

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



Thursday, September 28, 2023

1:30pm - 3:30pm

LA County Sanitation District – Conference Room E&F

1955 Workman Mill Rd

Whittier, CA 90601

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)

Francisco Guerrero, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)

Clement Lau, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation (Agency)

Drew Ready, Council for Watershed Health (Community)

David Diaz, Active SGV (Community)

Fernando Villaluna, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Sandi Costandi, Covina (Municipal)

Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal)

Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)

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

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Not Present:

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

Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin (Agency)

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community), Vice Chair

Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)

Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)

Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff welcomed Committee Members of the Upper San Gabriel River (USGR) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) and called the meeting to order.

District staff made self-introductions and facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. A quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2023

District staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the August 24, 2023 meeting minutes by Member Drew Ready, seconded by Member Julie Carver. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided the following update:

- The WASC Community Stakeholder seats are up for re-election this year and must be selected every three years. The USGR WASC currently has two vacant community stakeholder seats. The

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



next step is for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) to appoint the community stakeholder seats for the next term.

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Transfer Agreements and addendums will be distributed in October. An email will be sent with instructions on how to use the transfer agreement functionality now hosted within the Reporting Module. In the meantime, project developers should begin preparing supporting documents for upload (Scope of Work, Authorizations, CEQA documents).
- As discussed during the last meeting, the Bids and Schedules page on the SCWP Portal is where you can find information on upcoming bid opportunities and construction schedules provided by SCWP Regional and Municipal Project Developers in the Reporting Module. Developers are reminded to update the module regularly.
- FY22-23 Q4 Regional Quarterly Reports (April-June) were due on August 15th. FY23-24 Q1 (July-September) Reports are due November 15th. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if there was no activity done on the project or if the Transfer Agreement has not been executed for projects included in the FY22-23 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).
- The Call for Projects deadline for Round 5 was on July 31, 2023. Within the USGR WASC, there is one Infrastructure Program (IP) project and one Scientific Study (SS). The Scoring Committee will begin scoring projects over the course of multiple meetings between mid-October and December.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) is preparing its first SCW Program Biennial Progress Report for the Board, which includes a summary of the progress of the Regional Program, Municipal Program, and the District Program. The ROC has met on June 15 and August 31 to discuss previous reports and data to date, the outline of the report, and recommendations. The next ROC meeting is anticipated to be October 26, which will include a presentation on the draft Progress Report.
- Total Program Tax Collection for 2022-23 is available on the SCW website, on the [Estimated Revenues webpage](#).

Member David Diaz clarified with District staff that Funds Transfer Agreements for FY23-24 projects will be initiated starting in October. District staff noted that the Board approved Round 4 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) on August 8th. Once the Transfer Agreement is executed, it takes 45 days for funds to be disbursed. New projects are typically required to begin reporting for Quarter 3, covering a period between January and March 2024. Member Diaz commented that the length of time between submission of applications and disbursement of funds may cause difficulty for project proponents that are burdened by a lengthy process.

Member Ready asked whether the Bid and Project Schedules page on the SCWP Portal takes any known schedule delays into account. District staff clarified that the information displayed pulls data directly from the Reporting Module, as reported by Project Developers. The District is working on Project Modification Guidelines with instructions on what changes might trigger a project modification request (PMR). Project Developers are asked to keep information shared in quarterly reports as up to date as possible.

Ryanna Fossum (Stantec, Regional Coordination) reminded Committee Members that there is a requirement that WASC Members cannot miss more than two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in a year. District staff will send a reminder to Committee Members who are not in attendance and either ask them to assign an alternate or look into replacing consistently absent members.

District staff requested that Committee Members follow up with any recommendations for prospective Municipal members who could serve as an alternate to West Covina's seat on this WASC.

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



4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes provided an update on recent community outreach events and community feedback, which can be found on the [SCWP website](#). Highlights include community events such as resource booths at the “concert in the park” series with the City of San Dimas and Summer BBQ and Community Resource Fair in El Monte.

Watershed Coordinator Cortes shared various questions and comments conveyed during recent engagement events. The community expressed concerns regarding pollution and runoff during the recent heavy rain, the tradeoff between passive recreation space and land dedicated to sports in parks, unhoused individuals, large groups of RVs discharging wastewater into storm drains and streams, and the potential for stormwater capture projects in the City of Industry.

Upcoming community events include the Hahamonga Watershed Walk with Upper LA River Watershed Coordinator on October 7, Day One Art Night in Pasadena on October 13, and an Eaton Canyon Watershed Walk with Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator on October 28. Additionally, future plans include a Best Practices for Community Engagement Educational Presentation and an Educational Hike with Pride Centers in East San Gabriel Valley.

Member Julian Juarez clarified that everyone is welcome to attend all upcoming events mentioned.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Public Comment Period

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

There were no public comments in the in-person meeting room, no chat messaged comments or raised hands.

