

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



Thursday, August 24, 2023

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County – Conference Room E & F

1955 Workman Mill Rd Whittier, CA 90601

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)

*Christopher Lapaz, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)

*Clement Lau, LA County Parks & Recreation (Agency)

Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)

David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)

Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)

Michael Sledd, Glendora (Municipal)

Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)

Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)

Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal), Chair

James Cortes Rivera, Day One (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas

Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Paulina Morales, Chair of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff made self-introductions and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2023

District staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member Kelly Gardner motioned to approve the February 23, 2023 minutes, seconded by Member Julian Juarez. The Committee voted to approve the minutes with 11 votes in favor, 1 vote in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Committee Member Romany Basilyous shared that the Barnes Park Project will open bids in October, with tentative plans to begin construction in January.

District staff provided the following updates:

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- All nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on August 8, 2023.
- Quarter 3 (FY22-23) Reports were due on May 15, 2023. Quarter 4 (FY22-23) were due on August 15, 2023. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if no activity was conducted for a project or the transfer agreement has not yet been executed, but expenditures have occurred.
- 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 USGR WASC received 1 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects, 0 Technical Resources Program (TRP) projects, and 1 Scientific Study (SS).
- The District is conducting their review of the submitted feasibility studies for completeness.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera provided an update on events, activities, common community questions and feedback, and upcoming outreach efforts. Slides available on the SCW Program website. Highlights include feedback and community events such as the San Dimas Superhero 5k Run/Walk Health and Safety Expo Resource, Green Streets Knowledge Exchange Event for Elected Officials, and the SCW Program presentation along the LA River to WELL UnTapped 2023. Upcoming events and outreach include planning the SCW Program Schools Tour, presenting to Best Start El Monte, hosting an educational hike, and discussions about repurposing 6 schools in Azusa Unified School District.

There were no comments or questions.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion Items

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

District staff presented the Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary, highlighting scope modifications, activity concerns, and schedule delays reported by project developers. District staff noted that the developers have been invited to the meeting and are available to answer questions.

Upon inquiry, District staff reminded the WASC that after a project is complete, there is a 3-year post-monitoring report. Member Julie Carver noted that SS do not require any monitoring after the study is complete. District staff noted that Members can request information about SS findings and results. District staff will follow-up with the Committee to confirm that SS do not require any reports after completion.

Upon inquiry, District staff clarified that the reporting module does not provide a timeframe for what should be considered an activity delay. Activity delays are self-reported by project developers, and WASC Members can request specific project updates if concerned. The funds Transfer Agreement requires that developers expend funds within 5 years from the end of the fiscal year in which the funds are transferred from the District to the Project Developer. Funds that Project Developers are unable to expend within the 5 year timeframe are considered lapsed funds and are subject to lapsed funding procedures. District staff noted that other WASCs have delayed some projects' projected SCW funding for due to project delays.

Member Drew Ready asked for a status update on the Pedley Spreading Grounds project scope change.

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Jorge Anaya (City of Pomona) shared that the project's capture area increased, thus increasing water supply benefits. A stormwater drain was discovered in the project area, and the project developers are activating the drain to capture more flow than the project was initially scoped for.

Anaya noted that the project cost has increased due to these modifications. The Pedley Spreading Grounds Project is looking to combine other city funds and local municipal funding. The project has also asked the City of Claremont to assist with funding of this project. Anaya asked if there is a possibility for the project to be brought to the WASC for additional funding.

Member Ready asked if there is precedent for projects to return to the WASC for additional funding. District staff is currently developing project modification guidelines that will be available at the end of the month. District staff will have the ability to approve project modifications or present modifications to the WASC for additional deliberations if there are concerns with additional funding requests.

Member Juarez requested summaries of results for any completed SS listed in the quarterly reports. Member Carver noted that the San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates study is completed. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec Regional Coordination Team) highlighted that the USGR WASC has funded 4 SS to date, but the quarterly report summary only displays SS with quarterly reports from FY22-23 Q1 and Q2. District staff will reach out to the SS proponents to present their findings at future WASC meetings.

Member David Diaz asked if the WASC is validating any self-reported project activity or modifications. District staff noted that while the Project developer self-reports project activity, the District may perform an audit to verify the expenditures. Member Diaz expressed concern that the audit may not capture activity concerns until after the funds have been allocated. District staff noted that if a WASC has any concerns about a funded project, District may perform an interim independent audit every 3 years until Project Completion. Audits shall be funded with Regional Program funds.

