

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, June 8, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

| | |
|---|---|
| Julian Juarez (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) |
| Nancy Villaseñor* (Long Beach Parks and Recreation) | Melissa You (Long Beach) |
| Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach) | Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower) |
| Adam Galia (Resident) | |
| Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy) | |

Committee Members Not Present:

Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)
Vicki Smith (Whittier)

*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 WASC members and called the meeting to order. She discussed WebEx functions and the public comment process. Kevin Kim (District) facilitated the roll call, and quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked WASC members for comments or revisions. Delfino Consunji motioned to approve the minutes. Jeremy Melendez seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from May 11, 2021 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet.)

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: the deadline for the Round 3 Call for Projects is July 31, 2021. Additionally, the District is making minor updates to the project module that will be available for the Round 4 Call for Projects. The reporting module is live and recorded informational sessions along with FAQ are available on the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program website. Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WCs), the District noted 9 out of 12 WC agreements have been executed.

Lyndsey Bloxom shared with the WASC the link for a stormwater programs funding webinar held by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets, noted WASC member interviews will be discussed during Item 7b.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Lyndsey Bloxom disclosed Water Replenishment District (WRD) is developing a general support letter for projects applying for SCW funding, recharging the groundwater basin, and requesting support from WRD.

6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Presentations and Discussion Items

a) 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)

Lisa Ann Rapp noted that the WASC voted to approve the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) on May 11, 2021. However, that there has been an adjustment to the Skylinks Golf Course at Wardlow Stormwater Capture (Skylinks) project that requested construction funding sooner in the approved SIP. Kevin Kim (District) explained disbursement of requests that include funding for construction requires the applicant submit their California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and the District to make a CEQA determination. Melissa You confirmed that the Skylinks project isn't ready for construction funds yet therefore the funding request will need to be reverted to the original request. Kevin Kim (District) indicated that a motion and vote is needed from the WASC to revert to the original request for the Skylinks project. Lisa Ann Rapp and the District discussed how the change affects the SIP allocation by year.

Kristen Ruffell requested clarification on projects that are requesting construction and design funds in the same request. The District noted that they do not disburse partial fiscal year requests. If any of the fiscal year's requested funding is tied to construction, the District will need to make a CEQA determination before disbursing the total allotment.

Kevin Kim (District) noted that the placeholder date for the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting is June 29, 2021.

b) Watershed Coordinator Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Kekoa Anderson presented an overview slide presentation on the draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP). He indicated that a written plan will be provided to the Committee on June 14, 2021, and the target date for the Committee to review and provide comments will be June 28, 2021. The posting of the plan with the agenda is anticipated to be on July 8, 2021 before the Committee's meeting on July 13, 2021.

Grace Kast added that they are open to hear from stakeholders at any time, whether through written comments or individual meetings.

Joseph Gonzalez inquired on the status of the website and when it would go live. Kekoa Anderson responded that the website is working internally but has not been made live for the public. He noted that links to the internal site may be shared with the Committee members for review of the content. Joseph

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Gonzalez suggested the Watershed Conservation Authority Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Vision Plan website as a reference.

Adam Galia emphasized the importance that the Committee evaluate the vision specifically for this Watershed so that all residents would be heard regardless of what City they live in. He also asked when the website could go live for the public so that they can be aware of important meetings. Kevin Kim (District) and Kekoa Anderson differentiated the SCW website and the WC website Kekoa Anderson and Grace Kast referenced which will be dedicated to the LSGR WASC and will be released after incorporating the SOEP comments. Grace Kast, the District, and Tori Klug discussed coordinating and linking the SCW and WC websites.

c) Disadvantaged Community, Nature Based Solutions, and Partial Funding Interim Guidelines

Tori Klug (Stantec) presented a slide presentation on Guidance Documents Overview: Disadvantaged Community Benefit, Nature-based Solutions, and Partial Funding.

Adam Galia asked for details on the topic of community members supporting a potential project. Tori Klug elaborated that in terms of assessing whether direct benefits will be felt by a Disadvantaged Community, having a Letter of Support from a City Council, community based organization, or from community members directly is a great way to support a claim of a Disadvantaged Community benefit.

Adam Galia asked if project proponents can make public comments during WASC meetings. Tori Klug responded that yes, they can. Tori Klug added that when the Committee begins to assess a project and if it is not clear if the Disadvantaged Community benefit claim is real, the WASC can ask the project proponents to provide more evidence.