7) Discussion Items

a) Updates for previously funded Regional Program Projects

District staff presented a preview of the SIP tool and noted that the USGR WASC is already fully allocated for this fiscal year (FY24-25). The two continuing projects that are projected to receive the highest amount of funding for FY24-25 were invited to give a project update.

i) Basset High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project – Los Angeles County

Donna Tran (LA County Public Works) presented information on the Basset High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project. The Project is currently in the early stages of design and the County is going to the Board for approval on a different delivery model for the project. This delivery model would bring a contractor on board during both the design phase and construction phase to alleviate a lengthy bidding process.

Member Ready asked whether this delivery model would increase opportunities for the construction team and design team to collaborate. Tran confirmed that this process will help the design team and contractor discuss any anticipated issues that may occur during construction.

Member Diaz clarified that only the corner of the park leased by the school to LA County Public Works will be accessible to the public outside of school hours. A shared use agreement has not been entered into for

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



any facilities owned by the school.

Upon inquiry, Tran summarized public feedback on the park and noted that surveys from residents revealed a desire for recreational green space and lighting in the area for increased security.

Member Ready asked whether the Project was on schedule. Tran noted that initially, construction was anticipated to begin in FY24-25 but because of the delivery model, they are extending the design phase and pushing the construction timeline to FY25-26.

District staff stated that the Basset High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project is projected to receive \$10 million for FY24-25 and asked whether funding could be deferred to the following year. Tran confirmed that the full \$10 million can be deferred to FY25-26. District staff will update the SIP tool to reflect this change.

Upon inquiry, Tran noted that no leveraged funds have been secured for the Project at this time.

ii) Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project – City of Covina

Katie Harrel (CWE) presented information on the Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project. The project design was completed at the end of 2022 and the City has been waiting for SCWP fund disbursements to start construction. The project is expected to go out to bid in December, assuming that the funding will be available by the time the project is awarded. Harrel confirmed that there are no schedule delays and funding cannot be deferred to a future year. No additional funding has been secured.

b) Updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan

Watershed Coordinator Cortes presented updates to the draft USGR Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP). The updated plan now includes an overview of water agencies in the interested parties section (Section 2). The SOEP describes the watershed area, interested parties, and the vision of success through outreach and collaboration with interested stakeholders. The report was sent to the WASC for comments on June 26 and comments are reflected in the draft presented.

Member Diaz asked how technical assistance for project developers is incorporated into the plan. Watershed Coordinator Cortes noted that project development strategies focus on potential applicants that need the most assistance in developing concepts.

Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Cortes confirmed that the updated SOEP now includes information about adjudicated groundwater basins and groundwater agencies, as requested at the last WASC meeting on August 24.

c) Summary of feasibility study and scientific study submitted for USGR WASC

Watershed Coordinator Cortes presented on one SS and one IP project submitted to the USGR WASC for FY24-25. Project Summary presentation slides and more project information can be found on the [SCWP website](#).

The Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity SS is requesting just under 5 million dollars and is being submitted to all WASCs. The study is anticipated to have a project site within each watershed area. 5 project sites are expected in USGR. The total request for SCWP funds is \$4,951,453 for all 9 watershed areas over five years and \$1,022,178 was requested from USGR over five years.

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



The Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project, Construction Phase IP project previously received funding in FY21-22 for Design. The Project is requesting a total of \$18,376,246 of SCWP funding through FY26-27 for Construction.

There were no questions or discussion following the presentation.

d) Discussion to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration

Member Diaz confirmed with District staff that the Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project received a preliminary module score of 74. District staff also noted that while IP projects are reviewed by the Scoring Committee, SS are evaluated by an independent reviewer. Peer reviews are typically made available in early Spring. District staff is in the process of identifying a consultant to replace Southern California Coastal Water Research Project's (SCCWRP) role in reviewing scientific studies.

Member Juarez noted that, in the past, LA County Flood Control District gave a support letter to the City of Glendora for the Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project, but that it may have expired. District staff will confirm that supporting documentation for the project has been received during the completeness check. *(District staff confirmed after meeting that Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project, Construction Phase received letter of conceptual approval from LACFCD)*

District staff shared a preliminary preview of the SIP tool and displayed a funding scenario in which \$10 million in funding for Basset High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project is deferred to FY25-26. In this scenario, 81% of funds are allocated for FY24-25, and 75% of funds are allocated for 25-26.

Member Diaz noted that, procedurally, it would be beneficial to know about funding delays earlier in the process so that prospective proponents can have an estimate of available funding for a given program year.

District staff shared that project presentations from the proponents will likely be scheduled once the Scoring Committee completes its review of IP projects and SS are reviewed by an independent consultant.

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

Member Diaz nominated Member Juarez and Member Carver for Chair and Co-Chair positions, respectively. Member Carver accepted the nomination and expressed a willingness to act as Chair. Member Juarez declined the nomination on behalf of the LA County Flood Control District. Member Fernando Villaluna shared a willingness to Vice-Chair the Committee.

f) Future WASC Meeting Schedule

District staff noted that the next WASC meeting, scheduled for October 26, conflicts with the next ROC meeting. The scheduled meetings for November and December also conflict with holidays and the regular meeting room will not be available for the scheduled January meeting date. District staff will send a scheduling survey to Committee members to confirm alternative meeting dates for November and January.

