

Safe, Clean Water Program

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, May 4, 2021
2:00pm - 4:00pm
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)
James Tong* (City of Pasadena Parks and Recreation)
Thomas Wong (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

Mark Hall (Greater LA County Vector Control District)
Daniel Rossman (The Wilderness Society)
Latoya Waters* (Alhambra)
Vanessa Hevener (Arcadia)
Fernando Villaluna (LA County)
Gloria Crudgington (Monrovia)
Frank Lopez (Monterey Park)
Kris Markarian (Pasadena Public Works)
James Carlson (Sierra Madre)

Committee Members Not Present:

*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 April 20, 2021

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

Gloria Crudgington motioned to approve the minutes. Kristen Ruffell seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from April 20, 2021. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: The deadline for Round 3 Call for Projects is July 31, 2021. The District anticipates hosting 2 information sessions at the end of May and early June. An email blast and the SCW website will be updated with meeting details. The District requests that project applicants initiate the conceptual approval letter process with their local Watershed managers no later than May 31, 2021.

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Regarding Scientific Summaries from SCCWRP, the District emailed two Scientific Study summaries to the Committee Members on May 3, 2021.

The SCW Program reporting module is now available online. Quarterly reports are due by May 15, 2021. The District held informational sessions on April 28th and April 29th. The video recording along with FAQ will be posted on the SCW Program website.

With regards to the Watershed Coordinators (WC), 6 out of 12 contracts have been executed. Mike Antos from Stantec will continue as the Regional Coordinator. Public Works are currently in the process of onboarding the remaining WCs.

The District noted that the Nature-based Solutions (NBS) programming guidelines are available on the SCW Program website. The guidelines are intended to establish a shared vocabulary, provide guidance to the WASCs on how to prioritize NBS when evaluating projects and clarify how project developers/applicants can and should support the SCW program goals of prioritizing NBS.

4. Ex Parte Communications Disclosures

Tom Love noted to have provided a written update to the Upper District Board on the status of the RH and USGR WASC.

Frank Lopez noted to have had communications with East Los Angeles College as they are coordinating on a Project.

5. Public Comment Period

No public comment

6. Discussion Items

a) Rio Hondo (RH) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & RH Scoring Rubric)

i) Infrastructure Program (IP)

- (1) Mt. Lowe Median Stormwater Capture Project (Los Angeles County)
- (2) Merced Ave Greenway (Phase I – South Residential Corridor) (City of South El Monte)
- (3) East Los Angeles College Northeast Drainage Area and City of Monterey Park Biofiltration Project (East Los Angeles College/Build LACCD)
- (4) Alhambra Wash Dry-Weather Diversion (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG))
- (5) Eaton Wash Dry-Weather Diversion (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG))
- (6) Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project (Amigos de los Rios (AdIR))
- (7) Rubio Wash Dry-Weather Diversion (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG))
- (8) Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project (City of Monrovia)

ii) Technical Resources Program (TRP)

- (1) Washington Park Stormwater Capture Project (City of Pasadena)

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- (2) Sierra Madre Boulevard Green Street Stormwater Capture Project (City of Pasadena)
- (3) South El Monte High School Project (Lena Luna)

iii) Scientific Study (SS)

- (1) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study (Gateway Water Management Authority)
- (2) Fire Effects Study in the ULAR Watershed Management Area (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments)

Thomas Wong commented that he will prioritize projects that integrate physical elements of stormwater capture, Community Engagement and Community Benefits. He asked if the estimated Annual Budget of \$11.5M would be increased. The District replied that \$11.5M is the current estimate and that it should not vary much.

Mike Antos, the District, and Kristen Ruffell provided feedback on how to evaluate projects for funding approval.

Tom Love further commented that the WASC may want to consider and ask the project applicants if any of the projects can be accelerated if they received more funding in the earlier years.

Daniel Rossman asked if applicants provided supplemental information regarding questions from Committee Members. He also commented that outreach efforts from the Watershed Coordinator should increase applications. He agreed that analysis of Community Benefits is important.

Kristen Ruffell commented that other WASC are considering secondary scenarios of what would be program if the projects included their construction funding. This information would be helpful to decide what projects to fund this year, because it would become critical to decide which projects the WASC wants to see through all the way through construction.

Kelly Gardner noted that if the RH WASC were to fund all the projects presented, the WASC would still have funding to be rolled over. The district responded that a scenario considering the constructions cost which are not being included in the current request can be shown to see what it would do to the stormwater investment plan in future years.

Gloria Crudgington asked about the process of monitoring disbursement of funds to projects that claim DAC benefits. The District indicated that they are working on ways to calculate Municipal benefits. Kristen Ruffell suggested that Municipal benefits be evaluated based on their MOU with their Watershed.

Richard Watson responded to comments in the SCCWRP scientific summary on the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. He noted that the lack of detail was intentional to allow for stakeholder input.

Gloria Crudgington asked if the study would help identify leaky lateral sewer lines to allow for more focused repairs. Richard Watson expressed that leaking lateral lines could be the culprit based on earlier studies and that they will be working with multiple agencies to focus on the sources of pathogens.

James Carlson asked Richard if he could remind the RH WASC which WASC are being approached for funding on this study. Richard Watson noted that 8 out of 9 WASCs, excluding NSMB, have been approached for funding this study. Mark Hall asked about the location of monitoring stations. Richard Watson replied that the technical advisory committee will select those after the study is funded.

Dawn Petschauer, City of LA, commented on the Fire Effects Study design and monitoring portion of their

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application. She mentioned that there is currently no fire modeling and that this would be a first of its kind model.

b) Preliminary Ranking of Projects (if needed)

The Committee Members will be emailed a link to complete preliminary rankings prior to the next meeting.

7. Public Comment Period

Bryan Matsumoto commented on behalf of Nature for All and OurWaterLA Coalition and indicated that they would be drafting a letter to the WASC with their project recommendations prior to the next meeting. In the letter they are looking at water capturing quality benefits as well as substantial community benefits including urban green, DAC benefits, and work force which is also part of the measure W promised to voters.

Claire Robinson commented in favor of the Plymouth School Project.

8. Items for next agenda

- a) Preliminary Ranking of Projects
- b) Vote on Stormwater Investment Plan (if needed)

9. Adjournment

The next meeting will be May 18, 2021 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Tom Love thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.

Attendance
RH WASC - May 4, 2021

Clarasophia Gust	Rodrigo Pelayo
Mark Daniel	Daniel Apt
vanessa hevener	Tom Love
Stephanie Tong - LACFCD	Bryan Matsumoto
Brianna Datti	Brenda Stevens
Kevin Chang	Kevin Kim -LACFCD
Thuan Nguyen	claire robinson
Mark Hall	Jason Casanova
Matt Rich	Fernando Villaluna
Frank Lopez	Latoya Waters
Eddie Chan	Thomas Wong
Melissa Wetzel	Joshua Felton
Mike Antos	Mary Ann Breckell
Dawn Petschauer	Jason Fussel
James Tong	Michael Lewis
Kirk Allen	Daniel Rossman
Enrique Baul	Okan Demirci
Kris Markarian	Michelle Kim
Ruby Wang	katie m
Vik Bapna - CWE	Carlos Moran
Maritsa DRA Inc.	Kelly Gardner
Katie Ward	Julian J
Lena Luna	Joe Venzon - LA County
Gloria Crudgington	Katie Harrel
Kristen Ruffell	Jalaine Verdiner
Melanie Morita - LACFCD	Alex Tachiki
Brad Parks	Richard Watson
James Carlson	