

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



Tuesday, September 27, 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)
Irene Lopez-Muro, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Melissa Bahmanpour, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)
*Manny Gonez, TreePeople (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Gina Nila, Commerce (Municipal), Chair
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Melissa You, City of Long Beach (Municipal), Vice-Chair
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:

Erica Maceda, River in Action (Community)

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.

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 August 23, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 23, 2022. Member Madeline Chen seconded. The Committee approved the meeting minutes with fifteen votes in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- The Board of Supervisors announced that the board hearing at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration will reopen to the public on September 27, 2022. The District will continue to

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



prepare for the transition to potential in-person WASC meetings. Also on September 27, 2022, the Board of Supervisors extended 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 and thus allows to continue to meet virtually.

- The Round 4 Call for Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY23-24) closed on July 31, 2022. District Staff has conducted completeness checks for the received projects. The preliminary count of applications is as follows: 33 Infrastructure Program (IP), 4 Scientific Study (SS), and 4 Technical Resource Program (TRP) applicants. In this WASC 2 IPs and 1 SS were received.
- All nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Regional Oversight Committee for advancement to the Board for approval. The Board meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2022.
- Attending meetings regularly is a requirement for WASC members under Article 5 of the WASC Operating Guidelines. An absence of two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in one year will be considered failure to attend meetings and may result in the absentee member's removal from the WASC. If attendance by the Primary member is not possible for a particular meeting, it is requested that the Alternate Member be present at the meeting.
- Every Committee Member is required to fill out Form 700. A Form 700 is required when a member is assuming office for the first time (part of the onboarding process), continuing to serve on a committee (annual requirement), leaving a committee (part of the offboarding process), or changing roles within the committee. District Staff will contact individuals who need to fill out these forms.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales provided an update covering activity during the first quarter of FY 22-23, for the months of April, May, and June, including highlights of the community survey results and focusing on understanding community needs. An overview of the stakeholder meetings and presentations, and community events held and planned was given, pertaining to the focus areas of soliciting new projects and raising public awareness. The Washington Boulevard Stormwater and Urban Diversion Project was discussed as a case study for public-private partnerships. Lastly, Watershed Coordinator Dales highlighted the Redesign LA Funding database as a tool to identify active funding opportunities from public sources and private philanthropy. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

5. 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.

6. Discussion Items

a. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

b. Discuss to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration

To provide context for this item, District Staff explained that typically, after completeness checks, all the feasibility studies received were sent to the Scoring Committee. Due to limited funding and the high number

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



of projects received in some WASCs, a WASC may select some, all, or none of the IPs to send to the Scoring Committee. The LLAR WASC has two IPs. From what District Staff has observed, no WASCs have decided not to send any of their IPs to the Scoring Committee.

Watershed Coordinator Dales shared a summary of the Spane Park Infrastructure Project, including details on elements and benefits of the project. Spane Park has a self-score of 89 and consists of the construction of a regional stormwater capture and infiltration facility beneath existing park surface.

Watershed Coordinator Dales provided an overview of the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) Infrastructure Project. Phase 2 of this project consists of constructing a new park with a pump station and cistern and connecting 5 existing pump stations to the LB MUST facility. The project has a self-score of 73. The benefits of the project were discussed.

District Staff clarified that the scores presented are self-assessed scores through project modules. As mentioned, WASCs now have the option to send some, all, or none of the received projects to the Scoring Committee, where those sent will receive an official score.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

- a. **Vote to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration**

Member Kristen Ruffell motioned to send both IPs to the Scoring Committee for consideration. The motion was seconded by Member Melissa Bahmanpour. The Committee voted to approve the motion with sixteen votes in favor and zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9. Items for Next Agenda

District Staff suggests hearing the presentations for the two IPs and one SS all next month, since the holidays will be approaching the following months and this WASC has only three total presentations. It would be recommended to extend the meeting for an additional half hour.

Members discussed potential conflicts with different suggested dates and times, as they consider the California Stormwater Quality Association Conference, other WASC meetings and the items for the next agenda.

Agenda topics include:

- a. Update from GAP analysis
- b. Presentations for the received IPs and SSs
- c. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY21-22 Q1 and Q2

It is decided to hold the next meeting on Tuesday November 1, 2022, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, contingent upon the GAP analysis presenter's availability. See the SCWP website for meeting details.

10. Adjournment

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

LLAR WASC - September 27th, 2022

			Quorum Present			Voting Items	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 08-23-2022 Meeting Minutes	Send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y	y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Alysha Chan		y	y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro	x	Isabelle Campiformio		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Melissa Bahmanpour	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Cindy Montanez		Manny Gonez	x		y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Erica Maceda					
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila*	x	Thomas Bekele		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You**	x	Cecilia Salazar		y	y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Lorry Hempe	x			y	y
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		y	y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Thuan Nguyen	x	Fred Gonzalez		y	y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	15	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
September 27, 2022

Adriana Figueroa	Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Richard Watson
Aimee Zhao	Irene Lopez-Muro	Robert Beste
Alexis Holmdal	Julio Soria	Ryanna Fossum
Amanda Begley	Justin Jones - LACFCD	Safe Clean Water LA
Andrea Prado Iriarte	Kristen Ruffell	Stephen Scott
Aric Martinez	Lisa Skutecki	Tara Dales
Brittany D. Rivas	Lorry Heme	Thomas Bekele
Dan Mueller	Madeline Chen	Thuan Nguyen
Dylan Porter	Manny Gonez	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD
Eric Bonilla	Melissa Bahmanpour	Video user
Ernesto Rivera	Melissa You	yisak kim
Fred Gonzalez	Michelle Kim	
gabriela gonzalez	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)	
Gina Nila	Nathan Schreiner	
Gladis Deras	Oliver Galang	