

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

June 22, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Not available.

Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. via virtual Zoom conference.

Approval of February 18, 2020 Meeting Notes

The February 18, 2020 meeting notes were approved as posted.

March Air Reserve Base PFOA/PFOS - EMWD

Al Javier, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *EMWD and March Air Reserve Base (MARB) PFAS Impacts*, which demonstrated the most recent impact of PFAS derived by MARB's firefighting training using aqueous film forming foam near EMWD's Well 59 and two water service connections.

In February 2017, EMWD and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) approved an agreement titled *Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement for Response Activities for Off-Base Wells with Perfluorinated Compounds between the AFCEC and EMWD*, or "ESCA I". The ESCA I reimbursed EMWD \$7.8 million for imported replacement water for impacted locations. Since then ESCA II was created and by this new agreement reimbursed EMWD \$3.3 million for design and construction of Well 59 wellhead treatment. EMWD and AFCEC are currently negotiating ESCA III for Well 59 treatment system. The AFCEC completed a PFAS plum delineation study determining extent of MARB impacts.

State Water Board's 13267 Letter for Wastewater agencies – Tess Dunham, KSC

Tess Dunham stated that the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will release Water Code Section 13267 Order in July to determine PFAS presence. This will require POTWs to submit sampling information in September/October 2020. This will not require the POTWs to develop a plan, instead, the State Water Board is wanting a certain amount of data into their database. Specifications of sampling and reporting requirements will also be distributed.

Currently, there has not been an approved PFAS sampling method for biosolids. Ms. Dunham will be submitting a letter to the State Water Board asking for accommodations until there is an approved method.

Mark Norton was concerned that the limited number of certified labs would cause delays in sampling results as it did in the 2019 EC Sampling Program. Rick Zimmer stated that depending on the Order and if all POTWs are required to comply, there may be a lab capacity issue at some labs. Allison MacKenzie of Babcock Labs indicated that there should not be a problem with lab sampling capacity at Babcock Labs.

Regional Board Report on PFAs Enforcement – Cindy Li, Regional Board

Regional Board is getting ready to distribute the Water Code Section 13267 Order to all landfill owners in the next two weeks. They currently have the sampling results of active landfills (sampling began in 2018). Regional Board is currently reviewing the company 3M's proposed one-time monitoring plan. Given the data, Regional Board would like to see various regional studies to interpret the Watershed as a whole.

Mr. Norton stated that this Task Force does not have sufficient funds to perform the studies. He asked the Task Force if there was interest in coordinating a group effort and encouraged discussion during the next agenda item.

PFAs in Orange County and Lawsuit – Jason Dadakis, OCWD

Jason Dadakis stated that based on information provided by the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water (DDW), OCWD anticipates new well drinking water order in July 2020. OCWD has been running a pilot to test treatment methods for PFAS since December 2019 as well as a small-scale column testing on individual water agencies’ supplies. Initial results will be presented at a webinar hosted by OCWD titled “PFAS: Encouraging Results from OCWD Treatment Study,” on June 23, 2020.

To restore drinking water sources, designs of groundwater treatment systems are underway. OCWD anticipates first construction in Fall 2020 and going live in the next 1-3 years for impacted retail water agencies. OCWD will pay 100% of the capital and then costs will be shared with the retailers when they are in operation. Impacted retailers have obtained a legal group to advise for cost recovery.

Jayne Joy reminded the Task Force of her involvement with the Contaminants of Emerging Constituents (CEC) Initiative and stated that the State Water Board is in the process of collecting data statewide. The data will be used to assist regional type studies. A correct monitoring specification for each type of water will be shared with the Task Force.

The Task Force was asked if there was interest in a collaborated effort to obtain regional data or if they would rather wait until the monitoring reports are required by Regional Board. Mr. Norton encouraged the Task Force to discuss with their agencies and a follow up conversation will take place at the next Task Force meeting.

EC Task Force Public Education and Outreach Program -SAWPA

The Task Force conducts public outreach using social media tools to share information on the safety of the water supply with the public. The social media tools consist of important articles, interviews of experts and videos to help inform and ensure public understanding of the potable water safety. The Task Force has used the consultant, DeGrave Communications, to conduct these services. Since the general services agreement with DeGrave Communications was ending at the end of this fiscal year and in conformance with SAWPA’s procurement policy, a request for proposals was released to invite other consultants to propose on these services to ensure an open, fair and transparent process. The EC PR Workgroup recommended JPW Communications to provide services. The Task Force has budgeted sufficient funding to conduct this work for the coming year.

Schedule Future Meeting

The Task Force will continue to meet quarterly unless there is a strong momentum to do a regional analysis.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.