

Safe, Clean Water Program

Scoring Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
9:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Matt Stone
J.R. De Shazo

Jill Sourial
Bruce Reznik
TJ Moon

Committee Members Not Present:

Dave Sorem

1) Welcome and Introductions

Bruce Reznik, the Chair of the Scoring Committee (SC) welcomed members and called the meeting to order. All committee members in attendance made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2021

The District provided copies of the meeting minutes for January 25, 2021. Bruce Reznik asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

J.R. De Shazo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Jill Sourial seconded the motion. SC voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021 (4 'Yes' votes, see Vote Tracker Sheet).

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2021

The District provided copies of the meeting minutes for January 27, 2021. Bruce Reznik asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

J.R. De Shazo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Jill Sourial seconded the motion. TJ Moon commented that the two comment cards received were not attached to the January 27, 2021 minutes. The District noted they will be attached to the final minutes. SC voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 27, 2021 (4 'Yes' votes, see Vote Tracker Sheet).

4) Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen (District) provided updates, noting:

- Scoring rubrics and project details for all 62 projects are available on the Scoring Committee webpage.
- Additionally, projects that have been scored by the Scoring Committee will be going to their respective WASC's for review and project applicants will be presenting at the WASC meetings upon invitation.
- All 12 Watershed Coordinators (WC) have been selected by the WASCs with plans to execute individual contracts agreements by early March 2021.

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- 80 executed Municipal Transfer Agreements (TA) have been received. The District is reviewing plans and authorization to execute TAs to transfer funds; over \$50 million has been transferred to various Cities that have completed their TAs.
 - Over half of the Regional TAs have been received. The Scopes of Work and CEQA documents (where applicable) are being reviewed.
 - Tax relief programs, such as for Low-Income Senior Owned (LISO) properties and General Income-Based Tax Reductions (GIBTR), are available to qualifying individuals and businesses. Applications are available on the SCW website.

Bruce Reznik mentioned he participated in the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting discussion on January 28, 2021 and provided input to the ROC on some challenges faced by the Scoring Committee.

TJ Moon noted that he will be participating in a webinar about surface and groundwater modeling hosted by the UCLA School of Sustainability on February 23, 2021. Further details will be shared with the Committee.

5) Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

No Public comments received.

6) Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communications Disclosure

No disclosures.

b) Comment card from January 27, 2021

SEITec Comment Card – related to Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex Mitigation Project.

Committee members discussed issues relating to the comment card, including: what to do when new project information is available after it has been scored, how to address negative or unintended consequences of a project, and the roles/responsibilities of the different committees in addressing these issues.

TJ Moon reviewed the items mentioned in the comment card for the Portuguese Bend project and stated the SC felt comfortable passing the project with no need to rescore.

c) Recap of FY21-22 Scoring of Feasibility Studies

The District noted that 59 of the 62 projects scored met the 60-point threshold. SC revisited the 3 projects that did not meet the threshold, as follows:

- The Stormwater Treatment, Diversion, Water Supply Augmentation, and Bioremediation Project – cannot validate information submitted and may return in round 3.
- The Ballona Creek Dry Weather Flow Treatment Project – did not have adequate justification to award points.
- The Beach Cities Green Streets Project – withdrawn by the City of Torrance and slated to return in the future.

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The District mentioned 24 out of 62 projects were resubmitted. Recommendation for a discussion of the quality of submissions and if projects are embracing the overarching goals of the SCW program at the March 2, 2021 meeting.

Bruce Reznik observed that more non-traditional applicants are applying for the first time and requested a report to the ROC on projects that needed to be rescored, the types of projects, and their benefits.

The District asked if the SC could relay any areas where discretionary decisions were made because of community support or otherwise; this information may provide better guidance to applicants.

Bruce Reznik asked the SC to commit to outline areas where SC had to make judgment calls, which can be discussed at the March 2, 2021 meeting. SC would like to see more organized data, wants improvements to scoring process with clearer criteria, recommends exemplar projects as reference, etc.

d) Guidance updates for Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria

Matt Stone noted that there is a difference in approach for scoring design projects versus construction projects and the need for different thresholds for the various application types. Bruce Reznik agreed that it is difficult to use the same Scoring Rubric for O&M, construction, and design projects.

