

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

November 13, 2019

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson
City of Riverside, Gisela Lopez
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog
City of Riverside, Robert Eland
Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Matthew Howard
Western Municipal Water District, Mallory Gandara
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Madeline Blua

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel B. Stephens, Diane M.
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 Ybarra
Somach, Simmons, & Dunn, Theresa (Tess) Dunham
WEI, Samantha Adams
WSC, Michael Cruikshank

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Chino Basin Watermaster
City of Banning
City of Beaumont
City of Redlands
City of Rialto

City of Riverside
Irvine Ranch Water District
Jurupa Community Service District
San Geronio 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 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of October 25, 2019 Meeting Notes

The October 25, 2019 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update – WSC, Inc.

Michael Cruikshank of WSC presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Ambient Water Quality process thus far. They are beginning to start Task 3 with the computations and putting together analyses of the data such as Mann Kendall testing and Well Attrition analysis. A spreadsheet previously sent out by WSC, grants access to all sampling data from each well that is included in the analysis. As requested, a column for percent change was incorporated into the table showing a comparison of change between the 2015 and 2018 values.

Michael demonstrated the use of the interactive maps (links located within the PowerPoint slides) that show nitrate and TDS values in a geographical spread/distribution. Legends are included indicating the levels of each value corresponding to the point's color. Discussion determined that there is a benefit to having the historical data as it allows us to see a bigger picture and notice the overall trends. WSC had previously sent out a link to a website that gives access to each management zones' data. The individual folders include all

water level data, TDS/Nitrate maps with all the time series charts, and all the information pertaining to that groundwater management zone.

The difficulty with this process is making sure that all wells continue to be sampled in order to remain a point statistic, giving us a more clear, overall picture of what's happening in that area. Some of the factors in wells not being sampled is abandonment of service, inaccessibility, and any sort of contamination found in the well. If the wells are not sampled, those wells risk falling out of the data window to be part of the computation and then can influence the contours regardless of true status, such as the medium and high-risk wells, shown in the maps.

Next, the 2015 digital water level contour maps will be printed out and then the 2018 contours will be drawn out with a pencil on the maps. Each agency will receive an interactive poll online allowing them to indicate whether they would like an in-person meeting with WSC to go over the contours. Once the 2018 contours are digitized, more interpretive tools are planned to be developed. WSC is currently on track for the Draft Technical Memorandum to be ready in February 2020, barring any major complications.

Supplemental Discussion Analysis for Basin Plan Amendment – Risk Sciences/SAWPA

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, gave a verbal presentation, supplemented with the handout *Clarifying the Definition of “Baseflow” Objectives in the Basin Plan*, regarding proposed updates to be included in the Basin Plan Amendment. The handout lists two proposed clarifications for what constitutes “base flow” with supporting references on the second page. The suggested revisions are merely supporting the procedures that are already carried out, these changes allow little to no room for any interpretation to confuse the procedure. Ultimately, it's not a full change, just a way to make it more direct, and specific, as support for the current processes executed.

The next step will be to look at how to support proposed changes regarding use-protection versus antidegradation thresholds/requirements. The plan is to determine what the thresholds mean exactly and to avoid any complications that can arise with the application of use-protection and anti-degradation thresholds used in conjunction, since they are very different.

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

Tess Dunham, of Somach, Simmons & Dunn, gave a verbal presentation supplemented by a handout, *Comparison of Basin Plan Monitoring Requirement v 2019 Recycled Water Policy*, which compares some of the Basin Plan directives (left column) that line up with the new Recycled Water Policy Requirements (right column). Since the next Triennial Ambient WQ update will be completed in 2022 for data from 2021, it will satisfy the due date for the assessment completion by April of 2024, keeping the basin in compliance with the updates.

Since the Regional Water Board will have data due every 5 years, Tess suggested that the Task Force consider adjusting the cycle of the Ambient Water Quality to every 5 years, as opposed to every 3 years. This would assist with other updates as well, by making the reporting and modeling that is completed regularly more efficient. Since monitoring has been completed for roughly the past 20 years, we are able to make a well-supported argument that the monitoring change will not cause detriment to the groundwater quality. All data that's been collected supports the fact that the evolution of the water quality in the groundwater basins happens at a very slow rate. Another pillar of support is that permitting follows 5-year cycles as well.

