

MSAR TMDL/Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Meeting Notes

September 21, 2020

PARTICIPANTS

Lynn Merrill
Kris Hanson
Abigail Gomez
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Cordell Chavez
Julie Carver
Robert Eland
Nisha Wells
Rick De Santiago
Kimberly Colbert
Ray Hiemstra
Betsy Hunter-Binns
Pat Boldt
Kevin O'Toole
Chris Crompton
James Fortuna
Michael Mori
Abigail Suter
Amy McNeill
Richard Boon
Arlene Chun
Cynthia Gabaldon
Lauma Willis
David Woelfel
Barbara Barry
Yiping Cao
Tess Dunham
Menu Leddy
Steven Wolosoff
Paul Caswell
Richard Meyerhoff
Jason Pereira
Ryan Kearns
Rick Whetsel
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTING

City of Rialto
City of Eastvale
City of Fontana
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Corona
City of Pomona
City of Riverside
City of Chino Hills
City of Lake Elsinore
The Colbert Group for the City of Claremont
Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Milk Producer's Council
Milk Producer's Council
OCWD
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
San Bernardino Areawide Program
San Bernardino County
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
EEES
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
GEI Consultants
CWE
CWE
SAWPA
SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

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

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA asked for any comments on the May 19, 2020 MSAR TMDL meeting notes. There were no comments, and the meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

3. Presentation/Discussion: Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program (Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith)

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith presented to stakeholders an update on the 2020 Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program.

This presentation included an update on the last quarter of monitoring. This included a look at the 2020 dry season monitoring for each the Priority 1, 2, 3 and 4 waterbodies.

The presentation also included discussion regarding the long-term planning for Priority 3 waters, based upon several waterbodies being de-listed and several newly listed waters since the Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program was initiated in 2016.

With this, Regional Board reminded stakeholders that the deadline to upload water quality data for the 2020-24 data cycle is noon Friday, October 16th.

Regional Board staff then brought to the attention of the Task Force an opportunity for collaborating on data collection. Both the Regional Monitoring Program and the City of lake Elsinore are collecting bacteria data in Lake Elsinore. Regional Board expressed an interest in streamlining these efforts to reduce duplicative monitoring, assuming the QAPP meet Regional Board standards. Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith will work with City staff to identify opportunities to streamline this monitoring.

A copy of CDM Smith's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/09212020_CDMSmith_RMPUpdate.pdf

4. Action Item: Authorize SAWPA to Issue RFP for Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program (Rick Whetsel /SAWPA)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA requested and received authorization from the Task Force to prepare for their review and issue an RFP to request proposals for qualified consultants to oversee and implement the Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program. The plan is to issue the RFP on or around October 1st.

5. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reported that staff will plan to present a draft FY 2021-22 budget at the next meeting. There were no questions/comments from stakeholders.

6. Discussion: Revise MSAR TMDLs (Tess Dunham/Kahn, Soares & Conway)

Tess Dunham/Kahn, Soares & Conway provided an update to the Task Force regarding several off-line calls she has had with Regional Board staff and MS4 stakeholders to discuss options with respect to the TMDLs and potential next steps for the Task Force.

Tess noted that updating the MSAR TMDLs was included on the Regional Board triennial review list of items and there are new State Board standards for bacteria in place since the TMDLs were adopted back in 2005. To date, the Task Force has worked to address the dry season conditions that went into effect in 2015, and which have essentially been fully implemented through the CBRPs. Moving forward the task force will need to investigate the wet season load allocations for the TMDLs, which will go in effect in 2025.

She then brought up the concern relating to the higher priority commitments by Regional Board that may seriously delay efforts to address the wet season TMDL conditions. Both the San Bernardino, and Riverside permits have a provision that states that in the event that the existing permit is still in effect come December 31, 2025 and if the Regional Board has not adopted an alternative final water quality based effluent limit, then those load allocations go into effect.

It was initially thought that the CBRPs would be updated after the TMDLs were updated. However, in light of where we are with respect to updating the TMDLs, as well as the MS4 permits, the question was raised if the Task Force should consider updating the CBRPs for the wet season condition prior to updating the TMDLs or the permits?

Following discussion, Tess Dunham proposed to investigate the alternatives available to the Task Force for further discussion at our next Task Force meeting and to assist in this discussion, it was suggested stormwater program staff be invited to participate.

7. Update: Regional Board Presentation – February 2021 (Tess Dunham /KSC)

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP informed Regional Board of the desire of the Task Force to present to the Board in February 2021 regarding the status of the Task force is with respect to the implementation of the CBRPs, work by the MSAR TMDL Task Force and the findings of the synoptic study.

Lauma Willis /Regional Board acknowledged that is the goal of staff; however, the 2021 Board calendar will not be available until October or December.

