

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



Thursday, August 25, 2022

1:00pm - 3:00pm

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Sean Woods, 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)
Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community), Vice Chair
David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)
Yovanni Viramontes, Baldwin Park (Municipal)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)
Sharon Gallant, Covina (Municipal)
Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)
Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal)
Christy Zamani, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

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

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Miguel Luna, Vice Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

District Staff made self-introductions and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting.

Member Johnathan Perisho requested that Discussion 6a, on the May 12 Meeting Minutes include the following notes to more accurately reflect the full discussion:

- Committee Members shared concerns with the way the program is structured to provide long-term operations and maintenance of funded projects at the expense of funding new projects.
- Concerns were shared about allocating such a large percentage of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) budget and absent feedback from local communities to inform projects selected. Committee Members were concerned that Measure W's promises of incorporating community input, making

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significant visible improvements, and focusing on nature-based solutions, have been left unfulfilled. There was also concern this may impact future funding opportunities.

Motion to approve the amended May 12, 2022 minutes by Member David Diaz, seconded by Member Drew Ready. The Committee voted to approve the minutes with 15 members in favor, zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District Staff provided the following update:

- 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 reviewing its position every 30 days and will act to cover all the commissions and committees under their authority.
- The County's Executive Office issued a memo on April 8 in preparation for returning to in-person committee meetings. The Committee may start meeting again in-person as soon as September or October, with at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's conference room in Whittier as the potential meeting location.
- On June 24, the executive office issued a news release that the Board of Supervisors will begin meeting in meeting in person once the Los Angeles County COVID-19 transmission status remains at low for 7 consecutive days. This may be a good indicator as to when Assembly Bill 361 will be discontinued, and in-person meetings will resume.
- All 9 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.
- Quarterly reports for Infrastructure Program (IP) and Scientific Studies (SS) developers were due on August 15 and will be discussed at a future WASC meeting.
- 68 of 86 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Annual Plans have been submitted. Annual Plans must be submitted for disbursement of SCWP funds.
- The call for projects for FY23-24 closed on July 31. District Staff is currently conducting completeness checks. The preliminary count of applications is as follows: 32 IP, 4 SS, and 3 Technical Resource Program (TRP) applicants. USGR WASC received 0 IP, 0 SS, and 1 TRP applications.

Member Drew Ready asked that the District provide future updates on which cities are engaging in a timely manner with the Municipal Program. Member Ready also requested updates from cities within the Watershed Area, in addition to general region-wide updates.

Vice Chair Miguel Luna asked whether a hybrid option will be available when the WASC meetings are convened in-person. District Staff replied that a hybrid option is still being considered, however, meetings must comply with the Brown Act. District Staff will keep the Committee updated.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani provided an update on recent activities which included attending 20 events in May and July.

Member Bob Huff inquired about displaying SCWP-branded material at events. Watershed Coordinator Zamani replied that they would share photographs of the SCWP-branded material being advertised at the

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next update. Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani noted that they recently received a shipment of additional SCWP gear for distribution at upcoming events.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Kelly Gardner stated that they are the chair of the Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Sub-Regional Steering Committee, which is in the process of hearing some project proposals that are companion projects to or projects that will be considered for SCWP funding.

6. Public Comment Period

District Staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, loaded them to the SCWP website, and displayed them on-screen. Speaker cards or other correspondence received after 5:00pm will be added to the minutes.

The District received a public comment from Joe Sullivan (International Brotherhood of Electric Workers Local 11 Chapter) to express support for meaningful labor standards in all Measure W Projects. The public comment letter is available on the SCWP website.

7. Discussion Items

a) Updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani shared an overview of the outreach and engagement strategies and focus areas included in the SOEP:

1. Engage stakeholders, municipalities, and community groups
2. Solicit input and connect to technical assistance opportunities
3. Ensure diverse perspectives are shared with the District and WASC.
4. Identify and ensure the involvement of members of disadvantaged & underrepresented communities.
5. Identify educational programming about watershed management, ecological & community issues.

Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani welcomed feedback from the WASC.

Member Julie Carver requested the Watershed Coordinators notify city staff when they are attending an event in that city. Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani agreed to establish a process for updating WASC members and municipal staff when SCWP events occur in the Watershed Area or municipal jurisdiction.

Member Johnathan Perisho asked about the steps required for a community leader or non-governmental organization (NGO) to bring a project before the WASC. Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination) stated that there are a few options, highlighting that if an agency or individual did not have the technical expertise or capability to submit an IP application, the TRP application process is aimed at providing an option with minimal amount of technical expertise needed. The award for a selected TRP application is support from a technical assistance team to develop a feasibility study for their project. In response to a follow-up question about project review and approval, Klug clarified that the WASC is responsible for reviewing the TRP, IP, and SS applications, and that the IP applications have scoring criteria that would

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need to be reviewed by the Scoring Committee to affirm that projects score greater than 60 points, in order to qualify for WASC consideration.

Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani shared that the role of the Watershed Coordinators includes helping project applicants through the process of developing their project ideas. Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani expanded on SOEP Focus Area 2's strategy of conducting technical assistance presentations to community-based organizations which will include examples of projects funded in the past and discussion on how to achieve proposed project goals.

Member Drew Ready asked for information about the resources available to the Committee in FY22-23, to ensure that outreach does not make promises to the community that cannot be met. Watershed Coordinator Christy Zamani noted that one of their goals is to provide information to project proponents on potential sources of funding to leverage, which would free up SCWP funds.

