

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

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Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
10:00 am – 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)  
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
Chad Oberly, Rivers Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, APWA Member (Community), Vice-Chair  
Dan Mueller, Downey (Municipal)  
\*Konya Vivanti, City of Lakewood (Community)  
Melissa You, Long Beach (Municipal), Chair  
Fernando Villaluna, Unincorporated Areas of LA County (Municipal)  
Vicki Smith, Whittier (Municipal)\*  
Kekoa Anderson, OhanaVets (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

\*Committee Member Alternate

## Committee Members Not Present

Adam Galia, City of Alhambra (Community)  
Len Gorecki, Bellflower (Municipal)  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)

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

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## **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. District staff made self-introductions and a quorum was established.

## **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 8, 2023**

District staff presented the minutes from August 8, 2023. Member Dan Mueller motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Nancy Villaseñor. The Committee voted to approve the August 8, 2023 meeting minutes with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 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 August 8, all nine Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board). The District is preparing draft Transfer Agreements for those projects.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 23-24 Q1 Quarterly Reports from July through September are due on November 15 for Rounds 1 through 3. Project reports must still be completed even if there was no activity on the project, or if the Transfer Agreement has not been executed.
- The Municipal Annual Reports are due December 31, 2023, for activities from July 2022 through June 2023. Municipal Annual Plans are due in April before the Fiscal Year begins and Annual Reports are due 6 months after the fiscal year ends.
- The SCWP Portal now has a Bids and Schedule section that includes potential future bid opportunities provided by the SCW project developers and municipalities.
- Round 5 Call for Projects Applications were due on July 31, 2023. The Safe Clean Water Regional Program received 21 Infrastructure Projects (IP), 4 Scientific Studies (SS) and 5 Technical Resources Projects (TRP). The LSGR received 5 IPs, 2 SS, and 0 TRPs. The Scoring Committee will score all Infrastructure Projects over the course of several meetings between October through December.
- On July 25, the Board approved the motion authored by Supervisor Horvath, "Accelerate Implementation of the SCW Program." The motion called for three actions: 1) watershed planning, 2) simplified application process, and 3) resources and staffing for dedicated adaptive management. The report back to the Board is being drafted in parallel with the Biennial Report and is due 120 days from the date of the motion.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) has been meeting to discuss recommendations for the Biennial Report. The ROC will continue to meet in the coming months to discuss the draft report and initiate the public comment period. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an update on recent and upcoming educational outreach events. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights include the Groundwater Festival at WRD, Touch-A-Truck at Whittier City Hall, and Earth Walk at Lakewood City.

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared a refresher on the LSGR WASC Prioritization Criteria and an overview of funded projects to date.

Member Dan Knapp voiced concerns about the lack of small projects in the LSGR WASC. Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared that it is difficult for these projects to navigate the process and get adequate funding for both a feasibility study and construction.

#### 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures.

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

#### 6) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

#### 7) Discussion

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

District staff shared that, moving forward, the quarterly report summaries will include reports that are in progress or have not been started. This new approach aims to give the WASC better information to support

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SIP deliberations. The Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Konya Vivanti shared that, due to the change on the post-performance report form, Bolivar Park experienced delays in submitting the quarterly report. The City of Lakewood hopes to have the report uploaded by the end of the week. Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp also shared they have faced operational challenges due to a car accident and littering that damaged vital equipment. Once the issue is resolved, the Project will resume operations.

Vice-Chair Rapp requested a status update on the Hermosillo Park Project to better understand how the Park Improvement Grant will impact the Scope of Work. Run Chen (City of Norwalk) reported that the City of Norwalk has a concurrent park project that is funded by Proposition 68, however, a majority of the Project is surface level and on the southern half of the Project site. Chen noted that the Project overlaps in the northern area of the park, which can be managed during design. The City of Norwalk is currently soliciting design-build services, and the solicitation period will run from this week until the end of November. The proponents have set a target date of January 2024 to have the agreement and contract in place to start the design process. Due to the projects being in the same area, construction phasing and scheduling complications may arise. Progressive design build will be practiced, mitigating challenges from the overlapping projects. District staff requested Chen follow up and share construction progress to better assess if SCW funding should be delayed.

District staff noted that the Mayfair Park Project was flagged for activity concern. Vice-Chair Rapp shared that the Project was impacted separately by COVID-19 and loss of the project manager. The Project also went through a complex and long-term water quality testing program that caused delays. The Project will begin operations in October.

The WASC requested an update from the Cerritos Sports Complex Project developer, who was not in attendance. District staff offered to share any questions from Committee Members with the developer. No specific questions were asked.

Member Asha Kreiling requested an update for the Lakewood Equestrian Center Project. Vice-Chair Rapp stated the City of Lakewood is determined to achieve the desired water quality goals without constructing an underground vault. Vice Chair Rapp noted that the City of Lakewood would provide a project status update to the WASC in the next six months.

