

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, August 22, 2023
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Progress Park Auditorium/Plaza West
15500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA 90723
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

*Madeline Chen, Central Basin (Agency)
*Asha Kreiling, Water Replenishment District (Agency)
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)
Dave Pierce, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)
*Enrique Baul, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
*Isabelle Campiformio, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)
*Mary Hillermeier, TreePeople (Community)
*Dylan Porter, Port of Long Beach (Community)
Erica Maceda, River in Action (Community)
Gina Nila, Commerce (Municipal), Chair
*Cecilia Salazar, Long Beach (Municipal), Vice-Chair
Julian Lee, Lynwood (Municipal)
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)
Adriana Figueroa, Paramount (Municipal)
Gladis Deras, South Gate (Municipal)
Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)
Tara Dales, SGA (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Attending Remotely:

*Arturo Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Community)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

All Committee Members were present.

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gina Nila, Chair of the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed all Committee Members. District staff conducted a brief tutorial on WebEx and provided an overview of meeting guidelines and participation instructions for any participants joining online. District staff facilitated a roll call, Committee Members made self-introductions, and a quorum was established.

Member Arturo Gonzalez joined the meeting virtually, at 1:06 PM, with just cause under AB 2449.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2023

District staff presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Madeline Chen motioned to approve, seconded by Member Asha Kreiling. The Committee voted to approve the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes, with 9 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 in abstention, and 3 members absent at the time of vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

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- The first term for WASC Community Stakeholder seats ended on June 30, 2023. District staff requested that current Members continue to serve until new members are onboarded. Members who are unable to do so should notify District staff. District staff asked Members for patience as the procedures are finalized.
- The Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the 9 Stormwater Improvement Plans (SIPs) on August 8.
- Regional Program Quarterly Reports for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Q4 were due on August 15 for Infrastructure Program (IP) Projects and Scientific Studies (SS) from Rounds 1 through 3. Quarterly Reports must be completed even if there was no activity on the project or if the Transfer Agreement has not been executed.
- The SCW Portal has been updated to include a [“Bids and Schedule”](#) section. The new section includes “Potential Future Bid Opportunities,” which features information on upcoming bid opportunities, provided by SCW Project Developers and Municipalities, and “Project Schedules,” which features information on construction schedules, provided by Developers and Municipalities.
- The Round 5 Call for Projects application deadline closed on July 31. The LLAR WASC received applications for one IP project and one SS to be considered for this upcoming round.
- The first draft of the LLAR Watershed Area Regional Progress (WARPP) Report has been completed. The WARPP Report is intended to be an extension of the SIP, providing a summary of existing data. All information presented in the WARPP Report is available on the SCW Program website. The WARPP Report will be used to further develop the biennial report that will eventually go to the Board.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Tara Dales presented a summary of FY 24-25 (year 5) Regional Program project submissions, including the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project and the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Scientific Study. Watershed Coordinator Dales additionally highlighted recent community engagement and outreach efforts. See slides available on the SCW Program website and attached.

Chair Nila noted that the Lynwood City Park Stormwater Capture Project is a discussion item on the agenda and asked if there was an opportunity to further discuss the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Scientific Study. District staff informed the WASC that the Scientific Study will likely be an agenda item for the next meeting.

5. Public Comment Period

District staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting. No comment cards were received before the meeting.

Dr. Ali Sharbat (Cal Poly Pomona) provided public comment sharing some background on Cal Poly Pomona’s Civil Engineering Program, noting that it has the largest undergraduate program in the nation. Dr. Sharbat noted that the Civil Engineering Department has formed a team comprised of academic and industrial experts mostly focused on stormwater engineering and management. Dr. Sharbat shared that the Civil Engineering Department offers courses and senior projects focused on low impact development, best management practices, and green infrastructure. Regarding the proposed Scientific Study, Dr. Sharbat shared that it will include the evaluation of designs, existing pretreatment practices, and metrics for dry well capacity infrastructure.

