

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, March 25, 2021

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Sean Woods* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)

Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)

Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)

Ed Reyes (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)

David Diaz (Active SGV)

John Beshay (Baldwin Park)

Kevin Kearney* (Bradbury)

Alison Sweet (Glendora)

Joshua Nelson (Industry)

Fernando Villaluna* (LA County)

Julie Carver (Pomona)

Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)

Committee Members Not Present:

Bryan Urias (Former USGVMWD Board Member)

*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 functions and the public comment process. Kevin Kim (District) conducted roll call, and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 25, 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 motioned to approve the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes. Lisa O'Brien seconded the motion.

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

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: The beta version of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Tool can be accessed on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.

The Annual Plan page on the SCWP website under the Municipalities displays Annual Plans that have been submitted and approved. Regarding Municipal Transfer Agreements (TA), the District has requested municipalities submit their Annual Plans for fiscal year 2021-22 by April.

The Regional Program has executed 14 out of 48 TAs with scopes of work. Partial Funding Guidelines are available on the SCWP website. WASCs are encouraged to finalize their SIPs by the end of May.

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Watershed Coordinators (WC) are continuing with the onboarding process and working with the District's Business Relations and Contracts Division. The Technical Resources Program issued Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for the MacLaren Hall Property Park and Sports Fields Project and Glendora Avenue Green Street feasibility studies. The The Nature Conservancy and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments/Accelerate Resilience L.A. have withdrawn their Scientific Study applications. The Call for Projects remains July 31st, 2021 and if a District conceptual approval letter is needed, the District requested applicants engage early.

Scientific Study summaries from Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) will be available soon.

Tax relief options are available for low-income, senior-owned properties, as well as general income-based tax reductions and are listed on the SCW program website due May 1, 2021. Also, there is a tax credit program for property owners who have invested in stormwater management infrastructure on their property.

Ed Reyes asked how the remaining, unallocated WASC budget will affect the Watershed Coordinators (WC) scope. The District indicated that the Watershed Coordinators (WC) have a \$200,000 budget and are required to draft a work plan to be submitted after their contract has been executed. The WC will outline the planned scope and a strategic outreach and engagement plan.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No ex parte communication disclosures

5. Public Comment Period

Dena Florez, a Bassett Unified School District Board Member, asked if there was an update on the Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit project. Fernando Villaluna responded that they submitted a Proposition 68 grant application to solicit funds for the community park and that they should hear back in a few months. He also shared the Project's survey website will have future updates on this project.

6. Discussion Items:

a) Infrastructure Program Presentations

i) Zamora Park Renovation Project – City of El Monte

Presentation by Ed Suher. Renovation of a 4.48-acre public park to remove all deteriorated recreation features and create new amenities, including LID elements.

Joshua Nelson asked if there was anything that needed to be pointed out from the amended application submitted to the WASC for review. Ed Suher highlighted the additional community engagement information included in the meeting resources for WASC review.

Fernando Villaluna asked if the subterranean infiltration basin that captures wet weather accepts off site flows. Ed Suher responded that the basin only captures flows within the bounds of the park.

Debbie Enos asked if the project was proposing a combination of bioswale and splash pad. Ed Suher and Edna Robidas responded that they are separate features and that the splash pad would recirculate water.

ii) Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Glendora

Presentation by Alison Sweet and Oliver Galang. Regional stormwater capture and infiltration

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facility located at Finkbiner Park beneath the open space of the existing park surface.

Debbie Enos asked about water supply and water quality benefits given last year's discussion on water supply opportunities in the watershed area and if there is a defined flood risk at this location. Oliver Galang responded this is primarily a water quality Project and that the water quality and water supply benefits work together. In response to the flood control, Oliver Galang noted that there would be marginal reductions to the flow in the channel during rain events due to the Project.

Kelly Gardner asked if the Project was planning to use the captured water to offset potable water use for irrigation at the park site. She also asked if the system will be operable during dry seasons since the system is designed for wet weather. Oliver Galang replied that there is an opportunity to use captured water for irrigation and that it will be addressed during the design process. He also indicated that although the Project is designed for wet weather, it will still capture dry weather flows because it is designed as a gravity system. He also noted maintenance would include cleaning the hydrodynamic separator and inlet.

Julian Juarez asked if there were any differences between their application from last year and the current year. Oliver Galang responded that the application is the same and they resubmitted with a focus on optimizing the design of the project while pursuing other construction funding sources. They discussed optimizing water quality and water supply benefits to decrease Project costs. Alison Sweet commented that the City of Glendora must comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permitting and that the Project would assist with their compliance.

b) Scientific Study Presentation

i) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Gateway Water Management Authority Presentation by Richard Watson. The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health.

Debbie Enos asked if this project could inform the efforts in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River instead being separate projects. Richard Watson responded that he was unaware of that study and would need to do more investigation to see if the opportunity exists.

Tom Love asked how the cost estimates were derived. Richard Watson responded that they worked with consultants to determine the cost of sampling and that testing of the non-standard DNA markers is causing more expensive lab work. Richard Watson also noted that costs have been reduced as much as possible and that it would be split between 8 of the 9 WASCs. Richard Watson justified the sampling costs noting the costs of projects addressing water quality using fecal indicator bacteria would be prohibitive.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Discussions and votes for Stormwater Improvement Plans for the next meetings

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 2/25 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		
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos	X	Jane Tsong		Y
Community Stakeholder	Ed P. Reyes & Associates	Ed Reyes	X	Miguel Luna		Y
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y
Municipal Members	Baldwin Park	John Beshay	X	Mark Persico		
Municipal Members	Duarte	Amanda Hamilton		Kevin Kearney	X	
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)	14
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendance
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Alexander Iglesias - SCWP	Julie Carver
Algis Marciuska	katie m
Alison Sweet	Kelly Gardner
Andrea Ampig	Kevin Kearney
Bob Huff	Kevin Kim (LACFCD)
Carlos Moran	Kristen Ruffell
David Diaz	Lauren Marshall
Debbie Enos	Lauro Alvarado
Dena Florez	Lisa O'Brien
Ed Suher, CASC	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Ed Reyes	Merrill Taylor
Edna Robidas	miguel luna
Elizabeth Ruedas	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Eve Flores	Paul Glenn (GHD)
Fabian Aoun	Richard Watson
Fernando Villaluna	Ryan Kearns - CWE
Hugo Garcia	Sean Woods
I EC	Sharon Gallant
James Cramsie	Stephanie Tong
Jan Dyer	Thom Epps
John Mendoza	Tom Love
John Beshay	Tori Klug
Joshua Nelson	youssef chebabi
Julian Juarez	