

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Rio Hondo

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday, March 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)

David Dolphin (Alhambra)

Vanessa Hevener (Arcadia)

Mark Lombos (LA County) Sean Sullivan\* (Monrovia)

Frank Lopez (Monterey Park)

Kris Markarian (Pasadena Public Works)

James Carlson (Sierra Madre)

##### Committee Members Not Present:

Michael Hurley (Cal Water)

Daniel Rossman (The Wilderness Society)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Tom Love, 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. All committee members made self-introductions and with a majority present, quorum was established.

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021**

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Tom Love asked the Committee members for comments or revisions.

Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve the minutes. David Dolphin seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 16, 2021. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: The interactive Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) tool is in beta version and available on the SCW Program website. Regarding Municipal Fund Transfer Agreements, over 50% of Cities have received their funds. Annual plans for FY2021-2022 are due in April

# Safe, Clean Water Program

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---



2021. The Regional program received 38 out of 48 scopes of work and executed 14 out of 48 agreements received.

Partial funding guidelines have been released and will give the WASC flexibility to fund portions of a project. The plan is to have all WASCs finalize their SIPs by end of May. Due to this, there is a possibility to need to have additional RH WASC meetings to meet the May SIP timeline.

With regards to the Watershed Coordinators (WC), WCs are submitting their Letters of Intent and insurance documents to execute contracts. For the RH WASC's WC, Richard Watson & Associates, they have received their contract and are working on the required documentation.

Regarding Technical Resources Program (TRP) project concepts the District has advanced with notice to proceed 13 TRPs. The District did note that the Call for Projects' deadline is July 31, 2021 and that concept approvals need to be submitted two months in advance for District review.

Finally, tax relief applications are due May 1, 2021 for Low Income Senior-Owned (LISO) and General Income Based Tax Relief (GIBTR). Deadline will remain the same every year (5/1).

#### **4. Ex Parte Communications Disclosures**

Tom Love noted to have provided status updates to Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors and to the Board of Directors' Committee Meetings.

Julian Juarez noted to have had a brief conversation with the project proponents on one of the projects being discussed today.

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

#### **6. Discussion Items**

##### **a) Infrastructure Program Presentations**

##### **i) East Los Angeles College Northeast Drainage Area and City of Monterey Park Biofiltration Project.**

The project integrates biofiltration systems into existing landscaped planters in the northeast part of ELAC campus and ELAC Transit Center.

Mark Lombos asked if the Project captured any drainage from outside the school property. Daniel Apt indicated that there is some drainage from City of Monterey's right of way but most of the drainage is from school property.

##### **ii) Alhambra Wash Dry-Weather Diversion.**

The multi-benefit Project will divert and treat dry-weather runoff from Alhambra Wash upstream of Rio Hondo to address bacteria.

Mark Hall asked if the Project collected 100% of the dry weather flow and if the rubber dam could potentially breed mosquitos. Katie Harrel indicated that water will not be stored, and they have coordinated with Vector Control.

Thomas Wong asked if there were SGV Greenway integrations to biking and pedestrian activities. Katie

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---



Harrel indicated that integrations have not been explored and that they would be reviewed during the design process for potential opportunities. Thomas Wong also asked if the biofiltration system would shut off during rain events. Katie Harrel noted that the biofiltration system would shut off during a rain event to allow for flow.

Julian Juarez commented that the channel is part of the SGV Greenway and that the WASC should know if a bikeway would be included before they vote. He urged the project proponents and the WASC to allow his team at LACFD to review the feasibility of the design prior to a vote. Katie Harrel noted that the 30% design plans have been submitted to LACFD for preliminary review and they are aware of their maintenance responsibility. She also noted that the Project has not gone through conceptual design review or submission process. Mark Lombos indicated that the County is partnered with the Project and they would be open to further discussions with LAFCD.

Kristen Ruffell asked if the LAFCD plans for relief drains would circumvent this Project. Julian Juarez stated that there are no conceptual plans for the relief drains but they are planning to do hydraulic analysis.

#### **iii) Eaton Wash Dry-Weather Diversion.**

The multi-benefit Project will divert and treat dry-weather runoff from Eaton Wash upstream of Rio Hondo to address bacteria.

Kristen Ruffell commented that the operation and maintenance costs for the Projects are higher than the sanitary sewer costs and that the WASC would like to see a comparison in the future.

Julian Juarez noted that the project proponents should allow LACFD to review the feasibility of the design. He commented that offline storage might be the best option even if it is more expensive due to operation and maintenance concerns.

Mark Hall mentioned that the type of dams used in this Project typically experience more flow impediments and asked if there were any other options besides inline storage for the water. Katie Harrel indicated that the Project could potentially be reconfigured, but that inline storage is the most economical. Mark hall noted concern due to water back up. He noted that the rubber dam being inflated would potentially impede that particular district from driving within the channel for inspections. Katie Harrel said that since they are in design, they will coordinate with the Vector Control District and discuss the driving access concerns.

Julian Juarez also noted that he shares Marks Hall's concern with access constraints for maintenance and that offline storage might be a better alternative.

#### **iv) Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project**

Project employs pervious surfaces, trees, & LID elements to enhance drainage, water quality and augment water supply through infiltration.

No questions from the Committee.

#### **Public Comment Period**

Thuan Nguyen (LA County) commented that they have been coordinating on the low flow diversion projects presented by Katie Harrel and confirmed that they have had meetings with LACFD.

Richard Watson commented that Watershed Coordinator paperwork is just about complete.

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Rio Hondo

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Bryan Matsumoto from Nature for All commented that Projects should consider integration with SGV Greenways.

#### **7. Items for next agenda**

Infrastructure Program Presentations (3) and Scientific Study Presentations (2)

#### **8. Adjournment**

The Committee agreed to extend the meeting time on April 20, 2021 to 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM to allow time for presentations. Tom Love thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.



Attendance  
RH WASC - March 16, 2021

Safe Clean Water LA	Katie Ward
Jason Casanova	Brad Parks
TJ Moon	David Dolphin
Julie Millett	Katie Harrel
Kelly Gardner	Tom Love
Oliver Galang (Craftwater)	Kevin Chang
Ariella Dahlin	Thomas Wong
Mary Ann Breckell	Kirk Allen
Dawn Petschauer	Joshua Felton
Carlos Moran	Daniel Apt
Vanessa Hevener	Joe Venzon - LA County
Kris Markarian	Brent Maue
Alex Tachiki	Melanie Morita - LACFCD
Alysha Chan	Mike Antos
Thuan Nguyen	Mark Lombos
Bryan Matsumoto	Fernando Villaluna
Sean Sullivan - City of Monrovia	Krsiten Ruffell
Julian Juarez	Mark Hall
Vik Bapna - CWE	Sean Sullivan
Richard Watson	James Carlson
Frank Lopez	Stephanie Tong (LACFCD)
claire robinson	Maritsa DRA Inc.
katie m	James Carlson
Kevin Kim -LACFCD	