

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, December 6, 2023

2:00pm - 4:00pm

LA County Public Works Headquarters, 1st Floor (Courtyard), Conference Room C

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Paul Shadmani, LA County Flood Control District (Agency)

*Art Castro, LA Department of Water and Power (Agency)

*John Huynh, LA Department of Water and Power (Agency)

Ida Meisami-Fard, LA Sanitation & Environment (Agency)

Cathie Santo Domingo, LA Recreation & Parks (Agency)

Ernesto Pantoja, Laborers Local 300 (Community)

Max Liles, Michael Baker International (Community)

Patrick DeChellis, La Cañada Flintridge (Municipal)

Teresa Villegas, Los Angeles (Municipal), Chair

Rafael Prieto, Los Angeles (Municipal)

*Thuan Nguyen, Los Angeles County (Municipal)

Adi Liberman, Environmental Outreach Strategies (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Carlos Moran, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Kristina Kreter, Council for Watershed Health (Watershed Coordinator, non-voting member)

Committee Members Absent:

Miguel Luna, Urban Semillas (Community)

Veronica Padilla-Campos, Pacoima Beautiful (Community)

Yazdan Emrani, Glendale (Municipal)

Karo Torossian, Los Angeles (Municipal)

Kenneth Jones, San Fernando (Municipal)

*Committee Member Alternate

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

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Teresa Villegas welcomed Committee Members, called the meeting to order, and reviewed today's agenda.

Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) staff provided a brief WebEx tutorial in both English and Spanish and announced that the meeting was being broadcast live in Spanish. District staff facilitated the roll call of Committee Members, and a quorum was established.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2023

Chair Villegas motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Member Ernesto Pantoja. The WASC approved the November 1, 2023, meeting minutes with 8 members in favor, 2 in abstention, 0 opposed, and 1 absent at the time of the vote (approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

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4) Committee Member and District Updates

District staff provided an update, noting:

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Regional Program Annual Report is due December 31. Progress 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.
- The [Project Modification Request](#) (PMR) forms for the current FY were due November 30 for projects that may have to be reviewed and approved by the WASC for inclusion in the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). For modification requests that are consistent with the application, PMR forms can be submitted after the deadline. For example, for continuing projects that wish to reallocate funding during the FY24-25 SIP Program years without changing the overall SCW funding request, may submit a PMR form as soon as able for review.
- The District is currently reviewing 21 PMR forms submitted from ULAR, including 15 Infrastructure Program (IP) projects and 6 Scientific Studies (SS).
- Municipal Annual Reports are due December 31.
- The SCW Program Report Back from Supervisor Horvath's July 25 Board Motion was released on November 27. The Report Back has been prepared in parallel with the Biennial Report. The Report Back can be found on the [SCW Program website](#), under the "Resources" tab.
- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) prepared a draft Biennial Report. The Biennial Report serves as a progress report for the SCW Program, including District, Municipal, and Regional Programs. The ROC will be meeting on December 7 to vote to approve the draft report and initiate a public comment period. If the ROC approves, the public comment webpage will be accessible in the [SCW Program website](#), under the "Committees" tab. There will be 30 days to provide public comment. The Committee is welcomed to attend and provide input. More information can be found on the SCW Program website.
- The Scoring Committee scored ULAR feasibility study applications to the IP Program in November. Out of 7 projects, 5 passed scoring and the other two will be rescored on December 7. More information can be found on the [SCW Program Website](#).

Chair Villegas requested additional information regarding the two projects that will be re-scored by the Scoring Committee on December 7. District staff clarified that the two projects were deemed un-scorable during the Scoring Committee meeting in November due to missing information and were not given a score from the Scoring Committee. The two projects were given the opportunity to provide additional information to clarify their applications. The Scoring Committee will assess the additional information resubmitted at the December 7 meeting.

Upon inquiry, District staff shared plans to review all the PMR forms. District staff noted if the proposed changes in the PMR form are minor and consistent with each Project's original scope and application, then the District will approve the modifications and Project developers may implement the proposed modifications. If a PMR is inconsistent with the original scope, District staff will defer to the ULAR WASC and Committee Members will review proposed modifications. Committee Members will then determine if the Project should continue with or without the proposed modifications or must return to the Scoring Committee to be re-scored. District staff will complete a preliminary score check on inconsistent Projects. District staff will provide more information regarding the PMR form review meeting early next year before SIP deliberations.

5) Watershed Coordinator Updates

Watershed Coordinators deferred updates to the next meeting to allow sufficient time for the agenda item 7.

