

# Rio Hondo

## Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

### Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 20, 2022

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

#### Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)

Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency), Chair

Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)

Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community)

Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)

Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)

Edward Belden, Resident (Community)

Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)

\*Latoya Waters, Alhambra (Municipal)

Carmen Masud, Arcadia (Municipal)

Jalaine Verdiner, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Sal Mendez, El Monte (Municipal)

James Tong, Pasadena (Municipal)

Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

#### Committee Members Not Present:

Gloria Crudgington, Monrovia (Municipal)

Sarah Rocha, Irwindale (Municipal)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristen Ruffell, Chair of the Rio Hondo (RH) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members, and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) Staff and Chair Ruffell facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established.

District Staff and Chair Ruffell provided a brief WebEx tutorial and direction on submission of public comments to the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2022**

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the last meeting, which occurred on August 16, 2022.

Some Committee Members had difficulty viewing the minutes, noting distortion of some of the lettering. District Staff shared that downloading the minutes should resolve the issues.

Member Mark Hall motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Member Sal Mendez seconded the motion. The WASC voted to approve the August 16, 2022 meeting minutes, with 13 in favor and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

District Staff provided an update, noting the following:

- On August 30, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) 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 its position every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.
- On June 24, 2022, the County Executive Office issued a memo establishing that the Board of Supervisors will resume in-person meetings once the COVID-19 transmission rate remains at a low for seven consecutive days. This may be a good predictor of when AB 361 will be discontinued. When in-person Committee meetings resume, the City of Monrovia's Executive Board Room is a potential meeting location.
- On June 16, 2022, the Regional Oversight Committee voted to advance all 9 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to the Board of Supervisors. The Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 4, 2022.
- Quarterly Reports for Infrastructure Program (IP) and Scientific Study (SS) projects were due August 15, 2022, and past-due reports must still be completed even if no project activities have occurred.
- For the Municipal Program, 68 out of the 86 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) plans have been submitted. Cities need to submit their annual plan and comply with all of the previous year's requirements in order to receive their next municipal disbursement.
- The Round 4 Call for Projects for FY23-24 closed on July 31, 2022. For the RH WASC, there were 4 IP, 1 SS, and 0 Technical Resource Program (TRP) projects submitted during this round of applications. The District finished conducting completeness checks of all submitted projects.
- 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.

There were no updates from Committee Members.

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

Watershed Coordinators Richard Watson and Julie Millet provided an update on recent and upcoming activities. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson noted that the next meeting's Watershed Coordinator update will include discussion on:

- The California Bacteria Summit, held jointly by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Research regarding microplastic requirements and how this may impact future projects in the watershed. It is anticipated that the State Water Board will release new requirements soon.
- Current and future metal requirements. It is expected there will be changes to the copper and zinc water quality standards.

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

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There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

## **6. Public Comment Period**

There were no other public comments.

## **7. Discussion Items**

### **a) Summary of submitted Infrastructure Program projects and Scientific Studies (Presentation by Watershed Coordinators).**

Watershed Coordinators Watson and Millett gave a presentation on the IP and SS projects submitted in Round 4 for the RH Watershed Area. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached. Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that several of the projects submitted this year are complex and encouraged the Committee Members to review the project feasibility studies in detail. The submitted IP projects are:

- Burke Heritage Park & Marengo Yard
- El Monte Norwood Elementary School Stormwater Capture Project
- Kinneloa Yard Stormwater Capture Project
- Merced Ave Stormwater Capture Project

There was clarifying discussion among WASC members on the step of sending feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee, and how that step fits into the process of SIP development.

Upon request for clarification, Watershed Coordinator Watson shared that the tanks shown in the Burke Heritage Park & Marengo Yard project map currently hold water.

Tori Klug (Regional Coordination Team, Stantec) clarified that the El Monte Norwood Elementary School Stormwater Capture Project is also part of the Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

The Committee discussed the Rio Hondo WASC's remaining budget to allocate to projects. Watershed Coordinator Watson clarified the Rio Hondo WASC is in a good position to fund future projects without jeopardizing future budget flexibility. The overall budget will be discussed in greater detail when the projects come back from the Scoring Committee and the Committee makes decisions on the FY23-34 SIP.

