

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
1:00pm – 3:30pm
WebEx Video Conferencing

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)
Darren Hernandez (Santa Clarita)
Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Julian Juarez (District)
Steve Cole (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)
Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)

Heather Merenda (Santa Clarita)
David Peterson* (Santa Clarita)
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)
Mike Hennawy* (Santa Clarita)
Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)

Committee Members Not Present:

Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. CJ Caluag of the District called the Santa Clara River WASC meeting to order.

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.

Mr. Caluag asked for a rollcall of WASC members, and with a majority present, quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 5th, 2020

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes onto the SCW website from the November 5th meeting, and asked the WASC members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, with Mr. Steve Cole 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 of the meeting minutes, with unanimous approval of the meeting minutes. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from November 5th, 2020 (unanimous, with Mr. Dirk Marks abstaining).

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3. Committee Member and District Updates

Mr. Caluag reminded participants to use the “raise hand” feature to be called upon for speaking during this meeting.

Mr. Caluag provided District Updates for the Round 2 project scoring and the need to start scheduling Round 2 project presentations. The SCW Scoring Committee is beginning to review the Infrastructure Projects for official scoring at its upcoming meetings.

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 three WC applicants for this watershed area which met the qualifications for the phase 1 scoring evaluation done by LA County Public Works’ 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 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 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.

Mr. Darren Hernandez mentioned that he is retiring from the City of Santa Clarita at the end of this month, but will remain a City representative and as the Santa Clara River WASC chair. Ms. Sandra Cattell stated that she does not wish to see Mr. Hernandez leave the WASC, but inquired if it is appropriate for Mr. Hernandez to still represent the City given his retirement. Mr. Caluag responded that previous matters involving Committee members changing roles and responsibilities have occurred as stipulated in the District Code (ordinance), and that L.A. County Counsel suggested that as long as the Committee member is capable of continuing to represent the interests of the position that they were appointed to by the Board, then the Committee member can continue to serve in that appointed role.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Mr. Caluag asked if any WASC members have any disclosures to present to the group.

Ms. Heather Merenda disclosed that she has regular communication with TreePeople through the WaterTalks Program. Mr. Bruce Hamamoto disclosed that he recently attended TreePeople presentations on community outreach. Ms. Cattell stated that she has been in recent communication with Mary Johnson regarding potential projects in Agua Dulce. Ms. Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel stated that she has had interactions with TreePeople previously on forest efforts.

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.

No public comments were received by the District or verbally provided by any meeting attendees.



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 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.

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) Environmental Outreach Strategies by Mr. Adi Liberman and Ms. Arlene Guzman

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Ms. Ruffell, Ms. Cattell, Mr. Hamamoto, and Ms. Mary Johnson.

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

WASC individual members with specific questions after the interview were Ms. Merenda, Ms. Cattell, Ms. Diane Erskine-Hellrigel, Mr. Hamamoto, and Ms. Johnson.

(3) TreePeople, Inc. by Mr. Peter Massey and Ms. Cindy Montanez

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

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.

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No public comments were received by the District or verbally provided by any meeting attendees.

8. Meeting Schedule

Mr. Caluag stated that the next WASC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 7th. Moving forward, the meetings will return to their regularly scheduled sequence of the first Thursday of each month from 10 am to 12 pm, unless the WASC decides otherwise. The District anticipates voting for the WC at the January 7th meeting, and starting presentations on the Technical Resources Program and Scientific Studies starting in February.

Ms. Cattell asked if a WC applicant can work more than one WASC. Mr. Caluag stated that the plan is to have the WC voting take place at the next meeting in January for each WASC. If we had a scenario where two or more WASCs selected the same WC, another discussion would need to happen amongst the WC for them to select their preference, with the non-selected WASC(s) needing to reconvene for another vote for the remaining WC applicants. Mr. Hernandez and Ms. Ruffell both stated that it's possible that one firm with multiple staffing could provide services as a WC to multiple WASCs. Mr. Kirk Allen of the District chimed in and stated that if a firm has the capacity to fill more than one WC position in different watershed areas, the firm can proceed with this arrangement and this was clarified in addendums as part of the WC solicitation process. The question to the WC applicants is are they looking for just one WC position even though they applied to multiple watershed areas, or are they looking for multiple positions across any watershed area that they applied in. This is up to each firm and this should have been stated in their proposal. With this stated, Ms. Ruffell asked if the WC applicants that applied in several watershed areas to respond to this discussion. None of the WC applicants were available and so this question will be asked/answered at the next WASC meeting.

9. Items for next agenda

Mr. Caluag stated the District's future agenda items include tentative WC interviews and questions, providing a summary of project concepts 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 7, 2021 10:00am –12:00pm
Virtual Meeting – Webex Events

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - DECEMBER 15, 2020

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Carolina Hernandez		y	
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Dirk Marks	x	Mike Alvord		y	
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y	
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Martha Tremblay		y	
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Janine Prado	x	Jennifer Del Toro		y	
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	x			y	
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	x	Diane Trautman		y	
Community Stakeholder	GP Strategies	Jason Gibbs		Frederick Andre Hollings			
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y	
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y	
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darren Hernandez	x	Darin Seegmiller		y	
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda	x	Oliver Cramer		y	
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Robert Newman		Mike Hennawy	x	y	
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Tom Cole		David Peterson	x	y	
	Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	16	0
	Total Voting Members Present	16			Nay (N)	0	0
	Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	0
	Community Stakeholder	4			Total	16	0
	Municipal Members	7				Approved	Not Approved

Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
December 15, 2020

Kristen	Ruffell	Elisha	Back
Melina	Watts	Justin	Jones
Dirk	Marks	Kirk	Allen SCWP LACFCD
April	Mendez	Arlene	Guzman
Julian	Juarez	Ariel	Whitson
Brenda	Morales	C.C.	LaGrange
Mayra	Cabrera	Jim	Sparber
Cindy	Montanez	Clarasophia	Gust
Jon	Abelson (Stantec)	Zev	Smith-Danford
Manny	Gonez	Hunt	Braly
Carlos	Moran	Peter	Massey
Darren	Hernandez	Sarona	Vivanco
Alexander	Iglesias - SCW	CJ	Caluag - LACFCD
Hans	Tremmel	Daniel	Berger
Jud	Warren	Mike	Antos
Paul	Glenn (GHD)	Mike	Hennawy
Safe	Clean Water LA	Steve	Cole
Suzanne	Madison	Adi	Liberman
Josie	Gutierrez	Heather	Merenda
Mary	Johnson	Dianne	Hellrigel
Benjamin	Shorofsky	Diane	Trautman
Jennifer	Amarant	David	Peterson
David	Angel	Blake	Whittington
Darin	Seegmiller	Oliver	Cramer
Allen	Ma	Sandra	Cattell
Bruce	Hamamoto	Janine	Prado