

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, June 24, 2020
11:00am - 2:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian (Cordoba Corp.)
Diana Tang (City of Long Beach)
Kristine Guerrero (League of Cities)
Belinda Faustinos (Nature for All)
Barbara Romero (City of Los Angeles) – Co-chair

Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay) – Co-chair
Lauren Ahkiam (LAANE) – Vice-chair
Elva Yanez (Prevention Institute)
Carl Blum* (LA County Flood Control District)
Irma Munoz* (LA Regional Water Quality Control Board)

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Trevino (Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District)

*Non-voting members

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Shelley Luce chaired the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda and welcomed the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) members and the public. The District conducted a rollcall of the ROC members and a quorum was confirmed.

The District conducted an overview of WebEx functionality and meeting protocols for both the ROC members and the public, reiterated the distributed materials and their availability on the webpage, and discussed the video conferencing guidelines.

2. Public Comment Period

The Chair explained that the June 18th meeting minutes will be shared at the next ROC meeting on July 20th in addition to the minutes for the current meeting.

The Chair reiterated the four methods available for public comment and the order they would typically be addressed (comments cards submitted in advance, WebEx raised hands, callers, and requests in chat box), and then asked the District to facilitate. The District acknowledged that there were two comment cards and a letter submitted (attached to these minutes) and called on each to unmute and share their comment.

Michael Gagan, Kindel Gagan, shared that the Mujeres de la Tierra Community Engagement Report may outline what a robust and meaningful community engagement could look like for the Safe, Clean Water Program.

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam requested that the Mujeres de la Tierra Community Engagement Report be shared with the ROC. Ms. Luce confirmed that the report will be shared with the ROC. ([Click here for report](#))

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Ms. Lauren Ahkiam asked the District where one can get more information regarding partial allocation of Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program funding to project applicants and when will the biennial reviews occur. Mr. Kirk Allen (District) responded that all project applications were considered for funding as submitted and WASCs were directed to program SIPs such that all requested funds were shown/included. He indicated that additional information may be found within the SIPs, the SIP Programming Guidelines, and the Watershed Area Steering Committee Operating Guidelines. Partial allocation of funding was avoided in Year 1 due to the tight timelines that prohibited any significant iterations and re-scoring. The District may consider partial funding in subsequent years. The biennial review is to summarize and review the progress reporting of the projects and Program to date as well as to hear and consider feedback about the Program; the first hearing is expected to occur November 2021.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam asked if funding for a project's operation and maintenance activities is reflected in the respective Stormwater Investment Plan. Mr. Kirk Allen stated that it depends on what the project proposed in their submittal application.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam asked when the ROC will get an update on next funding round process and if some of the questions, concerns, and lessons learned have been incorporated. Mr. Kirk Allen stated that the District has incorporated a lot of guidance into the project submittal portal to help the process and will have project information sessions via WebEx to provide an overview on how to submit a project application and the District will provide updates on the project scoring process. Additionally, he reminded everyone that the Call for Projects deadline has been extended to October 15, 2020.

Ms. Luce and Ms. Faustinos both expressed that partial funding for projects is allowable for other funding opportunities. Mr. Allen replied that applications were reviewed as submitted, and the question was noted for future discussion.

Ms. Irma Munoz expressed that the SCW Program needs to clarify the meaning of community engagement. Ms. Barbara Romero mentioned that a working group can help define that and develop a framework, possibly including members of the Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs), the Scoring Committee, and the ROC. Ms. Shelley Luce stated that the District will have to provide the best way to convene a working group within the governing structure of the SCW Program. Ms. Maria Mehranian added that the working group can also help provide guidelines on measuring disadvantaged community benefits and community engagement. Ms. Elva Yanez stated that the measurements for the DACs are quantified. Mr. Kirk Allen stated the District will provide a report back on those options.

Ms. Shelley Luce shared that that the District was made aware of recent concerns and complaints regarding the discussions and motion during the last ROC meeting related to the City of Los Angeles – Bureau of Sanitation's Ballona Creek TMDL Project for the Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). During that last ROC meeting, the members voted to return the CSMB SIP to the CSMB WASC with this project cited for consideration within the recommendation. Mr. Kirk Allen stated that the District will be following up with County Counsel regarding the motion made by the ROC member and the association of the member, Cordoba Corporation, and the Ballona Creek TMDL Project regarding any conflict of interest issue on this matter. Ms. Mehranian requested to speak on this issue directly to the ROC members and responded that her inclusion on the ROC was vetted by Cordoba's counsel and County entity. She clarified that she does not believe there was any conflict of interest.