Task Force was asked to bring forth any perspectives that genuinely support continuing with the 3-year cycle. The only comment some of the agencies raised was considering that their maximum benefit and

permitting conditions dictate that the assessments occur on a 3-year cycle. This will be something that Risk Sciences and Somach, Simmons & Dunn, will be exploring in depth, to bypass any potential complications or issues for the Task Force members.

One of the next discussions would need to be looking at how the Task Force will be addressing exceedances in the objectives; some areas of concerns may need SNMPs created for them, for example. Another topic of discussion regarding the recycled water policy is that data collection will need to be at selected wells which we will have to directly correlate with areas that use recycled water and areas that use large amounts of recharged water for direct reuse. Either of these scenarios must have documented plans from the Task Force on how these instances will be regulated. Given that these changes are not due until April of 2024, we have time to thoroughly review all aspects of these changes.

Review of RFP Response to Prepare CEQA for the Basin Plan Amendment

Mark Norton verbally presented the joint proposal received from GEI Consultants, Inc./LeClaire & Associates to prepare CEQA compliance documentation for the Basin Plan Amendment. Invitations to submit proposals were sent to Water Systems Consulting, Inc. and CDM Smith, however, neither submitted a proposal. Richard Meyerhoff, of GEI, and Joe LeClaire, of LeClaire & Associates, have extensive knowledge and experience in this area. At the time of the meeting, the proposal received consisted only of the Substitute Environmental Document (SED); the economic analysis proposal was due in the next day.

The scope for the consultant will be the substitute environmental analysis only at this time. The Task Force consultants, Tim Moore of Risk Sciences and Theresa Dunham of Somach, Simmons & Dunn, will be writing the actual notice and preparing the outline of information that will be using to dictate what is included, as they will be very thorough in addressing all aspects of the process to avoid any potential setbacks. Some impacts of economic implications were discussed that may occur due to the amendment change, especially since it involves the waste load allocation model. There are no foreseeable negative implications expected of the changes being proposed in the Basin Plan Amendment. It is not expected that there will be any complications or issues for this CEQA that might make it more intensive or more involved than previous notices prepared.

Considering previous SED work conducted in the past, the budget for this project was preemptively set for \$39,000 which would include preparation of the SED and economic analysis. The amount proposed for just the SED is \$31,900. This is the maximum cost to the Task Force although it can be less, if the work dictates that. There will need to be a future vote for the economic analysis proposal to be approved, separately, by the Task Force.

MOVED, to approve the recommendation to support the GEI/LeClaire & Associates proposal to prepare the CEQA documentation for the Basin Plan Amendment to the General Manager at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. The support of the Task Force means it approves of the amount, up to and not-to-exceed, \$31,900 for the work to be completed.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: Shephardson/Woodside

Discussion of Drought Policy Regulatory Change Guidance Document – Risk Sciences

Tim Moore/Tess Dunham provided verbal presentation about a potential guidance document that refers to plans for drought policy changes and our plans to handle those changes. Much of the discussion revolved around whether the Task Force could use a guidance document about the drought policy regulatory changes to supplement the Basin Plan versus the option of tying these changes into the amendment that's currently in progress. Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, will be researching more on the offset policies in hopes to create this

document in a generic way that allows it to be applied to all agencies, not just the ones with maximum benefit demonstrations. It would be the preferred method, as trying to get these changes into the Basin Plan Amendment may slow down the process more than it would be beneficial to get completed.

Waste Load Allocation Model Summary Report Update - Geoscience

Johnson Yeh, of Geosciences, was asked to provide an update the Task Force on the status of the Summary Report. He reported that the Waste Load Allocation Model Summary Report has been finalized and links were submitted to SAWPA for distribution. The report has been broken down into 3 smaller PDFs for ease of access:

- Part 1 of 3: Text
- Part 2 of 3: Figures and Tables
- Part 3 of 3: Appendices
- Excel file included contains all source data.

Mark Norton asked if Geoscience could plan on making a presentation about the final report for the SAWPA Commission on December 17th, 2019. Mr. Yeh said they could and would provide a PowerPoint presentation by SAWPA's December 4th due date. These slides will be emailed out to the Task Force when SAWPA receives them. The Task Force requested a complete overview of the entire Waste Load Allocation Model from Geoscience at the next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force in December and this meeting would serve as a workshop.

Schedule Future Meetings

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force scheduled a workshop to review the Waste load Allocation Model final report with Geoscience on Monday, December 9th, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at SAWPA.

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th at 1:30 p.m. at SAWPA.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.