Dr. Mehrad Kamalzare (Cal Poly Pomona) provided public comment about the proposed Scientific Study, noting that this type of research is intended to provide information that can be quickly applied to the industry. Dr. Kamalzare shared that the submitted proposal is a 5-year Scientific Study looking to identify best practices for the management of dry wells for the best return of investment. Additionally, Dr. Kamalzare

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pointed out that the proposal has been submitted to different watershed areas with a combined budget request totaling \$4.9 million. Dr. Kamalzare explained that this research would be done within each participating watershed area individually, proportional to the funds provided by a specific watershed.

District staff noted that the Committee may further discuss the study during a future WASC meeting, when the study is incorporated as an agenda item.

6. Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

b) Review of WASC roles and responsibilities

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

There were no comments or questions.

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

District staff opened the floor for discussion.

Chair Nila shared with the WASC that she is not interested in continuing as chair for another year and invited Committee Members to voice their interest to step up into the role.

Member Cecilia Salazar shared that Vice-Chair Melissa You, who is not present in this meeting, has expressed interest in continuing as Vice-Chair for the WASC. Vice-Chair You, however, is unable to step up as Chair due to other responsibilities.

Fossum invited Chair Nila to share the responsibilities held by the role. Chair Nila emphasized that the role is a great opportunity to lead and facilitate meetings to ensure productive and professional discussions, and invited Committee Members to step into the leadership role.

District staff noted that having Co-Chairs instead of a Chair and Vice-Chair is also an option. District staff also commented that the District does most of the heavy-lifting to prepare for meetings and tries to support the Chairs' role as much as possible.

Member Kreiling expressed potential interest, but must confirm with their manager before volunteering.

Upon inquiry, District staff noted that there are no term limits and that a current Chair can be reappointed multiple times.

Member Chen expressed interest in the role of Vice-Chair.

Upon inquiry, District staff clarified that the Committee may continue this conversation in the next meeting, with Chair Nila continuing to serve as Chair until a new Member is selected.

d) Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Report FY20-22

District staff shared that the first draft of the WARPP Report has been completed. The report is intended to be an extension of the SIP, providing a summary of existing data. District staff requested input on the WARPP Report. No comments were made.

e) Discuss to send completed feasibility study to Scoring Committee for consideration

Member Gonzalez shared that about 8 years ago, the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC) approved a grant for the Lynwood Park Stormwater Capture Project and a feasibility study was completed. The study showed that the earth composition of Lynwood Park had a low percolation rate. As a result, the RMC Board voted to transfer the project to an area with a higher percolation rate. Member Gonzalez asked project

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developers to confirm familiarity with the feasibility study and to share how the study is being considered in current work.

John Hunter (John L. Hunter and Associates) noted awareness of such study and clarified that the data showed acceptable, but very low infiltration rates. Hunter shared that only minimal points were given for water supply benefits in the project module because of the low percolation rates. The project is primarily focused on water quality benefits. Hunter explained that the project will do as much infiltration as possible but anticipates that the project will remove sediment to improve water quality, after which the water will be sent back into the storm drain.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Voting Items

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

As discussed in item 6C, the selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs will be moved to the next meeting.

b) Vote to send completed feasibility study to Scoring Committee for consideration

Member Adriana Figueroa motioned to send the completed feasibility study to the Scoring Committee for consideration. Member Dan Mueller seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 16 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

9. Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. See the SCWP website for details. Items on the agenda include:

- a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary FY22-23 Q3 and Q4

10. Adjournment

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

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			Quorum Present			Voting Items		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 05-23-2023 Meeting Minutes	Vote Chair, Vice-Chair, Co-Chair	Send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration
Agency	District	Ernesto Rivera		Enrique Baul	x	y		y
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y		y
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Asha Kreiling	x	y		y
Agency	LA County Sanitation Districts	Dave Pierce	x	Alysha Chan		a		y
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	Stephen Scott	x	Nancy Villasenor		y		y
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Irene Lopez-Muro		Isabelle Campiformio	x	a		y
Community Stakeholder	Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Arturo Gonzalez	x	y		y
Community Stakeholder	TreePeople	Manny Gonez		Mary Hillermeier	x	y		y
Community Stakeholder	Port of Long Beach	James Vernon		Dylan Porter	x	a		y
Community Stakeholder	River in Action	Erica Maceda	x					y
Municipal Members	City of Commerce	Gina Nila*	x	Thomas Bekele		y		y
Municipal Members	City of Downey	Dan Mueller	x	Delfino Consunji				y
Municipal Members	City of Long Beach	Melissa You**		Cecilia Salazar	x	y		y
Municipal Members	City of Lynwood	Julian Lee	x	Pamela Torres				a
Municipal Members	City of Paramount	Adriana Figueroa	x	Sarah Ho		a		y
Municipal Members	County of Los Angeles	Thuan Nguyen	x	Fred Gonzalez		y		y
Municipal Members	City of South Gate	Gladis Deras	x			a		y
Watershed Coordinator								
Non-Voting Member	SGA Marketing	Tara Dales	x					
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yes (Y)	9	0	16
Total Voting Members Present		17			No (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	5	0	1
Community Stakeholder		5			Total	14	0	17
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Not Approved	Approved

