

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
November 18, 2020  
ONLINE MS TEAMS MEETING**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dan Lafferty 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

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

Guangyu Wang (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission)  
Open Space Water Management Area

Sharon Green for Grace Hyde (Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County)  
Sanitation Water Management Area

Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin Management Board)  
Groundwater Management Area

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Chris (Guest)

Charming E. (Guest)

Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Margarit Movsesian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Matthew Frary, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Nelly Antabian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Peter Massey, TreePeople

Stephen Ceasar, TreePeople

(plus 12 additional unidentified attendees)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Dan Lafferty, 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 Meeting 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 September 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Chair called for a motion to approve the September 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Dave Pedersen moved for a motion to approve the minutes. Grace Kast requested to modify meeting minutes to include a prior recommendation made by Lisa Rapp to include an ongoing agenda item that provides status reports of reimbursements. Grace Kast seconded the motion with her suggested modifications. Chair asked Margarit Movsesian to conduct roll vote for approval. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

## **4. New Business**

### **A. Presentation – Successful DACIP Community Engagement During COVID-19 (TreePeople)**

Chair introduced Peter Massey from TreePeople, to present on the DACIP initiative, highlighting the significance of this regional effort, and acknowledging TreePeople's efforts in overcoming challenges during COVID-19 social distancing orders.

Peter Massey and Stephen Ceasar presented on the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement program, which is funded by Proposition 1, and managed by the California Department of Water Resources. Within the LA-Ventura funding area, the program is also known as WaterTalks. Tree People is the lead consultant tasked with implementing the program within the GLAC Region. This program involves four major phases, including community engagement, needs assessment, a second wave of engagement with findings shared with communities, and project development. The GLAC region is expected to reach out to over 100 communities during the Needs Assessment phase. TreePeople is working with various NGOs to conduct the very challenging task of outreach among the 107 diverse disadvantaged communities within Los Angeles. Prior to COVID-19, TreePeople was very successful in engaging communities through creative methods including bike rides and community clean-ups, while emphasizing the importance of water related issues and advocating for water related investments within their communities. However, since COVID-19, TreePeople was forced to shut down all in person meetings and switch to virtual forms of engagement. Due to various impediments such as the digital divide, online learning curves, and meeting fatigue, virtual engagement can sometimes prove to be less fruitful. Since COVID-19 NGO and community focus has shifted resources to prioritizing immediate needs. Peter Massey further explained how the program had shifted from the original methods of data collection, to the COVID-19 approaches (e.g., digital listening sessions, phone banking, paper surveys). They have discovered two elements that were critical in making the engagement and data collection work: 1) introducing incentives to join meetings; and 2) allowing more time to continue future meetings. NGO partners have expressed the importance of not rushing the engagement and data collection process and taking the time necessary to carry out the engagement and needs assessment tasks correctly. This approach will advance the effort in a meaningful manner that will fulfill the intention of the project while remaining mindful of the current needs of the communities that are not related to water. A current revised timeline is under review by DWR.

The Chair solicited questions and comments. Grace Kast expressed her appreciation to TreePeople and the team for their ongoing efforts during this challenging time. Guangyu Wang inquired about

the current and revised timeline of the program. Grace Kast indicated that the Needs Assessment data collection phase was originally to be completed by December 2020, but is now anticipated for Spring 2021. The requested Grant extension date is to December 31, 2022. Grace will provide more information during her DACIP update. Guangyu also inquired about the list of NGOs involved in the DACIP efforts, and whether there are any organizations conducting outreach in the San Gabriel Valley, within the Asian communities. Peter mentioned the primary group reaching out to communities within San Gabriel Valley is Active SGV. TreePeople is always open to organizations, schools, churches, and other groups joining the efforts. They are also working on additional WaterTalks material, which will be translated into Korean and Cantonese.

**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 provided a summary of the negotiations with DWR over the final award amount. In late September 2020, DWR announced the Round 1 Final Awards on their website. DWR sent the official award notification in October 2020. The award was accepted, and because the funding amount was less than the original request, sub-region representatives approved the option to apply a proportional cut to all sub-region allocations. Amanda provided a brief recap of the resulting sub-region project selection process and final project list for the GLAC IRWM region. All the final required documents for the 15 selected projects will be submitted to DWR by December 3, 2020. The MOU between LACFCD and the LPSs will be drafted and sent to DWR upon approval of all previously submitted documents. Chair opened the floor to questions and discussion. Chair called for a motion to approve submitting the proposed GLAC IRWM Prop 1, Round 1 project list and support documents to DWR. Grace Kast moved to approve; Kelly Gardner seconded the motion; Margarit conducted a roll call vote; motion was approved.

