

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



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### **Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday, April 13, 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* (Rivers 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) facilitated the roll call, and quorum was established.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2021**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked Committee Members if there were comments or revisions. Delfino Consunji motioned to approve minutes, and Kristen Ruffell seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2021 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

### **3. Committee Member and District Updates**

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Scientific Studies summaries are anticipated to be available by next week as a resource to the WASC. Regarding the Municipal Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs), the District requested that fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022 Annual Plans be submitted as soon as possible noting that TAs are valid for five years. Once Annual Plans have been reviewed and approved, disbursement of funds would be August 2021. As for the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) reporting module, project applicants and developers were advised that a demo is live. The District continues to enhance the reporting module and is anticipating an April 15, 2021 official release. Project applicants and developers will be able to familiarize

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themselves with the reporting module and submit their progress reports by May 15, 2021. A webinar will be hosted by the District.

Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WC), a contract has been executed with OhanaVets Inc. for the LSGR WASC. The District noted that execution of WC agreements is ongoing with 4 out of 12 WC agreements executed.

#### **4. Watershed Coordinator Updates**

OhanaVets' Kekoa Anderson provided status update on contracting, the work plan, and next steps with the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. Dan Knapp noted he was looking forward to new projects and community involvement.

#### **5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

None.

#### **6. Public Comment Period**

None.

#### **7. Discussion Items**

##### **a) Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & LSGR Scoring Rubric)**

The District summarized the process for discussing projects and referenced the project ranking sheet to be shared via an online link to WASC members. The results will be used as reference point of Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) discussion and is not a vote. The District provided a brief overview of how WASC members will respond to the ranking sheet.

Noe Negrete asked if the ranking sheet was currently available to WASC members. The District indicated that a link would be shared with WASC members after the meeting with date of submission deadline prior to the WASC's next scheduled meeting. The District also indicated that a request of availability for an additional meeting in two weeks was circulated to the WASC. The purpose of this meeting request would be to discuss the SIP project scenarios and project rankings.

Lisa Ann Rapp indicated that some of the WASC's primary members have scheduling conflicts and that it would be recommended that their alternate members be available to meet in two weeks to have ample project discussion before approving the SIP.

Adam Galia requested clarification on the process and purpose of the ranking sheet. The District clarified that the ranking sheet is a form to be filled out by the each WASC member to assist in the ranking of projects, the District would then compile the ranking sheet information and provide results to the WASC for discussion in their next meeting.

Noe Negrete stated that the ranking of projects and today's discussion of projects would expedite the WASC efforts therefore he was hopeful an additional meeting before the WASC's May meeting would not be necessary. He further stated that if the WASC decides to hold a meeting in two weeks that he would confirm if his alternate would be available to attend.

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#### **i) Infrastructure Program (IP)**

##### **(1) Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System (STAR System) Hacienda Park – City of La Habra Heights**

Kristen Ruffell commented that the STAR System project has a small tributary area and that it is primarily treating stormwater at Hacienda Park. She further questioned the WASC if funds should be allocated to projects that can provide regional benefits. Regarding the ranking sheet, she highlighted some projects are applying for design funds only and suggested the WASC consider other phases of the projects for SIP funding allocations. She added that if there is a project that the WASC may not fund in this round or the next few years, it does not need to be ranked.

Lindsey Bloxom asked to review the amount of funds available in FY 2021-22 and the following years. The District indicated that there was \$26.1M anticipated to be available to be programmed. Lisa Ann Rapp asked for the SCW Program's stance on the situation if the WASC funds a project for only the design phase, there may be a potential risk for the project not to be built. The District indicated that the WASC would need to be selective in the projects that will be funded and encouraged the WASC to anticipate funding design and construction for the selected projects. Dan Knapp commented that the WASC should also consider the possibility of projects obtaining other sources of leveraged funding. Lisa Ann Rapp noted leveraged funding makes funding projects more attractive and local jurisdictions have local return funds available to fund construction activities.

Adam Galia commented that he felt projects should provide a regional benefit, be fully designed and built, and that the WC will be engaged to assist project applicants with obtaining additional funding sources that may be available.

