

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
October 23, 2019  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Keith Lilley for Mark Pestrella (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Chair, Leadership Committee

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

Alex Heidi for EJ Caldwell, (West Basin Municipal Water District)  
Chair, South Bay Sub-region

Ashkan Motamedi for David Rydman (Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts)  
Vice-Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Sub-region

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

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

Grace Chan for (Metropolitan Water District)  
Surface Water, Water Management Area

Wang Guangyou (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission)  
Open Spaces, Water Management Area

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

Grace Kast for Lisa Rapp (Gateway Water Management Authority)  
Chair, Lower San Gabriel River and Lower Los Angeles River Subregion

Kelly Gardner Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster  
Chair, Upper San Gabriel Subregion

Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin Management Board)  
Groundwater, Water Management Area

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Anthony Nercessian, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Brent Robinson, U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris

Carlos Moran, TreePeople

Chris Rapp, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Jolene Guerrero, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Josh Svensson, Los Angeles County Public Works

Kimberly Henry, Wood Environment

Margarit Movsesian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Mary Zauner, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

Matt Hacker, Metropolitan Water District

Matthew Frary, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Nelly Antabian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Public Works

Stephen Ceasar, TreePeople  
Tammy Hierlihy, Central Basin MWD  
Virginia Maloles-Fowler, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Keith Lilley, who served as the Chair.

### **1. Introductions**

Chair, Leadership Committee members, staff, and public present introduced themselves.

### **2. Approval of August 28, 2019 Meeting Notes**

Motion was made by Randy Schoellerman and seconded by Grace Kast. No abstentions. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **3. New Business**

#### **A. Presentation- Metropolitan Water District's Regional Recycled Water Program**

Matt Hacker shared information on Metropolitan's ground breaking Regional Recycled Water Program. The primary purpose of the water program is to replenish groundwater basins within LA County and Orange County, provide water to water industries, and ultimately connect to Metro's water treatment plants. In 2009, the initial technical studies were conducted., followed by a 2-year pilot study on treatment feasibility in 2010. In 2015, conducted a program feasibility study to determine whether they can treat the water, and the conceptual planning and engineering studies were completed.

The main backbone system will be from the JWPCP 150-mgp AWT Pump station through to Santa Fe Spreading grounds. There are also additional basin options, which can extend to West Coast Basin, to Orange County Spreading grounds, and Weymouth Water Treatment Plant. The first phase of the project will involve MBR, which will have the aerobic and anoxic tanks and membrane modules and will effectively removes pathogens and nitrogen from water source, minimizes RO degrading, and is cost efficient. The next phase of project will use reverse osmosis and the final phase will be UV disinfection/Advance Oxidation.

The total cost is estimated at \$3.4 billion, which will include all new facilities, 150-mgd AWT plant, 60 miles of pipeline and 2 pump stations. The annual cost amounts to \$129 million a year. Program benefits include: preparing the Southland for earthquake catastrophes by increasing local water supply, producing drought proof source of water, replenishing groundwater basins, and will use the regions largest untapped source of wastewater.

Staff is working on Letters of Intent and MOUs for member agencies to agree to "Take or Pay" contracts. Groundwater managers include" Main San Gabriel Watermaster, WRD, OCWD. Other partners include LACSD LACDPW and LADWP. A series of workshops will be conducted to present the Implementation and DPR consideration followed by a second workshop in January 2020, which will cover planning, agreements, and financial considerations, and finally, will submit letter for Board Action. The site is open for tours and outreach.

## B. Presentation – LADWP’s Hyperion Reuse and Water Resilience Program

Chris Repp shared information on the Program to address challenges in water supply demand. LA water supply comes from the Delta, Colorado River, and Los Angeles Aqueducts (LAA). There are a lot of challenges and threats to the Delta supply. LADWP’s goal is to start using more of their local water supplies. Due to climate change, and environmental commitments, deliveries are decreasing. Drought has led to reduction in city’s aqueduct supplies. Large amount of supply is purchased from MWD. Under LA’s Green New Deal, LAA is expected to deliver 19% of city’s supply, and local supplies will increase 72%, reducing dependence on MWD supply. LADWP is working on GDAP & WRD Joint Master Plan, WRD and is going to need to work with other agencies in the region, look at the infrastructure and connect them in the most beneficial way, for the City, and the region. LADWP is also working on an agreement with LASAN to develop infrastructure at Hyperion Implementing Pilot & Demonstration Facilities to study treatment technology. They will be studying the best pipeline routes, locations, and quantities of water to share and move across the region and are working on their outreach and communications plan.

