

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

January 14, 2020

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster
City of Beaumont, Thaxton VanBelle
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee
City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada
City of Rialto, Tom Crowley
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog
City of Riverside, Robert Eland*
City of Riverside RWQCP, Edward Filadelfia
Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Bob Tincher
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Matthew Howard
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory Gandara
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Madeline Bluea

OTHERS PRESENT:

GEI Consultants, Richard Meyerhoff
LeClaire & Associates, Joe LeClaire
Risk Sciences, Tim Moore
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Haley Mullay
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person
Somach, Simmons, & Dunn, Theresa (Tess) Dunham
WEI, Samantha Adams
WSC, Erik Cadaret
WSC, Michael Cruikshank

* Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
City of Banning
City of Redlands
Irvine Ranch Water District

Jurupa Community Services District
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 1:33 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of December 9, 2019 Meeting Notes

The December 9, 2019 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Draft FY 20-21 Task Force Budget - SAWPA

Mark Norton reviewed the proposed draft budget for the Task Force for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The costs reflected include administrative services costs, future modeling/reporting costs for all projects, consultant support for the Task Force and the Imported Water Recharge Subcommittee costs. These costs have stayed fairly consistent over the years. At this time, costs for triennial updates are not lumped into one year's budget but distributed over the three years of budget. There is potential for the budgeting time frames to change with the reporting requirement changes that are forthcoming with the Basin Plan Amendment.

There is one notable change that will need to be made to the draft Budget reviewed at the meeting. The City of Riverside will not be participating in the Imported Water Recharge Subcommittee, and thus their contribution will be evenly distributed amongst the remaining Task Force members that take part in the Imported Water Recharge Subcommittee.

MOVED, to approve the draft budget with the discussed alterations, removing the City of Riverside from the Imported Water Recharge Subcommittee cost and redistributing of that cost to the other Imported Water Recharge Subcommittee participating Task Force members, for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: J. Shephardson/G. Woodside

Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update – WSC, Inc.

Michael Cruikshank, of WSC, presented a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the Ambient Water Quality progress. He's accompanied by Eric Cadaret, of WSC, to assist with any questions regarding the contours. Finishing Stage 3 means the computations and water contours have been completed. Each map demonstrates the contours from 2015, as dashed lines, and the contours from 2018, in pencil marks, depicting groundwater elevation and Nitrate/TDS concentrations. The FTP site (link on slide 3) contains the graphs of data in time series for both nitrate and TDS organized for each groundwater management zone.

One of the main topics of discussion covered well attrition analysis and the importance of maintaining well sampling data. WSC will be developing an interpretive tool that incorporates the critical information needed to determine which wells require sampling to maintain its status as a point statistic. The tool will assist samplers in showing up in a report/map as it being low/medium/high risk of falling out of the point statistic compliance. Currently, there are different map tools that show the well status visually allowing agencies to prioritize the well in sampling within the time frame necessary.

This led to a discussion of high risk versus high impact related to the well sampling data and the pertinence of each specific well. It's crucial that wells that are in areas of high concern for the groundwater data maintain the classification of a point statistic and continue to provide the insight gained by sampling that well to watch for changes in water quality. Some wells are no longer sampled because they are not functional, not accessible, or abandoned, making it difficult to obtain sample data for that area. WSC has been attempting to compile data on well status, or cause of well status, but this is not always known or is not accessible.

WSC is on track with the schedule of the project. They have finished meeting with agencies that requested review of their contour maps. The interpretive tools are likely to be done by the end of February. A draft Ambient Water Quality Determination is anticipated by the February Task Force meeting and a draft Technical Memorandum is anticipated by the March Task Force meeting.

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

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, gave a verbal presentation regarding the planned changes to occur in the Basin Plan Amendment to continue to protect the surface water in the SAR, and the groundwater basins. It will also allow permitted agencies to continue to replenish the surface waters with beneficial effluent and create positive impacts throughout the watershed. To do this, he referenced the Waste Load Allocation Model (WLAM) Update Report to analyze various discharge scenarios, and then compiled all the information into a draft document, *Findings to Support WLAM BPA*. The document summarizes the findings of the WLAM Update Report with supportive rationale for the changes that will be proposed for each segment of the Santa Ana River from top to bottom.

The climate cycles and drought issues can, and will, be referred to in explaining that while the occasional exceedance of the objective will happen, this will not be the standard. One suggestion was to make sure focus is placed on the use of very specific language in describing the rare occurrences of exceedance, separating the natural events from any discharge-related causes. The water quality in the Orange County is

what ultimately dictates the regulation of the entire Santa Ana River, since any agency that discharges upstream can potentially have an effect on the Orange County groundwater management zone. It's important to note that the WLAM Update Report only looks at the recharge water quality and not the effect it has on the groundwater basin quality, while other models, do have that capability. All of this work will also be helpful when there is a need to determine a solution or propose a plan for a groundwater management zone if it is having issues with exceeding the objectives set forth by permits or the Basin Plan Amendment.

Here is a summarized list of the proposed changes to be included in the Basin Plan Amendment:

- Clarify that the averaging period used to evaluate effluent limits needs to be consistent with Wasteload Allocation Model, up to the 10-year period, same as the metric
- Clarify the increment of use limits are used only when necessary (meaning when they don't have an existing objective listed in a Wasteload Allocation Model to support it)
- Clarify the TDS objectives and sub-ions (chloride, sodium, sulfate ions) were established as anti-degradation limits to obtain the best water quality and they are not use-protection thresholds
- Clarify that the purpose of some objectives were established to check the GWR-use for underlying MUN-use in groundwater
- Clarify that where an anti-degradation objective is needed, regulation will be enforced based on TDS concentrations only, even if there are both TDS and sub-ion objectives present
- Clarify that it is appropriate to use filtered samples in collection of total nitrogen everywhere that we complete surface water compliance
- Clarify "base flow" definition
- Add paragraphs that defines those parties that will be considered responsible in participating/contributing to the completion of the Ambient Water Quality and Wasteload Allocation Models in the basin; the intention will be to add anyone who has a permit that could influence the groundwater quality in the basin and they will be required to have a nominal fee or rate that would go towards the projection/modeling costs of the watershed

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, and Tess Dunham, of Somach, Simmons, & Dunn, will be meeting with representatives of the Regional Water Quality Control Board that can give feedback on the plans and topics that are focal points in the Basin Plan Amendment. If the topics seem to complicate matters, then they will put those topics aside for another time. The primary goal is to get the Wasteload Allocation Model Update approved by the Regional Board. Soon, the Task Force will be reviewing actual strike and delete versions of the basin plan, in official drafts of the Basin Plan Amendment with the deadline of June 2020 for the drafts being submitted to the Regional Board.

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

This item was deferred to the next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings

The next two Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meetings have been scheduled:

- February 20th 1p – 3:30p
- March 24th 9a – 11:30a

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.