

# Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower Los Angeles River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



## Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, December 17, 2020

1:00pm – 4:00pm

WebEx Video Conferencing

## Attendees

### Committee Members

Dan Sharp (District)

Lyndsey Bloxom\* (Water Replenishment District)

Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)

Stephen Scott (Long Beach Parks & Recreation)

James Vernon (Port of Long Beach)

Kedrin Hopkins (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)

Manny Gonez\* (TreePeople)

Alex Rojas (Central Basin)

Melissa Bahmanpour (River in Action)

Dan Mueller (Downey)

Melissa You (Long Beach)

Chau Vu\* (Bell Gardens)

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount)

Kelli Tunnicliff (Signal Hill)

Marybeth Vergara\* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)

Laura Ochoa (Lynwood)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Gladis Deras (South Gate)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached WebEx sheet for full list of attendees

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. CJ Caluag of the District called the Lower Los Angeles River WASC meeting to order. Mr. Caluag asked for a rollcall of WASC members, and with a majority present, quorum was established.

Mr. Caluag introduced himself, and then went over the various WebEx housekeeping items for both the WASC members and the general public's participation, and reminded participants that public comment cards can be sent to the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) email. Mr. Caluag referred to the WebEx Conferencing Guidelines website and went over the raised-hand feature available on the WebEx platform.

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes from the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, and asked the WASC members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell moved to approve the meeting minutes, with Mr. Manny Gonez seconding this motion. Mr. Caluag asked if anyone had any revisions or comments, with no comments expressed by any of the WASC members. Mr. Caluag then did a roll call vote of the WASC members present for approval of the meeting minutes. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (with Ms. Melissa You and Ms. Laura Ochoa abstaining).

## 3. Committee Member and District Updates

Ms. Melissa You, Vice-Chair of the WASC, introduced this agenda item. Mr. Caluag reminded participants to use the "raise hand" feature to be called upon for speaking during this meeting.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

---



Mr. Caluag provided District Updates for the Round 2 project scoring and the need to start scheduling Round 2 project presentations. The Scoring Committee (SC) is beginning to review the Infrastructure Projects for official scoring. See the SC webpage for the meeting schedules.

Mr. Caluag also gave a brief update on the status of the Watershed Coordinator (WC) Selection and Interview process. As discussed at the last meeting, there were 67 proposals from 21 different applications that were received for WCs, with five WC applicants for this Watershed Area which met the qualifications for the Phase 1 scoring evaluation done by LA County Public Works' Business Relations and Contracts Division. Phase 2 of the WC selection process involves the WASC interviews, which are being conducted in today's meeting, with the WC selection happening in January and the on-boarding of the WC in February.

Mr. Caluag also provided a brief update on the Transfer Agreements (TAs). For the Municipal Program TAs, the District distributed 86 to the cities and unincorporated L.A. County, and Mr. Caluag reminded each agency to execute and submit their signed TAs, the Resolution, and their Annual Plans as soon as possible. For the Regional Program TAs, the Scope of Work is due 45 days after L.A. County Board of Supervisors (Board) adoption which was the end of November and accompanied by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluation and determination.

#### **4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

Ms. You reminded the WASC of what activities are considered Ex Parte Communications and asked if any WASC members have any disclosures to present to the group.

Ms. Melissa Bahmanpour and Ms. Marybeth Vergara both stated that they recently met with the WaterLeaders working group that is a part of the OurWaterLA coalition to discuss WASC functionality matters.

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Caluag opened up the public comment period and summarized the methods available, including: comment cards submitted to the District by 5pm the day prior to this meeting; WebEx raised hands; callers; and requests made for public comments in WebEx chat box. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per comment and participants were reminded to identify themselves before speaking.

Ms. Vergara asked if the WASC meetings are being posted on the SCW website to notify the general public, and Mr. Caluag confirmed that each meeting with an agenda and WebEx meeting link is posted at least 72 hours in advance in conformance with State Brown Act requirements, coupled with a GovDelivery email to notify all interested parties.

#### **6. Discussion Items**

##### **a) Watershed Coordinator Selection**

##### **i) Process Overview**

During the interview process, District staff will read each interview question and have it presented on the screen. Each WC will be allowed 20 minutes to answer all the questions. District staff will manage a timer and provide a time remaining reminder to the interviewees at the end of the interview and then 10 minutes will be allowed for follow up questions and

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



answers. Committee members were sent the set of WC interview questions, note-taking sheet, the WC roles/responsibilities, and each WC's Statement of Qualifications (SOQs). It is important to write notes to remember critical information when voting at the next meeting, or should the Committee member present at today's meeting not be present at the following meeting (in this case, the meeting notes should be passed onto the alternate member). If any of the Committee members have a financial link to any of the WC interviewees, these Committee members must recuse and remove themselves from the WC selection process. For WC applicants that did not meet the scoring threshold, debriefing meetings have already been scheduled with LA County Public Works' Contracts Division.