Dan Knapp commented that he did not support what seemed to be an automatic Disadvantaged Community qualification based on municipality. He would prefer a more tangible outreach into the community and see that tangible outreach coming back to the Committee. Tori Klug clarified that it is not automatic that that Disadvantaged Community benefit would be claimed and verified, but it is an example potential pathway that the WASC could deem legitimate as relieving regulatory burden on the entire Municipality. The WASC would then to decide to verify that claim.

Joseph Gonzalez asked if there were any other Disadvantaged Community definitions that they qualify and other definitions they may have that would constitute a community. Tori Klug responded that the guidance does not specify additional definitions, but it does allow for informal definitions of a community boundary to assess a Disadvantaged Community benefit. It would be important for the project proponent or the WASC to have a clear idea of how they are defining “community” and “disadvantaged,” but the guidance is not prescriptive in terms of what you can and cannot use for the informal definitions.

Joseph Gonzalez commented that he has heard from other Watershed groups that it is sometimes challenging to incorporate green Best Management Practices (BMPs) because, for example, the State Waterboard does not accept them as a guaranteed method for bacteria reduction. So to support more Nature-based solutions into some of these projects, there could be more research or discussions with the Waterboard to perhaps approve some of these green BMPs as being effective as grey infrastructure. Lisa Ann Rapp added that there are some studies and modeling efforts underway right now.

8. Public Comment Period

None.

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9. Voting Items

a) 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 (ROC) for review (if needed)

Kristen Ruffell motioned to reallocate funds for Skylinks project to the original request. Melissa You seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the FY 21-22 Stormwater Investment Plan with the Skylinks project amendment. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

- Approve Strategic Outreach and Engagement plan
- Discussion on potential LSGR SIP changes made by the ROC

11. Adjournment

Lisa Ann Rapp and the District thanked WASC members and presenters for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

LSGR WASC - June 8, 2021

| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Item | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Member Type | Position | Member | Voting? | Alternate | Voting? | Approve Meeting Minutes | Final Selection v2 |
| Agency | FCD | Julian Juarez | X | Ramy Gindi | | Y | Y |
| Agency | Central Basin | Alex Rojas | | Jeremy Melendez | X | Y | Y |
| Agency | Water Replenishment District | Diane Gatza | | Lyndsey Bloxom | X | Y | Y |
| Agency | Sanitation Districts | Kristen Ruffell | X | Mike Sullivan | | Y | Y |
| Agency | City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation | Stephen Scott | | Nancy Villaseñor | X | A | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Conservation Corps of Long Beach | Dan Knapp | X | Irene Lopez-Muro | | A | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Resident | Adam Galia | X | Thalia Campos | | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Rivers Mountains Conservancy | Mark Stanley | | Joseph Gonzalez | X | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment | Gabrielle Weeks | X | | | A | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | | | | | | | |
| Municipal Members | Cerritos | Mike O'Grady | X | | | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Downey | Delfino Consunji | X | Dan Mueller | | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Lakewood | Lisa Ann Rapp | X | Konya Vivanti | | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Long Beach | Melissa You | X | Wataru Kumagai | | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | City of Bellflower | Bernie Iniguez | X | Glen Kau | | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Santa Fe Springs | Noe Negrete | | Marlin Munoz | | | |
| Municipal Members | Whittier | Vicki Smith | | Kyle Cason | | | |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | | 16 | | | Yay (Y) | 11 | 14 |
| Total Voting Members Present | | 14 | | | Nay (N) | 0 | 0 |
| Agency | | 5 | | | Abstain (A) | 3 | 0 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 4 | | | Total | 14 | 14 |
| Municipal Members | | 5 | | | | Approved | Approved |

Attendance
LSGR WASC - June 8, 2021

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Safe Clean Water LA | Kristen Ruffell |
| Richard Watson | Joseph Gonzalez |
| Natalie Rivera | Yoshi Andersen |
| Larry Tortuya - CWE | Delfino Consunji |
| Traci Gleason | Tori Klug |
| Konya Vivanti | Lisa Rapp |
| Bernie Iniguez | Maritsa DRA Inc. |
| katie m | Mike O'Grady |
| Dan Knapp | Kala Anderson |
| Michelle Kim | Bryce Lee |
| Kekoa Anderson | Adam Galia |
| Alexander Iglesias LACFCD | Gabrielle Weeks |
| MELISSA YOU | Grace Kast |
| Robert Gomez | Nancy Villasenor |
| Julian J | Melina Watts |
| Oliver Galang (Craftwater) | Jeremy Melendez (CBMWD) |
| I EC | Mike Antos |
| Lyndsey Bloxom | Kevin Kim- LACFCD |