

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



Tuesday, December 14, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Esther Rojas, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Quynh Tran, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Nancy Villaneseñor, 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)
*Jeremy Melendez, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
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)
Marlin Munoz, Santa Fe Springs (Municipal)
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Adam Galia, Resident (Community)
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Melissa You, Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) 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 November 9, 2021

The District provided meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Delfino Consunji made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Vice Chair Lisa Ann Rapp seconded. The Committee voted to approve the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes (Approved, see Vote Tracker sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Vice Chair Rapp provided an update, noting they have been participating in the ARLA Working Group Study to develop enhancements the County may consider for the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). The Study is drawing to a close and a report will be prepared soon and local organizations will be briefed. Vice Chair Rapp requested to present on the process, goals, and conclusions of the Study at a future WASC meeting. The study is funded by a philanthropic organization, and there are six members on the Working Group.

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Vice Chair Rapp will also present to the Gateway Watershed Authority and three watershed steering groups.

District Staff provided an update:

- The District has initiated the process of sending fund transfer agreements for projects approved under Round 2.
- The Scoring Committee has started scoring projects across the program. Three LSGR projects were not scorable by the Scoring Committee and will be re-scored at the January 10 Scoring Committee Meeting.
- The SCWP Spatial Data Library created by Stantec was updated to improve user interface and loading speeds and to add a user guide.
- On November 30, the Board of Supervisors voted to continue meeting virtually, acting under the authority of Assembly Bill 361 which authorizes public committees to meet 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 Coordinators Kekoa Anderson, Traci Gleason, and Grace Kast provided an update on Watershed Coordinator activities:

- Reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Watershed Coordinators which include: soliciting and supporting new projects; conducting community engagement; and educating the public.
- Currently, the Watershed Coordinators are focusing on:
 - Staffing Plan
 - Identification & GAP Program
 - Training sessions
 - Collaboration with neighboring Watershed Coordinators to share ideas, information, formats, and events.
- Held a workshop about the TRP process at the end of October with good turnout.
- Continuing to meet with project developers and stakeholders in the region.
- Recently held a Watershed Coordinator training which included discussion of how Watershed Coordinators can facilitate change with regards to water.
 - Shared a slide from the presentation that said, "Equity is both an outcome and a process"
 - Explained differences between inequality, equality, equity, and justice.
- Watershed Coordinator Anderson proposed shifting to a grant writing role on the team and rotating Grace Kast into the lead Watershed Coordinator role. OhanaVets will coordinate with the WASC and the District if they decide to proceed.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

No ex parte communications were disclosed.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

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7. Presentation and Discussion Items:

a. Presentations for Infrastructure Program

i. **Lakewood Equestrian Center – City of Lakewood**

Presentation by John Hunter. *Regional stormwater capture project designed to revitalize community facilities at the Lakewood Equestrian Center.*

Vice Chair Rapp, who serves as Director of Public Works for the City of Lakewood, introduced the project by noting that water capture and nature-based solutions have been included since the beginning of the project.

Following the presentation, Vice Chair Rapp noted the project includes the most extensive community outreach effort that the City of Lakewood has undertaken.

Member Dan Knapp commented that the Conservation Corps of Long Beach was included in project outreach. The organization supports the project.

There were no additional questions or comments from committee members.

ii. **Heartwell Park at Clark Channel Stormwater Capture Project – City of Long Beach**

Presentation by Oliver Galang and Richard Watson. *Regional stormwater capture and filtration facility at Heartwell Park and existing lake improvements. (For Design and Phase 1 Construction)*

There were no questions or comments from committee members.

iii. **Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project – City of Artesia**

Presentation by Okina Dor and John Hunter. *Regional stormwater capture facility located at Artesia Park beneath the open space of the existing park surface.*

There were no questions or comments from committee members.

8. Public Comment Period

Richard Watson (Public Member) asked when the WASC will receive peer reviews from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) on the scientific studies. The District said they will all be received by the end of February. Watson asked if that means all projects will be voted on at that time. The District said that is up to the WASC's preferences.

9. Voting Items

- a) None

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is Tuesday February 8, 2022 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. See the SCWP website for meeting details.

- a) Presentations for Infrastructure Program

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

11. Adjournment

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

LSGR WASC - December 14, 2021

		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 11-9-2021 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		Nancy Villaseñor	x	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		y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai		y
Municipal Members	Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Glen Kau		y
Municipal Members	La Mirada	Marlin Munoz	x			y
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith		Kyle Cason		
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	OhanaVets	Kekoa Anderson	x			NA
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	13
Total Voting Members Present		14			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		3			Total	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved

Attendance

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Alexander LACFCD	Lonnie Chung
Bernie Iniguez	Marlin Munoz
Bryce Lee	Melanie Morita
Cameron Castillo	Melissa You
Cesar Rangel	Michelle Kim
Dan Knapp	Mike O'Grady
Delfino Consunji	Nancy Villasenor
Donna Tran	Okina Dor
Elizabeth Lambe	Oliver Galang (Craftwater Engineering)
emily ramos	Quynh Tran
Erin Fabian	Richard Watson
Esther Rojas	Robert Beste
Gabrielle	Robert Gomez
Grace Kast	Scott Struck
Jeremy Melendez	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
Joe Gonzalez	Theodore Arechiga
Joe Venzon - LA County	Tom West (Harris)
John Hunter	Tori Klug
Julia Chambers	Traci Gleason
Julian Juarez	Trevor Davis
Justin Jones	Uriel Cobian
Kala Anderson	valarie Frost
Kekoa Anderson	Vicki Smith
kelli tunnicliff	Wataru Kumagai
Lisa Rapp	Yoshi Andersen