District staff additionally encouraged WASC Members to attend Scoring Committee meetings and will share upcoming dates once the meeting schedule is finalized. District staff suggested that the WASC schedule project presentations in January, with SIP deliberations beginning in February.

Member Ready expressed an interest in hearing project updates from previously funded projects at future WASC meetings. District staff noted that this WASC had previously requested an update on the San Gabriel

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



Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates Scientific Study and can request a presentation for the next meeting. District staff will circulate a presentation template for project updates on previously funded projects.

Member Juarez shared that the Rio Hondo WASC received a presentation from their Watershed Coordinator on all funded and submitted projects, project status, and the spatial relationship between them. District staff noted that the Spatial Data Library available on the SCWP website has a layer of funded and submitted projects as well as catchment areas of each project. Watershed Coordinator Cortes expressed an interest in producing a similar overview for the USGR WASC.

Upon inquiry, District staff confirmed that meetings are recorded for note-taking purposes. In addition, newly appointed WASC members meet with District staff for onboarding. Meeting minutes and presentations are also available on the SCWP website.

8) Public Comment Period

No public comments were submitted online or made in person.

9) Voting Items

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

Member Diaz motioned to approve the updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan, seconded by Member Juarez. The WASC voted to approve updated Upper San Gabriel River Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan with 9 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

b) Vote to send none, some, or all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration

Member Diaz motioned to approve sending all feasibility studies to the scoring committee for consideration, seconded by Member Ready. The WASC voted to approve sending all feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration with 9 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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

Member Diaz motioned to approve selecting Member Carver as the WASC Chair and Member Villaluna as Vice Chair, seconded by Member Juarez. The WASC voted to approve selecting Member Carver as the WASC Chair and Member Villaluna as Vice Chair with 9 votes in favor, 0 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10) Items for Next Agenda

The date of the next USGR WASC meeting will be announced at a later time. District staff will send out a scheduling survey to identify future meeting dates. See the SCWP website for details. Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- a) Regional Program Quarterly Report Summary for FY22-23 Q3 and Q4
- b) Presentations from completed Regional Program Scientific Studies

11) Adjournment

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



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

USGR WASC - September 28, 2023

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)			
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 8/24/2023 Meeting Minutes	Approve the updated USGR Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan	Approve to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee for consideration	Approve Julie Carver as Chair and Fernando Villaluna as Vice Chair for USGR
Agency	FCD	Julian Juarez	x	Jennifer Aborida		Y	y	y	y
Agency	Upper San Gabriel District	Tom Love		Patty Cortez					
Agency	Main San Gabriel Basin	Kelly Gardner		Tony Zampielo					
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Christopher Lapaz		Y	y	y	y
Agency	Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation	Sean Woods		Clement Lau	x	y	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder									
Community Stakeholder	Council for Watershed Health	Drew Ready	x	Jason Casanova		y	y	y	y
Community Stakeholder									
Community Stakeholder	Urban Semillas	Miguel Luna		David Marquez					
Community Stakeholder	Active SGV	David Diaz	x	Wesley Reutimann		y	y	y	y
Municipal	Los Angeles County	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y	y	y	y
Municipal	Glendora	Michael Sledd		Sandy Costandi	x	y	y	y	y
Municipal	Pomona	Julie Carver	x	Hal Ghafari		y	y	y	y
Municipal	Industry	Matthew Hudson		Don Nguyen					
Municipal	Baldwin Park	Romany Basilyous	x	Shari Garwick		y	y	y	y
Municipal	Duarte	Stephanie Sandoval		Kevin Kearney					
Municipal	West Covina	Paulina Morales							
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	James Cortez	x						
Total Non-Vacant Seats		15			Yay (Y)	9	9	9	9
Total Voting Members In Person		9			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency		3			Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	9	9	9	9
Municipal		4				Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved

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



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

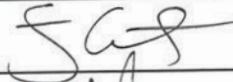


Upper San Gabriel River
Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		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	SGV
Julie Carver	Pomona	P	Julie Carver
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		

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



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Cortes, James	Watershed Coordinator		
KILLAMULA PERMANO	LAC PUBLIC WORKS -		
Romany BASILYES	City of Baldwin Park		

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



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Ryanna	Fogsum	Stantec / Regional Coord.	

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

Attendance
USGR WASC September 28, 2023

Andrew Kim	Joshua Nelson City of Industry
Anthony Ortega	Katie Harrel CWE
Aric Torreyson	Larry Tran - LACFCD
Austine Racelis	Mario Mendoza
Billy Berler	Mark Hall GLAмосquito
John Mendoza	Melania Gaboyan - LACFCD
Donna T	Melanie Hu
Emily Ng	Nicholas Ryu
Eric Bonilla - LACFCD	Nick Ryu
Gabriela Gonzalez	Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination
Haris Harouny - LACFCD	Safe Clean Water LA
J Cramsie	Sofia Cardenas
Jenny Chau	Yisak K
Joe Venzon - LA County	Edna
Joshua Nelson	