

**LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE  
MEETING NOTES**

**February 21, 2019**

PARTICIPANTS

Dave Renfrew  
Garth Engelhorn  
Claudia Steiding  
John McNamara  
Kasey Castillo  
Dan Cortese  
Rae Beimer  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Mike Roberts  
Stormy Osifeso  
Lynn Merrill  
Lenai Hunter  
Sudhir Mohleji  
Richard Meyerhoff  
Ankita Vyas  
Greg Kahlen  
Tim Moore  
Ken Theisen  
Abigail Suter  
Andrea Gonzalez  
Edwin Quinonez  
Rebekah Guill  
Richard Boon  
Chris Stransky  
John Rudolph  
Bruce Whitaker  
Rick Whetsel  
Mark Norton

REPRESENTATIVE

Alta Environmental  
Alta Environmental  
CASC/City of Hemet  
CR&R  
City of Canyon Lake  
City of Hemet  
City of Moreno Valley  
City of Perris  
City of Riverside  
City of Riverside  
City of San Jacinto  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
GEI Consultants  
MBI/Caltrans  
The Kahlen Group  
Risk Sciences  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Wood Environmental  
Wood Environmental  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Steven Wolosoff  
Nicole Dailey  
Pat Boldt  
Rachael Johnson

CDM Smith  
City of Lake Elsinore  
WRCAC  
Riverside County Farm Bureau

**Call to Order & Introductions**

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Mark Norton at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

**Meeting Notes**

The January 9, 2019 LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

**Update: Basin Plan Amendment to Update and Revise TMDLs (Regional Board)**

Regional Board staff was not available for comment, but Tim Moore / Risk Sciences was available to update stakeholders on a couple key items.

The Regional Board intends to post the final draft of all key documents including the Basin Plan Amendment, and Resolution of Adoption by March 1<sup>st</sup>. That will kick-off the formal Public Review and Comment period and concurrent to that the Peer Review process. Aiming for a late summer Adoption Hearing.

Mr. Moore noted significant changes to EPA staff working on the TMDL. Feedback from EPA has been positive and have not had significant comments to our proposed process.

Mr. Moore also noted that our schedule for adoption of the LE&CL TMDL update may be delayed, not due to issues with our work, but due to the permit process for the Poseidon project, which is consuming a great deal of Regional Board staff time. Therefore, Mr. Moore suggested that the Task Force submit a letter to Regional Board, with respect to the Regional Board Triennial Review Process, requesting the LE&CL TMDL Revision be approved within this Triennial Review Period.

Mr. Moore will prepare a letter for review by the Task Force and submit to Regional Board.

**Update: Lake Elsinore Water Quality**  
RCFC&ECD Monitoring Results (RCFC&WCD)

Rebekah Guill /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD and Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental presented an update and preliminary results from the Post Fire Monitoring being conducted by the County to evaluate the impacts of the Holy Fire.

Richard Boon and Andrea Gonzalez /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD followed with a presentation to stakeholders on the effort by the County to manage storm runoff and debris from the burned area, this included a brief video to showing an example of the local storm flow.

Following the presentation Mr. Moore requested, to support this significant effort by the County to manage debris flow from the burn area, that the load of TN and TP removed by the County from reaching Lake Elsinore be quantified and a comparison be made of the pre and post sediment loadings.

Ms. Pat Boldt /WRCAC informed stakeholders that local consultants AIS, recently completed vegetation mapping for the State.

TMDL Compliance Monitoring (John Rudolph/Wood Environmental)

Chris Stransky and John Rudolph /Wood Environmental presented results of recent water quality monitoring of Lake Elsinore in response to the recent storm events.

Mr. Rudolph also described a scope of work for clean-up and abatement funds prepared for the City of Lake Elsinore to characterize of the newly formed sediment plume for possible dredging, as well as, looking as algal speciation and water quality related toxicity issues in sediment runoff from the burned area.

Mr. Stransky noted that the field crew collected and froze some dead fish from the Lake to for possible fish tissue analysis. Mr. Moore suggested that these fish could be analyzed as part of the upcoming Fishery management effort to be led by Wood Environmental.

Clean-up and Abatement Funding (Ken Theisen/Santa Ana Regional Board)

Nicole Dailey /City of Lake Elsinore informed stakeholders of the application submitted to the State for clean-up and abatement funds. She thanked Regional Board staff Ken Theisen and Heather Boyd for their assistance in preparing the application and noted that she and Ken have setup a call with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the guidelines for an emergency situation and permit requirements if the results of the monitoring by Wood Environmental show the need for this material to be dredged from the Lake.

This application for funding is for \$42,000 to complete the Phase 1 work proposed by Wood Environmental and if necessary the City will prepare a second application for phase 2 work, which will include work related to dredging of the sediment from the burn area.

Ms. Dailey also noted that the City and County have been tracking their costs in hopes that it will be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA.

Lastly, Ms. Dailey noted that the fish die-off lasted about five (5) weeks and resulted in the removal of 150 tons of primarily dead carp from the Lake.

With the recent storms, lake level has risen to 1240.7 feet above sea level.

## **Discussion: Canyon Lake Alum Project**

### Postponed Alum Application week of February 18<sup>th</sup> (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed stakeholders that the Canyon Lake spring alum application planned for the week of February 18<sup>th</sup> has been postponed, due the heavy rains forecasted for the watershed. It is proposed that the alum application will take place either the last week of March or mid-April. Moving forward Mr. Whetsel will coordinate with Robert Laag /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD and Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental on the weather forecast.

### Permit Requirements for Alum additions to Canyon Lake (Risk Sciences)

Tim Moore / Risk Sciences is discussing the timing for need of a permit for the application of alum to Canyon Lake with Regional Board staff. It is expected that we will be looking at the configuration of a new alum program beginning with the alum applications planned for 2020, which coincides with the next RFP to be issued by the Task Force to hire a firm to implement the program.

## **Discussion: Prop 1 Grant Submittals (LESJWA Staff)**

Mark Norton /LESJWA provided a brief update on proposals for Proposition 1 funding submitted by LESJWA and the City of Lake Elsinore, with potential to support the effort of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force.

### Canyon Lake Dredging

Mr. Norton briefly described the Canyon lake POA project for \$6 Million for dredging of the East Bay of Canyon Lake. This will include the removal of approximately 170,000 CY of sediment. An issue with this project is its state of readiness, as the project has not initiated efforts to prepare CEQA or permits.

### Lake Elsinore Potential Project

Ms. Dailey provided a brief description of the proposal by the City of Lake Elsinore for a Pilot Algae Harvesting project. This project would entail the use of a barge or similar technology to physically remove algae mass from the Lake. The project cost is estimated at \$247,000, include significant disadvantaged community benefits and is ready to go.

Mr. Norton informed stakeholders that the next step in the grant process is for project rating and ranking to be completed in March and DWR review scheduled for June 2019.

## **Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**

### Draft FY 2019-20 Task Force Budget

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA brought up on the viewing screen a draft FY 2019-20 LE&CL TMDL Task Force budget and walked the stakeholders through the various budget line items, noting significant modifications to the proposed budget model.

Following a lengthy discussion, stakeholders requested Tim Moore to work with staff to finalize a the assumptions to the budget model and distribute a complete copy of the draft FY 2019-20 LE&CL TMDL Task Force budget to stakeholders for review.

### Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Mr. Whetsel noted the outstanding signature pages are the Cities of Menifee and Murrieta and CA Department of Fish & Wildlife.

## **Other Business**

Mr. Norton reminded stakeholders of the upcoming SAWPA OWOW Watershed Conference to be held at Cal State Fullerton scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.