

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

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Tuesday, November 14, 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)  
Francisco Guerrero, LA County Sanitation Districts (Agency)  
Stephen Scott, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation (Agency)  
Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Community)  
\*Chad Oberly, Rivers Mountains Conservancy (Community)  
Len Gorecki, Bellflower (Municipal)  
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 Members Attending Remotely

Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment (Community)  
Lisa Ann Rapp, APWA Member (Community), Vice-Chair

## Committee Members Not Present

Adam Galia, Resident (Community)  
Mike O'Grady, Cerritos (Municipal)

\*Committee Member Alternate

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.

Vice-Chair Lisa Ann Rapp and Member Gabrielle Weeks joined the meeting virtually with just cause under AB 2449.

## **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2023**

District staff presented the minutes from October 10, 2023. Member Dan Knapp motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Dan Mueller. The Committee voted to approve the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes with 13 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention (approved, see vote tracking sheet attached).

## **3) Committee Member and District Updates**

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District staff provided an update, noting:

- Community stakeholder seats are up for reappointment for the next three-year term. The next step is for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to make appointments for the next term, which may be as early as the end of the year.
- All Infrastructure Program (IP) Project Developers & 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.
- The District should be notified 14 days in advance if there are any public or media events publicizing the accomplishments of the SCW Program.
- 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.
- Project Modification Guidelines have been finalized and published under the SCW website's "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.
- FY23-24 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.
- Scoring Committee began scoring IP applications on October 23. LSGR Projects are on the Agenda for the November 27 meeting at 9:00 am.
- 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. Members of the public are welcome to attend virtually or in-person at Public Works Headquarters to provide input. The next meeting is scheduled for December 7 at 1:00pm. For more information, please visit the ROC webpage on the SCW Program website.
- A Spatial Data Library 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.

Emily Ng (Stantec, Regional Coordination) provided an update about the new Funding Memo that was provided to Committee Members. The Regional Coordination team drafted funding memos for all 20 IP Projects submitted to the SCW Program for Round 5 ahead of SIP deliberations. The memos include an overview of the Project, funding request, and two to three potential funding opportunities that align with the Project. The goal of the memos is for project proponents to review leverage funding opportunities, with support from Watershed Coordinators, and for the WASC to make informed decisions when determining funding priorities, particularly with partial funding. Partial funding agreements need to include a plan to cover funding gaps.

The Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility funding memo can be found on the [SCW Program website](#), however this project has not yet been scored by the Scoring Committee. The remaining funding memos will be shared once projects have been scored and IP project presentations are scheduled.

Vice-Chair Rapp asked if current Community Stakeholders need to inform the District if they wish to continue to serve. District staff will follow up and provide a link to Community Stakeholder Committee Members to express continued interest in serving.

#### 4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Watershed Coordinator Kekoa Anderson provided an update on recent and upcoming Educational Outreach events. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Watershed Coordinator Anderson shared a refresher on the LSGR WASC Prioritization Criteria and an overview of funded projects to date.

## 5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures.

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

## 6) Public Comment Period

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.

There were no public comments.

## 7) Discussion

### a) Project Presentations

#### i) Scientific Study – Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity

Presentation by California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Evaluation of alternative well designs, existing pre-treatment practices, maintenance intervals for maintaining stormwater drywell capacity.

Ali Sharbat (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) and Mehrad Kamalzare (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) provided an overview of the Scientific Study (SS), which identifies best practices for managing stormwater drywell capacity, including details about the purpose, timeline, and estimated budget. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). During the overview, Sharbat and Kamalzare highlighted details including the scope of work, schedule, funding requests, and a summary of benefits.

Member Knapp asked about the number of drywells needed for the study for the LSGR WASC. Sharbat confirmed that the SS plans to study two drywells for the LSGR WASC. Member Knapp also asked about the required installation timeframe for drywells to participate in the study. Sharbat said the study would require drywells that have been installed in the current or previous year.

Member Konya Vivanti asked if the Project proponents have identified well sites. Sharbat shared that the project team has not yet identified the sites and are waiting to see if neighboring WASCs will also fund the SS. Sharbat noted that the project team should know by the end of January or February which WASCs will support the study and can create a matrix afterwards to identify study sites.

Member Knapp asked if students would manage the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the drywell. Sharbat clarified that the SS plans to deploy students to the sites to collect data that will support the research, document the operations, and identify differences in the drywell contractors.

Member Chad Oberly asked if the research would be published and shared with those interested in the study's findings. Kamalzare shared that the SS plans to submit research findings to academic journals and share information conference. The study intends to contribute to academia and the goal is to promote information regarding drywell maintenance.

#### ii) Scientific Study – The Application for Innovative Technology for Microbiological Testing in the Los Cerritos Channel

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Presentation by Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. Automated Mobile Analyzers in the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed for Timely Bacterial Data, Improved Monitoring, and Faster Response Times.

Richard Watson (Richard Watson & Associates) presented on The Application for Innovative Technology for Microbiological Testing in the Los Cerritos Channel and provided an overview of the Study, cost schedule, and summary benefits of the SS. Presentation slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Watson noted the project does not yet have a lead agency, but Gateway Water Management Authority is a potential agency.

Member Oberly asked who will benefit from the SS. Watson shared that the SS intends to advance regional best practices and promote faster response times for microbiology testing. Watson also noted that there is room for future collaboration to create guidelines and EPA standards.

