

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



Tuesday, August 8, 2023
10:00am – 12:00 pm
Lakewood City Hall Executive Board Room
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present

CJ Caluag, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Madeline Chen, Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agency)
*Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
*Alysha Chan, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Nancy Villaseñor, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
*Noya Wang, City of Alhambra (Community)
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)
Lisa Ann Rapp, Resident (Community), Vice-Chair
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Kelli Pickler, Lakewood (Municipal)
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair [replaced by Alternate *Wataru Kumagai at 11:30am.]
Fernando Villaluna, Unincorporated Areas of LA County (Municipal)
Traci Gleason, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Attending Online:

*Chad Oberly, Rivers Mountains Conservancy (Community)

Committee Members Not Present

Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

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. Los Angeles 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 May 9, 2023

District staff presented the minutes from May 9, 2023. Member Dan Mueller motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Nancy Villaseñor. The Committee voted to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes with 12 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

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- On April 20, 2023, the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) voted to advance all nine Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) for funding. The District finalized the SIP Board Letter and will be on the August 8th Board agenda.
- The District has released the Regional Program Funding Progress Handbook, which provides consolidated information on existing regional program requirements and guidance. You can view the handbook under the “Regional Program Call for Projects” tab on the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program) website.
- Quarter 3 Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Reports were due on May 15. Quarter 4 FY22-23 Reports are due on August 15. The District asks that Quarterly Reports are completed so the WASC can ensure that funding is allocated accordingly and project timelines are progressing.
- The Call for Projects Round 5 deadline closed on July 31. The District hosted informational sessions on May 24 and May 25. Project applicants may refer to the [“Call for Projects” page](#) on the SCW Program website for more information.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Traci Gleason provided an update on recent and upcoming educational outreach events. Presentation slides can be found on the SCW Program website. Events included tabling at the Groundwater Festival, in partnership with the Water Replenishment District (WRD) on May 6, and Touch-a-truck event with the City of Downey on May 20. Potential upcoming events include Belmont Shores Car Show on September 10 and Festival of Lights on October 21. Watershed Coordinator Gleason reminded Committee Members to share more information on upcoming public or community events with the Watershed Coordinators so they can add them to a shared events calendar and distribute the calendar to the WASC.

Watershed Coordinator Gleason shared a table of all SCW Program projects that are either funded or under consideration. Watershed Coordinator Gleason additionally provided an overview of the Infrastructure Program (IP) project applications submitted for Round 5 (FY24-25):

- Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility
- Heartwell Park at Palo Verde Channel Stormwater Capture
- Reservoir Park Stormwater Capture
- El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture
- Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture project

District staff noted that these five projects presented are only a preliminary list, as projects must still undergo a completeness review by the District and evaluation by the Scoring Committee.

District staff provided an update that all nine WASCs’ FY23-24 SIPs were approved by the Board today, August 8.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Gleason clarified that Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project is in a disadvantaged community and El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project is not located in a disadvantaged community.

5. Ex Parte Communication Disclosures.

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6. Public Comment Period

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The District received no public comment cards by 5:00 pm the day before the meeting. Virtual and call-in users were invited to provide public comment.

Jenny Newman, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LA Regional Board), reaffirmed the LA Regional Board's commitment to participate in the SCWP and to ensure that it implements the Regional MS4 Permit and associated TMDLs. Newman shared that the Board fully supports multi-benefit green projects and solutions. Newman shared that the LA Regional Board is available to answer any questions and will be taking a more active role in the SCW Program this year, particularly in asking questions about a project's ability to meet the MS4 and by having specific staff available to evaluate projects.

7. Discussion

a. Review of WASC Roles and Responsibilities (Presentation by Stantec)

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) gave an overview of the WASC roles and responsibilities. The presentation is available on the SCWP website.

Upon inquiry, District staff provided additional information on the Alternate Water Supply Scoring Pilot Criteria. The motive behind this pilot came from Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS) findings. The Scoring Pilot is currently optional for Round 5. After Round 5, the District will evaluate how many applicants used the Alternative Water Supply Scoring Pilot Criteria and quantify project benefits to determine if the criteria will be implemented for future rounds.

Fossum further clarified that the Regional Coordination team at Stantec will be preparing funding memos for all newly submitted IPs. It is anticipated that the memos will be shared with WASC at the same time as Scoring Committee project evaluations.