Mr. Kirk Allen provided District updates including the timeline of the SIP approval process. He described that the next ROC meeting on July 20 will be used to finalize the recommendations on any remaining SIPs under WASC consideration. The Board of Supervisors is expected to consider the SIPs in late



August or September. Finally, he stated that Watershed Coordinator solicitation documents can be found on the SCW Program website for any interested parties looking to pursue this opportunity.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam requested follow up on a question to the project proponent for the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project for CSMB SIP as it is a 3-part project. She wanted to understand how the multi-part project benefits and total projects costs are estimated and evaluated in terms of the SCW Program. Mr. Kirk Allen stated that this inquiry may be brought up to WASC Chairs and/or during the July 20 meeting since the CSMB SIP, regardless of the conflict of interest determination, will come before the ROC again.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

The ROC did not disclose any ex parte communications.

5. Public Comment Period

Ms. Shelley Luce invited public comment for the SIPs being considered for voting during this meeting.

Mr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh, SEITec, commented on the Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Urban Flow Management Network and the Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Management projects in the considered for the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) SIP stated benefits that are not consistent with the SCW Program and asked that the ROC reevaluate their benefits to the SCW Program.

Mr. Eli Lipmen, South LA Transit Empowerment Zone, expressed support for the Active Transport Rail to River project included on the ULAR SIP and suggested that funding the project will address issues of urban runoff and water recycling. Due to historical disinvestment in this corridor, there are large amounts of toxins in the dirt and runoff affecting disadvantaged communities. A number of outreach and engagement opportunities have already occurred.

Ms. Josie Clerfond, South LA Transit Empowerment Zone, echoed the comments by Mr. Eli Lipmen on the Active Transport Rail to River project, stating that the project aims to promote economic opportunity and connectivity to green spaces in addition to enhancing water quality.

6. Discussion of applicable Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Recommendations

Ms. Shelley Luce began the discussion of the SIPs explaining that the ROC can begin a general discussion on all three SIPs, then the WASC Chairs can introduce their SIPs, then ROC can have specific discussions on each SIP, followed by public comment, and followed by voting.

a) South Santa Monica Bay (SSMB) SIP

The Chair was not present to speak on the SSMB SIP.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam asked for clarification on the cost-share for the Torrance Airport Storm Water Basin Project, Phase 2 project considered in the SSMB SIP. Mr. Kirk Allen answered that the amount requested by the SCW Program was for design only and did not reflect the Total Project cost.

b) Upper LA River (ULAR) SIP

Mr. David Nahai, Chair of the ULAR WASC, gave an overview of the ULAR SIP. He explained that the SIP allocated 71 percent of funding for FY 20-21 and gives headroom to fund new projects and the projects being funded in the Technical Resources Program (TRP) that may come into fruition in the subsequent funding cycles. The SIP was passed unanimously and includes all 12 Infrastructure Program (IP), all 5 TRP, 3 of the 5 Scientific Studies (SS), and 3 Watershed Coordinator positions.



Ms. Shelley Luce asked for clarification on a public comment by Mr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh about the stormdrain replacement components of the Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Urban Flow Management Network and the Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Management projects. Mr. David Nahai stated that these projects meet SCW Program benefit requirements, are both within the ULAR EWMP, met the minimum scored threshold by the Scoring Committee, and responded to all questions during the ULAR WASC meetings. He added that they are MS4 compliant as confirmed by the Regional Board last week. Mr. Shahram Kharaghani, LASAN, added that the project has conducted a stakeholder-driven process that provides community enhancement and meets water quality and water supply goals of the SCW Program. Ms. Barbara Romero added that mitigating flood issues provides community investment benefit using the example that children are not able to cross flooded streets to go to school and investment in communities that do not have flood mitigation is a necessary investment and supports the SCW Program Goals.

Ms. Maria Mehranian asked Mr. David Nahai if the ULAR WASC had issues with defining community engagement and disadvantaged community benefits. Mr. David Nahai stated there were no issues in defining community engagement or benefits to disadvantaged communities. In the ULAR watershed area, the funding requirement of the projects that benefit Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) was far exceeded, with 88 percent of funding benefiting DACs based on input and feedback from the project applicants. He explained that these metrics for DACs would be difficult to quantify and measure the benefit of a sidewalk, whether one soccer field enough, how frequent was the flooding, how many trees are enough, and how large should the park be, etc. He thinks the applicants should have true measurable standards but that would require a thorough scientific process. The projects considered for the ULAR SIP were deserving of the classification of benefiting a DAC, and there was no opposition to the projects considered to provide DAC Benefits.

Ms. Faustinos complimented the ULAR SIP and the consideration given to the prioritization of projects for funding noting the availability of funding in future years to develop new projects.