Ms. Bahmanpour asked if the WASC can take notes on a hard copy version and later send the notes to the District. Mr. Caluag responded that the District does not need any WASC member notes and that note taking is to benefit of each WASC member on how each will vote at the next WASC meeting to select the WC.

#### ii) Interviews

The following firms and respective presenters conducted the WC interviews by answering all of the interview questions and individual WASC member questions.

##### **(1) CASC Engineering & Consulting by Mr. Ed Suher**

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Ms. You, Mr. Dan Sharp, and Ms. Vergara.

##### **(2) Fresh Coast Capital, LLC dba Greenprint Partners by Ms. April Mendez**

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Ms. Vergara, Mr. Sharp, and Ms. Kelli Tunnicliff.

##### **(3) Kounkuey Design Initiative by Ms. Chelina Odbert and Mr. Jerome Cho**

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Mr. Gonez, Ms. Bahmanpour, and Ms. Vergara.

##### **(4) S. Groner Associates, Inc. by Mr. Stephen Groner and Ms. Tara Dales**

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Ms. Vergara and Mr. Sharp.

##### **(5) Environmental Outreach Strategies by Mr. Adi Liberman and Ms. Arlene Guzman**

The WASC individual member with specific questions after the interview was Ms. Vergara.

#### 7. Public Comment Period

Mr. Caluag opened up the public comment period and summarized the methods available, including: comment cards submitted to the District by 5pm the day prior to this meeting; WebEx raised hands; callers; and requests made for public comments in WebEx chat box. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per comment and participants were reminded to identify themselves before speaking.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower Los Angeles River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



No public comments were received by the District or verbally provided by any meeting attendees, but Ms. You asked the District to clarify if questions can be asked of today's WC interviewees at the next WASC meeting. Mr. Caluag stated that this will be discussed in the following meeting agenda item.

#### **8. Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Caluag stated that the next WASC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Moving forward, the meetings will return to their regularly scheduled sequence of the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1 pm to 3 pm starting in February, unless the WASC decides otherwise. The District anticipates voting via a WASC roll call for the WC at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and will invite all WC interviewees to attend the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting should the WASC have questions. Finally, the District anticipates starting presentations on the 12 Infrastructure Program and Scientific Studies in February.

#### **9. Items for next agenda**

Mr. Caluag stated the District's future agenda items include tentative WC selection, providing a summary of infrastructure projects and scientific studies submitted for this WASC, and coordinating presentations from SSs/IPs.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Mr. Caluag thanked the WASC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:00PM – 3:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting – Webex Events**

**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WASC MEETING - DECEMBER 17, 2020**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items			
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes			
Agency	District	Dan Sharp	x	Carolina Hernandez		y			
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	x	Jeremy Melendez		y			
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza		Lyndsey Bloxom	x	y			
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Mike Sullivan		y			
Agency	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon	x	Dylan Porter		y			
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Kedrin Hopkins	x			y			
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Marybeth Vergara	x	y			
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez		Manny Gonez	x	y			
Community Stakeholder	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x	Meredith Reynolds		y			
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Melissa Bahmanpour	x	Erica Maceda		y			
Municipal Members	City of Commerce								
Municipal Members	City of Bell Gardens	Gina Nila		Chau Vu	x	y			
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji		y			
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Alvin Papa		abstained			
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Laura Ochoa	x	Noe Martinez		abstained			
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		y			
Municipal Members	City of Signal Hill	Kelli Tunnicliff	x	Cecil Looney		y			
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras		Clint Herrera					
	Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	14	0	0	0
	Total Voting Members Present	16			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
	Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0
	Community Stakeholder	5			Total	14	0	0	0
	Municipal Members	6				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

## Attendees

### Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting

### December 17, 2020

chelina	odbert	Benjamin	Shorofsky
Safe	Clean Water LA	Drew	Ready
Miguel	Ramos	Ed	Suher
Dan	Sharp	Kristen	Ruffell
CJ	Caluag - LACFCD	Jim	Sparber
Dylan	Porter	STEPHEN	GRONER
kelli	tunnicliff	Alex	Rojas
Carlos	Moran	Melissa	You
James	Vernon	Bryce	Lee
James	Vernon	Kirk	Allen
Marybeth	Vergara	Brenda	Morales
Cecilia	Salazar	April	Mendez
Melissa	Guerrero	Melissa	Bahmanpour
Blake	Whittington	Arlene	Guzman
Dan	Mueller	Jennifer	Amarant
Jon	Abelson (stantec)	Mike	Antos
Justin	Jones (LACFCD)	Thuan	Nguyen
Jerome	Chou	Thuan	Nguyen
Elisha	Back	Chau	Vu
Laura	Ochoa	Mayra	Cabrera - LACFCD
ANNA	BLAHO	Wataru	Kumagai
Anna	Blaho	D	L
Adriana	Figueroa	Stephen	Scott
Noe	Martinez	Lyndsey	Bloxom
Manny	Gonez	Tara	Dales
Adi	Liberman	kedrin	Hopkins