

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Scoping Committee

March 10, 2021

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*

SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Haley Mullay*
*Participated via conference call

Call to Order/Introductions

The Scoping Committee under the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting commenced at 10:02 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Review 1-13-21 Scoping Committee Meeting Summary

The January 13, 2021 meeting summary was approved as posted.

Review 2-09-21 Consultant Scoping Workshop Meeting Notes

The February 9, 2021 workshop summary from the Technical Consultant Workshop for the BMP TF was reviewed and approved as posted. Cindy Li, of RWQCB, was not able to review the notes and will provide any edits/updates later.

BMP Task Force Scoping Process for RFP Preparation

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, provided a review of an early draft Request For Proposals (RFP) that encompasses the planning priorities and projects for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The RFP has been structured to allow for a consultant to respond to all, or individual, Tasks. It's been prepared in a less specific approach from the last RFP, to allow for more innovative approaches for the planning projects/products that are being requested. The three main tasks are:

1. Update Surface Water Monitoring Plan for TDS and Nitrogen for Reaches 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Santa Ana River
2. Update Groundwater Monitoring Plan for TDS and Nitrogen to be Compliant with proposed Basin Plan Amendments and 2019 Recycled Water Policy, and Update Approach for Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality
3. Conduct a Study to Identify and Quantify the Cause(s) of TDS Exceedances during Baseflow conditions at below Prado Dam

Some recommendations of the Scoping Committee for the draft RFP included:

- Re-ordering the tasks to support an intuitive understanding of the goal of each tasks and establishing supportive measures for those tasks or other tasks, especially when they effect one another and need to be evaluated hand-in-hand when moving forward.
- Leaving the questions open ended and requesting options, or recommendations, for evaluating data gaps. A discussion surrounded the potential solutions and hurdles for addressing those data gaps in groundwater and surface water monitoring that will support the AWQ and the WLAM, in known areas of low data availability, like in the Upper Temescal Valley or in the San Timoteo area.
- One recommendation was to split the 3rd task, TDS Exceedance Investigation, into two sub-tasks, keeping them linked, but ensuring that only necessary work is completed. Updating the work done in 2015, which will include the last 6 years of data, may mean that we do not need additional data collected and could potentially save some time and money in opting out of the data collection portion based on the update of that previous work.

- Clarifying the timeline of all the priorities to maximize efficiency and proportionate focus for each part of the RFP process. This will provide time for the Task Force and key people to deliberate and collaborate during the process, at Task Force meetings and with the consultants.

The Scoping Committee was asked to provide any feedback or comments by the end of Monday, March 15th, 2021. An updated draft RFP can be reviewed again by the Scoping Committee at the next meeting prior to presentation to the Task Force at the April Meeting.

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, provided the Scoping Committee with a brief update on upcoming legislation, AB377.

Schedule Future Meetings

The next Scoping Committee Meeting under the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force will be held on Monday, March 29th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

DRAFT