

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)	Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)
Alex Rojas (Central Basin)	Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)
Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)	Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)	Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)
Meredith Reynolds* (City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation)	Melissa You (Long Beach)
Irene Lopez-Muro* (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)	Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)
Adam Galia (Resident)	Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)
	Vicki Smith (Whittier)

Committee Members Not Present:

Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)

*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 Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Melissa You, Vice Chair of Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC also conducted part of the meeting.

Kevin Kim (District) facilitated the roll call, and quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked Committee Members if there were comments or revisions.

Delfino Consunji motioned to approve the minutes, and Jeremy Melendez seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from April 27, 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. Project applicants should contact their respective Watershed Managers regarding the conceptual plan approval process by May 31, 2021. The District will schedule Round 3 Call for Projects information sessions at the end of May and beginning of June. Additionally, the District is making minor

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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 SCW Program website.

Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WCs), the District noted 7 out of 12 WC agreements have been executed.

Annual Plans for the Municipal Program were due April 1, 2021. The District urged the Municipalities who are yet to submit their Annual Plans to do so as soon as possible. The District has received over 40 Annual Plans and anticipate receiving a total of 85.

Interim programming guidelines for Nature-based Solutions have been released and are available on the website for review under Resources.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets noted that their Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan is due to the District within 12 weeks of commencement of work. Kekoa Anderson outlined each team member's priorities and tasks. He indicated to have engaged in stakeholder outreach and interviews. He anticipates sharing a draft of the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan for initial input on the June 8, 2021 meeting and have the WASC approve the plan at the July 13, 2021 meeting.

Adam Galia asked if the Projects that are already in the pipeline would be included in the outreach. Kekoa Anderson responded that the plan will be a general outreach and engagement protocol that summarizes the goals of the SCW Program to provide consistency. Kekoa Anderson commented that the plan can be used to coordinate with projects already in the system and future projects.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

None.

6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Discussion Items

a) 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.

Kristen Ruffell suggested that the project's tributary area be added as an overlay to the GIS map. The District responded that their team is working on the best solution.

b) 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)

i) Infrastructure Program (IP)

(1) Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System (STAR System) Hacienda Park – City of La Habra Heights

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- (2) Cerritos Sports Complex – City of Cerritos**
 - (3) Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Bellflower**
 - (4) Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel – City Long Beach**
 - (5) Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Artesia**
 - ii) Technical Resources Program (TRP)**
 - (1) Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project – Los Angeles County Public Works**
 - (2) Los Nietos Green Street Feasibility Study – Los Angeles County Public Works**
 - (3) Watershed Coordinator**
 - iii) Scientific Study (SS)**
 - (1) Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Gateway Water Management Authority**
 - (2) Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis) – Gateway Water Management Authority**

The District noted that they contacted several project developers about the partial funding options. Regarding the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, it was determined that partial funding is not a viable option as it includes multiple WASCs.

Richard Watson, representing the Bellflower Park and Heartwell Park Projects, commented that they are requesting funds for design only and that they would include construction as a separate funding request. He noted that the Heartwell Park Project could be funded first because it is good for dry weather flows and the Bellflower Park Project is waiting on Proposition 68 funds. He recommended approving both projects for design but to defer Bellflower Park Project construction funding for a future date.

Delfino Consunji recommended that the WASC not overextend programming and only consider Infrastructure Program (IP) projects that can be funded for design and construction.

Mike O’Grady commented that he would like to see an overlay map of projects that have been funded to make sure that the entire Watershed is receiving benefits. Kekoa Anderson added that including tributary areas and water quality results on the Project Funding by Municipality Map would be useful. Mike O’Grady noted that placing projects where the pollutant loads are the highest is important.

Noe Negrete commented that no Scientific Studies (SS) and Technical Resource Projects (TRP) have been funded last year and that they should be considered. He agreed with Delfino Consunji that they should not overextend funding for Infrastructure Program Projects.

Kristen Ruffell recommended Projects that will not be funded this year to come back next year. She also recommended that Projects that will be funded should review their budgets to ensure they are not asking for an over allocation. She also added that lower ranking Infrastructure Program Projects should not be funded ahead of others.

The LSGR WASC came to a consensus of funding the Cerritos Sports Complex, Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater, Gateway Area Pathfinding, and the Sorensen Park Multi-benefit Stormwater Projects.

Irene Lopez-Muro, on behalf of Dan Knapp, commented that they agree to approve the Cerritos Sports Complex and Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Project but recommended that the Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System (STAR) Project be included before the Sorensen Park Project.

