

# Safe, Clean Water Program

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



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### **Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

### **Attendees**

#### Committee Members Present:

Ramy Gindi* (LA County Flood Control District)	Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)
Jeremy Melendez* (Central Basin)	Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)	Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)
Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)
Adam Galia (Resident)	Marlin Munoz* (Santa Fe Springs)
Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)	Vicki Smith (Whittier)

#### Committee Members Not Present:

None.

\*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 April 13, 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 the minutes, and Jeremy Melendez seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from April 13, 2021 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet.)

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

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: the Call for Projects round 3 webinars are anticipated for late May and early June. The details will be posted online and sent via eblast. Project applicants should initiate the Flood Control District (FCD) conceptual approval process by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 months prior to the Call for Projects deadline. For the LSGR watershed area, project applicants may contact Julian Juarez, the FCD Watershed Manager, to initiate the process. The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) has completed their review of the submitted Scientific Studies for this WASC and the reports were sent to the committee members. The reporting module is live and informational sessions are scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>. The informational session recording will be shared online once available.

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Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WCs), a contract has been executed with OhanaVets Inc. for the LSGR WASC. The District noted that execution of WC agreements is ongoing with 6 out of 12 WC agreements executed.

The committee and the District clarified the FCD conceptual approval process and confirmed the deadline for the round 3 Call for Projects is July 31, 2021.

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

OhanaVets' Grace Kast provided a status update on contracting, the work plan, and next steps with the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. Grace Kast noted that she would like to engage with the WASC members in the coming weeks to generate discussion and develop a more robust stakeholder contact list in compliance with Brown Act. At the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, OhanaVets intends to share an outline of the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan for initial input and have the WASC approve the plan at the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

None.

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

None.

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

- a) Summary of Scientific Studies from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
- i) [Regional Pathogen Reduction Study](#)

Lisa Rapp reviewed the Summary from SCCWRP for the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study and called upon Richard Watson to respond. Richard Watson noted that the study is intentionally not fully prescriptive to allow input from the stakeholder committee and technical advisory committee.

Joseph Gonzalez asked if the study would clarify the location of the monitoring sites, if there was a threshold number of WASCs needed to approve the study, and WASC involvement in the stakeholder committee. Richard Watson confirmed that the stakeholder committee would include WASC members. He stated that the monitoring sites would be selected by the project team and reviewed and approved by the stakeholder committee. The study can be scaled based on WASC approvals, but they are hoping for approval from at least 5 WASCs.

Richard Watson clarified that the funding request was distributed over 5 years, but they may be able to reduce the request to include only the first year, if appropriate.

- ii) [Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis \(GAP Analysis\)](#)

Lisa Rapp reviewed the Summary from SCCWRP for the Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis and called upon Brad Wardynski to respond. Brad Wardynski noted that in this first phase, the WASC will be closely involved in identifying focus areas. The study will use the best available calibrated watershed models used for the watershed management programs. The criteria used to evaluate each project will be based

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on a site-specific evaluation. The Study team intends to interact with the Watershed Coordinator as the primary liaison between the broader stakeholder groups and conduct targeted outreach.

Joseph Gonzalez noted that the cost is fairly low and competitive and asked about coordination with the Watershed Coordinators. Brad noted that they will leverage the Watershed Coordinators as a resource to consider additional potential projects. The study may also benefit Watershed Coordinators in identifying areas of need.

Brad Wardynski clarified that the GAP Analysis was a jointly proposed study for the LSGR and LLAR WASCs, but it does not rely on funding from either of the WASCs. There may be future phases to expand the work, but current request is for year one only.

Kristen Ruffell noted that these dollars compete with Infrastructure Program funds and that a number of the Infrastructure Program projects are in the design phase and will need additional funding for construction. She recommended waiting to see the results of a similar effort funded in the Rio Hondo watershed and reconsidering the GAP Analysis in future years.

## b) Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit Validation

During submittal, Project applicants had to opportunity to identify benefits provided to Disadvantaged Communities. The WASC has the discretion to modify the Disadvantaged Community benefit designation, if needed.

Dan Knapp asked for guidance and consistency across the WASCs. Lisa Rapp and the District clarified that this is a topic of discussion at the Regional Oversight Committee meetings, but specific guidance has not been provided at this time. The District displayed the GIS reference map highlighting the project locations and Disadvantaged Community boundaries.

No amendments were requested.

## c) Confirm Fiscal Year 2020-21 Requests

None of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Project developers noted any changes to their future funding requests.

## d) Review Preliminary Ranking of Projects

The District displayed the results of the Preliminary Ranking of Projects

Program	Project Name	Score	Program Place	Overall Place
IP	Cerritos Sports Complex	127	1	1
IP	Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture	107	2	2
IP	Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project	103	3	3
IP	Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel	99	4	4
TRP	Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater C	68	1	5
IP	Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System (S	64	5	6

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TRP	Los Nietos Green Street Feasibility Stud	47	2	7
SS	Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP A)	42	1	8
SS	Regional Pathogen Reduction Study	24	2	9

