Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

January 8, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Babcock Labs, Allison Mackenzie
Babcock Labs, Brad Meadows
Babcock Labs, Scott Dallas
City of Anaheim, Dena Giacomini
City of Beaumont, Thaxton VanBelle
City of Corona DWP, Frank Garza
City of Corona DWP, Jennifer McMullin
City of Redlands, Shannon Simmers*
City of Riverside RWQCP, Bobby Gustafson
City of Riverside RWQCP, Edward Filadelfia
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Joe LeClaire
Eurofins, Andy Eaton*
East Valley Municipal Water District, Mike Ali*
GEI Consultants, Richard Meyerhoff*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Bonita Fan*
Orange County Water District, Jason Dadakis
Orange County Water District, Lily Sanchez
Orange County Water District, Patrick Versluis
Orange County Water District, Eleanor Torres*
Risk Sciences, Tim Moore
RWQCB, Cindy Li
RWQCB, Jayne Joy
SAWPA, Mark Norton
SAWPA, Rick Whetsel
SBVMWD, Tim Kellet
WEI/Chino Basin Watermaster, Veva Weamer
Yorba Linda Water District, Bryan Hong
Yorba Linda Water District, Rosanne Weston
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Kevin Lee

* Attended via conference call

Call to Order / Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA. Introductions were made.

EC Program Task Force Background – SAWPA

Mark Norton provided a background PowerPoint presentation on the Task Force. The Task Force was convened by SAWPA to work cooperatively with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) in investigating emerging constituents and determine which emerging constituents may be important to assure water quality protection in the Santa Ana River watershed. An evaluation of emerging constituents was proposed under a two-phase work approach: 1) Survey of current water quality monitoring programs, regulatory issues, stakeholder concerns, analytical methods, and the state-of-the-science on public health and environmental impacts; and 2) Establish which constituents should be investigated and how sampling should be conducted.

The results assisted state and federal agencies in determining most effective measuring and detection practices and avoided the need to conduct long term emerging constituent costs on other emerging constituents.

In addition, the Task Force continues to conduct public outreach using social media tools to share information on the safety of the water supply with the public. The social media tools consist of important articles and experts interviews to help inform and ensure public understanding of potable water safety.

Based on a presentation provided by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to the Santa Ana River Dischargers Association (SARDA) on October 2018, there are new emerging constituents of concern known as Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS). OCWD was advised to meet with the Task Force to review interest in a new voluntary sampling program for these new emerging constituents.

DRAFT

Past Sampling for PFOA & PFOS – OCWD

Patrick Versluis, Director of Water Quality for the Orange County Water District (OCWD), provided a PowerPoint presentation on their past sampling efforts for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS), which are part of a larger group of emerging constituents referred to as per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs).

The PFASs are key ingredients in the production of Teflon, Scotchgard, polymers for aircraft and electronics, paper packaging and wrappers for food and fire fighting foams. These constituents were phased out in the United Stated in the 2000s but were replaced with short chains of the chemical. They have been found in groundwater near manufacturing sites and military bases. The constituents are very stable and are resistant to degradation. There is still a lot of research that needs to be done as to what the health effects are.

OCWD's initial PFAS testing was on Orange County drinking water between the years 2013-2015 for Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 3 program. The UCMR 3 results determined that 5 out of 19 retailers had detections related to drinking water wells; it was noted that the retailer detections generally downgradient of OCWD Santa Ana River (SAR) recharge area.

The 2016 EPA Health Advisory sparked interest in these compounds after the UCMR 3 results, setting health advisory at 70 ng/L for PFOA and PFOS. In July of 2018 the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) released an interim drinking water notification levels (PFOA=14 ng/L; PFOS=13 ng/L) and response levels (PFOA + PFOS = 70 ng/L). The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) recommends water source be taken out of service if it exceeds 70 ng/L. Versluis stated that as of right now there aren't many labs that are certified with 537 drinking water testing to meet the notification requirements from DDW. OCWD's laboratory is working with DDW to get their certification.

Recent amendments to the Recycled Water Policy have added the PFASs as health indicators for potable reuse projects. Presentation continued with details of OCWD's monitoring activities since 2016 EPA health advisory and their results.

Versluis advised that more policies and regulations for these compounds are being established. He noted that there are speculations that EPA might declare the PFASs as a Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous waste.

