

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
May 26, 2021**

ONLINE MS TEAMS MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolina Hernandez for Mark Pestrella (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Chair, Leadership Committee

Grace Kast for Lisa Rapp (Gateway Water Management Authority)
Chair, Lower San Gabriel River and Lower Los Angeles 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 MWD
Chair, South Bay Sub-region

John Dettle, City of Torrance
Vice-Chair, South Bay Sub-region

Anthony Necessian for Martin Adams (Los Angeles Dept. 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 Sub-region

Anthony Zampello, Raymond Basin Watermaster
Groundwater Water Management Area

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Additional attendees listed in Attachment A.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Carolina Hernandez, who chaired the meeting.

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 quorum was present.

3. Approval of March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chair called for a motion to approve the March 24, 2021 meeting minutes. Dave Pedersen moved for a motion to approve the minutes; Grace Kast seconded motion; no objections; no abstentions. Motion was approved.

4. New Business

A. Presentation – LA County Water Plan

Chair called on Giles Coon, Public Works, to introduce the Los Angeles County Water Plan, the County's effort to collaboratively develop a plan to articulate a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County (the geographic region, not the entity). Persephone St. Charles, Andree Johnson, and Vanessa De Anda (all from Woodard and Curran) presented the vision and plan objectives, and then encouraged LC committee members get involved by participating in the upcoming workshops (anticipated to occur this summer through next spring), sharing CWP announcements/workshops with potential stakeholders, looking for emails about the CWP efforts from their respective IRWM programs, and visiting the CWP Planning Portal.

Chair solicited questions, comments, and discussion.

Chat Question: Will the presentation be available online? Andree confirmed that they will make the presentation available on the CWP Web Portal.

B. Presentation – Discuss convening committee to update the GLAC IRWM Opti Project Database system

Chair acknowledged the IRWM Website was last updated in 2018 at a cost of approximately \$28,000, which included a 3-year maintenance agreement. The current maintenance contract is through West Basin's as-needed consultant services agreement and is about to expire.

The base Opti database system is now almost 10 years old and is no longer compatible with the recent version of Google maps and cannot present Opti projects graphically. The estimated cost is \$20,000 to update the website, including compatibility with new versions of Google. FCD Staff recommend convening the GLAC LC Planning Committee to evaluate and recommend updates to the system.

Chair solicited questions, comments, and discussion on the recommendation to convene the Planning Committee for purposes of evaluating Opti database options.

Grace Kast inquired whether the \$20,000 proposal was a contract that the LC members will need to approve. Giles clarified that the \$20,000 was an initial estimate without all potential upgrades and

without corresponding maintenance costs included. FCD reached out to Woodard and Curran, who holds the maintenance contract, to obtain an estimate for all upgrades and the maintenance of the upgraded database. Since the costs may potentially go up to \$60,000 FCD suggests convening a planning committee meeting to be able to discuss and address from the entire IRWM leadership perspective.

Chair acknowledged questions and comments, and noted that today's discussions affirmed the convening of the planning committee meeting to address scope, cost, etc.

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

LASAN had requested a five-year extension for the Penmar Phase III project (Project 4), which was a result of the ongoing COVID-19 situation as well as recently adopted Senate Bill 966 (SB966) regulation requirements. The current grant deadline is June 2021. DWR was unable to grant the requested five-year extension. However, DWR has tentatively agreed to a grant extension to December 31, 2022 (18 months). LACFCD staff and LASAN are working to revise the request accordingly. The formal grant amendment request is due to DWR by May 28, 2021.

LADWP will be requesting an extension to complete the closeout of their Project 9 -Tujunga Spreading Grounds. The current project completion is scheduled for May 2021. An extension to October 2021 will be requested to complete invoicing, administrative tasks, and project closeout documentation.

ii. Round 2 Amendment 4

The formal modification was submitted to DWR in December and was fully executed in May. The amendment included:

Project 4 – Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds West Basin Percolation Enhancements Project

Project 8 –Multi-Benefit Water Conservation Project

Grant End Date extension to June 30, 2022.

iii. Round 3

Due to delays caused by the COVID-19 incident, two projects are requesting an end date extension. The current grant agreement end date is June 30, 2021.

Project 4 – Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant (TIWRP) Advanced Water Purification Facility and Distribution System Expansion for the City of LA DWP. The proposed end date is March 31, 2022.