District staff reminded the WASC that all Quarterly Reports are available on the SCW Program Project Portal. The District added that any scope, budget, or project schedule modifications will also be highlighted in the Quarterly Report summaries presented in WASC meetings. District staff noted that Report summaries present two quarterly reports to the WASC members at a time. Project Modification Request (PMR) guidelines are currently being developed and finalized. PMRs are required when project developers make new changes to a funded project. The WASC remains responsible for deciding to recommend future funding allocations to continuing and new projects.

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

Chair You and Vice-Chair Rapp indicated a willingness to serve an additional term as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.

District staff clarified that there are no term limits for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Co-Chair positions. The election of any Chair, Co-Chairs, and Vice-Chair should be revisited on an annual basis.

c. Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report

District staff introduced the [LSGR Draft WARPP Report](#), posted on the SCW Program website. The WARPP report sources information from quarterly reports and provides a progress report of projects included in SIPs. The first report will cover projects from Rounds 1 and 2 (FY20-21 and FY21-22) SIPs. Every WASC will have their respective WARPP report. The WARPP report will be shared with the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meeting on August 31 to support discussions about the Biennial Report. No WASC voting is necessary to send it to the ROC.

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Upon inquiry, District staff noted that Committee Members can provide public comments on the Biennial Report at the next Regional Oversight Committee meeting on August 31. Members can also email District staff at SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov to provide feedback on the Draft WARPP report that will be considered in drafting subsequent WARPP reports.

District staff clarified that examples of project successes can be found in post-construction monitoring reports, which are submitted by project applicants. This information can be found in Quarterly Reports and accessed through the SCW Portal.

d. Lower San Gabriel River WASC Meeting Schedule

District staff will work with Chair You and Vice-Chair Rapp to send out a survey to determine the upcoming LSGR WASC meeting schedule.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9. Voting Items

a. Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Chair You left the meeting and was replaced by Alternate Wataru Kumagai at 11:30am. Vice-Chair Rapp facilitated the remainder of the WASC meeting.

Member Noya Wang motioned to reappoint Chair You and Vice-Chair Rapp as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The motion was seconded by Member CJ Caluag. The Committee approved the motion with 14 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, September 12, 10am –12pm at the Lakewood City Hall Executive Boardroom. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Summary of Feasibility Studies, Project Concepts, and Scientific Studies submitted for this WASC

11. Adjournment

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

LSGR WASC - August 8, 2023

| | | Quorum Present | | | | Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details) | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Member Type | Position | Member | Voting/ Present? | Alternate | Voting/ Present? | Approve the May 9, 2023 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes | Melissa as Chair, Lisa as Vice Chair |
| Agency | FCD | CJ Caluag | x | Mark Beltran | | a | y |
| Agency | Central Basin | Alex Rojas | | Madeline Chen | x | y | y |
| Agency | Water Replenishment District | Rob Beste | | Asha Kreiling | x | y | y |
| Agency | Sanitation Districts | Francisco Guerrero | | Alysha Chan | x | y | 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 | | Irene Lopez-Muro | | | |
| 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 | | | y | y |
| Municipal | Bellflower | Len Gorecki | | Natalie Estrada-Rivera | x | y | y |
| Municipal | Cerritos | Mike O'Grady | | Sergio Huizar | | | |
| Municipal | Downey | Dan Mueller | x | | | y | y |
| Municipal | Lakewood | Kelli Pickler | x | Konya Vivanti | | a | y |
| Municipal | Long Beach | Melissa You | x | Wataru Kumagai | | y | y |
| Municipal | Unincorporated | Fernando Villaluna | x | Joseph Venzon | | y | y |
| Municipal | Whittier | Vicki Smith | | Kyle Cason | | | |
| Non-Voting | Watershed Coordinator | Kekoa Anderson | x | Grace Kast | x | | |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats | | 17 | | | Yay (Y) | 12 | 14 |
| Total Voting Members Present | | 14 | | | Nay (N) | 0 | 0 |
| Agency | | 5 | | | Abstain (A) | 2 | 0 |
| Community Stakeholder | | 4 | | | Total | 14 | 14 |
| Municipal | | 5 | | | | Approved | Approved |

