

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

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Tuesday, November 8, 2022  
10:00am – 12:30pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
Rob Beste, Water Replenishment District (Agency)  
\*Alysha Chan, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
\*Madeline Chen, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)  
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
\*Noya Wang, Resident (Community)  
\*Joseph Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, Resident (Community), Vice-Chair  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)  
Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Kelli Pickler, Lakewood (Municipal)  
\*Kyle Cason, Whittier (Municipal)  
Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair

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

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Lisa Rapp, Vice-Chair of the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

District Staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. New Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2022**

District Staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Gabrielle Weeks motioned to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Member Madeline Chen. The Committee voted to approve the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes, with 14 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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

District Staff provided an update, noting:

- 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. The Board is reviewing its position every 30 days. If the Board does not continue to approve findings under AB 361,

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Committee Members will be able to vote whether to continue teleconferencing during a state of emergency. District staff will provide additional guidance as needed.

- On October 4, the Board approved all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for funding. The District is in the process of drafting the Regional Program Transfer Agreements and will be ready within the coming months.
- Fiscal Year 2023-2023 (FY22-23) Quarter 1 quarterly reports from the period of July to October are due on November 15. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project.
- On November 3, the Scoring Committee met to score all 5 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects for LSGR. Project applicants that were requested to provide more information or update the application were contacted and rescored is scheduled for December 1.

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an overview of the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP), including descriptions of the process and timeline and the Watershed Coordinator's role in soliciting and developing new projects. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson provided an update on upcoming activities, including:

- Workshop presentation on SCWP to Water Talks Workshop Community Engagement Meeting on November 30
- Educational outreach event at Sorensen Park Harvest Festival on November 17
- Educational outreach event at Los Cerritos Wetlands Holiday Tour on December 10

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared slides recapping the discussion of LSGR WASC priorities from the previous meeting on October 11. The slides can be found on the SCWP website.

Watershed Coordinator Traci Gleason presented fact sheets for LSGR WASC IP and Scientific Study (SS) projects under consideration, which include IP projects:

- Artesia Park Urban Runoff Capture Project
- La Mirada Creek Park Project
- Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel Stormwater Capture Project
- La Habra Heights Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System The Park Hacienda Road
- Progress Park Stormwater Capture Project

And SS projects:

- Regional Pathogen Reduction Study
- Targeted Human Waste Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria Related Compliance Objectives for Los Cerritos

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared that many projects received low scores in the water supply category due to the location of the water table and elements related to infiltration. Some projects received lower scores because the infiltration areas were not as large as they were depicted in the project application. Member Rob Beste agreed that the water supply category is a challenge for most projects in the region.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared that more information as well as the LSGR Community Needs Survey are available at [www.cleanwatervision.com](http://www.cleanwatervision.com).

Member Joseph Gonzalez suggested scheduling site visits to the projects that were previously funded for construction to get a better understanding of their impacts. District Staff replied that they are investigating how to conduct site visits in compliance with the Brown Act. Tori Klug (Regional Coordination, Stantec)

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mentioned that the Santa Clara River WASC visited the site of a proposed project and were able to comply with the Brown Act by splitting into two groups. Watershed Coordinator Anderson offered to keep an eye out for projects that would be beneficial for WASC members to visit.

## **Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

There were no ex parte disclosures.

## **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.

Mark Hall (Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District) provided an update on his previous public comment from the September 13 LSGR WASC meeting. Hall stated the La Habra Heights Stormwater Treatment and Reuse Project members were quick to reach out to the Los Angeles County Vector Control District after the meeting and the project is no longer of concern.

## **6. Discussion**

### **a) Gateway Area Pathfinding (GAP) Analysis Phase 1 Presentation (Presented by Craftwater Engineering, Inc.)**

Brad Wardynski (Craftwater) provided an update on the GAP Analysis Phase 1 project. Presentation slides are available on the SCWP website. Wardynski shared this project is currently in Phase 1, but Phase 2 has also been approved. Wardynski shared screen to show the GAP Project Dashboard modeling tool. Next steps in Phase 1 of the project include:

- Task 2: Model Interactions and Scoring,
- Task 3: Cross-Reference with Watersheds Management Programs
- Task 4: Stormwater Investment Plan Recommendations

Wardynski shared that they anticipate jurisdictions will be able to schedule meetings to view the modeling tool's results for their areas, through the Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA), by the end of the year. Wardynski also shared that Craftwater is using the tool to evaluate the projects included in the current round of applications and will have findings ready in the next month.

Member O'Grady asked how the tool might be used by WASCs to inform project funding considerations. Wardynski replied the tool is a snapshot in time of two rounds of potential projects. A future potential Phase 3 of the project could make this a more flexible, adaptive tool.