District staff shared that the quarterly reports show current project phases, and that the Committee can request more information about project updates at any time. The quarterly report summary can be updated to include information requested by the WASC.

b) Review of WASC roles and responsibilities (Presentation by Stantec)

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) presented an overview of the program and WASC members' 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 SIP development and continuous evaluation of funded projects. Fossum presented various resources available for WASC members, both inside and outside of meetings, to use as reference for deliberation.

Chair Morales left the meeting and District staff continued to facilitate the meeting.

Upon inquiry, District staff noted that the new Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot is intended to help projects achieve water supply benefit points. District staff noted that the criteria is scored on magnitude of water supply and cost per acre-foot of captured stormwater, with more cost-effective projects receiving more points.

c) Updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP)

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes Rivera (Day One) presented the USGR SOEP Report Draft to the WASC. The SOEP describes the watershed area, interested parties, and strategies for outreach and collaboration with interested stakeholders. The report was sent to the WASC for comments on June 26. The comments have been incorporated and are reflected in the draft presented.

d) Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Regional Program Progress Report FY20-22

District staff shared the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARRP) Report. The WARRP Report is intended to be an extension of the SIP and serves as a summary and

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progress report for project studies and concepts. District staff highlighted 4 sections: Summary of Funded Projects & Studies, Regional Program Process, Achievement of SCWP Goals, and Adaptive Management.

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

Member Diaz asked for clarification of the current WASC leadership. District staff shared that the previous Co-Chair, Jonathan Perisho, has left the WASC and the current Chair, Paulina Morales expressed interest in stepping down. District staff reviewed the roles of the Chair and Vice-Chair and invited Members to nominate a Committee Member or self-nominate to be considered for the role.

No Members expressed interest. District staff will facilitate the Upper San Gabriel River WASC meetings until a Chair and Vice-Chair or Co-chairs have been selected.

8. Public Comment Period

Anthony Ortega (City of Pomona) requested more information on the District's local workforce hiring guidelines. District staff is working on guidelines and noted that the County has developed resources available online.

District staff answered a question in the chat regarding the expected timeline in which the Spatial Data Library will be available on the SCW website. The IT team is currently working on the website and will be uploading the Spatial Data Library shortly.

9. Voting Items

a) Approve the updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan

Member Gardner observed that the draft SOEP does not currently include the Main San Gabriel Watermaster under the Water Supply and Management Agencies section and would like to see that omission addressed before approving the SOEP.

Committee Members requested to table the approval of the updated Upper San Gabriel River SOEP voting item for the next meeting.

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

Committee Members requested to table the selection of Chair, Vice-Chairs and or Co-Chairs for the next meeting.

10. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 pm on September 28, 2023. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Summary of feasibility studies, project concepts, and scientific studies submitted for USGR WASC
- b) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY22-23 Q3 and Q4
- c) Approve the updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach & Engagement Plan
- d) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Member Diaz asked about the WASC's available funding balance, and if it is necessary to hold meetings if there are no available funds.

District staff noted that some developers could intentionally delay funding to free up money for other

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projects. In the past, District staff has asked whether developers could delay funding for future years and if they have leveraged additional funding to be able to reduce SCW funding request. District staff hopes to have an update by next meeting.

Member Gardner noted that meetings are an opportunity to discuss projects for this round and previous rounds of funding. WASC meetings are also an opportunity for projects to present status updates.

District staff emphasized that there are other agenda items to discuss even if zero funds are available for new projects.

11. Adjournment

District staff thanked WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

| USGR WASC - August 24, 2023 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details) |
| Member Type | Position | Member | Voting/ Present? | Alternate | Voting/ Present? | Approve 2/23/2023 Meeting Minutes |
| Agency | FCD | Julian Juarez | x | Jennifer Aborida | | y |
| Agency | Upper San Gabriel District | Tom Love | | Patty Cortez | | |
| Agency | Main San Gabriel Basin | Kelly Gardner | x | Tony Zampielo | | y |
| Agency | Sanitation Districts | Francisco Guerrero | | Christopher Lapaz | x | y |
| Agency | Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation | Sean Woods | | Clement Lau | x | a |
| Community Stakeholder | | | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Council for Watershed Health | Drew Ready | x | Jason Casanova | | y |
| Community Stakeholder | | | | | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Urban Semillas | Miguel Luna | | David Marquez | | |
| Community Stakeholder | Active SGV | David Diaz | x | Wesley Reutimann | | y |
| Municipal | Los Angeles County | Fernando Villaluna | x | Joseph Venzon | | y |
| Municipal | Glendora | Michael Sledd | x | Sandy Costandi | | y |
| Municipal | Pomona | Julie Carver | x | Hal Ghafari | | y |
| Municipal | Industry | Matthew Hudson | x | Don Nguyen | | y |
| Municipal | Baldwin Park | Romany Basilyous | x | Shari Garwick | | y |
| Municipal | Duarte | Stephanie Sandoval | | Kevin Kearney | | |
| Municipal | West Covina | Paulina Morales | | | | y |
| Non-Voting | Watershed Coordinator | James Cortez | x | | | |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | | 15 | | | Yay (Y) | 11 |
| Total Voting Members In Person | | 11 | | | Nay (N) | 0 |
| Agency | | 4 | | | Abstain (A) | 1 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 2 | | | Total | 12 |
| Municipal | | 5 | | | | Approved |