## 4. Old Business

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

Amanda Guzman-Perez reminded the committee that the Project Status Report is provided through the steering committees each month and input is always welcomed. She also provided key updates on latest amendments in Prop 84.

#### i. Round 1:

Remaining projects are on schedule.

#### ii. Round 2 Amendment 4:

Project 8 – Peck Water Conservation Improvement – Requesting modification to the work plan and grant end date extension. Pending feedback on the proposed modification from DWR.

#### iii. Round 3 Amendment 2

Project 9, USGVMWD Recycled Water Retrofits Project for USGVMWD and Project 14, Pomona Basin Regional Groundwater Project for Puente Basin Water Agency – Requesting an extension to complete projects to June 30, 2021. Currently the grant end date is December 31, 2019.

#### iv. Round 4 Amendment 2:

Project 4 – Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional BMP Project –Modification request will be submitted under Amendment #2 along with Project 14, Water LA Neighborhood Retrofits.

Project 14 – Water LA Neighborhood Retrofits – NE SF Valley (ULAR) - Recall that The River Project (TRP) was unable to secure the anticipated funding match from LASAN and LADWP that was necessary to complete the full-scale project and the contractual obligations of the Grant Agreement. Ms. Winters provided an update at the June 26 meeting and LC approved use of remaining \$450,000 in grant funds. TRP met most of the conditions required to continue by the June 30, 2019 deadline. TRP worked with staff to revise proposed Exhibits A-C for the final modification request. The amendment request will be submitted to DWR on October 24, 2019.

Project 15 – Hoover, Toll, & Keppel School Recycled Water – City of Glendale- Budget Modification Request. The Project is complete. The initial projected cost was \$2,595,491 and the actual cost is \$1,966,747.65. Modification of the Budget will allow the City of Glendale to drawdown the entire awarded grant amount of \$1,687,499 without effecting the current cumulative total Fund Match of 27%.

## **B. Prop 1 DACIP and GLAC DAC Committee**

Grace Kast reported that TreePeople conducted 5 outreach events in August and September and 3 of the events were action based. There are 10 events tentatively scheduled for October and November. Event details can be found on <https://watertalks.csusb.edu/>, as they become finalized.

CSU brought on board a short-term consultant to implement the areawide marketing plan and to continue to build the stakeholder database. They have created Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts and the links will be available on the WaterTalks website. CSU conducted two pilot marketing events in September in Santa Clara and Ventura. They will be coordinating with TreePeople to determine appropriate GLAC marketing opportunities. At the last consultants check in call, TreePeople expressed interest in coordinating with the County's WaterforLA campaign to promote WaterTalks on their social media platforms. These marketing plans and discussions are also on the agenda for the GLAC DAC Committee Meeting this afternoon.

CSUSB and West Basin continue to work together to amend their contract. Following the submittal of Quarterly Progress Report #5, DWR expressed some concerns with the project timeline and the schedule for invoicing. The DACIP Task force met on September 19th to discuss those concerns, as well as possible budget revisions. The Task Force is scheduled to meet with DWR November 12th, to address their concerns.

Quarterly progress report #6 is due to DWR on October 31st. Invoice #2 will be submitted with the report.

West Basin issued Task 3- Needs Assessment Solicitations on September 18th. Proposals due date was extended to November 15th to address comments submitted by the proposers. The Notice of Recommended Awards is tentatively scheduled for November 29th.

## **C. Prop 1 Implementation Round**

Amanda Guzman-Perez reported that the Subregions representatives met on September 26, 2019 to review the Prop 1 application status following the September 9th Pre-Application Workshop to address DWR's request to reassess the projects considered for the region's proposal based on the excess funding request for the Funding Area. The Pre-Application workshop notes prepared by Woodard & Curran were reviewed. Staff identified projects that may or may not meet the CEQA, permits, and cost share funding requirements outlined in the PSP based on information provided by the project applicants. Eleven projects met the requirements; nine projects required additional information to verify eligibility. Subregion representatives opted to contact the 9 project applicants, including the alternative project to determine if they can meet all required eligibility requirements and would like to proceed with the proposal process. On October 7th, a copy of DWR's written comments were provided to the Subregion representatives to share with the project proponents. Applicants opting out of the application will pay \$4,400. On October 9, 2019, LACFCD staff was informed that 3 of the 9 applicants opted out of the application, leaving 17 projects that will be moving forward with the application. Final application is due to DWR on December 6th and announcement of awards is tentatively scheduled April through June 2020.

