

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



Tuesday, August 23, 2022
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency)
*Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Ernesto Rivera, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Melissa Bahmanpour, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
*Manny Gonez, TreePeople (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Erica Maceda, River in Action (Community)
Gina Nila, Commerce (Municipal), Chair
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Lorry Hempe, Lynwood (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)
Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Vice Chair

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

District Staff and Gina Nila, Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) WASC, welcomed all Committee Members. New members made self-introductions.

District Staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx, provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions, and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from March 22, 2022. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Member Manny Gonez, seconded by Member Adriana Figueroa. The Committee approved the meeting minutes with eleven votes in favor and four in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- On August 9, 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

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



reviewing its position every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.

- The call for projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) closed on July 31. District Staff is currently conducting completeness checks. The preliminary count of applications is as follows: 33 Infrastructure Program (IP), 4 Scientific Study (SS), and 4 Technical Resource Program (TRP) applicants. In the LLAR WASC, two IP and one SS were submitted.
- Quarterly reports for IP and SS developers were due on August 15 and will be discussed at a future WASC meeting.
- All nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Regional Oversight Committee for advancement to the Board for approval. The Board of Supervisors meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 4.
- District Staff reminded members of the established guidelines on attendance for WASC meetings per Article 5 of the WASC Operating Guidelines. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in one year makes the member eligible for removal as a member of the WASC. If attendance is not possible, it is expected that the Alternate will be present.
- Every member of the Committee is required to fill out Form 700. This includes those assuming office (part of the onboarding process), continuing to serve (annual requirement), leaving (part of the offboarding process), or changing roles. District Staff will contact individuals who need to fill out these forms.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales shared a presentation on the FY22-23 Strategic Outreach Plan (SOEP), and the FY23-24 applications. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Members of the WASC expressed appreciation for Watershed Coordinator Dales' work, acknowledging the challenges they overcame during FY21-22 such as working across agencies and conveying information to the general public in an accessible manner. Member Adriana Figueroa offered to connect Watershed Coordinator Dales with their counterparts in other cities.

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. No comment cards were received before the meeting. There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items

a. Review of WASC roles and responsibilities

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the WASC, projects received in the FY22-23 call for projects, Interim Guidance and the Metrics and Monitoring Study, and an update on funding. See slides available on the SCWP website.

b. Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Upon request for clarification from the Committee, District Staff confirmed the WASC may re-elect an existing chair, vice-chair, or co-chair if the Member accepts the nomination.

c. Updated Lower Los Angeles River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

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



This topic was covered under Agenda Item 4.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

a. Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, Co-Chair

Member Figueroa motioned to nominate Chair Gina Nila and Vice-Chair Melissa You for re-election. Vice-Chair You, absent for this meeting, emailed in advance to accept the nomination. Chair Nila accepted the nomination. Member Dan Mueller seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the motion with sixteen votes in favor, zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b. Approve the updated Lower Los Angeles River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Member Melissa Bahmanpour motioned to approve the updated LLAR SOEP. Member Gonez seconded. The motion was approved with sixteen votes in favor, zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 27, 2022, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. See the SCWP website for meeting details. By the next meeting, District Staff will have finished their review of the feasibility studies for the IP projects. Agenda topics include:

a. Discuss and send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration

11. Adjournment

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

LLAR WASC - August 23rd, 2022

		Quorum Present				Voting Items		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 03-22-2022 Meeting Minutes	Approve LLAR SOEP	Vote to Approve LLAR Chair - Gina Nila and Vice Chair - Melissa You
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y	y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y	y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Dr. Quynh Tran		a	y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x			a	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro		Isabelle Campiformio	x	a	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Melissa Bahmanpour	x	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez		Manny Gonez	x	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Erica Maceda	x			y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila	x			y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji		y	y	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You		Cecilia Salazar				
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Lorry Hempe	x				y	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		y	y	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Thuan Nguyen	x	Fred Gonzalez		a	y	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			y	y	y
Watershed Coordinator								
Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	11	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	15	16	16
Municipal Members		6				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
August 23, 2022

Adriana Figueroa
Aimee Zhao
Amanda Begley
Andrea Prado Iriarte
Andrea Prado Iriarte
Aric Martinez
Dan Mueller
Dylan Porter
Erica Maceda
Ernesto Rivera
Fiona McHenry-Crutchfield
Fred Gonzalez
Gina Nila
Gladis Deras

Grace Kast
Haris Harouny - LACFCD
Isabelle Campiformio (A)
James Nino Salinas
Joshua Felton, LACFCD
Julie Millett
Julio Soria
JUSTIN JONES - LACFCD
Kristen Ruffell
Kristen Ruffell
Lorry Hempe
Madeline Chen
Manny Gonez
Mark Hall GLAMosquito

Melissa Bahmanpour
Michelle Kim
Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)
Richard Watson
Robert Blankenship
Ryanna Fossum
Safe Clean Water LA
Stephen Scott
Tara Dales Watershed Coordinator
Thuan Nguyen
Uriel Cobian - LACFCD