MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

October 25, 2019

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Corona, Melissa Estrada
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog
City of Riverside RWQCP, Edward Filadelfia
Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Matthew Howard
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory Gandara
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Jennifer Ares*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Geoscience Support Services, Dennis Williams
Geoscience Support Services, Johnson Yeh
Geoscience Support Services, Lauren Wicks
LeClaire & Associates, Joe LeClaire
Risk Sciences, Tim Moore
Rubidoux Community Services District, Jeff Sims
S.A. Watershed Project Authority, Haley Mullay
S.A. Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton
S.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li
S.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Eric Lindberg
S.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person
S.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Pamela Ibarra
Somach, Simmons, & Dunn, Theresa Dunham
Wildermuth Environmental, Inc., Veva Weamer
WSC, Michael Cruikshank

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
City of Beaumont
Chino Basin Watermaster
City of Banning
City of Redlands
City of Rialto
Irvine Ranch Water District
Jurupa Community Service District
City of Riverside/SARDA
City of Riverside RWQCP
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

* Participated via conference call

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 1:36 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of September 18, 2019 Meeting Notes

The September 18, 2019 meeting notes were approved.

Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update – WSC, Inc.

Michael Cruikshank of WSC presented a PowerPoint presentation to update us on the whole process thus far. The graphs for TDS and Nitrate concentrations are completed; these will be used to generate the contours for the groundwater basins.

Loading all the data has proved to be fruitful process with conversion corrections and verifying data points throughout the watershed. As data points surface that may seem like outliers, WSC has referred to lab reports to verify that the proper conversions and terms were used. Typically, it's just a data point that has not been fully converted (Nitrogen vs. Nitrate) and after the calculation is complete, WSC plugs in the correct data. The correct data will fall into place within the expected realm of levels for the corresponding area/well. Fortunately, the number of data points needing to go through this process is low. It, also, means that more data points are accurately represented in the data.

There was discussion of the data points, and data tables, provided by WSC. All point statistics can be searched, filtered and sorted. They will also be going into interpretive tools that WSC is creating for the Task Force. This will help everyone easily view the data, especially to compare any seen changes over the years. Soon, there will be a live interactive map to help with viewing the data.

In the coming weeks, WSC plans to have contours completed, scanned and digitized by late November. They will be sent out electronically to the agencies late November, early December. If an agency wishes to review the scans in length, they will need to request a meeting with WSC. The contours will be extremely useful, not just for the agencies independently, but for the watershed and Task Force as a whole.

Cooperative Agreement for Imported Water Recharge

ACTION: Formation of the Creation of a Rechargers Subcommittee

Greg Woodside provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing history and circumstances surrounding the Cooperative Agreement to Protect Water Quality and Encourage the Conjunctive Uses of Imported Water in the Santa Ana River Basin. The agreement, born in response to changes in the proposed general waste discharge requirements, gave alternative solution in placed of those proposed changes. Nine agencies involved in the agreement are:

- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Water Agencies:
    - City of Corona
    - Eastern Municipal Water District
    - Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
    - Orange County Water District
    - City of Riverside
    - San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
    - San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
    - Western Municipal Water District

Amendment came about due to the overall groundwater basins slow-changing nature contributed mostly due to the basin's large volume. This is supported by analysis and reports that show continued compliance in the objectives.

The original reporting cycle for the agreement conditioned that modeling was to be completed every 6 years and the ambient water quality summary completed every 3 years. This amendment is proposing modeling to be completed every 10 years and the ambient water quality summary to be completed every 5 years. The amendment will allow the use and utilization of other reporting and data collection (such as wasteload allocation model and ambient water quality for 2 different groups and cycles) to maximize the efficiencies and satisfy multiple requirements with the one process instead of many different processes occurring in overlapping time frames.

The integrated model recently developed looks at groundwater and surface water for the Upper Santa Ana Habitat Conservation Plan (currently funded by SBVMWD, IEUA, OCWD, & WMWD). This integrated model is currently in the peer review step of the process. There is potential for this integrated model to include calculations for the nitrate and TDS concentration levels.

