

Safe, Clean Water Program

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, January 19, 2021

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Brent Maue (City of Pasadena Parks and Recreation)

Brian Matsumoto* (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

Mark Hall (Greater LA County Vector Control District)

Daniel Rossman (The Wilderness Society)

David Dolphin (Alhambra)

Vanessa Hevener (Arcadia)

Mark Lombos (LA County)

Gloria Crudgington (Monrovia)

Frank Lopez (Monterey Park)

Sean Singletary (Pasadena)

James Carlson (Sierra Madre)

Committee Members Not Present:

Michael Hurley (Cal Water)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Love of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Chair of Rio Hondo welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

Kevin Kim (District) facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All committee members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

The District discussed housekeeping items for this WebEx meeting (raise hand feature and keeping microphone on mute when not speaking) and the public comment process.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Tom Love asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Kristen Ruffell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Gloria Crudgington seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from December 7, 2020. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

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Thomas Wong provided the Committee update, noting: an LA Times article citing the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden and Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation's concern over the stormwater capture project. Thomas Wong noted that serious concerns were presented around the lack of engagement with the Foundation leadership and the community about the project and further stated needing a robust community engagement for projects that the WASC may consider funding. Gloria Crudgington noted the Rio Hondo Watershed Management group has been working with the Foundation's CEO, LA County Public Works, and Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation members since December. Additionally, Gloria Crudgington stated that LA County Supervisor Barger's team has been working to set up a meeting to clear any concerns. Tom Love noted that there appears to be communication to resolve any misperceptions or miscommunication and asked Gloria Crudgington and/or project proponents to provide an update in upcoming WASC meeting.

Julian Juarez clarified that the that the discussion on that article was regarding the wetlands project which the Arboretum Foundation may or may not have provided full support and not to be confused with the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Project that was awarded funding in last year's CIP. He further noted that the Baldwin Lake project is in good standing with the stakeholders, and the community and that the WASC is looking forward to working with the new Watershed Coordinator for the public outreach. Finally, he noted that these are two separate projects at the same location and wanted to be clear on which project is being discussed when communicating with the Arboretum Foundation.

Mike Antos (Stantec) reiterated that the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Project was approved by the Committee last year, had strong support from the community as demonstrated during meetings, and that the article in the paper is about a project that is out for funding before the Committee this year.

The District provided the update noting: the Scoring Committee (SC) scoring of projects is still ongoing. The SC completed the first-round review of projects and are rescoring projects that required additional clarification information. The SC's last meeting to address RH WASC project submissions will be held on January 27, 2021. Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WC), the District noted to have received 67 proposals from 21 applicants. The District completed Phase I evaluations of which 15 applicants are now in Phase II; onboarding of the WC expected in March.

With regards to the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) reporting module, the District noted that the next quarterly report is due May 15th and that the reporting module should be fully functional by April 1, 2021. The District further noted the reporting module is intended to assist project applicants, and Cities with the requirement of uploading their Quarterly Reports.

Regarding the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) the District noted that the ROC will be meeting on January 28, 2021 to discuss Water Supply Benefits and prioritization of Nature Based Solutions. Additionally, the ROC will also meet on February 25, 2021 to discuss Disadvantaged Community Benefits and Community Engagement. From further guidance from the ROC, the District intends on developing an interim program guidance for year three project applicant and develop program guidelines with the assistance of experts by 2022.

Finally, the District noted that Fund Transfer Agreements (FTA) are still pending full execution and that District continues to receive Annual Plans and Scopes of Work for both the Municipal and Regional Program, respectively.

4. Ex Parte Communications Disclosures

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Thomas Wong noted to have had general discussion with Regional Oversight Committee and Scoring Committee members regarding the LA Times article.

Kelly Gardner noted to have had general discussions with District staff regarding guidance documents for the Regional Oversight Committee in relation to scoring and Water Supply Benefits.

5. Public Comment Period

The District noted to have received two public comment cards.

A member of the public commented on their support for Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV as RH WASC Watershed Coordinator. (See public comment card)

A member of the public commented on the need for skilled transparent stakeholder and community engagement on every project from conception to implementation and their support for Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV. (See public comment card)

6. Discussion Items

a) Watershed Coordinator Selection

- i) Interview Process for Watershed Coordinator Selection
- ii) Voting Process for Watershed Coordinator Selection

The District provided an overview of the WC voting process. The District noted that the Committee could have an organic discussion to draw Committee member's opinion before the voting.

The committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of the WC as defined in the ordinance, the request for statement of qualifications (RFSQ), and guidance documents provided by the District.

Thomas Wong noted that due to possible conflicts of interest in the selection of the WC, He would abstain from discussions and voting for the WC.

Tom Love asked Committee members if they had any questions, discussions or comments regarding the WC interview process or WC selection.

Mark Lombos commented on the five WC applicant's expertise and thanked them for their submittals and time.