#### **D. Update on WaterforLA**

Jolene Guerrero reported that H2OforLA has been renamed to WaterforLA after receiving feedback that the original name was a bit complicated and confusing. WaterforLA launched their website. The idea was to capture all water related information and make it available in one location. Part of the WaterforLA program will be a series of messaging campaigns, which will periodically change. The first campaign launched in September, which included water conservation and will be running through December. They are currently working on the next campaign, which will contain new subject matter.

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

Matthew Frary reported that Steering Committees have started to meet, and the first meeting was yesterday. The tax bills recently went out and will include a hotline for community members to call to obtain more information on the bill, provide comments/concerns, receive guidance on tax relief options, etc. There are other outreach events planned to accompany the call for events. There will be opportunities to connect with other small events (i.e. WaterTalks) to insert information on Safe, Clean Water in future phases. At the committee meetings, they will be gathering information on what other existing forums may be available for additional engagement with communities. The first round of Watershed Steering Committees will occur through the beginning of next month. After projects come in for their regional program, they will be preparing the Stormwater investment plans, which are intended to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors by June 2020. Safe Clean Water continues to help drive the conversation of how the Region can obtain water resilience, and how to do it in a collective and integrated manner. He also encouraged members who are not on the steering committees to attend.

Keith Lilley also shared that along with the WaterForLA and Safe, Clean Water Programs, the County Sustainability Office completed the Sustainability Plan, so Public Works will be reinitiating efforts on the County Water Plan in alignment with that document.

### **5. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **A. Steering Committees**

- i. NSMB – Not in attendance. No update.
- ii. South Bay – No meeting held. No update.
- iii. ULAR – No meeting held. No update.
- iv. USGRRH – No meeting held. No updates.
- v. LSGLAR – No meeting held. No updates.

#### **B. Water Management Area Representatives**

- i. Groundwater – In the main basin over 272,000 AF has been spread in this year and approximately 51,000 was native flows collected. The rest was from water either pre purchased by member producers with an agreement that was set up with Metropolitan Water District. Caltrans is looking at seismic retrofit by Santa Fe Dam and will be doing surveying the first week of November. Army Corp is doing work at the base of Santa Fe Dam to reduce flows. The key well is at 217.5 ft. MWD has been trying to take advantage of water in the State water project and have offered new programs.
- ii. Open Space – No update.

- iii. Sanitation – Commentary period for the Environmental Impact report closed in September, staff is working on responses to comments and anticipate having a report to the Board to certify the EIR by the end of the year. Section 1211 petitions was filed, public comment period is now open, and deadline to protest is November 14. Positive feedback letter may be helpful.
- iv. Stormwater Quality – No update.
- v. Surface Water – Regional storage is at a record high, including the 700,000 emergence storage supply. There is over 3 million AF of dry year storage. Regional storage is close to 4 million AF. The “Blob” is back. Warm water buildup on the coast of Alaska and west coast has prevented flow of water coming this way, one of the dry seasons, and which could dissipate quickly.
- vi. Stormwater Capture – No rain water capture this year. Recap of stormwater capture from last year: 19.6 inches of rain 127% above average. 296,000 AF of capture, 144% above average.

C. Legislative Committee

No update.

D. IRWM Roundtable of Regions

Giles Coon provided an update on the RoR, announcing 2 events in November (also included flyers).

- Localizing California Waters – November 5-8 in Yosemite; event will provide opportunity to further promote IRWM and have conversations with folks that have been less enthusiastic about IRWM, and be part of a group discussing the Water Resilience Portfolio; several state leaders will be attending (Erik Ekdalh, Joaquin Esquivel, Carmel Brown)
- RoR Summit: Imagining IRWM 2.0 – November 20, 2019 in Buena Park.

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items**

Chair invited members to make announcements, recommendations for future agenda items, and/or discuss other items. One of the items that will be added to agenda is the Sustainability Act, and reinitiating those efforts on the County Water Plan.

**8. Next Meeting**

Chair announced next meeting will be held December 4, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Grace Kast brought up ACWA meeting scheduled for same week. LC meeting may be rescheduled.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.