

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

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Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
10:00am – 12:00 pm  
WebEx Meeting

## Committee Members Present

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)  
\*Asha Kreiling, 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)  
\*Chad Oberly, Rivers Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, Resident (Community), Vice-Chair  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair  
\*Natalie Rivera-Estrada, Bellflower (Municipal)  
\*Konya Vivanti, Lakewood (Municipal)  
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)  
\*Joseph Venzon, Unincorporated areas of LA County (Municipal)  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

## Committee Members Not Present

Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate  
See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

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## **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. LA County Flood Control District (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 February 14, 2023 and February 28, 2023**

District staff presented the minutes from February 14, 2023 and February 28, 2023. Member Gabrielle Weeks motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Nancy Villaseñor. The Committee voted to approve the February 14, 2023 and February 28, 2023 meeting minutes with 12 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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

District staff provided an update, noting:

- On April 22, 2023 the Regional Oversight Committee voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) to the Board of Supervisors for funding. The District is drafting the board letter for submission late this summer.
- The District released the Regional Program Funding Process Handbook which provides consolidated information on existing Regional Program requirements and guidance. It is available

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



under the Regional Program Call for Projects tab on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) website.

- Quarterly Reports for Fiscal Year (FY) 22-23 Quarter 3 (Q3) covering January through March of 2023 activities were due May 15, 2023 for Round 1 and Round 2 Projects and Scientific Studies (SS). Regional Quarterly Reports must be completed even if there was no activity done on the project or the transfer agreements have not yet been executed. To view Quarterly Reports, visit the [SCW Portal](#) Dashboard, select a project, then select Project Reports.
- The District has started to execute Round 3 transfer agreements and addendums and distribute funds to new and continuing projects included in the FY22-23 SIP. Details have been sent to the project developers.
- WASC community stakeholder seats are up for reappointment in August 2023, under Article 4, Section 5 of the WASC operating guidelines. Individuals interested in serving the 3-year term as a Community Stakeholder should submit the Interest to Serve Form, available [here](#).
  - No action is required if Committee Members wish to continue serving, but Members are asked to inform the District if they wish to step down.
  - Only Community Stakeholder positions are up for reappointment. The WASC has staggered reappointments for each seat type.
- The Call for Projects Round 5 deadline is on July 31, 2023. The District is hosting informational sessions on May 24, 2023 from 2pm-4pm and on May 25, 2023 from 10am-12pm. More details will be posted on the SCWP website when available.

#### 4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators Kekoa Anderson and Grace Kast provided an overview of the LSGR Watershed Area which included details about funding and recent activities. See slides available on the SCWP website.

- The Watershed Coordinators recently tabled at the Groundwater Festival at the Water Replenishment District on May 6, 2023 where about 500 community members were in attendance, as well as Supervisor Janice Hahn (4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District of LA County) and State Senator Lena Gonzalez (California Senate District 33).
- The next community engagement and public education opportunity is the Touch-a-Truck event at Whittier City Hall on May 24, 2023 for local elementary schoolers.
- Monthly newsletters continue to be distributed. The Watershed Coordinators continue to update the contact list with new connections formed at events.
- Links to the community survey can be found at [www.cleanwatervision.com](http://www.cleanwatervision.com).

The Committee recognized the value brought by SCWP representation at local events and discussed ways to better track and staff upcoming events in the Watershed Area. In recognition of budget constraints for the Watershed Coordinators, several recommendations were put forward:

- Working with community organizations to attend or host events in a joint manner. For example, Member Dan Knapp's organization, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, may help staff the SCWP booth.
- Inviting Committee Members to cover the booth. Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp expressed interest in this.
- Augmenting the Watershed Coordinator budget to cover more in-person events, if allowed.
- Developing a list of upcoming events and deciding at the WASC-level which events should be pursued, to ensure geographic and seasonal diversity. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) reminded the WASC that there is a Watershed Coordinator calendar that tracks such events County-wide, located on the SCWP website. Members can subscribe to calendars based on their geographic area of interest.

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



All potential events should be sent to the Watershed Coordinators for consideration. Specific recommendations included:

- LA County Sanitation District's 2024 Earth Day event.
- City of Lakewood events, which draw attendance from nearby cities like Hawaiian Gardens, Bellflower, and Long Beach.
- Events that the Conservation Corps of Long Beach is tracking.

The discussion concluded with a recognition that now that the number of in-person events is increasing after the COVID-19 pandemic, the WASC should be involved in ensuring the Watershed Coordinators' resources are spent equitably.

## 5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures.

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

## 6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

## 7. Discussion

### a. Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY22-23 Q1 and Q2

Member Kristen Ruffell invited project developers and proponents to speak on any changes shown in red on the summary report.

Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp spoke on behalf of the Mayfair Park project (FY20-21), which received SCWP funding for operations and maintenance. Construction is complete and next steps are to commission the project and conduct water quality testing, ahead of its spray irrigation application. Construction had previously been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, issues with the global supply chain, and issues related to commissioning the project. Member Kristen Ruffell requested additional information about sewer diversions, which Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp offered to follow up about outside of the meeting.

Project developer Oliver Galang (Craftwater Engineering) spoke on behalf of the El Dorado Regional Project (FY20-21) and shared details about the scope modification, which is due to the discovery of sensitive species in the area and the change in designation from wetland ponds to vegetated ponds. The project is continuing on schedule. In response to a question about whether the modifications would affect the project's water quality benefits, Oliver Galang shared that although the number of ponds has been consolidated from seven to five, the benefits are expected to remain the same.

District staff explained the reporting error on the website which shows \$0.00 for the "Funds Awarded to Date" and "Expenditures to Date" columns, which will be fixed after the meeting.

### b. Updated Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Watershed Coordinators Kekoa Anderson and Grace Kast presented the updated plan, which can be found on the SCWP website. This is the third iteration of the LSGR Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, which is a living document intended for continuous update. This version is not significantly different from previous years, though it now includes updates to Section 6 – Strategies, and Appendix B – LSGR WASC Prioritization Criteria. New strategies include creating fact sheets to share at events and distributing a monthly newsletter email blast with highlights from funded projects, both of which have been well received. The Watershed Coordinators also increased their coordination with the Water Talks

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

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Program. Member Dan Knapp applauded the comprehensiveness of the document and noted that with the addition of the new calendar, it will be even better.

The Watershed Coordinators reflected on areas of success and areas for growth in better engaging the public. They have successfully improved one-on-one communications with members of the public and spread the message that community-based projects are encouraged for project funding. On the other hand, there is very little public comment during WASC meetings and low attendance at events like ribbon cuttings. Member Noya Wang expressed satisfaction with the Watershed Coordinators' efforts to find and address these communication gaps with the public.

## **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **9. Voting Items**

- a. Approve the Updated Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Member Kristen Ruffell motioned to approve the Updated Lower San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. The motion was seconded by Member Dan Knapp. The Committee approved the motion with 16 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

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

The next LSGR WASC meeting will be conducted in-person on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at the Lakewood Executive Boardroom.

## **11. Adjournment**

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

**LSGR WASC - May 9, 2023**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve the February 14, 2023 and February 28, 2023 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes	Approve the Updated LSGR Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan	
Agency	FCD	Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	x	CJ Caluag		y	y	
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	a	y	
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Asha Kreiling	x	y	y	
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell	x	Alysha Chan		a	y	
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott		Nancy Villaseñor	x	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Noya Wang	x	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Chad Oberly	x	y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y	y	
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Lisa Ann Rapp	x			a	y	
Municipal	Bellflower	Len Gorecki		Natalie Rivera-Estrada	x	y	y	
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady		Sergio Huizar				
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y	y	
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler		Konya Vivanti	x	y	y	
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai		y	y	
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna		Joseph Venzon	x	a	y	
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y	y	
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	12	16	0
Total Voting Members Present		16			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	0	0
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	16	16	0
Municipal		6				Approved	Approved	Not Approved

Lower San Gabriel River  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Anna	Philipp	Stantec	anna.philipp@stantec.com
Ryanna Fossum		stantec	ryanna.fossum@stantec.com
LISA	RAPP	community member	lisarapp777@gmail.com
Vicki	Smith	Whittier	vsmith@cityofwhittier.org
Jessie	Vanzon	LA COUNTY	JVanzon@pw.lacounty.gov
Hanya	Vivanti	Lakewood	Kvivanti@lakewoodcity.org
Kristen	Ruffell	LACSD	kruffell@lacsd.org
Mark	Rounds	La Mirada	mrounds@cityoflamirada.org

