

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, February 25, 2021
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	David Diaz (Active SGV)
Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)	John Beshay (Baldwin Park)
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)	Kevin Kearney* (Bradbury)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)	Alison Sweet (Glendora)
Sean Woods* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)	Joshua Nelson (Industry)
Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)	Fernando Villaluna* (LA County)
Brian Villagomez* (Former USGVMWD Board Member)	Julie Carver (Pomona)
Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)	Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)
Miguel Luna* (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)	

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for the full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Joshua Nelson, Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASC, called the meeting to order. He discussed WebEx and the public comment process. Kevin Kim (District) conducted roll call, and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Joshua Nelson asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Kristen Ruffell requested to amend the January 28, 2021 minutes section 6)a)ii regarding the Supervisor letter. Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve the amended January 28, 2021 meeting minutes. John Beshay seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes as amended. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet)

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: All 12 Watershed Coordinators (WCs) have been selected and are going through the contract process. The District anticipates completing onboarding in March 2021 and have a kick-off meeting with all WCs in April 2021.

The District also noted that the Safe, Clean Water Program's (SCWP's) Reporting Module will be available on April 1, 2021. Municipal Annual Plans are available on the SCWP website. Municipal Transfer Agreements (TAs) are being processed, 60 TAs have been executed, and 47 Cities have received funding. Regional TAs are being processed, 30 scopes of work have been received, and no TAs have been executed. Regarding Scientific Studies, the District indicated to have engaged the Southern California

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Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) for an independent analysis to summarize Scientific Studies for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022. Finally, the District announced that Partial Funding guidelines have been released and will give the WASC flexibility to fund portions of a Project.

The District clarified for Julie Carver that the Municipal Annual Plan won't have a template provided for this year.

Kristen Ruffell requested an opportunity for the WASC to review scopes of work and proposals from the Technical Resource Program Projects approved for FY 2020-2021. *[The District later clarified that the scopes of work and proposals would not be shared. Instead, progress updates will be provided as part of the Quarterly Reports, when available.]*

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Joshua Nelson spoke to the Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP) group about the WASC's progress toward the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) at a monthly meeting.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comment received.

6. Discussion Items:

a) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for Upper San Gabriel WASC for consideration (SCW Program Portal)

The District provided an overview of the interactive SCW Program Portal website.

b) Infrastructure Program Presentations

i) Lone Hill Park - East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group.

This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery to be located within Lone Hill Park, along with park improvements. Presented by Alexis Holmdal (Stantec).

Kristen Ruffell inquired about issues raised by the Scoring Committee. The presentation addressed providing boring logs for drawdown rate and community support. Alexis Holmdal noted that they have attempted to reach the Groundwater Master and are awaiting a Letter of Support. Kelly Gardner indicated she did not receive any information about this project and requested confirmation regarding the community involvement beyond the City of San Dimas. Alexis Holmdal noted that she would re-send emails to Kelly Gardner regarding the Letter of Support and confirmed that the Project has only received community involvement from the City of San Dimas.

Fernando Villaluna confirmed with Alexis Holmdal that only desktop analysis was done and no field investigations for this Project. The infiltration analysis comes from the boring log of a neighboring site.

ii) Washington Park - East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group

This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery to be located within Washington Park, along with park improvements. Presented by Alexis Holmdal (Stantec).

Kristen Ruffell inquired about additional project funding options due to limited funds available for the WASC this year relative to the project requested funding. Alexis Holmdal and Julie Carver indicated that they would seek additional funding opportunities. Joshua Nelson also mentioned partially funding design to test infiltration rates could decrease construction costs.

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Kristen Ruffell inquired about issues raised by the Scoring Committee. Alexis Holmdal indicated that the boring logs were collected from a nearby school and the Project is in Chino Basin.

Tom Love commented that the Project drains to the Santa Ana River which is outside of the USGR watershed area. Kevin Kim (District) replied that although a project may capture flows from outside the watershed area, the Project is located inside the USGR watershed area and is to be considered for funding by the USGR WASC.

Kelly Gardner asked how the annual water supply volume is calculated. Alexis Holmdal noted that the calculation is generated using the SCW projects module.

iii) Fairplex - East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group

This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery (NDS StormChamber) to be located on the existing Grandstand Field at the Fairplex. Presented by Alexis Holmdal (Stantec).

