

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

September 22, 2020

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster*
City of Beaumont, Thaxton VanBelle*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Rialto, Tom Crowley
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*
City of Riverside, Edward Filadelfia*
City of Riverside, Gisela Lopez*
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog*
City of Riverside, Michael Plinski
City of Riverside, Robert Eland*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier*

Eastern Municipal Water District, Doug Edwards*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Matt Howard*
San Geronio Pass Water Agency, Lance Eckhart
Western Municipal Water District, Ryan Shaw*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Madeline Blua*

OTHERS PRESENT:

GEI Consultants, Richard Meyerhoff*
Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
LeClaire & Associates, Joseph LeClaire
Risk Sciences, Tim Moore*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, T. Milford Harrison*
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, Eric Lindberg*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Pamela Ybarra*
WEI, Samantha Adams*
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
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 10:03 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of August 12, 2020 Meeting Notes

The August 12, 2020 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Draft Basin Plan Amendment Review– Risk Sciences/KSC

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, and Tess Dunham of, Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, gave an oral status report on the draft Basin Plan Amendment (BPA), distributed previously to the Task Force for review and comment.

Some of the following updates were discussed:

- Clarification of nitrate/nitrogen/TIN references throughout the document were corrected to reflect the accurate form, since nitrate/nitrogen refers to objective levels of groundwater concentrations while TIN refers specifically to surface water objectives.
- The Upper Temescal Valley groundwater management zone (GMZ) portion of the BPA had parts that required necessary revisions to align with the recent re-calibration of the Wasteload Allocation Model by Geoscience done in June 2020.
- The Prado Basin Management Zone and the rising groundwater that is largely responsible for the exceeding the salt objective. Other areas of concern are planning and determining how long it will last, how it can be fixed/addressed to lower the concentration levels, as well as other areas with rising groundwater throughout the watershed that is causing issues.

- Changing the verbiage to Salt & Nutrient Management Plan from Salt & Nitrate Management Plan because we don't want to generalize the description to "nutrients" when we are most concerned with nitrate and salt levels in the watershed.
- Table 5-5 was requested to be reverted back to have the separate 2020 and 2040 columns, as it did previously to avoid any confusion.

Another version of the document will be distributed to the Task Force, showing the actual text being removed (strikeouts) since the comments received have now been included. There are also many pages within Chapter 5 that remain unchanged and need to be reviewed to get the whole context of the full Amendment. The Task Force will have until September 30, 2020 to review the updated document and verify that the submitted comments were incorporated into the Basin Plan Amendment satisfactorily.

CEQA – Substitute Environmental Document and Need for Economic Analysis – GEI/LeClaire & Associates

Richard Meyerhoff, of GEI, provided a verbal report on the draft Substitute Environmental Document in process. Comments received during the last meeting have now been addressed within the full document. Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, Joe LeClaire, of LeClaire & Associates and Richard Meyerhoff, of GEI, have all been working very closely on these two documents, which mirror each other in content to fulfill different requirements in getting the Basin Plan Amendment approved and implemented.

Richard Meyerhoff, of GEI, focused his presentation on the orienting the Task Force to the full length and organization of the document. He noted that the SED was able to use the most recent Triennial Ambient Water Quality report by WSC and 2020 Santa Ana River Annual Water Quality report by SAWPA for Chapter 3. The most important part of the SED will be Chapter 4 that focuses on the hydrogeology and water quality in the groundwater basins. There are two levels of impact across all the groundwater management zones (GMZs), (1) no impact, and (2) less than significant impact for a few GMZs. Important data, tables or information from the other reports and documents were included in the SED ensuring the reader has all the contextual data available.

Comments on the full-length draft document are due by Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Data Solicitation Notice for Next Round of 303(d) Listings – KSC

Tess Dunham of, Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, and Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, gave a verbal report on the next round of the 2024 Integrated Report cycle (i.e., 303 (d) listings in cycles) for the Santa Ana Region (as well as San Francisco and Los Angeles). Any data that should be considered for this cycle needs to be submitted into CEDEN by **NOON (12:00 p.m.) on OCTOBER 16, 2020.**

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, was able to get the data that is currently in the CEDEN database, as discussed at the last Task Force meeting. The file received was a very large file that cannot easily be viewed or analyzed to help the Task Force. Cindy Li, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, offered assistance with reformatting the data into a helpful spreadsheet. The primary focus will be viewing the data of the areas that are already areas of concern.

Scoping Committee Meeting Report – SAWPA

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, gave a verbal report on the Scoping Committee Meeting that took place on Monday, September 14th, 2020. Primary focus was on next Triennial Ambient Water Quality (AWQ) cycle, and how to allocate resources for the most effective efforts that benefit the watershed. The following items were some of the topics of discussion during the meeting:

- Updating hydrogeology of the groundwater basins
- Conducting the AWQ Update in line with the current timing (every 3 years)
- Incorporating tool created by Geoscience SAR Integrated tool/model into future modeling/analyses
- Focusing on key basins that are changing and update their models

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, will put together a prioritized list of the modeling, studies and reports that have discussed at the Scoping Committee Meeting. After there is a formal list, the Task Force will have a chance to review and confirm that expectations for this process are in line for all stakeholders, while incorporating plans for complying with the Recycled Water Policy deadline in 2024.

Schedule Future Meetings

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting, which will be conducted virtually due to COVID-19, has been scheduled for Monday, October 26th, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.