Kristen Ruffell commented on other WASC's WC discussion and how Committee members shared their perspectives on their preferred WC. She suggested that it would be helpful to have that same selection discussions for RH. Tom Love acknowledged and asked members of the Committee if they would like to share their perspectives on the WC applicants. Gloria Crudgington suggested to go down the list of Committee members, afford two minutes to each member to share their perspective.

Tom Love acknowledged and proceeded to share his perspective on his WC selections. He noted that the WC needs to coordinate a broad variety of project benefits in terms of meeting the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program; combination of community engagement, technical stormwater knowledge and experience with the engineering associated with the understanding of how infrastructure is implemented. His preferred WC were Richard Watson & Associates and CASC Engineering & Consulting.

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Frank Lopez noted his preferred WC candidates were CASC Engineering & Consulting and Richard Watson & Associates and agreed with Tom Love's perspectives.

David Dolphin noted that his preferred WC candidates were CASC Engineering & Consulting and Richard Watson & Associates because of their broad project development experience in the Region and their ability to work with other Watersheds.

Mark Lombos noted that each WC applicant had their own areas of expertise and further commented on each WC applicant qualifications.

Gloria Crudginton noted her WC selection as Richard Watson & Associates Inc. for their years of technical experience, however; regarding community outreach Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV appeared to be a stronger but lacked technical experience. She commented that if she could put together a dream team it would be Richard Watson & Associates as prime consultant and Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV as a subconsultant.

James Carlson agreed with Gloria Crudginton in that Richard Watson & Associates Inc. and CASC Engineering & Consulting have the technical experience but that Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV has the community outreach experience, maybe there can be a collaboration. As for Fresh Coast Capital, LLC dba Greenprint Partners he noted their qualifications and the concern for being an out-of-state applicant.

Mark Hall noted Richard Watson & Associates as his WC selection for their experience in stormwater. He further noted CASC Engineering & Consulting having similar experience, however; Richard Watson & Associates appeared to be the front-runner. In terms of Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV, he stated that having them as a sub consultant is an interesting concept and would support it.

Daniel Rossman noted that there may be a consensus around technical experience applicants, however; to consider the community engagement experience from that of Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV. He noted that Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV have strong community connections, strong history of engaging the community, civic leaders and municipalities. He further noted that with the technical resources assistance grants, District staff and other WC assistance that Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV would be able to make up for their lack of technical experience.

Brent Maue thanked all the WC applicants for their submissions. He commented on Gloria Crudginton's concept and asked the District if the community outreach component was more important in the selection of a WC.

Julian Juarez thanked all the WC applicants for their submissions. He noted that Richard Watson & Associates and CASC Engineering & Consulting have strong technical expertise and are local but that community outreach is a very important to the program and Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV was his preferred choice with CASC Engineering & Consulting as an alternate.

Kelly Gardner requested clarification from the District in regards Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV being members on other Committees and possibly having a conflict of interest. The District noted that if a WASC member applies for a WC position in a different Watershed area, will they be able to pursue that position. However, if the WC's firm proposes work in the RH Watershed the WC would be refrained from pursuing work in the Watershed in which they are a voting member. Ultimately, the WASC should be aware of possible conflicts of interest moving forward and deliberate and/or discuss if such conflicts are identified.

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Tom Love requested clarification from the District regarding Thomas Wong conflict of interest disclosure. The District noted that they had not received clarification from County Counsel. The District noted that Bryan Matsumoto is the Primary's alternate and that he should be able to vote on agenda items in the absence of Thomas Wong. Tom Love acknowledged Bryan Matsumoto as standing alternate after Thomas Wong left the meeting.

Bryan Matsumoto noted Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV as his WC selection for their community engagement experience and bringing in an innovative process to multi-benefits projects in the community.

Kristen Ruffell asked if Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV and Richard Watson & Associates Inc. could be invited to speak and address the Committee concerns. Tom Love acknowledged and invited all WC applicants to address some of the concerns brought by the Committee. All five WC applicants expanded on their qualifications and addressed the Committee concerns.

The District suggested to the Committee to allow Public Comment before voting on the WC selection. With no objections from the Committee, members of the public provided their comments.

A member of the public commented on their support for Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV.

A member of the public commented that the WASC is tasked with implementing Measure W and that the list of tasks for the WC are right out of the measure. Except one technical task, most tasks are related to community engagement. He further commented that it would be a mistake to take this one technical task and use it to fill a different need and encourages the WASC to rethink what they intend to do with the WC.

Gloria Crudgington requested clarification from the District regarding voting for a combination of two WC versus one. The District noted that per the Ordinance the WASC is required to select one WC from the qualified list. Tom Love further noted that the solicitation documents state the award to one firm therefore splitting the budget to award two firms would conflict with the solicitation documents.

iii) [Voting Item] – Watershed Coordinator Selection

The Committee voted for Richard Watson & Associates as 1st Choice, Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV as 1st Alternate Choice, and CASC Engineering & Consulting as 2nd Alternate Choice. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet)

7. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

A moment of silence was held honoring COVID-19 victims.

