

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)

Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, November 21, 2023
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Library Community Room
321 S. Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Agency) Vice-Chair
*Alysha Chan, LA County Sanitation District (Agency)
Brent Maue, City of Pasadena Public Works (Agency)
Mark Hall, Greater LA County Vector Control District (Community)
Edward Belden, Monrovia Resident (Community)
David Dolphin, Alhambra (Municipal)
Jalaine Verdiner, Los Angeles County
*Alex Tachiki, Monrovia (Municipal)
*James Tong, Pasadena (Municipal)
Richard Watson, Richard Watson and Associates Planning (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

*Committee Member Alternate

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society (Community)
Briget Arndell, Arcadia (Municipal)

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Agency)
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Community)
Jill Fosselman, Resident (Community)
Sal Mendez, El Monte (Municipal)
Sarah Rocha, Irwindale (Municipal)

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kelly Gardner, Vice-Chair of the Rio Hondo (RH) Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC), welcomed Committee Members and called the meeting to order. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff and Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner 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.

Members Daniel Rossman and Briget Arndell joined the meeting virtually with just cause under AB 2449.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2023

Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Member David Dolphin motioned to approve, seconded by Member Alex Tachiki. The WASC voted to approve the September 19,

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2023, meeting minutes with 9 votes in favor, 1 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 2 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- 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 module updates, 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 Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program.
- Fiscal year (FY) 23-24 Q1, Quarterly Reports from July through September are due on November 15, for Rounds 1 through 3. Projects 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 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.
- 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.
- The Scoring Committee began scoring IP applications on October 23. Rio Hondo (RH) Projects were on the Agenda for the first meeting. One project obtained a passing score, and the other has been rescheduled for scoring.
- 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.
- Under the Spatial Data Library, an 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 on Funding Memos. Funding memos are a new component for all Round 5 IP projects submitted. Emily Ng noted that more information will be shared at an upcoming meeting when project proponents present their projects to the WASC. Funding memos will also be shared with the Committee and posted on the RH WASC SCW Program website.

4) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett presented on recent activities. Presentation slides can be found on the [SCW Program website](#). Highlights include collaborating with Day One on two outreach events, the Pasadena Art Walk and Walk-tober Hike of Eaton Canyon. Watershed Coordinator Julie Millett also shared that the Scoring Committee gave a passing score to one of two Infrastructure Projects that were submitted and the South El Monte High School Stormwater Improvement Project will be rescored at the upcoming Scoring Committee Meeting on December 7. Upcoming activities include attending the [Cal Poly Pomona Drywell Testing Study Workshop](#) on December 4, and participating in Council for Watershed Health's ["Getting to Green Virtual Forum"](#) on December 6.

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Upon inquiry, Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson noted that more information regarding the Cal Poly Pomona Drywell Testing Study Workshop will be shared by the Project Proponents later in the meeting.

5) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner disclosed that the City of Alhambra and its consultant, on behalf of the Watermaster, asked Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner to provide a letter of support for the upcoming Green Street Demonstration Project on Main Street.

6) Public Comment Period

Jenny Newman [Assistant Executive Director, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board (LARWQB)] provided a Public Comment through WebEx. She reaffirmed LARWQB's commitment to participate in the SCW Program and ensure that the SCW Program implements the regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits, and associated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) permits. Jenny Newman requested WASC Members to consider the protection of water quality, MS4 permit implementation, and attainment of TMDL when reviewing and selecting projects that go into Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP). Newman noted that TMDL deadlines are coming up and requested that the District maximize funding to help municipalities comply with their permits. Jenny Newman mentioned that LARWQB staff will be tracking projects and answering questions about projects and their ability to meet the TMDL. Regarding the Watershed Coordinator updates, Jenny Newman requested that the project solicitation process should be built on previous Planning and Outreach.

7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Continue Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary FY22-23 Q3 & Q4

District staff presented the FY22-23 Regional Quarterly Report Summary (Q3-Q4) and highlighted Project Modifications.

Watershed Coordinator Watson noted that the East Los Angeles Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project was completed. District staff confirmed that the Project has been completed, noting that Operations and Maintenance (O&M) is included in the active phase list. District staff reminded the WASC that Committee Members have access to the reports and can review project's status and activities.

Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner inquired about Project Modifications, such as O&M projections, and where those changes would be noted. District staff confirmed that modifications would be noted in the Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary.

Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner requested additional information regarding the Project Modification associated with the PreSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration Project. Project proponent Brad Wardynski (Craftwater Engineering Inc., on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) replied that the schedule extension was due to a delay in funding from the District. Thus, resulting in a Modified Target Completion Date towards the end of September. Brad Wardynski mentioned that the study is complete following the final meeting with the technical advisory committee last month and can present the study at a future WASC meeting if time permits.

Following Brad Wardynski's response, Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner asked District staff why there was a delay in funding. District staff replied that delays in funding are due to missing documentation, Transfer Agreement delays, and developing the Project Module for reporting. District staff noted that the Project Module will be able to handle Transfer Agreements for future rounds.

