

## Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

November 13, 2019

### ATTENDEES:

<b>Babcock Labs</b> , Brad Meadows	<b>RWQCB</b> , Cindy Li
<b>City of Beaumont</b> , Kevin Lee	<b>RWQCB</b> , Eric Lindberg
<b>City of Beaumont</b> , Thaxton Van Belle	<b>RWQCB</b> , Heather Boyd
<b>City of Corona DWP</b> , Jennifer McMullin	<b>RWQCB</b> , Pamela Ybarra
<b>City of Rialto</b> , Tom Crowley	<b>Risk Sciences</b> , Tim Moore
<b>City of Riverside RWQCP</b> , Bobby Gustafson	<b>SAWPA</b> , Mark Norton
<b>East Valley Municipal Water District</b> , Mike H. Ali	<b>SAWPA</b> , Rick Whetsel
<b>East Valley Municipal Water District</b> , Sudhir Mohleji	<b>SAWPA</b> , Zyanya Ramirez
<b>EMWD</b> , Al Javier	<b>SBMWD/RIX</b> , Jennifer Shepardson
<b>Eurofins</b> , Rick Zimmer	<b>SWRCB</b> , Faraz Asad
<b>JCSD</b> , Chris Berch	<b>WEI</b> , Samantha Adams
<b>LeClaire &amp; Associates</b> , Joe LeClaire	<b>WMWD</b> , Lyndy Lewis
<b>OCWD</b> , Jason Dadakis	<b>Yorba Linda Water District</b> , Rosanne Weston
<b>OCWD</b> , Lily Sanchez	<b>Yorba Linda Water District</b> , Wayne Miller
<b>OCWD</b> , Patrick Versluis	<b>Yucaipa Valley Water District</b> , Ashley Gibson

### Call to Order / Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA. Introductions were made.

### Preliminary Results for the 2019 Emerging Constituents Sampling Program

Tim Moore provided a verbal update on the preliminary results for the 2019 Emerging Constituents Sampling Program (Sampling Program). He indicated that the Sampling Program has caused a backlog of work for the labs, therefore, SAWPA still awaits data results from a few dischargers. Rick Whetsel, SAWPA staff, is assembling a spreadsheet summarizing the data received thus far.

It was noted that in the draft summary spreadsheet, all PFAS compound results <0.004 ug/L were converted to a non-detect (ND). The Task Force agreed that PFAS compounds resulting in less than 0.004 ug/L be converted from an ND to <# where the # is replaced with the value listed in the Sampling and Laboratory Plan (SLAP) for this Sampling Program. Appendices will still contain the raw data to avoid misinterpretations. SAWPA will distribute the draft summary spreadsheet to the Task Force for their review.

The Task Force requested that the final Sampling Program report highlight the following:

- Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) are not the reason for PFAS. POTWs receive them but they do not create them. Discharging plants were not designed to treat this type of compound.
- The increase in homeless sites discharging to waterways has increased certain chemicals; this is not an indication of poor treatment management.
- When looking at data overtime, it is important to interpret the trend in pharmaceuticals data as they use different compounds overtime.

The draft Sampling Program Report is expected to be finalized and distributed by Risk Sciences to the EC Program Task Force for review at the end of December and finalized in January 2020. The next meeting of the EC Program Task Force will cover the review of proposed responses to comments received.

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### **Discussion of State Board's PFAS Sampling Orders**

The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) presented a PFAS phased investigation approach to inform on PFAS's potential sources and risks to drinking water.

#### *Drinking Water Sampling Program (Phase 1 Completed)*

In the first phase, public water systems were ordered earlier this year to sample drinking water supply wells located near airports and landfills. This phase has been completed.

#### *Effluent Sampling Program (Announcement is Pending)*

Following the first phase, the assessment will focus on sampling water sources near industrial sites and then later at POTWs near the end of next year. The order sampling details will be similar to Phase 1. Details for this phase are currently being finalized by the State Board.

#### *Request for OEHHA to develop Public Health Goal for PFAS's*

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is holding a webinar regarding the development of Public Health Goals for PFAs in drinking water on November 15, 2019. The webinar will provide the public with an opportunity to hear and ask questions about the toxicological and epidemiological data for evaluating the health risks of PFAS. The invite will be distributed to the Task Force after the meeting.

### **SAWPA's EC Public Education and Outreach Program**

Mark Norton provided an overview of the Emerging Constituents Public Education and Outreach Program describing the work done through the [www.YourSoCalTapWater.org](http://www.YourSoCalTapWater.org) blog. Due to the rise in PFAS articles, its is important at this time that PR staff reconvene to see if there is anything else that could or should be done to enhance the public's trust in tap water particularly in light of several media articles which describe public water supplies as now being contaminated due to PFAS.

### **SCCWRP's Proposal for a CEC Study in the SARW**

Heather Boyd, Region 8 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Coordinator, along with Dr. Alvina Mehinto from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), have put together a proposal for a Constituents of Emerging Concern Bioassay Study in the Santa Ana River Watershed (SARW). The Study is currently budgeted to perform samples in 20-25 sites over a two-year period; they will be targeting different kinds of waterbodies within the SARW. The contract will begin October 2020.

Ms. Boyd advised using this study to further enhance the results of the 2019 Emerging Constituents Sampling Program and suggested the Task Force provide other sites for the Study to look at that would be beneficial to the Sampling Program. Cindy Li, Regional Board, suggested adding the Temescal Creek Watershed due to the detected PFAS near the Corona sites.

It was the consensus of the Task Force to have Dr. Alvina Mehinto provide a presentation to the Task Force about the proposed study at a future meeting.

### **Schedule Future Meeting**

January 15, 2020 at 9:00 am.

### **Adjournment**

The Emerging Constituents Task Force meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.