- e) 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](#))
  - i) Infrastructure Program (IP)
    - (1) [Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System \(STAR System\) Hacienda Park](#) – City of La Habra Heights
    - (2) [Cerritos Sports Complex](#) – City of Cerritos
    - (3) [Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project](#) – City of Bellflower
    - (4) [Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel](#) – City Long Beach
    - (5) [Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project](#) – City of Artesia
  - ii) Technical Resources Program (TRP)
    - (1) [Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project](#) – Los Angeles County Public Works
    - (2) [Los Nietos Green Street Feasibility Study](#) – Los Angeles County Public Works
    - (3) Watershed Coordinator
  - iii) Scientific Study (SS)
    - (1) [Regional Pathogen Reduction Study](#) – Gateway Water Management Authority
    - (2) [Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis \(GAP Analysis\)](#) – Gateway Water Management Authority

Lisa Rapp asked why the County is proposing the two TRP projects rather than using their municipal funds to develop the Feasibility Study. Fernando Villaluna stated that with so many projects throughout the region, funding cutbacks from the pandemic, and limited funding in the general fund, the County determined that providing matching funds for regional projects was the best use of the municipal funds. Therefore, Fernando Villaluna stated that pursuing TRP funding was the best option to further develop these projects.

Joseph Gonzales stated that he liked both TRP projects, but that they are similar and located close to one another. He also noted the importance of moving forward with planning and evaluating projects annually as they are ready to implement.

Lisa requested to view the top 3 ranked projects as requested and assuming construction costs included.

Lyndsey Bloxom asked how realistic the funding requests are. Lisa Rapp noted projects almost never go as fast as planned but if the WASC decides to provide design funds for all the projects that have requested them, there is an opportunity for the applicants to identify leveraged funds and provide a more accurate schedule and cost estimate. Lyndsey Bloxom supported funding design and is hopeful that funds will be more spread out over time. The District also confirmed that funds can be expended within 5 years of allocation.

Lisa requested to view a scenario with 4 IPs, 1 SS, and 1 TRP as requested.

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Lisa recalled the committees concerns that the STAR System Hacienda Park project was a local rather than regional project but was relatively low cost. Mike O’Grady noted that it would take the city several years to fund the project using municipal funds and would be interested in partially funding the project if the city were to provide matching funds. Kristen Ruffell noted that the WASC will need to provide benefits proportional to the funds collected within the city over a 5-year period, which may be a reasonable formula for determining partial funding amount. Vicki Smith noted that the city used municipal funds to complete the feasibility study.

Delfino Consunji suggested budgeting for projects assuming construction follows the proposed schedule and if there are delays in later years, the WASC could then consider funding additional projects. Lisa noted that funding design now gives applicants a better opportunity to compete for other funding sources. Delfino asked about opportunities for leveraged funds. Lisa noted Caltrans and other federal funding sources.

Kristen noted that the WASC will need to consider how dollars are spread throughout the communities to provide municipal benefits, but the process is complex, and the tools are not yet available.

Dan Knapp noted that the WASC should not look at SCW as the only funding stream for Projects and that it may be okay to fund design only. The District added that one of the roles of the Watershed Coordinator is to help identify leverage funding options.

Mike O’Grady noted that with so many projects designed, the WASC will run out of funds quickly when they move into construction. But the purpose of the GAP analysis is to prioritize projects within the Lower San Gabriel River and Los Cerritos Channel. So, he is a proponent of funding the GAP Analysis.

## 8. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson noted that they will likely not initiate construction on the Heartwell Park and Bellflower Simms Park Projects at the same time. He also confirmed that Caltrans will continue their grant program. He noted that the Heartwell Park project is located in Long Beach, but only 0.5% of the Project’s tributary area is in the city of Long Beach and stressed the importance of looking at tributary area and not Project location. He is also interested in the technology for the STAR System Hacienda Park project and views it as a pilot project.

## 9. Voting Items

- a) Validate DAC Benefit for Fiscal Year 2021-22 LSGR IP Projects (if needed)

N/A

## 10. Items for Next Agenda

Approve the final Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the LSGR Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.

Lisa Rapp also requested the District provide information about the distribution of municipal benefits.

## 11. Adjournment

Lisa Ann Rapp thanked WASC Members, project presenters, and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

**LSGR WASC - April 27, 2021**

		Quorum Present				Voting Item (see meeting minutes for additional details)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve 4/13 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez		Ramy Gindi	X	Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Jeremy Melendez	X	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	X			
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		Marlin Munoz	X	Y
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	X	Kyle Cason		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	15
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved

**Attendance**  
**LSGR WASC - April 27, 2021**

Adam Galia	konya Vivanti
Alexander Iglesias - SCWP	Kristen Ruffell
Bernie Iniguez	Larry Tortuya - CWE
Brad Wardynski	Lisa Rapp
Bryce Lee	Lonnie Chung
Cecilia Salazar	Lyndsey Bloxom
Cristian Duran	Marlin Munoz
Dan Knapp	Melanie Morita-LACFCD
Delfino Consunji	MELISSA YOU
Elizabeth Lambe	Meredith Reynolds
Fernando Villaluna	Michelle Kim
Gabrielle Weeks	Mike O'Grady
glen kau	Nadja Swihart
Grace Kast	Natalie Rivera
I EC	Paul Glenn (GHD)
Iwen Tseng	Ramy Gindi (A)
Jeremy Melendez	Richard Watson
john hunter	Robert Gomez
Joseph Gonzalez	Safe Clean Water LA
Kala Anderson	Tori Klug (Stantec)
katie m	Traci Gleason
Kevin Kim - LACFCD	Vicki Smith
Kirk Allen	