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Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner requested additional information regarding the Project Modification associated with the Alhambra Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project. Project proponent Vik Bapna (CWE Engineering) replied that the modifications were related to Design changes. Due to audio issues related to the hybrid meeting, the WASC requested Project Proponents to send an email explanation of the Project Modifications after the meeting.

Member Daniel Rossman asked the District if it was possible to link projects directly in the Regional Program Quarterly Reporting Summary spreadsheet to make it easier to review Project Reports submissions. Member Daniel Rossman noted that the current process of searching for projects on the SCW webpage is inefficient, claiming that the project search tool lacks specificity. District staff suggested using the filtering feature on the dashboard to look up Projects and noted that a WebEx tutorial will be prepared for Committee Members.

Mike Antos (Stantec, Regional Coordination) noted that the current reporting process will soon change as a result of the Project Modification Guidelines that were recently released.

When District staff brought up the Eaton Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project, Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson pointed out that the modifications were applicable to all three of pre-SCWP “Load-Reduction-Strategies” (LRS) projects on Alhambra, Rubio, and Eaton washes, and suggested moving on rather than go more deeply into the details.

Upon inquiry, Felcia Yin (LA County Public Works) clarified that the scope modification for the Mt. Lowe Median Stormwater Capture Project is for a new schedule. LA County Public Works intends to submit a PMR form, but the Scope is the same and will continue in the Design Phase.

District staff, Watershed Coordinator Richard Watson, and Member Alex Tachiki confirmed that the majority of the Plymouth School Neighborhood Stormwater Capture Demonstration Project is completed. District staff referenced a call with the Project Developer, Claire Robinson of Amigos de Los Rios, regarding missing reports. District staff explained that the reports need to be signed by a license engineer prior to construction according to the Transfer Agreement. Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner asked if the Project was finished and if there was a timeline to deliver the reports to avoid losing funding.

District staff noted that if a project proponent fails to deliver Project Reports, this would be interpreted as a failure in Reporting Compliance under the SCW Program ordinance language and project funding could be revoked. Member David Dolphin suggested that District staff inform Project Proponents sooner to avoid noncompliance in the future. Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner asked if there was a formal document to submit to Claire Robinson or Amigos de Los Rios to highlight the risk of losing project funding. Member Alex Tachiki suggested that future correspondence with Claire Robinson should include Project Partners, including the School District and City, to help facilitate the process and assist with reporting. Mike Antos also shared that the Regional Coordination and the Watershed Coordinators could provide Claire Robinson with direct support for reporting. Member Alex Tachiki suggested engaging with Bapna for support on the Reporting Process, in addition to Design work.

Member Alex Tachiki mentioned that the Rubio Wash Dry-Weather Diversion Project Developer is now the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Watershed Management Authority. District staff will confirm that the Project Proponent is changed in the Quarterly Summary Report.

Upon inquiry, Cameron McCullough (John L. Hunter & Associates) informed the WASC that the PMR form was submitted for the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project on November 20 and the Transfer Agreement has not yet been executed. District staff noted that the Quarterly Summary Report does not currently reflect changes made after November 16. District staff also shared that the City of San Gabriel requested that the District serve the role of Project Developer for the Vincent Lugo Park Stormwater Capture Project. District staff is preparing a response to the request and therefore the Transfer Agreement has not been executed.

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b) Scientific Studies Program Presentation

i) Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Presentation by California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Ali Sharbat, PhD, PE and Mehrad Kamalzare, PhD, PE)

Ali Sharbat (Cal Poly Pomona) and Mehrad Kamalzare (Cal Poly Pomona) presented on the Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity Scientific Study (SS). Sharbat and Kamalzare provided an overview of the Study's Goals, Scope of Work, Schedule, and Funding request. The project is inviting all WASCs to participate. Slides are available on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Edward Belden asked about the number of sites for the Drywell Study in RH. Ali Sharbat confirmed that the SS plans to study two sites, with a total of 24 across all Watersheds. Member Edward Belden also asked about the sampling regime for the Drywell Study. Ali Sharbat said the study plans to install a flow meter at the identified site, work with students to collect samples after rainfall, and measure the infiltration rates using a sensor. Samples would be taken from trash and sediment to examine the correlation between sample results and long-term drywell capacity and performance. Ali Sharbat shared that a workshop will be held at the LA County Public Works headquarters in Alhambra on December 4 about a previous and related Scientific Study.

Member Alex Tachiki suggested that Ali Sharbat and Mehrad Kamalzare consider adding two more sites to obtain a larger sample. Member Alex Tachiki referenced two drywells in the City of Monrovia that have different conditions due to soil type and geographic location. Ali Sharbat noted the suggestion and will continue the conversation as the project moves forward.