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



| Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Email Address | | Signature |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| CJ Caluag | FCD | ccaluag@dpw.lacounty.gov | P | <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> |
| Mark Beltran | FCD | mbeltran@dpw.lacounty.gov | A | |
| Alex Rojas | Central Basin | alexr@centralbasin.org | P | |
| Madeline Chen | Central Basin | madelinec@centralbasin.org | A | <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> |
| Rob Beste | Water Replenishment District | rbeste@ wrd.org | P | |
| Asha Kreiling | Water Replenishment District | akreiling@ wrd.org | A | <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> |
| Francisco Guerrero | Sanitation Districts | fguerrero@ lacsd.org | P | |
| Alysha Chan | Sanitation Districts | alysachan@ lacsd.org | A | <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> |
| Stephen Scott | City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation | Stephen.Scott@ longbeach.gov | P | |
| Nancy Villaseñor | City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation | Nancy.Villasenor@ longbeach.gov | A | <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> |
| Dan Knapp | Conservation Corps of Long Beach | dknapp@ cclb-corps.org | P | |
| Irene Lopez-Muro | Conservation Corps of Long Beach | ilopezmuro@ cclb-corps.org | A | |
| Adam Galia | Resident | agalia81@gmail.com | P | |
| Noya Wang | City of Alhambra | noyawang43@gmail.com | A | <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> |
| Mark Stanley | Rivers Mountains Conservancy | mstanley@ rmc.ca.gov | P | |
| Chad Oberly | Rivers Mountains Conservancy | coberly@ rmc.ca.gov | A | |

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



| Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Email Address | | Signature |
|------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|
| Gabrielle Weeks | Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment | gabrielleweeks@gmail.com | P | |
| Lisa Ann Rapp | Resident | lisarap777@gmail.com | P | |
| Len Gorecki | Bellflower | lgorecki@bellflower.org | P | |
| Natalie Rivera-Estrada | Bellflower | nrivera@bellflower.org | A | |
| Mike O'Grady | Cerritos | mograd@cerritos.us | P | |
| Sergio Huizar | Cerritos | shuizar@cerritos.us | A | |
| Dan Mueller | Downey | dmueller@downeyca.org | P | |
| Kelli Pickler | Lakewood | kpickler@lakewoodcity.org | P | |
| Konya Vivanti | Lakewood | kvivanti@lakewoodcity.org | A | |
| Melissa You | Long Beach | Melissa.You@longbeach.gov | P | |
| Wataru Kumagai | Long Beach | Wataru.Kumagai@longbeach.gov | A | |
| Fernando Villaluna | Los Angeles County | FVILLALUNA@dpw.lacounty.gov | P | |
| Joseph Venzon | Los Angeles County | jvenzon@dpw.lacounty.gov | A | |
| Vicki Smith | Whittier | vsmith@cityofwhittier.org | P | |
| Kyle Cason | Whittier | kcason@cityofwhittier.org | A | |

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



| Member Name | Municipality/ Organization | Email Address | | Signature |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Kekoa Anderson | Watershed Coordinator | koa@ohanavets.com | | |
| Grace Kast | Watershed Coordinator | grace@ohanavets.com | | |

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



| First Name | Last Name | Municipality/Organization | Email Address |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Emily | Ng | Stantec | emily.ng@stantec.com |
| Ryanna | Fossum | Stantec | ryanna.fossum@stantec.com |
| Jenny | Newman | LAPW&CB | jenny.newman@waterboards.ca.gov |
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*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

Eric Bonilla

From: Lisa Rapp <lisarapp777@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Eric Bonilla
Cc: Melanie Hu
Subject: Re: LSGR WASC Attendance - August 8, 2023

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Hi Eric and Melanie - I was definitely at the meeting. I arrived a few minutes late due to unexpected traffic, but if you review the recording, you will hear me speaking at various times. I cannot remember if I was there in time for the role call. You will also note that near the end of the meeting, I took over the chair and conducted the rest of the meeting after Melissa had to leave a bit early. Lisa Rapp

On Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 6:56 AM Eric Bonilla <EBonilla@dpw.lacounty.gov> wrote:

Good morning Lisa,

I'm contacting you to request confirmation that you attended our August 8, 2023 LSGR WASC meeting. Your email confirmation will be used in lieu of the sign-in sheet as part of the public record and with the Board office as proof that you attended the meeting.

Thank you,

Eric Bonilla

Senior Civil Engineering Assistant

Los Angeles County Public Works

(626) 300-4544