

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021; 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Microsoft Teams Video Conference**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

LSG&LAR Subregion: **Grace Kast**, Gateway Water Management Authority  
NSMB Subregion: None present.  
South Bay Subregion: None present.  
USGR&RH Subregion: **Randy Schoellerman**, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority  
ULAR Subregion: **Melanie Winter**, The River Project

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Annakaren Ramirez**, TreePeople  
**Giles Coon**, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
**Jason Casanova**, Council for Watershed Health  
**Kelly Gardner**, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster  
**Margarit Movsesian**, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
**Mike Antos**, Stantec  
**Peter Massey**, TreePeople  
**Wendy La**, Puente Basin Water Agency

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting commenced at 12:06 p.m.

**1) Introductions**

Committee members and meeting attendees were introduced.

**2) Approve January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Chair requested motion to approve meeting minutes. Randy Schoellerman moved for motion; seconded by Grace Kast; none opposed; none abstained. Minutes were approved.

**3) Presentation by TreePeople- Task 3 Needs Assessment Findings & Report/ Task 4 Project Development Vision & Approach**

Peter Massey provided an update on Task 3 Needs Assessment and Task 4 Project Development efforts. on the DACIP Needs Assessment preliminary findings. During Task 2- Community Engagement, consultant teams have been building relationships, teaching communities about IRWMP and water related issues, and most importantly they have also been learning from the Leadership Group of CBOs and the communities they serve.

Task 3 Needs Assessment was a major effort and faced many challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Peter provided an overview of the current draft report, along with an overview of the dashboard tools. The report is broken into 5 major sections: Executive Summary, Approach and Methodology, Findings, Recommendations, and Appendices. The breakdowns of the sections include perspectives from communities, institutions, schools, tribal communities, and IRWM sub-regions. From the community perspective, the highest areas of concern were drinking water quality, trash/pollutants, and need for green spaces. From the institutions' perspective, there is need for providing help to small water systems from the larger ones, and a desire for understanding community needs. Within schools, the major concerns were lack of funds for maintenance of water related projects, drinking fountain water quality, and campus flooding. The Tribal data collection is still ongoing, but from what was gathered during institutional interviews, there was a recommendation of a need to pay for tribal entity participation in water planning efforts. TreePeople's team of consultants continues to work on additional sections of the report, including past and current water investments, particularly which projects have received funds from various grant opportunities, information on displacement and risks associated with green gentrification, a DWR Template within the Appendix, and graphics/photos for the final version of the report. In the analysis portion of the Needs Assessment task, a tool was developed by Council for Watershed Health that was used for analyzing data collected from the communities. The Dashboard can be accessed at [www.redesign.la/dacip](http://www.redesign.la/dacip). There are two components to the dashboard which are currently in draft form for the GLAC region, and available to the public: the Needs Assessment Community Dashboard, and Needs Assessment Survey Analysis by Question. There will be a public version of the Dashboard that has been created by Cal State University, which will have complete information for the entire Funding Area. Peter also provided a demonstration of the Dashboard and Needs Assessment findings by Community. They will be sharing the information and highlights from the Needs Assessment with the Safe Clean Water Program Watershed Coordinators this month, and plan to share report highlights with communities in October and November. The online community survey remains open, in order to continue data collection, community outreach and connection.

Chair asked Peter to remind everyone which organizations are part of the the Leadership Group. The group includes Trust South LA, Council of Mexican Federations, Koreatown Youth Community Center, Mujeres de la Tierra, Ultimate Restoration Unlimited, Communities for a Better Environment, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Active SGV, Promesa Boyle Heights, Watts Clean Air & Energy Committee, Social Justice Learning Institute, and Socio Eco Education. Peter confirmed that all of these organizations are spread over the 4 sub-regions, since there are no DACs within North Santa Monica Bay sub-region.

Melanie Winter asked what other tasks those NGOs/CBOs have engaged in, aside from outreach. Peter explained that Leadership Group is actively involved in Needs Assessment Data Collections- promoting completion of online surveys, holding listening session-, and will continuously be involved in the Project Development task, as well.

Task 4 Project Development- Peter Massey provided the approach to the Project Development task. The first approach is to engage multiple times. The next approach involves capacity building through Technical Assistance. They will be developing training

programs focusing on funding pathways for the Leadership Group of CBOs, tribal engagement trainings for agencies, and community engagement for agencies. Lastly, when developing projects, Peter highlighted the importance of following the IRWM pathway. This approach will focus on working with decision makers in the approval process, and engaging the community CBOs in that process, as well. Peter provided a thorough explanation of the steps involved in the Technical Assistance portion of program.

Chair asked about the schedule and timing of the Technical Assistance Step 4, in relation to the timing of applying for Prop 1 Round 2 PSP. Peter mentioned that Step 4 will be preparing projects for Prop 1 Round 2 PSP, with the assumption that the PSP will be in September 2022. He also shared a timeline for Project Development tasks.

Chair asked if the Scope of Work for Task 4 will include collaboration with the Safe Clean Water Program. Peter agreed that collaboration would be very helpful, given that both programs have similar funding sources. This could certainly be discussed with the Watershed Coordinators.

Melanie Winter commented about seeing a TreePeople job posting and noticed that the listing did not include salary information. She suggested that the listing be revisited, and future listings include salaries. Melanie also asked for clarification on the job posting and whether this is a cross-over position within the DACIP, Safe Clean Water Watershed Coordinator program. Peter confirmed that there is some cross-over and believes that funding will be through both programs. He will investigate the funding sources and follow up with the Committee.

Melanie applauded and thanked Jason Casanova for his hard work in the development of the Needs Assessment analysis tools and Dashboard. Other Committee Members joined in thanking the TreePeople, Council for Watershed Health, and Stantec teams for their accomplishments.

#### **4) Prop 1 DACIP Update**

Margarit Movsesian provided general DACIP updates. She reminded everyone that DWR approved a grant extension for the program to December 2022.

##### **a) Invoicing and Progress Reports**

Margarit provided updates on the status of Progress Reports and Invoicing. To date, Progress Reports 1-13 and Invoices 1-9 have been submitted to DWR; Invoices 7-9 and Progress Reports 11-13 are currently being reviewed for approval. Margarit also provided a breakdown of current budget expenditures. Approximately \$3.8 million of the \$9.8 million has been invoiced to date.

#### **5) Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Chair suggested changing the virtual format from MS Teams to WebEx. Margarit will arrange for the WebEx meeting and send an updated invitation to the committee and stakeholders.

## **6) Questions/Comments**

Chair solicited questions/comments. Randy Schoellerman asked how the Leadership Group of NGOs/CBOs were selected and being paid for their outreach efforts. Peter clarified that they went through 2 RFP processes, and the selected NGOs/CBOs are all working as sub-consultants under contract with TreePeople. Payment is based on Scope of Work, which is broken down per meeting/event. For invoicing purposes, they also include a breakdown of hours worked, hourly rates, etc.

## **7) Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

DRAFT