

Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Thursday, July 20, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Ali Elhassan, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency)
Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)
*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
Jerrid McKenna, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community), Vice-Chair
*Peter Warda, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, Santa Clarita Valley Community Hiking Club (Community)
*Allen Ma, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Tyler Pledger, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
*Oliver Cramer, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Damon Letz, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Darin Seegmiller, Santa Clarita (Municipal), Chair
*Amanda Begley, TreePeople (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Absent:

Hunt Braly, Poole & Shaffery (Community)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Darin Seegmiller, Chair of the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff gave a brief WebEx tutorial. The District staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All Committee Members made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023

District staff presented the previous meeting minutes. Member Sandra Cattell motioned to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2023. The motion was seconded by Member Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel. The Committee voted to approve the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes, with 16 votes in favor, 0 voted in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures shared.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update:

Santa Clara River

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- WASC Community Stakeholders seats are up for reappointment by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's Commission Services Division in 2023, under Article 4, Section 5 of the WASC Operating Guidelines. Those interested in serving or continuing to serve should consider that future WASC meetings will be held in person. Individuals interested in serving as a Community Stakeholder should submit the Interest to Serve Form, [available here](#). Current Members do not need to submit another form; members stepping down should let District staff know as soon as possible. The submission deadline is July 21, 2023. No members have demonstrated interest in stepping down. One interest form was received for one of the five seats.
- On April 20, 2023, the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to the Board of Supervisors for funding. The District is preparing a board letter for transmission to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) with plans to submit next month.
- Quarter 3 Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Reports were due on May 15. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if no activity was conducted for a project or if the transfer agreement has yet to be executed. Projects from Round 4 who have not yet been approved by the Board of Supervisors will not have to submit quarterly reports.
- Quarter 4 FY22-23 Reports are due on August 15.
- The District hosted information sessions for the FY24-25 Call for Project Applicants on May 24 and May 25. The Round 5 Call for Projects deadline is July 31. After the submission deadline, the District will provide a summary of the projects that were submitted for the WASC's consideration.

5. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley presented updates on WaterTalks projects including flood modeling and sediment flow analysis for the Acton Flooding Multi-benefit Solutions project, a Water Resources Inventory for Tataviam Land Conservancy, workshops for the Wells and Septic Systems project, an information session for the Small Water Systems project, and educational resources for the Tap Water Quality Educational project.

Watershed Coordinator Begley provided updates on approved SCR SIP projects including Via Princessa Project, Hasley Canyon Park, Pico Canyon Park, Jake Kuredjian Park, and the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study. Project updates will also be included in future WASC meetings.

Watershed Coordinator Begley described their role as connector and collaborator with the other coordinators in the invasive species removal effort and the Metrics & Monitoring Study (MMS). Watershed Coordinator Begley introduced past workshops and upcoming events, which can be found on the SCWP Watershed Coordination Engagement Events calendar here: www.redesign.la/scwpcalendar. The presentation can be found on the SCWP website.

Chair Seegmiller provided an update on the Via Princessa Project. The City of Santa Clarita is in the design phase and anticipates starting construction in 2025.

Member Cattell asked how to access the recordings of the well and septic workshops. Watershed Coordinator Begley stated that the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) will share the recordings after the sessions and links will be posted on the WaterTalks and TreePeople websites.

Member Steve Cole asked how to access the Tataviam Water Resources Inventory and the MMS resources. Watershed Coordinator Begley will confirm whether they can share information about the Water Resources Inventory with the WASC. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) added that while the MMS is not yet completed, early MMS deliverables are located on the SCWP website under the

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“Metrics & Monitoring Study” section, including the Equity in Stormwater Investments white paper and “Alternate Water Supply Pilot” scoring rubric available for Round 5 projects.

The District noted that Newhall Park is missing from the Watershed Coordinator update, and though the project is on hold, it should be included in future WASC meeting updates.

6. Public Comment Period

District staff reminded attendees that public comments can be made by raising the virtual hand on WebEx, emailing District staff, or submitting in person comment cards. District staff did not receive any comment cards by 5:00 pm the day before the meeting. There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items

a) Updated Santa Clara River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Watershed Coordinator Begley noted that the SOEP must be updated every year and subsequently approved by the WASC. Watershed Coordinator Begley presented an overview of the SOEP, which included area description, SCWP Context, interested parties, vision, strategies and activities, and collaboration. The presentation can be found on the SCWP website.

Watershed Coordinator Begley reviewed a red-lined draft of the updated SOEP, which is available on the SCWP website.

Member Cattell and Chair Seegmiller thanked TreePeople for their clarity and completeness.

i) Public Comment

No public comment cards were received for this section of the agenda. There were no public comments.

b) Hasley Canyon Park Updates

Alberto Grajeda (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works) provided an update on the Hasley Canyon Park project and its delayed schedule. The presentation can be found on the SCWP website.

The County has been engaging with the community and gained valuable feedback that led redesign efforts. Community feedback was incorporated to include restroom improvements and update materials used for the garden locations and path. The County is currently completing an Environmental Phase 1 site assessment to present to designers. The delay is a result of additional feasibility investigations, considerations, and design changes at the project site. The pre-design phase will now begin in January 2024 and design will be completed by June 2025. Construction will begin in August 2026 and completed in October 2027.

