

# USGR WASC - MAY 18, 2020

|                              | Quorum Present  |         |                    |             | Voting Items    |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Member Type                  | Member          | Voting? | Alternate          | Voting?     | Meeting Minutes |
| Agency                       | Julian Juarez   | X       | Carolina Hernandez |             | Y               |
| Agency                       | Tom Love        | X       | Robert O. Tock     |             | Y               |
| Agency                       | Kelly Gardner   | X       | Tony Zampello      |             | Y               |
| Agency                       | Kristen Ruffell | X       | Martha Tremblay    |             | Y               |
| Agency                       | Alina Bokde     |         | Mark Glasscock     | X           | Y               |
| Community Stakeholder        | Bob Huff        | X       |                    |             | Y               |
| Community Stakeholder        | Bryan Urias     |         | Brian Villagomez   |             |                 |
| Community Stakeholder        | Debbie Enos     | X       | Jane Tsong         |             | Y               |
| Community Stakeholder        | Ed Reyes        |         |                    |             |                 |
| Community Stakeholder        | David Diaz      |         | Wesley Reutimann   | X           | Y               |
| Municipal Members            | John Beshay     | X       | Romany Basilyous   |             | Y               |
| Municipal Members            | Amanda Hamilton | X       | Kevin Kearney      |             | Y               |
| Municipal Members            | Alison Sweet    | X       | Sharon Gallant     |             | Y               |
| Municipal Members            | Joshua Nelson   | X       | John Di Mario      |             | Y               |
| Municipal Members            | Paul Alva       | X       | Fernando Villaluna |             | Y               |
| Municipal Members            | Julie Carver    | X       | Fabian Aoun        |             | ?               |
| Municipal Members            | Lisa O'Brien    | X       | Shari Garwick      |             | Y               |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats       | 17              |         |                    | Yay (Y)     | 14              |
| Total Voting Members Present | 15              |         |                    | Nay (N)     | 0               |
| Agency                       | 5               |         |                    | Abstain (A) | 0               |
| Community Stakeholder        | 3               |         |                    | Total       | 14              |
| Municipal Members            | 7               |         |                    |             | Approved        |

**Attendees**  
**USGR WASC - MAY 18, 2020**

Vincent Ramos  
Cristian Duran  
Kelly  
Melanie Morita-LACFCD  
KKearney  
John Beshay  
Alison Sweet  
Drew Ready  
Shabnam Hageali  
Ed Suher, CASC  
Stephanie Tong  
Graciela Cruz Sierra - LACFCD  
Julie Carver  
Belinda V Faustinos  
Laura Santos  
Katie Mika  
PALVA  
Kevin Kim - LACFCD  
Aydin Pasebani  
Tom Love  
Julie Millett, Richard Watson & Assc.  
Jud Warren  
BobiMac2017  
Kevin Kearney  
Kevin Kearney  
Fabian Aoun  
Fabian Aoun  
Iwen Tseng  
Amanda Hamilton  
dlopez  
Blake Whittington

Bryan Matsumoto  
Wesley Reutimann  
Gregor Patsch - Torrent Resources  
lobrien  
kruffell  
Mark Glasscock  
Katie Mika  
Lauren  
Jonathan Abelson  
Tori  
Sunjay Lee  
Safe Clean Water LA  
Safe Clean Water LA  
Hans Tremmel  
swoods  
OliverGalang  
Judy Nelson  
Elizabeth Ruedas  
egomez  
Deborah Enos  
Tiffany Chang  
John Beshay  
Ryan Kearns - CWE  
Joshua Nelson  
dmarq  
IEC  
Sharon Gallant  
Julian Juarez  
YCHEBABI  
atachiki



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Ana Morales Organization\*: Community

Email\*: anamorales1231@yahoo.com Phone\*: 626 664-6699

Meeting: USGR WASC Date: 5/18/2020

☒ 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Dolores Rivera Organization\*: Community

Email\*: dcastrorivera@gmail.com Phone\*: 626 506-8220

Meeting: USGR WASQ Date: 5/18/2010

☒ 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.

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## Comments



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Angela de Jesus

Organization\*: Bassett High School

Email\*: adejesus@bassett.k12.ca.us

Phone\*: 626 675-9654

Meeting: USGR WASC

Date: 5/18/2020

☒ 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.

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## Comments



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Eloise Gomez Organization\*: Bassett High School  
Email\*: egomez@bassettusd.org Phone\*: 626 636-0098  
Meeting: USGR WASC Date: 5/18/2020

☒ 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.

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## Comments



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Laura Santos Organization\*: Community

Email\*: laurasantos3454@gmail.com Phone\*: 626 261-9358

Meeting: USGR WASQ Date: 5/18/2010

☒ 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.

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## Comments



# Public Comment Form

Name\*: Bryan Matsumoto Organization\*: Nature for All

Email\*: bryan@lanatureforall.org Phone\*: 626-246-8634

Meeting: USGR 5/18/20 Date: 5/15/2020

☒ 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.

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## Comments

Request to speak:

Bryan Matsumoto

Belinda Faustinos