8. Presentations

i) 1 Technical Resources Program presentations

a) Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project:

Regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility located at Washington Park beneath the open space of the existing park surface.

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Mark Lombos noted LA County has a proposal to manage the runoff from the unincorporated County area, portion drainage area project. If the TRP does get selected, some coordination will need to occur with LA County to avoid any duplication of drainage areas. Brent Maue noted to gladly coordinate with LA County.

Kelly Gardner requested clarification on the project's proposed area of infiltration; permeable pavers identified in the parking lot and stalls as being the only source of infiltration. Brent Maue noted that both underground storage basin and the permeable parking and would serve as sources of infiltration. He further noted that potential dirty water or polluted water going into the groundwater table would go through separators and/or filters before it reaches the tank and then can start to infiltrate.

Daniel Rossman asked for a description of the demographics of the communities that would benefit the most from this project including socio economic data to evaluate the DAC benefits. Ben Maue noted not to have the data readily available but would before the next meeting.

Due to time constraints, the Committee will reschedule the presentation for Sierra Madre Boulevard Green Street Stormwater Capture Project.

9. Items for next agenda

Continue with Technical Resources presentation from January 19, 2021 meeting.

b) Sierra Madre Boulevard Green Street Stormwater Capture Project:

Local and regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility located at Sierra Madre Blvd within and beneath the median open space.

10. Adjournment

Tom Love thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and participation, extended a final call for comments before adjournment, and adjourned the meeting.

	Watershed Coordinator	Shorthand	Tally	Tally2	Tally3
	Fresh Coast Capital, LLC dba Greenprint Partners	GP		0	0
	Richard Watson & Associates Inc.	RWA		9	0
	CASC Engineering & Consulting	CASC		0	5
	Community Partners fbo ActiveSGV	SGV		6	9
	Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality	CIC		0	1

RH WASC - January 19, 2021								
	Quorum Present				Voting Items			
Member Type	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve Meeting Minutes	Preferred WC	1st alt. WC	2nd alt. WC
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y	SGV	SGV	CASC
Agency	Tom Love	X	Robert Tock		Y	RWA	CIC	CASC
Agency	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampiello		Y	RWA	CASC	CASC
Agency	Kristen Ruffell	X	Martha Tremblay		Y	RWA	SGV	CASC
Agency	Brent Maue	X			Y	SGV	SGV	CASC
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong		Bryan Matsumoto	X	Y	SGV	SGV	CASC
Community Stakeholder	Michael Hurley							
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel		Y	RWA	CASC	CASC
Community Stakeholder								
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman	X	Liliana Griego		Y	SGV	SGV	CASC
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	X	Latoya Waters		Y	RWA	SGV	CASC
Municipal Members	Vanessa Hevener	X	Eddie Chan			SGV	SGV	CASC
Municipal Members	Mark Lombos	X	Fernando Villaluna		Y	SGV	SGV	CASC
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington	X	Sean Sullivan		Y	RWA	CASC	CASC
Municipal Members	Frank Lopez	X	Bonnie Tam		Y	RWA	CASC	CASC
Municipal Members	Sean Singletary	X	Kris Markarian		Y	RWA	SGV	CASC
Municipal Members	James Carlson	X	Chris Cimino		Y	RWA	CASC	CASC
Total Non-Vacant Seats	16			Yay (Y)	14	15	15	15
Total Voting Members Present	15			Nay (N)	0			
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder	3			Total	14	15	15	15
Municipal Members	7			Approved				

Attendance
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Stephanie Tong - LACFCD	Brenda Le
Kevin Kim (LACFCD)	Julian Juarez
James Carlson	James Breitling
Michael Lewis	Bryan Matsumoto
Gloria Crudgington	Carlos Moran
David Diaz	Daniel Rossman
Justin Jones LACFCD	Kirk Allen - LACFCD
Melanie Morita (LACFCD)	Benjamin Shorofsky
Mark Hall	Kelly Gardner
Merrill Taylor	Fernando Villaluna
Maritsa DRA Inc. Garcia	Eddie Chan
Mike Antos	William OBraitis
Frank Lopez	I EC
Alex Tachiki	Katie Harrel
Ed Suher, CASC	John Longston
Mark Lombos	James
Katie Harrel (CWE)	Sean Singletary
Thomas Wong	Bryan Matsumoto
Courtney Semlow	Dawn Petschauer
Tom Love	Vanessa Hevener
Mark Grey	Justin LACFCD
Richard Watson	Justin LACFCD
Kristen Ruffell	Kristen Ruffell
Joe Venzon	Sean Singletary
Brent Maue	J Felton
Alysha Chan	David Dolphin
Nick S	Blake TreePeople
David Diaz	Oliver Galang, Craftwater Engineering
katie m	