Project 14 – Well No. 2 Rehabilitation Project for the Puente Basin Water Agency. The proposed end date is December 31, 2022.

iv. Round 4 Amendment 3:

Flood Control District's staff worked with DWR to amend the schedule for 11 out of the 19 projects, extending the grant agreement end date from March 31, 2021 to June 30, 2024. The amended agreement was executed on March 26th. Many of delays are related to the COVID-19 incident. One project (Project 19) is requesting a change in the scope of work, in addition to a change in their schedule. A second project (Project 14) is requesting a change in the LPS, a change in the project name, a change in schedule, and a change in work plan (Task 6 CEQA Documentation: the project consists largely of minor grading on slope of less than 10%, therefore, environmental impacts and associated documentation are not anticipated and a NOE will not be filed with the State Clearinghouse of County Clerk.

The 11 projects with their revised project end dates, ranging from 9/2021 to 6/2024, are as follows:

- 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-Calleaguas 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**) – 9/2022. The LPS will be changed from The River Project to the LACFCD and the project name will be changed to "Altadena Home Retrofits and Parkway Basins Project".
- 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.

Chair facilitated questions and comments.

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 anticipated to wrap up within the next few months. Consultants are continuing the interview/survey process with the Tribal Communities. The preliminary findings from the Needs Assessment data collection are expected by end of July 2021.

All in-person community outreach and engagement is still postponed. Consultant Tree People is continuing virtual engagement efforts within the GLAC region.

The DACIP Task Force continues to convene on a regular basis. The TF welcomed Ramy Gindi as the newest member representing the GLAC region, following Carolina Hernandez's transition into her new role within Los Angeles County Public Works. The Task Force finalized the SOW for Task Order 4-Project Development in March 2021. The RFP was released on April 23, 2021, and proposals are due May 28, 2021. The Notice of Award is anticipated to be released July 2021.

GLAC DAC Committee meeting for today has been cancelled and will reconvene in July.

C. Renewal of GLAC IRWM Regional Water Management Group MOU

Chair reminded the committee that the previous agreement that established this group and its associated operating guidelines expired at the end of 2020, that the Committee moved to renew with certain minor edits in November 2020, and called on Amanda Guzman-Perez to provide a brief status update.

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, which occurred February 19, 2021. To date, 12 members have signed. Reportedly, the next MOU signature page will be submitted by the end of this month.

FCD encouraged all other committee members and alternates to submit their signature pages at their earliest convenience

D. Prop 1 – Implementation Round 1 Allocations and Comments

Chair called on Amanda Guzman-Perez to provide an update on Prop1 Implementation Round 1 Grant and reminded the committee that the previous agreement that established this group and its associated operating guidelines expired at the end of 2020, and that the Committee moved to renew with certain minor edits in November 2020.

Amanda shared that staff and County Counsel have reviewed the draft grant agreements. Staff has met with DWR and has submitted final comments on the last draft grant agreement to DWR. The final grant agreement is anticipated this month.

The MOU between each LPS and LACFCD and the final, unsigned, grant agreement will be sent out to the initial 8 local project sponsors. The 7 placeholder projects will be provided with the MOU once the remaining CEQA and permit documents are submitted.

A copy of the fully executed MOU and grant agreement will be sent out once they become available.

E. Update on WaterForLA

Chair called on Sarah Ahmed to provide the update. Sarah reported that LA County Public Works' Water for LA program continues its campaign focused on stormwater and urban runoff pollution prevention, with a focus on reducing litter.

The out-of-home, print, digital, social media, and streaming video ads concluded at the end of April. Nearly 23 million impressions were made; 73,000 clicks to website (\$0.93 per click); the video campaign showed best click through rate at 1%. The video and radio ads are continuing with the Dodgers & iHeart Media through the end of October.

Sarah shared the video ad and invited everyone to visit WaterforLA.com for more information about the campaign. A Media Kit is now available on our website under "Resources" and includes

downloadable files of our print ads, bus ads, videos, and logos for any organizations who would like to share these among their networks.

Comment was made in chat recommending water theft as a potential future campaign.

F. Update on Safe, Clean Water Program

Chair called on Matthew Frary to provide an update on the SCWP. Matthew shared Municipal and Regional Programs status update.

Municipal Program - Annual Plans are due by April 1st of each year and available on the SCWP website. The majority of Transfer Agreements for Year 1 Municipal Program funds have been executed.

Regional Program - The Board approved Year 1 Stormwater Investment Plans in October 2020. Over 40 multi-benefit projects were included and the Transfer Agreements have begun to be executed. Funds will continue to be distributed upon satisfactory submission and execution of all required documents.