\*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

Lower San Gabriel River  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Marcela Benavides-Aguilar	FCD	<a href="mailto:MBENAVID@dpw.lacounty.gov">MBENAVID@dpw.lacounty.gov</a>	P	<i>Marcela Benavides</i>
CJ Caluag	FCD	<a href="mailto:Ccaluag@dpw.lacounty.gov">Ccaluag@dpw.lacounty.gov</a>	A	
Alex Rojas	Central Basin	<a href="mailto:alexr@centralbasin.org">alexr@centralbasin.org</a>	P	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin	<a href="mailto:madelinec@centralbasin.org">madelinec@centralbasin.org</a>	A	<i>Madeline Chen</i>
Rob Beste	Water Replenishment District	<a href="mailto:rbeste@wrđ.org">rbeste@wrđ.org</a>	P	
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	<a href="mailto:akreiling@wrđ.org">akreiling@wrđ.org</a>	A	<i>Asha Kreiling</i>
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	<a href="mailto:kruffell@lacsđ.org">kruffell@lacsđ.org</a>	P	<i>Kristen Ruffell</i>
Alysha Chan	Sanitation Districts	<a href="mailto:alyschachan@lacsđ.org">alyschachan@lacsđ.org</a>	A	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov">Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov</a>	P	
Nancy Villaseñor	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	<a href="mailto:Nancy.Villasenor@longbeach.gov">Nancy.Villasenor@longbeach.gov</a>	A	<i>Nancy Villaseñor</i>
Dan Knapp	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	<a href="mailto:dknapp@cclb-corps.org">dknapp@cclb-corps.org</a>	P	<i>Dan Knapp</i>
Irene Lopez-Muro	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	<a href="mailto:ilopezmuro@cclb-corps.org">ilopezmuro@cclb-corps.org</a>	A	
Adam Galia	Resident	<a href="mailto:agalía81@gmail.com">agalía81@gmail.com</a>	P	
Noya Wang	City of Alhambra	<a href="mailto:noyawang43@gmail.com">noyawang43@gmail.com</a>	A	<i>Noya Wang</i>
Mark Stanley	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	<a href="mailto:mstanley@rmc.ca.gov">mstanley@rmc.ca.gov</a>	P	
Chad Oberly	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	<a href="mailto:coberly@rmc.ca.gov">coberly@rmc.ca.gov</a>	A	<i>Chad Oberly</i>

Lower San Gabriel River  
 Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Lisa Ann Rapp	Resident	<a href="mailto:lisarap777@gmail.com">lisarap777@gmail.com</a>	P	<i>Lisa Ann Rapp</i>
Len Gorecki	Bellflower	<a href="mailto:lgorecki@bellflower.org">lgorecki@bellflower.org</a>	P	
Natalie Rivera-Estrada	Bellflower	<a href="mailto:nrivera@bellflower.org">nrivera@bellflower.org</a>	A	<i>Natalie Rivera-Estrada</i>
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos	<a href="mailto:mograd@cerritos.us">mograd@cerritos.us</a>	P	
Sergio Huizar	Cerritos	<a href="mailto:shuizar@cerritos.us">shuizar@cerritos.us</a>	A	
Dan Mueller	Downey	<a href="mailto:dmueller@downeyca.org">dmueller@downeyca.org</a>	P	<i>Dan Mueller</i>
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood	<a href="mailto:kpickler@lakewoodcity.org">kpickler@lakewoodcity.org</a>	P	
Konya Vivanti	Lakewood	<a href="mailto:kvivanti@lakewoodcity.org">kvivanti@lakewoodcity.org</a>	A	<i>Konya Vivanti</i>
Melissa You	Long Beach	<a href="mailto:Melissa.You@longbeach.gov">Melissa.You@longbeach.gov</a>	P	<i>Melissa You</i>
Wataru Kumagai	Long Beach	<a href="mailto:Wataru.Kumagai@longbeach.gov">Wataru.Kumagai@longbeach.gov</a>	A	
Fernando Villaluna	Los Angeles County	<a href="mailto:FVILLALUNA@dpw.lacounty.gov">FVILLALUNA@dpw.lacounty.gov</a>	P	
Joseph Venzon	Los Angeles County	<a href="mailto:jvenzon@dpw.lacounty.gov">jvenzon@dpw.lacounty.gov</a>	A*	
Vicki Smith	Whittier	<a href="mailto:vsmith@cityofwhittier.org">vsmith@cityofwhittier.org</a>	P*	
Kyle Cason	Whittier	<a href="mailto:kcason@cityofwhittier.org">kcason@cityofwhittier.org</a>	A	
Kekoa Anderson	Watershed Coordinator	<a href="mailto:koa@ohanavets.com">koa@ohanavets.com</a>		<i>Kekoa Anderson</i>



Lower San Gabriel River  
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Grace Kast	Watershed Coordinator	<a href="mailto:grace@ohanavets.com">grace@ohanavets.com</a>	

## Eric Bonilla

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**From:** Gabrielle Weeks <gabrielleweeks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023 4:45 PM  
**To:** Eric Bonilla  
**Subject:** Re: LSGR WASC - May 9, 2023 Attendance

**CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.**

Yes, I attended the meeting. Meeting minutes should show that I had made motions and voted. It has been several years that I've been on the commission, they finished my paperwork right before the pandemic back in early 2020.

Gabrielle

On Tue, May 30, 2023, 4:21 PM Eric Bonilla <[EBonilla@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:EBonilla@dpw.lacounty.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon Gabrielle,

I'm contacting you to request confirmation that you attended our May 9, 2023 LSGR WASC meeting. Since there were issues with the sign-in sheets, an email confirmation will be used to send to the Board office as proof that you attended.

The issue with the sign-in sheets has been fixed and all current members will be accurately listed at our next meeting.

Thank you,

Eric Bonilla

Senior Civil Engineering Assistant

Los Angeles County Public Works

(626) 300-4544