District staff shared that project applicants and developers can now submit a Project Modification Request (PMR) to highlight any project concerns that need the LSGR WASC's attention. The District plans to conduct an info session about the PMR and will ask all project applicants and project developers to attend. Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) shared the PMR guidance can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

## **b) Summary of submitted Infrastructure Program Projects and Scientific Studies (Presented by Watershed Coordinators)**

Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared a presentation on all the FY24-25 project applications, available online at the [SCW Program website](#). The presentation covered five IP projects and two SS.

IP projects include:

- Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility
- Heartwell Park at Clark Channel Stormwater Capture
- Reservoir Park Stormwater Capture Project
- El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project, Construction
- Sorenson Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project

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SS include:

- The Application of Innovative Technology for Microbiological Testing in the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed
- Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity

Member Chad Oberly asked if the lighting at the Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility would replace existing lighting with more energy efficient lighting, and if this will be funded by the WASC or other matching funding sources. District staff recommended following up with the project applicant for more information.

Member Gabrielle Weeks shared that while attending a recent Diwali Festival, community members expressed concern about light pollution from the new lighting. Member Weeks suggested that the lighting could include a shield to diffuse the intensity. Member Mueller informed the WASC that the lights pictured in the application would be new lighting and currently do not exist at the park.

Vice-Chair Rapp shared that the park lights would need to be bright for a sports field and to address safety concerns. Vice-Chair Rapp noted that once the park is closed, the lights would turn off as well. Member Oberly shared that community members are concerned about lighting and that this concern should be considered during design of all projects.

Member Kreiling asked whether the Sorensen Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project had previously received funding from the WASC. District staff confirmed that the Project was a previously funded TRP which recently concluded its feasibility study and is requesting IP funding this year.

#### **c) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration.**

District staff shared that while the majority of WASCs send all projects to the Scoring Committee to validate the proposed project scores, the WASC has the flexibility to send none, some or all of the completed feasibility studies for evaluation. Upon inquiry, District staff clarified that there is no pushback from the Scoring Committee to send all projects to the Scoring Committee. District staff also shared that the current score presented is automatically generated by the module. Once reviewed by the Scoring Committee, a project's score could change due to a multitude of factors, including the new alternative water scoring pilot.

Member Villaseñor disclosed relationships to El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project and Heartwell Park at Clark Channel Stormwater Capture Project.

#### **8) Public Comment Period**

Dr. Ali Sharbat (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) provided public comment and shared that the submitted SS, Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity, will study the best practices for the stormwater infrastructure in the region. The Project is asking for an average of \$80,000 a year for the next five years. The Project will benefit disadvantaged students and will help to better understand the lifecycle of costly stormwater infrastructure.

Dr. Mehrad Kamalzare (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) provided public comment in support of the submitted SS, Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity. Along with the importance of drywell structure design, the Study will look at the systematic best practices to maintain the life of stormwater infrastructure.

Member Knapp asked if the Study would include workforce development. Sharbat shared that students will be involved in all steps of the proposed project with opportunities for workforce development. Member Knapp shared that including workforce development would be beneficial to the Project.

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Mark Hall (Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District) reminded all project proponents to reach out to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District to review all plans to avoid delays.

#### **9) Voting Items**

##### **a) Vote to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration**

Vice-Chair Rapp motioned to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration, seconded by Member Weeks. The motion was approved by 12 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 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, November 14 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Lakewood City Hall Executive Boardroom. Items for the next agenda include:

- a) Regional Program Scientific Studies Presentations

#### **11) Adjournment**

Chair You thanked Committee Members and the public for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

**LSGR WASC - October 10, 2023**

|                              |   | Quorum Present     |                  |                        |                  | Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details) |   |              |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|---|---|--------------|
| Member Type                  | Position                                    | Member             | Voting/ Present? | Alternate              | Voting/ Present? | Approve the August 8, 2023 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes      | Send all 5 completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration |              |
| Agency                       | FCD   | CJ Caluag          | x                | Mark Beltran           |                  | y   | 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   | a   |              |
| Community Stakeholder        | Conservation Corps of Long Beach            | Dan Knapp          | x                | Irene Lopez-Muro       |                  | y   | y   |              |
| Community Stakeholder        | Resident                                    | Adam Galia         |                  | Noya Wang              |                  |   |   |              |
| 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 |                  |   |   |              |
| Municipal                    | Cerritos                                    | Mike O'Grady       |                  | Sergio Huizar          |                  |   |   |              |
| Municipal                    | Downey                                      | Dan Mueller        | x                |                        |                  | y   | a   |              |
| Municipal                    | Lakewood                                    | Kelli Pickler      |                  | Konya Vivanti          | x                | y   | y   |              |
| Municipal                    | Long Beach                                  | Melissa You        | x                | Wataru Kumagai         |                  | y   | y   |              |
| Municipal                    | Unincorporated                              | Fernando Villaluna | x                | Joseph Venzon          |                  | y   | y   |              |
| Municipal                    | Whittier                                    | Vicki Smith        | x                | Kyle Cason             |                  | a   | y   |              |
| Non-Voting                   | Watershed Coordinator                       | Kekoa Anderson     | x                | Grace Kast             |                  |   |   |              |
| Total Non-Vacant Seats       |   | 17                 |                  |                        | Yay (Y)          | 13  | 12  | 0            |
| Total Voting Members Present |   | 14                 |                  |                        | Nay (N)          | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| Agency                       |   | 5                  |                  |                        | Abstain (A)      | 1   | 2   | 0            |
| Community Stakeholder        |   | 4                  |                  |                        | Total            | 14  | 14  | 0            |
| Municipal                    |   | 5                  |                  |                        |                  | Approved  | Approved  | Not Approved |

