

Safe, Clean Water Program

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, February 16, 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)

Thomas Wong (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

Mark Hall (Greater LA County Vector Control District)

Daniel Rossman (The Wilderness Society)

David Dolphin (Alhambra)

Vanessa Heverner (Arcadia)

Mark Lombos (LA County)

Gloria Crudgington (Monrovia)

Frank Lopez (Monterey Park)

Kris Markarian (Pasadena Public Works)

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

Kristen Ruffell, Vice Chair of the Rio Hondo WASC welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

Kevin Kim (District) facilitated the roll call of Committee Members, and with a majority present, quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021

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

Gloria Crudgington made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. James Carlson seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 19, 2021. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: all 12 Watershed Coordinators have been selected by WASC with plans to execute individual contracts agreements and insurance to onboard by March 2021. The Safe Clean Water Program's (SCWP) reporting module is scheduled for an April 2021 release. The reporting module is intended to assist project applicants with the requirement of uploading their Quarterly

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Reports; first Quarterly Reports due by May 15, 2021. Additionally, Annual Plans are available for viewing on the SCWP website under the municipalities webpage. Regarding the Municipal Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs), the District will continue to disburse funds to municipalities that have submitted all their required documents. For those municipalities that did not turn in their executed TAs, the District requested that these be returned as soon as possible. As for the Regional Program Fund TAs, scopes of work are being reviewed and processed in a timely manner. Finally, the District indicated to have engaged the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), for an independent analysis of Scientific Studies for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. They are anticipated to complete the standardized scientific summaries for review by April 2021.

4. Ex Parte Communications Disclosures

Thomas Wong attended the Atwater Village Community Leaders workshop last week but no specific projects were discussed.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

6. Discussion Items

a) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for Rio Hondo WASC for consideration (SCW Program Portal)

The District provided a brief demonstration of the SCW Program Portal website features and answered Committee questions.

b) Presentations

i) Sierra Madre Boulevard Green Street Stormwater Capture Project (Technical Resources Program)

Local and regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility located at Sierra Madre Blvd within and beneath the median open space. Presented by Brent Maue and Merrill Taylor, Craftwater Engineering.

James Carlson commented in favor of the Project. David Dolphin inquired if the City of Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and Los Angeles County want to participate. Brent Maue commented that they have not made contact at this stage of the Project.

Thomas Wong inquired about pedestrian improvements. Brent Maue stated that improvements would be included during the design phase.

Kelly Gardner asked if stormwater capture measurements from adjacent projects would be tied together. Brent Maue stated that there is a regional effort to view the bigger picture of the how projects work together.

David Dolphin commented that that there should be coordination with the Watershed Coordinators to ensure the WASCs do not have redundancy, for instance recalculating the amount of drainage from one project to the other. Ensure that the WCs are speaking to each other.

ii) South El Monte High School Project (Technical Resources Program)

Propose detention and bio-filtration to treat stormwater at the field and alleviate the water discharging off-site at higher flow rates. Presented by Lena Luna and Kathereen Shinkai.

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Mark Lombos inquired about the amount of stormwater capture from the school and surrounding areas. Lena Luna replied that the stormwater is coming from the school and surrounding areas including the Freeway.

iii) Mt. Lowe Median Stormwater Capture Project (Infrastructure Program)

Diversion of urban and stormwater runoff for infiltration within existing roadway median. Presented by Joseph Venzon from Los Angeles County Public Works.

Kelly Gardner asked where the project was located. Joseph Venzon replied that it is in the Northwest Corner of the watershed in Altadena, near Lake Avenue.

iv) Merced Ave Greenway (Phase I – South Residential Corridor) (Infrastructure Program)

0.65-mile greenway designed to clean and capture stormwater, reduce GHGs/urban heat island effects and provide active transit connections. Presented by Jason Casanova, Council for Watershed Health and Jason Fussel, Tetra Tech.

Kelly Gardner requested clarification regarding infiltration and irrigation. Jason Fussel replied that infiltration will vary based on the depth of the groundwater and they will be relying on a recycled water line for irrigation.

Kristen Ruffell asked if this Project overlaps with any other Projects. Jason Fussel commented that this Project is not capturing water from any other Project as the water is coming from the immediate area.

7. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson commented on the importance of watershed planning and he is looking forward to becoming a Watershed Coordinator.

A member of the public representing the City of Los Angeles, expressed the importance projects being complimentary.

Bryan Matsumoto from Nature For All, commented that the Sierra Madre Boulevard Green Street Stormwater Capture Project should include an alternative where water capture is pushed to one side instead of just the median that does not provide open space benefit to pedestrians on either side.

8. Voting Items

None

9. Items for next agenda

Presentations for the Infrastructure Program & Scientific Studies

10. Adjournment

Kristen Ruffell thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

Attendance
RH WASC - February 16, 2021

Kristen Ruffell	Daniel Rossman
Kevin Kim (LACFCD)	Fernando Villaluna
Stephanie Tong (LACFCD)	Eddie Chan
James Carlson - Sierra Madre	Frank Lopez
Thuan Nguyen	Hans Tremmel
Mark Daniel	Richard Watson
Kelly Gardner	Julian Juarez
Brent Maue	Wael Elatar
Lena Luna	Jason Fussel
Kirk Allen - SCWP	Clarasophia Gust
Mike Antos	Jason Casanova
Merrill Taylor (Craftwater)	Carlos Moran
Joe Venzon - LA County	Chris Jansen
Kevin Chang	Bryan Matsumoto
Kathereen Shinkai	Vik Bapna
Mark Lombos	Richard Watson
Melanie - LACFCD Morita	Lonnie Chung
Mark Hall	kris
Gloria Crudgington	Darin Seegmiller
Alex Tachiki	Thelma Briseno
Dawn Petschauer	Latoya Waters
Maritsa DRA Inc.	Katie Harrel
Vanessa Hevener	Okan Demirci
Eddie Chan	Jud Warren
Oliver Galang (Craftwater)	Brent Maue
Thuan Nguyen	Michael Ackerman
Vanessa Hevener	David Diaz
Thomas Wong	Joe Venzon
Eileen Alduenda	Tom Love
Joshua Felton	Dawn Petschauer
Julie Millett	I EC
David Dolphin	TJ Moon
Kevin Chang	Dawn Petschauer