NOTE: CONTACT INFORMATION REDACTED TO PROTECT PRIVACY

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



| Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Email Address | | Signature |
|--------------------|--|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| Julian Juarez | FCD | | P | <i>Julian Juarez</i> |
| Jennifer Aborida | FCD | | A | <i>Jennifer Aborida</i> |
| Tom Love | Upper San Gabriel District | | P | |
| Patty Cortez | Upper San Gabriel District | | A | |
| Kelly Gardner | Main San Gabriel Basin | | P | <i>K Gardner</i> |
| Tony Zampello | Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster | | A | |
| Francisco Guerrero | Sanitation Districts | | P | |
| Christopher Lapaz | Sanitation Districts | | A | <i>C Lapaz</i> |
| Sean Woods | Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation | | P | |
| Clement Lau | Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation | | A | <i>C Lau</i> |
| Drew Ready | Council for Watershed Health | | P | <i>Drew Ready</i> |
| Jason Casanova | Council for Watershed Health | | A | |
| Miguel Luna | Urban Semillas | | P | |
| David Marquez | California Consulting, INC | | A | |
| David Diaz | Active SGV | | P | <i>David Diaz</i> |

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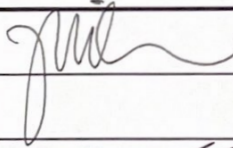

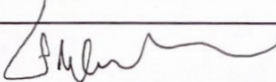
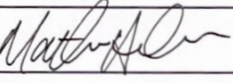
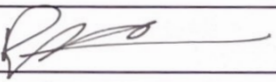
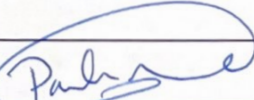
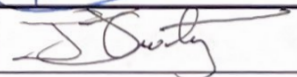
Upper San Gabriel River

NOTE: CONTACT INFORMATION REDACTED TO PROTECT PRIVACY

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



| Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Email Address | | Signature |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---|---|
| Wesley Reutimann | Active SGV | | A | |
| Fernando Villaluna | Los Angeles County | | P |  |
| Joseph Venzon | Los Angeles County | | A | |
| Michael Sledd | City of Glendora | | P |  |
| Sandy Costandi | Covina | | A | |
| Julie Carver | Pomona | | P |  |
| Hal Ghafari | City of Diamond Bar | | A | |
| Matthew Hudson | Industry | | P |  |
| Don Nguyen | El Monte | | A | |
| Romany Basilyous | Baldwin Park | | P |  |
| Shari Garwick | San Dimas | | A | |
| Stephanie Sandoval | Duarte | | P | |
| Kevin Kearney | Bradbury | | A | |
| Paulina Morales | West Covina | | P |  |
| James Cortes Rivera | Day One | | |  |

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN

NOTE: CONTACT INFORMATION REDACTED TO PROTECT PRIVACY



| First Name | Last Name | Municipality/Organization | Email Address |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Ryanna | Fossum | Stantec | |
| Anthony | Ortega | City of Pomona | |
| Maslin | Bari | Atkins | |
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*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

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Attendance
USGR WASC - August 24, 2023

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Andrew Kim | Jorge Anaya |
| Don Nguyen | Katie Harrel CWE |
| Donna T | L |
| Ed Suher CASC | Larry Tran - LACFCD |
| Edna Robidas | Laura |
| Eric Bonilla - LACFCD | Melania Gaboyan - LACFCD |
| gabriela gonzalez | Melanie Hu |
| Hal Ghafari. Diamond Bar | Oliver Galang Craftwater |
| Haris Harouny - LACFCD | Ryanna |
| janet L | Safe Clean Water LA |
| Janeth Rodriguez Livesey | Sandy Costandi |
| Jenny Chau | Shari Garwick |
| Jessica Clark | Sofia Cardenas |
| Joe Venzon - LA County | Turner Lott |
| John Mendoza | Yvonne |