Measure W – Safe, Clean Water Program
Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) Minutes

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Members Present: Janice Yu, City Administrative Officer, Chair (CAO)
Rafael Prieto, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)
Ryan Jackson, Office of the Mayor (Mayor)

Staff Present: Jessica Quach, CAO
Blayne Sutton-Wills, CLA

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM.

Public Comment – Held

1. Minutes of the March 28, 2024 Regular Meeting

   Disposition: Approved 3-0.

2. Verbal update on the status of Measure W – Safe, Clean Water Municipal and Regional Program

   Michael Scaduto (Bureau of Sanitation/LASAN) presented updates on the following:

   Municipal Program – Municipal Transfer agreements are three year terms and the new agreement is anticipated to be released in July 2024. The agreement is specific to the municipal return of approximately $36 million. A self-audit is a requirement of the agreement. LASAN is working with a consultant and has received a draft with six key findings. The final report is expected in June 2024.

   The Haynes Street project broke ground and the East 6th St. project is currently in the bid and award phase.

   Regional Program – Mr. Scaduto presented a summary of funding requests for the Round 5 deliberations as well as a future funding outlook for the various watershed areas.

   The Committee noted their appreciation for the amount of work and collaboration required for the Regional Program.

   Janice Yu (CAO/Chair) asked if there was a plan for funding projects that only applied for partial funding in Round 5. Mr. Scaduto replied that LASAN is seeking grants for the projects in need of funding. He also noted that some projects qualify for funding from Caltrans. Art Castro (Department of Water and Power/DWP) replied that, similar to LASAN, DWP is also looking for grants and other ways to fund their projects.

   Disposition: No action taken.

3. Report from LASAN on the Proposed Measure W – Safe, Clean Water Program 2023-24 Watershed Investment Strategic Plan (WISP)

   Mr. Scaduto presented the WISP to the Committee and noted new changes including a projects prioritization list, projects that collaborate with the Los Angeles Unified School

District and other Non-Governmental Organizations, updated financials, and leveraged funding summaries. Also included in the WISP are adaptive management strategies as adopted by the County of Los Angeles' (County) Regional Program.

Ms. Yu asked if there was any outreach done with the Council Districts for the projects in the WISP. Mr. Scaduto replied that yes, LASAN worked with the Council Districts on projects. He noted that projects are not as equitable to date as there are some Council Districts where projects are difficult to implement.

Ms. Yu also asked if the table included in the WISP regarding Letters of Support also included Letters of Non-Objection. Mr. Scaduto confirmed that the table includes both. Ms. Yu followed up by asking if there was any follow up on projects that have received Letters of Support or Non-Objection. Mr. Scaduto replied that LASAN has reached out to the project proponents and noted that none have moved forward for funding. Ms. Yu requested a report back on the status of those projects.

Ryan Jackson (Mayor) asked if the Watershed Coordinators have proactively communicated about the Round 6 pause. Mr. Scaduto replied that yes, they have been actively working with the coordinators and noted that the County would likely send information out. The Committee discussed how to disseminate information regarding the soft pause.

Rafael Prieto (CLA) remarked that the operations and maintenance plans should be tailored for each of the watersheds and for LASAN to continue working with the County regarding this issue.

Disposition: Approved 3-0.

4. Report from LASAN requesting approval of the Community Outreach and Engagement Strategic Plan (COESP)

   Susie Santilena (LASAN) presented the COESP to the Committee and explained there was a delay between presentation of the original draft COESP and the final due to the incorporation of guidance from the County's Safe Clean Water Program.

   Ms. Yu asked how LASAN works with Council Districts regarding outreach. Ms. Santilena responded that communication with the Council Districts is built into the program. She added that LASAN has consultants to assist help with outreach. Ms. Yu followed up by asking if there was a particular outreach model used as the basis of the COESP. Ms. Santilena replied that the model used was based on the outcome of a County working group. Ms. Yu asked for an example of how outreach was conducted for any existing projects. Mr. Scaduto replied that, for the MacArthur Park Project, LASAN reached out to the community to gain feedback and incorporated the feedback into the project. Ms. Yu asked how the outreach overlap with other required outreach. Mr. Scaduto replied that the outreach meets the minimum requirements and there is room to go above and beyond the minimum.

   The Committee discussed the merits of approving the COESP now versus continuing the item to a subsequent meeting in order to obtain more feedback. The Committee amended the recommendations to request periodic updates as the County updates their outreach guidance.

   Disposition: Approved, as amended, 3-0.

5. Report from LASAN requesting authority to submit one Measure W – Safe, Clean Water Regional Program Round 6 application to the Special Study Program

   Mr. Scaduto presented a Street Sweeping Study for approval to re-submit as a Round 6 request and noted that several watersheds approved the study in Round 5, but that the application would be for the watersheds that did not approve.

   The Committee discussed the study, how much LASAN would request in the application for Round 6, and addressing the soft pause for Round 6 in a report. Ms. Yu asked what would happen if funding is not approved. Mr. Scaduto replied that certain watersheds would go forward with the study first and that funding from the Municipal Program or possibly funding from the Watershed Protection Division and Stormwater Pollution Abatement Fund within LASAN.

   The Committee amended the recommendations to include an instruction regarding communication of the Round 6 soft pause.

   Disposition: Approved, as amended, 3-0.

6. Report from LASAN requesting authority to issue a Letter of Non-Objection for the Western Gage Green Alleys Feasibility Study

   Ms. Santilena presented the Western Gage Green Alleys Project to the Committee. She noted that as the soft pause for Round 6 is only for the Infrastructure Projects Program, applications for Special Studies and the Technical Resources Program are allowed.

   Ms. Yu asked if Council District Eight is aware of the project. Ms. Santilena replied that the project applicant has reached out to the Council District. Ms. Yu followed up by asking about the City's role if the project is approved. Mr. Scaduto replied that it's premature to assess the impact to the City and that the City would have more opportunities to provide input and be more engaged in the process. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Prieto voiced their appreciation for the project.

   Disposition: Approved 3-0.

7. Other Committee organizational matters, as necessary

   Staff will inform the Committee if a meeting in June is needed.

   Disposition: No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.