

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, April 1, 2021

10:00am – 12:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Martha Tremblay* (LA County - Sanitation)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)
Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Julian Juarez (District)
Steve Cole (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)
Oliver Cramer* (Santa Clarita)
David Peterson* (Santa Clarita)

Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)
Jason Gibbs (Santa Clarita)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)
Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)
Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)
Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Jason Gibbs, Chair of the Santa Clara River WASC, called the meeting to order.

Mr. CJ Caluag of the District asked for a roll call of WASC members, and with a majority present, quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 4th, 2021

The District uploaded a copy of the meeting minutes from the March 4th meeting, and Mr. Gibbs asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Sandra Cattell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, with Mr. Steve Cole seconding this motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes (Approved, See vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Mr. Gibbs asked if any Committee members had any updates to provide.

Mr. Caluag provided the District updates, starting with Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) planning tool. As mentioned at the previous meeting, Mr. Caluag reminded all attendees that an interactive web-based SIP planning tool has been developed and while it has not been officially finalized, it is now available in beta mode. Mr. Caluag gave a brief demonstration of the SIP tool, and asked the Committee members to spend some time playing with the SIP tool to familiarize themselves with the tool, with the goal of utilizing the tool to execute the SIP programming for each Watershed Area (WA) by May. Ms. Sandra Cattell commented

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that the SIP tool font size on the screen was small and requested that the font size be increased for future SIP tool uses, with Mr. Caluag noting the comment. Ms. Cattell also stated that the Committee members should all have maps of all tributaries, and Mr. Jon Abelson of Stantec responded that its firm will look into obtaining files from Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service to add to its GIS mapping interface.

Mr. Caluag gave a brief overview on the Partial Funding guidelines, stating that an email was sent out to various SCW stakeholders. WASCs can now award partial funds to an Infrastructure Program applicant, which must demonstrate that the project can fulfill the entire scope utilizing other funding sources, or fund a specific project phase but not the entire project request. Awarding of partial funding should not result in any reduction of scope, project benefits, or score assigned. Mr. Gibbs asked that if an applicant proceeds with partial funding with the understanding that the applicant needs to secure funding elsewhere, what ramifications does the applicant face if it cannot secure funding elsewhere. Mr. Caluag responded that there are certain aspects of the fund Transfer Agreement (TA) that the applicant would need to abide by, such as securing other funding not awarded by the SCW Program, including specifically identifying the funding source(s).

In regards to the Scientific Studies, Mr. Caluag stated that previously the District had indicated it would be working with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to provide an independent scientific analysis and review of every scientific study submission in year 2. The summaries should be available by the next WASC meeting.

Mr. Caluag provided an update on the Technical Resources Program (TRP), with Mr. Caluag stating that 14 TRPs from the Round 1 approved SIP funding recently were issued a Notice-to-Proceed (NTP). There were no TRPs in this particular WASC from the Round 1 funding term.

For a general timeline of SCW efforts, each WASC is expected to approve its SIP in May, with the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to review each SIP in June and either approve each SIP for L.A. County Board of Supervisors (BoS) approval consideration or return a SIP(s) with comments/revisions. Mr. Caluag went over the available Resources on the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) website, starting with the Call for Projects Round 3 having a current deadline of July 31st. As a reminder to project applicants, the District needs at least two months to review a Project Concept and provide its approval, meaning a May 31st target deadline to submit this request. The SCW website includes tax reduction and credit programs available for Low-income and Senior property owners, with a May 1st deadline. There is more information on the tax reduction and credit program on the SCWP website found at <https://safecleanwaterla.org/resources/tools/>.

Regarding the Watershed Coordinator (WC) selection process. There are currently four WC contracts fully executed out of the 12 WC positions. The remaining WCs are working on providing their insurance requirements, and their work plans, with WC contract execution expected in the coming weeks.

