

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



---

Tuesday, October 19, 2021  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency), Chair  
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)  
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community), Vice Chair  
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)  
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)  
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)  
Vanessa Hevener, Arcadia (Municipal)  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Gloria Crudgington, Monrovia (Municipal)  
James Carlson, Sierra Madre (Municipal)  
Richard Watson, RWA Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency), Vice Chair  
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)  
Frank Lopez, Monterey Park (Municipal)  
Kris Markarian, Pasadena (Municipal)  
Vacant (Community)  
Vacant (Community)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

---

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the Rio Hondo 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 September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

The District provided meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes, by Member Hall, seconded by Member Dolphin. The WASC voted to approve the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Chair Ruffell provided an update. The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) are working with the Council for Watershed Health to host a workshop on the approval process for incorporating a sewer diversion as part of a stormwater project. Work to-date revealed several frequently asked questions that the LACSD plans to address in advance. The workshop is scheduled for November 10, 9-11 AM and registration information can be found at the Council for Watershed Health website: <https://www.watershedhealth.org/recycle-the-runoff>

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



District Staff provided an update, noting:

- The District is initiating a fund Transfer Agreement process for projects that were approved for funding in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 SIPs. Addendums to projects that were approved in Year 1 were also sent out.
- Round 3 Call for Projects deadline was July 31. For Rio Hondo, there are 2 Infrastructure Program, 4 Scientific Studies, and 0 Technical Resources Program submittals.
- The Scoring Committee has started scoring projects. The Rio Hondo's Infrastructure Program projects will be reviewed by the Scoring Committee on November 16.
- Regional Program project applicants are required to submit quarterly reports. The District is working on providing comments to project developers, who will have the opportunity to resubmit project applications. A summary of quarterly reports will be provided to WASCs. The next quarterly reports are due November 15.
- For the Municipal Program, annual payments will be disbursed in late October or early November 2021.
- The Board of Supervisors are acting under the authority of a new Assembly Bill (AB 361) that was signed into law effective October 1, 2021 which continues suspension of some Brown Act teleconference requirements. The Rio Hondo WASC will follow the Board of Supervisor's lead and continue teleconference meetings until further notice.

Chair Ruffell asked if the committee will have to vote monthly to continue teleconference meetings. District staff clarified that the committees will not need to vote. The WASCs are Board of Supervisors created committees and the WASC meetings will follow the lead of Board of Supervisors

Member Rossman asked for clarification on the number of projects for Infrastructure Program and Scientific Studies Program, noting that the number of projects received or approved are low compared to previous years. Member Rossman also asked if this issue has been observed in other Watershed Areas. District Staff noted that the reported project counts represent those that were approved for either the Infrastructure Program or Scientific Studies Program and that there has been a decrease in project applications across all Watershed Areas. District Staff suggested the committee work with Watershed Coordinators to address the decreased number of project applications. Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that the issue will be addressed in their update.

#### **4. Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Julie Millett (RWA) provided an update on Watershed Coordinator activities and SOEP document (refer to Watershed Coordinator Presentation).

Watershed Coordinator Watson provided an update on potential need for resources to achieve completion of projects previously supported by the WASC, including project funding and cost-share partnerships in response to Chair Ruffell's request from the September 21, 2021 WASC Meeting.

Chair Ruffell requested District Staff ensure the availability of the project funding and cost-share partnerships information when the Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee reviews the Stormwater Investment Plan.

Member Juarez thanked the Watershed Coordinator and Millett for the presentation and noted that strategizing across different Watershed Areas will help coordinate overlapping projects.

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



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

Watershed Coordinator Watson disclosed that while doing reconnaissance of the watershed, they and Millett contacted the consultant for the East Los Angeles College Eat Drainage Area Biofiltration & Stormwater Capture and Use project to visit the project site and also met with a public official for more information regarding the project.

Chair Ruffell and Mike Antos (Stantec) clarified that the Watershed Coordinator does not need to disclose ex parte communications, as they are non-voting members and their job duties include engaging with project proponents.

