

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Regional Oversight Committee



### Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, December 15, 2020  
10:00am - 11:00am  
WebEx Meeting

### Attendees:

#### Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian (Cordoba Corp.)  
Diana Tang (City of Long Beach)  
Kristine Guerrero (League of Cities)  
Barbara Romero (City of Los Angeles) – Co-chair  
Irma Munoz\* (LA Regional Water Quality Control Board)

Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay) – Co-chair  
Lauren Ahkiam (LAANE) – Vice-chair  
Carl Blum\* (LA County Flood Control District)  
Belinda Faustinos (Nature for All)  
Elva Yanez (Prevention Institute)

#### 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. Barbara Romero chaired the meeting, 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 Event functionality and meeting protocols for both the ROC members and the public.

### 2. Approval of October 29, 2020 meeting minutes

The Chair invited discussion and comments on the October 29 meeting minutes.

Ms. Mehranian moved to approve the October 29 meeting minutes and Ms. Faustinos seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. District staff facilitated a rollcall vote. **The ROC voted to approve the meeting minutes (Ayes: 8, Nays: 0)**

### 3. Public Comment Period

The Chair reiterated the 4 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. Mr. Frary acknowledged 1 comment card was submitted in advance (attached to these minutes).

Mr. Bryan Matsumoto spoke on behalf of the OurWaterLA Coalition about a major area of frustration among the WASC was the inability to provide partial funding for projects or to make suggested changes to projects.



Mr. Matsumoto used the Ballona Creek TMDL project and the North Santa Monica Bay WASC as examples to illustrate the frustration held by OurWaterLA Coalition. Mr. Matsumoto noted that the OurWaterLA Coalition believes the WASC's are the venue to hold discussions on project details; more details on the topic can be found in the October 28<sup>th</sup> Letter sent to the ROC by the OurWaterLA Coalition.

Ms. Sarai Jimenez with The Nature Conservancy speaking on behalf of the OurWaterLA Coalition. Ms. Jimenez believes the ROC should take a more comprehensive look at the flexibility granted to WASC to alter the funding amounts and/or project elements to ensure Stormwater Investment Plans meet all SCW Program goals. WASCs should be allowed to make de minimus scope changes to improve projects that does not change project score.

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

The Chair solicited any updates or announcements from the committee.

Mr. Frary reminded the committee members and the public about the release of the SCW Portal and GIS reference tool. The SCW Portal utilizes a user-friendly map interface and has been updated to include projects that were included in the first Stormwater Investment Plans and the current projects being considered for year 2 Call for Projects.

Mr. Frary spoke about Fund Transfer Agreements and disbursements for Municipal and Regional Programs. The District has received and executed approximately half of the municipal agreements accompanying with their annual plans. The District is anticipated to post the annual plans in January on the SCW webpage.

The Regional Program issued 48 transfer agreements: 41 Infrastructure Projects and 7 Scientific Studies. The District has received 27 Scopes of Work and 12 Regional Fund Transfer Agreements.

The Watershed Coordinators are interviewing with each WASC. The Districted received over 60 proposals from 21 different entities. The first formal phase included an evaluation process by the District, in cases the threshold score was not met, the candidates were contacted and notified of what was incomplete. 15 of the 21 entities advanced for consideration to the WASCs. The candidates who did not meet the advancing threshold were given a deadline to protest their score; no protests were initiated by the deadline. The interviews shall conclude in January with an onboarding in February.

All the WASCs voted to send all Infrastructure Program Projects to the Scoring Committee for evaluation. All the governance committees have resumed their meetings.

#### **5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

The Chair solicited ex parte communication disclosures.

Kristine Guerrero met with ALRA, District and Monrovia staff to discuss the scientific studies from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and ARLA.

Elva Yanez had conversations with staff from Supervisorial Districts 1 and Supervisorial Districts 3 to discuss DAC's and community engagement.

Belinda Faustinos attended various meetings discussing SCWP at Our Water LA meetings, Rio Hondo WASC meeting, and a collaboration meeting with staff from the Board of Supervisors.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Regional Oversight Committee



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Lauren Ahkiam attended an Our Water LA meeting and conversed with Charles Trevino about Metropolitan Water District issues and looking forward to the SCWP process.

Maria Mehranian participated in a meeting that discussed design for the McArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project.

### **6. Presentation of next steps for Program guidance (regarding 10/19 staff memo)**

Ms. Romero and Ms. Luce met with District staff following the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the lack of consensus on various Program elements and the need of extra time to discuss those elements.

