

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, May 13, 2021
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)
Sean Woods* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)
Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)
Brian Villagomez (SGV Habitat For Humanity)
Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)

Ed Reyes (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)
David Diaz (Active SGV)
John Beshay (Baldwin Park)
Alison Sweet (Glendora)
Joshua Nelson (Industry)
Fernando Villaluna* (LA County)
Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)
Amanda Hamilton (Duarte)

Julie Carver (Pomona)

*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 April 22, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Joshua Nelson asked the committee members for comments or revisions. David Diaz motioned to approve the April 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Kristen Ruffell 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 deadline for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Call for Projects is July 31, 2021. The District advised project applicants to contact watershed managers before May 31, 2021 for conceptual approval. Call for Projects informational webinars are scheduled for May 27, 2021 and June 3, 2021. The regional reporting module is live, and resources are posted on the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) website. Watershed Coordinators are working through insurance requirements and are in the process of being onboarded. Municipal annual plan submittal is required for disbursement of funds. Interim Nature-Based Solutions programming guidelines are available on the SCW website. [Since the meeting, the District has also posted interim Disadvantaged Community Programming guidelines.]

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

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Joshua Nelson discussed project rankings with Julie Carver and Fabian Aoun since they anticipated being unable to attend the WASC meeting.

5. Public Comment Period

Alexis Holmdal noted the Fairplex project received a letter of support from the Los Angeles County Fair Association. Ed Othmer shared their team met with the Fairplex Association and Caltrans who are supportive of the project.

6. Discussion Items:

a) Summary of Scientific Studies from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)

i) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study

No comments were made on the summary.

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.

Ed Reyes commented disadvantaged communities are at a disadvantage in participating in WASC meetings. David Diaz asked for the definition of disadvantaged communities for the SCWP, identified the Zamora Park Renovation Project (Zamora Park) in El Monte as part of a disadvantaged community benefit, and asked if the Washington Park project qualifies as a disadvantaged community benefit. The District shared the SCWP's definition and showed disadvantaged community boundaries on a map with project locations. Tori Klug (Stantec) suggested WASC members review the project applicants' presentations that include disadvantaged community benefit justifications.

Kristen Ruffell asked about how the disadvantaged community requirement is calculated. The District confirmed allocations for all approved projects and projects under consideration with earmarked funds for FYs 2021-26 are used to calculate the disadvantaged community requirement.

Sean Woods suggested to consider multiple metrics to define disadvantaged communities. The District mentioned that the disadvantaged community benefit definition includes benefits to communities in boundaries or have direct benefits, giving the WASC some discretion. The WASC reviewed the location of Washington Park and Zamora Park in relation to disadvantaged community boundaries.

No amendments were requested.

c) Confirm Fiscal Year 2020-21 Requests

Joshua Nelson asked if any project applicants would consider reducing their funding request and discussed with the District that disbursements can be spent within 5 years and may extend under certain conditions. Sharon Gallant provided no changes for Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project. Lisa O'Brien confirmed no changes for Pedley Spreading Grounds. Fernando Villaluna confirmed no changes for Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project. Ed Suher confirmed no changes and that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation needs to be completed before disbursement for Garvey Avenue Grade Separation Drainage Improvement Project. John Beshay confirmed no changes for Barnes Park. Alex Tachiki confirmed no changes for Encanto Park Stormwater Capture Project.

d) Review Preliminary Ranking of Projects

The District displayed the results of the Preliminary Ranking of Projects

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Program	Project Name	Score	Program Place	Overall Place
TRP	Sunset Crossing Park Multi-Benefit Storm	64	1	1
IP	Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Projec	59	1	2
IP	Zamora Park Renovation Project	57	2	3
IP	Lone Hill Park	55	3	4
IP	Fairplex	47	4	5
IP	Larkin Park	44	5	6
IP	Washington Park	39	6	7
SS	Regional Pathogen Reduction Study	35	1	8

e) SCW Project Funding by Municipality Map

The District reviewed the Municipality Investment heatmap as a reference for the WASC and highlighted the ordinance (18.07.B.2.d) refers to municipal benefits, not municipal investments as shown. Debbie Enos suggested the WASC to allocate funding to projects distributed throughout the watershed area. She also asked to show projects in relation to disadvantaged community boundaries, pollutant impact, and rivers. Tori Klug mentioned the GIS Reference Map shows disadvantaged community Census block group boundaries, CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results, and 303d Impaired Streams/Lakes/Bays spatial information.