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

No public comments.

#### **7. Presentation and Discussion Items:**

##### **a) Presentations for Scientific Studies Program**

###### **i. Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation**

Presentation by Diana Campos Jimenez and Juan Diaz-Carreras. Community gardens can function as stormwater capture facilities. This study will investigate such opportunities and will include outreach.

Member Crudgington asked what the impact of using polluted stormwater for irrigation would be on the food produced by the community garden. Diaz-Carreras noted that the study will include an investigation on what stormwater treatment and capture practices would be best for community gardens and that currently the study does not include any sampling of plants or food at the gardens.

Member Crudgington asked if use of water for irrigation truly meets the goals of the Safe Clean Water program. Diaz-Carreras noted the questions are part of the study and the study will investigate the best way to capture, treat, or store water using community gardens.

Member Rossman noted there is existing literature around stormwater capture methods in community gardens and asked how the study data will support future Measure W and/or community garden projects. Diaz-Carreras noted that the data is incomplete, and the study is going to investigate the scientific and community benefit questions that will help develop criteria and a template that may be used to develop more community gardens in the future. Member Rossman emphasized the need for the project's data to support future projects and suggested that the project find ways to make the data useful for other program applications (i.e., County's WHAM committee).

Chair Ruffell suggested that the project applicants attend future meetings where the WASC will continue to discuss the projects.

###### **ii. Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Gateway Water Management Authority**

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



Presentation by Bruce Hamamoto. The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health. This study has been proposed to all nine watershed areas.

Chair Ruffell noted that some WASC have approved the project and asked if the project has received funding. Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that no funding has been disbursed thus far.

Antos clarified that Watershed Coordinator Watson has previously been involved with the study and because of their role with and membership on the WASC, questions should be directed to Hamamoto.

Member Dolphin noted that a similar study (ULAR RH Human Marker study) exists and asked whether the project will be coordinating with this study. Hamamoto confirmed that the project will coordinate with the ULAR/RH Human Marker study as well as the studies performed by the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC).

Member Dolphin asked if collaboration would reduce costs of the study. Hamamoto noted that although the project will look for opportunities to reduce costs through collaboration, it may not affect the costs to individual Watershed Areas, as the study will be performed on a regional level.

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

No public comments.

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

- a) Approve the Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Member Dolphin made a motion to approve the Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, Member Crudginton seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

- a) Presentations for Infrastructure Program.
- b) Items mentioned in the previous meeting will be added, including presentations from Craft Water on the pre:SIP Scientific Study and from TreePeople on the Disadvantage Community Involvement Program.

Member Wong noted that the WASC virtual meeting is currently recorded by the District for note-taking purposes, and asked whether there were concerns with posting the WASC meetings on public platforms such as YouTube, noting that posting the videos may help increase public engagement. The District will provide a follow up on the subject above on the next meeting.

Chair Ruffell requested the Watershed Coordinator Presentation be posted to the website. District staff noted that the presentation has been posted.

#### **11. Adjournment**

# Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



---

Chair Ruffell thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

1:00PM – 3:00PM

See SCW website for meeting details



**Attendance**  
**RH WASC - October 19, 2021**

Brad Parks	Juan Diaz-Carreras
Enrique Baul	Thomas Wong
Thuan Chi	Ruby Wang
Brent Maue	Kristen Ruffell
Ryan Edgley	Daniel Rossman
Kris Markarian	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
David Dolphin	Gloria Crudgington
Diana Campos-Jimenez	Bryan Matsumoto
Eddie Chan	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
james tong	Vanessa Hevener
Mike Antos	Julian Juarez
Fernando Villaluna	Melanie Morita - SCW
James Carlson	Larry Tran
Julie Millett	Aric Torreyson
Alex Tachiki	Bryce Lee
Alex Tachiki	Daniel Apt
William OBraitis	Adam Acosta
Bruce Hamamoto	Darin Son (Note Taker)
Mark Hall	Katie Harrel
Richard Watson	