

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

February 23, 2021

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster*
City of Beaumont, Thaxton VanBelle*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Rialto, Tom Crowley*
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog*
City of Riverside, Gisela Lopez*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Doug Edwards*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar*
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Matt Howard*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson*
WMWD, Ryan Shaw*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Madeline Blue*

OTHERS PRESENT:

California State University Monterey Bay, John Olson*
GEI Consultants, Richard Meyerhoff*
Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
LeClaire & Associates, Joseph LeClaire*
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, Heather Boyd*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person*
Southern Coastal California Water Research Project, Annie Holt*
Southern Coastal California Water Research Project, Janet Walker*
Southern Coastal California Water Research Proj., Raphael Mazor*
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
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 2:01 p.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of January 26, 2021 Meeting Notes

The January 26, 2021 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Draft Basin Plan Amendment Update– KSC/Regional Board Staff

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares and Conway, LLP (KSC), gave an oral report on the draft Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) status. The final Substitute Environmental Document (SED) was provided to Cindy Li, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), by Richard Meyerhoff, of GEI Consultants, and Joseph LeClaire, of LeClaire & Associates. The final draft amendment language of the Basin Plan Amendment was also provided to Cindy Li. The last document needing to be sent over to Cindy Li is the draft Resolution that will go to the RWQCB for presentation and approval. As long as the documents can get onto the RWQCB website 45 days prior for the Public Comment and Review, the anticipated meeting date for presentation is May 7th. If not, there is a RWQCB meeting in June that will allow for the Basin Plan Amendment to move forward.

Cindy Li, of RWQCB, mentioned that there is a Resolution drafted on the Consent Calendar for the Regional Water Quality Control Board approving the findings of the *Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality for the Period 1999*. The Ambient Water Quality update was presented to the RWQCB at the December 2020 meeting by Michael Cruikshank, of Water Systems Consulting, Inc., and Mark Norton, of SAWPA.

Reg Bd/SCCWRP Ionic Concentration Impacts on Stream Biological Integrity Study - Raphael Mazor, SCCWRP

Raphael Mazor, of Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), provided a PowerPoint presentation called *Assessing the potential impact of elevated ionic concentrations on aquatic life in Santa Ana region wadeable streams*. The Santa Ana Region Basin Plan contains ionic concentration levels for several major ions, along with other objectives, that protect the water quality for human health, irrigation, and industrial uses, but they are not necessarily in line with protecting natural aquatic life. The goal of the study, conducted by SCCWRP, is to assess the potential impacts of elevated ionic concentrations on aquatic life in streams. Aquatic life can present a more comprehensive assessment of a specific area than traditional chemical sampling and monitoring, which only represents the environment at that exact moment. The SCCWRP group will follow a previous, similar study conducted by Olson and Hawkins' in 2012. Example outputs anticipated from the study will be limits/ranges of ionic concentration levels, in the different streams and Reaches that would be most protective of aquatic life in that area. They also anticipate developing statistical models of ionic parameters at various reference sites that can make reach specific predictions of the various streams throughout the watershed.

Raphael Mazor, SCCWRP, let the Task Force know that stakeholders can be involved in the project in numerous ways. There are two specific research questions that could be strengthened if input is provided by the Task Force:

- What are the expected (natural) reference levels of major ions in the Santa Ana watershed?
- How does the elevated ionic concentration affect biological endpoints?

If there is any data that can be used by SCCWRP in their analyses, or if there is feedback for the study, questions about the process, assisting/viewing future technical products or providing recommendations for specific sites/aquatic species that should be utilized, the Task Force was welcomed to reach out to Raphael Mazor via email. Data should be provided to Raphael Mazor, of SCCWRP, as soon as possible within the next month. Project feedback, questions or suggestions are welcome throughout the next six to twelve months; biological response modeling will happen after that time frame. This is a two-year study, with the first set of water chemistry/quality models anticipated to be complete in the next month.

Feb. 9th Consultant Technical Workshop Feedback – KSC

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, gave an oral report on the Technical Consultant Workshop hosted on February 9th, 2021. She thanked and recognized the consultants that were present, Water Systems Consulting, Inc., LeClaire & Associates, Geosciences Support Services, and West Yost (formerly Wildermuth Environmental Inc.). Participants from the Scoping Committee, the State Water Quality Control Board, and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board were present and actively participated in discussion to further ideas presented. Many productive recommendations and discussions were presented by the consultants for the technical processes the Task Force oversees. A Request for Proposals will be developed based on the suggestions provided.

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, March 15th, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.

The next Imported Water Rechargers Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

The next Scoping Committee meeting is March 10th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Mark Norton if you would like to attend the Scoping Committee meetings, if you do not receive the invitation already.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.