It's important to note that this is a separate, and stand alone, committee that will have its own funding source and support under the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force. The Rechargers committee would have an official agreement and include a formal separate budget with SAWPA administering the group and overseeing any requirements and fulfillment of the amendment created and signed by the agreeing parties.

> **MOVED,** to approve the amendment to the agreement forming the Imported Water Recharge, or the Recharger's committee, under the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force.
>
> Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
> Motion/Second: Woodside/Gastelum

Results of Additional Work Requested Pertaining to the SAR Wasteload Allocation Model Draft Summary and Report - Geoscience

Johnson Yeh, of Geoscience, provided a PowerPoint presentation on responses to comments and requested recalculations as approved by the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force. The responses were for the comments #3H – Recalculate Baseflow Average at Santa Ana River Below Prado Dam and #3I – Recalculate Streambed Recharge for Beaumont and Bunker Hill-B Groundwater Management Zones. The slides included in the presentation provide the new calculations and results. There are also corresponding graphs and tables that have been included with the new calculations taken into account.

For the #3I, the calculations do not include recharge from Sterling or City creek.

Geoscience will be finalizing Technical Memorandum 5, Technical Memorandum 6, and the Summary Report in the next couple of weeks. With this finalization of the wasteload allocation model, there will be clarifications made on the legends throughout the report.

Supplemental Environmental Document/Economic Analysis for Basin Plan Amendment – Risk Sciences/SAWPA

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, gave a verbal presentation, distributing the *Probable Provisions of the 2020 Basin Plan Amendment* form, as a supplement, to the Task Force. The handout relates to the future Basin Plan amendment proposal that the Task Force will be putting together to obtain the goal of adopting a wasteload allocation. Three firms have been contacted in the attempt to get feedback on a prepared proposal. The handout summarizes the various elements in the Basin Plan Amendment that will be seeing change and the requirements needed to satisfy those changes.

The Task Force will be working hard on getting the full project outline and having all of the information put together to facilitate efficient proposals and work completion. The consultant, when chosen, will be potentially begin work in the near future with it continuing for a few years. The regulatory advisors will be very heavily involved with creating the scope of work for the consultants. Discussions of various solutions will need to take place within the Task Force and at future meetings.

Drought Policy Regulatory Change Guidance Document – Risk Sciences

Tim Moore provided verbal presentation, and the *Proposed Regulatory Approach to Authorize Long-Term Averaging in NPDES Permits* and the *Proposed Approach to Clarify Intended Application of Effluent Limits for Mineral Increments* handout, that refers to plans for drought policy changes and our plans to handles those changes.

The *Proposed Regulatory Approach to Authorize Long-Term Averaging in NPDES Permits* page of the handout supports the approach to using long-term averages and reviewing those calculations instead of them being on very short terms that show more erratic projections than are what's truly happening. Today, in the conservation-based world, a dramatically different reality is in play compared to the limits that were originally concerning large industrial dischargers. For this reason the current goal is a proposal based on ten-year averages, temporarily buying the Task Force time to get changes finalized in other areas that will affect this work as well.

The basin plan today has mineral increments in it. The handout refers to an exact excerpt from page 5-20 for the Drought and Conservation Policy. The italicized paragraph – at the bottom of the *Proposed Approach to Clarify Intended Application of Effluent Limits for Mineral Increments* page of the handout – is suggested to be added after the very end of the last line of the bordered text above it.

The regulatory advisors to the Task Force, Risk Sciences and Somach, Simmons & Dunn, will be putting together more documentation and formal presentation to the Task Force of the proposed language changes they are aiming to obtain, especially regarding salt concentration and the circumstances involving the mineral increments set forth previously.

Scoping of Future Triennial Ambient WQ Update Reflecting New Recycled Water Policy Requirements – Risk Sciences/SAWPA

This item was deferred for discussion at the next Task Force meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 9:30am.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.