

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



Thursday, April 28, 2022

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Bob Huff, Former CA State Senator (Community)
Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)
Johnathan Perisho, Watershed Conservation Authority (Community)
Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community), Vice Chair
David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)
Kevin Kearney, Bradbury (Municipal)
Alison Sweet, Glendora (Municipal), Chair
Joshua Nelson, Industry (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)
Lisa O'Brien, La Verne (Municipal)
Alfredo Camacho, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Sean Woods, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)
Sam Gutierrez, Baldwin Park (Municipal)

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alison Sweet, Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) WASC, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. District Staff facilitated the roll call of Committee members. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the March 24, 2022 meeting minutes by Member Tom Love, seconded by Member Drew Ready. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Member Joshua Nelson asked the District Staff to notify the Committee when there are changes to the Committee roster.

District Staff provided the following update:

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- The deadline for tax relief applications is May 1: Low-Income Senior-Owned exemptions and General Income-Based Tax Reductions are available for individuals meeting the minimum income and/or age thresholds.
- On April 26, 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.
- Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) meetings may be moved in-person as soon as May. District Staff will send out feedback surveys on in-person meetings. The Executive Office will send letters of resignation to Committee members who did not adhere to the Board's vaccination policy.
- Under the Municipal Program, Annual Plans were due April 1 to the SCWP. Annual Plans are required to receive the Municipal Program revenue. The District intends to add functionality to the existing reporting module to streamline the Annual Plan process. A webinar was conducted in March; the recording is available here: <https://safecleanwaterla.org/municipalities/>
- Quarter 3 Quarterly Reports are due May 15, which should capture all expenditures through March. This applies for projects approved in the Round 2 (Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022) Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
- Public Review for the SCWP Guidance ended March 27. The District is now compiling comments and feedback and will present an update soon.
- The District will host a Call for Projects Information Session for Round 4 Projects in June.
- Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects have received Notice to Proceed.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Alfredo Camacho provided an update on recent April activities:

- Attended ESGVWMG (East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group) Meeting and presented an infiltration study. The ESGVWM Group would like to report out their Draft Final Report soon.
- Attended the first ReDesign LA Meeting; Easter Egg Hunt in Pomona and Monrovia; the Spring Jubilee in Bassett; and Earth Day Events in Pomona, Pasadena, El Monte and North Whittier.
- Planning for Summer Water Tours which will include site visits at Peck Road Water Conservation Park & Walnut Creek Nature Park. Planning to attend the Schools & Stormwater Symposium.
- Presented at the Regional Oversight Committee Meeting with the Upper LA River Watershed Coordinator.
- Began updating the Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan for Year 2.

Watershed Coordinator Camacho gave a high-level presentation of 2022 Interim Guidance on Community Engagement. (See Watershed Coordinator Update for the PowerPoint presentation).

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

District Staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, loaded them to the SCWP website, and displayed them on-screen. Speaker cards or other correspondence received after 5:00pm will be added to the minutes.

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Brad Wardynski presented Alex Tachiki's Public Comment Card (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments). The Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures Scientific Study (SS) was recently included in Rio Hondo and Upper Los Angeles River WASCs' FY22-23 SIPs. Tachiki encouraged the USGR WASC to also fund the study.

7. Presentation and Discussion Items

Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented a review of SCWP Goals and Policy per Member Ready's request in a past WASC meeting. Klug specified that discussion of proportionality for municipalities is in terms of benefits not dollar amounts, is written as a goal "to the extent feasible" and that accounting for municipal benefits comes after accounting for a 110% return to disadvantaged communities. The SCWP Goals provide guidance on allocations of benefits rather than allocations of dollar amounts. Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) highlighted the "such as, but not limited to" clause which allows project applicants to propose benefits not listed in the policy.

Member Lisa O'Brien asked how far into the future the District expects the WASC to distribute benefit allocations in accordance with the policy. Antos replied that WASC is responsible for trying to meet the policy to the extent possible. Antos added that the Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) is tasked with providing more resources to support WASC decision-making.

Member Ready thanked the Regional Coordination Team for the presentation and asked Watershed Coordinator Camacho to investigate possible inequities in the WASC's benefit allocations.

a) Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan.

District Staff started the discussion by noting that if the WASC includes all considered projects in the SIP, overages would result for this and the next fiscal year.

The WASC discussed funding the design phases of the Pelota Park and Marchant Park projects, noting that funding design allows projects to locate funding from other sources for construction.

The WASC held a discussion about how the members present for the approval of the Round 1 and 2 SIPs approached deliberations on allocations. District Staff confirmed that cost projections for Round 1 and 2 projects are up to date and the Committee initiated discussions about whether the previously approved projects could redistribute funding across fiscal years.

The Committee considered delaying the second year of funds (FY23-24) for the Scientific Studies under consideration in this Round.

Following discussion, the WASC redistributed funding for the Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project approved in Round 1. The WASC will disburse \$7 million, \$4 million, and \$10 million over the next three years. The project proponent confirmed the redistribution was acceptable.

Member Julie Carver noted that the Fairplex Project approved in FY21-22 is slightly delayed. Jon Abelson, project proponent, clarified that the project has been approved for design-only funding and that the proponents are not currently seeking construction funds.

District Staff reminded the WASC that they should consider future construction funds associated with projects included in the SIPs. Estimated construction costs will be noted in future transmittals to the Regional Oversight Committee.