Ms. Lauren Ahkiam complimented the Active Transportation Rail to River Corridor Project – Segment A project and the community advocates for their comments on this project. She supported the amount of community engagement, multi-benefits, and leveraging funding, she was in favor of the quality of jobs that would be created from this project and developing the project with the community in mind.

c) Lower LA River (LLAR) SIP

Mr. James Vernon, Chair of the LLAR WASC, gave an overview of the LLAR SIP. The SIP allocated 76 percent of funding for FY 20-21 and has very low funding allocations for the subsequent years. The SIP includes 2 IPs, 2 TRPs, and 1 Watershed Coordinator position. In addition, the 2 IPs are currently in the construction phase as there was a desire among the LLAR WASC to provide economic stimulus and jobs in the near term.

The ROC did not have any questions on the LLAR SIP.

7. Public Comment Period

Mr. Shahriar Eftekhazadeh, SEITec, commented on specific technical questions posed to the City of Los Angeles for the Lankershim Boulevard Local Area Urban Flow Management Network and the Oro Vista Local Area Urban Flow Management projects.

Mr. Mike Antos, Stantec, clarified that the application for the Torrance Airport included a grant award for \$195,000 rather than \$195,000,000.



Mr. John Dettle, City of Torrance, clarified that the cost-share associated with the Torrance Airport Storm Water Basin Project, Phase 2 project considered in the SSMB SIP is \$176,000 which would come from the involved municipalities rather than a grant.

8. Voting Items

Ms. Shelley Luce began the voting process, explaining that the ROC can vote on each individual SIP.

Ms. Belinda Faustinos motioned to forward the ULAR SIP to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Elva Yanez seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. District staff facilitated a rollcall vote. **The ROC voted unanimously to forward the ULAR SIP to the Board of Supervisors. (Ayes: 8, Nays: 0)**

Ms. Belinda Faustinos motioned to forward the LLAR SIP to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Kristine Guerrero seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. District staff facilitated a rollcall vote. **The ROC voted unanimously to forward the LLAR SIP to the Board of Supervisors. (Ayes: 8, Nays: 0)**

Ms. Maria Mehranian motioned to forward the SSMB SIP to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Belinda Faustinos seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. District staff facilitated a rollcall vote. **The ROC voted unanimously to forward the SSMB SIP to the Board of Supervisors. (Ayes: 8, Nays: 0)**

9. Items for Next Agenda

Mr. Kevin Kim stated that the ROC will review the returned SIPs during the next ROC meeting on July 20. The ROC requested a discussion on clarifying the definition of community engagement for the SCW Program. Ms. Faustinos would like the submitted WHAM Taskforce Report (including WHAM Taskforce Workplan and Workforce Development Subcommittee Workplan) provided by the WHAM Committee on June 8, 2020. ([Click here for WHAM Taskforce Report](#))

Ms. Luce proposed that she and Ms. Romero would work with the District to provide starting points for discussion of definitions, metrics, and measurability of DAC benefits using the reports mentioned, including the [Mujeres de la Tierra Community Engagement Report](#), the OWLA report, and others. Ms. Elva Yanez suggested the invitation of academic research prospective for equity and quantifying the measurement of DAC and community benefits.

10. Meeting Adjourned / Next meetings (tentative)

Ms. Shelley Luce thanked the ROC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting – June 24th, 2020

Aaron Chiang	Iwen Tseng	Samantha Matthews (SGVCOG)
Alex Tachiki	James Vernon	Sarai Bhaga
Alfredo Magallanes	Jessica Quach	Seth Carr
Alvin Cruz-LACFCD	Jill Sourial	Shahram Kharaghani
Alvin Papa	Joe Venzon	Shahriar Eftekhazadeh
Annelisa Moe	Johanna Chang	Sheila Brice
April	John Dettle	Shelley Luce
Ariel Flores	Jon Ball	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
Armando D'Angelo	Josie Clerfond	Susan Robinson
Art Castro	Jud Warren	Susie Santilena
Barbara romero	Julian Lee	Taraneh Nik-Khah
Belinda V Faustinos	Julie Millett	Teresa Villegas
Brad Wardynski	Katie	Thuan Nguyen
Brianna Datti	Katie Harrel (CWE)	TJ Moon
Bruce Hamamoto	Katie Ward (SGVCOG)	Tori Klug (Stantec)
Bryce Lee	Keith Lilley	Wendy Dinh
Cameron McCullough	Kenny Chow	
Carl L Blum	Kevin Kim - LACFCD	
Carmen Andrade	Kirk Allen -LACFCD	
Chad Helmle - Craftwater	Kristine Guerrero	
Chau Vu	Lauren Ahkiam	
Christine Wartman	Lincoln Lo	
CJ Caluag -LACFCD	Liz Crosson	
Conor Mossavi	M. Martinez	
Daniel Bradbury-LACFCD	Mackenzie Domann	
Danielle Chupa	Maria Mehranian	
David Angel	Mark Lombos	
David Nahai	Max Podemski	
Dawn Petschauer	Mayra Cabrera -LACFCD	
Deborah Enos	Melanie Morita-LACFCD	
Deborah Deets	Melissa Turcotte-LACFCD	
Dee Corhiran -LACFCD	Melissa You	
Delon Kwan	Mercedes Passanisi	
Diana Tang	Michael Gagan	
Ed Suher, CASC	Michelle Kim	
Elva Yanez	Mike Antos	
Ernesto Rivera	Mike Antos (Stantec)	
Genevieve Osmena	Oliver Galang	
Gerry Greene	Paul Alva	
Gloria Crudgington	Phuoc Le	
Hans Tremmel	ptonth	
Irma Muñoz	Richard Watson	



