

Safe, Clean Water Program

Lower San Gabriel River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)
Esther Rojas* (Water Replenishment District)
Alex Rojas (Central Basin)
Quynh Tran* (LA County Sanitation Districts)
Nancy Villasenor* (City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation)
Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)
Joseph Gonzalez* (Rivers and Mountains Conservancy)
Adam Galia (Resident)
Alex Rojas (Central Basin Municipal Water District)
Mike O'Grady (Cerritos)
Delfino Consunji (Downey)
Lisa Ann Rapp (Lakewood), Vice-Chair
Melissa You (Long Beach), Chair
Bernie Iniguez (Bellflower)
Noe Negrete (Santa Fe Springs)
Vicki Smith (Whittier)
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Not Present:

Gabrielle Weeks (Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Melissa You, new Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

The District conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2021

The District provided meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Rojas made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Member Juarez seconded. The WASC voted to approve the August 10, 2021 meeting minutes. (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

There were no Committee Member updates.

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District Staff provided the District update, noting:

- The Regional Oversight Committee submitted the 2021 Stormwater Investment Plans to Board of Supervisors for approval. It will be up for adoption at the Board meeting on September 15.
- Round 3 Call for Projects deadline was July 31. The program received 41 Infrastructure Projects, 8 Scientific Studies and 7 Technical Resources Program submittals.
- For LSGR, there are 7 Infrastructure Program, 5 Scientific Studies, 0 Technical Resources Program submittals. Three presentations for Scientific Studies are on today's agenda.
- The Scoring Committee has started reviewing Infrastructure Program projects and is reviewing 1 project from LSGR, the Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System Hacienda Park. The other LSGR project are scheduled for review at the Scoring Committee on November 2.
- Regional Programs project applicants are required to submit quarterly and annual reports. Quarterly reports were due August 15 from current projects..
- Public Works executed all 12 Watershed Coordinator contracts and will proceed with their approved Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP).
- As part of the Municipal Program, each municipality must report Fiscal Year 21-22 Annual Plan by April 1 to receive annual payment, which will be dispersed October 2021.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Anderson provided updates on Watershed Coordinator Active Tasks with a presentation.

- Potential interested parties were identified for the upcoming stakeholder meeting.
- Four outreach meetings are expected by the watershed coordinator. Communication methods, including outreach materials and social media, were described.
- A summary video of the educational event and concert held in Whittier on Aug. 13 was presented.
- Active tasks that the coordinator is undertaking were presented. The next outreach event will be the LSGR virtual workshop with identified stakeholders held on October 26. The next stakeholder education event will take place early 2022.

Member Galia asked whether the WASC will be able to view the presentation for the outreach event on October 26 and requested for the PowerPoint presentation for LSGR Virtual Workshop prior to next WASC meeting on October 12th. Member Galia also asked that city staff be invited to the kickoff. Watershed Coordinator Anderson will provide list of stakeholders and presentation prior to the next WASC meeting so that committee has time to review and discuss collectively during the meeting. Grace Kast (OhanaVets) clarified that the kickoff meeting will be initial outreach and updating stakeholders on what is happening with LSGR WASC. And the kickoff meeting will not just be a presentation, there will also be interactive components.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

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7. Presentation and Discussion Items:

a) Scientific Studies Program – Microplastics in LA County Stormwater

Dr. Andrew Gray (UC Riverside) gave a presentation (see resources on WASC website) on the Microplastics in LA County Stormwater study submitted to the Scientific Studies Program.

Vice-Chair Rapp asked how the study will target a particular TMDL. Dr. Gray noted that the study doesn't address TMDLs since microplastics are not regulated in surface water but there are California State Water Resources Control Board concerns for drinking water.

Member Gonzalez asked how microplastics were impacting groundwater. Dr. Gray noted that groundwater hasn't been examined but he expects that groundwater is less impacted since microplastics are particulate matter.

b) Scientific Studies Program - Regional Pathogen Reduction Study

Richard Watson provided a presentation with updates regarding the Study (see resources on WASC website).