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



| Member Name        | Municipality/<br>Organization             |           | Signature               |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| CJ Caluag          | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | Primary   | <i>CJ Caluag</i>        |
| Mark Beltran       | Los Angeles County Flood Control District | Alternate |                         |
| Alex Rojas         | Central Basin                             | Primary   |                         |
| Madeline Chen      | Central Basin                             | Alternate | <i>Madeline Chen</i>    |
| Rob Beste          | Water Replenishment District              | Primary   |                         |
| Asha Kreiling      | Water Replenishment District              | Alternate | <i>Asha Kreiling</i>    |
| Francisco Guerrero | Sanitation Districts                      | Primary   |                         |
| Alysha Chan        | Sanitation Districts                      | Alternate | <i>Alysha Chan</i>      |
| Stephen Scott      | City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation   | Primary   |                         |
| Nancy Villaseñor   | City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation   | Alternate | <i>Nancy Villaseñor</i> |
| Dan Knapp          | Conservation Corps of Long Beach          | Primary   | <i>Dan Knapp</i>        |
| Irene Lopez-Muro   | Conservation Corps of Long Beach          | Alternate |                         |
| Adam Galia         | Resident                                  | Primary   |                         |
| Noya Wang          | City of Alhambra                          | Alternate |                         |
| Mark Stanley       | Rivers Mountains Conservancy              | Primary   |                         |
| Chad Oberly        | Rivers Mountains Conservancy              | Alternate | <i>Chad Oberly</i>      |

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN




| Member Name            | Municipality/<br>Organization               |           | Signature |
|------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| Gabrielle Weeks        | Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment | Primary   |           |
| Lisa Ann Rapp          | Resident                                    | Primary   |           |
| Len Gorecki            | Bellflower                                  | Pimary    |           |
| Natalie Rivera-Estrada | Bellflower                                  | Alternate |           |
| Mike O'Grady           | Cerritos                                    | Primary   |           |
| Sergio Huizar          | Cerritos                                    | Alternate |           |
| Dan Mueller            | Downey                                      | Primary   |           |
| Kelli Pickler          | Lakewood                                    | Primary   |           |
| Konya Vivanti          | Lakewood                                    | Alternate |           |
| Melissa You            | Long Beach                                  | Primary   |           |
| Wataru Kumagai         | Long Beack                                  | Alternate |           |
| Fernando Villaluna     | Los Angeles County                          | Primary   |           |
| Joseph Venzon          | Los Angeles County                          | Alternate |           |
| Vicki Smith            | Whittier                                    | Primary   |           |
| Kyle Cason             | Whittier                                    | Alternate |           |



Lower San Gabriel River  
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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



| Member Name    | Municipality/<br>Organization |  | Signature   |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Kekoa Anderson | Watershed Coordinator         |  |  |
| Grace Kast     | Watershed Coordinator         |  |   |
| Traci Gleason  | Watershed Coordinator         |  |   |

## Eric Bonilla

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**From:** Lisa Rapp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 12:21 PM  
**To:** Eric Bonilla  
**Subject:** Re: LSGR WASC - October 10, 2023 Meeting Attendance

**CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.**

Hi Eric - Greetings from sunny Prague. I apologize for not having sent this right away. I thought that I had, but I can see from my sent Items folder that I did not. In my haste to get ready to depart on vacation, I just forgot to send you this email.

I can confirm that I did attend the LSGR WASC meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. I entered the room about 10:05 am, and immediately took at seat at the table without picking up my name tent or signing the sign in sheet. I think that I did not see the table in the back of the room. The meeting was just getting underway, and I was focused on getting seated and ready to participate.

I hope that this has not brought you an inconvenience. If there is anything else that you need, please email me. Lisa Ann Rapp

On Thu, Oct 19, 2023 at 1:37 AM Eric Bonilla [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon Lisa,

I'm contacting you to request confirmation that you attended our October 10, 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  
[REDACTED]

--  
Lisa Ann Rapp  
Public Works Director Emeritus  
[REDACTED]

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



| First Name                  | Last Name | Municipality/Organization       | Email Address |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Ryanna                      | Fossum    | Stantec / Regional Coordination |               |
| Mehred <del>Kamalzare</del> | KAMALZARE | CAL POLY POMONA                 |               |
| Robyn <del>Finley</del>     | Finley    | Stantec / Notetaker             |               |
| Rum Chen                    |           | Norwalk                         |               |
| Ali                         | Sharbat   | cal Poly Pomona                 |               |
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\*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public