

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



Thursday, August 17, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Santa Clarita City Hall
23920 Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91355
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)
*Susan Nelson, City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services (Agency)
Mary Johnson, Agua Dulce Town Council (Community)
Sandra Cattell, Sierra Club (Community), Vice-Chair
Ivan Volschenk, Evolve Business Strategies (Community)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, Santa Clarita Valley Community Hiking Club (Community)
Bruce Hamamoto, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Tyler Pledger, Santa Clarita (Municipal)
Heather Merenda, 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 Not Present:

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. 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 July 20, 2023

District staff presented the previous meeting minutes. Member Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel motioned to approve the meeting minutes from July 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Sandra Cattell. The Committee voted to approve the July 20, 2023 meeting minutes, with 12 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Member Bruce Hamamoto disclosed email communications with Member Hunt Braly regarding a presentation on Hasley Canyon Park updates.

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4. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update:

- WASC Community Stakeholders seats are up for reappointment by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's Commission Services Division in August 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 notify District staff as soon as possible. The submission deadline was July 21, 2023. No members have demonstrated interest in stepping down. One interest form was received for one of the five seats.
- All nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on August 8.
- Quarter 4 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY22-23) Reports were due on August 15.
- The SCW Portal now has a section with potential future bid opportunities and construction schedules, provided by SCW Program project developers and municipalities.
- The application deadline for Round 5 Call for Projects closed July 31, 2023. The SCR WASC received 0 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, 2 Technical Resources Program (TRP) projects, and 1 Scientific Study (SS).
- The Scoring Committee is set to score IP project applications this fall. Since no IP projects were received for this WASC, scoring will not be necessary.
- The SCR Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report was shared by District staff and is available on the SCW Program website in draft form for review. The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) will review and incorporate the WARPP in the Biennial Review and will provide feedback to WASCs as necessary.

Chair Seegmiller clarified with District staff that municipalities and project developers receiving funds from the SCW Program Regional Program are responsible for adding schedules dates into the SCW Portal.

Chair Seegmiller also noted that WASC members should review the WARPP and share comments with District staff or the SCR WASC Chair and Vice-Chair.

5. Watershed Coordinator Updates

a) Quarterly Progress Report (Year 3, Quarter 1)

Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley shared a quarterly progress report, available on the SCW Program website. Watershed Coordinator Begley shared updates on general project developments, SCW Program funded projects, and recent watershed area events. Heather Turpin (TreePeople) also shared a summary of the recommendations from the SCW Program Research Showcase hosted by Los Angeles Waterkeeper.

Upcoming events include:

- August 17 – Septic System Maintenance Workshop
- September 12 (date to be confirmed)– Small Water System workshop on SB552
- September 16 – Santa Clara River Rally
- September 22 – 24 CalArts Eco Expo
- November 4 – Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) Environmental Coalition Eco Film Festival

A calendar of upcoming events can be found at redesign.la/scwpcalendar.

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Member Heather Merenda asked about the Watershed Coordinator's educational efforts specifically for middle and high school level audiences. Watershed Coordinator Begley explained that LA County currently has a Generation Earth Program that targets students in grades 6-12. The program is currently administered by TreePeople. Watershed Coordinator Begley can connect Member Merenda to the program staff if interested. In addition, the SCW Program District Education Program is underway, with a benchmarking study complete and a meeting with TreePeople planned.

Chair Seegmiller responded to the recommendations from the SCW Program Research Showcase, highlighting that the SCR WASC received positive feedback from the ROC on prioritizing multi-benefit projects within the watershed area.

6. Public Comment Period

District staff did not receive any comment cards by 5:00 pm the day before the meeting. Two in-person comment cards were submitted at the start of the meeting.

Roy Marson, an executive from the Bouquet Canyon Watershed and 50-year resident of Bouquet Canyon, invited Committee Members to a public meeting on September 5 at Los Angeles Residential Community (LARC) Ranch regarding the dire situation of Bouquet Canyon Creek. Marson commented that the LA County Flood Control District has not cleaned the creek for over 20 years, and now SCV Water will be bringing water up the canyon via pipeline. Places in Bouquet Canyon, such as LARC Ranch, are running out of safe, clean water, with arsenic polluting the water and water tables drastically decreasing.

Ed Dunn, the former president of Newhall Water District, provided a comment that LA County departments have funded repairs regarding flooding and road repairs in the area, but have made no efforts to replenish the aquifer or uphold riparian rights. Subsidence from the emptying aquifer is a concern. Dunn would like to speak to County representatives on why urgent action is not being taken at Bouquet Canyon.

Committee Members clarified with Marson and Dunn that the public meeting will be held in the main auditorium of LARC Ranch and will not include a tour of the upper watershed of Bouquet Canyon.

Member Julian Juarez responded that the District, along with the Board, has taken the lead on this effort at Bouquet Canyon Creek for the last decade. The 8-mile stretch of creek would require immense funding that has been difficult to acquire. Member Juarez shared on August 24, 2023, the Wildlife Conservation Board will vote to approve funding for design plans and environmental assessments for Bouquet Canyon Creek. Member Juarez will follow up with the public members regarding the matter.

7. Discussion Items

a) WASC Roles and Responsibilities Presentation

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided a presentation on WASC roles and responsibilities; the presentation can be found on the SCW Program website. Fossum summarized the SCW Program funded projects to date, current and future timelines, and guidelines for programming the SIP. This year, an Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot Criteria is available for project applicants. While this WASC has no IP projects this year, the required ratio calculates a rolling 5-year average, so the WASC remains in good standing for funding allocation requirements across IP projects, TRP projects, and SS.