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6) Public Comment Period

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

Maryam Farag (Student, California Polytechnic Pomona) inquired about plans to modernize Los Angeles's 100-year-old water system infrastructure. Watershed Coordinator Carlos Moran described how getting projects funded by the SCW Program is one way that LA's water system infrastructure is being modernized and committed to following up after the meeting.

7) Presentations and Discussion Items

a) Scientific Studies (SS) Presentations ([SCW Portal](#))

i) Pollutant Source Characterization Study

Presentation by John Ball. Study will collect data to better understand pollutant sources, improve water quality model configuration, and support BMP planning.

John Ball (City of Los Angeles) presented the Pollutant Source Characterization Study. Presentation slides and more information can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Pantoja requested more information regarding the study's workforce development plans. Ball stated that a component of the study would be to start a training program or utilize other training programs. Ball noted the training and work experience would help individuals involved in the study secure full-time employment opportunities after the study has concluded.

Chair Villegas stated that the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works has been trying to streamline the workforce development process to remove barriers to full-time employment.

Member Paul Shadmani noted that it has been over 20 years since pollutant source data was collected and asked how frequently this data should be updated. Ball suggested that the part of the Pollutant Source Characterization Study that will characterize common pollutants would not need to be updated often, as the results are not expected to change drastically overtime. Additional source studies for emerging contaminants or those with new regulations would need to occur more frequently.

Member Max Liles inquired about the specific data needs of the Pollutant Source Characterization Study's model and whether the information that is currently being collected by others and in other programs meets those needs. Ball suggested that there is a large amount of runoff data, but it comes from sample points that have mixed land-use sources. Ball stated that the WMMS model uses specific land-use based data, of which there are only 19 sampling sites with only 33 data points.

Member Patrick DeChellis asked if the data collected from the Pollutant Source Characterization Study would be outdated once the study is completed. Member DeChellis also asked if it is possible shorten this timeline and/or reduce costs. Ball noted that the budget correlates with the quality of the data set and clarified that only some pollutants would require frequent updating. Ball added that the Pollutant Source Characterization Study would offer new data that would be more up to date than what is currently used.

Chair Villegas also asked if the timeline of the study could be shortened and stated that this information should be shared with Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to update and create TMDLs. Ball clarified that the Board collects data at storm drains and receiving waters, while the Pollutant Source

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Characterization Study is further upstream at the source of the pollutant. Ball emphasized that the Pollutant Source Characterization Study will be available to everyone once it is completed.

Member Thuan Nguyen asked how adaptable the Pollutant Source Characterization Study is to sudden change. Ball noted that there will be a stakeholder and technical advisory committee which will facilitate the adaptability of the study.

Ball added that the schedule for the Pollutant Source Characterization Study data collection is tight and shortening the timeline may not be possible as data collection relies on rainfall.

ii) **Street Sweeping Study**

Presentation by John Ball. Study will collect information in order to identify enhancements to the City's street sweeping program that would improve water quality.

John Ball (City of Los Angeles) presented the Street Sweeping Study. Presentation slides and more information can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Member Pantoja recounted concerns from members of the Laborers Local 300, which noted that the street sweepers did not always sweep, but the ticketer would still ticket parked cars. Member Pantoja asked how the WASC can address water quality issues when street sweeping frequency is still a recurring issue in the community and asked how to better support council districts and the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) to address this issue.

Chair Villegas responded and noted that the City of Los Angeles has assessed street sweeping and recently began sweeping streets that were not traditionally swept. Chair Villegas noted that because of this transition, streets that had been swept every two weeks, may not be serviced as frequently anymore. Chair Villegas added that street sweeping has changed over the past two years and the City is still working on how to best serve the community.

Chair Villegas also mentioned that the City offers a street sweeper program that includes classes, 1,900 hours of training, and upon graduation, trainees are offered a permanent job with the City.

Member DeChellis noted that the both the Street Sweeping Study and Pollutant Source Characterization Study seem to be connected, and inquired if both studies are necessary. Ball noted there are potential connections, but the SS are two distinct studies. The study of how quickly pollutants accumulate on road services in the Street Sweeping Study would also be helpful information for the Pollutant Source Characterization Study. Ball differentiated the studies by adding that Pollutant Source Characterization Study would examine other surfaces in addition to streets. Member DeChellis stated the Street Sweeping Study would be useful to small municipalities to determining when and where to sweep and noted the overlap of the two studies would be helpful.

Member Liles suggested the project applicants reach out to technology manufacturers for leveraged funding opportunities since the Street Sweeping Study would potentially provide direct benefits to the manufacturers. Ball noted that involving StreetsLA in the future conversations with manufacturers would be beneficial since StreetsLA purchases the street sweeping equipment.

