

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, August 15, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Monroe Room
119 West Palm Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency)
Dave Pierce, LA County Sanitation District (Agency)
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community)
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)
Edward Belden, Monrovia Resident (Community)
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)
Jalaine Verdiner, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
*Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)
Sal Mendez, El Monte (Municipal)
Dawn Petschauer, Pasadena (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Sarah Rocha, Irwindale (Municipal)
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)

See attached attendance sheet for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dawn Petschauer, Vice-Chair of the Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order.

Los Angeles 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 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.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023

Member David Dolphin motioned to approve the WASC meeting minutes from February 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Member Kelly Gardner. The WASC approved the meeting minutes with 10 members in favor, 3 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



District staff provided and updated, noting the following:

- On August 8, all 9 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board).
- The District released the Regional Program Funding Process Handbook. The handbook provides consolidated information on existing regional program requirements and guidance. The handbook is available for review on the Safe Clean Water (SCW) Program website.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Q3 reports were due on May 15 and Q4 reports were due August 15. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project or the Transfer Agreement has not been executed for projects included in the fiscal year.
- WASC Community Stakeholder seats are up for reappointment by the Board's Commission Services Division in August 2023. Terms are 3-years long and individuals must be available to attend in-person meetings. Those interested in serving should complete the [Interest to Serve form](#). Current Members do not need to submit a form. Members stepping down should notify District staff as soon as possible. No action is required for Committee Members who wish to continue serving. The timeline and process for appointments is being developed to minimize any interruptions to committee tasks.
- The application deadline for Round 5 Call for Projects closed on July 31. The Rio Hondo WASC received applications for 2 Infrastructure Program (IP), 1 Scientific Study (SS) and 0 Technical Resources Program (TRP) project applications.

4. Watershed Coordinator District Updates

Watershed Coordinators Richard Watson and Julie Millett provided an update on recent activities. Slides can be found on the SCW Program website. Highlights include progress meetings of the Washington Park Project Feasibility Study, South El Monte High School Project Feasibility Study, and Sierra Madre Median Project Feasibility Study TRP projects and educational outreach events held throughout the watershed.

Watershed Coordinator Millett noted that the next meeting's Watershed Coordinator update will include a summary and discussion of Rio Hondo Watershed Area submitted projects from Rounds 1 through 5.

No questions or discussions occurred between Watershed coordinators and WASC board.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Presentations and Discussion Items

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

District staff presented a summary of Round 1 and 2 projects submitted in Quarterly Report for FY22-23 Q1. The summary table can be found on the SCW Program website. District staff noted modifications to the following projects:

- Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project
- Rubio Wash Dry-Weather Diversion
- Alhambra Wash
- Fire Effects Study in Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Management Area

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Upon inquiry, District staff clarified that a “yes” on the “Activity Concern” column of the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary indicates that the project developer expressed potential concerns, such as delays or major issues, with the project. Vice-Chair Petschauer requested that the District flag project applicants who have not filed reports on time.

District staff noted that the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project has not yet submitted the project report due to technical difficulties with the Project Module. Applicant Claire Robinson (Amigos de los Rios) provided an update on the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project. The Project has drafts of all the past-due reports. Robinson shared the reporting requirement to create metrics has been a struggle. Amigos de los Rios hired Earth Economics to assist with creating metrics, but there are still questions regarding the content and portal itself. Robinson and District staff shared a planned upcoming meeting between Amigos de los Rios and the District may solve these challenges. The WASC expressed interest in touring the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project.

District staff shared that a Regional Program Applicant survey is available and encouraged the Committee to share feedback to continue to improve the program.

In response to questions from the WASC, District staff reviewed the Post Performance Report, which is required submission each project must complete for 3 years after the completion date. The report highlights the accomplishments and if the project met all metrics and targets. Vice-Chair Petschauer requested more details on the Post Performance Report. District staff will follow up with more information.

Member Thomas Wong asked if Watershed Coordinator Watson is monitoring or tracking progress of previously funded Regional Program projects. Watershed Coordinator Watson is tracking the progress of multiple projects, but not all are yet advancing. Member Wong expressed curiosity about the many projects previously funded, to understand the progress those projects have achieved. Watershed Coordinator Watson will provide a presentation on the status of projects at an upcoming WASC meeting.