8. Action Item: Middle Santa Ana River Special Study (Richard Meyerhoff /GEI Consultants)

Item was tabled to a future meeting to provide the consultant team additional time to review comments from Regional board staff.

9. Update: Homelessness Assessment of Impacts to Water Quality and Riparian and Aquatic Habitat (Richard Meyerhoff/GEI Consultants)

Richard Meyerhoff/GEI Consultants presented to stakeholders on SAWPA's Homelessness Assessment of Impacts to Water Quality and Riparian and Aquatic Habitat. His presentation included a review of the Literature and Assessment of Existing Information to assess the current nature and extent of stream and waterbody-adjacent homeless encampments in the upper watershed. The goal of which was to provide the best information about the relationships between the presence of homeless encampments and the impacts to water quality and riparian/aquatic habitats.

He then turned the presentation over to Ryan Kearns /CWE to present the Preliminary Monitoring Program to assess the potential impacts of homeless encampments on water quality and riparian aquatic habitats.

A copy of the GEI / CWE presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GEI_CWE_HomelessStudy_MSAR-Task-Force_092120_v3.pdf

10. Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a. RCFC&WCD

Amy McNeill /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD reported on several efforts the District is working on with local partners.

- Eastvale Line A and B Special Study - Riverside County Flood staff partnered with San Bernardino for a 10-week special monitoring study of Eastvale Line A and Line B. This study is still active with week 9 field monitoring sampling to occur tomorrow morning. The study will be complete September 29. Kris Hanson from the City of Eastvale observed dry weather flows had been reduced in these lines. Staff has confirmed these observations with Eastvale Line B resulting in a "visited not sampled" event for two of the weeks so far. Findings and next steps to be discussed at a future Task Force meeting.
- Eastvale Line D and E Diversion Projects - The one-month flow monitoring for both Eastvale Line D and Line E is now complete. This monitoring will provide staff with an accurate average daily flow and assess realistic costs for proposed storm drain to sewer diversion projects. Full analysis of the data set to come. Initial assessment of Eastvale Line D showed an anomaly which may indicate a presence of possible non-stormwater discharges and may present a concern when anticipating costs. After attending a So Cal Water Coalition (SCWC) "Stormwater Matters" Webinar which showcased the success LA County has had on these types of stormwater capture projects and partnerships with sanitation districts, timing of the project is being considered. A huge part for the success story was the ability to incorporate additional storm water capture and process these first flush flows to create additional recycled water supply. The diversion projects may be better proposed after JCSD's proposed recycling water treatment plant is constructed. This way they can be designed and move forward with these two additional incentives:
 1. Allow collection of additional flows, possibly expand to first flush
 2. Reduce ongoing costs with profits earned by converting stormwater flows to a recycled water supply.

- MCSO Special Study - The Magnolia Center Storm Drain monitoring special study has been completed. Both City of Riverside and Riverside County Flood Control staff sampled multiple locations starting at the outfall and working upstream with a few sites at the District's Mary Street Dam. The study began July 1st and continued for five weeks. The initial assessments seemed to point to a commercial site as a major contributor and results of a possible sewer lateral connection were anticipated. A sampling site was added to test this hypothesis, but further test results and data received did not confirm. The drainage area with the highest E. coli and HF183 marker concentrations are consistently coming from a drainage area of approximately 1300 acres which reduced the area of interest from the study's original 7050 acres. Further updates and next steps will be discussed at a later TMDL Task Force.
- Phoenix Avenue SD Diversion Project- Phoenix Avenue Storm Drain Diversion project went to the City of Riverside's City Council last Tuesday and the project was awarded to Weka, Inc for \$567,729. The project is a 60-day contract anticipated to start construction in November.

b. SBCFCD

Arlene Chun /SBCFCD informed the Task Force that the District is continuing work on their 10-week monitoring study of Cucamonga Creek in coordination with RCFC&WCD. They are currently finishing up on week 9 of their monitoring at Eastvale A and B sites. Arlene also informed the Task Force that they are continuing monitoring for the Chris Basin Baseline study. Monitoring is conducted both the morning and afternoon and includes the use of dye (green) to measure residence time. The District is expected to complete monitoring for this study in the next week.

c. Orange County – No updates to report.

d. Pomona & Claremont

City of Pomona – No updates to report.

City of Claremont – Kimberly Colbert representing the City of Claremont reported that the City is busy working on the regional permit for LA County.

e. Agricultural Operators – Pat Boldt representing the Milk Producer's Council informed the Task Force that the MPC is in the preliminary stages of planning a land use update of agriculture and dairy in the watershed. The last update done in 2010, this showed that 6% of the watershed land use was either agriculture or dairy and this has likely decreased over the past decade.

11. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reported that staff will plan to present a draft FY 2021-22 budget at the next meeting. There were no questions/comments from stakeholders.

12. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

13. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be a Joint MSAR TMDL / Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force scheduled for October 21 at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.