Member Liles also requested more information regarding the hot spots that will be informed by the Street Sweeping Study. Ball noted nearby automobile yards and airport areas may be targeted as sample locations in the Street Sweeping Study to determine if hot spots require more street sweeping than other areas. Member Liles added that the Street Sweeping Study is also well-framed to address source control.

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Watershed Coordinator Moran noted that a previously funded SS, Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures, identified street sweeping as an effective control. Watershed Coordinator Moran asked if the Street Sweeping Study will collaborate with the ongoing SS. Ball noted the difference between the Street Sweeping Study and Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures by clarifying the Street Sweeping Study aims to improve street sweeping methods to maximize pollutant reduction while also pin-pointing specific locations in need of sweeping.

iii) Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity
Presentation by Dr. Ali Sharbat and Dr. Mehrad Kamalzare. Evaluation of alternative well designs, existing pre-treatment practices, maintenance intervals for maintaining stormwater drywell.

Ali Sharbat and Mehrad Kamalzare (California State Polytechnic University – Pomona) presented the “Identifying Best Practices for Maintaining Stormwater Drywell Capacity” study. Presentation slides and more information can be found on the [SCW Program website](#).

Upon inquiry, Sharbat provided more information regarding workforce development opportunities. Sharbat noted that Cal Poly Pomona offers courses directly related to stormwater projects and shared that a goal is to create a certificate program to bring technical expertise from academia to strengthen the local workforce. Sharbat noted that as a minority-serving institution, Cal Poly Pomona receives funding from the Federal government, which the SS plans on using to pay students to work on this project.

Member John Huynh asked if only five drywells will be sufficient to produce generalizable information. Sharbat clarified that other WASCs will also have sites, and if all WASCs approve the SS, there will be a total of 24 wells. Well locations and numbers are dependent on the number of WASCs that approve the SS.

Upon inquiry, Sharbat clarified that the SS does not intend to interfere with current drywell process and plans on collecting data and comparing different characteristics.

Member Shadmani asked how the SS will compare drywells when there are so many different variables. Project proponents emphasized the importance of more well locations to increase the data points and the study’s sample size. Kamalzare clarified that the SS intends to determine what variables lead to the most efficient/well-performing drywells.

Upon inquiry, Sharbat provided more details regarding quality assurance and control throughout the study. Sharbat noted that, in addition to support from the study proponents, there will be support from university administration to assist students throughout the five-year study.

Watershed Coordinator Adi Liberman asked how this SS relates to the Evaluation of Infiltration Testing Methods for Design of Stormwater Drywell Systems, the previous SS funded by the SCW Program. Sharbat noted that the previous SS evaluated different testing methods, however Operations & Maintenance (O&M) was not in the earlier study.

8) Public Comment Period

Alan Fuchs (Associate Dean, Research and Faculty Advancement, Cal Poly Pomona) provided public comment noting Cal Poly Pomona’s Civil Engineering program is largest in the nation with 16,000 students. Fuchs highlighted the accolades of the Civil Engineering program. Fuchs emphasized water treatment as a major focus for the University. Fuchs mentioned that the University has received significant federal and state funding that can be used to develop opportunities related to water treatment and design, like certificate programs and micro-internships that can further help workforce development opportunities.

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9) Voting Items

There were no voting items.

10) Items for Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2:00pm – 4:00pm. See the [SCW Program website](#) for details. Items on the agenda include Project Modification Requests (PMR) or Infrastructure Program Presentations.

11) Adjournment

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

Chair Villegas shared the upcoming in-person WASC meeting dates listed below:

- Wednesday, January 10
- Thursday, January 25
- Wednesday, February 7
- Thursday, March 21
- Wednesday, April 3
- Thursday, April 18

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		Quorum Present				Voting Items
Member Type	Position	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve November 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Agency	FCD	Paul Shadmani	x	Satenig Marjanian		Y
Agency	Water Agency	Delon Kwan		Art Castro	x	A
Agency	Groundwater / Water Agency 2	Jesus Gonzalez		John Huynh	x	Y
Agency	Sanitation	Ida Meisami-Fard	x	Alfredo Magallanes		Y
Agency	Open Space	Cathie Santo Domingo	x	Javier Solis		Y
Community Stakeholder	At Large	Ernesto Pantoja	x	Sergio Rascon		Y
Community Stakeholder	At Large	Miguel Luna				
Community Stakeholder	Environment					
Community Stakeholder	Business	Max Liles	x			Y
Community Stakeholder	EJ	Veronica Padilla-Campos		Roxy Rivas		
Municipal Members	Glendale / Pasadena	Yazdan Emrani		Kris Markarian		
Municipal Members	La Cañada Flintridge / South Pasadena	Patrick DeChellis	x	Ted Gerber		Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Teresa Villegas	x			Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Karo Torossian				
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Rafael Prieto	x			
Municipal Members	Los Angeles County	Mark Lombos		Thuan Nguyen	x	A
Municipal Members	San Fernando / Calabasas	Kenneth Jones		Alex Farassati		
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Adi Liberman	x	Arlene Guzman		
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Council for Watershed Health	Carlos Moran	x	Jason Casanova		
Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)	Council for Watershed Health	Kristina Kreter	x	Alonso Garcia		
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16			Yes (Y)	8
Total Voting Members Present		11			No (N)	0
Agency		5			Abstain (A)	2
Community Stakeholder		2			Total	10
Municipal Members		4				Approved

