

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

---



Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
10:00am – 12:00 pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Aimee Zhao Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
\*Quynh Tran, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
\*Nancy Villaseñor, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
Alex Rojas, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
Adam Galia, Resident (Community)  
\*Joseph Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, Resident (Community), Vice Chair  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)  
Delfino Consunji, Downey (Municipal)  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair  
Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Kelli Pickler, Lakewood (Municipal)  
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Marlin Munoz, La Mirada (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) Watershed Area Steering Committee (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 April 12, 2022**

The District presented meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Bernie Iniguez recommended a revision to the funding source recorded in the last paragraph of page 4 of the minutes.

Motion to approve the amended meeting minutes by Member Lisa Rapp. Member Iniguez seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the amended April 12, 2022 meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

District staff provided an update:

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

---



- 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.
- The County Executive Office issued a memo on April 8 regarding preparations for returning to in-person meetings and we may return as soon as June. The City of Lakewood Executive Board Room has been identified as a potential meeting location. The Executive Office will send out resignation letters to Committee members that do not comply with the vaccination policy.
- Under the Municipal Program, Annual Plans were due April 1. If you have not already submitted, please submit as soon as possible. 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 of the webinar is available here: <https://safecleanwaterla.org/municipalities/>
- Eight out of the nine WASCs have approved Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) and the District is drafting SIP transmittals to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) for review in June.
- Reminder for Infrastructure Program and Scientific Study developers that Quarter 3 Quarterly Reports are due May 15, which should capture all expenditures through March. This applies for projects approved in Round 2 of the SIP (Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022).
- The District will host a Call for Projects Information Session for Round 4 Projects in June. Round 4 Projects are due July 31.
- All projects involving Los Angeles County Flood Control District infrastructure, facilities, or rights-of-way need to contact their watershed manager for approval by May 31. The LSGR Watershed Manager is Julian Juarez.

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

Watershed Coordinators Kekoa Anderson and Grace Kast provided an update on recent activities:

- Hosted a Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) Workshop for stakeholders on May 3.
- Participated in educational outreach at Downey's "Touch a Truck" event on May 7. The Watershed Coordinators shared that interest and participation at the event was outstanding.
- Planning to host a WaterTalks Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Workshop on May 18.
- Planning to participate in the Schools and Stormwater Symposium on May 19.

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

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

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

There were no public comment cards submitted for this meeting.

Juan Diaz-Carreras (Los Angeles Community Garden Council) submitted a public comment card during the last meeting asking that the WASC consider funding the Community Garden Stormwater Capture Scientific Study since the study meets the WASC's goal to support community-based project in addition to the SCWP goals. The comment card can be found on the SCWP site.

# Lower San Gabriel River

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

---



#### 7. Discussion

##### **a) Updated Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)**

Watershed Coordinator Anderson provided an overview of the updated Draft 2022 SOEP and called attention to the schedule. See attached presentation.

The Watershed Coordinators provided information about how to use the fact sheets and project lists included in the SOEP. The Watershed Coordinators also added that they are developing project fact sheets for all funded projects, which may serve as a resource during workshops and for potential project applicants.

The Committee asked how in-person events are planned for the year and whether Watershed Coordinators have a target number in mind. Watershed Coordinator Anderson typically reports on future events at WASC meetings and accept suggestions from Committee members. The Watershed Coordinators can share their interested party list at the next WASC meeting and hold a discussion for future community events.

##### **b) Lower San Gabriel River criteria for leverage funding for Infrastructure Program Projects requesting Safe, Clean Water funds for construction**

Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination Team) presented “Highlighting Watershed Area Priorities: Leverage Funding and Cost Effectiveness Considerations,” and reviewed criteria for Infrastructure Program (IP) scoring, leverage funding, cost effectiveness for water quality and water supply, and how applicants can signal watershed area-specific priorities. The presentation is available on the SCWP website.

The Committee asked whether they should consider project scores as part of their SIP deliberations. Klug clarified that the Scoring Committee’s job is to ensure a project reaches a certain threshold, so the criteria are only used to determine eligibility for funding under SCWP. The WASC may elect to consider specific scoring elements when deliberating.

Member Dan Knapp expressed interest in setting aside part of the budget for smaller community-driven projects. The Committee requested adding an agenda item to a future meeting to devote discussion to how the WASC could formally set aside budget for such projects.

The WASC discussed the funding of feasibility studies for projects and noted that less than 10% of the total SIP budget may be directed towards Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects.

Member Rapp suggested that the WASC send out a multi-point memo to reach consensus on a list of the WASC’s priorities. The WASC supported the development of a memo which defines a predetermined amount for funding to set aside for small projects, outlines small project criteria, and designates a percentage of matching funds required. The memo could also include a list of small project examples and criteria such as whether a project proponent has requested funding in the past with consideration for the project’s progress and potential local municipality matching funds.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson agreed to invite interested stakeholders for the discussion regarding small community-based projects and to prepare a visual map for the discussion per Member Galia’s suggestion.

Member Gonzalez asked if the Watershed Coordinators were developing a list of matching grants, to highlight potential funding opportunities to project applicants. Klug shared that Council for Watershed Health maintains a comprehensive database of funding opportunities available on their website. Additionally, the

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

---



Stantec Regional Coordination team is putting together a memo listing recent state and federal funding opportunities.

## **8. Public Comment Period**

Noya Wang introduced themselves to the Committee as a new alternate and expressed their excitement to work with the WASC.

## **9. Voting Items**

### **a) Approve the Updated Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan**

Member Lisa Rapp made a motion to approve the updated LSGR SOEP. Member Delfino Consunji seconded the motion. The motion passed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday June 14. See the SCWP website for meeting details, including timing and length.

## **11. Adjournment**

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

**LSGR WASC - May 10, 2022**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 4-12-2022 Meeting Minutes as amended	Approve Updated LSGR SOEP
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y	
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas	x			y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Quynh Tran	x	y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia	x	Noya Wang		a	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Lisa Ann Rapp	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	x			y	y
Municipal Members	Downey	Delfino Consunji	x	Dan Mueller		y	y
Municipal Members	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler	x	Konya Vivanti		a	y
Municipal Members	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai		y	y
Municipal Members	Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Glen Kau		y	y
Municipal Members	La Mirada	Marlin Munoz					
Municipal Members	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	OhanaVets	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast	x	NA	NA
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	14	14
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16	14
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved

Attendance  
LSGR WASC - May 10, 2022

Adam Galia  
Aimee Zhao  
Alex Rojas  
Alexander Iglesias - LACFCD  
Andrew Kim  
Aric Martinez  
Bernie Iniguez  
Bridget Childs  
Bryce Lee  
Cecilia Salazar  
Daan Knap  
Delfino Consunji  
Donna Tran  
Eric Bonilla  
Grace Kast  
Joe Venzon - LA County  
Joseph Gonzalez  
Julian Juarez  
Kala Anderson

Kekoa A  
Kelli Pickler  
Lisa Rapp  
Lonnie Chung  
Melanie Morita  
Melissa You  
Michelle Kim  
Mike O'Grady  
Nancy Villasenor  
Noya Wang  
Quynh Tran  
Richard Watson  
Sarai Jimenez  
Stephanie Tong - LACFCD  
Tori Klug (Regional Coord.)  
Traci Gleason  
Vicki Smith  
Wataru Kumagi  
Gabrielle