

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 22, 2020; 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: N/A
South Bay Subregion: **Mary Zauner**, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
USGR&RH Subregion: **Randy Schoellerman**, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority
ULAR Subregion: **Melanie Winter**, The River Project

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ester Rojas, Water Replenishment District
Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Isby Fleischman, Placeworks
Jason Casanova, Council for Watershed Health
L.B. Nye, CalEPA
Lynn Rodriguez, Watershed Coalition of Ventura County
Margarit Movsesian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Marina Lindsay, West Basin Municipal Water District
Mike Antos, Stantec
Peter Massey, TreePeople
Stephen Ceasar, TreePeople
Wendy La, Puente Basin Water Agency

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting commenced at 12:04 p.m.

1) Introductions

Committee members and meeting attendees were introduced.

2) Approve June 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chair, Grace Kast requested motion to approve meeting minutes. Mary Zauner moved for motion. Melanie Winter requested revisions to meeting minutes, Agenda Item 5, paragraph 2 to include: "She suggested a need for examining the institutional barriers that are inherent in the IRWM program as established by the County of Los Angeles." The last sentence in the paragraph was also revised to read "Ms. Winter expressed the need for community involvement to include a wider and more diversified group of stakeholders represented within the IRWM program and incentivization for genuine community

involvement, and equity within the IRWM decision making structure. For example, some community members have dropped of opportunities for participation. It would be worth exploring 'why' others, Ms. Winter as an example, have consistently participated (in her case, on the Upper LA River Steering Committee), despite not seeing input reflected to the Leadership Committee or being manifest in any equitable policy or program adjustments. Our current effort seems to assume that the problems lie within communities and their lack of education or awareness and that in itself seems problematic." Ms. Zauner retracted her motion following the meeting revisions. Randy Schoellerman moved for motion to approve minutes as modified; seconded by Melanie Winter; none opposed; none abstained. Minutes approved as modified.

Following approval of prior meeting minutes, Committee members discussed DAC equitability and program adjustment concerns previously raised during DAC Committee meetings and how these concerns should be brought forth to the Leadership Committee. Ms. Winter commented that in the past, the issues discussed at the Regional Steering Committee level have not necessarily reflected what has been brought to the LC. She believes that the DACI program provides an opportunity to examine institutional barriers, but focus has instead been placed on the assumed failings of stakeholders. She highlighted the need to use this opportunity to examine those barriers in order to reach solutions that drive DWR's intent for this program. Ms. Winter believes that the root cause of the program's lack of inclusivity or equitability is not being examined. Chair thanked Ms. Winter for her input and solicited further comments.

3) Prop 1 DACIP Update

a) Task Order 2- Community Outreach Update

Stephen Ceasar (TreePeople) provide updates on community outreach. To date, 28 outreach events have been completed, 9 of which have been digital. Recently, TreePeople held 3 events in collaboration with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's office. All the events lead to great discussion following the meetings. A future meeting is scheduled in Mar Vista on August 5th, in partnership with the local neighborhood council. TreePeople is currently working on adding 3 more organizations to their Leadership Group; Promesa Boyle Heights, Mujeres de la Tierra, and Trust South LA, to help establish more presence among wider DAC communities. Chair asked TreePeople to expand on some of the topics residents are concerned with within their communities. Mr. Ceasar explained that the concerns vary based on the community. These discussions often begin with very community specific issues, such as flooding, and evolve into discussions on how best to advocate for their community. Many of the local groups who are active in advocating for communities may not always have the resources to interact with the governing bodies. The WaterTalks presentations provide information on governing/grant funding structures, that may be new to those community members. Following the meetings, many of the community members expressed interest in being involved in making sure communities are represented in the Needs Assessment phase of program. Ms. Winter requested a list of the community organizations involved in TreePeople's Leadership Group. Peter Massey

(TreePeople) will provide an updated list of those organizations and the communities in which they engage.

b) Task Order 3- Needs Assessment Materials Review/Approval

Peter Massey provided an overview of the Needs Assessment Activities. In April, the team began framework for the survey tool materials. Multiple coordination meetings were held with CSU and Placeworks to ensure work in GLAC is balanced with the applications in the other two IRWM regions. There will be two different data collection methods. Survey forms will be used for residents/community members, and interviews will be conducted for institutions and schools data collection. In addition to identifying potential water related projects within the DACs, it is also important to understand the community capacity building needs. As previously discussed, there is a need to identify the connections between communities and water providers, and larger institutional structures, and how to most efficiently connect them together. TreePeople and Stantec will conduct small group interviews to collect data from various agencies. Following TreePeople and Stantec's presentation of the interview questions and their aim for the approach of data collection, the Chair solicited discussion and questions about Needs Assessment Materials. Ms. Winter asked about the institution list, and whether consultants will be reaching out to staff or higher executives within agencies. Mike Antos (Stantec) clarified that when reaching out to agencies the goal is to reach the GM, with the understanding they may be delegated down to PR persons or other staff. TreePeople will also be reaching out to the Mayor's office, with the hopes of reaching the highest-level person. They will also reach out to the WHAM committee, which may bring the County BOS perspective to the dialogue. Committee members provided suggested revisions to the interview instrument. Consultants will consider the suggested changes. Ms. Winter also noted State program's focus on implementation and stewardship of troubles within the Indigenous Communities surrounding water, and would like to suggest including that as part of the questions. Within the Community survey, "Community Engagement" portion seems limited to planning alone. She suggests including prompts around public safety and climate resilience. Chair also mentioned that there were a few institutions that should be included on the contact list. Chair encourages members to review the Institution list and send any edits to Ms. Movsesian by this Friday. Community survey and interview cutoff dates are being coordinated with other sub regions.

Chair asked for motion to approve the Needs Assessment materials. Mr. Schoellerman moved for motion to approve materials based on the suggested edits made by Committee Members today; seconded by Chair; none objected; none abstained. Motion approved with revisions. Chair thanked the team once again for their efforts.

c) Invoicing & Progress Reports

Ms. Movsesian provided update on Invoice 5 and Progress Report 9, which is due to DWR by end of the month. LACFCD staff is in the process of gathering all data to

submit to DWR, and will have a report on the budget expenditures for the next GLAC DAC meeting.

4) Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 26, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. If there are no substantive updates, meeting will be cancelled.

5) Questions/Comments

Chair introduced L.B. Nye from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. They are currently working on expanding their outreach, particularly with the Stormwater Permit. A working proposal is now available, and they anticipate the tentative draft to be out mid-August. The goal is to expand and reach out to community-based organizations and DAC communities. LACFCD staff will coordinate with Ms. Nye for future LC meeting presentations.

6) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.