Ms. Cattell stated that she was under the impression that the Round 1 SIP approved funded projects, Newhall Park and Hasley Canyon Park, would be conducting community engagement as the projects had not conducted any community outreach at the time of funding approval consideration. Ms. Cattell asked each of these project applicants when they plan to conduct community outreach and that the WASC members be notified. Mr. Caluag stated that each fund TA requires each project to conduct community outreach, and as a reminder, each project applicant will need to provide a quarterly update which should include any updates on community outreach. Mr. Darin Seegmiller stated that the City of Santa Clarita will conduct community outreach as part of the design phase, but that the City at this time has not received the funds for Year 1 but will be using the funds in the next fiscal year to conduct its outreach for this project. Mr. Peter Massey of TreePeople, Inc. stated that he is aware that there is a Hasley Canyon community outreach meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 15th, and can follow up with L.A. County Public Works staff to have this information sent to the Safe, Clean Water staff for distribution.

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4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no Ex Parte communication disclosures provided during this part of the meeting agenda.

5. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments provided during this part of the meeting agenda.

6. Discussion Items:

a) Summary of projects and studies submitted for Santa Clara River WASC for consideration ([SCW Portal](#))

Mr. Caluag referred to the SCW Portal, which includes all the projects submitted for the 9 WAs. In the SCW Portal map, Mr. Caluag demonstrated the feature function filters by WA and stated that after this meeting, District staff will send an e-mail to the Committee to review these applications to further discuss the projects during the SIP deliberations. For Round 2 SIP consideration, this WASC has one TRP study for Via Princessa and 1 scientific study project, the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study.

Regarding the SIP tool, Mr. Caluag went over the SIP budget table showing what was approved for Year 1 and the earmarked amounts for subsequent years, illustrating the allocated amounts, remaining balances and percent allocated per fiscal year (FY). At the next WASC meeting on May 6th, the WASC will have an organic discussion and allow the public to comment before commencing the SIP deliberations. Any altered funding allocations per FY will need to have approval from the project applicant. Earmarked allocations from Round 1 can also be altered per FY.

For the next WASC meeting, Mr. Gibbs asked if the District could work with City staff to have the next meeting be physically held at the City Council Chambers while following COVID protocols but avoiding any technical difficulties. Mr. Caluag stated that the meeting will likely need to be a hybrid of sorts, meaning both in-person and virtually. Mr. Steve Cole supported the hybrid meeting approach, while Ms. Cattell and Ms. Diane Erskine-Hellrigel supported for in-person meeting. Mr. Gibbs stated that after today's meeting, he will coordinate with City staff to see if the room is available for the next meeting while providing for any remote needs for those that cannot attend in-person.

Mr. Dirk Marks stated that for the Via Princessa TRP application, there are several references in the application to the Saugus Formation and that it should instead be referring to the deep alluvial aquifer, and requested that City staff make these corrections in the application.

b) Residential Recreational Vehicles Discussion

Mr. Gibbs stated that this item is an information only subject, and that he put in a call to the Supervisorial District 5 office to get more information on where this potential ordinance is in the process, but did not hear back.

Mr. Caluag stated that at the last WASC meeting, a few Committee members and members of the public wanted to discuss this item and we are going to let anyone at this time discuss this item. Mr.

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Caluag recalled that this ordinance would allow for recreational vehicles (RVs) to park on residential parcels and would introduce sewage issues. Mr. Alvin Cruz of the District stated that Ms. Jackie Ayer at the last meeting expressed her concerns with the lack of enforcement pertaining to this RV ordinance, and when it comes to enforcement, you first need a permit in place which stipulates what is allowed and what is prohibited, and include enforcement provisions which have actions that strongly motivate a responsible party to correct the prohibited practice or face enforcement provisions.

