

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, November 3, 2022
3:00pm - 5:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Dirk Marks, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency), Vice Chair
*Rick Viergutz, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Jerrid McKenna, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)
Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community)
Ivan Volschenk, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, Santa Clarita Valley Community Hiking Club (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Jason Gibbs, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Heather Merenda, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Damon Letz, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Darin Seegmiller, Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
*Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Absent:

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and gave a brief WebEx tutorial, then called the meeting to order.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2022

District Staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve meeting minutes by Member Hunt Braly and seconded by Member Ivan Volschenk. The Committee voted to approve September 1, 2022 meeting minutes, with 15 votes in favor and 1 abstained (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Members Heather Merenda and Bruce Hamamoto participated in a bacteria summit in Sacramento and discussed water quality. Member Merenda also met with Member Sandra Cattell and the Sierra Club regarding the Via Princessa Park project.

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Member Hamamoto disclosed the bacteria summit meeting with Member Merenda. Member Hamamoto also mentioned that the site visit for the Pico Canyon Park and Jake Kuredjian Park projects was conducted in October and Members Braly and Cattell were present at the first tour. There was a second site visit hosted by other County staff. Chair Seegmiller, Member Mary Johnson, and Member Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel participated in that tour.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

Member Hamamoto gave a brief update about the site tour near Jake Kuredjian Park and summarized discussions regarding piping, water flows, constructability, cost, and other related items regarding the project site. Committee Members noted that the site visits were helpful to understand the project area. Member Hamamoto noted that there were questions from the tour that will be addressed at a later time.

District staff provided an update:

- On October 18, 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. In the event the Board does not approve AB 361, Committee Members may vote whether or not to continue teleconferencing during a state of emergency. District staff will provide additional guidance if this occurs.
- Metrics and Monitoring Study workshops will be conducted on November 16th and November 17th. More information can be found on the “Resources” drop down menu on the Safe Clean Water (SCW) website.
- On October 4, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). The approved Board letter is available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website under the resources drop down menu. Project Managers of continuing projects from previous years should submit transfer agreement executions for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23).
- The Scoring Committee scored the SCR project on October 6, 2022 and deemed the project unable to score and will re-score the project on December 1, 2022. The scoring schedule and scoring rubric with comments are available on the Scoring Committee page on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.
- Quarterly reports for Infrastructure Program (IP) and Scientific Study (SS) developers are due on November 15, 2022 and will be discussed at future WASC meetings. Reports must still be completed even if no project activities have occurred.
- As a reminder to project developers that have received or will be receiving SCWP funds, part of the transfer agreement includes abiding by the County’s local and targeted worker hire policy or a similar policy. Depending on the cost of the project, a Project Labor Agreement will be required from one of the financial partners.
- 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.

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5. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley presented a quarterly report for Q2, available on the SCWP website and attached.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items

a. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY21-22 Q1 and Q2

District staff displayed the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary onscreen, with any instances of exhibit modifications highlighted in red. Full reports are available on the SCWP website.

The Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project had a modification on the work schedule and completion date highlighted. Member Braly noted that the project is fully funded and inquired what the construction schedule was for the project. Allen Ma, project developer, explained that the project is currently in the planning stage and will complete the design concept report this year. The design phase will begin in early 2023 and last between 1.5-2 years. Construction will then take approximately 1 year. The SCWP will fund a portion of the construction.

Member Braly requested that the quarterly reports include information related to project funding and will send the request to District staff via email.

Because this summary is only reflecting FY21-22, the Pico Canyon project is not included.

Chair Seegmiller gave a project update on the Newhall Park Infiltration project. The project is attempting to incorporate comments from the Committee and from general community outreach. Member Cattell noted that any project-specific community meetings should be advertised to the WASC.

b. Spatial Data Library and Project Portal Demonstrations

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) made a self-introduction and explained that the Committee had previously expressed a desire to see watershed areas overlaid with existing storm drains in LA County as well as a refresher on the SCWP portal.

Fossum demonstrated how to filter the SCWP Project Portal based on project status, funding, location, weather type and Best Management Practice (BMP). The project application and quarterly reports are accessible by clicking on each project. Fossum also demonstrated that the same information can be found on the SCWP portal dashboard.

Fossum explained that the SCWP Project Portal has more specific project information and the Spatial Data Library includes SCWP project locations along with additional information that can be used to better understand the context of projects.

The Spatial Data Library can be accessed under the "Resources" drop down menu on the SCWP website. Fossum demonstrated how to navigate the site and turn on the different spatial data layers. The SCWP projects are located within the "SCWP" layer group. The storm drain layer is in the "Supply and Sanitation" layer group and may require the user to zoom in on the map for the layer to appear. Fossum

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noted to contact the Stantec Regional Coordination team to request that additional information be added to the Spatial Data Library.

Chair Seegmiller mentioned that the storm drains near the Jake Kuredjian Park project area can be seen using this tool.

Member Cattell clarified with Chair Seegmiller that storm drains north of the Newhall Park Infiltration project would not require pumping as water from that storm drain is not intended to be captured by the Newhall Park Infiltration project. Member Cattell noted that seeing a visual map of storm drains will be helpful when discussing future projects.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

- a. None**

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. See the SCWP website for details.

- a. Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361**

Chair Seegmiller confirmed with District staff that the December meeting will be virtual, and that District staff would provide guidance on when voting to continue teleconference meetings would need to occur.

Member Braly noted that the Board has begun to meet in person and asked if meeting in person is an item that this committee should begin to discuss. District staff noted that there may be some requirements prior to meeting in person and will confirm these at the next meeting.

- b. Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Presentation**

District staff noted that the Via Princessa Park project will have been scored by the Scoring Committee by the next meeting and Chair Seegmiller confirmed that having the project developer present on the project would be beneficial.

11. Adjournment

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

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - NOVEMBER 3, 2022

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes)
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 9-1-2022 Meeting Minutes
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Dirk Marks**	X			Y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole		Rick Viergutz	X	A
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	X	Y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna	X	Susan Nelson		Y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell	X	Diane Trautman		Y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk	X			Y
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	X	Heidi Webber		
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	X	Allen Ma		Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	X	Allen Ma		Y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	X	Allen Ma		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs	X	Tyler Pledger		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda	X	Oliver Cramer		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz	X	Dan Duncan		Y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	X	Sarona Vivanco		Y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Peter Massey		Amanda Begley	X	
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	15
Total Voting Members Present		17			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved

Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
November 3, 2022

Amanda Begley	Darin Seegmiller	Jerrid McKenna	Serena Zhu
Allen Ma	Graciela Cruz Sierra	Kayla Kilgo - CWE	Sandra Cattell
Bruce Hamamoto	Hunt Braly	Mary Johnson	Uriel Cobian - LACFCD
Chris Lapaz	Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)	Veronica Carrillo
Diane Trautman	Heather Merenda	Oliver Cramer	Dianne Hellrigel
Dan Duncan	Ivan Volschenk	Pablo Forni LACFCD	
Damon Letz	Jason Gibbs	Rick Viergutz	
Dirk Marks	Julian Juarez	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)	