Delfino Consunji commented that the (STAR System) project is a straightforward project. He noted the request for funding would allow the project to be executed promptly and it would be a nice project to have in that location of the watershed as he felt the WASC had approved projects mainly in Lakewood, Norwalk, and the City of Long Beach. The District confirmed the project received a score of 69 from the Scoring Committee.

Lisa Ann Rapp noted that Hacienda Heights is a small city and asked for the City's local return. She noted a small city may be asking for regional funds if their local return is also small, requiring many years of accumulating funds before building a project. The District indicated that the City of Hacienda Heights' estimated local return is \$168,000 annually.

Noe Negrete requested a list of all project locations to determine what is upstream or downstream as it will assist with ranking of projects. The District indicated that the location of projects is on the SCW Portal and proceeded to present where this information was located.

Joseph Gonzalez commented that the STAR System project has identified a treatment area of approximately 4 acres while most projects have an area of over 1000 acres and others 100 acres. He asked if other WASC members felt the project had a small catchment area.

##### **(2) Cerritos Sports Complex – City of Cerritos**

Kristen Ruffell commented that she felt the project has addressed the issues concerning the landfill, a concern she had from last year's presentation of the project. She noted that the project is meeting the

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Watershed Management Program (WMP) goals and is supportive of funding design only to better estimate the next phase's cost.

Lyndsey Bloxom asked if the project had any other sources of funding in future years. Mike O'Grady indicated that the project will be designed in phases and at this time they have not identified other sources of funding but will certainly seek potential leveraged funding as this is a large-scale project. Lisa Ann Rapp asked whether the request was just to fund Phase I and/or future phases and the total costs for Phase I. John Hunter indicated that the request for funding is just for Phase I which consists of the water runoff down from Bloomfield Avenue and that the second phase can be built separately from Phase I. The District provided an overview of the anticipated project construction cost allocations for the Cerritos Sports Complex in the SIP tool.

Delfino Consunji commented he thinks that this is a great regional project for the Watershed, however; that cost is a concern. He asked John Hunter to clarify if for Phase II they intended to apply for funding at a future year. John Hunter confirmed, adding that Phase I would be designed first and then they would apply for funding in the next application round for construction costs.

Joseph Gonzalez asked if the project would be mainly built underground and if the ball field would be replaced above. He also asked if the project had plans for additional improvements. John Hunter noted that the project will have additional amenities and that the picnic area will be improved with native and drought tolerant vegetation and bioswales along the bike path.

### **(3) Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Bellflower**

Lyndsey Bloxom asked if the City had any flexibility in construction funding sources for the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture (Simms) Project. Bernie Iniguez indicated that currently the project would rely on SCW program funds for the construction of the project but felt other funding sources could be obtained after completing design.

Noe Negrete asked if funding from Proposition 68 was approved for this project and if there is an overlap with the Mayfair Park project. Richard Watson indicated that they have reapplied for Proposition 68 funding and will not know the outcome until end of this summer, additionally they are looking into other sources of funding from the Caltrans Community Investment Program and a statewide stormwater bond. As for the overlap of projects, Richard Watson indicated that projects are being designed together. The Simms Project's tributary area is 750 acres which is part of the 2200 acres of tributary area for the Mayfair Park project.

Melissa You asked if Municipalities can contribute funds to complete proposed projects' construction given the WASC's limited funds.

Joseph Gonzalez commented that the Rivers Mountains Conservancy (RMC) receives Proposition 68 funding allocations and that they did not receive an application from neither the Simms nor the Mayfair project. He emphasized the bioswales and permeable parking lot would be considered competitive project features for RMC.

### **(4) Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel – City of Long Beach**

Richard Watson provided the WASC a summary of the project's funding allocations and features.

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#### **(5) Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Artesia**

John Hunter provided the WASC a summary of the project's design and benefits. Lisa Ann Rapp asked about the design and construction costs for the project. John Hunter noted that the approximate design costs are \$1.2M and construction costs are \$10M.

Dan Knapp commented that the SCW Program can play a role in the underwriting of a design phase of a project to help secure other funding streams that would fund designed and shovel-ready projects.

The District shared assumed construction costs in the SIP Tool.

