

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, January 19, 2023
2:00pm - 4:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Genevieve Osmena, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Art Castro, LA Department of Water and Power (Agency)
*John Huynh, LA Department of Water and Power (Agency)
Ida Meisami-Fard, LA Sanitation & Environment (Agency)
Cathie Santo Domingo, LA Recreation & Parks (Agency)
Ernesto Pantoja, Laborers Local 300 (Community)
Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community)
Max Liles, Michael Baker International (Community)
Veronica Padilla-Campos, Pacoima Beautiful (Community)
Yazdan Emrani, Glendale (Municipal)
Patrick DeChellis, La Cañada Flintridge (Municipal)
Teresa Villegas, Los Angeles (Municipal), Chair
Max Podemski, Los Angeles (Municipal), Vice-Chair
*Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)
Kenneth Jones, San Fernando (Municipal)
Adi Liberman, Environmental Outreach Strategies (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
*Jason Casanova, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)
Carlos Moran, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

John Luker, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (Community)
Mark Lombos, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

LA County Flood Control District (District) staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial in both English and Spanish and announced that the meeting was being broadcast live in Spanish. District staff also provided direction on submitting and sharing public comments.

Max Podemski, Vice-Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

District staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

Chair Teresa Villegas noted that agenda items 2, 4, and 5 will be skipped as there has already been a ULAR WASC meeting this month.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2022

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



This agenda item was skipped to accommodate additional project proponent presentations. This item will resume at the following regularly scheduled meeting.

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Yazdan Emrani disclosed familiarity with the California Avenue and Adjacent Streets Stormwater Capture Project and discussions about the project with City of Glendale staff.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

This agenda item was skipped to accommodate additional project proponent presentations. This item will resume at the following regularly scheduled meeting.

5. Watershed Coordinator Updates

This agenda item was skipped to accommodate additional project proponent presentations. This item will resume at the following regularly scheduled meeting.

6. Public Comment Period

District staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, loaded them to the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website, and displayed them on-screen. Participants on the Spanish translation line and call-in users were also invited to provide public comment.

A public comment card submitted by Urte Barker was displayed on screen, in support of the Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project. Barker opted to provide comment after the project presentations.

7. Presentations and Discussion Items

a. Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Presentations ([SCW Portal](#))

- i. Green Street Demonstration Project on Main Street
Presentation by City of Alhambra

David Dolphin (Project Applicant, City of Alhambra) and Chris Carandang (Project Applicant, Paradigm Environmental) presented an overview of the project. The project is a sustainable stormwater streetscape project in the City of Alhambra.

Member Veronica Padilla asked the project applicant about traffic details near the main street of the project. The project applicant explained the safety benefits of modifying the bus stop design to stop in the traffic lane rather than pull in and out of the traffic lane. This feature also allows cars parked in the proposed angled parking spaces to back out more easily.

- ii. McCambridge Park Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project
Presentation by City of Burbank Public Works Department

Seiko Oishi (Project Applicant, City of Burbank) and Brenda Ponton (Project Applicant, Woodard & Curran) presented the project. The project captures and infiltrates stormwater at McCambridge Park.

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Member Genevieve Osmena asked if there was an estimated time frame for construction funding. The project applicants confirmed that the project will return for construction funding but have not settled on an exact time.

- iii. California Avenue and Adjacent Streets Stormwater Capture Project
Presentation by City of Glendale

Sarkis Oganessian (Project Applicant, City of Glendale) presented the project. The project will provide multiple drywells, bioretention swales, permeable concrete, and trees to the community.

There were no questions or discussion from Committee Members.

- iv. Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project
Presentation by City of Pasadena

Merrill Taylor (Project Applicant, Craftwater Engineering) presented the project, and the presentation slides can be found on the SCWP website. The project is a regional and onsite stormwater capture and infiltration diversion facility located beneath open space at Brookside Park.

Watershed Coordinator Carlos Moran asked if there have been other proposed projects in this location and Dawn Petschauer (Project Applicant, City of Pasadena) explained that there have not been any previous projects located in the parking lot of this area. Petschauer will follow up with City of Pasadena staff to confirm.

Chair Villegas confirmed with the project applicant that this application is only for design and that a future application will be submitted for construction funding, with plans for cost sharing in the future.

Member Osmena asked how the project applicant plans to demolish the parking lot without negatively affecting nearby facilities in the Rose Bowl area. The project applicant explained that the high infiltration rate in the area means that the entire parking lot does not need to be used for the project. Only a portion of the parking closest to the drain line will be utilized. Petschauer mentioned that there is opportunity for investigating expansion and additional greening during the design stage. The project applicants have been in communication with the nearby facilities about parking lot closures during construction. Chair Villegas mentioned that having more shade and green space in this area would benefit the community.

Presentation slides are posted on the website.

