

Proposition O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) Meeting Minutes Monday, May 16, 2016

Committee Members

Adi Liberman (Chair)	Craig Perkins
Mark Gold (Vice Chair)	Francine Diamond
Miguel Luna	Alina Bokde
Cynthia McClain-Hill	Teresa Villegas

City

Rafael Prieto [Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)]
Jennifer Quintanilla (CLA)
 David Hirano [(City Administrative Officer (CAO))]
Raoul Mendoza (CAO)
 Ted Jordan (City Attorney)
Laurie Rittenberg (City Attorney)
Ken Redd [Bureau of Engineering (BOE)]
Kendrick Okuda (BOE)
Adel Hagekhalil [(Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN))]
Shahram Kharaghani (LASAN)

Bold indicates members or staff present.

Note: The minutes below follow the order in which the meeting’s agenda items were listed.

The COAC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Eight committee members were present for the meeting. The meeting was held at City Hall, Room 1500.

I. (Agenda item 1) Approval of the Minutes from prior meeting

Action: The meeting minutes for February 29, 2016 were approved by the committee members present.

The COAC Chair prioritized agenda items #9 and #7 to be addressed first.

II. (Agenda item 9) Discussion and Possible Action:

- Consideration of public education and outreach activities
 The Chair introduced Stephen Groner of Stephen Groner and Associates (SGA) who has been developing a comprehensive 10-year Prop O program report in consultation with sub-committee members and City staff. A communication brief was distributed to committee and discussed. SGA’s brief identified target audience as engaged residents, not technical experts or elected officials, so their brief was written in a visual and bulleted format rather than text heavy. The goal would be to connect water quality issues to resident concerns and what is most meaningful to the audience. Committee members voiced desire to have water

quality analysis and benefits concisely captured and quantified in this report, as well to highlight other project benefits to the community. Committee referred to the Sustainable City Plan and Beach Report Card as examples to inform the look and content of this report and discussed working on further development of report.

Public comment: Joyce Dillard voiced concern that this report should be consistent with the original ballot measure intent and tied into Watershed and Basin Plans as wells as the MS4 permit requirements.

No action was taken.

III. (Agenda item 7) Discussion and Possible Action:

- Presentation of concept reports for the LA River Greenway Trail Stormwater Best Management Practices project and Water LA Neighborhood Retrofits project

Chair Liberman recused himself on this item because of conflict of interest (he also sits on the Board of Directors of Community Conservation Solutions (CCS), the organization presenting the LA River Greenway Trail Stormwater project). Vice-Chair Gold took over as Chair of the meeting.

Esther Feldman of CCS presented LA River Greenway Trail Stormwater Best Management Practices project and requested \$395,000 funding from Prop O. Project Concept Report was distributed to committee. Esther Feldman stated that the project addresses storm water runoff problems impacting this area near the Los Angeles (LA) River and that the request is time-critical as construction is already underway. The Project is three-acre site located in residential and commercial area of Studio City neighborhood of City of Los Angeles, on LA County Flood Control District jurisdiction along LA River. Esther Feldman stated project has water quality benefits and funding would leverage \$1 million in state, county and private funding; Prop O funding would allow project to triple the size of bioswale area, capture first flush, include slope stabilization and habitat enhancement and help TMDL limit reduction.

Committee asked about water quality benefits of projects and monetary benefits and how Prop O funds would impact project. Concern was voiced about considering project that is already in construction. Committee asked how potential projects are being added to queue for consideration, status of available Prop O funds, and status of projects that have been reviewed in the past but not funded. Staff (CAO, BOE) discussed project allocation vs. project savings and contingency needs. The amount of \$4.8 million that was designated for projects' contingencies and continued optimization was discussed for possible reprogramming towards additional projects. Staff (BOE) noted increased construction costs may impact project budgets, and that standard Bond program contingency is approximately 5% of remaining obligations on books.

Melanie Winters, the Director of the River Project, presented the Water LA Neighborhood Retrofits project. The project will target specific areas within the Upper Los Angeles River to

implement parcel-based BMPs on specific properties or along parkways to intercept runoff. The overall project is also receiving funding under the State's IRWMP (Prop 84) program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Melanie Winters described this effort as a multi-benefit project. \$800,000 is requested from Proposition O program and if funding is not received the funding of the other sources will also be in jeopardy.

Committee members discussed both projects' merits and how to fund them through Proposition O. A number of concerns were raised regarding the process as well as the qualification of the projects for Proposition O funding. Acting committee Chair requested staff to present all pending projects that are on the queue as well as newly presented projects for consideration for funding. Shahram Kharaghani agreed to rank all projects within a week and present the ranking to the next meeting. May 23 was tentatively selected as the date to hold a special meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.