Rather than a discussion at this meeting, the Chair presented a proposed approach, format of the next meetings, and a timeline to discuss program elements. The proposed approach would be to develop interim guidance for the next year to inform future project applicants and develop full program guidance with assistance from experts. The Chair also reiterated the importance of building consensus and clarifying and providing guidance to the Program.

Ms. Luce added that although the ROC is comprised of different sectors and competing stakeholders, it is important to reach consensus as a collective body to help develop key elements of the Program. Ms. Luce concurred with the Chair and provided additional input on the importance of this proposed approach.

Mr. Frary discussed the agenda items for the next ROC meetings:

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 12 pm, the ROC will discuss: (1) Understanding Water Supply Benefits; (2) Clarifying prioritization of Nature-Based Solutions.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 12 pm, the ROC will discuss: (1) Applying consistent Disadvantaged Community Benefits program policies; (2) Strengthening Community Engagement and Support.

Mr. Frary stated that the District is working to develop Partial Funding Guidance as a stand-alone document with processes and forms that will help applicants and the WASCs negotiate SCW Program total funding ask. Interim Guidance is anticipated to be developed by 4/30/21 to inform Year 3 Project applicants. Program Guidance will involve discussion with experts and public review process and anticipated to be developed by 4/30/22.

Ms. Mehranian made a recommendation to hire an expert(s) to help facilitate the discussions to have an efficient process and defer to the District on when to onboard experts. Ms. Luce stated that an expert facilitator would help for the next two meetings.

Ms. Yanez thanked the Co-chairs and the District for finding a path forward. She thinks hiring an expert facilitator is an excellent recommendation and reminded the ROC that equity gets scarified due to efficiency.

Ms. Faustinos endorsed the guidelines and comments made, so far. She believes this path forward is an appropriate allocation of resources to complete the work. The DAC benefits and community engagement needs to have more attention than the 2 hours allotted on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Blum suggested the ROC clearly identify the questions ahead of time to address during the upcoming meeting.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Regional Oversight Committee



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Mr. Frary concurred with Mr. Blum by mentioning the October staff memo identifies questions to help facilitate the January and February meetings.

Ms. Ahkiam concurred with Mr. Blum and Mr. Frary's recommendations and advocated for onboarding an expert facilitator and a longer meeting to discuss DACs and community engagement at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### 7. Selection of ROC Chair(s)

Ms. Faustino made a motion to nominate Barbara Romero and Shelley Luce as Co-Chairs and Lauren Ahkiam as Vice Chair. Ms. Mehranian and Ms. Yanez both seconded the motion. District staff facilitated a rollcall vote. **The ROC voted to re-elect the Co-Chairs and Vice Chair (Ayes: 8, Nays: 0)**

### 8. Items for Next Agenda

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 12 pm, the ROC will discuss: (1) Understanding Water Supply Benefits; (2) Clarifying prioritization of Nature-Based Solutions.

### 9. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Barbara Romero thanked the ROC members and public for their time and participation.

Quorum Present				
Member Type	Member	Voting?	Approval of 10/29 meeting minutes	Barbara and Shelley as co-chairs and Lauren as Vice Chair
Voting Member	Maria Mehranian	x	y	y
Voting Member	Barbara Romero	x	y	y
Voting Member	Diana Tang	x	y	y
Voting Member	Kristine Guerrero	x	y	y
Voting Member	Belinda Faustinos	x	y	y
Voting Member	Shelly Luce	x	y	y
Voting Member	Lauren Ahkiam	x	y	y
Voting Member	Elva Yanez	x	y	y
Voting Member	Charles Trevino			
Non-Voting Member	Carl Blum	x		
Non-Voting Member	Irma Munoz	x		
Total Non-Vacant Seats	9	Yay (Y)	8	8
Total Voting Members Present	8	Nay (N)	0	0
		Abstain (A)	0	0
		Total	8	8
			Approved	Approved

