

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



Thursday, May 12, 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)
*Clement Lau, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)
Bob Huff, Former CA State Senator (Community)
Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)
Johnathan Perisho, Watershed Conservation Authority (Community)
David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)
Yovanni Viramontes, Baldwin Park (Municipal)
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:

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community), Vice Chair

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 April 28, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the April 28, 2022 meeting minutes by Member Tom Love, seconded by Member Julie Carver. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided the following update:

- The District will host an information session in June for the Round 4 Call for Projects. Round 4 project applications are due July 31.

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- 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 USGR Watershed Manager is Julian Juarez.

4. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

5. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

6. Discussion Items

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

District Staff demonstrated the new SIP tool column which shows anticipated operations and maintenance costs. District Staff shared that the partial funding request for Glendora Avenue Green Streets projects offered during the last WASC meeting was also made available. The District reminded WASC members that partial funding for design phase is an option, however, the goal of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) is to fund projects through completion. District Staff noted that once the SIP is approved for submittal to the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), the Chair needs to attend the ROC meeting to answer any questions.

The Committee discussed approving the Pelota Park, Marchant Park, and partially funded Glendora Avenue Green Streets Infrastructure Program (IP) projects and the Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures and Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation Scientific Studies (SS). The funding scenario under consideration includes delayed funding for the Round 1 Wingate Park Regional EWMP and Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Projects. The WASC observed that this scenario fully allocates the budget for FY22-23 and FY 24-25 and results in overallocated scenarios, if they factor in the estimated future construction costs.

WASC members who support the funding scenario noted that funding final design-phase projects will bring clarity around anticipated future funding.

Other WASC members expressed concern over allocating a such large percentage of the SIP budget and recommended leaving room for future projects. Those members highlighted concerns over cities competing for construction dollars in the future. District Staff added that the Sunset Crossing Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project, a Technical Resources Project approved in Round 2, is also expected to come back for funding.

It was noted that the way the program is structured eventually all revenue for the program is expected to go to maintenance of projects completed, meaning there is a limited number of projects that will be funded through this program.

Concern was stated about allocating such a large percentage of the SIP budget absent feedback from local communities to inform projects selected. It was noted that promises of community input and a focus on nature-based solutions were leading reasons this measure was passed, and concern was stated that these decisions may impact future funding opportunities.

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Members who support the allocation noted that funding the design phase of a project allows proponents to find other construction funding sources.

7. Public Comment Period

Ed Othmer (Stantec, consultant to East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Group) shared a public comment in support of funding projects for design. Othmer noted that infrastructure funding is widely available, but competitive. Robust design enhances the competitiveness of construction funding applications.

8. Voting Items

- 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**

Member Lisa O'Brien made a motion to approve the FY22-23 SIP for the USGR WASC including:

Infrastructure Program projects:

- Glendora Avenue Green Streets,
- Pelota Park, and
- Marchant Park

Scientific Studies:

- Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures and
- Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation

The motion was seconded by Member Tom Love. The motion passed.

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 26, and has since been cancelled.

District Staff shared that the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC has started discussions around setting priorities and establishing criteria for the Round 4 projects. Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination Team) added that the LSGR WASC is also discussing how to effectively communicate Watershed Area-specific priorities to project applicants and how to prioritize smaller projects. LSGR is the first WASC to consider establishing a comprehensive set of priorities and there is an opportunity for other WASCs to do this as well.

10. Adjournment

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

Attendance
USGR WASC - May 12, 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alexander Iglesias - LACFCD | Juan Diaz-Carreras |
| Alfredo Camacho - USGR | Julian Juarez |
| Alison Sweet | Julie Carver |
| Andrew Kim | Justin Jones |
| Brad Wardynski | Katie Harrel |
| Brianna Datti | Kevin Kearney |
| Brianne Logasa | Kirk Allen |
| Bridget Childs | Larry Tran |
| Christopher Lapaz | Larry Tortuya |
| Clement Lau | Lauren Marshall |
| Courtney Semlow | Lauro Alvarado |
| Curt Roth | Lisa O'Brien |
| David Diaz | Lonnie Chung |
| Diana Campos | Melanie Morita |
| Donna Tran | Paul Senker |
| Drew Ready | Ryan Edgley |
| Ed Othmer | Sen. Bob Huff (ret) |
| Eric Bonilla | Sharon Gallant |
| Fernando Villaluna | Shawn Igoe |
| Gregor Patsch | Stephanie Sandoval |
| James Cramsie | Tom Love |
| Johnathan Perisho | Tori Klug (Regional Coord.) |
| Jonathan Abelson | William OBraitis |
| Joseph Venzon | Yovanni Viramontes |
| Joshua Nelson | |

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| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details) | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Member Type | Position | Member | Voting/ Present? | Alternate | Voting/ Present? | Approve 4/28 Meeting Minutes | Approve the Final Fiscal Year 2022-23 Stormwater Investment Plan funding recommendations for the USGR Watershed Area and approve submission to the ROC for review to Delay Bassett Wingate SSs, Partial Glendora, 3IP, 2SS |
| Agency | FCD | Julian Juarez | X | Ramy Gindi | | | N |
| Agency | Upper San Gabriel District | Tom Love | X | Patty Cortez | | Y | Y |
| Agency | Main San Gabriel Basin | Kelly Gardner | X | Tony Zampielo | | Y | Y |
| Agency | Sanitation Districts | Kristen Ruffell | | Christopher Lapaz | X | Y | Y |
| Agency | Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation | Sean Woods | | Clement Lau | X | A | N |
| Community Stakeholder | Huff Strategies | Bob Huff | X | | | Y | Y |
| Community Stakeholder | Council for Watershed Health | Drew Ready | X | Jason Casanova | | Y | A |
| Community Stakeholder | Watershed Conservation Authority | Johnathan Perisho | X | Jane Tsong | | Y | N |
| Community Stakeholder | Urban Semillas | Miguel Luna | | David Marquez | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Active SGV | David Diaz | X | Wesley Reutimann | | Y | N |
| Municipal | Baldwin Park | Yovanni Viramontes | X | Sam Gutierrez | | Y | A |
| Municipal | Bradbury | Kevin Kearney | X | | | Y | 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) | 14 | 10 |
| Total Voting Members Present | | 16 | | | Nay (N) | 0 | 4 |
| Agency | | 5 | | | Abstain (A) | 1 | 2 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 4 | | | Total | 15 | 16 |
| Municipal | | 7 | | | | Approved | Approved |