

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

November 10, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Babcock Labs, Allison Mackenzie
City of Corona DWP, Melissa Estrada
City of Corona DWP, Jennifer McMullin
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson
City of Riverside, RWQCP, Edward Filadelfia
Dept. of Drinking Water, Jing Chao
EVMWD, Sudhir Mohleji
EVMWD, Lenai Hunter
EMWD, Al Javier
EMWD, Doug Edwards
Eurofins, Fredrick Haley
Eurofins, Rick Zimmer
IEUA, Richard Lao
Irvine Ranch Water District, Jim Colston
JCSD, Aaron Anderson
JCSD, Marce Billings
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham
LeClaire & Associates, Joe LeClaire
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Ai Jia
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Carrie Guo
OCS, George Robertson
OCS, Matt Smith
OCS, Matt Smith
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Carrie Guo
OCS, George Robertson
OCS, Matt Smith
OCS, Mark
OCS, Violet Renick
OCWD, Gina Ayala
OCWD, Jason Dadakis
OCWD, Kevin O'Toole
OCWD, Lily Sanchez
OCWD, Megan Plumlee
OCWD, Claire Johnson
OCWD, Prem Parmar
OCWD, Patrick Versluis
RWQCB, Cindy Li
RWQCB, Jayne Joy
RWQCB, Heather Boyd
RCSD, Yvonne Reyes
SAWPA, Mark Norton
SAWPA, Rick Whetsel
SAWPA, Haley Mullay
SAWPA, Zyanya Ramirez
SBMWD/RIX, Jennifer Shepardson
SBMWD/RIX, Marissa Flores-Acosta
SBMWD, Matt Howard
SCCWRP, Dr. Alvina Mehinto
SWRCB, Brian Bernados
SWRCB, Erica Kalve
SWRCB, Faraz Asad
SWRCB, Jing Chao
SWRCB, Laura McLellan
University of California, Riverside, Dr. Andrew Gray
USGS, Robert Kent
EVMWD, Mike Ali
WMWD, Anthony Budicin
WMWD, Lyndy Lewis
WMWD, Michelle Adams
IEUA, Bonita Fan
NGUYEN, CQ

Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of June 22, 2020 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

Introduction/Overview of SCCWRP and UCR Studies – Regional Board

Heather Boyd, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), introduced two presenters that would be addressing the group. First to present is Dr. Alvina Mehinto, of SCCWRP. She is working with Region 8 on a project, under SWAMP funding. Then, Dr. Andrew Gray, of University of California, Riverside (UCR), will be sharing his work on microplastics in the Santa Ana River Watershed.

a. Proposed SCCWRP Bioassay/CEC study in SAR Watershed – Dr. Alvina Mehinto, SCCWRP

Alvina Mehinto, of Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), is the project manager overseeing the work in conjunction with the RWQCB, study funded by SWAMP. Alvina provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Screening for Emerging Contaminants in Santa Ana Region*, that reviewed the study details, the sampling process and analysis, and the estimated schedule for the study. She requested that the Task Force review the site lists and welcomed any suggestions on additional sites that would be beneficial in being a part of their study. Their sampling is dependent on how soon the contract for sampling is awarded, hopefully to start in the Summer 2021 through Winter 2022. If anyone is interested, more details and specifics are available by contacting Dr. Alvina Mehinto at alvinam@sccwrp.org.

b. New Science Advisory Panel on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in Aquatic Ecosystems – SCCWRP

Dr. Alvina Mehinto, of SCCWRP, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *CEC Ecosystem Panel*, on behalf of Steve Weisberg and Charles Wong. The presentation covered the panel, the goals of the group, and the timeline of their efforts. The advisory panel has been reconvened to develop a CEC monitoring strategy for the State, funding provided by the State Water Board and the Ocean Protection Council.

Erica Kalve, of State Water Board, only added that the data compilation stage had been using data currently in the databases available to the State Board. She mentioned that anyone is welcome to reach out to her at erica.kalve@waterboards.ca.gov if there are any leads on CEC monitoring data that may not be in current databases.

c. Microplastics in the SAR Watershed - Dr. Andrew Gray, UCR

Dr. Andrew Gray, of University California, Riverside, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Plastic Pollution in the Santa Ana River Watershed*. The presentation focused on the watershed and the monitoring and analyses focal points for his work. Plastics have become an ever-increasing issue for waterways, and the effects on humans, their health and other living organisms is becoming a more prevalent topic amongst the water world. He reviewed a few of the various projects they are focused on within Southern California. Microplastic - defined as being less than 5 millimeters in size - concentration levels are not currently regulated, but it is becoming apparent that it may be necessary. Dr. Gray discussed factors that play into the work that his team completes, including ideas of how to monitor the areas and he reviewed the advantages, disadvantages and challenges for deployment and sampling for the projects. Sampling procedures and transport monitoring systems can lead to challenges for processing and getting quality data.

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

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, gave an oral report update on the State Board's Order 13267 for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). On November 5, 2020, the State Water Board released a *Frequently Asked Questions* document, provided to the Task Force prior to the meeting, and contributed to discussion during the meeting. Rick Zimmer, of Eurofins, contributed some information to the Task Force about this topic. The State Water Board is willing to delay the enforcement of the Order being but, it would need to come from the POTWs as a request to the State Water Board. Erica Kalve, of the State Water Board, clarified that the request did not need to be on an individual agency-by-agency basis and that the State Water Board is open to requests by groups of POTWs.

EC Task Force Public Education and Outreach Program – SAWPA

Mark Norton invited the Task Force to attend the next EC Task Force Public Education and Outreach Program February 25, 2020. He introduced the new consultant, JPW Communications that is managing the YourSocalTapWater.org website and the social media (blog, Facebook profile, and Twitter account). The website aides in getting crucial information out to the public, articles and resources are located there for anyone that is interested.

Schedule Future Meeting

The Emerging Constituents Program Task Force will coordinate a future meeting through Doodle Poll and email in a couple of months, or sooner if necessary.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.