8. Public Comment Period

Urte Barker (Member of the Public, retired chemical engineer with experience in environmental remediation, and resident of Pasadena area since 1987) provided a public comment in support of Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project. Barker noted it would be a benefit to the community by providing green spaces and captures a large drainage area. While community engagement has just started, Barker believes that the project team will be met with strong community support.

Vivian Escalante (Boyle Heights Community Partners) provided a public comment in support of projects near Hollenbeck Park Lake and requested contact information for public officials regarding programs that could provide rainwater storage for water-scarce areas in the community, such as cemeteries or houses with landscaping.

9. Voting Items

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



There were no voting items.

10. Items for Next Agenda

Chair Villegas reminded the Committee of the upcoming meeting schedule. The February 1, 2023 meeting will cover the final three IP Project Presentations and will be from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. A preliminary project ranking survey will be introduced to the Committee. The results of this survey are meant for discussion purposes only will not be indicative of the final SIP decisions. The February 16, 2023 meeting will cover, if time permits, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) peer review of Scientific Studies, Quarterly Report summaries, update from the preSIP scientific study from Round 1, and an introduction to the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) Tool. The March 1, 2023 meeting will cover SIP deliberations and discussions. The WASC can schedule additional meetings as needed. Items on the February 1 Agenda include:

- a) Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings under Assembly Bill 361 (if needed)
- b) Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Presentations

11. Adjournment

Chair Villegas thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Upper Los Angeles River - January 19, 2023

		Quorum Present			
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?
Agency	FCD	Genevieve Osmena	X	Ramy Gindi	
Agency	Water Agency	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	X
Agency	Groundwater / Water Agency 2	Jesus Gonzalez		John Huynh	X
Agency	Sanitation	Ida Meisami-Fard	X	Alfredo Magallanes	
Agency	Open Space	Cathie Santo Domingo	X	Javier Solis	
Community Stakeholder	At Large	Ernesto Pantoja	X	Sergio Rascon	
Community Stakeholder	At Large	Miguel Luna	X	Yvette Lopez-Ledesma	
Community Stakeholder	Environment	John Luker		Wendi Gladstone	
Community Stakeholder	Business	Max Liles	X		
Community Stakeholder	EJ	Veronica Padilla-Campos	X	Felipe Escobar	
Municipal Members	Glendale / Pasadena	Yazdan Emrani	X	Kris Markarian	
Municipal Members	La Cañada Flintridge / South Pasadena	Patrick DeChellis	X	Ted Gerber	
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Teresa Villegas	X	Barbara Romero	
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Max Podemski	X		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto	X		
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Mark Lombos		Thuan Nguyen	
Municipal Members	San Fernando / Calabasas	Kenneth Jones	X	Alex Farassati	
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Adi Liberman	X		
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Council for Watershed Health	Clarasophia Gust		Jason Casanova	X
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Council for Watershed Health	Carlos Moran	X		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)
Total Voting Members Present		15			No (N)
Agency		5			Abstain (A)
Community Stakeholder		4			Total
Municipal Members		6			

Attendees

Upper Los Angeles River WASC Meeting - January 19, 2023

Adi Liberman	David Hwang	Maggie Gardner	Robert Sahagun
Alex de Vera	Dawn Petschauer	MArk Hall GLAMosquito	Ryan A
Alonso Garcia	Ernesto Pantoja	Mark Nguyen	Ryanna Fossum
Amanda Zeidner	Gabriela Gonzalez	Max Liles	Safe Clean Water LA
Anh Ta	Genevieve Osmena	Max Podemski	Sarkis Oganessian - City of Glendale
Arlene Guzman	Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Mayra Martinez	sean phan (LASAN)
Art Castro	Ida Meisami	Merrill Taylor	Seiko Oishi
Brenda Ponton	James Nino Salinas	Miguel Luna	Serena Zhu
brett perry	Jason Casanova	Mike Antos (Regional Coordination)	Stacy Luell
Brianne Logasa	Jeannette Hernandez	Mike Scaduto	Stephen Walker
Carlos Moran	Jenny Chau	Nicholas Ryu	Susie Santilena
Cathie Santo Domingo	Jesus (LADWP)	Oscar C	Tanya Sullivan
Chris Carandang	john huynh	Pablo Forni LACFCD	Ted Gerber
Christine McLeod	John Mendoza	Paige Bistromowitz	Teresa Villegas
Claudia Quadrino	Justin Jones - LACFCD	Pamela Dreyfuss	Urte Barker
Conor Mossavi	Kenneth Jones	Patrick DeChellis	Veronica Padilla
Craig Doberstein	Latoya Waters	Prathmesh Bakshhi	Video user
Darin Son	Lidia Rivera	Rafael Piamonte	Vivian M. Escalante
DAVID DOLPHIN	Lorena Matos	Rafael Prieto	Yaz Emrani