The Committee discussed the importance of branding at community events to demonstrate to communities how their tax dollars are being used.

Leading into Agenda Item 7b, Vice Chair Miguel Luna emphasized the importance of rotating roles within the WASC to freshen perspectives and deepen understanding of the SCWP.

b) Review of WASC roles and responsibilities (Presentation by Stantec)

Tori Klug (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared 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.

Klug discussed previous SIP allocations, noting that FY24-25 is dependent on FY23-24 rollover and that the WASC has effectively spent out its budget for the next two years. There is an opportunity for more funds to become available if project proponents lower their asks (e.g., project proponents find additional funding match). District Staff added that the anticipated annual regional program funds collected are estimates and may be lower due to the filing of tax exemptions and appeals. Vice Chair Miguel Luna added that project proponents identifying matching funds or experiencing project delays may also open up funding in FY23-24.

Member Yovanni Viramontes asked for clarification on WASC member alternate assignments. District Staff answered that, for municipal seats shared between two municipalities, one municipality holds the primary and one holds the secondary seat. A municipal WASC member could swap out their primary seat with someone else at their municipality. If a municipality would like to swap out their representative WASC member, they should email the District.

Member Drew Ready asked if any analysis had been done showing what the budget would look like if design-only projects were funded for construction. The District compiled an assumed construction costs funding scenario in the SIP tool on the SCWP website during the previous year's deliberations, which shows that funding construction for all of the projects that have thus far been awarded design-only funding is not within the WASC's budget.

Member Drew Ready noted that \$25 million of education and outreach funds should be set aside for Workforce Development Program, Public Education Programs, and School Education and Curriculum Program by Year 5. Member Ready asked the District Staff for an update on these programs and if the allocated \$25 million would need to be spent by Year 5. District Staff stated that there were no significant

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updates at this point to those programs; however, they expect scope of works and contracts to be available in the next year. District Staff confirmed that the \$25 million would need to be spent by Year 5. Vice Chair Luna identified updates on these programs as a future agenda item.

c) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Member David Diaz nominated Member Johnathan Perisho for chair. Member Johnathan Perisho accepted nomination if another member is willing to serve as co-chair.

Member David Diaz nominated Member Julie Carver for the co-chair position. Member Julie Carver declined the nomination.

Member David Diaz nominated Member Paulina Morales for the co-chair position. Member Morales accepted nomination as a co-chair.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

a) Approve the Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Motion by Member Diaz, seconded by Member Carver, to approve the USGR SOEP updated to include a process for notifying WASC member and municipal staff when SCWP events are occurring in the Watershed Area and their respective municipalities. The Committee voted to approve the USGR SOEP with 16 votes in favor, zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Motion by Member David Diaz, seconded by Vice Chair Miguel Luna, to approve Member Johnathan Perisho and Member Paulina Morales as Co-Chairs for the USGR WASC. The Committee voted to approve with 16 members in favor, zero opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 22, at 1:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Agenda items include:

a) Summary of Feasibility Studies, Project Concepts, and Scientific Studies submitted for USGR WASC by the Watershed Coordinator

11. Adjournment

Vice Chair Miguel Luna thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 5/12/2022 Meeting Minutes as proposed amended	Approve the USGR SOEP updated to include a process for updating WASC members and municipal staff when SCWP events are occurring in the WA and the respective municipalities	Approve Johnathan Perisho and Paulina Morales as co-chairs
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Ramy Gindi		y	y	y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love		Patty Cortez				
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner	x	Tony Zampiello		y	y	y
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	y	y	y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods	x	Clement Lau		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Huff Strategies	Bob Huff	x			y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	x	Jason Casanova		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Watershed Conservation Authority	Johnathan Perisho	x	Jane Tsong		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna	x	David Marquez		y	y	y
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	x	Wesley Reutimann		y	y	y
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y	y	y
Municipal	Covina & Glendora	Sharon Gallant	x	Andrea Ampig		y	y	y
Municipal	Pomona & Diamond Bar	Julie Carver	x	Fabian Aoun		y	y	y
Municipal	Industry & El Monte	Matthew Hudson	x	Don Nguyen		y	y	y
Municipal	Baldwin Park & San Dimas	Yovanni Viramontes	x	Shari Garwick		y	y	y
Municipal	Duarte & Bradbury	Stephanie Sandoval	x	Kevin Kearney		y	y	y
Municipal	West Covina	Paulina Morales	x			y	y	y
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Christy Zamani	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	16	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		4			Abstain (A)	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16	16	16
Municipal		7				Approved	Approved	Approved

Attendance
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Alex Iglesias - LACFCD	Joe Venzon - LA County
alison sweet	Johnathan Perisho
Andrea Ampig	Julian Juarez
Andrew Kim	Julie Carver
Anthony Ortega	Kelly GARDNER
Bob Huff	Kevin Kearney
Brianne Logasa	Mark Hall GLAMosquito
Bridget Childs	Mathew Hudson
Cameron McCullough	Melanie Morita-Hu
Chris Lapaz	Miguel Luna
Christy Zamani	Paulina Morales
David Diaz	Romany Basilyous
David Marquez	Ryanna Fossum
Donna Tran	Sean Woods
Drew Ready	Shari Garwick
Eric Bonilla - LACFCD	Sharon Gallant
Eugene Serrano	Tori Klug (Regional Coordination)
Fernando Villaluna	William OBraitis
Hayat Rasul	Yisak kim
James Cramsie	Yovanni