

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
July 22, 2020**

ONLINE MS TEAMS MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Lafferty for Mark Pestrella (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Chair, Leadership Committee

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

David Rydman (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Vice-Chair, NSMB 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

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Caitlin Gray, State Water Resources Control Board

Chris Aguillon, City of Santa Monica Public Works

Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works

Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Grace Kast, Gateway Water Management Authority

Kara Plourde, Los Angeles County Public Works

Kimberly Henry, Wood Environment

Lynn Rodriguez, Watershed Coalition of Ventura County

Margarit Movsesian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Mary Zauner, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

Nelly Antabian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Peter Massey, TreePeople

Sunny Wang, City of Santa Monica

Wendy La, Puente Basin Water Agency

(Two additional unidentified attendees joined by calling-in.)

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 to the meeting and acknowledged COVID-19 related challenges and the ongoing efforts throughout Los Angeles County.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of May 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair called for a motion to approve May 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Lisa Rapp requested revision to minutes attendee list to include Mary Zauner, who was present. None opposed. Motion was passed.

4. New Business

Chair introduced the LA River Master Plan (LARMP), highlighting the significance of this regional effort, which warrants Leadership's attention and discussion in terms of advancing the regions goals. LACFCD would like to continue to use these meetings as a platform for sharing and discussing similar existing or upcoming efforts that promote/facilitate continued regional collaboration and would likely also generate multi-benefit projects that may be considered for future IRWM funding or other types of partnerships.

Chair introduced Genevieve Osmena to present.

A. Presentation – LA River Master Plan 2020

Chair initiated a Q&A period.

Guangyou Wang asked whether the LARMP considered community benefit (e.g. restoration of natural habitats) as part of the goals, and whether the plan had guidelines for landscaping that maximized reintroduction or reinsertion of native vegetation.

- In the design guidelines, there is a large plant palate guideline that is being recommended for planting along the river. They added two additional palates to include climate resilient types of plants for planting, and a desert plant-scape palate.

Sharon Green inquired as to whether the LARMP and the Army Corp Plan relate to one another.

- The hope is for the LA River Master Plan to be the overarching one-stop location for resources and references to all the other existing efforts and planning documents that have already been done along the river. Out of the 130+ plans, about 10 came up as main references, which were also incorporated into the Master plan. Data and analysis from LA River Restoration Ecosystems Plan are also included in the Master plan. LA River Master Plan presentation will be emailed to all LC members for future reference.

5. 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 provided key updates on latest amendments in Prop 84.

i. Round 1:

Remaining projects are on schedule.

ii. Round 2 Amendment 4:

- Project 4 – Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds West Basin Percolation Enhancements Project - Requesting a budget modification to fully expend grant funds.
- Project 8 – Peck Water Conservation Improvement Project - Staff is following up on DWR's additional project information request. Unforeseen circumstances have impacted the schedule of the project. A reallocation to two other projects is being explored with the LPSs and DWR to ensure funding is best applied to benefit the region.

iii. Round 3 Amendment 2

Remaining projects are on schedule.

iv. Round 4 Amendment 2:

- Project 2 – Southeast Water Efficiency Program – Requesting an 18-month 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. The current 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.

B. Prop 1 DACIP and GLAC DAC Committee

Grace Kast reported that the GLAC, WCVC, and USCR regions continue to work together in finalizing the design of the Needs Assessment materials, which includes Community and Institution surveys. Drafts will be discussed during the GLAC DAC Committee meeting, following today's LC Meeting.

All in person community outreach is still postponed. Tree People and CSU continue to work together on alternative solutions, including virtual meetings, where appropriate.

CSU and their subconsultant, Placeworks, continue working on the areawide marketing plan and building the stakeholder database. Links to the social media accounts are available on the WaterTalks website.

GLAC DAC Committee has been meeting regularly. During the last meeting, it was brought to the committee's attention that there is a lack of NGO representation within various sub-regions. The committee is therefore reaching out to each respective sub-region steering committee to confirm active participants, or if there is an alternate.

The DACIP Task Force continues to convene on a regular basis, and is reviewing and revising draft Task Order 4 Scope of Work. This task focuses on Project Development and Technical Assistance. The grant amendment request is being finalized. LACFCD will ask for grant term to be extended to December 31, 2021, and a revision to the budget reallocating savings and/or unspent funds between Activities 2, 3, and 4. LACFCD has sent an informal request to DWR.