**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 is set to expire at the end of 2020. At the September meeting, the Leadership Committee desired to achieve consensus for minor updates at this November meeting in hope to advance execution of this agreement. As promised, LACFCD staff distributed the latest MOU to the LC for review in advance, received and compiled comments, and then distributed the proposed agreement showing redlines. If agreed today, the final clean version will be distributed for execution shortly. Chair called on Amanda to discuss the MOU review and comment process. Chair facilitated discussion, noting that most changes were minor but one element to perhaps discuss is whether the group wanted to take positions/advocate regarding legislation. Chair called on a motion to set conditions for MOU effective date and duration. Grace Kast moved to set effective date upon approval by a simple majority of the LC, and termination date to be 5 years from that date; Sharon Green seconded the motion; Chair called for a vote by exception; no oppositions/abstentions; motion was approved. Giles Coon clarified previous reasoning for the inclusion of the legislative portion of the MOU, and suggested removing it at this juncture. Chair called on a motion to strike provision that LC will take positions on pending legislation; Ester Rojas moved to strike; Guangyu Wang seconded the motion; Chair called for a vote by exception; no oppositions/abstentions; motion was approved. Chair called for motion to approve the revised MOU and distribute for signatures; Sharon Green moved to approve and distribute; Grace Kast seconded the motion; Chair called for a vote by exception; no oppositions/abstentions; motion was approved. Giles commented that MOU modifications will be sent out by the end of the month and requested that members provide information for the signature pages as soon as possible to ensure information is correct and submitted in a timely manner.

## 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 - 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:

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.

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

#### iv. Round 4 Amendment 3:

Project 2: Southeast Water Efficiency Program – Requesting an 18 months extension to the grant agreement to complete the project on September 30, 2022, due to public facility closures that have restrained access to perform additional water use audits and device retrofits – Currently the grant end date is March 31, 2021. DWR made no promises to the extension request, but under the circumstances DWR said that it sounds reasonable.

Project 16: Lopez Spreading Grounds Improvement (LACFCD) – Requesting a 39 months extension to the grant agreement to complete the project on June 30, 2024, due to earlier schedule delays to the Pacoima Spreading Grounds Enhancement Project (P84 RD2), which operate within the same watershed and flood control system as Lopez Spreading Ground. The current grant end date is March 31, 2021.

#### v. 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 working to solidify next steps to complete the work in compliance with grant scope, including assuming the role as the LPS.

Chair solicited questions and comments. Ester Rojas requested an email copy of the summary. Grace Kast inquired whether Project 1 will be included in the Round 4 Amendment request. She is not certain whether a formal request had been submitted to LACFCD yet, but indicated an extension will be necessary. Amanda and Grace will schedule to discuss the request.

## B. Prop 1 DACIP and GLAC DAC Committee

Chair called on Grace Kast to report on DACIP.

Grace reported that Task Order 3, Needs Assessment is in data collection phase, which has been hampered due to COVID-19, as previously mentioned. Online surveys are available for institutions and communities at WaterTalks website through the end of March 2021. All DAC members and agency employees are encouraged to participate in the survey. Consultants will also be mailing newsletters, which will include surveys to be completed and returned through March deadline.

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), in coordination with the Local Government Commission and DWR, hosted the 2020 Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Lessons Learned Summit in October. TreePeople and NGO partners were among the panelists presenting during the Summit.

The DACIP Task Force continues to convene on a regular basis, more so in the recent months, due to contractual issues, which include consultant CSU and WestBasin's pending contract amendment, COVID-19 related delays as discussed previously, and grant timeline extension implications. The current grant terminates December 31, 2020. The amendment seeks an extension through December 31, 2022, in order to collect meaningful data from communities, and allow enough time to identify and prepare projects within the Project Development stage. LACFCD staff is finalizing the formal request, which will be submitted to DWR by November 25, 2020.

DWR has indicated that the Prop1 Round 2 PSP is scheduled for release sometime in Fall of 2021. Having the DACIP projects ready when the Round 2 PSP is released is one of the main reasons why this program exists. Given the amendment seeks to extend the DACIP grant to December 2022, this may warrant submitting a letter to DWR requesting the delay of the Prop 1 Round 2 PSP, to ensure that DAC projects are identified and ready when Round 2 PSP is released. While DWR has not committed to delaying the release of the PSP, they have appeared receptive to the submittal of a letter request seeking additional time to allow for the proper preparation of projects for Round 2. LACFCD staff and the TF will be monitoring progress of the current engagement and needs assessment activities, and revisit the need to submit the letter in the upcoming months.

