

# Safe, Clean Water Program

## Santa Clara River

### Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

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#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Thursday, August 05, 2021  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

#### **Attendees**

##### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (District)	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)
Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)	Bruce Hamamoto (LA County Public Works)
Steve Cole (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)	Jason Gibbs (Santa Clarita)
Martha Tremblay* (LA County Sanitation Districts)	Oliver Cramer* (Santa Clarita)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)	Mike Hennawy* (Santa Clarita)
Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)	Tom Cole (Santa Clarita)
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)	
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)	

##### Committee Members Not Present:

None

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Jason Gibbs, Chair of the Santa Clara River WASC, called the meeting to order.

CJ Caluag of the District facilitated the roll call. All committee members made self-introductions, and quorum was established.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

The District displayed a copy of the meeting minutes from the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meeting. CJ Caluag asked the committee members for comments and/or revisions.

Steve Cole motioned to approve the meeting minutes, with Dirk Marks seconding this motion.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes (Approved, See Vote Tracking Sheet).

### **3. Committee Member and District Updates**

CJ Caluag provided the District updates noting:

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- Regional Oversight Committee voted on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to recommend all nine Watershed Area Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to advance to the Board of Supervisors for final approval tentatively scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Fiscal Year 2022-23 Regional Program Call for Projects Round 3 deadline was July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The District received 40 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, 13 Scientific Studies, and 7 Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects for all nine Watershed Areas. For the Santa Clara River Watershed Area, there was one Infrastructure Program project (Pico Canyon Stormwater Improvement Project), one Technical Resources Program project (Jake Kuredjian Park Stormwater Improvement project), and 1 Scientific Study project, which was a resubmission of the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study.
- Regional Program Fund recipients are required to submit their quarterly and annual reports. Next deadline is August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- All 12 Watershed Coordinators (WCs) from all nine Watershed Areas have had their contracts executed. Next steps are to develop the Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans (SOEP).
- Each municipality must submit their annual Municipal Program plans, which were due on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sandra Cattell asked if Santa Clarita submitted their annual plan. CJ Caluag responded that they would confirm but it was probable. Sandra Cattell asked if this was the only Municipality that submitted. CJ Caluag commented that L.A. County also needed to submit on behalf of the unincorporated areas.

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

As the Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator (WC), Peter Massey (TreePeople, Inc.) provided updates, noting:

- The SOEP will be presented and discussed later in today's meeting.
- As the WC, followed up with Richard Watson & Associates to see if that team was planning to resubmit the Regional Pathogen Study, which they confirmed. A meeting was requested with Richard Watson & Associates and the residents of the Acton and Agua Dulce communities for clarity around community concerns on that study, so that the study could address the community concerns before it is submitted.
- The WC submitted a full analysis on survey data from the Disadvantaged Community and Involvement program called Water Talks. The summary is intended to guide L.A. County Public Works in their application for the IP project at Pico Canyon Park, and also showed where community interests are or could be addressed by aspects of the project design. The analysis also provided guidance on best practices in community outreach and assisted in connecting L.A. County with local groups to the project.
- The WC attended L.A. County's presentation before the Westridge Homeowners Association on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- The WC attended multiple town council meetings, research and funding webinars, the Regional Oversight Committee meeting, and two working sessions with other WCs where they worked on group priorities for the coming year and shared lessons learned.

Sandra Cattell asked if the WC had any coordination with the Lower Santa Clara River Watershed either the water company or some of the environmental groups. Peter Massey indicated that not at this time, but that it is on their list to work with the Lower Santa Clara River Water Management group.

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#### **5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

No updates were provided on this item of the agenda.

#### **6. Public Comment Period**

Jacqueline Ayer, on behalf of the Acton Town Council, expressed her appreciation for Peter Massey and Ricard Watson for meeting with them regarding the projects that are being proposed.

Sandra Cattell commented that before they do anything with their new submissions, she would really like to have a presentation from WorkForce about hiring locally. She asked to agendaize Workforce for a presentation.

#### **7. Discussion Items**

##### a) Presentation of Watershed Coordinator Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Peter Massey facilitated a slide presentation.

Dirk Marks commented that Peter Massey could perhaps delete the reference to the LA Aqueduct, as this region does not receive any water from that source, and instead replace it with the State Water Project. He also suggested to Peter Massey that he mention the water reclamation plants as they are significant contributors to the water that enters the Santa Clara River.

Sandra Cattell asked if it would be advantageous to think in terms of the areas that have had flooding issues in high rain seasons and the possibility of having some sort of capture infiltration project there. Peter Massey responded that they were aware and would highlight it in the SOEP.

Oliver Cramer asked how the comments to the SOEP should be submitted. Peter Massey indicated that any form that is convenient to the Committee will suffice, whether it is through virtual sticky notes in the PDF or in the body of an email. Oliver Cramer also asked if the timeline is strict because the August 19, 2021 deadline may be too stringent. Peter Massey responded that they could extend the deadline, which would mean that the official vote to approve the SOEP would be in October. If the Committee had no objection to voting in October, the WC would be fine with an extension.

