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Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Draft Planning Priorities

(2021 – 2025)

Proposed Priorities¹

- Updated surface water TDS and nitrogen monitoring program for evaluating compliance with Reaches 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Santa Ana River
- Updated groundwater TDS and nitrogen monitoring program necessary to implement TDS/Nitrogen management plan
- Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality for 2002-2021
- Santa Ana Water Board evaluation of Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) and alignment of existing SNMP as compared to 2019 Recycled Water Policy
- 1) Evaluate physical characteristics of management zones, including aquifer geometry and storage parameters, using available data;
2) Determine if updates are necessary on a zone by zone basis.
- Conduct study to identify and quantify cause(s) of TDS exceedances during Santa Ana River baseflow conditions at Prado Dam (e.g., rising groundwater).
- Evaluate combining/coordinating water quality modeling and projections associated with imported water recharge and wasteload allocation model.
- Track water quality trends and rate of consumption of assimilative capacity.
- Prepare Information (as necessary) to support additional Basin Plan Amendments:
 - Separate use-protection based water quality objectives from antidegradation targets

¹ The order of Proposed Priorities as presented here are not intended to be presented in any specific order or priority but rather provide bullets of priorities identified by the Scoping Committee. The Basin Monitoring Task Force may wish to restructure the list rank them as determined appropriate.

- Review and harmonize water quality objectives for TDS in Reaches 2 (mean of five recent volume weighted annual averages) and 3 (at below Prado Dam, average during baseflow conditions).
 - Delete surface water quality objectives for individual salt ions where there is concurrent TDS objective, and/or identify water quality objectives for salinity constituents based on secondary MCLs as compared to objectives identified in Table 4-1 for hardness, sulfate, sodium, and chloride that were intended as antidegradation targets.
 - Change time-period for ambient water quality assessment from 3 years to 5 years
- Monitor the development of the 2024 SWRCB Surface Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report, made up of the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and 305(b) Condition Report.
- Monitor State Board Biostimulatory/Biological Objectives process.

Timeline/Process for Implementation of Priorities

February 2021 - Before preparing RFP for 2001-2021 Ambient Water Quality update, conduct workshop and invite consultants to discuss potential approaches for groundwater and surface water monitoring program update reflecting 2019 Recycled Water Policy review and approach to identify and quantify cause(s) of TDS exceedances during Santa Ana River baseflow conditions at Prado Dam (e.g., rising groundwater)..

April 2021 - Prepare and issue RFP (or RFPs) for groundwater monitoring program design update to reflect, Recycled Water Policy review .² May also include study to identify causes of TDS exceedances during baseflow conditions.

April 2021 - Prepare and issue RFP for a revised and updated surface water monitoring program.

May 2021 – Receive RFP responses

Early June 2021 – Interview selected RFP candidates

By June 30, 2021 – Select consultant(s) for groundwater monitoring program design update reflecting Recycled Water Policy review.

By June 30, 2021 – Select consultant(s) for surface water monitoring program update.

² Although the groundwater monitoring and surface water monitoring updates are shown as two separate RFPs, the Task Force can consider issuing one RFP that includes multiple tasks and allow consultants to respond to all or parts of the RFP.

By January 15, 2022 – Issue RFP for 2002-2021 Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality of groundwater management zones for TDS and Nitrate reflecting updated program design.

By June 1, 2022 – Submit groundwater monitoring program design update to Water Board.

By June 1, 2022 – Submit surface water monitoring program update to Water Board for approval.

July 1, 2022 – Prepare and issue RFP for preparation of Basin Plan Amendment support documents. Scope of work may include, but not be limited to, environmental impacts analysis, antidegradation analysis, economic considerations, and other technical reports necessary to support proposed Basin Plan Amendments.

August 1, 2022 - Receive RFP responses.

September 1, 2022 - Select consultant(s) for Basin Plan Amendment support documents.

By June 30, 2023 - Submit 2002-2021 Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality for groundwater management zones for TDS and Nitrate reflecting updated program design to Water Board.

By October 1, 2023 – Submit results of Recycled Water Policy Review, proposed Basin Plan Amendments, and supporting Basin Plan Amendment documents to Water Board for consideration.

By April 8, 2024 – Water Board complete evaluation of SNMP per Recycled Water Policy and revise Basin Plan as determined necessary.