WebEx Webinar Attendees
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Albert Kam
Alonso CWH
Anna Philipp
Arlene
Chris Minton
Christine McLeod
Craig

Gabriela
Gus Orozco
Gus Orozco
Haris Harouny
Jason Casanova, CWH
Jeannette
Jenny Chau

M. Scaduto
Maggie Gardner
Marisela Velasquez
Mark Nguyen
Mike Antos
Mike Scaduto
Mossavi, Conor

Ryan Parks LWA
Safe Clean Water LA
Safe Clean Water LA
Safe Clean Water LA - Presenter
Sara
Seta
Susie Santilena

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Rafael Prieto	City of Los Angeles	Agency	Primary	
Roxy Rivas	Pacoima Beautiful	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Sergio Rascon	Laborers Local 300	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Satenig Marjanian	LA County Flood Control District	Agency	Alternate	
Ted Gerber	City of South Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	
Teresa Villegas	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	
Thuan Nguyen	Los Angeles County	Municipal	Alternate	
Veronica Padilla- Campos	Pacoima Beautiful	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Yazdan Emrani	City of Glendale	Municipal	Primary	


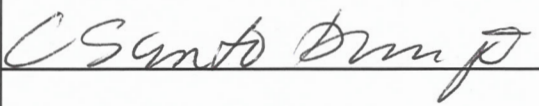

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Javier Solis	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Community Stakeholder	Alternate	
Jesus Gonzalez	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Primary	
John Huynh	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Alternate	
Karo Torossian	City of Los Angeles	Municipal	Primary	
Kenneth Jones	City of San Fernando	Municipal	Primary	
Kris Markarian	City of Pasadena	Municipal	Alternate	
Kristina Kreter	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Mark Lombos	Los Angeles County	Municipal	Primary	
Max Liles	Michael Baker International	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Miguel Luna	Urban Semillas	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Patrick DeChellis	City of La Cañada Flintridge	Municipal	Primary	
Paul Shadmani	LA County Flood Control District	Agency	Primary	

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 COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN



Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Member Type	Role	Signature
Adi Liberman	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Alex Farassati	City of Calabasas	Municipal	Alternate	
Alfredo Magallanes	LA Sanitation and Environment	Agency	Alternate	
Alonso Garcia	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Arlene Guzman	Environmental Outreach Strategies	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Art Castro	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Alternate	
Carlos Moran	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		
Cathie Santo Domingo	Los Angeles Recreation & Parks	Agency	Primary	
Delon Kwan	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Agency	Primary	
Ernesto Pantoja	Laborers Local 300	Community Stakeholder	Primary	
Ida Meisami-Fard	LA Sanitation and Environment	Agency	Primary	
Jason Casanova	Council for Watershed Health	Watershed Coordinator (Non-Voting Member)		

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 PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Jon	Ball	City of LA / LASAN	jon.ball@lacity.org
Landon	Manka	Cal Poly Pomona	lmanka@cpp.edu
Mehrad	Kamalzare	Cal Poly Pomona	mkamalzare@cpp.edu
Ehsan	Khedayari	Cal poly pomona	ehsan.k@cpp.edu
Avery	Patrick	Cal poly pomona	apatrick@cpp.edu
Ali	Sharbat	"	sharbat@cpp.edu
Alan	Fuchs	Cal Poly Pomona	afuchs@cpp.edu
ISABELLA	LAZARO	Cal Poly Pomona	ilazaro@cpp.edu
Gracel	Mutuc	Cal Poly Pomona	gmuc@cpp.edu
Isaac	Lee	Cal Poly Pomona	ileel@cpp.edu
Patrick	Nguyen	Cal Poly Pomona	patrickn@cpp.edu
Maryam	Farag	Cal Poly Pomona	mmfarag@cpp.edu
Adriana	Ortega	CWH	aortega@watershedhealth.org
Alonso	Grava	CWH	