

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

January 27, 2020

ONLINE MS TEAMS MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Frary for Mark Pestrella (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Chair, Leadership Committee

Grace Kast for Lisa Rapp (Gateway Water Management Authority)
Chair, Lower SG/LLA River Sub-region

Esther Rojas for Robb Whitaker (Water Replenishment District)
Vice-Chair, Lower San Gabriel River and Lower Los Angeles River Subregion

Dave Pedersen (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)
Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Sub-region

David Rydman (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Vice-Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Sub-region

Tammy Hierlihy for E.J. Caldwell (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Chair, South Bay Sub-region

Art Castro, for Martin Adams (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power)
Chair, Upper Los Angeles Sub-region

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster)
Chair, Upper San Gabriel Sub-region

Randy Schoellerman (San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority)
Vice-Chair, Upper San Gabriel Subregion

Sharon Green for Robert Ferrante (Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County)
Sanitation Water Management Area

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Anthony Nercessian, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Evelyn Charming, Sierra Club

Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Kimberly Henry, Wood PLC

Iraj Nasser, Los Angeles County Public Works

Ken Zimmer, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Lynn Rodriguez, Watershed Coalition of Ventura County

Margarit Movsesian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Maria Kennedy (Guest)

Mary Zauner, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

Matt Romero, (Guest)

Nelly Antabian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Persephene St. Charles (Guest)

Peter Massey, TreePeople

Sarah Ahmed, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Matthew Frary, who served as the Chair.

1. Introductions

Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, acknowledged COVID-19 related challenges and the ongoing efforts throughout Los Angeles County, and reminded the group that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of preparing the meeting minutes. The chair reviewed the protocols and features for conducting the meeting in the MS Teams platform.

2. Roll Call

Chair called on staff, Margarit Movsesian, to conduct roll. The list of attendees was reviewed to confirm a quorum was present.

3. Approval of November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair called for a motion to approve the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Sharon Green requested that meeting minutes be corrected to replace Grace Hyde with Robert Ferrante. Grace Kast also noted a misspelling of Esther Rojas' name to also be corrected. Grace Kast moved for a motion to approve the minutes with these changes. Tammy Hierlihy abstained on behalf of E.J. Caldwell (WBMWD). Anthony Nercessian abstained on behalf of Art Castro (LADWP), who joined the meeting later. Sharon Green seconded motion. No objections. Motion was approved.

4. New Business

A. Presentation – Public Works Post-Wildfire Response (LACFCD)

Chair introduced LACFCD's role in managing post fire debris flows during storm season, acknowledging this is just one of the many ways the LACFCD acts to mitigate risk to the community from storm events and how fires, mitigation, and prevention affect the regional management of water resources and project development.

Chair called on Ken Zimmer, LACFCD, to present.

Ken Zimmer used the Bobcat Fire as an example, illustrating the various services Los Angeles County Public Works (PW) has provided in response to wildfire aftermaths. PW conducts field reconnaissance and notifies residents of anticipated impacts to properties, including the potential for evacuation during upcoming storms. They have created interactive debris flow maps which can be accessed on the web portal. PW also provides post fire engineering advice. In approximately 4 weeks, they visited approximately 151 properties to provide advice to those impacted. They also developed an Engineering Advice Packet for the residents. Ken also provided information on additional interim post-fire measures they have taken, including: Rail and timber structures, K-rails, and interlocking blocks, which are designed to allow water flow, while blocking mud and debris flow. On the webpage, under emergency management, viewers can access PW disaster resources, including debris and rain forecast. The website also provides briefings on past fires, damage done, and what to expect. During larger storms, Unified Command is set up with Law Enforcement, the Fire Department, and Public Works agencies.

Chair solicited questions, comments, and discussion.

B. Prop 1, Round 1 GLAC Grant Application and Final Awards

Chair called on Amanda Guzman Perez to give a summary on the GLAC Grant Application and Final Awards.