C. Prop 1 Implementation Round

Amanda Guzman-Perez reported that the final comment letter was submitted to DWR on May 28, 2020. The meeting with DWR Director Karla Nemeth, Kris Tjernel, Carmel Brown, and GLAC LC representatives was held on July 8, 2020. Staff also held a follow up meeting with Carmel Brown and DWR staff on July 9, 2020, and have continued to provide additional information as requested. DWR is expected to proceed shortly with the final award notification.

Randy Schoellerman inquired as to the types of additional information DWR had requested. The Chair explained that from DWR staff perspective, GLACs submittal had far more projects in comparison to the other regions. The response to that was that GLAC at one point had more regions in it than it does today, which were consolidated. Given the size of the region, it should have been expected that the GLAC would have more projects. Another comment to DWR was that because all three regions were given equal amounts of funding, this disincentivized collaboration and cooperation among the regions. This comment seemed to have made the greatest impact on DWR, and hopefully DWR will reconsider the award amount.

D. Update on WaterforLA

Chair provided an update. Jolene Guerrero has transitioned to a new role within LA County Public Works.

LA County Public Works is gearing up for a second campaign about stormwater and urban runoff pollution prevention, which will include calls-to-action for residents and businesses in LA County to help meet regional water quality goals. The 12-week campaign is slated to run from September – November 2020, and will include new content on WaterforLA.com as well as various digital and out-of-home advertisements, social media, and collateral giveaways.

E. Update on Safe, Clean Water Program

Chair provided an update on Safe, Clean, Water Program.

Seven of the nine regional Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) were approved by the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) in June. The ROC met again on Monday, July 20, 2020 and the remaining two SIPs were approved to advance to the Board. The Board is expected to review and approve the recommended Regional Program expenditures this Fall.

Municipal Transfer Agreement templates were approved in June, and the process of submitting annual plans and executing agreements has begun. Corresponding local return funds could begin to be issued this Fall.

Program anticipates collecting nearly \$283M in FY19-20 tax revenue.

Numerous other concurrent efforts continue to advance, including coordination with the Board's WHAM committee on various region-wide topics, citing various components and subprograms with a two-pronged approach, technical and political. The District continues to proactively move forward through virtual platforms. Tax revenue from FY19-20 is approximately 90% collected.

F. County Water Plan

Chair provided an update on the County Water Plan. Phase 1 was recently initiated and focuses on early research, early scoping, and early planning. It includes the beginnings of stakeholder engagement, as well as crafting the framework for full engagement related to plan development. Phase 2, with full stakeholder engagement, is expected to begin within the next few months.

6. Standing Committee Reports

A. Steering Committees

- i. NSMB – No formal meeting held; no report.
- ii. South Bay – No representatives in attendance.
- iii. ULAR – No formal meeting held; Art Castro reported next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2020.
- iv. USGRRH – No formal meeting held; no report.
- v. LSGLAR – No formal meeting held; Grace Kast reported that they will meet within next two months, and include discussion on GLAC DAC Committee NGO representation. Grace Kast reminded and encouraged sub-region Steering Committee representatives to revisit this issue and include as agenda item for future their sub-region meetings.

B. Water Management Area Representatives

- i. Groundwater – Kelly Gardner provided updates on Groundwater. There has been uptick in key well. Production totals have been coming in and there is uptick in production, possibly due to people staying at home.
- ii. Open Space – No update.
- iii. Sanitation – Sharon Green shared information on PFAS, which may be a topic the LC can consider for a presentation during a future meeting. State Water Resources Control Board issued a general investigative order this month, gone to over 250 Wastewater Treatment facilities and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), requiring a year of quarterly monitoring for influent, effluent, and biosolids, which will start in 4th quarter of this calendar year.
- iv. Stormwater Quality – No representative present; no update.
- v. Surface Water – No representative present; no update.
- vi. Stormwater Capture – Giles Coon shared information on total rainfall: 15.2 in. Total stormwater capture: 121,400 AF.

C. Legislative Committee

No representative present; no update.

7. Public Comment

No public comments.

8. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items

Chair suggested including PFAS as a topic for presentation and invited members to make announcements, recommendations for future agenda items, and/or discuss other items. No new suggestions or announcements.

9. Next Meeting

Chair announced that the next meeting will be held September 23, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., location TBD.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.