Kirk Allen mentioned that there were pre-application workshops and that the District has collected data on scored projects over the first two years of the SCW Program, which will be studied to make the program stronger.

7) Public Comment Period for Agenda Items

No public comments received.

8) Voting items:

a) Send all passing scored projects from January 27, 2021 to the WASC

Bruce Reznik called for motion to move 11 scored projects from January 27, 2021 forward to round 2. J.R. De Shazo moved the motion to approve. Jill Sourial seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the motion (Approved: 4 'Yes' votes, see Vote Tracker sheet).

9) Adjournment

Bruce Reznik reminded SC that the next meeting will be held on March 2, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and adjourned the meeting.

SCORING COMMITTEE MEETING - February 2, 2021

Member Type	Quorum Present		Voting Items		
	Member	Voting?	Meeting Minutes 01/25/21	Meeting Minutes 01/27/21	Voting Item 8a
Water Supply	Matt Stone	x	not present	not present	not present
Water Supply / Water Quality	J.R. De Shazo	x	Y	Y	Y
Nature-Based Solutions / Community Investments Benefits	Jill Sourial	x	Y	Y	Y
Nature-Based Solutions / Water Quality	<u>Bruce Reznik</u>	x	Y	Y	Y
Water Quality	Dave Sorem		not present	not present	not present
Water Quality	TJ Moon	x	Y	Y	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats	6	Yay (Y)	4	4	4
Total Voting Members Present	5	Nay (N)	0	0	0
		Abstain (A)	0	0	0
		Total	4	4	4
			Approved	Approved	Approved

Other Attendees	
b p	Sheila Brice
Conor Mossavi	Susie Santilena
Fiona McHenry	Thom Epps
James Cramsie	Tristin Amezcua
Johanna Chang	Taranek Nik-Khah
Jon Ball	Robin Lifland
Katie M	Ilene Ramirez
Lorena Matos	
Maritsa Dra	
Mike Antos	
Pauline Nguyen	



Public Comment Form

Name:* Shahriar Eftekharzadeh Organization*: SEITec
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Meeting: Scoring Committee Date: 01/27/2021

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. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to 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

Subsequent to the Scoring Committee's scoring the **Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex Mitigation Project**, SEITec is providing the following technical review comments as a public service and for Scoring Committee's reconsideration of the project.

The Project is essentially a landslide stabilization project, submitted as a stormwater project for funding purposes. It does NOT provide any significant water quality benefits and should not be funded by SCW Program funds in its current form. Below are specific reasons:

1. Project description claims primarily wet weather water quality benefits (with no supporting calculations), yet the project is submitted as a Dry Weather project.
2. The proposed BMPs are hugely oversized for the very small calculated dry weather flow of 0.119 cfs, and therefore result in highly inefficient design for the stated purpose.
3. Project is NOT included in any water management plan (neither the RVP EWMP, the Greater Los Angeles IRWMP OPTI).
4. The project proposed discharge of intercepted groundwater directly to the ocean requires a separate MS4 permit and likely treatment. There is no design provision for this requirement in the study.
5. RVP EWMP identifies intercepted groundwater by existing wells as nuisance groundwater. Therefore, unless the intercepted groundwater is treated, the proposed project exacerbates the water quality problem identified in RVP EWMP.
6. There are no calculations to support the claimed benefits as per the feasibility study guidelines.
7. There is no retention facility for holding the captured water to enable diversion to the County sewer line.
8. The County sewer line for diversion of captured water is a force main. Project requires detention and pump station facility for diversion, which is not included in the proposed project.
9. There is no design element or supporting calculations for the claimed 50-100 ac-ft/yr "treated flow to the sanitary sewer" as water supply benefits.
10. The requested funds for Design will primarily be spent on designing project elements that are for landslide stabilization and have nothing to do with MS4.

Therefore, the Scoring Committee should reevaluate and re-score the project in the light of the above.