

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, October 7, 2021
3:00pm – 5:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Dirk Marks, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)
Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Janine Prado, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, Santa Clarita Valley Community Hiking Club (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Chair Jason Gibbs, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
*Oliver Cramer, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
*Mike Hennawy, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Vice Chair Tom Cole, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Peter Massey, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jason Gibbs, Chair of the Santa Clara River WASC, welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

District staff 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 5th, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Member S. Cole, seconded by Vice Chair T. Cole. The committee voted to approve the August 5th, 2021 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff stated that the Board of supervisors approved 9 stormwater investment plans 9/15. The call for projects ended 7/31. SCR WASC received 3 submittals, 1 IP, 1 SS, and 1 TRP.

Municipal Annual Plan Payments will be dispersed to municipalities this month.

Regarding Agenda Item 9.b voting item: Direction was provided by the Board of Supervisors regarding the expiration of the Executive Order that allowed public meetings to be held virtually. A new bill (AB 361) was signed into law that was effective 10/1, authorizing public committees to continue meeting without complying with all the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act. The Board is reviewing every 30

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



days and will act which will cover all the commissions and committees under their authority. Teleconferencing is allowed at this time and the committee will not need to act on this voting item.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Peter Massey presented the August and September Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan (SOEP) plan revisions and mentioned there were 60 comments, and that a redline version is available on the website.

Watershed Coordinator Massey mentioned the SCR River Rally that took place Sept. 18th which provided education on urban watersheds and was able to survey the public about local water issues, and met with staff at CA Assembly District 38, attended a LA County water plan meeting, and engaged about LA Co Parks Rural and Regional Plan.

Watershed Coordinator Massey also described the WaterTalks program, funded by Proposition 1, provides additional design and engineering resources, and discussed ongoing research into state Flood Reduction and Drought Emergency Funding

Next Period-

- Project ID workshops
- Leveraged funding analysis
- Workforce development presentation in Nov

Vice Chair T. Cole asked if the committee could get list of organizations that submitted comments to the SOEP.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No Ex Parte Communications.

6. Public Comment Period

Jackie Ayer asked District Staff for link to Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan on the web.

The District provided the link in the WebEx chat to the SOEP which was loaded alongside the meeting agenda and presentation materials at <https://safecleanwaterla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Final-SOEP-REDLINE.pdf>

7. Discussion Items

a) WASC Roles and Responsibilities Presentation

Mike Antos (Stantec) presented on the roles and responsibilities of a WASC, the purpose of the SCWP, and the operating procedures of a WASC.

Member Sandra Cattell asked for a link to the presentation. Member Cattell also asked if there is a push for alternates, and LA County Public Works has one person covering 3 votes, is that appropriate and does it happen in other WASCs. Antos shared that this is not the only WASC where multiple “seats” are covered by a single person, representing a single entity. District staff noted this is allowed through the WASC operating guidelines.

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Member Cattell suggested more people should be participating from Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

b) Disadvantaged Community, Nature-Based Solutions, and Partial Funding Interim Guidelines Presentation

Presentation by Mike Antos (Stantec) discussing the Disadvantaged Community Benefit (DCB) Interim Guidance, Interim Nature-Based Solutions Programming Guidelines, and Partial Funding Guidelines

Member Cattell mentioned her approval of the improvements to the Nature-Based Solutions guidelines.

Member Mary Johnson asked about partial funding when SS involves other WASCs committees that do not approve. Antos shared that a proposal which seeks funds from multiple WASCs is a slightly different situation than a partial funding award to a single project. WASCs must consider the impact of awarding funding to a project when another WASC may not, and how that will effect project completion. If a project is awarded funds, and the project does not move forward, the funds return to the WASC for programming in future SIP.

Member Johnson noted that it can be tough to decide when unsure of other WASC decisions. Antos suggested that District staff can be asked to update this WASC about what others may be doing, and that in the past WASC Chairs meetings allowed for discussion across watershed areas. The watershed coordinators may also support these situations.

c) Presentation of the Final Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Presentation by Watershed Coordinator Massey, which emphasized that the SOEP will be updated annually and outlines the work for coming year; other accountability measures include monthly updates and monthly and quarterly reports.