Member Daniel Rossman asked how the SS will reduce groundwater contamination. Ali Sharbat responded that the SS is focused more on infiltration but would be open to examine water quality if the site owner is interested. Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner added that there are concerns around drywells regarding zinc contamination and would like to better understand pre-treatment technologies and the reasoning behind drywell placement. Ali Sharbat responded by acknowledging Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner's reservations and reiterated that water quality can be examined if the site owner is open to the partnership. Sharbat also clarified that the SS is looking at existing drywells or those that are recently funded to be installed rather than proposing to construct new drywells.

Member Brent Maue shared that the County has regulations in place for drywells, such that the bottom of the drywell shall be a minimum of 10 feet above historic high-water levels. Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner brought up that in addition to metals, superfund sites are a source of groundwater contamination.

Watershed Coordinator Watson mentioned that there could be a future project that looks at Drywell Design to address these concerns. Watershed Coordinator Watson also brought up a concern in the SCW Program regarding ongoing Maintenance and Education being limited to University Students. Watershed Coordinator Watson added that there is a need for Maintenance and General Workforce Development. Ali Sharbat responded mentioning that, Cal Poly Pomona provides a 90-hour Certificate Program open to both students and external community members.

8) Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

9) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

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10) Items for Next Agenda

a) IP project presentation and completed project presentations

Vice-Chair Kelly Gardner announced that the December WASC meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Watershed Coordinator Watson asked District staff when to expect peer reviews for SS. District staff shared that consultants will be identified by the end of the month.

11) Adjournment

Vice-Chair Gardner thanked the WASC members and the public for their attendance and participation. She then proceeded in adjourning the meeting.

RH WASC - November 21, 2023								
	Quorum Present				Voting Item			
Member Type	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 09/19/2023 Meeting Minutes			
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Jennifer Aborida		y			
Agency	Tom Love		Patty Cortez					
Agency	Kelly Gardner	X	Tony Zampielo		y			
Agency	Dave Pierce		Alysha Chan	X	a			
Agency	Brent Maue	X	Kris Markarian		y			
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong		Bryan Matsumoto					
Community Stakeholder	Jill Fosselman							
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel		y			
Community Stakeholder	Edward Belden	X			y			
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossmann	X	Liliana Griego					
Municipal Members	David Dolphin	X	Latoya Waters		y			
Municipal Members	Briget Arndell	X	Paul Cranmer					
Municipal Members	Jalaine Verdiner	X	Fernando Villaluna		y			
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington		Alex Tachiki	X	y			
Municipal Members	Sal Mendez							
Municipal Members	Dawn Petschauer		James Tong	X	y			
Municipal Members	Sarah Rocha							
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	X	Julie Millett					
Total Non-Vacant Seats	17			Yay (Y)	9	0	0	0
Total Voting Members Present	12			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0
Agency	4			Abstain (A)	1	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder	3			Total	10	0	0	0
Municipal Members	5				Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Julian Juarez	Los Angeles County Flood Control District			
Tom Love	Upper San Gabriel District			
Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin			
Dave Pierce	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts			
Brent Maue	Pasadena	bmaue@cityofpasadena		
Thomas Wong	San Gabriel Valley MWD Division 3			
Jill Fosselman	Resident			
Mark Hall	Vector Control	mhall@glacsvcd.org		
Edward Belden	Resident	ebelden@gmail.com		
Daniel Rossman	The Wilderness Society			
David Dolphin	Alhambra	ddolphin@cityofalhambr		
Briget Arndell	Arcadia			
Jalaine Verdiner	LA County Public Works	JQUINTE@publicworks.lacounty.gov		
Gloria Crudgington	Monrovia			
Sal Mendez	El Monte			
Dawn Petschauer	Pasadena			

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Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Sarah Rocha	Irwindale			
Jennifer Aborida	Los Angeles County Flood Control District			
Patty Cortez	Upper san Gabriel District			
Tony Zampielo	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster			
Alysha Chan	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	ALYSTACHAN@LACSD.ORG	A	
Kris Markarian	Pasadena			
Bryan Matsumoto	Nature For All			
Mark Daniel	Vector Control			
Liliana Griego	Friends of the Los Angeles River			
Latoya Waters	Alhambra			
Paul Cranmer	Arcadia			
Fernando Villaluna	LA County Public Works			
Alex Tachiki	Monrovia	ATACHIKI@CIS-MONROVIA.CA.US		
James Tong	Pasadena			
Richard Watson	RWA	rwatson@wapaflanning.com		

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Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	P/A	Signature
Julie Millett	RWA	jmillett@rvwoplanning		
Ryanna Fossum	Stantec			
Mike Antos	Stantec			



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
MEHRAD	KAMA/ZARE	Cal Poly Pomona	m.kamalzare@cpp.edu
Emily	Huang	Stanlec	emily.huang@stanlec.com
Emily	Ng	Stanlec Regional Coordination	
Vanessa	CAPDEN		
JANINA	PAIZA	CITY OF PASADENA	jpaiza@cityofpasadena.net