

**LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE
MEETING NOTES**

August 17, 2020

PARTICIPANTS

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Kris Hanson
Dan Cortese
Rae Beimer
Maria Arreguin
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Johnathan Skinner
Loren Sotelo
Ankita Vyas
Lauma Willis
Barbara Barry
Sue Ann Neal
Yiping Cao
Mauricio Santos
Richard Boon
Rebekah Guill
Abigail Suter
Amy McNeil
Sudhir Mohleji
Al Javier
Scott Sewell
Pat Boldt
Rachael Johnson
Richard Meyerhoff
Tess Dunham
Steven Wolosoff
Chris Stransky
John Rudolph
Rolf Schottle
Garth Engelhorn
Greg Kahlen
Joyce Goode
Rick Whetsel
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTATIVE

City of Canyon Lake/Wildomar
City of Hemet
City of Moreno Valley
City of Perris
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Lake Elsinore
March JPA
Michael Baker/Caltrans
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Cal EPA
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
WRCAC
Farm Bureau
GEI Consultants
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
CDM Smith
Wood Environmental
Wood Environmental
Wood Environmental
Alta Environmental
The Kahlen Group
CASC Engineering
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Rick Whetsel with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes from the April 21, 2020 Task Force meeting were deemed acceptable and approved by the Task Force.

Status: TMDL Update (Regional Board)

Barbara Berry /Regional Board introduced Yiping Cao, who is replacing Ken Theisen as the Regional Board staff representative to the LE&CL TMDL Task Force. Notably, before coming to the Regional Board, Ms. Cao was employed at SCCWRP and has a great background in studying indicator bacteria including laboratory methodologies and statistics. Currently, Ms. Cao is working on the response to the Peer Review comments for the LE&CL TMDL Update.

Ms. Berry noted that she and Ms. Cao are scheduled to meet with the Task Force consultant team on Friday to discuss questions regarding responses to the Peer Review comments. She also noted that once Regional Board staff has completed their review and determines if revisions to the draft TMDL are necessary, the Regional Board will be able to better provide stakeholders with a timeline for moving forward. This includes a schedule for bringing the revised LE&CL TMDLs before the Regional Board.

Regional Board staff did not provide an update on the language regarding the nutrient offset credits, but expects to have a response prepared for the next Task Force meeting.

Presentation: Annual Monitoring Report Program (Chris Stransky/Wood Env.)

Chris Stransky /Wood Environmental informed stakeholders that the Draft 2019-20 Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Annual Monitoring Report was released on Monday for review and comment. Mr. Stransky provided a brief overview of the LE&CL TMDL compliance program and introduced Mr. Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental to present the 2019-20 watershed storm event monitoring results. This was followed by a detailed review of the 2019-20 in-lake monitoring results by John Rudolph /Wood Environmental.

Barbara Berry /Regional Board requested that the hazardous algal bloom (HAB) data collected by Wood for the algal bloom that occurred in Canyon Lake the week of July 20th be reported to the California Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Portal: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>. Mr. Rudolph acknowledged that the data would be posted to the State's portal.

A copy of the Wood Environmental/Alta Environmental presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/task-forces/lake-elsinore-and-canyon-lake-tmdl-task-force/#stakeholder-effort>

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA noted that on Monday a link to the draft report and appendices located on the SAWPA LE&CL TMDL webpage was shared with Regional Board and stakeholders. Wood Environmental is requesting comments by COB Monday, August 31st.

Update: Fish Tissue Analysis (John Rudolph/Wood Env.)

John Rudolph /Wood Environmental provided a brief update on the fish tissue analysis conducted as part of the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Program, noting that a full detailed presentation on the results of the program is scheduled for the next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting.

Mr. Rudolph reported that all fish tissue samples reported PCB and DDT levels below OEHHHA fish Contamination Goals of 2.6 and 15 ng/wet respectively.

A copy of the Wood Environmental fish Tissue slides are included as part of the larger Annual Monitoring presentation and is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/task-forces/lake-elsinore-and-canyon-lake-tmdl-task-force/#stakeholder-effort>

Discussion: 2020 TMDL Compliance Report (Tess Dunham/KSC)

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided the Task Force a brief update on the consultant team's plan to address the 2020 LE&CL TMDL Compliance report. Ms. Dunham noted the consultant team has proposed that the 2020 report would follow the format of the 2015 Interim TMDL Compliance report and is currently in discussion with Regional Board staff to determine what, if any additional data is to be included in the 2020 report.