Member Asha Kreiling asked if the study will be used to address regulatory needs. Watson said there is a need to create standard regulations instead of the current use of fecal indicator bacteria that requires a conversion which regulators are aware of. The study also aims to provide real time data, allowing for faster response time to support decision-making.

Member Kreiling asked if the study would be used to pilot the available equipment. Watson confirmed that the equipment used in the SS is the first of its kind and other companies will be unveiling similar equipment in the near future. The SS aims to also test the equipment to ensure it meets the appropriate standards.

Member Mueller asked about the timeline of the study and Watson responded that the SS plans to study both wet and dry seasons over the course of three years.

Upon inquiry, Watson clarified that the SS has only been proposed to the LGSR watershed, but other watersheds would benefit from the study's findings.

Upon inquiry, Watson shared that the location of the SS was chosen because he serves as the consultant to the Los Cerritos Channel and understands pollution issues within the channel.

#### **iii) Infrastructure Program – Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility**

Presentation by John L. Hunter & Associates. Regional Stormwater Capture Facility at Independence Park.

John Hunter (John L. Hunter & Associates) presented on the Independence Park Runoff Capture Facility. An overview of the presentation can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Hunter noted that the project has not yet been scored by the Scoring Committee, and score confirmations are expected to occur on November 27. In addition, Hunter noted that the current request is for design only and the project plans to request construction funding in the future.

Member Knapp asked about community outreach efforts. Hunter shared that there has already been extensive community outreach, and that the addition of a pond and larger tree canopy will be beneficial to the community. Member Knapp stated that involving the community and asking what their needs are will be more beneficial than informing the community about the facility's design.

Vice-Chair Rapp asked if there is any coordination between Independence Park and the existing stormwater capture facility at Discovery Park. Hunter noted that there is not any overlap between Independence Park and Discovery Park, and the projects are not complimentary to each other. Member Mueller shared further insight about the construction of storm capture drains in the area and how neighboring communities along with Independence Park intercept a large county storm drain.

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## **8) Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment.

## **9) Voting Items**

There were no voting items.

## **10) Items for Next Agenda**

- a) Regional Program Presentations

Chair You noted that the December meeting will be cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2024.

## **11) Adjournment**

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

**LSGR WASC - November 14, 2023**

		Quorum Present				Voting Items (see meeting minutes for additional details)		
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve October 10, 2023 LSGR WASC Meeting Minutes		
Agency	FCD	CJ Caluag	x	Mark Beltran		y		
Agency	Central Basin	Alex Rojas		Madeline Chen	x	y		
Agency	Water Replenishment District	Rob Beste		Asha Kreiling	x	y		
Agency	Sanitation Districts	Francisco Guerrero	x	Alysha Chan		y		
Agency	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Stephen Scott	x			a		
Community Stakeholder	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Dan Knapp	x	Irene Lopez-Muro		y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Adam Galia		Noya Wang				
Community Stakeholder	Rivers Mountains Conservancy	Mark Stanley		Chad Oberly	x	y		
Community Stakeholder	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Gabrielle Weeks	x			y		
Community Stakeholder	Resident	Lisa Ann Rapp	x			y		
Municipal	Bellflower	Len Gorecki	x	Natalie Estrada-Rivera		a		
Municipal	Cerritos	Mike O'Grady		Sergio Huizar				
Municipal	Downey	Dan Mueller	x			y		
Municipal	Lakewood	Kelli Pickler		Konya Vivanti	x	y		
Municipal	Long Beach	Melissa You	x	Wataru Kumagai		y		
Municipal	Unincorporated	Fernando Villaluna	x	Joseph Venzon		y		
Municipal	Whittier	Vicki Smith	x	Kyle Cason		y		
Non-Voting	Watershed Coordinator	Kekoa Anderson	x	Grace Kast				
Total Non-Vacant Seats		17			Yay (Y)	13	0	0
Total Voting Members Present		15			Nay (N)	0	0	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2	0	0
Community Stakeholder		4			Total	15	0	0
Municipal		6				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ 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	<i>Francisco Guerrero</i>
Alysha Chan	Sanitation Districts	Alternate	
Stephen Scott	City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation	Primary	
Dan Knapp	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Primary	
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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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Gabrielle Weeks	Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment	Primary	
Lisa Ann Rapp	Resident	Primary	
Len Gorecki	Bellflower	Primary	
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 Beach	Alternate	
Fernando Villaluna	Los Angeles County	Primary	
Joseph Venzon	Los Angeles County	Alternate	
Vicki Smith	Whittier	Primary	
Kyle Cason	Whittier	Alternate	



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Member Name	Municipality/ Organization		Signature
Kekoa Anderson	Watershed Coordinator		
Grace Kast	Watershed Coordinator		
Traci Gleason	Watershed Coordinator		

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Richard	Watson	RWA	[REDACTED]
Emily	Ng	stantec	
Ryannd	Fossum	stantec	
Mehrad	Kamalzare	CAL POLY POMONA	[REDACTED]
John	Hunter	JLHA	[REDACTED]
Danielle	Gosman	KEI	[REDACTED]
Ali	Sharbat	cal Poly	[REDACTED]
DAN KNAPP	KNAPP	CCTB	
Dan <del>Knapp</del>	Angelescu	fluidion	[REDACTED]
Michelle	jen	— " —	[REDACTED]

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