

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, October 7, 2021
12:30pm – 2:30pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Maria Mehranian (Cordoba Corp.)
Barbara Romero (City of Los Angeles), Co-Chair
Diana Tang (City of Long Beach)
Kristine Guerrero (League of Cities)
Belinda Faustinos (Retired NGO/ State Agency Executive)
Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay), Co-Chair

Lauren Ahkiam (LAANE), Vice-Chair
Elva Yañez (Prevention Institute)
Lawrence Yee (LA Regional Water Quality Control Board), non-voting member
Carl Blum (LA County Flood Control District), non-voting member

Committee Members Not Present:

Charles Trevino (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1) Welcome and Introductions

Shelley Luce, Co-chair of the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), called the meeting to order and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

Matt Frary (District) discussed WebEx features and the availability of Spanish translation for the meeting.

2) Public Comment Period

Co-chair Luce reviewed the 4 methods available for public comment. Matt Frary stated that no public comment cards were received in advance by the ROC, and confirmed no other public comments at the time.

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 29, 2021

District staff displayed the posted copy of the draft minutes from the June 29th meeting. Co-chair Luce asked the Committee Members for comments or potential revisions.

Member Faustinos made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Member Mehranian seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

4) Committee Member and District Updates

Co-chair Luce solicited any updates from Committee members. Co-chair Luce acknowledged the recent Orange County oil spill event and its impacts to the region.

Member Tang thanked the co-chair for mentioning the oil spill.

Member Yanez noted a new Prevention Institute-managed funding initiative (People, Parks, and Power) with 7 million dollars to be awarded to up to 14 community-based organizations to increase park equity through local policy and system change, including stormwater capture and Nature-Based Solutions; more information can be found at <https://preventioninstitute.org/projects/people-parks-and-power> .

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Member Ahkiam thanked the district for arranging the Spanish translation for the meeting.

Member Yee noted that the regional board adopted the new MS4 permit, which was a big success for the region. He also acknowledged the Orange County spill and the Hyperion plant spill, which is now back to normal operating conditions.

Co-chair Luce indicated that District updates will be deferred to when Matt Frary presents in item 6.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Mehranian attended a meeting about the MacArthur Park project progress.

6) Early Implementation Update

Co-chair Luce voiced appreciation for the Safe Clean Water Program and all that have participated to make it a success to date.

Carolina Hernandez (District) introduced the presentation. Matt Frary shared the context for the early implementation update on the Safe Clean Water Program and introduced two Board offices for opening remarks. Opening remarks were made by Daritza Gonzalez (Supervisorial District 4 - Public Works, Parks & Rec, ISD Deputy), who provided context on governance committees, and Sophie Freeman (Supervisorial District 3 - Associate Deputy for the Environment and Arts), who presented an overview of the recently approved stormwater investment plans FY 21-22.

Matt Frary delivered the early implementation update (see Attached: Early Implementation Update Slides; video posted as well). Matt also encouraged the committee to visit the SCW portal to see the projects that are being funded and/or considered by the SCW Program.

Member Mehranian congratulated the District for the amount of work to date and voiced appreciation for the project proponents.

Member Blum was impressed by the data and scale of the project and still believes there should also be specific goals and visions for each watershed that extend beyond identifying individual projects (i.e., how much water does the area want/need to conserve, what contaminants need to be specifically addressed, etc). Member Blum believes that municipalities and other potential Project Developers should look into potential real estate purchases to help meet project goals. Member Blum also requested each Watershed Area consider drafting a timeline for achieving their goals, which would be updated periodically as progress is made.

Co-chair Luce asked who would be setting up the watershed specific goals and timelines. Member Blum saw it being the watershed coordinator working with the WASC, and believed it would help the individual WASCs feel more ownership and commitment to the watershed-specific goals. Co-chair Luce thanked the member for the comments.

Member Yanez congratulated the District and seconded Member Blum's ideas. Member Yanez asked for more information on the work done by UCLA for the metrics and monitoring study and how that will affect the work that ROC is doing. Matt Frary noted that the UCLA white paper will focus on disadvantaged community benefits and engagement with the community. The draft white paper is currently expected around March 2022.

Member Ahkiam echoed the congratulations, asked when regional program reports will be available, and asked for more information around the progress towards workforce development, community outreach, and education programs. Member Ahkiam noted a recent board motion that would allow some work in workforce development and asked for an update on the motion's next steps.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



Matt Frary noted that the District is continually refining the quarterly reporting process, with the next reports due on November 15th. The District will have the regional reports ready for the committee as soon as able. A similar standard process is being designed for the municipal reports as well. The referenced board motion, which was passed last week (September 28th), grants authority, funding, and commitment to develop the larger scale District Education Programs. The District is working with consultants to figure out the logistics of the programs. One of the efforts for public education and community engagement programs is the creation of a mini grant program that is expected to provide resources for CBOs and municipalities to engage with the appropriate communities on a project and programmatic level. One of the efforts with the workforce development program includes developing a SCWP-specific training program as an expansion of existing workforce education resources to help train individuals and include them in the County workforce to provide operation and maintenance services on LACFCD or County unincorporate projects. Regional workforce training outside of Public Works would likely be considered for a future expansion.

Member Yee echoed the congratulations and was very impressed with accomplishments to date. He asked if the committee and coordinators meet regularly. Matt Frary confirmed they do, and Mike Antos (Stantec) has continued to help with the regional coordination efforts while Watershed Coordinators have been rotating to lead their own collaboration meetings. Member Yee invited the District to present at the Regional Board regarding the progress of the SCW program.

7) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8) Annual Selection of ROC Chair(s)

Co-chair Luce introduced the process for the selection of the ROC Chair and opened the floor for nominations and interest in the position. Co-chair Luce noted that Co-Chair Romero will step down as co-chair given her new role at LA Sanitation but will continue to serve as a member. Co-chair Luce stated that she was interested in remaining in the position, and Vice-Chair Lauren Ahkiam voiced interest in being nominated to co-chair. Co-chair Luce noted that the co-chair model worked very well to date and hopes that the structure can continue in the next year. Co-Chair Romero also voiced appreciation for the co-chair model. Member Guerrero expressed interest in the vice-chair position.

No additional nominations were made. Member Mehranian made a motion to vote on a slate for all three candidates (to elect Shelly Luce and Lauren Ahkiam as co-chairs and Kristine Guerrero as vice-chair). Member Tang seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the selection of ROC Chairs for the safe clean water program.

9) Reconsideration of circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency as affecting the ability of the committee to meet safely in person

Matt Frary provided an overview of AB 361 (effective Oct. 1), allowing the continuation of virtual meetings with certain conditions, including regular findings that justify the state of emergency and the need to continue virtual meetings. This item was added to the agenda before it was determined that the Safe Clean Water Program committees would fall under the findings of the Board of Supervisors. This item is tabled, and District staff will keep the ROC advised about the status of in-person or virtual meetings.

Co-chair Luce asked whether the public will be able to attend the meeting virtually if the committee were to meet in person in the future. The District said they have already been investigating options and preparing for hybrid meetings and would be glad to coordinate with others who have potential suitable venues as well.

Member Ahkiam thanked the co-chair and district for arranging the options for community engagement.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Regional Oversight Committee



10) Items for Next Agenda

Member Faustinus asked for updates on the community engagement program(s) and indicated ROC members could potentially help share opportunities with others.

Member Yanez asked for a presentation on the GIS mapping portal and the FloodBRIDGE project (funded by National Science Foundation and led by UC Irvine). Member Yanez also asked for an update on the work by UCLA Luskin Center within the Metrics & Monitoring Study.

Member Blum asked for an update on the watershed coordinators and their current activities and efforts. The Co-Chair asked the District and/or Mike Antos to arrange an update at a future ROC meeting and suggested that perhaps a few of the coordinators could directly present as well. Member Guerrero appreciated the suggestion and voiced agreement to meet and hear from watershed coordinators.

Co-Chair Luce asked for an update on the approved Scientific Studies to date and what reports or outcomes to expect from them.

Member Ahkiam asked for a timeline of the upcoming stakeholder input and outreach opportunities to ensure that ROC members and interested others can participate.

District will coordinate the agenda items for the next meeting with new co-chair and vice-chairs.

11) Meeting Adjourned

Co-chair Luce thanked ROC members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 2:08 pm.

The next meeting date of the Regional Oversight Committee is still to be determined, but meetings in the spring are anticipated after public review of 2022 guidance documents and to review new Stormwater Investment Plans.

Regional Oversight Committee - October 7, 2021				
	Quorum Present		Voting Items	
Member Type	Member	Present?	Approval of June 29, 2021 meeting minutes	Elect Shelly Luce and Lauren Ahkiam as Co-Chairs and Kristine Guerrero as Vice-Chair
Voting Member	Maria Mehranian	x	y	y
Voting Member	Barbara Romero	x	y	y
Voting Member	Diana Tang	x	y	y
Voting Member	Kristine Guerrero	x	y	y
Voting Member	Belinda Faustinos	x	y	y
Voting Member	Shelley Luce	x	y	y
Voting Member	Lauren Ahkiam	x	y	y
Voting Member	Elva Yanez	x	y	y
Voting Member	Charles Trevino			
Non-Voting Member	Carl Blum	x		
Non-Voting Member	Lawrence Yee	x		
Total Non-Vacant Seats	9	Yay (Y)	8	8
Total Voting Members Present	8	Nay (N)	0	0
		Abstain (A)	0	0
		Total	8	8
			Approved	Approved

Attendees

Regional Oversight Committee Meeting – October 7, 2021

Adi Liberman	Dawn Petschauer	Matt (LACFCD)
Alex Paxton	Deborah Bloome	Melanie Rivera
Alfredo Camacho (Day One)	Devon Provo	Melina Watts
Amanda Begley	Diana Tang	Melissa Turcotte
Amanda Zeidner	Elizabeth Orozco	Michela Catena
Aric Torreyson	Elva Yanez	Michelle Struthers
Azeneth Martinez	Gabrielle	Mikaela Randolph
B P	H. Ted Gerber	Mike Antos
Barbara Romero	I EC	Nancy Shrodes
Belen Bernal	Jason Casanova	Napoleon Beraza
Belinda Faustinos	Jennifer Amarant	Pablo Forni - LACFCD
Brad Wardynski	Jenny Newman	Raina
Brianne Logasa	Johanna Chang	Sarai Bhaga
Brittany D. Rivas	Justin Jones	Sheila Brice
Call-in User_2	Kam Cheema	Shelley Luce
Call-in User_3	Kevin Kim -LACFCD	Sophie Freeman
Carl Blum	Kirk Allen - LACFCD	Stephanie Tong
Carlos Moran	Kristine Guerrero	Steven Frasher
Carolina Hernandez	Larry Tran - LACFCD	Susie Santilena
Christine McLeod	Larry Yee	Tara Dales (LLAR Coordinator)
Clarasophia Gust	Lauren Ahkiam	Tori Klug
Conor Mossavi	Leslie Friedman Johnson	Wendy Dinh
Darin Son (Note Taker)	Maria Mehranian	Yisak Kim
Daritzia Gonzalez	Marissa Caringella	