Member Wong asked for clarification from the District regarding the reality of cost escalations that many project developers are experiencing. District staff shared that they are currently working on project modification guidelines.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that once Regional Projects are in a Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) approved by the County Supervisors, the proponent enters into a Funds Transfer Agreement (FTA) with the District. Elements of the project that have been funded by that approved SIP are overseen by and evaluated through the FTA. Oversight of project progress is also the responsibility of the WASC because some projects are returning to seek the next year of funding in the upcoming SIP. Through that oversight, WASCs can evaluate if continuing projects are ready for more resources, or if a project is delayed and therefore additional funding may not be appropriate.

The WASC requested that when the District provides quarterly report highlights they also describe, briefly, the reasons why any particular project developer signaled a concern.

Committee members also requested a presentation on the Pre-SIP SS project.

Brenda Stevens (WSP) provided an update on modifications to the Fire Effects Study. The study experienced difficulties with data sampling and collection but have since resolved the issues. Previous data issues will not impact the project schedule.

Brianna Datti (Craftwater Engineering) noted the Pre-SIP SS project will be completed soon and a presentation on the final report will be available in September 2023.

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



b) Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Watershed Coordinator Watson provided an update on Rio Hondo's Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP). Slides can be found on the SCW website. Updates include the purpose of the SOEP and a description of the watershed areas. The plan outlines:

- The impact of organizing groups and individuals to help focus outreach and engagement
- Lessons learned
- Strategies short and long-term vision for success
- Identification of collaborative efforts
- Short and long-term vision for success

Member Daniel Rossman asked Watershed Coordinator Watson about Rio Hondo SOEP's acceleration and potential metric exclusion, to which District staff responded with internal efforts to expedite it. Watershed Coordinator Watson identified three elements of acceleration: comprehensive watershed planning, streamlined applications, and increased funding, which aim to enhance the planning process.

Member Rossman suggested that the Rio Hondo Watershed may have room for two more applicants from disadvantaged communities. Watershed Coordinator Watson said this idea aligns with Strategy 6 of SOEP. Watershed Coordinator Watson indicated ongoing efforts to engage smaller projects in such communities through collaboration with cities and community-based organizations (CBOs).

Member Dolphin proposed using the Pre-SIP project to identify opportunities in smaller cities next year. Watershed Coordinator Watson mentioned prior success with this strategy beyond leadership areas.

Vice-Chair Petschauer highlighted that the SCW Program website promotes project transparency, enabling community members, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and CBOs to collaborate with municipalities as long as project updates are maintained.

Watershed Coordinator Watson mentioned a collaboration opportunity with a private high school for a water capture project in a municipal park, emphasizing its potential for more projects. Vice-Chair Petschauer inquired about schools' involvement in the SCWP and asked if the schools stormwater permit had been updated recently, to which Watershed Coordinator Watson explained that State Board has not changed the permit yet, and that working with schools was a priority for watershed coordinators across the Program. Member Rossman asked about identifying and leveraging funding sources and success evaluation. Watershed Coordinator Watson acknowledged shortcomings in this area and mentioned hopes for future opportunities, such as a new water bond and Caltrans funding.

Antos discussed leverage funding challenges across the program and plans for a presentation on funding tools at the next meeting. Vice-Chair Petschauer expressed concerns about spending grant funds within three years and suggested discussing this topic further in upcoming meetings that have less emphasis on presentations.

c) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Vice-Chair Petschauer and Member Gardner expressed interest in serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

d) Rio Hondo Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP)

District staff presented on the Rio Hondo WARPP Report. A draft report can be found on the SCW Program website. The WARPP Report includes an update on projects from FY20-21 and FY21-22 and summarizes progress towards achieving SCW Program goals. District staff is collecting feedback from WASC Members

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



and the report will be presented to the ROC. WARPP Reports are developed for each watershed area to inform the development of the SCW Program Biennial Report. Comments and questions can be sent to District staff.

