

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, May 21, 2020
10:00am - 12:30pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

WASC Members Present:

Cung Nguyen (LACFCD)	Bruce Reznik (LA Waterkeeper)
Alex Heide* (West Basin)	Josette Descalzo (West Hollywood)
Delon Kwan (LADWP)	Charles Herbertson (Culver City)
Katie Mika (LA Bureau of Sanitation)	Max Podemski* (Los Angeles)
Darryl Ford* (LA Recreations & Parks)	Rafael Prieto* (Los Angeles)
Rita Kampalath (LA County CEO)	Liz Crosson (Los Angeles)
Alysen Weiland* (PSOMAS)	Bruce Hamamoto (LA County)
Gloria Walton (SCOPE)	Neal Shapiro (Santa Monica)

WASC Members Not Present:

(none)

*WASC Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Crosson, the Chair of the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC, called the meeting to order.

All WASC members made self-introductions, and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Liz Crosson asked the WASC members for comments or revisions.

Katie Mika made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Josette Descalzo seconded the motion. The WASC voted to approve the meeting minutes. (see detailed voting sheet at end of minutes)

3. Public Comment Period

David Pedersen, General Manager of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, provided a public comment in support of the LASAN project and for it to be considered for funding by the WASC.

A member of the public requested that the WASC include planning-focused studies, noting that not all studies are contentious, and that there's currently no funding for science in the current draft of the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP).

A member of the public shared the projects Heal the Bay would like the WASC to prioritize and those that should not be included. A detailed comment letter has been included with these minutes.

A member of the public noted that projects have not been looked at closely by the WASC, and that several projects may not be optimized such as the Ballona Creek Project.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



James Stahl, Board Member of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, provided public comment in support of the Ballona Creek Project that will address the TMDL requirements for the watershed. He also provided comment that LASAN should consider operating the project during wet weather as well.

4. Committee Member and District Updates

Kirk Allen provided the District update noting: the Fund Transfer Agreement is on schedule to be approved on June 9 by the Board of Supervisors; and the Watershed Coordinator solicitation will be released on May 26 with proposals being due July 20, and there will be two webinars to take place in June; and the District is exploring extending the deadline for the second round call for projects.

Gloria Walton thanked the members of the public for providing comments to the WASC.

5. Discussion Items:

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosures

Alex Heid has additional knowledge on several of the current WASC projects as part of his position on the GLAC IRWM.

Bruce Reznik has been part of Our Water LA discussions on the WASC projects.

Liz Crosson has had conversations with Our Water LA discussions on the Ballona Creek project.

b) Projects that provide Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefit

Kirk Allen provided the definition of a DAC Benefit and clarified that the WASC would have to use this definition to gauge whether a project provides a DAC Benefit.

The WASC reviewed any outstanding clarifying questions related to DAC Benefits.

c) Central Santa Monica Bay (CSMB) Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion for populating the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan - Interactive Planning Tool

Kirk Allen provided a summary of the scenarios developed in the previous meeting.

- i) Scenario 1 – Top 5 Ranked IP + TRP
- ii) Scenario 2 – Top 4 Ranked IP + TRP
- iii) Scenario 3 – Top 4 and 6th Ranked IP + TRP
- iv) Scenario 4 – Top 4, 6th, and 7th Ranked IP + TRP
- v) Scenario 5 – Top 6 Ranked IP + TRP
- vi) Scenario 6 – Top 3 and 5th Ranked IP + TRP

Bruce Reznik and Rita Kampalath noted that it is concerning that the WASC is open to re-evaluate the definition of a DAC Benefit at this point during the process, and noted that a Water Quality Benefit could potentially be considered a DAC Benefit everywhere in the watershed, which is not the intent of providing meaningful DAC Benefits.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Neal Shapiro shared the concern raised by Bruce Reznik, but then noted that making DAC definition too restrictive might make it difficult to meet the requirement for some parts of the Watershed. Neal Shapiro requested that his project be considered as providing a DAC Benefit.