Ms. Dunham informed the Task Force that she and the team are currently looking at where we are with respect to TMDL targets and loads as we have options as to how compliance will be measured for the 2004 TMDLs. Based upon some initial calculations of loads, Ms. Dunham feels that we really have a good story to tell in terms on meeting compliance with the TMDLs.

She and the team will be providing updates, as we continue to collect data through the end of 2020, with the expectation of having a draft report available by March 2021.

Barbara Berry /Regional Board requested that even if the Task Force is positive about meeting the TMDLs by the end of 2020, to keep in mind that if certain permittees need to consider a Time Schedule Order (TSO), Regional Board will need a request letter many months in advance. Ms. Dunham responded that is something that we will need to be determined on a permit by permit basis, as how the load allocation and compliance with it is expressed in each permit. Ms. Dunham then noted, based upon her interpretation of the TMDL, compliance can be met by either meeting the targets or the load, but both are not required to be achieved to meet compliance.

Discussion: Canyon Lake Alum (Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith)

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith walked through with stakeholders a draft Alum Application Decision Tree intended to codify the decisions of the Task Force as to when and how much alum to apply to Canyon Lake and with that, to provide a recommendation on the need for a fall alum application.

Mr. Wolosoff first informed the Task Force that it is his recommendation that the Task Force conduct a fall alum application to Canyon Lake. He explained that based upon the preliminary calculations of the 2020 nutrient loading, compliance was just barely being met. Further, along with the wet spring and this being the final year of the TMDL cycle, stakeholders need to assure compliance with the TMDLs.

Following discussion, the question to conduct a fall 2020 Canyon Lake alum application was raised. A motion to proceed was put forth by Rae Beimer, representing the City of Moreno Valley and seconded by Pat Boldt, representing WRCAC. The motion was passed unanimously by the Task Force.

Mr. Whetsel will work with Mr. Wolosoff and Aquatechnex to determine the dosage and schedule for the application.

Update: LEAMS (Tess Dunham/KSC)

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided the Task Force with a brief update on the July 30th LEAMS Operators meeting. Key to this meeting was discussion of a proposal by Dr. Alex Horne to evaluate the effectiveness of LEAMS operations and to look at possible alternatives.

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA added that the LEAMS Operators verified and approved the 2019 nutrient offset credit allocations to Task Force stakeholders. This report is on schedule to be submitted to the Regional Board before the end of the month along with payment to be issued to Operators.

Discussion: In-Lake Modeling (Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith)

Item was tabled due to time.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)
Extend Amendment #1 to Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA presented the administrative extension of Amendment No.1 to the LE&CL TMDL Task Force agreement. In 2017 when the agreement was last amended and approved, it was extended for a term of five years. First, the amendment extended the Agreement for an initial three years to June 30, 2020. It then included a provision that allowed the Agreement to be extended an additional two years, to June 30, 2022, through Administrative Action by the Task Force Administrator.

Mark Norton, the LESJWA Administrator, is of the opinion that it is in the best interests of stakeholders to exercise this option for extension via administrative action for an additional two years, to June 30, 2022.

Today, for the sake of transparency, (LESJWA) wanted to share with the stakeholders the administrative action taken, and provide stakeholders with the opportunity to raise any questions. No comments from the stakeholders were brought forward regarding the administrative action to extend the agreement for the additional two year period.

LESJWA will provide the signed extension to the Task Force.

WRCAC Ag Acreage

Pat Boldt /WRCAC informed the Task Force that WRCAC wants the Task Force to consider a budget credit to WRCAC Ag based on the significant decrease in Ag acreage in the watershed that has occurred over the past three years. Over the past ten years, there has been a near 50% decrease in Ag acreage - with about 20% of that decrease occurring over the past three years. Invoices from the Task Force to WRCAC over the past three years, FY 17-18 through 19-20 have not reflected this decrease in Ag acreage.

Tess Dunham informed the Task Force that she and the consultants are looking into this and expect to have follow-up discussion at our next meeting. Additionally, she noted that on a similar vein CA Department of Fish and Wildlife recently requested a meeting with Regional Board and Task Force consultants to discuss why they are required to participate in the TMDLs. The outcome of that meeting was that CA Department of Fish and Wildlife was asked to prepare a letter stating that they no longer lease land for agriculture and question their need to participate. They were also going to consider what actions Fish and Wildlife could offer that might serve as offsets to the TMDLs.

Other Business

No other business.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2020 at 1:30 pm. as a virtual conference call meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.