

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



Thursday, November 30, 2023
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
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)
*Christopher Lapaz – 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), Vice-Chair
Michael Sledd, Glendora (Municipal)
Julie Carver, Pomona (Municipal), Chair
Matthew Hudson, Industry (Municipal)
Romany Basilyous, Baldwin Park (Municipal)
Stephanie Sandoval, Duarte (Municipal)
Paulina Morales, West Covina (Municipal)
*Mario Flores, Duarte (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)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Julie Carver, 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 facilitated Committee Member introductions. A quorum was established. District staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial and direction on submission of public comments to the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program website.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2023

District staff presented the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Member David Diaz motioned to approve, seconded by Member Paulina Morales. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes with 10 votes in favor, 2 votes in abstention, and 0 votes opposed (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided the following updates:

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- Community stakeholder seats are up for reappointment for the next three-year term. The Board of Supervisors (Board) will make appointments for the next term as early as the end of the year.
- All Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Developers and Municipalities should keep reporting modules updated, including phases within the Gantt Schedule and Bid/Award Details for projects. The Bid/Award details are publicly accessible and will allow the public to see estimated construction dates and potential future bid opportunities.
- Any public or media event publicizing SCW Program funded projects shall provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by the District with at least 14 days' notice.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Q1 Quarterly Reports (July-September) were due November 15. Quarterly reports must still be completed even if SCW funding has not been received yet.
- Project Modification Guidelines have been finalized and published under the [SCW Program website](#) under the "Adaptive Management" section of the Regional Program dropdown menu. The new Project Modification Request (PMR) form will facilitate a timely and transparent resolution of proposed modifications. The deadline to submit the PMR form for the current fiscal year has been extended to November 30. The District hosted a virtual info session on October 19 and the recording, presentation slides, and FAQ are available on the SCW Website under the Adaptive Management section of the Regional Program dropdown menu.
- FY23-24 Round 4 project Transfer Agreements and Addendum distribution began last month, and an email blast was sent out to project developers with instructions on how to use the new Transfer Agreement functionality within the Reporting Module. The module is slightly delayed as the application is just being introduced.
- USGR had one IP project submitted this year, Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project for Construction Phase. On November 27, the project received a score of 69 by the Scoring Committee. The Project met the minimum point threshold of 60 and will be presented on at the January 18, 2024 meeting.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) shall biennially prepare a SCW Program Progress Report for the Board, which includes a summary of the progress of the Regional, Municipal, and District programs. The next meeting is on December 7 at 1:00 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend virtually or in-person at Public Works headquarters to provide input. For more information please visit the ROC webpage on the SCW Program website.
- A Spatial Data Library (SDL) instructional video and PDF guide are now available on the [SCW Program website](#), under the Regional Program dropdown menu. The Spatial Data Library allows users to view public datasets related to the SCW Program.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) showed Committee Members how to navigate the SDL. The SDL contains approximately 40 layers of spatial data information relevant to multi-benefit stormwater projects. The tool displays watershed areas, catchment areas of projects previously submitted, information about the environment, parks' needs data, impaired streams, and more. Committee Members can suggest additional data to add to the Library. All the datasets included on the SDL are downloadable.

Member Diaz asked if superfund sites are included in the SDL. Antos will follow up to verify if this data can be included.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator James Cortes provided an update on recent community outreach events and community feedback. The presentation can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights include community events such as a Hahamonga Watershed Hike in Pasadena and a resource booth at the Arroyo Fest.

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Watershed Coordinator Cortes shared various questions and comments conveyed during recent engagement events, including whether the SCW Program funds “information campaigns” related to pollution prevention. Watershed Coordinator Cortes additionally highlighted several maps overlaying the distribution of projects, open channels, disadvantaged communities, parks, and soil type.

Regarding the presentation project map, member Julian Juarez asked about the area of influence within projects to discuss which areas are neglected for treating pollution and water quality, and whether projects can be differentiated by construction and design phase. Watershed Coordinator Cortes welcomed these ideas and shared a willingness to meet about improvements to the maps.

District staff noted that the amount of funding listed in the project overview table is the amount that was requested in original submittals. However, there were some cases in which projects were partially funded for a single phase, including the Fairplex project.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

6) Public Comment Period

District Staff compiled all public comment cards received by 5:00pm the day before the meeting, loaded them to the SCWP website, and displayed them on-screen.

There were no public comments.

7) Discussion Items

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

District staff shared the Quarterly Report Summary for FY22-23 Q3 and Q4. The summary table can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). District staff additionally noted that this is the first time Round 3 projects are required to submit reports and that the presentation format is changing in the future. In the Regional Program Reporting Module, project developers can toggle between scope modifications, exhibit modifications, activity concerns or activity delays (shown in red on the table).

Antos noted that the WASC is responsible for reviewing quarterly reports to monitor progress toward project completion and support funding decisions for continuing projects.