Shahram Kharaghani, Bruce Hamamoto, Charles Herbertson, and Josette Descalzo noted that the Ballona Creek project should be considered as having DAC Benefit as it allows those communities to meet their water quality requirements.

Bruce Reznik and Rita Kampalath noted that they are supportive of the Ballona Creek Project but noted that the DAC Benefit claimed does not meet the intent of the original DAC Benefit defining process. More information is still needed within the Ballona Creek Project proposal and it may be beneficial to wait until more data is available and a more visible DAC Benefit be added to the project other than just improving water quality of a DAC tributary.

Gloria Walton suggested that the WASC consider funding just a portion of the Ballona Creek Project to free up resources for additional projects.

Liz Crosson noted that there is a lot of support for the Ballona Creek Project, and that the District should allow the WASC to partially fund the project. Kirk Allen clarified that the WASC is able to redistribute the funding ask throughout the 5-year SIP, but they are unable to selectively change the total funding ask amounts for a particular project. If a project is not included in this year's SIP, a project developer can come back in the 2nd round call for projects with an altered cost proposal.

Neal Shapiro noted that he is supportive of not changing the definition of DAC, that he would be supportive of partial funding of his own and other applicants project funding ask, and that his project be considered as providing a DAC Benefit.

Rita Kampalath inquired if City of LA would be flexible to further spread out the funding request for the Ballona Creek Project. Shahram Kharaghani noted that the City of LA is open to partial payment and spreading out funding for the Ballona Creek Project.

Charles Herbertson and Josette Descalzo noted that they do not feel the WASC is changing the definition of a DAC at this time, and that a vote on whether to include the Ballona Creek Project should be taken.

Shahram Kharaghani proposed that the City of LA submit the project again in the 2nd round call for projects. The WASC removed the Ballona Creek Project from the SIP interactive planning tool.

The WASC evaluated the remaining scenarios and potential modifications. (See detailed SIP sheet).

6. Public Comment Period

A member of the public noted that it was the public that supported the passage of the Safe Clean Water program, and that measurable community DAC Benefits must be realized with the SIP vs just providing indirect water quality benefits to those communities.

A member of the public noted that the Ladera Park project received funding from Prop 84, so it is unclear what portion of the project costs are being requested in this SIP. Bruce Hamamoto clarified that the County has been investing general funds to cover initial costs so the project could move forward on time, and that SCW funding is requested to help cover these earlier expenses.



7. Voting Items:

a) Approve the final Fiscal Year 2020-21 Stormwater Investment Plan for the CSMB Watershed Area and approve submission to the Regional Oversight Committee for review.

Neal Shapiro made a motion to approve voting item 7a. Charles Herbertson seconded the motion.

The WASC inquired if there would be options to change the SIP after approval. Kirk Allen noted that this voting item is to finalize and move forward the SIP as displayed. The WASC discussed the potential for adding scientific studies back into the SIP. No further modifications were made to the SIP.

The WASC voted to approve voting item 7a (unanimous).

8. Items for next agenda

Kirk Allen proposed postponing the next meeting to allow the ROC to review the SIP and report back to the CSMB WASC.