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The Barnes Park Project approved in Round 1 would need to confer with the City of Baldwin Park, which is providing a funding match, before shifting funding across fiscal years.

The WASC suggested delaying funds for the Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project approved in Round 1 and created a scenario shifting \$500,000 of funding to FY24-25.

The WASC discussed the Community Garden Scientific Study and the project proponent confirmed they could shift funding across fiscal years (\$120,000 in FY22-23 and \$258,284 in FY23-24).

The WASC suggested redistributing funding for the Maximizing Impact Scientific Study by offering \$20,000 and \$373,000 in FY22-23 and FY23-24. The study proponent confirmed the funding redistribution was acceptable but noted that since other Watershed Areas are included in the study, funds would be spent more efficiently if the studies were synchronized.

The WASC discussed how to distribute funds amongst the proposed projects to fund 3 Infrastructure Program projects and 2 Scientific Studies. Based on their discussion, the WASC created a scenario in the SIP Tool. This scenario includes a partial funding award to the Glendora Avenue Green Streets project. Antos clarified the process of offering a partial funding award, noting that the proponent and the District would need to confirm the project can accomplish what was initially proposed.

8. Public Comment Period

Juan Diaz-Carreras, Community Garden Scientific Study, emphasized the Community Garden Scientific Study's community-driven nature. Many of the gardens selected for the study are located in DACs and would provide direct benefit to those communities while meeting SCWP goals.

9. Voting Items

Member Love motioned to offer a partial funding award to the Glendora Avenue Green Streets project in the amounts of \$150,000, \$150,000, and \$15,000 in FY22-23, FY23-24, and FY24-25, respectively. Member Nelson seconded the motion. The vote was approved.

The voting item was postponed to the next meeting:

- a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the USGR Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting will take place on May 12 at 1:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- a) Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan.

11. Adjournment

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

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 3/24 Meeting Minutes	Motion to offer Glendora a partial funding award of 150k, 150k, and 15k over the 3 years
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love	X	Patty Cortez		Y	Y
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampielo		Y	
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	X	Y	Y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods		Clement Lau			
Community Stakeholder	Huff Strategies	Bob Huff	X			A	Y
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	X	Jason Casanova		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Johnathan Perisho	X	Jane Tsong		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna	X	David Marquez			
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	X	Wesley Reutimann		Y	Y
Municipal	Baldwin Park	Sam Gutierrez					
Municipal	Bradbury	Kevin Kearney	X				Y
Municipal	Glendora	Alison Sweet	X	Sharon Gallant		Y	Y
Municipal	Industry	Joshua Nelson	X	John Di Mario		Y	Y
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	X	Joseph Venzon		Y	Y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	X	Fabian Aoun		Y	Y
Municipal	La Verne	Lisa O'Brien	X	Shari Garwick		Y	Y
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Alfredo Camacho	X				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	12	13
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	1	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	13	13
Municipal		6				Approved	Approved

Attendance
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Alfredo Camacho - Day One (Watershed Coordinator)
Alison Sweet - City of Glendora
Andrea Ampig - City of Glendora
Andrew Kim - DPW
Anthony Ortega - City of Pomona
Belen Bernal
Bob Huff
Brad Wardynski - Craftwater
Bridget Childs - Stantec
Chris Lapaz
Curt Roth - DRP Engineering
David Diaz - ActiveSGV
Donna Tran - LA County Public Works
Drew Ready - Council for Watershed Health
Ed Othmer - Stantec
Eric Bonilla - LACFCD
Fernando Villaluna - Los Angeles County Public Works
James Cramsie - City of Industry (CNC Eng)
Jason Casanova - Council for Watershed health
Jessica Arm - MWD
Johnathan Perisho - Watershed Conservation Authority
Jonathan Abelson - ESGV / Stantec
Joshua Nelson - City of Industry

Juan Diaz-Carreras - WSP
Julian Juarez - LACFCD
Julie Carver - City of Pomona
Katie Harrel - CWE
Kevin Kearney - City of Bradbury
Larry Tran - LACFCD
Lauren Marshall - City of San Dimas
Lauro Alvarado - Tetra Tech
Lisa O'Brien - City of La Verne
Lonnie Chung - LA County Public Works
Mark Hall - Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
Mathew Hudson - City of Industry
Melanie Hu - LACFCD
Miguel Luna - Urban Semillas
Mike Antos - Stantec Regional Coordination
Oliver Galang - Craftwater Engineering Inc
Paul Senker - Geosyntec
Sharon Gallant - City of Covina
Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
Tom Love - Upper District
Tori Klug - Stantec Regional Coordination
Yovanni Viramontes - City of Baldwin Park



Public Comment Form

Name:* Alex Tachiki Organization*: City of Monrovia
Email*: atachiki@ci.monrovia.ca.us Phone*: 626-932-5553
Meeting: USGR WASC Date: 4/25/2022

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

As the Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Water TAC, I am pleased to inform this Committee that the Scientific Study titled Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures was recently included in the proposed SIPs in both of the other two WASCs it was submitted (the Rio Hondo and Upper LA River). This study will provide valuable tools for us to quantitatively estimate the effectiveness and ultimately optimize the performance of our nonstructural minimum control measures. This proposed study continues to receive broad support from municipalities, environmental NGOs, and in particular regulators. In particular, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board shared their support of this study through a letter of support. We encourage this WASC to also support this study this year as it will bring significant benefits to improving water quality and our communities.