#### **ii) Technical Resources Program (TRP)**

##### **(1) Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project – Los Angeles County Public Works**

Lyndsey Bloxom commented that both TRP projects are in the forebay, therefore they could achieve replenishment of groundwater resources.

Lisa Ann Rapp asked about the intent of the TRP. The District responded anyone can apply to the program that was intended to help applicants without the resources to develop a feasibility study.

Noe Negrete asked if partnerships for funding from the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASC and the City of Whittier had been confirmed and if there were additional sources of funding. Lonnie Chung indicated to have had conversation with the City of Whittier but that no additional updates could be provided. Lonnie Chung and Iwen Tseng indicated they are not seeking funding from USGR WASC because the project is located in the LSGR watershed.

##### **(2) Los Nietos Green Street Feasibility Study – Los Angeles County Public Works**

Noe Negrete commented that the Los Nietos Green Street project appears to be a roadway project rather than a stormwater capture project. Christian Duran noted that the project is a multi-benefit project, and it is intended to capture stormwater runoff by identifying locations throughout the community that are best suited for implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Low Impact Developments (LIDs).

Joseph Gonzalez commented that the Los Nietos Green Street project summary did not include a geotechnical study and requested clarification on whether the project had no potential for infiltration. The District indicated that project applicants may submit applications for TRP funding with a desktop analysis. Christian Duran indicated that geotechnical investigation, preliminary hydrology, and preliminary environmental site screening has been acquired.

Kristen Ruffell commented that the TRP projects before the WASC appear to request preliminary design and community engagement but that the TRP program is not the appropriate program for these projects. She noted that she would not rank these projects to be funded by the WASC. The District indicated that the preliminary design is not part of feasibility study requirements. Joseph Gonzalez asked if the community engagement component was part of the feasibility study. The District noted that community engagement is part of the Fund Transfer Agreement requirements but not a requirement of the project application. The project application requires an outreach/engagement plan.

#### **iii) Scientific Study (SS)**

##### **(1) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Gateway Water Management Authority**

##### **(2) Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis) – Gateway Water Management Authority**

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The WASC decided to hold off discussions until the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) independent scientific study summaries are provided for review.

#### **b) Preliminary Ranking of Projects (if needed)**

Discussion on preliminary ranking will be held on the following WASC meeting.

#### **8. Public Comment Period**

Richard Watson commented on both the Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project and Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel in that the construction costs may be stretched one more year and leveraged construction funding may be obtained.

Christopher Rochfort commented that the STAR Hacienda Park project is not confined to the park, but it extends beyond the park to include surrounding roads which are a high source of pollutants for the region. He added the project is being set up as a functional educational project.

Fernando Villaluna, LA County Public Works, clarified they felt the requested scope qualifies within the TRP parameters and helps determine the projects' feasibility.

#### **9. Items for Next Agenda**

Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan

#### **10. Adjournment**

Lisa Ann Rapp thanked WASC Members, project presenters, and the public for their participation and 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 3/9 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		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	Y
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	Wataru Kumagai		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)	15
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved

**Attendance**  
**LSGR WASC - April 13, 2021**

Adam Galia	Kevin Kim (LACFCD)
Alex Rojas	Konya Vivanti
Aric Torreyson	Kristen Ruffell
Bernie Iniguez	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Bonnie Temple	Lisa Rapp
Bryce Lee	Lonnie Chung
Cecilia Salazar	Lyndsey Bloxom
Christopher Rochfort	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Cristian Duran - LA County Public Works	Marlin Munoz
Dan Knapp	Melanie Morita -LACFCD
Delfino Consunji	MELISSA YOU
Denise Dolor	Meredith Reynolds
Elisha Back	Michelle Kim
Fernando Villaluna	Michelle Hoalton
Grace Kast	Mike O'Grady
I EC	Nadja Swihart
Iwen Tseng	Noe Negrete
Jacqueline Mak	Oliver Galang, Craftwater DVBE
Jeremy Melendez	Richard Watson
john hunter	Robert Gomez
Joseph Gonzalez	Tanya Sullivan
Julian Juarez	Tori Klug (Stantec)
Kala Anderson	Traci Gleason
katie m	Vicki Smith
Kekoa Anderson	Wataru Kumagai