9. Adjournment

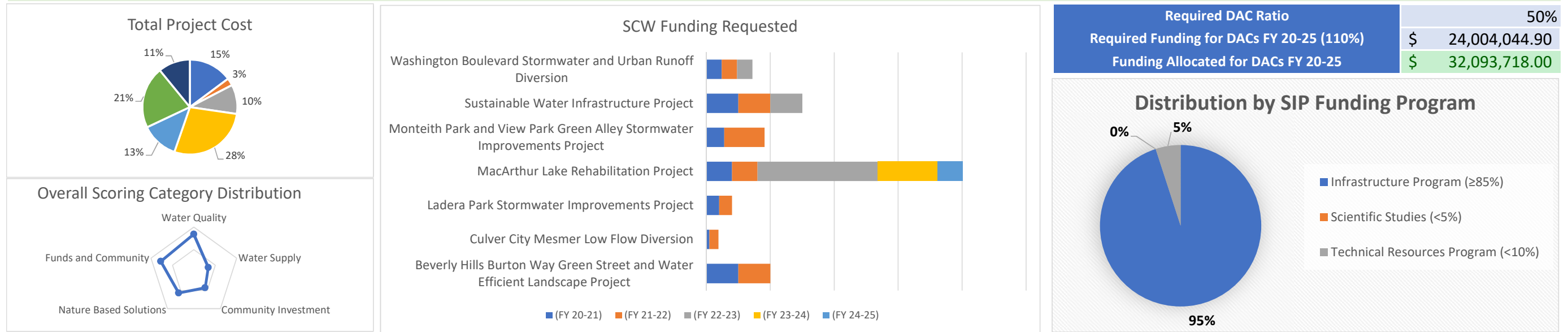
Liz Crosson thanked the WASC members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

CENTRAL SANTA MONICA BAY WASC MEETING - MAY 21, 2020

		Quorum Present				Voting Items	
Member Type	Organization	Member	Voting?	Alternate	Voting?	Meeting Minutes	Voting Item 7a (Approve SIP)
Agency	LACFCD	Cung Nguyen	x	Carolina Hernandez		Y	Y
Agency	West Basin MWD	E.J. Caldwell		Alex Heide	x	Y	Y
Agency	LA Water & Power	Delon Kwan	x	Art Castro		A	Y
Agency	LA Sanitation District	Katie Mika	x	Ariel Flores		Y	Y
Agency	LA Recreation & Parks	Cathie Santo Domingo		Darryl Ford	x	Not Present	Y
Community Stakeholder	LAC Chief Sustainability Office	Rita Kampalath	x	Gary Gero		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	Lipa Consulting Company /	Jacob Lipa		Alysen Weiland	x	Y	Not Present
Community Stakeholder	SCOPE	Gloria Walton	x			Y	Y
Community Stakeholder	LA Waterkeeper	Bruce Reznik	x	Liz Jones		Y	Y
Community Stakeholder							
Municipal Members	Beverly Hills /	Josette Descalzo	x	Hany Demitri		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Culver City	Charles Herbertson	x	Kim Braun		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Ackley Padilla	x	Max Podemski		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Jeff Camp		Rafael Prieto	x	Y	Y
Municipal Members	Los Angeles	Liz Crosson	x	Susie Santilena		Y	Y
Municipal Members	LAC Public Works	Bruce Hamamoto	x	Armando D'Angelo		Y	Y
Municipal Members	Santa Monica	Neal Shapiro	x	Rick Valte		Y	Y
Total Non-Vacant Seats		16				Yay (Y)	14
Total Voting Members Present		16				Nay (N)	0
Agency		5				Abstain (A)	1
Community Stakeholder		4				Total	15
Municipal Members		7				Approved	Approved

Other Attendees	
A Magallanes	Jon Ball
Annelisa Moe	Jonathan Ableson
Ariel Flores	Kara Plourde
Armando D'Angelo	Katie Harrel
Art	Kim Braun
Brenda Ponton	Lauren Amimoto
Brett Perry	Matthew Magener
Bronwyn Kelly	pjmik
Christine McLeod	Selim Ern
Derek Nguyen	Shahram Kharaghani
Dustin Bambic	Shahriar
Geremew Amenu	Sheila Brice
Hans Tremmel	sloanep
J Newman	Steven Sharp
Jaime Sayre	Susie
James Stahl	Vamsi Seeta
Johanna	

