

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



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Tuesday, November 29, 2022

1:30pm - 3:30pm

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)

Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)

Johnathan Perisho, Watershed Conservation Authority (Community), Co-Chair

David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)

Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)

\*Sandy Costandi, Glendora (Municipal)

Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)

Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

James Cortes Rivera, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present:

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

Sean Woods, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community)

Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)

Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal), Co-Chair

Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees

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## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Johnathan Perisho, Co-Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) 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 October 27, 2022**

District staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the October 27, 2022 minutes by Member David Diaz, seconded by Member Kelly Gardner. The Committee voted to approve the minutes with 10 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

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District staff provided the following update:

- On November 16, 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 decides to no longer approve findings to continue

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teleconferencing meetings under AB 361, the WASC has the authority to make their own AB 361 findings. District staff will provide additional guidance if and when that occurs.

- 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 and this includes funding for the continuing projects. Project Managers of continuing projects from previous years should submit transfer agreement executions for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23).
- New project developers from the FY22-23 SIPs must complete designation of project developer for Infrastructure Program and Scientific Studies Program FY22-23 form. Continuing project developers from previous SIP years do not need to submit this form.
- The Annual Report functionality is now available in the SCW Reporting Module. Projects and studies funded in Round 1 to 2 SIP are required to submit their first Annual Progress Report by December 31, 2022.
- FY22-23 Q1 Quarterly Reports from the period of July to October were due November 15, 2022. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project.
- USGR WASC received 1 TRP project submittal and zero IP, SS for Call for Project FY23-24.
- 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 five 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.

#### **4. Watershed Coordinator Updates**

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera provided an update on events and activity highlights, meetings and project development engagement, common community questions and feedback, and upcoming events and outreach. See slides available on the SCWP website.

Member Drew Ready asked the Watershed Coordinator whether on-site community benefits are provided for the Pedley Spreading Grounds Enhancement Project, mentioning the potential inclusion of an educational component. Member Ready referenced the Chino Basin Spreading Grounds Project, which dedicates funds for an educational aspect. Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera replied that there is an ongoing effort for the Pedley Spreading Grounds Project to determine on-site community benefits. The topic will be discussed further at a meeting on November 30, 2022.

#### **5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures**

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### **6. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **7. Discussion Items**

##### **a. Update presentations from previously funded Regional Program Infrastructure Program Projects**

##### **i. Barnes Park- City of Baldwin Park**

Katie Harrel, CWE Consultants, gave a presentation on the Barnes Park Infrastructure Project, a multi-benefit infiltration project that will enhance water quality in the Upper San Gabriel River by reducing and infiltrating storm drain discharges while improving Barnes Park. The project recently passed the 90% design plans and construction is estimated to start in the fall of 2023. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

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Katie Harrel provided clarifying details about the project based on questions from Committee Members:

- \$7.4 million was allocated for FY22-23. \$4.8 million is projected in FY23-24 for construction.
- Water from the underground cistern used in this project will be drawn strictly for infiltration, which means that there will still be a potable water use for irrigation of the park.
- 48 trees will be removed and 113 added. 24-inch box trees are proposed. The intent is to reduce water use and consumption, while being thoughtful about the species that will be incorporated. Conservation of the existing canopy was considered.

Member Drew Ready surfaced the need for monitoring smaller trees to prevent vandalism. This issue may need to be further discussed with the landscape architecture team.

## ii. **Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project- Los Angeles County**

Joseph Venzon, Los Angeles County Public Works, provided an overview of the Bassett High School Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project. The primary objectives of the project are to improve water quality, increase water conservation through groundwater recharge, increase recreational opportunities, and provide educational outreach to the community. The project is currently in the design phase and construction is estimated to start in late 2024. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Member Kelly Gardner expressed concern that it may be misleading for the project to claim it provides new water supply, since a new water supply implies a new water source rather than a diversion from existing systems, as this project intends to do. Joseph Venzon noted that part of the modeling efforts included water supply benefits but understood the concern and offered to further discuss the details of the quantifications and modeling components of the project at a different time. It was also noted that providing a new water supply was included as a secondary benefit for the project, not a primary benefit.

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera inquired about accessibility to the park and the effects that this project might have on work completed by Amigos de Los Rios. Joseph Venzon noted that the hope is to incorporate community feedback into decisions related to accessibility and commented that there is no plan to modify anything that Amigos de Los Rios constructed.

## iii. **Pedley Spreading Grounds- East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group (City of San Dimas, Claremont, Pomona, and La Verne)**

Jonathan Abelson, Stantec, provided an overview of the Pedley Spreading Grounds Pond Enhancement project, which proposes to deepen the ponds of a spreading ground to accommodate local urban runoff. The primary objective of the project is to increase water supply for the Cities of Pomona and Claremont. The project is currently in the process of environmental documentation and design, and construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2023. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

Jonathan Abelson provided the following clarifications to respond to comments and inquiries from Committee Members:

- As part of the community outreach efforts, the project team has: (1) held an online outreach activity; (2) kept an active email list of all interested stakeholders; (3) planned

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an outreach meeting at an elementary school adjacent to the project site (Abelson will confirm whether parents of students in the school were informed about the meeting); and (4) distributed a survey asking the community for input on the type of improvements they would like to see.

- From the survey mentioned in item 4 above, most of the feedback concerned the parklet facility, types of vegetation, and overall design details.
- A list of contacts from the City of Claremont was acquired to reach all homeowners in the area that might be affected by the project.
- The current schedule will be submitted in the quarterly reports for reference. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2023 and by May, the proponents will have a better idea of whether the schedule needs to be pushed back to 2024.