Amanda reminded committee members that the final list of GLAC IRWM Prop 1 Round 1 Projects that were submitted to DWR was attached to the email invitation to the meeting. The list identified all projects that were “placeholder” projects due to incomplete documentation. All available documentation, as provided by the LPS, was submitted to DWR by December 4, 2020. LACFCD is awaiting DWR’s feedback and notification of any required follow-up. After providing any additional information requested by DWR, staff will then proceed with execution of the grant agreement.

Placeholder projects will have 18 months from the September 23, 2020 final award date (estimated date - March 22, 2022) to submit the remaining CEQA and permit documents. Projects that submit the documents by the required due date, will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement via amendment. DWR will consider up to 2 amendments to include the placeholder projects that have met the requirements. Placeholder projects that do not meet the requirements will not be eligible to receive the grant funds, the amount allocated to these projects will be forfeited under Round 1 and transferred to the Round 2 PSP (for the entire LA-Ventura Funding Area).

LACFCD currently anticipates submitting the 2 allowed grant amendment requests (with the appropriate documentation from each LPS) for any placeholder projects that are ready at two key strategic points:

Amendment 1: October 2021
Amendment 2: March 2022

LACFCD will coordinate with each LPS to include those that are ready and is requesting that each LPS perform due diligence to align with these deadlines and thereby avoid surrendering the associated funds.

Chair initiated questions and comments session.

Dave Pedersen asked whether there is an opportunity to advocate for unused “placeholder” project funds to be reallocated to other accepted projects within the GLAC Region, instead of forfeiting those funds to Prop 1, Round 2 PSP (for entire LA-Ventura Funding Area).

Sharon Green also added that it would be worth exploring this action item, bringing it up with Roundtable of Regions to see if there is a consensus or alternative approaches to DWR’s suggested reallocation approach.

Chair mentioned that LACFCD could advocate for Dave’s suggestions, though there are no guarantees DWR will accept the proposed reallocation. Amanda will present these questions to DWR during their next scheduled meeting.

C. Renewal of GLAC IRWM Regional Water Management Group MOU

Chair reminded the committee that the current agreement that establishes this group and its associated operating guidelines expired at the end of 2020, and the Committee moved to renew with certain minor edits in November

Chair called on Amanda Guzman Perez to give a brief status.

LACFCD incorporated the minor updates to the MOU per the Committee's direction in November and has been facilitating the execution of the revised agreement. The final version was distributed to Leadership Committee members for execution on November 30, 2020.

As a reminder, it was agreed that the revised MOU will be effective on the date the majority of members (i.e., at least 9) have signed the MOU. To date, only 8 members have signed. Reportedly, the next MOU to be submitted is expected on February 18, 2021.

5. Old Business

A. Summary of Current Grants/Key Updates (Prop 84 Rounds 1 – 4)

Chair called on Amanda Guzman-Perez to provide updates. She reminded the committee that the Project Status Report is provided to the steering committees each month, upon request, and that input on the report information is always welcomed. Key updates on the Prop 84 grants included:

i. Round 1:

Project 4 - Project 4- Penmar, LASAN has requested a grant extension to complete Phase III. Current grant deadline is June 2021. Staff is currently working on this request with DWR to extend deadline to June 2022.

ii. Round 2 Amendment 4:

The formal modification was submitted to DWR in December. Amendment included:

Project 4 – Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds West Basin Percolation Enhancements Project to request budget modification to fully expend grant funds.

Project 8 – Peck Water Conservation Improvement Project - Staff followed up on DWR's request for a new project to ensure funding is best applied to benefit the region. DWR gave its preliminary approval for the new Multi-Benefit Water Conservation Project. The project combines the completion of the City of Los Angeles's Vermont Avenue Stormwater Capture and Green Street Project (Project 12) and installation of rubber dams along the San Gabriel River and Ben Lomond Spreading Grounds by LACFCD.

Grant End Date - June 30, 2022.

iii. Round 3: Remaining active projects are on schedule.

iv. Round 4 Amendment 3:

LACFCD staff are working to amend 11 projects out of the 19 in this round. At the November meeting, there were only 2 known needs, which had also been broached with DWR. Now, there are 11 Local Project Sponsors proposing changes to their respective project schedules to reflect the additional time needed to complete the construction and postconstruction activities, including the preparation and submission of the Project-Completion-Report. Much of this is believed to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project 19 is requesting a change in the scope of work, in addition to a change in their schedule. Preliminary coordination has been initiated with DWR. However, as of today LACFCD staff have not yet received any comments from DWR. Once comments are received, they will be will shared at the next Leadership Committee meeting.