Project Details



Stormwater Investment Plan Preview

	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
A. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Collected	\$17.84 M	\$17.84 M	\$17.84 M	\$17.84 M	\$17.84 M		\$89.19 M
B. Anticipated Annual Regional Program Funds Available (A+D)	\$17.84 M	\$24.14 M	\$28.51 M	\$32.85 M	\$45.59 M		
C. Total Allocated in the SIP	\$11.54 M	\$13.46 M	\$13.50 M	\$5.10 M	\$2.35 M	\$0.00 M	\$45.94 M
D. Remaining Balance/Rollover Funds (B-C)	\$6.30 M	\$10.67 M	\$15.01 M	\$27.75 M	\$43.24 M		
E. Percent Allocated (C/B)	65%	56%	47%	16%	5%		52%

Row Labels	DAC	(FY 20-21)	(FY 21-22)	(FY 22-23)	(FY 23-24)	(FY 24-25)	Future Funding	TOTAL
Infrastructure Program		\$ 10,837,500.00	\$ 13,062,500.00	\$ 13,097,900.00	\$ 4,697,900.00	\$ 1,947,918.00	\$ -	\$ 43,643,718.00
Beverly Hills Burton Way Green Street	No	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00
Culver City Mesmer Low Flow Diversion	No	\$ 237,500.00	\$ 712,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 950,000.00
Ladera Park Stormwater Improvements	No	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00
MacArthur Lake Rehabilitation Project	Yes	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 9,397,900.00	\$ 4,697,900.00	\$ 1,947,918.00	\$ -	\$ 20,043,718.00
Monteith Park and View Park Green Alley	Yes	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ 3,150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,550,000.00
Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project	Yes	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500,000.00
Washington Boulevard Stormwater and Urban Runoff Diversion	No	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,600,000.00
Technical Resources Program		\$ 700,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,300,000.00
Edward Vincent Junior Park Stormwater	(blank)	\$ 300,000.00					\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #1	(blank)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Watershed Coordinator #2	(blank)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 1,000,000.00
Grand Total		\$ 11,537,500.00	\$ 13,462,500.00	\$ 13,497,900.00	\$ 5,097,900.00	\$ 2,347,918.00	\$ -	\$ 45,943,718.00



Public Comment Form

Name*: Annelisa Moe Organization*: Heal the Bay / OurWaterLA
Email*: amoe@healthebay.org Phone*: 707-540-4303
Meeting: 5/21 Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Meeting Date: 5/21/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

Given this is the first year of the program, we recommend the CSMB WASC allocate no more than 50% of the funding available this year. We hope in the future to see new projects that incorporate more goals of the SCWP in terms of nature-based and multi-benefit solutions to stormwater management.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Arianne Garcia Organization*: City of LA CD 11
Email*: arianne.garcia@lacity.org Phone*: 6263277295
Meeting: Safe, Clean Water Program Watershed Area Steeri Date: _____

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

This is Arianne Garcia, District Director for Council District 11, I am here today to speak on the Ballona Creek Water Quality Improvement Project. Thi project not only improves water quality for Ballona Creek and the Santa Monica Bay, it also advances the City goals of augmenting recycled water, and greatly enhances the community. Thank you.



Public Comment Form

Name:* David Pedersen Organization*: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Email*: dpedersen@lvmwd.com Phone*: (818) 564-5205
Meeting: Central Santa Monica Bay WASC Date: 5/21/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

I would like to speak in support of the "Low Flow Treatment Facility #1" project.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Dustin Bambic, PH Organization*: _____
Email*: dgbambic@gmail.com Phone*: _____
Meeting: Central Santa Monica Bay Date: 5/21/2020

- LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments
*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

The WASC should re-consider its discussion on scientific study funding by the SIP, especially studies that provide resources to identify cost-effective project concepts on behalf of community organizations and municipalities. Funds for these types of studies provide immense 'bang for the buck' to the Watershed Area and provide minimal impact on the overall SIP budget.

Scientific studies are an important part of the SCW Program, and the 5% allocation was approved by the voters. Not all scientific studies are contentious or regulatory-focused.

