

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, February 9, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)
Alex Rojas (Central Basin)	Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)
Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation)	Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)
Adam Galia (Resident)	Vicki Smith (Whittier)
Joseph Gonzalez* (River and Mountains Conservancy)	

Committee Members Not Present:

Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Ann Rapp, the Chair of Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. Kevin Kim (District) conducted roll call, and with a majority present, quorum was established. Lisa Ann Rapp discussed housekeeping items and the public comment process.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked committee members if there were any changes to be made. Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve minutes, and Delfino Consunji seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 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 WASCs 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 Reports; first Quarterly Reports are due by May 15, 2021. Additionally, Annual Plans are available on the SCWP website under the Municipalities webpage. Regarding the Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs), the District has begun to disburse funds to Cities that have completed all the submittal requirements. For those Cities that did not return their executed TAs, the District requested that these be returned as soon as possible. As for the Regional Program TAs, scopes of work are being reviewed and processed in a timely manner by the District. Finally, the District indicated to have engaged the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) for an independent analysis of Scientific Studies

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for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. They are anticipated to complete standardized scientific study summaries for review by April 1, 2021.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No Ex Parte Communication Disclosures received.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

6. Discussion Items

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

The District provided a brief overview of the SCW Program Portal features, including executive summaries and project applications available for download. The District noted a SIP Planning Tool is being developed. The District clarified that unfunded projects from the previous year will not show on the SCW Program Portal.

b) Presentations for the Infrastructure Program

i) Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Stormwater Capture Project – City of Long Beach

Presentation by Richard Watson and Oliver Galang. Regional stormwater capture and filtration/sewer diversion facility located at Heartwell Park beneath the open space of the existing park.

Lisa Ann Rapp requested clarification on the stormwater treatment system. Richard Watson clarified the project is intended for dry and wet weather flow and that the primary use would be to send the water to the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant and that a water treatment unit for use at the golf course is included in the cost estimate.

Kristen Ruffell requested details on the outcome of the sewage consultations. Oliver Galang indicated that active consultations with the LA County Sanitation Districts are included in the design budget.

Joseph Gonzalez asked if local non-profit organizations' input would be included during the design process. Richard Watson confirmed that budget is included to extensively outreach to local non-profit organizations.

Julian Juarez inquired if this project had received a Letter of Support from the Flood Control District and if diversion within the channel would use a rubber dam. [Oliver Galang later confirmed by email the project applicant requested conceptual approval and a response from the District is still pending.] Richard Watson and Oliver Galang confirmed that a rubber dam would be used and gave details on how it is proposed to operate.

Delfino Consunji requested additional information on the Community Benefits and Nature Based Solutions in this project. Oliver Galang noted that there are bioretention Nature Based Solutions included in the project and that Community Benefits include a walking path, trees, and public space. Lisa Ann Rapp inquired about the depth of the nature based biofiltration system. Oliver Galang replied that it is anticipated to be about 6 feet deep maximum with gradual slopes.

ii) Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Bellflower

Presentation by Richard Watson and Oliver Galang. Regional stormwater capture and filtration facility located beneath the sports field of John S. Simms Park in Bellflower, CA.

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Lisa Ann Rapp asked if this project was connected to the Mayfair Park Project and if the project is collecting both wet and dry weather flow. Richard Watson and Oliver Galang discussed that water from the Simms project would be sent to Mayfair Park based on Mayfair Park demand during dry weather and wet weather events.

Delfino Consunji asked if any other Cities besides Bellflower and Lakewood would benefit from the Project. Richard Watson replied that the set of proposed projects are designed to benefit the regional watershed in dry weather. Secondly, Delfino Consunji asked about the applicability of Proposition 68 funds. Richard Watson confirmed that if the City receives funds from Proposition 68, it would offset some SCWP requested funding.

Julian Juarez inquired if the project had received a Letter of Support from the Flood Control District, if not he recommended that they obtain a current Letter of Support. Oliver Galang confirmed that they received a letter last year during the first round but not recently and that the only major project change is increasing the size of the surface storage structure. [The District later confirmed the project received a confirmation of conceptual approval for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 effective for two years.] Additionally, Julian Juarez inquired about the type of diversion structure that would be used for the project and how they would be able to boost the project score from last year. Oliver Galang and Richard Watson replied that the project would use a drop inlet structure, and the score increased because the storage volume increased, increasing the water quality performance.

Kristen Ruffell asked if this project would be using the same water filtration system as the Mayfair Park Project and expressed concern about the lack of monitoring effluent bacteria data for treatment systems. Richard Watson replied that they are considering using a new microfiltration system and could provide effluent bacteria data for similar systems. Lisa Ann Rapp shared her City will be using local SCWP funds to monitor projects and can share the data with the WASC when available.

Joseph Gonzalez asked if the underground system was for infiltration and if they applied for Proposition 68 funds. Oliver Galang confirmed that the underground system would be used for storage and infiltration and that the applicant applied for Proposition 68 funds through State Parks.

iii) Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Artesia

Presentation by Okina Dor and John Hunter. Regional stormwater capture facility located at Artesia Park beneath the open space of the existing park surface.

Kristen Ruffell asked if sewer diversion capacity would be evaluated during the design process. John Hunter indicated that they would be evaluating the sewer connection.

7. Public Comment Period

No public comments received.

8. Voting Items

None

9. Items for Next Agenda

Infrastructure Program and Scientific Study Presentations

10. Adjournment

Lisa Ann Rapp thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and participation adjourned the meeting.

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		Quorum Present				Voting Item (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve 1/12 Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Carolina Hernandez		Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	X	Jeremy Melendez		Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatza		Lyndsey Bloxom	X	Y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	X	Mike Sullivan		Y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Meredith Reynolds	X	
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	X	Irene Lopez-Muro		Y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	X	Thalia Campos		Y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks				
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	X	Rebecca Scott		Y
Municipal Members	Downey	Delfino Consunji	X	Dan Mueller		Y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Lisa Ann Rapp	X	Konya Vivanti		Y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	X	Alvin Papa		Y
Municipal Members	City of Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	X	Glen Kau		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Fe Springs	Noe Negrete	X	Marlin Munoz		Y
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	X	Kyle Cason		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendance

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Adam Galia	Kristen Ruffell
Alex Rojas	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Alexander Iglesias - SCWP	Lisa Rapp
Alysha Chan	Lyndsey Bloxom
Aric Torreyson	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Bernie Iniguez	Melanie Morita (LACFCD)
Bryce Lee	Melissa You
Cecilia Salazar	Meredith Reynolds
Dan Knapp	Merrill Taylor
David Anderson	Michelle Kim
Delfino Consunji	Mike O'Grady
glen kau	Noe Negrete
Grace Kast	Okina Dor
Iwen Tseng	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Jacob Aube	Richard Watson
Jeremy Melendez	Roberto Gomez
Joe Gonzalez	Thalia Campos
john hunter	Tori Klug
Julian Juarez	Traci Gleason
Kekoa Anderson	Vicki Smith
Kevin Kim (LACFCD)	Wataru Kumagai
Konya Vivanti	