Below are the 11 projects with their proposed project end dates, ranging from 9/2021 to 6/2024. Currently, the grant agreement end date is 3/2021;

- 1) Advance Water Meter Replacement (Project 1) - 12/2021
- 2) Southeast Water Efficiency Program (Project 2) - 9/2022
- 3) Comprehensive Water Conservation (Project 6) - 9/2021
- 4) Las Virgenes-Colleaguas MWD's Interconnection (Project 7) - 9/2023
- 5) North Torrance Well Field-Phase III (Project 11) - 9/2021
- 6) Recycled Water Supply for Palos Verdes Golf Course (Project 12) - 12/2022
- 7) Water LA Neighborhood Retrofits N. San Fernando Valley (Project 14) - To be determined
- 8) Hoover, Toll, and Keppel School Recycled Water (Project 15) - 3/2023
- 9) Lopez Spreading Grounds Improvement (Project 16) - 6/2024
- 10) Centralized Groundwater Treatment System (Project 18) - 3/2022
- 11) Big Dalton Spreading Grounds Improvement (Project 19) – 10/2023. The change in the project's scope of work from the original design of a diversion and rubber dam system to the existing PM-26 interconnection to the Big Dalton Spreading Grounds. This new waterline would make the best use of the increase water capacity and give more operational flexibility to the project

Round 4 Project 14 Status: All work on the project has stopped due to a stated lack of funding. Letters were sent to The River Project requesting information on how it will proceed with the successful implementation of the project. Unfortunately, The River Project did not respond to the request. LACFCD is still working to solidify next steps to complete the work in compliance with grant scope, including assuming the role as the LPS.

Chair initiated questions and comments session.

B. Prop 1 DACIP and GLAC DAC Committee

Chair acknowledged and thanked WBMWD for their commitment to extend their own support in alignment with the recent DACIP amendment through the end of 2022. Chair called on Grace Kast for a report on DACIP.

Grace also thanked WBMWD for their continued commitment and reported that Task Order 3, Needs Assessment remains in the data collection phase. Consultants have completed 21 out of the 25 institutional interviews. Community surveys will be collected through March 2021. Those surveys are available on the WaterTalks website (www.watertalks.csusb.edu) and all DAC members and agency employees are encouraged to participate in the survey.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 social distancing orders, all in-person community outreach and engagement is still postponed. All three regions continue to use virtual events and webinars to engage the communities, where appropriate.

The DACIP Task Force continues to convene on a regular basis to advance the effort and address contractual issues. The next TF meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021. Among the agenda items is finalizing the final Task 4 Project Development Scope of Work, for RFP release.

The DACIP Grant Amendment was approved by DWR in December. Amendment includes: Grant Extension through December 31, 2022; schedule adjustments to account for COVID-19 related delays, Budget reallocations between tasks. The Task Force is looking into working with the LC to submit a formal letter to DWR, requesting the delay in release of Prop 1, Round 2 PSP.

The next GLAC DAC Committee Meeting is today at noon. All sub-region representatives are encouraged to attend.

C. Prop 1 – Implementation Round 1 Allocations and Comments

Chair acknowledged this as a placeholder for future Prop 1, Round 1 status updates, as this item has previously been discussed today.

D. Update on WaterForLA

Chair called on Sarah Ahmed to provide the update.

LA County Public Works' Water for LA program launched a campaign focused on stormwater and urban runoff pollution prevention. The theme of the campaign is "Don't Waste Beautiful" and aims to invoke a sense of civic pride among LA County residents to keep LA County waste-free. Campaign advertisements began running this week (1/25) and continue through mid-April. The campaign includes English & Spanish print ads, digital ads (including YouTube and social media), radio ads, bus ads, and email newsletters. LA County also partnered with the Dodgers to extend campaign advertisements on Dodgers radio and iHeart Media stations. The Dodgers will also air TV ads during Dodgers games across LA County. These additional ads will run through the end of October 2021.