Lisa O'Brien suggested to ask project applicants for maintenance plans to help assess community investment benefits. She also mentioned the East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group (ESGVWVG) requested an extension from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board). She noted the Board expected the Municipalities to leverage funding besides the SCW Program municipal funding. David Diaz asked if municipal funding can be used to satisfy Board municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit compliance expectations. Lisa O'Brien confirmed and compared municipal return to project costs.

Bob Huff asked for data on funds generated by community. Joshua Nelson noted cities participating in the Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP) are generating these figures soon.

Ed Reyes suggested population density should be considered by municipality. Tori Klug mentioned it might be considered as part of the Census block group or CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results data, but it could possibly be added to the GIS resource.

f) Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan (SCW Portal & USGR Scoring Rubric)

i) Infrastructure Program (IP)

- (1) Zamora Park Renovation Project – City of El Monte
- (2) Lone Hill Park – East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group
- (3) Washington Park – East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group
- (4) Fairplex – East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group
- (5) Larkin Park – East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group
- (6) Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Glendora

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Joshua Nelson, Debbie Enos, and Lisa O'Brien felt that funding design enables project applicants to pursue leveraged funding. Lisa O'Brien commented the City of El Monte received project funding in the previous year and showed concern for funding Zamora Park, a City of El Monte project. The District advised to plan for funding construction for any approved projects.

David Diaz asked which of the ESGVWMG projects was priority. Lisa O'Brien confirmed Lone Hill Park and Fairplex were the preferred projects and offered to defer the Washington Park application. She compared the funds generated by the cities in the ESGVWMG with the project awards.

Fernando Villaluna suggested delaying design funding so that the project applicant doesn't need to reapply, yet the project would be earmarked.

Joshua Nelson supported funding Zamora Park for cost efficiency, disadvantaged community benefit, and relatively small funding request. Kristen Ruffell wanted to support projects that treat larger, more regional tributary areas, and therefore proposed to remove Zamora Park from the proposed SIP.

Debbie Enos asked if economies of scale could be attained if projects by the same group were funded. Lisa O'Brien noted the group's consultant works on the projects but wasn't aware if requested funding would change. Lisa O'Brien highlighted MS4 requirements and trash requirements. The District highlighted the Regional Program was intended to fund regional, multi-benefit projects.

David Diaz uplifted that Zamora Park includes community engagement and that other projects haven't engaged meaningfully. He strongly supported the project as an equitable investment. Lisa O'Brien cited Little League youth sports programs, schools, and the County as potential partners and wanted to develop design more to help engagement.

Bob Huff asked what additional improvements are proposed by the Zamora Park renovation. Edna Robidas noted the park was identified by the community as underused and unsafe. She noted the community asked for safety and stormwater amenities, including walking paths, better lighting, security cameras, a playground, a splash pad, and stormwater infrastructure which would increase use and safety. Ed Reyes highlighted security should be defined by the high-density community, as Zamora Park has done.

Lisa O'Brien asked about project applicant cost estimate confidence.

David Diaz suggested to consider future projects brought by the WC and suggested considering only Zamora Park, Lone Hill Park design, and Sunset Crossing Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project.

Joshua Nelson asked if Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project (Finkbiner) funding could be delayed. Alison Sweet noted design over two years is already extended and suggested to consider extending design funding for the other projects. Kristen Ruffell noted that delaying Finkbiner funding would delay FY21-22 allocations and highlighted that it wouldn't help the issue of FY23-24 funds being overallocated.

The WASC considered scenarios as saved in the SIP tool.

ii) Technical Resources Program (TRP)

(1) Sunset Crossing Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project – City of Diamond Bar

iii) Scientific Studies (SS)

(1) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Gateway Water Management Authority

Debbie Enos supported investing in the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Joshua Nelson proposed starting funding for the SS and assessing as the project proceeds and Bob Huff questioned the approach

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considering other WASCs are involved. Richard Watson wasn't available for comment, but the District recalled the SS preferred at least 5 WASCs to fund the project to proceed.

7. Public Comment Period

Ed Othmer noted the limited funding in the WASC. The projects he's associated with used a certified cost estimation system and therefore their confidence in the estimates are high considering the current level of design.