Member Drew Ready emphasized the opportunity to conduct educational outreach on the adjacent elementary school's campus because of the proximity to the site. Member Drew Ready also stressed the importance of anticipating potential impacts to the school due to the project's proximity and suggested preparing necessary mitigations.

#### **iv. Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project- City of Covina**

Katie Harrel gave a presentation about the Wingate Park Regional EWMP project, a multi-benefit infiltration project that will enhance Wingate Park and improve water quality in the Upper San Gabriel River by reducing stormwater discharges. Its primary objective is to capture, treat, and infiltrate runoff from an area of approximately 1,100 acres from the cities of Covina, Glendora, San Dimas, an unincorporated LA County. The project design plans have been completed and construction is estimated to start in November 2023, pending funding disbursement. See slides available on the SCWP website and attached.

About five community outreach events were held in 2020 to prepare an application for Proposition 60 funding. The events included an opportunity for members of the community to vote for specific features they felt would benefit them most. At least one hundred community members participated in these events and the results from the vote were used to develop the project.

Responding to concerns about the on-site swale, Katie Harrel shared that the swale was meant to capture drainage from the parking lot. However, because the low edge of the parking lot are near the ADA access ramp, the swale would have needed a much greater depth to capture drainage from the lot. The City and design team did not feel comfortable with such a design configuration and turned to other options that would provide the same benefit.

Member David Diaz suggested adding a slide specifically dedicated to summarizing community outreach efforts. District staff agreed to add this slide to the project presentation template.

#### **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **9. Voting Items**

There were no voting items.

#### **10. Items for Next Agenda**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 pm on January 26, 2023. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the agenda include:

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- a. Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (if needed)
  - b. Regional Program Technical Resources Program Project Presentation

Regarding upcoming project presentations: the TRP from West Covina is the only new project under consideration. District Staff will continue to request presentations on projects that have received awards.

## **11. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Jonathan Perisho thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

## Attendance

USGR WASC - October 27, 2022

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Andrea Ampig             | Joe Venzon - LA County                |
| Andrew Kim               | Johnathan Perisho                     |
| Anthony Ortega           | Julian Juarez                         |
| Austine Racelis          | Julie Carver                          |
| Belen Bernal             | Katie Harrel                          |
| Brianne Logasa           | Mark Hall GLAmosquito                 |
| Brianne Logasa           | Mathew Hudson                         |
| Bridget Childs           | Mathew Hudson                         |
| Chris Lapaz              | Melanie Morita-Hu                     |
| Christy Zamani           | Michael Flores Jr                     |
| David Diaz               | Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)    |
| David Marquez            | Oliver Galang                         |
| Diego Carrizo            | Paulina Morales                       |
| Don Nguyen               | Rafael Fajardo                        |
| Drew Ready               | Romany Basilyous                      |
| Eric Bonilla             | Ryan Kearns - CWE                     |
| Fernando Villaluna       | Ryanna Fossum (Regional Coordination) |
| gabriela gonzalez        | Sandy Costandi                        |
| Greg Jaquez              | Sean Woods                            |
| james cortes rivera      | Tran Donna                            |
| Janeth Rodriguez Livesey | yisak kim                             |

**USGR WASC - November 29, 2022**

|                              |   | Quorum Present     |                  |                   |                  | Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details) |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
| Member Type                  | Position                                | Member             | Voting/ Present? | Alternate         | Voting/ Present? | Approve 10/27/2022 Meeting Minutes                        |
| Agency                       | FCD                                     | Julian Juarez      | x                | Ramy Gindi        |                  | y   |
| Agency                       | Upper San Gabriel District              | Tom Love           |                  | Patty Cortez      |                  |   |
| Agency                       | Main San Gabriel Basin                  | Kelly Gardner      | x                | Tony Zampielo     |                  | y   |
| Agency                       | Sanitation Districts                    | Kristen Ruffell    |                  | Christopher Lapaz | x                | y   |
| Agency                       | Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation | Sean Woods         |                  | Clement Lau       |                  |   |
| Community Stakeholder        |   |                    |                  |                   |                  |   |
| Community Stakeholder        | Council for Watershed Health            | Drew Ready         | x                | Jason Casanova    |                  | y   |
| Community Stakeholder        | Watershed Conservation Authority        | Johnathan Perisho  | x                | Jane Tsong        |                  | y   |
| Community Stakeholder        | Urban Semillas                          | Miguel Luna        |                  | David Marquez     |                  |   |
| Community Stakeholder        | Active SGV                              | David Diaz         | x                | Wesley Reutimann  |                  | y   |
| Municipal                    | Los Angeles County                      | Fernando Villaluna | x                | Joseph Venzon     |                  | y   |
| Municipal                    | Glendora                                | Andrea Ampig       |                  | Sandy Costandi    | x                | y   |
| Municipal                    | Pomona                                  | Julie Carver       |                  | Fabian Aoun       |                  |   |
| Municipal                    | Industry                                | Matthew Hudson     | x                | Don Nguyen        |                  | y   |
| Municipal                    | Baldwin Park                            | Romany Basilyous   | x                | Shari Garwick     |                  | y   |
| Municipal                    | Duarte                                  | Stephanie Sandoval |                  | Kevin Kearney     |                  |   |
| Municipal                    | West Covina                             | Paulina Morales    |                  |                   |                  |   |
| Non-Voting                   | Watershed Coordinator                   | James Cortez       | x                |                   |                  |   |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats       |   | 16                 |                  |                   | Yay (Y)          | 10  |
| Total Voting Members Present |   | 10                 |                  |                   | Nay (N)          | 0   |
| Agency                       |   | 3                  |                  |                   | Abstain (A)      | 0   |
| Community Stakeholder        |   | 3                  |                  |                   | Total            | 10  |
| Municipal                    |   | 4                  |                  |                   |                  | Approved  |