Public Comment Form

Name*: Michael Gagan Organization*: Kindel Gagan
Email*: mgagan@kindelgagan.com Phone*: 213-280-8541
Meeting: ROC Date: 6/24/2020

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

I want to commend to everyone ' s attention the Mujeres de la Tierra Community Engagement Report posted last week by Irma Munoz. (" Principios y Comunidad: Principles that Redefine Strategies & Approaches for Impactful Community Engagement)

I think it ' s pretty clear that many project applicants in the first funding cycle struggled with questions relating to community support.

The Scoring Committee found that many applicants claimed points for community support while either mistaking it for community outreach or providing a letter from an individual or group that was not representative of the broader community. " Almost no applicants engaged with non-governmental organizations in a significant way to inform project design or implementation. "

The Mujeres report provides a template for what a robust and meaningful community engagement program should look like. I would hope the Scoring Committee, the WASCs, and the Regional Oversight Committee members give it a look and recommend changes to the Board of Supervisors that incorporate many of its principles and lessons.

Irma should be applauded for the work she did for the Engagement Project and the report resulting from it.

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June 18, 2020

Regional Oversight Committee
Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water (Measure W)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Measure W funding for the Slauson Avenue Metro Rail to River (R2R)/South LA Climate Commons project.

Due to pressing issues of public health, urban runoff, and historic disinvestment, it is imperative that an equitable portion of acquired Measure W funds be used in South and Southeast LA, which includes communities in my District, and ideally for the Metro Rail to River (R2R) Project.

The communities of South LA and Southeast LA lie in the vicinity of some of the poorest health and environmental index scores in the state. Across South LA and surrounding areas, the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 scores ranks in the top 10 percent, highlighting the heavy burden of high levels of pollution. Moreover, the Los Angeles watershed health ranks amongst the lowest scores, which illustrates extreme challenges for access to clean and affordable water. The lack of access to resources to mitigate negative environmental and associated health impacts is an enduring challenge to disadvantaged communities, such as South LA and Southeast LA.

One of Measure W's fundamental goals is to prepare our region for the effects of a changing climate. This is especially important in South and Southeast LA because of the heat island effects and urban runoff in the area. In the face of increasing extreme weather events caused by climate change, my constituents will experience relatively low amounts of shade and cooling spaces as compared to the region, and thus are at disproportionately higher risk of heat related illnesses and death. Measure W funds should boost investment where it is most needed and on the basis of equity. Measure W funds for the Upper LA River Watershed Area would be highly leveraged by the State of California's Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Slauson Avenue Climate Commons planning grant and Metro R2R project planned to span from South LA, through the Southeast Cities, and ultimately to the LA River.

TCC funds the implementation of neighborhood-level proposals with multiple, integrated projects. This program empowers communities to choose their own strategies for reducing

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greenhouse gas emissions and achieving community benefits. Also, TCC prioritizes California's most disadvantaged communities – neighborhoods ranked in the top 10 percent (10%) of CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Further, the TCC South LA Climate Commons project represents a broad united coalition of Latinos and African Americans collaborating together to achieve strategic climate equity for South and Southeast LA. The coalition— collectively known as the South LA Climate Commons—consists of several community based organizations and LA City and County partners across the Los Angeles region, such as: Strategic Actions for a Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education, Brotherhood Crusade, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, T.R.U.S.T. South LA, Community Coalition, CD Tech, Enterprise Community Partners, Tree People, City of LA Planning Department and support from Metro. The coalition also has been designed to continue and build relationships, connections and collaboration with more organizations in Southeast LA County.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you fully fund the \$8.45 Million request for the Active Transportation Rail to River Project in the Measure W funding allocation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Santiago". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin vertical line.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO

Assembly Member, 53rd District