In year two of the regional program (FY21-22), most of the Watershed Area Steering Committees have decided on their recommended Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs), and those who have not are close to doing so. The process will include submitting all 9 Watershed Area Stormwater Investment plans to the Regional Oversight Committee for review. If any comments, Steering Committees will have an opportunity to revise, if necessary, and the final SIPs will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Matt also discussed the Year-1 Watershed coordinator selection process, indicated that a list of the selected coordinators is posted on the website, and encouraged everyone to get to know their coordinators. LACFCD recently sent out an email blast with general updates, including details on new interim guidance on DAC Benefits and Nature-Based Solutions. Matt also reminded everyone that the Project Portal is a wonderful resource for those who are interested in finding out more information on what was approved in prior years and what has been submitted this year. There is potential to leverage those datasets with what is done in IRWM and other efforts. WHAM is also continuing to look at datasets from Measures W, H, A, and M, to determine where there is overlap and collaboration opportunities. There will be public meetings coming up in the short term as well.

Lastly, Matt provided a Year-3 update. The Call for Projects is set to close July 31st. The Project module, which is the online application to enter all submissions, is live. They will also be holding info sessions over the next week to facilitate and help everyone feel comfortable in utilizing and inputting meaningful projects and programs into the module. Information on the info sessions will be available on their website. Matt reminded everyone that for projects to be submitted this year, the deadline for requesting concept review from the LACFCD is May 31.

Chair facilitated questions and comments.

G. County Water Plan Update

Chair acknowledged the County Water Plan presentation made earlier during the meeting and indicated that this will be a placeholder for future discussions/updates on the Plan. She also encouraged everyone to stay engaged and visit the website for information.

6. Standing Committee Reports

A. Steering Committees

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

- NSMB – No update; no meeting held.
- South Bay – Tammy Hierlihy reported that a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ULAR – Anthony Necessian reported that the subregion met in April and yesterday. Public Works presented on the County Water Plan. They also had project presentations for their April meeting.
- USGRHR – Kelly Gardner reported that the subregion met and received County Water Plan presentation.
- LSGLAR – Grace Kast reported that the subregion met and received the County Water Plan presentation.

B. Water Management Area Representatives

Chair called on each area representative to provide updates.

- Groundwater – Tony Zampielo reported that as of May 5th, the Baldwin Park key well water surface elevation was 196.7 ft. above mean sea level; 11 ft lower than last year. Also, Watermaster has been doing a campaign called Water that Connects Us., to educate community members in the valley on how groundwater works. Their first Instagram live was held last week. He encouraged everyone to visit the Instagram handle, @MSGBWatermaster for future events, as well.
- Open Space – Guangyu Wang shared that LA County Parks is opening grant applications for County Prop A, which made \$33M available for projects. This grant funding is for increasing open space and construction acquisition of open spaces for building parks. The application opened in April and the deadline to submit applications is October 28.
- Sanitation – Sharon Green provided regulatory issues update. SWRCD has already issued a general order for sanitary sewer systems. They are working on updating general permits. They have a draft and conducted a few workshops in April. This one will be a substantial rewrite and one of the revisions to be include is a climate change resiliency requirement. Sharon encouraged everyone to visit the link provided in chat to stay updated.
- Stormwater – No representative present.
- Surface Water – Vacant.
- Stormwater Capture – Giles Coon reported the total rainfall to date in downtown LA was 5.4 inches, which represents 35% of annual average rainfall to date. Stormwater capture is approximately 41,200 AF, which is consistent with the current drought conditions.

C. Legislative Committee

Sharon Green provided updates on Legislative Committee in E.J. Caldwell's absence. There is significant possibility of funding for water related and drought related activities. The Legislature is currently negotiating deals on funding. Budget subcommittees are about to finalize budgets and go to conference committee. There will be budget committee negotiations, and they will come up with a final proposed budget. The Governor proposed \$5.1-\$5.2B investment over a 2-year period. The Senate proposed \$3.4B over 1-year period, while staff recommendation was to approve \$3.47B; other details to be finalized between senate and governor. The adoption deadline is set for June 15.

7. Public Comment

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

Chat Question: Since we are now in a drought, can LA cities provide drought information in water bills? Chair commented that generally each water service provider will in fact provide that information on individual bills. Tony Zampello also added that for members of Metro, those districts provide that information, and water retailers will also be sending mailers. However, Tony clarified that it is somewhat early to do that just yet. In the next 2-3 months, agencies will be sending reminders for restrictions, and alternate day usage, etc.

8. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items

Chair invited members to share ideas for future agenda items. Giles Coon mentioned that there are a few projects near completion, and FCD may soon request project sponsors present on project completion results. Staff will be reaching out over the next few months to coordinate.

9. Next Meeting

Chair announced that the next meeting will be held July 29, 2021, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., likely on MS Teams.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.