

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

10:00am – 11:30pm

WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)

Jeremy Melendez* (Central Basin)

Lyndsey Bloxom* (Water Replenishment District)

Kristen Ruffell (LA County Sanitation Districts)

Nancy Villaseñor* (Long Beach Parks and Recreation)

Irene Lopez-Muro* (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)

Adam Galia (Resident)

Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers Mountains Conservancy)

Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)

Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)

Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood)

Melissa You (Long Beach)

Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)

Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)

Vicki Smith (Whittier)

Committee Members Not Present:

Delfino Consunji (Downey)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

District Staff facilitated the roll call, and quorum was established.

Lisa Ann Rapp, the Chair of Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC welcomed WASC members and called the meeting to order. She discussed housekeeping items, WebEx functions and the public comment process.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2021

The District displayed the posted copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Ann Rapp asked the WASC members for comments and/or revisions, hearing none she called for a motion. Jeremy Melendez motioned to approve the minutes. Adam Galia seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from June 8, 2021 (Approved, see vote tracking sheet.)

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Melanie Morita (District) provided the District update noting: The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) met on June 29, 2021 and approved the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) including the LSGR SIP. The approved SIPs will be sent to the Board of Supervisors by late summer for approval and thereafter initiate the transfer agreement process.

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Lisa Ann Rapp noted that both she and Melissa Yu attended the ROC and that the process had moved smoothly.

Melanie Morita (District) provided an update on the Regional Program. She indicated that the first-round of quarterly reports have been submitted and that the next quarterly report will be due on August 15, 2021. The Call for Projects deadline for the Round 3 is July 31, 2021. She noted that the District hosted two informational sessions and that these were available for viewing on the SCW website along with the presentation slides and the FAQs. Regarding the Watershed Coordinators (WCs), she noted that all 12 WC agreements had been executed.

Kristen Ruffell asked about the WASCs responsibility pertaining to quarterly reports. Melanie Morita (District) indicated that the District will likely provide a summary of the reports highlighting any modifications or changes to the original scope of work. She noted that these reports do not affect the SIPs in any decision making for the current round but assist the WASC with their decision making for the next round of SIPs.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Kekoa Anderson (OhanaVets) indicated that the WC update would be provided during item 7a.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

None.

6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Watershed Coordinator Final Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Lisa Ann Rapp noted that all WASC members received via electronic communication a copy of the plan with requests to review prior to today's meeting. She also indicated that the WASC received a presentation at the June 2021 meeting on which discussions were held.

Kekoa Anderson displayed a slide presentation of the draft final Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) and provided an overview to the WASC. The SOEP is available on the Committee Webpage.

Grace Kast (OhanaVets) announced that they have created a Facebook page that will link back to their website to assist with outreach. She thanked the WASC for their input and stakeholder list.

Traci Gleason (OhanaVets) provided an overview of how the WC will coordinate the technical assistance for potential projects.

Kekoa Anderson (OhanaVets) mentioned the collaboration efforts with adjacent watershed areas to ensure consistent and efficient outreach to stakeholders. Upper San Gabriel River will be a key watershed area for LSGR to coordinate with it.

Adam Galia expressed interest on the WC's coordination with the DACIP being that Grace Kast is the Co-Chair of that organization and how valuable it would be to the community, especially as it relates to potential

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projects. Regarding identifying physical and other barriers, Adam Galia conveyed that it is important to understand the barriers and identify how the WASC can support the WC in finding solutions. He also indicated that the WC should partner with Water Districts in the Watershed area such as Central Basin, and WRD when it comes to outreach and share those resources with them including events. He also indicated that it was important to create and expand the stakeholder list and engage people to sign up for the newsletter.

Adam Galia asked for additional details regarding the technical advisory committee and when the WC plans to start the onboarding process. Traci Gleason responded that they have already started working with and attending meetings for projects such as the Lake Equestrian Center and are looking in to working with other projects and providing assistance where it is needed. Adam Galia reiterated that it is important that NGOs involved are able to simplify terms for community member's understanding. He also noted the importance of providing information in various languages spoken by community members. Kekoa Anderson described how they planned to overcome language barriers.

Adam Galia asked when the www.cleanwatervision.com website would be live for the public and if the SCW Program website would have link to access the website. Grace Kast explained that WC specifically created the www.cleanwatervision.com for the LSGR WASC and that it will be linked to the SCW Program website. Grace Kast noted that she agrees that they should coordinate with Water Districts and that they had an in-depth discussion with WRD's public outreach staff. She indicated that they may or may not have a newsletter, but that they will have a way for interested community stakeholders and others to be able to subscribe for more information. She explained the DACIP Task Force is working on providing technical assistance to the communities and that they would want to combine and coordinate those efforts. Adam Galia commented on the Governor's 15% voluntary drought and how the WC can keep the community informed of high-level events.

Nancy Villaseñor asked if the WASC should contact the WC if they learn of additional information or events. Kekoa Anderson responded that the WASC members can contact the OhanaVets team at any time via email or phone directly. He explained that they will keep an addendum of great ideas from the WASC and the Public for future iterations of the SOEP.

Joseph Gonzalez asked if all the information will be offered in multi-lingual languages and if they plan to engage local Tribes. Grace Kast responded that they have struggled with tribal engagement and that they have learned a lot about tribal engagement during the DACIP. She explained that they cannot translate to all the languages spoken in the community, but she noted that she speaks Spanish and would be willing to translate. Kekoa Anderson responded that they included interpreters in their scope and fee.

Gabrielle Weeks mentioned that most of her neighbors are Vietnamese, and English is not their primary language and added that it should be included in the list of languages spoken in their communities.

8. Public Comment Period

None.

9. Voting Items

a) Approve the Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Adam Galia motioned to approve the final Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. Jeremy Melendez seconded the motion.

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The committee voted to approve the final SOEP and directed LSGR WC to use the plan as a guidance document. (Approved, see tracking sheet)

10. Items for Next Agenda

The District proposed a WASC roles and responsibilities refresher presentation as the Call for Projects ends on July 31, 2021 and the next cycle will begin.

Lisa Ann Rapp noted their next meeting session to be held on August 10, 2021 at 10:00AM.

11. Adjournment

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

LSGR WASC - July 13, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Item	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approve Meeting Minutes	Approve Draft Final SOEP and direct LSGR WC to use as a Guidance Document
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Jeremy Melendez	X	Y	Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Diane Gatzka		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	Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp		Irene Lopez-Muro	X	Y	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		Dan Mueller			
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		A	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		4			Total	15	15
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved

Attendance
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Adam Galia	Lyndsey Bloxom
Alexander Iglesias LACFCD	Maritsa DRA Inc
Bernie Iniguez	Marlin Munoz
Bryce Lee	Mayra Cabrera
Carlos Moran	Melanie Morita - LACFCD
Cecilia Salazar	Melissa You
elizabeth lambe	Michelle Kim
GAbrielle Weeks	Mike Antos
Grace Kast	Mike O'Grady
Irene Lopez-Muro	Nancy Villasenor
Jeremy Melendez	Noe Negrete
Joseph Gonzalez	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Julian Juarez	Robert Gomez
Justin Jones LACFCD	Tori Klug
kala anderson	Traci Gleason
Kekoa Anderson	Vicki Smith
Kristen Ruffell	Wataru Kumagai
Lisa Rapp	Yvana Hrovat