Fossum presented various resources available to WASC members, both inside and outside of meetings, to use as reference for deliberation. Funding memos will be a new resource this year that will be

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generated for each SCW Program IP project application to identify leveraged funding sources and aid the WASC in funding priorities, such as partial funding.

i) Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Member Merenda requested that more Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) specific resources be made available on the SCW Program website, such as the pathway to be included in the USCR Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, which differs from the process for Greater Los Angeles Region. Member Merenda noted that Green Santa Clarita's website has resources available.

Upon inquiry, District staff and the Regional Coordination team confirmed that any changes to the guidelines that the ROC may make during this year's Biennial Review will be made known to project developers well ahead of the Round 6 Call for Projects deadline on July 31, 2024.

b) Summary of Projects Submitted (2 TRP, 1 SS)

Watershed Coordinator Begley provided a high-level overview of the submitted projects. Project applicants will be invited to future meetings to provide more detailed information and be available to respond to Committee Member questions. Bacteria Mitigation – MTD 1643 is a TRP project submitted by the City of Santa Clarita focusing on modeling pollutant reduction of outfall discharge. Old Orchard Park is a TRP project submitted by the City of Santa Clarita and focuses on a retrofit of Old Orchard Park for infiltration. Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity is a SS applying for funding in all nine WASCs.

i) Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Vice-Chair Cattell clarified with District staff that the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity SS application requested funding per watershed area based on the number of drywells planned for each watershed area.

Chair Seegmiller noted that specific questions should be directed to the project applicants when applicants come to give more detailed presentations and encouraged Committee Members to review these project applications before then.

Vice-Chair Cattell asked Watershed Coordinator Begley if there were any project concepts or opportunities in the watershed area regarding school greening. Member Erskine-Hellrigel added that school greening provides many educational benefits to students. Watershed Coordinator Begley noted that a series of school campus tours is coming up, and invited Committee Members to share any contacts that should be invited.

c) Selection of Chair(s) / Vice-Chair(s)

The Committee confirmed that the current Chair and Vice-Chair are interested in continuing to serve.

i) Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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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) Selection of Chair(s) / Vice-Chair(s)

Member Steve Cole made a motion to reappoint Chair Seegmiller and Vice-Chair Cattell as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The motion was seconded by Member Erskine-Hellrigel. The motion was approved, with 16 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

Chair Seegmiller recommended cancelling the September 21 meeting, as it may be too early to hear from the project applicants given the typical SIP deliberation timeline. The next meeting will be scheduled for October 19, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the SCW Program website for details. Items on the Agenda include:

- a) FY22-23 Q3 and Q4 Regional Reporting Summary
- b) Technical Resources Program (TRP) and Scientific Studies (SS) Presentations

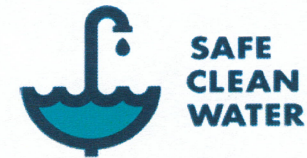
11. Adjournment

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

SANTA CLARA RIVER WASC MEETING - AUGUST 17, 2023

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)	
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 7-20-2023 Meeting Minutes	Vote to Approve SCR Chair (Darin Seegmiller) and Vice Chair (Sandra Cattell)
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	Francisco Guerrero		Christopher Lapaz	x	y	y
Agency	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	Jerrid McKenna		Susan Nelson	x	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	x	Peter Warda		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	x	Allen Ma		a	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		a	y
Municipal Members	LA County Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Allen Ma		a	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Jason Gibbs		Tyler Pledger	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Santa Clarita	Heather Merenda	x	Oliver Cramer		a	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)	12	16
Total Voting Members Present		16			No (N)	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	4	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@lacsdsd.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	<i>Julian Juarez</i>
Francisco Guerrero	LA County Sanitation Districts	fguerrero@lacsds.org	P	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council	maryjohnson767@gmail.com	P	<i>M. Johnson</i>
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A	<i>Oliver Cramer</i>
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	<i>Sandra Cattell</i>
Steve Cole	Santa Clarita Valley GSA	scole@scvwa.org	P	<i>Steve Cole</i>
Susan Nelson	Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	snelson@santa-clarita.com	A	
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita	tplledger@santa-clarita.com	A	<i>Tyler Pledger</i>
Peter Warda	Evolve Business Strategies	ivan@evolvebizstrat.com	A	

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ryanna	Fossun	Stantec	ryanna.fossun@stantec.com
Roy	MARSON	BOUGLETT WATER OFFICE	ROY.MARSON@EARTHLINK.NET
TANISHKA CHALLANI	CHELLANI	STANTEC	tanishka.chellani@stantec.com
Jon Paul Sarro	Sarro	LALDPW	jsarro@dpw.lacounty.gov
Susan	Nelson	City of SC	snelson@santa-clara.ca
Ivan	Volscherb	Community Bus	ivan@evolvebizstreet.com
Steele	Cole	SCV GSA	scole@

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

Webex Attendees
Santa Clara River WASC Meeting
August 17, 2023

Allen Ma - LACo Public Works
Dan Duncan
Dennis Cain
Francisco Guerrero

Haris Harouny - LACFCD
Jenny Chau
Josephine Gutierrez
Justin Jones - LACFCD

Lynne Plambeck
M cooper
Mark Hall GLAmosquito
Peter Massey

Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
Santa Clarita City Hall
Serena Zhu
Uriel Cobian - LACFCD