

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



Tuesday, December 13, 2022

10:00am – 12:00 pm

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)

*Aimee Zhao, Water Replenishment District (Agency)

Kristen Ruffell, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)

*Nancy Villaseñor, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)

*Madeline Chen, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)

Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)

*Noya Wang, Resident (Community)

*Sally Gee, 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)

Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair

Bernie Iniguez, Bellflower (Municipal)

*Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)

Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)

Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

All Committee Members were present.

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Melissa You, 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. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2022

District staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Dan Mueller motioned to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Lisa Rapp. The Committee voted to approve the November 8, 2022 meeting minutes, with 9 members in favor, 0 opposed, 7 in abstention, and 1 member absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3) Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- On December 6, 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. In the event that the Board does not continue findings under AB 361, Committee Members will vote whether to continue teleconferencing under the authority of AB 361. District staff will provide additional guidance if and when this occurs.
- The District distributed the first batch of Transfer Agreements and Addendums for new and continuing projects approved in the Round 3 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs). Project

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developers should look out for emails from the District and provide requested items in a timely manner. Developers should create an account on the portal and submit the Infrastructure Project (IP) Project Developer Form, signed Transfer Agreement or Addendum, Scope of Work, Resolution or Authorization to execute the Transfer Agreement, and Vendor Identification Form. If a project requires California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, proponents should send their CEQA documentation so that the District can make determinations.

- Annual Report functionality is now available on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) reporting module. Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects and Scientific Studies (SS) funded in Round 1 and 2 SIPs are required to submit their first Annual Progress Report by December 31, 2022. District staff sent an email to project developers.
- Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Quarter 1, Quarterly Reports from the period of July to September were due on November 15. Quarterly Reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an overview of their recent activities. See slides available on the SCWP website. Recently, Watershed Coordinator Anderson presented at WaterTalks Workshop Community Engagement Meeting on November 30 and held educational outreach events at Sorensen Park Harvest Festival on November 17, 2022 and at Los Cerritos Wetlands Holiday Tour on December 10, 2022.

Watershed Coordinator Traci Gleason shared a table and map depicting LSGR SCWP projects funded and under consideration. Watershed Coordinator Gleason presented fact sheets for LSGR WASC IP projects and Scientific Studies (SS) under consideration, which include the following 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 at The Park Hacienda Road
- Progress Park Stormwater Capture Project

And SS:

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

Fact sheets and slides from the presentation can be found on the SCWP website. Score breakdowns, comments, and notes are also available on the SCWP website.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures.

Chair Melissa You disclosed the Los Angeles County Grand Jury met with the City of Long Beach to inquire about Measure W and how the city uses both local and regional funds.

6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7) Discussion

a) Infrastructure Program Presentations:

i) Artesia Park Stormwater Capture Project

Presentation by John L. Hunter & Associates, Inc. Regional urban runoff capture facility located at Artesia Park beneath the open space of the existing park surface.

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On the topic of leverage funding, Hunter clarified that they have applied for numerous grants along the way but have yet to be awarded any funding. The project will continue to pursue additional funding opportunities during the design phase.

Member Nancy Villaseñor asked where the Watershed Management Plan referenced in the presentation can be found. Hunter will follow up and share the plan with Committee Members.

- ii) La Habra Heights Stormwater Treatment and Reuse System The Park Hacienda Road**
Presentation by STAR Water Group. The project aims to capture, infiltrate, or treat and store stormwater runoff from Hacienda Park and nearby catchments for beneficial reuse.

Upon request for additional information, Rochfort shared that the project will measure inflows and outflows to better understand the effects of project installation on improving the removal of pollutants. In response to a question about disadvantaged communities near the project location, Rochfort clarified that the closest disadvantaged communities are located multiple miles from the site, but community members frequently use the site for events.

Member Lisa Rapp asked clarifying questions about leverage funding. Rochfort shared that they are receiving funds from the Center for Organic Research & Education (CORE), which focuses on the local circular economy industry. CORE will underwrite a 25 percent contribution. The letter of commitment can be found in the application package.

- iii) Progress Park Stormwater Capture Project**
Presentation by Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. and Craftwater Engineering, Inc. Regional stormwater capture and infiltration/filtration facility, new soccer fields, and pedestrian walking path along Progress Park.

b) Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Priorities.

Watershed Coordinator Grace Kast presented a recap of the LSGR WASC Prioritization Criteria Survey. Presentation slides are available on the SCWP website.

The Committee discussed the need to prioritize and reserve funding for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding requests. Committee Members noted that reserving funds for O&M could limit their ability to fund future projects, and they prefer flexibility for determining funding on a case-by-case basis.

8) Public Comment Period

Richard Watson (Richard Watson & Associates) expressed support for the WASC's discussion on prioritizing O&M funding, noting that the SCWP ordinance includes a focus on O&M funding out of the recognition that such funds are not available from state grants.

9) Voting Items

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

Committee Members discussed phrasing for O&M funding prioritization and reserving funds for small projects, utilizing a shared screen to outline their discussion. Committee Members proposed adding a statement to indicate that their collective thoughts are not binding for the sake of decision-making and may be revisited on an ongoing basis. Watershed Coordinator Kast will work on finalizing the phrasing of the WASC's priorities and will send it to the Committee Members for review prior to the next meeting.

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting of the LSGR WASC is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023. See the SCWP website for meeting details, including timing and length. Items on the agenda include:

- a)** Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (as needed).
- b)** Regional Program Infrastructure Program Project Presentations.
- c)** Reselection of the LSGR Watershed Coordinator for the next term.

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Chair You requested the addition of the following item to the next meeting agenda:

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

11) Adjournment

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

LSGR WASC - December 13, 2022

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)			
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve the November 8, 2022 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes	Finalize the LSGR Watershed Area Priorities (as needed)		
Agency	FCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	Ramy Gindi		y			
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y			
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Aimee Zhao	x	y			
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Alysha Chan		a			
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor	x	a			
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		a			
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Noya Wang	x	y			
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Sally Gee	x	a			
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x						
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		Konya Vivanti	x	a			
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagi		a			
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y			
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		a			
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast	x				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	9	0	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		17			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	7	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16	0	0	0
Municipal		7			Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

Attendance

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Aimee Zhao	Larry Tran
Alexander Iglesias LACFCD	Lisa Rapp
Aman Kittagali	Madeline Chen
Andrew Kim	Marcela Benavides (LACFCD)
Aric Martinez	Melanie Morita-Hu
Asha Kreiling	Melissa You
Bernie Iniguez	Merrill Taylor
Cas, CWH	Michelle Kim
Christopher Rochfort	Mike O'Grady
Dan Knapp	Nancy Villasenor
Dan Mueller	Noya Wang
Donna Tran	Oliver Galang
Elizabeth Lambe	Richard Watson
Emily Ng	Robert Beste
Ernesto	Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination)
Fernando Villaluna	Sally Gee - RMC
Gabriela Gonzalez	Sarai Jimenez
Gabrielle Weeks	Tori Klug (Regional Coordination)
Grace Kast	Traci Gleason
John Hunter	Vicki Smith
Kekoa Anderson	Wataru Kumagi
Konya Vivanti	Yisak Kim
Kristen Ruffell	