The next GLAC DAC Committee Meeting has tentatively been scheduled for December 16, 2020.

## C. Prop 1 – Implementation Round 1 Allocations and Comments

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

## D. Update on WaterForLA

Chair called on Matt Frary to provide the update.

Matt acknowledged a new WaterForLA lead within PW – Nicole Englund – and that he would be presenting on her behalf due to a conflict today. Matt shared the new WaterForLA campaign, “Don’t Waste Beautiful”. The campaign will focus on stormwater quality and urban runoff pollution

prevention. The campaign will run from January – March 2021. The focus will be primarily on litter & trash (including pet waste), but will also provide information and resources for other common pollutants such as pesticides, metals, paints, etc. The campaign will utilize print ads, digital ads, radio ads, and branded giveaways. Print materials and digital ads are currently available in English and Spanish. Future ideas are still being solicited and considered.

#### E. Update on Safe, Clean Water Program

Chair called on Matt Frary to provide the SCWP update.

Matt reported that the “Projects Portal” is now live on the SCWP website. This feature provides a graphic and interactive representation of projects that have been both approved during Year 1 as well as submitted through most recent call for projects. The Board approved the first set of stormwater investment plans on October 13, 2020. Approximately \$100 million was budgeted for the first year. Since the approval, transfer agreements have been sent to the recipients of the region funds. Municipal agreements were distributed in the Summer of 2020. Municipalities that have executed agreements and submitted all required materials have been receiving SCWP funds for the past month or so. The annual plans for expenditures will be available on the SCWP website. The second regional Call for Projects closed on October 15, 2020. The Regional Oversight Committee began meeting again and Watershed Area Steering Committees will be selecting their watershed coordinators prior to providing recommendations on the next set of investments.

There is additional guidance related to implementation of the program in development, which is expected to be released next year. There will be clarifications on definitions, and how to interpret and apply certain complex requirements within the SCWP structure.

The WHAM Committee has continued to convene to look at broader Countywide issues, in addition to focusing on each of the individual initiatives. They are currently looking at what can be done with the resources that are available, and communications between each of those initiatives is ongoing.

Grace Kast asked for clarification on when the Municipal Expenditure Plans will be posted and whether it would be posted upon County approval. Matt clarified that the County does not approve the plans, but instead reviews and makes sure that the plans are complete. Templates from those that have already submitted are available now. They anticipate having the plans posted early 2021. To date, approximately 9 Municipal Transfer Agreements have been executed, and approximately 40 annual plans have been received.

#### F. County Water Plan Update

Chair provided the County Water Plan update. As discussed during 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 the beginning of the new year.

### 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 in October. They discuss funding recommendations for Prop 1 Round 1. The City of Calabasas gave a presentation on a new project that was approved for inclusion in OPTI database.
- South Bay – E.J. Caldwell reported that no meeting was held.
- ULAR – No representative present
- USGRHR – Kelly Gardner reported that they will be meeting this month. No meetings have been held for the past few months. Applications will be reviewed during the next meeting for projects being submitted to SCWP.
- LSGLAR – Grace Kast reported that no meetings were held the last few months. They will be meeting in new year. She received a request from MWD on how to submit the Carson Project, and it was determined that they should submit through South Bay sub-region.

## B. Water Management Area Representatives

Chair called on each area representative to provide updates.

- Groundwater – Tony Zampielo reported that the last key well reading was at 199.9 above mean sea level. Last year's total production was approx. 190,000 AF. This year was approx. 192,500 AF.
- Open Space – Guangyu Wang reported no updates this month.
- 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: 0.05 in. Total stormwater capture: 170,000 AF.

## C. Legislative Committee

Chair called on E.J. Caldwell to give an update.

E.J. Caldwell reported there was no update. Legislative Committee will reconvene in January.

## 7. Public Comment

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

Giles Coon noted a roll call vote was conducted accepting the submittal of projects for Prop 1 Round 1, for which Dave Pederson was not present, and asked if his vote can be added. Dave Pederson voted in favor of the motion.

## 8. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items

Chair invited members to share ideas for future agenda items.

Grace Kast reminded the committee of Lisa Rapp's previous request to include regular updates on project reimbursements status as an agenda item. Committee members discussed appropriate ways in which the project reimbursement status may be presented for future LC meetings. An agenda item will be included for the next meeting, and Chair recommended that LACFCD staff work to coordinate with Grace Kast and Lisa Rapp to figure out the content of the agenda item.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Chair announced that the next meeting will be held January 27, 2021, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., MS Teams.

## **10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

DRAFT