E. Update on Safe, Clean Water Program

Chair provided an update on the SCWP. The template agreements for the Municipal Program were approved last summer. Since then, the District has distributed and helped in executing them. This includes the annual plans for each of the municipalities and how they intend to spend their local returns. The annual plans for each of the municipalities will be posted online, as early as next week. Stakeholders and others who are interested are encouraged to become more familiar with the municipalities' annual plans, to continue to create partnerships and further develop IRWM relationships and projects. Regional transfer agreements are also in progress. The County Board of Supervisors approved the regional expenditures in October. The refined scope of work for all the regional projects must be submitted before disbursement of funds, and those will also be available on the website, once ready. Most of the committees are now going through the process of receiving presentations and advancing discussions on the best use of funds for next suite of projects, programs, and studies. The selections of watershed coordinators are being finalized. Chair encouraged everyone on the call to get to know the watershed coordinators and think through IRWM lens on how to leverage this new resource across the region.. There will be a meeting with the Regional Oversight Committee tomorrow at 9:00 a.m., which will focus on two of the current hot topics, including water supply and how it is treated, and nature-based solutions and prioritization. The web portal provides information on what has been approved, and what is submitted for consideration, and is a great resource showing activity across the region and demonstrating the significant ongoing need for IRWM-type projects.

F. County Water Plan Update

Chair provided an update on the County Water Plan. As discussed in the last LC meeting, Phase 1 was recently initiated and focuses on early research, early scoping, early planning, and crafting the framework for engagement related to plan development. Phase 2, which includes stakeholder engagement, is expected to begin in February. LACFCD still plans to utilize the IRWM regions as a primary platform for engagement and input, and the consultant will likely be reaching out to the GLAC subregions in the next couple months.

6. Standing Committee Reports

A. Steering Committees

Chair called on each subregion chair/vice-chair to provide updates.

- NSMB – Dave Pederson reported that a meeting was held on December 1st. They discussed and received update on City of Agoura Hills County Yard project. The project proponents provided an update on scope changes, and the sub-region approved the project, as revised.
- South Bay – No representative present.
- ULAR – Anthony Nercessian reported that the committee held a meeting yesterday. TreePeople gave a presentation on WaterTalks, and LAUSD presented on the North Hollywood High School Stormwater project.
- USGRHR – Kelly Gardner reported that they did not have a formal meeting. However, they conducted an email vote to reappoint Randy Schoellerman as Vice-chair for the steering committee.
- LSGLAR – Grace Kast reported that no meetings were held recently. However, they did get a project submitted through OPTI.

B. Water Management Area Representatives

Chair called on each area representative to provide updates.

- Groundwater – Kelly Gardner reported that key well did dip below their operating range. They continue to receive cyclic deliveries of imported water and recently had a meeting with County representatives regarding the emergency clean out projects in the canyons.
- Open Space – No representative present.
- Sanitation – Sharon Green reported no updates this month.
- Stormwater – No representative present.
- Surface Water – New representative still to be selected.
- Stormwater Capture – Giles Coon reported the total rainfall to date in downtown LA: 2.05 in. Currently in drought conditions. Total stormwater capture to date: 12,900 AF.

C. Legislative Committee

Chair called on E.J. Caldwell or alternate to provide an update.

E.J. Caldwell was unable to attend meeting, Tammy Hierlihy did not have any updates on his behalf. Sharon Green reminded the LC that legislature is back in session. A resources and climate resiliency

related bond measure (SB 45) was introduced by Senator Portantino. There may also be an assembly vehicle introduced by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia.

7. Public Comment

Chair solicited any public comments and asked staff to check chat box and call-ins.

8. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items

Chair invited members to share ideas for future agenda items.

Dave Rydman suggested that the GLAC LC meetings be sent as calendar invites in the future. Evelyn Charming mentioned that she would like to see more representation from Indigenous community stakeholders.

9. Next Meeting

Chair announced that the next meeting will be held March 24, 2021, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., likely on MS Teams.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

DRAFT