Member Galia asked what the differences were between the upcoming Study application and the previously submitted one. Watson noted that the major changes were responses to the peer review: the upcoming study finalized a scope of work and specified types and locations of proposed sampling activities. Watson also clarified that community and stakeholder engagement activities have always been part of the project's application.

c) Scientific Studies Program – Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation

Diana Campos Jimenez and Juan Diaz-Carreras from Los Angeles Community Garden Council provided a presentation about the Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation Study (see resources on WASC website). Benefits of the project not listed in the presentation are to help address TMDL compliance and engage community gardeners.

Member Knapp commented it was a great educational opportunity. Asked for clarification about whether the submitted project will include an implemented project. Diaz-Carreras clarified that implementation is not included, but the study will involve developing concept reports to further develop the project. The project can apply for funding as a grassroots effort. Diaz-Carreras emphasized the importance of community involvement for project implementation.

Vice-Chair Rapp asked if the concept reports would be feasibility studies to apply for funding. Diaz-Carreras said they will be desktop analyses that aren't sufficient for feasibility study but can be used for a technical resources application.

Vice-Chair Rapp asked whether the project team has considered non-municipal land ownership of properties for community gardens and notes that utility agencies have very strict requirements with land leases. Vice-Chair Rapp recommended that the study involves outreach to utilities who have impact on location of community gardens and negotiate opportunities for them to support community gardens for the study. Diaz-Carreras noted that the project includes a screening process for underlying landowners who are on board to modify land for garden. Vice-Chair recommended reaching out to utility agencies prior to project.

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Member Galia asked whether all watersheds would need to commit to provide necessary funding. Diaz-Carreras said no, each watershed is independent and would affect the scope of the project.

Member Galia asked where there have been successes for these types of projects. Diaz-Carreras said they have seen success across the County (municipalities and private owners). Campos Jimenez provided clarification that they have not worked with schools because there is another organization for that. Member Knapp noted his previous experience with the LA Community Garden Council saw success throughout the County.

9. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

10. Voting Items

a) None

11. Items for Next Agenda

- a) Presentations for more scientific studies programs
- The District noted that the committee can expect presentations for 2 scientific studies and 1 infrastructure program project proponent at the next meeting.
 - Chair You reminded the committee to look at the applications for the LSGR.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The District commented that the pandemic-related modifications to the Brown Act are expected to expire at the end of the month, and that AB 361 has yet to be approved. Committee meetings may have to transition to hybrid alternatives. The District will provide updates prior to the next meeting.

12. Adjournment

Chair You thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
10:00AM – 12:00PM
See SCW website for meeting details

LSGR WASC - September 14, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 8-10-2021 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		Y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	x	Jeremy Melendez		Y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Esther Rojas	x	A
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Quynh Tran	x	A
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		A
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	x	Thalia Campos		
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	x	Y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks				
Community Stakeholder						
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	x			Y
Municipal Members	Downey	Delfino Consunji	x	Dan Mueller		Y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Lisa Ann Rapp	x	Konya Vivanti		A
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai		Y
Municipal Members	City of Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Glen Kau		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Fe Springs	Noe Negrete	x	Marlin Munoz		A
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		Y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	OhanaVets	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast		NA
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	9
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	5
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendance

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Adam Galia	Juan Diaz-Carreras
Alex Rojas	Julian Juarez
Alexander Iglesias LACFCD	Kekoa Anderson
Andrew Gray	Lisa Rapp
Anthony Chica	Marlin Munoz
Bernie Iniguez	Melanie Morita - SCW
Blake Whittington	Melissa You
Bryce Lee	Michael Drennan
Cameron Castillo	Michelle Kim
Dan Knapp	Mike O'Grady
Darin Son	Nancy Villasenor
Delfino Consunji	Noe Negrete
Diana Campos-Jimenez	Quynh Tran
Donna Tran	Richard Watson
Esther Rojas	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
Grace Kast	Tori Klug
I EC	Traci Gleason
Jeremy Melendez	Vicki Smith
Joe Venzon - LA County	Wataru Kumagai
Joseph Gonzalez	