



SGVCOG Special Joint Water Policy Committee/TAC Unapproved Minutes

Date: March 21, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
602 E. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:04 A.M.
2. Roll Call

Water Policy Committee Members Present

M. Clark, Rosemead
J. Capoccia, Sierra Madre
D. Mahmud, South Pasadena

Water Policy Committee Members Absent

Claremont
Diamond Bar
Glendora
Monrovia
West Covina

Water TAC Members Present

D. Dolphin, Alhambra
V. Hevener, Arcadia
K. Kearney, Bradbury
S. Costandi, Covina
A. Tachiki, O. Chi, Monrovia
J. Carlson, Sierra Madre
A. Lasso, G. LACDPW
T. Love, P. Cortez, USGVMWD

Water TAC Members Absent

South Pasadena
SGVMWD

Ex Officio Members Present

S. Green, LACSD

Ex Officio Members Absent

Watermaster

Guests

J. Carver, M. Cansino, Pomona
MA Lutz, public
K. Howie, Three Valleys MWD
W. La, SGMRC

D. Correy, V. Murphy, Sen Portantino
R. Tahir, TECs
B. Faustinos, Nature for All

SGVCOG Staff

E. Wolf

3. Public Comment. R. Tahir read comments and entered them into the record. His comments include:
 - The State Audit report noted that the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River EWMP overestimated by a factor of 10, the amount of runoff that was needed to be infiltrated

in order to meet the metals TMDL. The Regional Board caught this error.

- His belief that a similar mistake has been made by the Upper LA River EWMP.
- His belief that the high-flow suspension exemption should have been applied last year to meet the allowable number of exceedance days under the TMDL.
- His belief that an EIR should have been done to determine what impact reduced flow would have on down-stream environments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Water Committee/TAC Meeting Minutes – 2/21/2018
There was not a quorum of Water Committee members. This item will be carried forward to next month's agenda.

PRESENTATION

ACTION ITEMS

5. Support for Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River E/WMP Modifications
Oliver Chi, Monrovia City Manager, gave an overview of the proposed changes to the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River E/WMP, including the methodology and reasoning underpinning the changes. These changes will be submitted to the Regional Board for approval as part of the E/WMP's adaptive management plan. The changes include the initial sequencing of five regional projects, designed to accomplish the majority of the E/WMP's water quality objectives. Other distributed projects, such as green streets, may ultimately not be required. The group is making the case that a one-day or one-event storm is not a good basis for establishing a watershed management plan. Instead, a yearly estimate is needed. The group has been working with the Regional Board and NGOs in order to gain support and is requesting that the SGVCOG submit a letter of support. Since there was not a quorum, a vote was not taken and this item will be brought back for Water Committee consideration in April before the issue comes before the Governing Board later that month. D. Mahmud noted that she will not be able to attend the April meeting but wanted it noted that she supports the proposed E/WMP changes.
6. SB 623 (Monning)
Since there was not a quorum, this item was not addressed and instead, will be brought back in April for consideration.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Safe, Clean Water Program Elements
E. Wolf provided an overview of the subcommittee discussions and program elements as they have matured since the last Water Policy meeting. The Chair then led members in discussion of several of the elements.
 - Governance. Referring to the proposed watershed management group map, D. Mahmud reviewed the reasons why she believes the Upper LA River group should be divided into a San Fernando Valley-based group and an Arroyo Seco-based group. Members expressed concern that a particular city not be separated into two different watershed regions. Ms. Mahmud said that should not be the case, unless a city is subject to the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Board. The committee reviewed the project selection flow chart, watershed group membership slides, and Regional Coordination Committee slide.

Members noted that since the Technical Committee will be empowered to score projects as the first level of review, membership on this committee could be very important.

- Project Selection. Committee members reviewed the proposed numeric scoring criteria.

D. Mahmud offered her ideas about adding additional scoring tiers and commented that receiving points for nature-based solutions in categories A and B, as well as possibly scoring points in category C, amounts to double and triple counting.

- Ballot Question. Members reviewed the draft ballot question and identified the difficulty the average voter might have in interpreting “impermeable surface.” They also discussed how this formula might lead to numerous requests for exemption. Next, the group discussed the County’s current thinking that the regional funds would be returned to the watersheds based on the amount that is raised within that watershed. D. Mahmud noted that this might hurt some higher density communities, where the amount of population is high, but the amount of tax revenue raised is lower relatively.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. Legislative Updates: SB 633 (Portantino), SB 1133 (Portantino), SB 1422 (Portantino), AB 2538 (Rubio), AB 1668 (Friedman), H.R. 465/2355

E. Wolf gave an update on pending legislation. There has been no change to SB 633, AB 1422, AB 1668, or H.R. 465/2355. SB 1133 has been updated as of March 19th. The bill language calls for some money raised by the proposed stormwater tax to go toward updating LA’s Basin Plan. AB 2538 has been amended to include some of the findings of the State Audit. The SGVCOG is continuing to work with the author to include language creating an ombudsman position at the Water Boards.

9. Regulatory Updates:

- State Audit. E. Wolf gave a brief overview of the findings and noted how these are being addressed in the legislation that we are sponsoring.

- Regulation Prohibiting Wasteful Water Use. There has been no update to this item at that State Water Board.

10. E/WMP Updates. Due to time constraints, there was no discussion of this item.

- RH/SGR

- East SGV

- ULAR

11. Water Boards Update

- 303(d) list. Since the State Board has not responded to staff’s request for information on the progress of the 303(d) list, it was decided to ask one of our representatives for help in getting an update. Staff will work with Sen Portantino’s office.

Recommended Action: for information.

12. Water Supply Update

- Cal Water Fix. T. Love gave an update on MWDs considerations, including self-funding a two-tunnel option. The MWD board will consider this at its meeting on April 10th.

13. Litigation Update

- Gardena and Duarte cases. R. Tahir provided the update. The Duarte case will restart on March 26 and continue through the 29th. The trial will start again on April 1st, devoted to Gardena’s litigation.

14. Stormwater Outreach Updates. There was no update on this item.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

E. Wolf reminded members that the next meeting would be on the new date, the second Tuesday of April, April 10th.

CHAIR'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stormwater, Health, Equity Regional Workshop: April 4, 2018

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.