Member Drew Ready asked if the original projected start or end date is shown on the summary for Barnes Park. Antos clarified that the information is available on the module, but not shown on the report summary. District staff stated that in the future, project dates and schedule delays will be shown in project modification requests.

Member Ready pointed out that quarterly report information is self-reported, and developers may be reluctant to show project delays. Displaying the original start and end dates would be helpful for the WASC's review.

Member Diaz suggested that it would be helpful to show a percentage of completion for each project, as it is difficult to reflect project progress using only information about funding awarded and expenditures to date.

Katie Harrel (CWE) delivered an update on Barnes Park project and the exhibit modification. Since Q3, the project has gone out to bid to reward a contract for construction. The expenditures to date represent funds

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spent on the design cost of the project. District staff clarified that this bid was publicly available on the SCWP website.

Member Ready asked why there was no activity delay listed on the summary if there was a completion date modification. Harrel stated that this project reported changes in project schedule rather than activity delay, because this is the only way to fully provide a revised schedule in the module.

Member Juarez pointed out that the project is no longer in the design phase, as shown in the Q3 summary. The bid for this project was recently opened and there currently is no bidder. The project is going to a council meeting in January.

Antos clarified that quarterly reports are due 45 days after the quarter ends and there is often a lag in presenting quarterly summaries to the WASC due to the large volume of reports under review. Harrel noted that the FY23-24 Q1 report for the Barnes Park project has recently been submitted.

Chair Carver asked if project updates can be presented instead of quarterly reports. District staff noted that quarterly reporting may change based on recommendations in the Biennial Report and that future PMRs will reflect any significant project updates. Antos added that, while project updates may change in the future, the goal of reviewing quarterly reports is to understand current project needs and challenges to inform the next Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).

District staff noted that the Bassett High School Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project was projected to receive \$10M for Round 5 FY24-25. Funding has been delayed until next year, thus resulting in more WASC funding available for FY24-25.

Committee Members expressed desires for more detailed project status updates. Antos stated that the quarterly summary was designed to create a dialog around significant changes rather than a report on every detail reported in the module. Quarterly reports for each project are available online and developers are present at the WASC meeting to give a status update. District staff noted the Scientific Study (SS), Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity, and IP project, Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project, are currently scheduled to present at the next meeting. If feasible, continuing projects will be scheduled for future presentation updates.

Member Matthew Hudson suggested that developers give a brief statement on changes in project status in the WASC meeting to help facilitate a more productive discussion.

Member Diaz asked if project developers could inform the WASC if all funding allocated for the upcoming FY is anticipated to be spent, to help inform the WASC of funding allocation changes before the upcoming SIP deliberation.

Gurjot Kohli (Stantec) delivered project updates on Pedley Spreading Grounds. Kohli noted that the capture area greatly increased from 46 to 300 acres because the designers were able to capture an existing diversion and tie into it instead of creating new pipeline, which was originally proposed. A plug was removed from an existing junction structure, removing the need to install several hundred feet of pipe that was originally proposed.

Kohli stated that there is a construction delay due to CEQA issues with bird nesting. Member Diaz asked whether this should trigger an activity delay. Kohli stated that this issue will delay initial construction, but the targeted construction completion date is still on track for 2025. Kohli shared that design is completed and a submission for construction funding will be submitted next year. For FY24-25, this project is expected to receive \$26,700. Jon Ableson (Stantec) stated that all the funding has not been received for construction.

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Upon inquiry, Ableson clarified that a PMR was not submitted because the quarterly report for this period was submitted prior to the creation of the PMR form. Ableson noted that the project team can retroactively submit the PMR form if requested.

Harrel provided an update on the Wingate Park Regional EWMP Project. Harrel noted that the design was completed at the end of 2022. The project is waiting for environmental permits and the next funding installment. The project intends to begin construction once the full funding is received and permitting is complete. The project is expected to go to bid in 2024 and there is a meeting scheduled with the City of Covina in the next two weeks to finalize the date. The City of Covina requires full funding before a contractor agreement.

Member Juarez asked if there are any concerns with the funding amount. Harrel stated that the City of Covina is not planning to request any additional funds. District Staff added that the project is projected to receive \$8.58M for FY24-25.

Member Ready asked about the Fairplex project and questioned if the project is still delayed due to master planning issues. Jorge Anaya (City of Pomona) stated there has been a significant update with the concept and feasibility, so a PMR was submitted. Anaya noted that the Fairplex Association stated in a non-support letter that the project no longer aligns with the Fairplex specific plan. The project is still in review based on the land use of the entire Fairplex area. Anaya stated that the project's capture amount will remain the same, however, the location will change. Anaya expressed that Pomona is a disadvantaged community, and the City is continuing efforts to move the project further.

District staff stated that Fairplex submitted a PMR on November 29, which has not yet been reviewed. The funding amount requested may change. Initially, in Round 2 FY21-22, Fairplex applied for a design and construction funding request of over \$30M, then reduced the request for only design funding of \$2.9M. There is currently no additional funding projected for the future fiscal years. The City of Pomona is looking to submit a more cost-effective project.