### **b) Scientific Study Presentations:**

#### **i) Targeted Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria-Related Compliance Objectives for the Los Cerritos Channel**

Presentation by Craftwater Engineering, Inc. *Data-driven framework to guide and prioritize source ID and abatement efforts, focusing on reducing sources from human waste, for bacteria.*

Brianna Datti (Craftwater Engineering) presented on Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria-Related Compliance Objectives for the Los Cerritos Channel and provided an overview of the study, source investigation framework, monitoring techniques, summary benefits, and a cost schedule of the study project. Presentation slides are available on the SCWP website.

Datti shared that this project is similar to the Load Reduction Study in the Upper Los Angeles River WASC. The approach and framework foundation are similar, but aspects such as the monitoring toolbox will be tailored based on the conditions within the channel.

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The Committee discussed concerns related to homeless encampments as a targeted human waste source and expressed focusing on data for this population may create unintended consequences and politicize study results. The Committee noted homeless encampments are not fixed source points and may not be consistent throughout all cities. Datti replied that the study's data is intended to focus on the highest sources of human waste that are consistent to better allocate resources.

## ii) **Regional Pathogen Reduction Study**

Presentation by Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. *The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health.*

Richard Watson (Richard Watson & Associates) presented the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study and provided an overview of the study, cost schedule, and summary benefits of the study project. Presentation slides are available on the SCWP website.

When asked how this study will interact with Targeted Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria-Related Compliance Objectives for the Los Cerritos Channel project, Watson noted that the Los Cerritos Channel study is specific to that watershed whereas the Regional study is broader in scope. The Los Cerritos Channel study will help to advance the regional study and create opportunities for future collaboration.

## c) **Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Priorities.**

Watershed Coordinator Grace Kast presented survey results on reserving funds for small-sized projects and operation & maintenance (O&M) funding requests. Presentation material available on the SCWP website.

The Committee discussed the SCWP's current approach to awarding O&M funds and considered imposing certain restrictions for activities that O&M should not cover, such as landscaping and mowing, versus activities it should be allowed to cover, such as actions which maintain water quality benefits, for example clearing out catchment basins. Vice-Chair Rapp suggested the WASC defer from making a recommendation on this area for now.

Watershed Coordinator Kast presented survey results on the question of whether the WASC should enact a funding cap for O&M requests. Vice-Chair Rapp again suggested the WASC defer from making a recommendation on this area for now.

## 7. **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## 8. **Voting Items**

### a) **Formalize Lower San Gabriel River Watershed funding priorities (as needed).**

Vice-Chair Rapp requested this item be deferred until the next meeting.

## 9. **Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. See the SCWP website for meeting details, including meeting time and duration. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (as needed).
- b) Regional Program Infrastructure Program Project Presentations.

Vice-Chair Rapp requested the addition of the following item to the next meeting agenda:

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- c) Formalize Lower San Gabriel River Watershed funding priorities (as needed).

## **10. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Rapp thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**LSGR WASC - November 08, 2022**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve the October 11, 2022 LSGR WASC meeting minutes	Finalize LSGR Watershed Area Priorities (as needed)	
Agency	FCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Ramy Gindi		a		
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste	x	Aimee Zhao	x	y		
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Alysha Chan	x	y		
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor				
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Noya Wang	x	y		
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Joseph Gonzalez	x	y		
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Lisa Ann Rapp	x			y		
Municipal	Bellflower	Bernie Iniguez	x	Len Gorecki		y		
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady	x	Sergio Huizar		y		
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y		
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler	x	Konya Vivanti		y		
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You		Wataru Kumagi				
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y		
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith		Kyle Cason	x	y		
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast				
<b>Total Non-Vacant Seats</b>		17			Yay (Y)	14	0	0
<b>Total Voting Members Present</b>		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	1	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	15	0	0
Municipal		6				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

## Attendance

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Aimee Zhao

Alysha Chan

Andrew Kim

Bernie Iniguez

Brad Wardynski

Brianna Datti

Dan Knapp

Dan Mueller

Donna Tran

Emily Ng

Fernando Villaluna

Gabrielle Weeks

Grace Kast

Joseph Gonzalez

Joseph Venzon - LA County

Kala Anderson

Kekoa Anderson

Kelli Pickler

Kyle Cason

Larry Tran - LACPW

Madeline Chen

Lisa Rapp

Marcela Benavides (LACFCD)

Mark Hall, GLAmosquito

Melanie Morita-Hu

Michelle Kim

Mike O'Grady

Natalie Rivera-Estrada

Noya Wang

Richard Watson

Robert Beste

Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)

Sarai Jimenez

Tori Klug (Regional Coordination)

Traci Gleason