8. Voting Item

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

Not discussed.

9. Items for Next Agenda

- Watershed Coordinator Updates
- Partial Funding Requests
- Approve the final Fiscal Year 2021-22 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the USGR Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review

10. 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 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love				
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			A
Community Stakeholder	Former USGVMWD Board Member	Bryan Urias		Brian Villagomez	X	Y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos	X	Jane Tsong		Y
Community Stakeholder	Ed P. Reyes & Associates	Ed Reyes	X	Miguel Luna		A
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y
Municipal Members	Baldwin Park	John Beshay	X	Mark Persico		Y
Municipal Members	Duarte	Amanda Hamilton		Kevin Kearney		
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		Fabian Aoun		
Municipal Members	La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	X	Shari Garwick		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	12
Total Voting Members Present		14			Nay (N)	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	14
Municipal Members		5				Approved

Attendance
USGR WASC - May 13, 2021

Alex Iglesias - LACFCD	John Beshay
Alex Tachiki	John Mendoza
Alexis Holmdal	Jon Abelson
Alfredo Camacho (Day One)	Joshua Nelson
Alison Sweet	Julian J
Aydin Pasebani	katie m
Bob Huff	Kelly Gardner
Brian Villagomez	Kevin Kim -LACFCD
Carlos Moran	Kristen Ruffell
Clarasophia Gust	Lauren Marshall
David Diaz	Lauro Alvarado
Debbie Enos	LISA OBRIEN
Drew Ready (CWH)	Michelle Kim
Ed Suher, CASC	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Ed Othmer	Paul Glenn (GHD)
Ed Reyes	Rupeet Malhotra
Edna Robidas	Ryan Kearns - CWE
Elizabeth Ruedas	Sean Woods
Enrique Baul	Sharon Gallant
Fernando Villaluna	Shawn Igoe
Greg Jaquez	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
guadalupe duran-medina	Tori Klug
I EC	youssef chebabi
James Cramsie	



May 11, 2021

Julie Carver
Environmental Compliance Officer
City of Pomona
On behalf of the East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group
148 N. Huntington Street
Pomona, CA 91768
Via email: Julie_Carver@ci.pomona.ca.us

Ms. Carver,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, a 501(c)(5) nonprofit, this letter acknowledges the planned project entitled the “Fairplex Regional Stormwater Project” that, once funded, would be constructed at Fairplex. Fairplex’s 487-acre campus hosts the annual Fair and nearly 500 year-round events. Between 1941 and 1952, a total of 421 acres of the land belonging to the Association was deeded to Los Angeles County as a gift and in return, the Association received a long-term ground lease. The remaining acreage is still owned in fee by the Association.

We appreciate the efforts of your team to engage with us as this project was planned, and again as it moves towards implementation. The proposed project aligns with the guiding principles we included in our 2018 Strategic Plan, including **Public Benefit**: committed to doing good in everything we do; **Partnership**: we are at our best when we partner with others; and **Sustainability**: committed to being financially healthy and environmentally friendly.

When the time comes, we are prepared to work with your team to provide access to the site in a way that minimizes impacts on events at Fairplex and also achieves the timelines of the proposed project. As you know the local and county-wide communities depend on Fairplex for hosting events with large numbers of visitors, providing jobs and economic activity for the region. As a nonprofit, we reinvest profits in our facilities, people, programs, and community.

We understand that the siting of the project is key for the multiple benefits of improved water quality and enhanced water supply, and see synergies with the goals of the ESGV Watershed Management Group and our strategic plan for enhancing the sustainability of the Fairplex facility. We are hopeful and supportive of the project and desire several important outcomes. First, educating the nearly 3 million people that visit Fairplex about the innovative and sustainable infrastructure being installed. Second, we desire as responsible corporate citizens to

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become water neutral, based on our standard usage and recharge as a result of the project. Finally, in lieu of any compensation for the utilization of our land, we desire credits for water retained by the project against our annual water bill.

We are eager to support this effort in the appropriate ways and concur that this properly scheduled and collaborative effort can move forward when ready. When the project is being considered by potential funders, we would welcome the opportunity to further express our support and interest in the project moving forward.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Walter M. Marquez
Interim CEO, Fairplex