Member Edward Belden asked the Watershed Coordinators how involved they were in facilitating the development of the project concepts. Watershed Coordinator Watson replied that most of the projects were conceived of by the proponents and their communities. The Watershed Coordinators were involved in outreach efforts for all of the projects except the Norwood Elementary School Project. Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that although they have not been involved, a lot of outreach has occurred for the Norwood Elementary School Project.

### **b) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration.**

Members of the Committee shared support for sending all of the projects to be scored.

Member Jill Fosselman highlighted the difficulty of evaluating project benefits against their estimated costs. Chair Ruffell stated that this is difficult throughout the process, especially as the WASC will eventually need to make decisions related to the funding of the projects.

Member Fosselman asked if projects would be completely removed from future consideration by the WASC if the Committee does not send them all to the Scoring Committee. Chair Ruffell noted that the projects

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could be sent to the Scoring Committee at a later date as well; however, IP projects must be scored by the Scoring Committee and receive a qualifying score (60 of 110 points) to be considered for funding.

Watershed Coordinator Watson encouraged Committee Members to listen to the Scoring Committee's discussion of the projects. The discussions may provide helpful insight for the WASC to consider in their later decisions.

Member Mendez asked if they would need to recuse themselves from voting since they are involved as a proponent of one of the projects submitted to the WASC. District Staff clarified that as long as the Committee Member is involved in their official capacity (e.g., their municipal role) and has no potential personal financial gain from the decision, they do not need to recuse themselves.

Member Hall asked if there was a connection between the Merced Avenue Greenway Project (Approved for funding in FY21-22) and the Merced Avenue Stormwater Capture Project. Watershed Coordinator Watson clarified that the projects are in two different cities (City of El Monte and City of South El Monte) and are far enough apart from each other that they both could be beneficial.

Chair Ruffell noted that projects that do not meet qualifying scores by the Scoring Committee can be referred to the TRP program or resubmitted for consideration in future Call for Projects rounds.

#### **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **9. Voting Items**

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

Motion by Member Mendez seconded by Member Thomas Wong to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration. The vote was approved, with 14 in favor and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 18, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Items proposed for the next meeting agenda include:

- Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY21-22 Q1 and Q2
- Continue selection of Vice-Chairs

Member Brent Maue introduced Dawn Petschauer as the new Stormwater Administrator for the City of Pasadena. Dawn Petschauer made a self-introduction to the Committee and expressed excitement about being considered as a candidate for the WASC's Vice-Chair position.

#### **11. Adjournment**

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

## RH WASC - September 20, 2022

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Quorum Present					Voting Item	
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 8-16-2022 Meeting Minutes	Send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y
Agency	Tom Love	X	Patty Cortez		Y	Y
Agency	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampiello		Y	Y
Agency	Kristen Ruffell	X	Quynh Tran		Y	Y
Agency	Brent Maue	X	Kris Markarian		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong	X	Bryan Matsumoto		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman	X			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Edward Belden	X				
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman	X	Liliana Griego		Y	Y
Municipal Members	David Dolphin		Latoya Waters	X		Y
Municipal Members	Carmen Masud	X	Paul Cranmer		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Jalaine Verdiner	X	Fernando Villaluna		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington		Alex Tachiki			
Municipal Members	Sal Mendez	X			Y	Y
Municipal Members	James Tong	X	Kris Markarian		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Sarah Rocha					
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	X	Julie Millett			
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	13	14
Total Voting Members Present	15			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency	5			Abstain (A)	0	0
Community Stakeholder	5			Total	13	14
Municipal Members	5				Approved	Approved

Attendance  
RH WASC - September 20, 2022

JALAINÉ VERDINER	Richard Watson
Jill Fosselman	Paul Cranmer
Austine Racelis	James Tong
Daniel Rossman	Aric Torreyson
Tom Love	Paul Choy
Melanie Morita-Hu	Oliver Galang
Edward Belden	Julie Millett
Bridget Childs	Veronica Carrillo
Sal Mendez	Kristen Ruffell
Chris Lee	Gabriela Gonzalez
Ryanna Fossum	Eric Bonilla - LACFCD
Mark Hall	Latoya Waters
Brianne Logasa	Julian Juarez
Tori Klug (Regional Coordination)	Fernando Villaluna
Dawn Petschauer	Thomas Wong
Carmen Masud	Larry Tran
Kelly GARDNER	Brent Maue