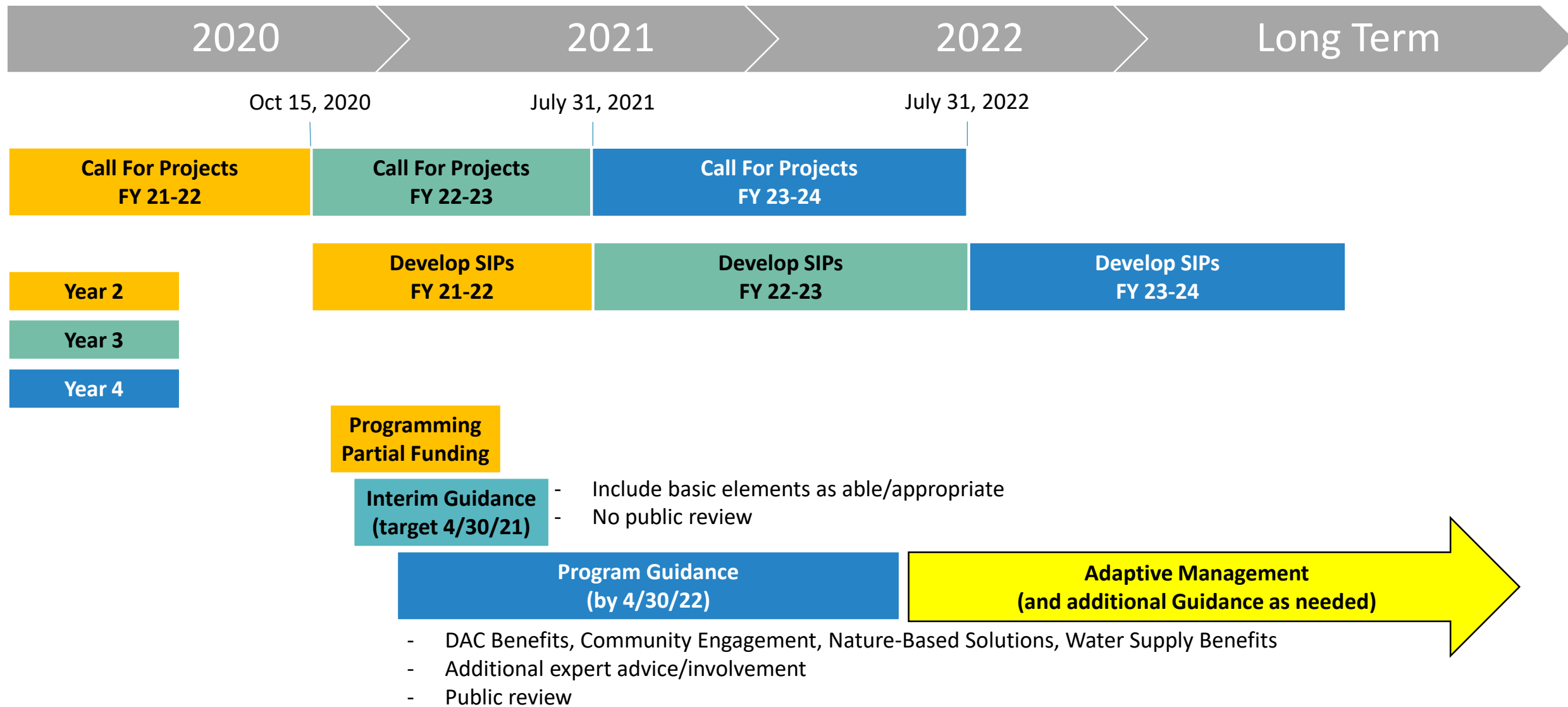
## Attendees

### Regional Oversight Committee Meeting – December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Safe Clean Water LA	Maria Mehranian	Alex Paxton
Matt Frary (LACFCD)	Brad Wardynski	Kelly Cook
Wendy Dinh	Diana Tang	Jill Sourial
Kirk Allen - SCWP (LACFCD)	Guangyu Wang	Laura Santos
Sharon Gallant	Dee Corhiran	Michael Omary
Danielle Chupa	Barbara Romero	Lorena Matos
Sheila Brice	Liz Crosson	Leslie
Justin Jones	Shelley Luce	
Paul Glenn (GHD)	Katy Yaroslavsky	
David Angel	Johanna Chang	
Alexander Iglesias	Jon Christensen	
Elva Yanez	Aydin Pasebani	
Gustavo Orozco	Daritza Gonzalez	
Kristine Guerrero	Irma Munoz	
Mike Antos	Lauren Ahkiam	
Guadalupe Duran- Medina	Bruce Reznik	
Melissa Levitt	Annelisa Moe	
Julie Carver	Tiffany Wong	
Belinda Faustinos	Ilene Ramirez	
Bryan Matsumoto	Deborah Bloome	
Conor Mossavi	Carl Blum	
Brett Perry	Sophie Freeman	
Susie Santilena	Katie M	
	Sarai Jimenez	



# Anticipated timeline for additional guidelines





# Guidance elements to discuss at ROC

January 28<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 12 pm

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- Understanding Water Supply Benefits
- Clarifying prioritization of Nature-Based Solutions

February 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 12 pm

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- Applying consistent Disadvantaged Community Benefits program policies
- Strengthening Community Engagement and Support





# Public Comment Form

Name:* _____	Organization*: _____
Email*: _____	Phone*: _____
Meeting: _____	Date: _____

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

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