Attendees
Lower Los Angeles River WASC Meeting
August 22, 2023

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Andrea Prado Iriarte

Arturo Gonzalez

Fred Gonzalez - LACFCD

Haris Harouny - LACFCD

Jacqueline Mak

Jenny Chau

Lynda Bybee

M cooper

Majid Sadeghi

Mark Hall GLAmosquito

Mei-Lin Hanna

Melania Gaboyan - LACFCD

Robert Blankenship

Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination

Safe Clean Water LA

Scott Kindred

Uriel Cobian

gabriela gonzalez

margaux cooper

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Ernesto Rivera	FCD	erivera@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Enrique Baul	FCD	ebaul@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	
Alex Rojas	Central Basin	alexr@centralbasin.org	P	
Madeline Chen	Central Basin	madelinec@centralbasin.org	A	
Rob Beste	Water Replenishment District	rbeste@ wrd.org	P	
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District	akreiling@ wrd.org	A	
Dave Pierce	LA County Sanitation Districts	dpierce@ lacsd.org	P	
Alysha Chan	LA County Sanitation Districts	alysachan@ lacsd.org	A	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	stephen.scott@ longbeach.gov	P	
Nancy Villasenor	City of Long Beach Parks & Recreation	nancy.villasenor@ longbeach.gov	A	
Irene Lopez-Muro	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	ilopezmuro@ cclb-corps.org	P	
Isabelle Campiformio	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	icampiformio@ cclb-corps.org	A	
Mark Stanley	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	mstanley@ rmc.ca.gov	P	
Arturo Gonzalez	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	agonzalez@ rmc.ca.gov	A	
Manny Gonez	TreePeople	mgonez@ treepeople.org	P	

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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		Signature
Mary Hillemeier	TreePeople	mhillemeier@treepeople.org	A	
James Vernon	Port of Long Beach	james.vernon@polb.com	P	
Dylan Porter	Port of Long Beach	dylan.porter@polb.com	A	
Erica Maceda	River in Action	ericamaceda@gmail.com	P	
Gina Nila	Commerce	ginan@ci.commerce.ca.us	P	
Thomas Bekele	Signal Hill	tbekele@cityofsignalhill.org	A	
Dan Mueller	Downey	dmueller@downeyca.org	P	
Delfino Consunji	Downey	dconsunji@downeyca.org	A	
Melissa You	Long Beach	Melissa.You@longbeach.gov	P	
Cecilia Salazar	Long Beach	cecilia.salazar@longbeach.gov	A	
Julian Lee	Lynwood	jlee@lynwood.ca.us	P	
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount	afigueroa@paramountcity.com	P	
Sarah Ho	Paramount	sho@paramountcity.com	A	
Thuan Nguyen	County of Los Angeles	thunguyen@dpw.lacounty.gov	P	
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles	fgonzal@dpw.lacounty.gov	A	

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ali	Sharbat	Cal Poly Pomona	sharbat@cpp.edu
John	Hunter	JLHA	
Mehrad	Kamalzare	Cal Poly Pomona	mKAMALZARE@CPP.edu
Shea Thornbury	Thornbury	Catalyst Environmental Solution	sthorbury@ce.solutions.
Ryann	Fossum	Stantec	ryanna.fossum@stantec.com
William	Stewart	Stantec	william.stewart@stantec.com
Andrea	Prado Iriarte	stantec	andrea.pradoiriarte@stantec.com
Mary	Hilmeish		

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