Vice-Chair Petschuer clarified the “\$0” listed on Table 3.1.2 is due to timing of the report as compared to when funds became available for expenditure. Antos noted that projects have 5 years to spend the awarded resources and some expenditures may take time to appear on reports.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

a) Approve the Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

The WASC elected to table the vote to approve the updated Rio Hondo SOEP to the September meeting, allowing more time for committee members to review the document.

b) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Member Juarez motioned to nominate Vice-Chair Petschauer and Member Gardner as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The motion was seconded by Member Dolphin. The WASC approved the nomination for Chair and Vice-Chair with 13 members in favor, 0 in abstention, and 0 opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities
- b) Consideration of the Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Additional items requested for future agenda include: updates from flagged projects in the Quarterly Report, and updates on Rio Hondo WASC SS projects.

11. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Petschauer thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

RH WASC - August 15, 2023						
	Quorum Present				Voting Item	
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 02/21/2023 Meeting Minutes	Nominate Dawn Petschauer as Chair and Kelly Gardner as Vice Chair
Agency	Julian Juarez	x	Jennifer Aborida		y	y
Agency	Tom Love		Patty Cortez			
Agency	Kelly Gardner	x	Tony Zampiello		y	y
Agency	Dave Pierce	x	Alysha Chan		a	y
Agency	Brent Maue		Kris Markarian			
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong	x	Bryan Matsumoto			y
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman					
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	x	Mark Daniel		y	y
Community Stakeholder	Edward Belden	x			y	y
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman	x	Liliana Griego		y	y
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	x	Latoya Waters		y	y
Municipal Members	Briget Arndell	x	Paul Cranmer		y	y
Municipal Members	Jalaine Verdiner	x	Fernando Villaluna		y	y
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington		Alex Tachiki	x	y	y
Municipal Members	Sal Mendez					
Municipal Members	Dawn Petschauer	x	James Tong		y	y
Municipal Members	Sarah Rocha	x			a	y
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson		Julie Millett			
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	10	13
Total Voting Members Present	13			Nay (N)	0	0
Agency	3			Abstain (A)	2	0
Community Stakeholder	4			Total	12	13
Municipal Members	6				Approved	Approved



Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Area Steering Committee Rio Hondo

Date Tuesday, August 15, 2023
Time 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location [Monroe Room](#)
119 W Palm Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016
WebEx Meeting – See below or [SCW website](#) for
WebEx Meeting details

WebEx Meeting Details

Committee members and members of the public may participate by joining the WebEx Meeting below. Please refer to the [Video Conferencing Guidelines](#) available on the Safe, Clean Water website for additional information.

Join via WebEx Events (recommended)
Meeting number: 2493 201 6658

Password: scwp
<https://lacountydpw.webex.com/lacountydpw/j.php?MTID=mde5c7c02cca84ecd89091c6229a7a612>

Join by phone
+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll or
+1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles)
Access code: 2493 201 6658

[Interest to Serve Form](#) – If you are interested in serving on the Committee as a Community Stakeholder, please fill out the online form at the link above. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's Commission Services Division (CSD) is the lead for potential committee appointments.

Public Comment

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete the [Comment Card Form](#) available on the Safe, Clean Water website and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting.

Requests for accommodations may be made to SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov or by telephone to 833-ASK-SCWP at least three working days in advance of the meeting.

Supporting documentation will be available on the Safe, Clean Water website at www.safecleanwaterla.org.



Para solicitudes de comentarios públicos en español, envíe un correo electrónico a SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov o lláme al (833) 275-7297 dos días antes de la reunión para asegurarse de que haya un traductor presente para transmitir el comentario para consideración del comité.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023
- 3) Committee Member and District Updates
 - a) Community Stakeholder Reselection, 2023
[Commission Service Division \(CSD\) – Interest to Serve Form](#)
- 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates
- 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure
- 6) Public Comment Period
- 7) Presentations and Discussion Items:
 - a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY22-23 Q1 and Q2
 - b) Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
 - c) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs
 - d) Rio Hondo Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report
- 8) Public Comment Period
- 9) Voting Items
 - a) Approve the Updated Rio Hondo Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
 - b) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs
- 10) Items for Next Agenda
 - a) Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities
- 11) Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

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1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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