What laboratory method will be used? OCWD has been using the EPA Drinking Water Method 537 released in 2018. Some other labs are using a modified version of EPA Method 537. EPA is working on additional PFASs methods for other matrices. Versluis stated that there are various methods and highly recommends a thorough discussion of which method will be used if the Task Force decides to move forward with a new voluntary sampling program.

If the Task Force elects to a new voluntary sampling program, OCWD recommends the following:

- Include SAR Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge sites, SAR surface water sites, Temescal Creek sites, sites to help identify any non-Wastewater Treatment Plant sources
- Prioritize PFAS compounds
- Second to PFAS, consider additional ECs in updated Recycled Water Policy

Questions from the Task Force regarding the methods used by OCWD and laboratories that are in the processes of getting their certifications for 537 drinking water testing ensued.

DRAFT

Need for New Voluntary EC Sampling Program

Recycled Water Policy Amendments Status – Regional Board

Cindy Li, Senior Engineering Geologist at the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Board), informed the Task Force that at this stage data is being gathered. State Board is doing inventory of data; she stated that the Santa Ana Region has always been proactive, and the State Board will probably set this Region as an example for the rest.

Jayne Joy, Assistant Executive Officer at Regional Board, is currently involved with the Contaminants of Emerging Constituents (CEC) Initiative. She shared that the group is having discussions regarding the PFAS and how to manage them. She welcomed the Task Force to share their experiences with the PFAS in order to better understand and manage them.

Scoping of New Sampling Program – PFOA, PFOS and Possibly Other ECs

Mark Norton open the floor for discussion on whether the Task Force is interested in scoping out a new voluntary sampling program.

Al Javier, Eastern Municipal Water District, stated that the Task Force is a suitable group for receiving uniform and quality data. He is in favor of revisiting the previous emerging constituents in addition to the PFAS and include the PFAS shorter chains.

Mark Norton added that the science that is developed through this proactive approach can not only provide the State with data that can help drive good policies but can also demonstrate to the public that we are on the forefront in doing something about these new constituents. He stated that in the past, the first step taken was putting together a Sampling and Laboratory Analysis Plan (SLAP), where OCWD took lead with Babcock Laboratories Inc. and Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.; they agreed to initiate a SLAP for the new voluntary sampling program if needed.

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences, highlighted that in the past, the SLAP approach was done to categorically distinguish it from a Quality Assurance Project Plan. He stated that its is important that it is kept that way so that it results do not rise to the level of something that needs to be submitted for approval or more importantly be uploaded to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network.

Regional Board suggested that the EC Public Relations component continue with the new voluntary sampling program. From the standpoint of a discharger, there may be concerns with the information produced from the results of a sampling program and how it is used or viewed by the public. Norton agreed and advised that we reconvene the public relations experts among the agencies to set up a plan as to how the information should be shared as we learn about PFASs and recommended that the public be advised of what is being done ahead of time. Eleanor Torres, Director of Public Affairs for OCWD, stated that they have prepared talking points for the public and are located under the Water Quality webpage of their website.

Moore wanted to make it clear to the Task Force that what is being proposed is slightly different than the original mission of the Task Force. The Task Force was focused on monitoring constituents that did not have regulations. The PFASs are part of a mandatory Recycled Water Monitoring Program and part of Proposition 65. He also emphasized that this chemical is categorically different from all those that have been looked at in the past. He stated that the Task Force now has more experience with how results may be used regulatorily.

Risk Sciences and SAWPA Support

Tim Moore was asked to provide a scope for the new voluntary sampling program. OCWD added the fact that the scope of work will need to include sampling non-discharger surface water sites, as it appears that

DRAFT

the POTWs may not necessarily be the source of PFASs. OCWD will prepare a draft of the SLAP and provide an update in a month from now.

The Task Force was encouraged to return to their respective upper management and discuss whether this is something they would want to support and meet next month to get a consensus in action to move this program forwards.

Budget

It was discussed that the existing funds from the Task Force will cover the new voluntary sampling program. Tim Moore suggested the Task Force coordinate with the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force and the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed TMDL Task Force to pull stream samples when they retrieve bacteria samples this summer. This would dramatically cut costs in labor. It was also suggested to not put efforts on constituents that already have mandatory monitoring requirements; only work with the 2013 EC list plus the PFASs.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Emerging Constituents Task Force meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

DRAFT