#### **8. Public Comment Period**

Jacqueline Ayer expressed concern for the Committee's schedule to approve the SOEP which would not allow the community to submit comments by the proposed deadline. She added that one of the community's biggest problems is the flooding in downtown Acton which occurs with every rainstorm. It is far worse than any situation that the Committee has addressed in the projects already approved. Therefore, she asked the Committee to consider the Acton flooding as one of their top priorities. She also noted that when the Committee tries to find project applicants, it is important to understand that the Acton local organizations, such as the Acton Women's Club, the Rusty Studs Group or the Friends of Acton Park, do not have the technical ability to be a project applicant. As far as she is aware, there is only one entity that could be an applicant on the project in Acton and that is L.A. County from whom they have not received any communication although several requests to put a project together have been solicited. Therefore, she asked if there can be a mechanism that places their community together with L.A. County to address their terrible flooding issues. Lastly, she commented that they can provide comments by September, but not in August. Peter Massey commented that they are aware of the flooding situation. He added that he will put in a reminder to have her be able to provide comments in the early September meeting.

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#### **9. Voting Items**

##### a) Selection of Chair(s)

Steve Cole motioned for Jason Gibbs to remain as Chair and Tom Cole as Vice Chair, with Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel seconding this motion. The Committee voted to approve this motion (Approved, See Vote Tracking Sheet).

##### b) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration

CJ Caluag explained that for this vote, it will be a motion to move the 1 Feasibility Study (Pico Canyon Stormwater Improvement project) to the Scoring Committee.

Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel motioned to send all the completed Feasibility Studies to the Scoring Committee, with Sandra Cattell seconding this motion. The Committee voted to approve this motion (Approved, See Vote Tracking Sheet).

#### **10. Items for Next Agenda**

##### a) Approve the Final SOEP

CJ Caluag requested confirmation that the SOEP approval would not occur in the September meeting, but rather in October. Peter Massey responded that this would be his suggestion in order to allow the City of Santa Clarita, the Acton Town Council, and others the ability to submit comments prior to approval.

##### b) WASC Roles and Responsibilities

CJ Caluag indicated that Mike Antos from Stantec will facilitate a presentation on reaffirming the WASC's Roles and Responsibilities.

Sandra Cattell commented that the WASC would like to be included in public outreach meetings for projects, as they have expressed in the past. There was a public outreach meeting in Castaic that they were not invited to and reiterated the WASC's request to be included. Moreover, she asked that future public outreach meetings be agendaized so that everyone is aware and able to attend. Mike Antos noted that the WC Update will include items that are on the schedule, such as the public outreach meetings. Bruce Hamamoto commented that in the future, when L.A. County coordinates a stakeholder meeting, they will inform the WC and the WASC.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Sandra Cattell motioned to adjourn the meeting, with Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel seconding this motion.

Jason Gibbs thanked the WASC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - AUGUST 5, 2021								
		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Approval of 06-03-21 Meeting Minutes	SCR Chair (Jason Gibbs) and Vice-Chair (Tom Cole)	Send 1 IP (Pico Canyon SW Improvements Project) to Scoring Committee
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Dirk Marks	x	Mike Alvord		y	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y	y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Martha Tremblay	x	a	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Janine Prado	x	Amy Seyerle		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	x			y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	x	Diane Trautman		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		*	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		*	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		*	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs	x	Darin Seegmiller		y	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda		Oliver Cramer	x	a	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Robert Newman		Mike Hennawy	x	y	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Tom Cole	x	David Peterson		a	y	y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yay (Y)	10	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	3	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	13	16	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved	Approved

\* joined meeting late and did not vote on this item

**Attendees**  
**Santa Clara River WASC Meeting**  
**August 5, 2021**

Allen	Ma - LA Co Public Works	Mike	Hennawy
Maia	Colyar	Steve	Cole
Sandra	Cattell	Mary	Johnson
Dirk	Marks	Justin	Jones LACFCD
Annakaren	Ramirez	Safe	Clean Water LA
Jason	Gibbs	Maritsa	DRA Inc.
Jon	Abelson (Stantec)	Sarai	Jimenez
Diane	Trautman	Amanda	Begley
Cameron	R	CJ	Caluag - LACFCD
Martha	Tremblay	Mike	Antos
Josephine	Gutierrez	Darin	Seegmiller
Natalie	Vartanian	Oliver	Cramer
Larry	Tran	Julian	Juarez
Tom	Cole	janine	prado
Jacqueline	Ayer	Michael	Yosef
Dianne	Hellrigel	Bruce	Hamamoto
Jonathan	Lu	Lauro	Alvarado
Peter	Massey		