Joshua Nelson asked for additional information on scheduling regarding coordinating with the Fairgrounds. Alexis Holmdal noted that they must coordinate with the Fairgrounds and that it could impact the schedule.

Fernando Villaluna noted concern for the lack of approval from the LA County Fair Association and asked if approval was needed from any other entities. Alexis Holmdal noted that they only need approval from the LA County Fair Association and that support looks promising. Alexis Holmdal noted that they will work to present a Letter of Support before the WASC has to decide on the Project.

Julian Juarez observed a Fairplex Project from last year's Technical Resources Program (TRP) and wanted to know how the projects are related. The District replied that it is the same Fairplex Project, but the project applicant withdrew from the TRP and submitted the Project as an Infrastructure Program Project. Ed Othmer (Stantec) commented the group funded the feasibility study and decided to submit the project to the Infrastructure Program. Ed Othmer explained the Fairgrounds Association is in full support, but that they are undergoing staff reductions which has delayed the Letter of Support. Ed Othmer added the project has received a letter of support from Six Basins Watermaster.

Joshua Nelson pointed out a comment by the Scoring Committee. Alexis Holmdal replied that they have not done their own geotechnical analysis and that the infiltration analysis in the report is from a nearby Metro Project.

iv) Larkin Park - East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group

This project proposes an underground infiltration gallery to be located within Larkin Park, along with a parking lot bioswale. Presented by Alexis Holmdal (Stantec).

Joshua Nelson encouraged finding leveraged funding for the multi-benefit aspects of the project.

Debbie Enos asked if the District was starting a program to show cumulative benefits the Projects. The District replied that they are developing a metrics and monitoring plan and are working to incorporate into the SIP tool information about the capture area by municipality. Joshua Nelson suggested the WC once onboarded would be able to help analyze the requested information.

Lisa O'Brien also supported equitable distribution among the municipalities in the Watershed so that each municipality can meet Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) deadlines and regulations. Miguel Luna emphasized the importance of receiving WC feedback before the SIP is programmed. He also differentiated the terms 'equally' and 'equitably'. The District noted that each municipality shall receive benefits in proportion to funds generated within their jurisdiction.

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7. Items for Next Agenda

- a) Infrastructure Program Presentations
- b) Scientific Study Presentations
- c) Create subcommittee to review Scope of Work Proposals for Technical Resource Program

Kristen Ruffell recommended that SIPs be planned at one meeting and be voted on in the following meeting to allow time for public input.

8. Adjournment

Joshua Nelson thanked the members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve Revised Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	X	Robert O. Tock		Y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampielo		Y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	X	Martha Tremblay		Y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Alina Bokde		Sean Woods	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Huff Strategies	Bob Huff	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Former USGVMWD Board Member	Bryan Urias		Brian Villagomez	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos	X	Jane Tsong		Y
Community Stakeholder	Ed P. Reyes & Associates	Ed Reyes		Miguel Luna	X	A
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y
Municipal Members	Baldwin Park	John Beshay	X	Mark Persico		Y
Municipal Members	Duarte	Amanda Hamilton		Kevin Kearney	X	Y
Municipal Members	Glendora	Alison Sweet	X	Sharon Gallant		Y
Municipal Members	Industry	Joshua Nelson	X	John Di Mario		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Paul Alva		Fernando Villaluna	X	Y
Municipal Members	Pomona	Julie Carver	X	Fabian Aoun		Y
Municipal Members	La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	X	Shari Garwick		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	16
Total Voting Members Present		17			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	17
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendance

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AkemiH CASC Engineering	katie m
Alexander Iglesias - SCWP	Kelly Gardner
Alexis Holmdal	Kevin Kim
Alison Sweet	Kevin Kearney
Alysha Chan	Kristen Ruffell
Aydin Pasebani	Laura Santos
Belinda Faustinos	Lauren Marshall
Bob Huff	Lisa O'Brien
Brian Villagomez	Maritsa DRA Inc.
David Diaz	Miguel Luna
Debbie Enos	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Ed Suher, CASC	Ryan Kearns - CWE
Fernando Villaluna	Sean Woods
Hans Tremmel	Sharon Gallant
Iwen Tseng	Stephanie Tong (LACFCD)
James Cramsie	Thom Epps, Craftwater
Jan Dyer	Tom Love
John Beshay	Tori Klug
Jon Abelson	Vik Bapna CWE
Joshua Nelson	William OBraitis
Julian Juarez	YOUSSEF CHEBABI
Julie Carver	