Member Ready expressed interest in seeing progress of the PMR approval process in future meetings to plan for the next SIP.

District staff noted that the Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project was previously funded for design. Project developers are currently requesting construction funding for Round 5. District staff noted that the quarterly report has not yet been submitted, thus indicating an "in progress" status.

Member Juarez expressed concerns that the quarterly reports are not being submitted in a timely manner. Member Juarez commented that the WASC is missing information and projects that may have significant changes are still receiving funding. District staff stated that the District is looking to hire a consultant to help review quarterly reports and track project developers that have not yet submitted reports.

Member Michael Sledd stated that the quarterly reports for the City of Glendora should be submitted by next week and that the city is presenting the application for Finkbiner Park Stormwater Capture Project at the next meeting.

District staff noted that a PMR was submitted for Zamora Park Renovation Project on November 29. Edna Robias (Trust for Public Land) stated that there are three entities working on the project: The City of El Monte, The Trust for Public Land, and Casc Engineering & Consulting. Robias shared that there are permitting delays and the project is out to bid. A bid is expected to be awarded in December and construction is expected to start in February 2024. Robias stated that the budget was modified because the project has been awarded additional grants. There was a scope modification because a new restroom is

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being added, BMP modifications, and a gravel infiltration gallery is being removed because the historic high water level was too high for the infiltration gallery. There are other minor design scope changes that will be reflected in the PMR.

District staff added that the WASC initially allocated \$2.9M in funding to the Zamora Park Renovation Project. The total project budget is \$8M with the remaining cost covered from additional funding sources.

District staff noted that the Glendora Avenue Green Streets project quarterly report has not yet been submitted. A consultant with JMD Consulting shared that there is an internal staffing issue that has not yet been filled, thus resulting in incomplete reporting paperwork.

b) Presentations from completed Regional Program Scientific Studies **i) San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates**

Abelson and Kohli presented the SS results. The SS measured 18 geotechnical borings and observed infiltration rates to understand the feasibility of future infiltration projects. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Ready asked if this study gives insight into neighboring sites or only the park sites tested. Gurjot clarified that the study does not give exact information on neighboring sites. Park sites were chosen to align with the SCW Program's priorities. The study will assume similar soil types and groundwater levels for neighboring sites. Member Ready acknowledged that the study is most helpful for developing projects with similar land uses but hopes that the findings do not prevent the development of new infiltration sites with different land uses outside of parks.

Upon inquiry, Kohli shared that the study confirms that Marchant Park, Fairplex, and Lone Hill Park are all current project sites with favorable infiltration rates.

Watershed Coordinator Cortes asked how the data gathered compares to currently known data. Kohli clarified that this SS provides more accurate data. The study was conducted to specifically understand what sites should be prioritized in the SCW Program that are already being planned.

Member Ready asked if this study evaluated trends of watersheds that have not previously been evaluated, and commented that the lower watershed area has fewer projects. Kohli stated that the tested project sites are in areas where favorable infiltration is known. Gurjot clarified that certain areas known to have low infiltration rates were not tested because the East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Group did not prioritize these areas for new projects.

Member Juarez asked where to find the study online. District staff stated that the study will be uploaded on the SCWP website in the future.

8) Public Comment Period

Bill O'Braitis (Oneida Engineering) stated that the abridged version of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates SS is available in the quarterly reports for future studies.

Mehrad Kamalazare (Cal Poly Pomona) shared that Cal Poly Pomona will be hosting a Drywell Testing Study Workshop on December 4 at the Public Works Headquarters in Alhambra.

9) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

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10) Items for Next Agenda

a) Presentations from Regional Program Infrastructure Project and Scientific Studies submittals for FY24-25

District staff stated that the one SS and one IP project will be presented at the next meeting.

Member Ready expressed interest in evaluating the WASC budget available for the SIP and getting an update on current project delays at a future meeting.



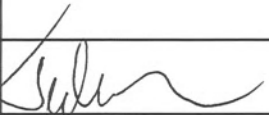



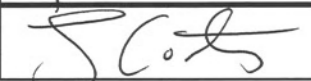
11) Adjournment

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

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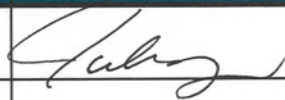
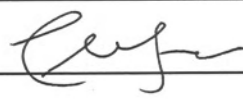



COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



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	
Mario Flores	Bradbury		A	
Paulina Morales	West Covina		P	
James Cortes Rivera	Day One			

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address		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 Zampielo	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	

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PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Mehrad	Karnalzare	Cal Poly Pomona	
William Pratt	OBZARIZ	ONVETA BSC	
Anthony	Wheeler	City of Pomona	
Gurjot	Kohli	Stantec	

Attendance
USGR WASC - November 30, 2023

Melanie Hu

Safe Clean Water LA

USGR WASC

Larry Tran

Mike Antos

Jon Abelson

Eric Bonilla - LAFCD

Ryanna Fossum Regional Coordination