

# Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, November 9, 2021  
10:00am – 12:30pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Attendees

### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Jeremy Melendez, Central Basin (Agency)  
\*Esther Rojas, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
\*Quynh Tran, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
\*Joseph Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)  
Delfino Consunji, Downey (Municipal)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, Lakewood (Municipal), Vice-Chair  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair  
Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Noe Negrete, Santa Fe Springs (Municipal)  
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

### Committee Members Not Present:

Adam Galia, Resident (Community)

\*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

## 1) Welcome and Introductions

Melissa You, 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 October 12, 2021

The District provided meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Delfino Consunji made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Member Gabrielle Weeks seconded. The Committee voted to approve the October 12, 2021 meeting minutes (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

## 3) Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- Funds transfer process is initiated; currently setting up transfer agreements for the Round 2 projects and addendums for projects continuing to receive funding.

# Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



- The Scoring Committee has started to score projects across the program. The Scoring Committee initially planned to review the seven LSGR Infrastructure Program submittals on November 2, but the meeting was rescheduled for November 17.
- Staff reminded project proponents and watershed coordinators to submit quarterly reports, which will be summarized and presented to the WASC at upcoming meetings.
- The next set of quarterly reports are due November 15.
- As part of the municipal program, each municipality should have submitted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Plan by April 1, 2021 to receive annual payment, which will be dispersed this month.
- The Board of Supervisors approved on November 2 for continued teleconference meetings under the authority of a new bill (AB 361) which authorizes public committees to continue meeting without complying with all the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act when the situation warrants it. The Board is reviewing every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an update on Watershed Coordinator activities:

- The Watershed Coordinator Quarterly Report was recently submitted for Q3.
- Overall, around 30% of the total level of effort went towards facilitating community engagement.
- The Coordinator summarized tasks underway, including identification of cost-share partners and leverage funding.
- Promoted website for LSGR website with events specific to the watershed.
- Social media is now playing a larger role in promoting events and initiatives.
- Development of workshop materials was a major task last month.
- The Coordinators held a workshop on October 26<sup>th</sup> which was attended by 25 people. The event was advertised through their email list. The workshop included an overview of the WASC, the Technical Resource Program, and the role of the Watershed Coordinators and Steering Committee. The workshop included a presentation of projects that have been funded by the WASC in addition to examples of a large stormwater capture project and a small nature-based project.
- Potential projects/concepts:
  - La Mirada Creek Park: Watershed Coordinator was connected to project by Member Gonzalez; they plan to meet with the project proponent later in the day (November 9<sup>th</sup>)
  - Studebaker Road Bioswale: Member Gonzalez also connected the Watershed Coordinator to this project.
  - Other projects/ concepts: Artesia Blvd Storm Tunnel, Lakewood Equestrian Center, and Hawaiian Gardens Urban Trail/Park Improvement
- Ongoing efforts:
  - Collaborating with neighboring watersheds;
  - Stakeholder and community outreach and engagement; and
  - Local stakeholder education.

#### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No ex parte communications were disclosed.

# Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes

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## 6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

## 7) Presentation and Discussion Items:

### a) Presentations for Infrastructure Program

- i. **Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel Stormwater Capture Project – City of Long Beach**  
Presentation by Oliver Galang and Richard Watson. *Regional stormwater capture and filtration/sewer diversion facility located at Heartwell Park adjacent to the Palo Verde Channel.*

Member Lisa Ann Rapp asked how the Scoring Committee scored the Project. It has not been scored yet. Project developer estimates that it will receive a score of 69.

Member Consunji asked if there is a recycled water component. Richard Watson replied that water from dry weather flows will be sent to a treatment plant and, as such, will enter the Project as a recycled component. Some reclaimed water is being used now, but this will help increase the reclaimed water supply. Member Rapp asked if they intend to treat water on-site and use it for irrigation. Richard Watson replied that they do not intend to do so.

- ii. **York Field Stormwater Capture Project – City of Whittier**  
Presentation by John Hunter, Shannon DeLong, and Virginia Santana. *Regional and onsite stormwater capture and filtration diversion facility located at York Field beneath the open space of the existing park.*

Presentation began with an introduction from Shannon DeLong, Assistant City Manager of City of Whittier, sharing city, community, non-governmental organization, and schools support for the project. Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services of City of Whittier, contributed a discussion of Community Investment Benefits. Shannon DeLong finished the presentation by sharing the City of Whittier's track record in completing projects coordinated between many parties.

Member Joseph Gonzalez asked if the City supports development of a funding plan to identify additional funding sources to leverage as part of the planning effort. John Hunter said that they would explore other available funding options (such as Caltrans), though they have not yet. Member Gonzalez highlighted the need to leverage funds.

- iii. **Bellflower Simms Park Stormwater Capture Project (Construction) – City of Bellflower**  
Presentation by Oliver Galang and Richard Watson. *Regional stormwater capture and filtration facility located beneath the sports fields of John S. Simms Park in Bellflower, CA.*

Richard Watson introduced the Project and noted that it was approved for design funding by the WASC last year. The City is now applying for construction funding.

Member Rapp asked how many points they estimate will be awarded by the Scoring Committee. The City estimates the project will receive 68 points. Member Gonzalez noted the Prop 68 application is pending with State Parks, and applicants will be notified in 2021. Member Gonzalez also recommended the City apply for funding under the Clean California program,

# Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



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which has an open call for projects with (funds will be awarded in March 2022). Oliver Galang agreed that the Project would be competitive under that grant program.

## **8) Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **9) Voting Items**

- a) None

## **10) Items for Next Agenda**

- a) Presentations for Infrastructure Program

By the next meeting, the Scoring Committee should have reviewed Infrastructure Program applications submitted for the LSGR Watershed Area.

## **11) Adjournment**

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

**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021  
10:00AM – 12:00PM  
See SCW website for meeting details

**LSGR WASC - November 9, 2021**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 10-12-2021 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Jeremy Melendez	x	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Esther Rojas	x	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Quynh Tran	x	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott	x	Nancy Villaseñor		a
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Thalia Campos		
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	x	y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y
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		y
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)	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved

**Attendance**  
**LSGR WASC - November 9, 2021**

Alex Rojas	Lisa Rapp
Alexander LACFCD	Marlin Munoz
Bernie Iniguez	Melanie Morita
Bryce Lee	MELISSA YOU
Cecilia Salazar	Michelle Kim
Chris Jansen	Mike O'Grady
Dan Knapp	Noe Negrete
Delfino Consunji	Oliver Galang (Craftwater)
Donna Tran	Quynh Tran
Elizabeth Lambe	Richard Watson
emily ramos	Robert Beste
Eric Zickler	Robert Gomez
Esther Rojas	Ryan Edgley
Gabrielle	Sarah Faraola
Grace Kast	Shannon DeLong
I EC	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
Jeremy Melendez	Stephen Scott
Joe Venzon - LA County	Tom West, Harris & Assoc.
john Hunter	Tori Klug
Joseph Gonzalez	Traci Gleason
Julian Juarez	Trevor Davis
Kala Anderson	Vicki Smith
Kekoa Anderson	Virginia Santana
Kelli Tunnicliff	wataru kumagai
Kyle Cason	Yoshi Andersen