Member Cattell expressed concern with the change to regular concrete materials for the path and asked whether permeable asphalt or concrete was considered. Grajeda reported that concrete was chosen in response to strong community comments requesting a smooth path for children recreating and easier park maintenance.

Chair Seegmiller asked whether the funds awarded through the SCWP would cover the scope changes. Grajeda stated the project has received an addition \$2.4 million from Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Prop 1 Round 2 funding.

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Member Mary Johnson noted redesign could have been avoided if there was more community engagement prior to the design. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will take this into account in the future.

- i) Public Comment

Chair Seegmiller opened the floor for public comment on this topic. There were no public comments.

8. Public Comment Period

No public comment cards were received for this section of the agenda. There were no raised hands or call-in users.

9. Voting Items

- a) Approve Santa Clara River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Member Johnson motioned to approve the Santa Clara River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan. The motion was seconded by Member Erskine-Hellrigel. The Committee voted to approve the Santa Clara River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, with 16 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the Agenda include:

- a) WASC Roles and Responsibilities Presentation
- b) Summary of Projects Submitted
- c) Selection of Chair(s) / Vice Chair(s)

Chair Seegmiller requested that the Watershed Coordinator provide a brief status update of each of the projects at all future WASC meetings.

11. Adjournment

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

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 5-18-2023 Meeting Minutes	Approve SCR SOEP
Agency	District	Julian Juarez	x	Jennifer Aborida		y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Ali Elhassan	x			y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Steve Cole	x	Rick Viergutz		y	y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Kristen Ruffell		Christopher Lapaz	x	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna	x	Susan Nelson		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Poole & Shaffery	Hunt Braly					
Community Stakeholder	Agua Dulce Town Council	Mary Johnson	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	Sandra Cattell**	x	Diane Trautman		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Evolve Business Strategies	Ivan Volschenk		Peter Warda	x	y	y
Community Stakeholder	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	x	Heidi Webber		y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Allen Ma	x	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Allen Ma	x	y	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto		Allen Ma	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs		Tyler Pledger	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda		Oliver Cramer	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Damon Letz	x	Dan Duncan		y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Darin Seegmiller*	x			y	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member	TreePeople, Inc.	Peter Massey		Amanda Begley	x		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	16	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	16	16
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ali Elhassan	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	aelhassan@scvwa.org	P	
Allen Ma	LA County Public Works	ama@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Amanda Begley (non-voting)	TreePeople	abegley@treepeople.org	N/A	
Bruce Hamamoto	LA County Public Works	bhamamo@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Christopher Lapaz	LA County Sanitation Districts	christopherlapaz@lacsds.org	A	
Damon Letz	Santa Clarita	dletz@santa-clarita.com	P	
Dan Duncan	Santa Clarita	dduncan@santa-clarita.com	A	
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita	dseegmiller@santa-clarita.com	P	
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	zuliebear@aol.com	P	
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita	hmerenda@santa-clarita.com	P	
Heidi Webber	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	hwebber50@gmail.com	A	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery	hbraly@pooleshaffery.com	P	
Ivan Volschenk	Evolve Business Strategies	ivan@evolvebizstrat.com	P	
Jason Gibbs	Santa Clarita	jjgibbs@santa-clarita.com	P	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Jennifer Aborida	FCD	jaborida@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Jerrid McKenna	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	jmckenna@santa-clarita.com	P	
Julian Juarez	FCD	jjuaraz@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Francisco Guerrero	LA County Sanitation Districts	fguerrero@lacsds.org	P	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council	maryjohnson767@gmail.com	P	
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A	
Peter Massey (non-voting)	TreePeople	petermassey@treepeople.org	N/A	
Rick Viergutz	Santa Clarita Valley GSA	rviergutz@scvwa.org	A	
Sandra Cattell	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	sumcatt@yahoo.com	P	see email confirmation attached
Steve Cole	Santa Clarita Valley GSA	scole@scvwa.org	P	
Susan Nelson	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	snelson@santa-clarita.com	A	
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita	tpledger@santa-clarita.com	A	
Peter Warda	Evolve Business Strategies	ivan@evolvebizstrat.com	A	

Uriel Cobian

From: Sandra Cattell <sumcatt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Uriel Cobian
Subject: Re: SCR WASC 7/20/23 Attendance

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Yes, I was there.
Sandra

On Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 07:35:07 AM PDT, Uriel Cobian <ucobian@dpw.lacounty.gov> wrote:

Hi Sandra,

It looks like you (among others) didn't sign the attendance sheet at last Thursday's (7/20/23) SCR WASC meeting. To process your attendance stipend for this meeting, can you please confirm you were in attendance by responding to this email? Thank you.

Uriel Cobian, M.S., P.E.

Associate Civil Engineer

Los Angeles County Public Works

(626) 458-7823

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ryanna	Fossum	Stantec	ryanna.fossum@stantec.com
Jon Paul	Sarro	LACPW	jsarro@spw.lacounty.gov

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

Virtual Attendees
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Alberto Grajeda
Alex Aguirre
Alexandro Garcia
Billy Berler

Dan Duncan
Gabriela Gonzalez
Haris Harouny - LACFCD
John Mendoza

Justin Jones LACFCD
Mark Hall GLAmosquito
Melania Gaboyan - LACFCD
P Wood

Peter Massey, Watershed Coordination
Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
Safe Clean Water LA
Uriel Cobian - LACFCD