

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Rio Hondo

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday, April 20, 2021  
1:00pm - 4:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

#### **Attendees**

##### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)  
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)  
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)  
Brent Maue (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)  
David Dolphin (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:

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristen Ruffell, Vice 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 March 16, 2021**

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

James Carlson motioned to approve the minutes. David Dolphin seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from March 16, 2021. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: SCCWRP will submit their independent scientific studies to the WASC by April 30, 2021.

Regarding the Fund Transfer Agreements (TAs), the Municipal FY 2021-22 Annual Plans are currently due and should be submitted to the District as soon as possible. The District's goal is to disperse funds for FY

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2021 by August 2021. As for the Regional TAs, 18 out of 48 agreements have been executed and cleared to receive funding.

The online SCW Program reporting module is live with quarterly reports are due by May 15, 2021.

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 and will assist with the WC onboarding efforts. Richard Watson and Associates will be the WC for the Rio Hondo WASC and their insurance endorsements are in process.

As for the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP), the goal is for the WASC to finalize their SIPs by May or early June and for it to be submitted to the Board of Directors by the end of July.

#### **4. Ex Parte Communications Disclosures**

Julian Juarez disclosed that the LACFCD met with LA County and project proponents to discuss the Alhambra Wash Project.

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates reported that they will be receiving their insurance waivers shortly.

#### **6. Discussion Items**

##### **a) Infrastructure Program Presentations**

##### **i) Rubio Wash Dry-Weather Diversion**

The multi-benefit Project will divert and treat dry-weather runoff from Rubio Wash upstream of Rio Hondo to address bacteria.

Mark Hall asked if all three projects were discussed with Vector Control District(s) and if there were any expressed concerns. Katie Harrel responded that all three projects were discussed, and that Vector Control did not have an issue with the overall Projects but wanted recommended vector barriers, manhole covers, and to make sure water is not standing in the Channel for too long. Standing water will drain within 2-4 hours and a new cycle would begin.

##### **ii) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study**

The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health.

David Dolphin asked if this project was connected to the Bacteria LRS Adaptation Scientific Study. Richard Watson responded that this study is not connected to the Bacteria LRS Adaptation Scientific Study and that the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study is broader.

##### **iii) Fire Effects Study in the ULAR Watershed Management Area**

The study will evaluate post-fire runoff and create BMP models to support water quality objectives and help meet impending TMDL deadlines.

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Gloria Crudginton asked if the data will be used to receive funding from the Federal Government to remove pollutants. Matt Rich responded that it is not the scope of the study but that it could potentially be used for that purpose. Dawn Petschauer (City of LA) responded that the Federal Government has been identified as a key stakeholder and they have interest in connecting for this project.

Thomas Wong asked if there were other stakeholders that would be included in this Project. The project proponents responded that they have a growing list of stakeholders that they plan to include in the study and are currently working with the San Gabriel Group.

Mike Antos asked if they have had conversations with the Santa Clara WASC. Dawn Petschauer responded that they have submitted the study to the Upper Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo WASC.

#### **iv) Rio Hondo Ecosystem Restoration Project**

Regional stormwater capture and surface infiltration facility located within the open space at the Sawpit Wash and Peck Road Park Lake.

Kristen Ruffell asked for clarification on the infiltration data. Merrill Taylor responded they are using assumed data and are working on permits for actual Geotech testing. Kristen Ruffell asked about the actual physical space that will be used for capacity. Merrill Taylor responded there will be 37-acre feet of physical capacity.

Julian Juarez commented that the area is owned by the LACFCD. He also commented on the water conservation claim of the Project as water is currently being captured within the footprint by the adjacent lake and infiltration facility.

Mark Hall asked who would be responsible for O&M. Alex Tachiki responded that the project proponents would enter into a maintenance agreement and it would be at the discretion of LACFCD. Mike Antos commented that the park was the recipient of a State Grant awarded by the Integrated Regional Water Management Program and designated as benefiting a DAC community.

#### **b) Additional Meetings Discussion**

There will be additional meetings scheduled for May 4, 2021 and June 1, 2021.

#### **7. Public Comment Period**

Belinda Faustino asked how the public would access the Rubio Wash site. Katie Harrell responded access would be determined during the design process.

Richard Watson asked if it was possible to not overlap WASC meetings where he needs to present, and the District agreed.

#### **8. Items for next agenda**

Discussion of preliminary ranking sheet

#### **9. Adjournment**

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The next meeting will be May 4, 2021 time TBD. Kristen Ruffell thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.



**Attendance**  
**RH WASC - April 20, 2021**

David Dolphin	Kelly Gardner
Fernando Villaluna	Daniel Rossman
Mark Hall	Judie Cyr
Kevin Kim - LACFCD	Aric Torreyson
Katie Ward	I EC
Belen Bernal	Cameron McCullough
Stephanie Tong (LACFCD)	Richard Watson
Eric Shen	Brent Maue
Katie M	Merrill Taylor - Craftwater
Thuan Nguyen	Julie Millett
James Carlson	Kristen Ruffell
Kris Markarian	Kevin Chang
Enrique baul	Katie Harrel
Bryan Matsumoto	Julian Juarez
Vik Bapna - CWE	Margaret Novak
Jason Casanova	Eddie Chan
Mark Daniel	Joshua Felton
Ruby Wang	MATT RICH
Brenda Stevens	Dawn Petschauer
Alex Tachiki	Belinda Faustinos
Brianna Datti	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Frank Lopez	Paul Glenn (GHD)
Dawn Petschauer	Thomas Wong
Joe Venzon - LA County	Melanie Morita - LACFCD
Gloria Crudgington	Vanessa Hevener
Mike Antos	