

Safe, Clean Water Program

Upper San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, May 27, 2021

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel District)

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)

Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)

Sean Woods* (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation)

Bob Huff (Huff Strategies)

Drew Ready (Council for Watershed Health)

Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority)

Miguel Luna* (Ed P. Reyes & Associates)

David Diaz (Active SGV)

Sam Gutierrez* (Baldwin Park)

Kevin Kearney* (Duarte)

Alison Sweet (Glendora)

Joshua Nelson (Industry)

Fernando Villaluna* (LA County)

Julie Carver (Pomona)

Lisa O'Brien (La Verne)

Committee Members Not Present:

*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 May 13, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Joshua Nelson asked the committee members for comments or revisions. Kelly Gardner motioned to approve the May 13, 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

David Diaz and Lisa O'Brien discussed the letter from the Regional Water Quality Control Board that was discussed at the previous meeting. Lisa clarified that although the letter does not specifically identify use of SCW Regional Program funds as the only source of funding for stormwater projects, she noted that SCW Regional Program funds are the most closely related and cost-effective.

Kevin Kim (District) provided the District update noting: Round 3 Call for Projects deadline is July 31, 2021. To ensure adequate review time, please contact the respective Watershed manager no later than May 31, 2021 to initiate the project review and conceptual approval letter process. The District will host an information session today and on June 3, 2021. The links for the meetings are available on the SCW website and the recording will be posted once available.

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Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WC), 7 out of 12 agreements have been executed. Remaining WCs continue to work with contract staff. Day One has been selected as the WC for the USGR WASC.

FY 2021-22 Fund Transfer Agreements are past due. The District requested that Municipalities submit their Annual Plans if they have not already done so.

Tori Klug (Stantec) provided a presentation on Disadvantaged Community Benefit Interim Guidance. Julie Carver asked about the City of Pomona being a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and Tori Klug responded with details on how to use the available map overlays.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Joshua Nelson noted to have had a discussion with Alison Sweet on projects up for discussion. Alison Sweet confirmed.

Julie Carver and Lisa O'Brien are in the same watershed group and noted to have discussed their projects.

Lisa O'Brien noted to have had conversations with Julie Carver and Sharon Gallant. She also sent a Regional Water Quality Control Board letter to David Diaz and Alison Sweet.

5. Public Comment Period

The District received several public comment cards (see attached).

Carolina Sanchez (Six Basins Watermaster) commented in support of the Larkin Park and Fairplex Projects.

Ed Othmer (Stantec) commented that the Fairplex Project should be considered for DAC benefits given the new guidance and highlighted the Projects benefits. The District confirmed that the Project cannot change its DAC designation without a vote.

Jennifer Stark (Mayor of Claremont) commented in support of the Larkin Park Project.

Richard Watson (Regional Pathogen Study) introduced himself and offered to respond to questions during the agendaized discussion item.

A member of the El Monte community commented in support of the Zamora Park Project.

Belén Bernal (Nature for All/OurWaterLA Coalition) commented in support of the Zamora Park Project.

Cindy Wu (El Monte School Board) commented in favor of the Zamora Park Project.

Edna Robidas (Trust for Public Land) commented in support of the Zamora Park Project.

6. Discussion Items:

a) 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

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- (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**

The District confirmed that they received partial funding requests for the Lone Hill Park, Fairplex, and Larkin Projects. The District also displayed the updated preliminary rankings.

Debbie Enos commented in support of including the Top 4 ranked projects and the Regional Pathogen Study. At this time, she was not comfortable with funding design on projects that will have high construction costs later, and supported moving forward with construction ready projects.

Lisa O'Brien noted that a Project was approved in the City of El Monte last year and recommended distributing funds to other cities and delaying the Zamora Park Project.

Joshua Nelson and Kelly Gardner suggested changing the Fairplex project to a DAC benefit project. The District commented that changing the DAC benefit would need to be on the agenda for a vote.

Several Committee members discussed budget constraints and various funding scenarios. Tom Love and Debbie Enos agreed that the Zamora Park Project should be funded as it is shovel ready. Several Committee members commented in support of funding design first so that there is pipeline for construction.

Lisa O'Brien commented in support of the Fairplex Project because it addresses commercial and industrial runoff from offsite in addition to onsite.

The potential scenarios under consideration by the WASC are available on the SCWP SIP tool at <https://portal.safecleanwaterla.org/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**

Richard Watson confirmed that they can start the study with support from a minimum of 2 WASCs and expand later. He commented that it is recommended to fund the Scientific Study and shift funding throughout the years.

Drew Ready asked if Richard Watson formally responded to the SCCWRP scientific summary. Richard Watson indicated that they have not formally responded, they cannot revise their proposal, but that he has addressed it with the WASC. Richard Watson commented that some details were left out of the proposal intentionally to allow for stakeholder input.

Drew Ready commented that the Fairplex Project DAC benefits topic should be handled before voting on the SIP and asked if scoring is apart of the decision-making process. The District noted that as long as the Project meets the threshold score of 60 points it is eligible for consideration. It is up to the WASCs to evaluate projects using the information available.

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Debbie Enos asked if the East Fork of the LA River would be sampled. Richard Watson replied that the sampling points have not been determined but that it can be included.

7. Public Comment

No Public Comment

8. Items for Next Agenda

a) 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

Vote postponed until next meeting.

9. 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	X	Patty Cortez		Y
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			Y
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	X	Jason Casanova		A
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Debbie Enos	X	Jane Tsong		Y
Community Stakeholder	Ed P. Reyes & Associates	Ed Reyes		Miguel Luna	X	A
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y
Municipal Members	Baldwin Park	John Beshay		Sam Gutierrez	X	Y
Municipal Members	Duarte	Amanda Hamilton		Kevin Kearney	X	Y
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	X	Fabian Aoun		A
Municipal Members	La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	X	Shari Garwick		Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		17			Nay (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	17
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendance
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AJ Marciuska	Joshua Nelson
Alexander Iglesias LACFCD	Jud Warren
Alison Sweet	Julian J
Aric Torreyson	Julie Carver
Aydin Pasebani	katie m
Belen Bernal	Kelly Gardner
Belinda Faustinos	Kevin Kim -LACFCD
Bob Huff	Kevin Kearney
Bryce Lee	kristen ruffell
Carolina Sanchez	Lauren Marshall
Cristian Duran	Lauro Alvarado
David Warren	Lisa O'Brien
David Diaz	Maritsa DRA Inc.
Debbie Enos	Michelle Kim
Drew Ready	Miguel Luna
Ed Suher, CASC	Mike Antos
Ed Othmer	Nadja JLHA
Edna Robidas	Nick S
Eileen Alduend	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Elizabeth Ruedas	Ramy Gindi
Enrique Baul	Richard Watson
Fabian Aoun, Diamond Bar	Rupeet Malhotra
Fernando Villaluna	Ryan Kearns - CWE
Gregor Patsch	Sam Gutierrez
Guadalupe Duran-Medina	Sean Woods
James Cramsie	Tom Love
Jennifer Stark	Tori Klug (Stantec)
John Mendoza	Vik Bapna - CWE
Jonathan Abelson	William OBraitis