Adam Galia commented that he supports the recommendations but wanted additional clarification on Project phasing. Lisa Ann Rapp responded that the Cerritos Sports Complex and Bellflower Simms Park Projects are only requesting design and would come back in the future for construction funds. Melissa You clarified that the construction costs were estimated based on their applications. The District noted that they

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included estimated construction to be sure not to overfund in the future. Adam Galia asked if it makes fiscal sense to fund a lower ranking project for design and construction funding over a higher-ranking project that is design only. The District responded that it is left to the WASC's discretion.

Kristen Ruffell suggested a funding scenario where funding is adjusted forward for projects that are already approved to leave later funding for future projects and reallocate interest to the project applicant versus the District. She noted that projects have 5 years to spend funds after they are allocated. Project Proponents for the El Dorado Regional Project agreed to move funding forward to current FY 21-22, if necessary.

Joseph Gonzalez asked what happens if a project extends past FY 25-26 or if funds is not spent. The District commented that there is a lapsed fund clause in the Transfer Agreement where funds that are not spent within 5 years of the executed fund transfer agreement are returned to the WASC. Joseph Gonzalez asked if some of the design projects could be partially funded and if a Construction Manager would assist in the future to make sure projections are accurate.

8. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson requested the Heartwell Park Project also be approved in the case that Bellflower Simms Park Project does not receive Proposition 68 funds. He also commented in favor of the La Habra Project that is not currently part of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) under consideration. Kristen Ruffell asked for clarification on the consequence of the Bellflower Simms Park Project not receiving Proposition 68 funds. Richard Watson noted that he would prefer to fund design for both the Heartwell Park Project and Bellflower Simms Park Project to provide flexibility depending on the status of the Proposition 68 funding. But if only the Bellflower Simms Park Project is approved, the Project could proceed as proposed, if needed.

Melissa You pointed out that the Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project ranked before the Heartwell Park Project. John Hunter responded that Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project has been aggressively pursuing grants and that receiving funding to complete design would help with pursuing grants for construction.

Noe Negrete commented that the Scoring Rubric did not provide enough incentive for projects to find leveraged funds. Lisa Ann Rapp responded that it is up to the WASC to prioritize Projects that have leveraged funds.

Okina Dor, from the Artesia Park Stormwater Project, recommended funding Heartwell Park and Artesia Park Stormwater Project together in place of the Bellflower Simms, so the WASC could fund 2 projects for close to the same cost as Bellflower Simms.

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 for review.

Noe Negrete motioned to approve the Cerritos Sports Complex, Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Project, Gateway Area Pathfinder Project, and the Sorensen Park Multi-benefit Stormwater Project as well as move funding forward for the El Dorado Regional and Skylinks Golf Course Projects. Delfino Consunji seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the motion to approve the FY 21-22 Stormwater Investment Plan. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet.). The Final Selection recommended by the WASC is available on the SCWP SIP tool at <https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/sip-tool/>.

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10. Items for Next Agenda

None

11. Adjournment

Lisa Ann Rapp and the District thanked WASC Members, project presenters, and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting

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		Quorum Present				Voting Item (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve 4/27 Meeting Minutes	Approve 2/1/1 - Prefund
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		A	Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	X	Jeremy Melendez		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		Meredith Reynolds	X	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp		Irene Lopez-Muro	X	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					
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	X	Marlin Munoz		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	X	Kyle Cason		Y	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	13	15
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	15	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Attendance
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Adam Galia	Lisa Skutecki
Alex Rojas	Lisa Rapp
Alexander Iglesias - LACFCD	Lonnie Chung
Bernie Iniguez	Lynda Bybee
Bryce Lee	Lyndsey Bloxom
Carlos Moran	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Cecilia Salazar	Melanie Morita-LACFCD
Cristian Duran	MELISSA YOU
Delfino Consunji	Meredith Reynolds
Fernando Villaluna	Michelle Kim
Grace Kast	Mike O'Grady
I EC	Nadja Swihart
Irene Lopez-Muro	NATALIE RIVERA
Iwen Tseng	Noe Negrete
Jeremy Melendez	Okina dor
john HUNTER	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Joseph Gonzalez	Paul Glenn (GHD)
julia guy	Richard Watson
Julian J	Robert Gomez
Kala Anderson	Tanya Sullivan
Katie m	thalia campis
Kekoa Anderson	Tori Klug (Stantec)
Kevin Kim -LACFCD	Traci Gleason
Konya Vivanti	Vicki Smith
Kristen Ruffell	Wataru Kumagai