Please re-consider the determination to not include planning-focused scientific studies in the SIP, because they benefit both community groups and municipalities.

Note: these comments are provided as a hydrologist/water quality professional who has worked in the region for almost 20 years, and are not made on behalf of any specific organization.

From: Ron Gastelum <rongastelum@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 10:44 AM
To: DPW-SafeCleanWaterLA
Subject: Ballona Creek Project

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

I am writing in support of the proposed Measure W grant for LA Sanitation's stormwater collection project in Ballona Creek. This project would demonstrate a cost effective approach to dry weather flow collection that can serve to expedite dry weather flow collection and treatment for cities throughout LA County. In addition, the potential of this project to contribute recycled water to increase the region's resiliency to drought and other Climate Change effects is significant. The multiple benefits of this project are exemplary and fully consistent with the intent of Measure W.

I am a Principal in the firm of Water Conservation Partners and a retired CEO and General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. I do not do business with LA Sanitation or any other participating entity in the project.

Ronald R. Gastelum

(310) 750-7930



Public Comment Form

Name:* Shahriar Eftekhazadeh Organization*: SEITec
Email*: Shahriar.Eftekhazadeh@SEITecinc.com Phone*: 310 879 9376
Meeting: CSMB WASC Date: 5/21/2020

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

The Project concept in the Feasibility Study is expected to have identified and incorporated the best solution i.e. one that maximizes the project benefits at minimum cost.

In preparing the watershed SIPs, the County Flood Control District Municipal Code tasks the WASCs to "...review and evaluate the proposed Project scores, proposed Project concepts and proposed studies," (Chapter 18.07 item g). This obligates the WASCs to meticulously examine and establish the value and cost-effectiveness of a proposed Project concept.

This requires the steering committee members to actively engage in scrutinizing the technical merits of the Projects, evaluate their cost-effectiveness, require evidence for optimization, and assure that all potential feasible alternatives have been considered such that the Proposed project is the best solution for meeting the SCW program goals.

Unfortunately, we have not seen this happening and as independent storm water Consultants, have taken this on ourselves. We have examined and identified several projects submitted for funding that do not meet the above requirements and are not the least-cost, maximum-benefit Alternatives.

The most important and consequential of these projects is the Ballona Creek TMDL project, for which we have identified and informed the City of Gravity Alternatives that can be used instead of the proposed pump station solutions. Gravity Alternatives are nature-based solutions that provide many advantages consistent with the SCW program goals and are always preferred to pump station Alternatives where feasible.

This is to inform the SMB WASC that we have prepared and donated to the City detailed plans, technical specifications, and cost estimates for Gravity Alternatives at both locations in the Ballona Creek TMDL Project. The documents clearly and irrefutably demonstrate the feasibility of the Gravity Alternatives showing that they deliver the exact same project water supply and water quality benefits with 45% (\$14.5 Million) less Capital Cost plus 60% (\$700,000 per year) less O&M cost. A key benefit of the Gravity Alternatives is the slashing of the energy consumption from about 10,000 kWh/day (equivalent to 340 household and CO2 emissions of 360 cars) by more than 85%. We will be happy to provide the same to the committee members for their independent review as called for in the County Code.

We are waiting for the City's response and expect that their project application will be revised to the proposed Gravity Alternatives. We request that the SMB WASC inquire about this from the City and await the City's written response before voting on their SIP.

Thank You

To review the guidance documents and for more information, visit www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org

From: Newman, Jenny@Waterboards <Jenny.Newman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:37 PM
To: DPW-SafeCleanWaterLA
Subject: 5/21 Central SMB WASC

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

I wish to make comments on Item 5c "Project Prioritization and Selection Discussion" at the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC on 5/21

Thanks,
Jenny

Jenny Newman
Assistant Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jenny.newman@waterboards.ca.gov
(213) 576-6609