Mr. Gibbs recommended we table this discussion for the next meeting, and reach out from the BoS to attend the next meeting and provide an update. Mr. Gibbs did express that he personally does not believe this matter is in line with the objective and responsibilities of this WASC group. Ms. Cattell stated that she disagrees with Mr. Gibbs, stating that raw sewage has the potential to wreak havoc with stormwater capture in certain areas, and thus make the captured stormwater unusable. Mr. Gibbs responded that if raw sewage is indeed being dumped by RVs, that indeed is a concern, but stated that where he is coming from is as a Steering Committee, we are here to review and get projects that we feel are going to provide safe, clean water, and that in the future, if one of those projects is to help mitigate the potential sewage issues that we are discussing now, at that point, the issues and the project would be appropriate for the Committee. Mr. Gibbs further clarified that he does not believe the Steering Committee should be taking stances on an ordinance that the BoS is considering, and clarified that there are no issues with having personal stances on this matter and that this ordinance can be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Erskine-Hellrigel stated that just north of the Shadow Pines exit on the I-14 freeway, there is an area there that is constantly being trash, dismantling stolen vehicles, and that there are 2 RVs that dump their trash and waste at this site. Ms. Erskine-Hellrigel has brought this up to the Sheriff's Department and nothing has been done to address these issues. This is an area located in the river itself where we can do some cleanup and get rid of these culprits, and Ms. Erskine-Hellrigel would be glad to take individuals to this area as it is impairing our waters.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments provided during this part of the meeting agenda.

8. Voting Items

There were no voting items included in this meeting's agenda.

9. Items for Next Agenda

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

For the next agenda, Mr. Gibbs stated that the main item will be approving the Fiscal Year 2021-22SIP. Mr. Gibbs asked for any suggestions or items from the WASC to discuss at the next meeting, aside from re-including Item 6.b in today's agenda.

Ms. Cattell suggested that we allow the Watershed Coordinator to be present to discuss any particular concerns or areas that the Committee feels it might need some help on. Mr. Massey stated that

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TreePeople, Inc. is still working through the contracting process and is hopeful to be official by the next WASC meeting.

Mr. Bruce Hamamoto asked if the WASC will have the analysis for Scientific Studies (SS) from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) before the next meeting. Mr. Caluag asked and confirmed that SCCWRP will not be able to attend the next meeting, but stated that their summaries should be ready sometime in April, which will get forwarded on to the Committee.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Gibbs thanked the WASC members and the public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 6th, 2021 10:00AM -12:00PM
Virtual Meeting – WebEx Events

Santa Clara River WASC Meeting - April 1, 2021									
		Quorum Present				Voting Items			
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	03-04-21 Meeting Minutes			
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Carolina Hernandez		y			
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Dirk Marks	x	Mike Alvord		y			
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y			
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Martha Tremblay	x	a			
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Janine Prado	x	Jennifer Del Toro		y			
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	x			y			
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y			
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	x	Diane Trautman		y			
Community Stakeholder				Frederick Andre Hollings					
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y			
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y			
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y			
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		y			
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs	x	Darin Seegmiller		y			
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda		Oliver Cramer	x	y			
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Robert Newman	x	Mike Hennawy		y			
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Tom Cole		David Peterson	x	y			
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	15	0	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	16	0	0	0
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
April 1, 2021

Brenda	Ponton	CJ	Caluag - LACFCD
Elisha	Back	Robert	Newman
Maritsa	DRA Inc.	Kayla	Kilgo - CWE
Martha	Tremblay	Jon	(Stantec)
Sandra	Cattell	Dirk	Marks
Jason	Gibbs	Josephine	Gutierrez
Darin	Seegmiller	Justin	Jones LACFCD
Steve	Cole	David	Peterson
Sarai	Jimenez	janine	prado
Bruce	Hamamoto	Jonathan	Lu
Alysha	Chan	Dianne	Hellrigel
Julian	Juarez	Blake	Whittington
Oliver	Cramer	Kathy	Armitage
Katie	M	Safe	Clean Water LA
Allen	Ma	Hunt	Braly
Peter	Massey	Mary	Johnson