

Council of Arroyo Seco Agencies

Meeting Summary, May 30, 2013

ATTENDEES

Richard Gomez, LACFCD - WMD
Haris Harouny, LACFCD – WMD
Jonathan Frame, Arroyo Seco Foundation
Tim Brick, Arroyo Seco Foundation
Arabo Parseghian, City of La Canada Flintridge
Tom Budinger, LACDPW
Eric Lim, LACFCD
Brad Boman, City of Pasadena
Rosa Laveaga, City of Pasadena – Parks
Brian Whelan, USACE

SUMMARY

1. Introductions
2. Information Items:

A. MS4 Permit

Haris Harouny, LACFCD – WMD, gives some background information on the subject:

- Permit t is to regulate the water quality of storm and non-storm water discharge by cities and local agencies.
- Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), the County of Los Angeles (County), and 84 incorporated cities within the coastal watersheds of the Los Angeles County with the exception of the City of Long Beach are Permittees.
- Permittees are subject to water quality requirements such as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) requirements in water bodies and at discharge locations identified in the permit.
- Permit encourages Permittees to address water quality requirements through watershed management plans (WMPs) and enhanced watershed management plans (EWMPs)
- By June 28, 2013 all Permittees have to notify the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) of their intent and proposed plan.
- These letters of intent to the Board will identify the name of the plan, the local agencies and cities involved, and the regions/watersheds associated with the plan.
- The LACFCD and County will be involved in 18 total WMPs and EWMPs

- The LACFCD and County are in the process of going to their Board of Supervisors to give the Chief Engineer delegated authority to enter into MOUs with other cities and agencies.
- These MOUs are in development and will allow for cost sharing in hiring a consultant to develop the WMPs and EWMPs.
- Arroyo Seco is identified in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Group, which will be an EWMP and the cities involved in the EWMP are: Alhambra, Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills, La Canada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, and Temple City including the LACFCD and the County.
- The MOU for the Upper Los Angeles Watershed EWMP are due to the Board by December 2013 and a project must be completed within 30 months of the enactment of the Permit.

B. Presentation: Arroyo Seco a Model Watershed by Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF)

Tim Brick discusses Arroyo Seco Foundation's vision and current efforts to propose a model EWMP involving the Arroyo Seco along with the confluence with the Los Angeles River

- The ASF is pleased with the emergence of the MS4 Permit and believes it's an important step forward in improving overall watershed health.
- ASF has been working with Burns & McDonnell and the City of Pasadena in developing a EWMP to serve as a model WMP for the rest of the County.
- As the EWMP develops for the Arroyo Seco, the ASF would like to see a more reasonable breakdown of the area; Tim believes that the EWMP that the Arroyo Seco is involved in is too big and covers too much land/too many watersheds.
- The ASF would like to be involved in the development of the plan as well as the possible projects that will be identified in the plan.

3. Army Corps of Engineers

A. Arroyo Seco Watershed Feasibility Study (Study) Update

Brian Whelan discusses the LACFCD request to Accelerate Funds to allow the continuance of the Study.

- The LACFCD has requested to accelerate funds for their portion of cost of the Study to keep the Study active and help prioritize amongst other studies.
- With the LACFCD accelerating their funds it will possible trigger Congress to allocate federal funds for fiscal year 2014.
- The Army Corps of Engineers are in the process of re-scoping the Study to meet their new "Smart Planning" process/requirements.

- In October, the Study will be moving from a feasibility study phase to a project specific study, which will identify alternative projects.
- Pasadena and La Canada Flintridge have expressed their desire to be part of the discussion for identify these specific projects for the Study.
- Meetings among the experts will be held to develop concepts for projects that the Army Corps of Engineers can be a partner in.
- The members of CASA would like to have a copy of the Accelerated Funds letter that was sent to the Army Corps of Engineers.

4. Agencies Update

A. Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project

Thomas Budinger gave an update on the project.

- Working on Draft EIR (about 30% complete).
- There will be 60 day review period for the Draft EIR.

5. Other