Focuses on first year and is updated annually to shape expectations for coming year. Specific projects not listed within plan. Upper Santa Clara River v Santa Clara River will be updated. Boundary of SCWP watershed area is different from other applications. Saugus and Valencia Water. Reclamation Plants provide recharge of water. Topics of concern: included flooding. Discussed strategies regarding outreach.

Member Cattell praised outreach efforts and attention to flooding.

Member Dirk Marks asked if the water security section meant to be a broader perspective? Will want to acknowledge Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's efforts. Watershed Coordinator Massey mentioned that that section is intended to be narrower based on community concern, but is also willing to make adjustments.

Member Marks also stated that the hydrologic section needs to recognize the input of imported water from reclamation plants, surface water flows and groundwater recharge. Member Marks developed a draft of what he felt should be added.

8. Public Comment Period

Ayer received an email stating that there would not be solicitation of discussion on draft, so they refrained from making comments but would like to make changes including active boundary, county ordinances do not allow for long term camping, etc.

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Watershed Coordinator Massey- corrected that the email Ayer mentioned was intended to state that there will be no presentations of plans at public meetings. WASC members and entities that they represent commented on Aug 5th presentation. TreePeople will hold it open for another month to receive comments from other interested parties.

Ayer will get comments to Watershed Coordinator Massey by Oct 20th.

Chair Gibbs and the District tabled voting for approval at next meeting. Motioned by Member S. Cole, Member Marks seconds.

9. Voting Items

a) Approve the Final Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

On the recommendation of district staff this item was moved to the next meeting.

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

On recommendation of district staff this item was not voted on at this time.

10. Items for next agenda

- Infrastructure Program, Technical Resources Program, Scientific Studies Program submittals presentations
- Approve the Final Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

11. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 4th, 2021

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

See SCW website for meeting details

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - OCTOBER 7, 2021

| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details) | |
|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Member Type | Position | Member | Voting/ Present? | Alternate | Voting/ Present? | Approve 8-5-2021 Meeting Minutes | Table the Approval of the Santa Clara River Watershed Area Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (Final SOEP) |
| Agency | District | Julian Juarez | x | Ramy Gindi | | Y | Y |
| Agency | Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency | Dirk Marks | x | Mike Alvord | | Y | Y |
| Agency | Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency | Steve Cole | x | Rick Viergutz | | Y | Y |
| Agency | LA County Sanitation Districts | Kristen Ruffell | | Christopher Lapaz | x | A | Y |
| Agency | Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services | Janine Prado | x | Amy Seyerle | | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Poole & Shaffery | Hunt Braly | | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Agua Dulce Town Council | Mary Johnson | x | | | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Santa Clarita Sierra Club | Sandra Cattell | x | Diane Trautman | | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | | | | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation | Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel | x | Heidi Webber | | 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 |
| Municipal Members | Santa Clarita | Heather Merenda | | Oliver Cramer | x | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Santa Clarita | Robert Newman | | Mike Hennawy | x | Y | Y |
| Municipal Members | Santa Clarita | Tom Cole | x | David Peterson | | Y | Y |
| Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member | TreePeople, Inc. | Peter Massey | x | | | | |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | | 16 | | | Yes (Y) | 14 | 15 |
| Total Voting Members Present | | 15 | | | No (N) | 0 | 0 |
| Agency | | 5 | | | Abstain (A) | 1 | 0 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 3 | | | Total | 15 | 15 |
| Municipal Members | | 7 | | | | Approved | Approved |

Attendees

Santa Clara River WASC Meeting

October 7, 2021

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| CJ Caluag - LACFCD | Darin Seegmiller |
| Larry Tran | Mike Hennawy |
| janine prado | Jacqueline Ayer |
| Bruce Hamamoto | Amanda Begley |
| Steve Cole | Lauro Alvarado |
| Gabrielle | David Peterson |
| Ariel Whitson | Pablo Forni LACFCD |
| Mayra Cabrera | Sandra Cattell |
| Tom Cole | mary johnson |
| Peter Massey | Heather Merenda |
| Mike Antos | Dianne Hellrigel |
| Julian Juarez | Jerrid Mckenna |
| Chris Lapaz | Blake Whittington |
| Jason Gibbs | Brenda Ponton |
| Ryan Edgley | Justin Jones - LACFCD |
| Ashleigh Townsend | Oliver Cramer |
| Maia Colyar | Hunt Braly |
| Annakaren Ramirez | Dirk Marks |