

MSAR TMDL/Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Meeting Notes

February 3, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

Kimberly Colbert
Cordell Chavez
Gina Gibson-Williams
Julie Carver
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Bobby Gustafson
Robert Eland
Lynn Merrill
Pat Boldt
Amanda Grey
Sarah Chiang
James Fortuna
Michael Mori
Jian Peng
Kevin O'Toole
Abigail Suter
Amy McNeill
Richard Boon
Andrea Macias
Rebekah Guill
Arlene Chun
Cynthia Gabaldon
Lauma Willis
David Woelfel
Barbara Barry
Yiping Cao
SueAnn Neal
Tess Dunham
Menu Leddy
Steven Wolosoff
Paul Caswell
Constantine Karos
Richard Meyerhoff
Ryan Kearns
Alexander Schriewer
Andrea Crumpacker
Rick Whetsel
Mark Norton
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTING

The Colbert Group for the City of Claremont
City of Corona
City of Eastvale
City of Pomona
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Rialto
Milk Producer's Council
UC Riverside
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OCWD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
San Bernardino Areawide Program
San Bernardino County
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
EEES
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
GEI Consultants
CWE
Weston Solutions
Weston Solutions
SAWPA
SAWPA
SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA asked for any comments on the October 21, 2020 MSAR TMDL meeting notes.

It was noted that Melissa Morgan is with the City of Highland. There were no other comments, and the meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting Items:

3. Presentation/Discussion: Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program (Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith)

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith presented an update on the 2020 Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program.

This presentation included discussion regarding:

- 1) 2020 Dry Season water quality monitoring results
- 2) Recommended updates and revisions to the 2021-22 Monitoring Program

Regarding changes to the monitoring program, Steve discussed that CDM Smith has been in discussion with the lake managers of the Priority 1 lake sites (Big Bear Lake, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Lake Perris). Discussion focused on increased coordination between the Task Force and the Cities to eliminate redundant sampling and sharing data results. Steve noted that lake managers with recreational beaches will now be sent monitoring reports directly from the laboratory to provide them early access to dry season data on the quality of recreational waters. Additionally, there was discussion of possibly moving beach monitoring sites as part of an effort to capture data from different recreational beaches.

Next, Steve discussed the next steps regarding the Priority 3 Sites. He reminded the Task Force that these are sites that are listed as impaired but do not yet have a TMDL. Through this monitoring program the Task Force has been collecting data for these sites since 2016. In 2018, a few sites were delisted and now the plan is to look at the remaining sites to determine the next steps for each of these waterbodies.

David Woelfel/Regional Board raised a question regarding site investigations for the Newport Beach Coastal Watersheds. Jian Peng/OC Public Works responded that their focus is the Bay and its tributaries, and the site investigations are mostly done by the Cities. James Fortuna/OC Public Works added that a lot of the land in that area is owned by the State and the County does not have jurisdiction in those areas. David Woelfel followed up that it is the interest of Regional Board to get site investigations completed for those areas because they are exceeding standards and feed into a heavy recreational area. Steve Wolosoff noted that he will follow-up off-line to further discuss the issue.

The next steps moving forward are for CDM Smith is to prepare a draft technical report in March for the stakeholders to review. It is his expectation that the changes to the monitoring program to be implemented in FY 2021-22.

Barbara Barry/ Regional Board reminded the Task Force that the Regional Board would want any changes proposed to the monitoring plan to be submitted in writing for approval by Regional Board staff.

A copy of CDM Smith's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/February-2021-RBMP-Task-Force.pdf>

4. Update: Santa Ana River Watershed Homelessness Water Quality Monitoring Program (Rick Whetsel /SAWPA)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force that SAWPA is moving forward to conduct monitoring of homeless encampments. On November 3, 2020, the SAWPA Commission authorized staff to conduct a one-year dry weather monitoring program (Phase 1A Monitoring) to assess the potential extent of negative impact of homeless encampments in the riverine systems of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed, as defined in the Assessment of Water Quality Monitoring and Habitat Impacts of Homelessness in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Report conducted by GEI Consultants Inc./CWE and completed September 2020.

This work will be funded by the SAWPA member agencies partnering with RCFCWCD and SB Flood Control w-MS4 Co-Permittees.

SAWPA staff are looking to issue an RFP in the beginning of March, with work expected to begin in FY 2021-22. It is anticipated that regular updates of this monitoring will be provided through the RWQM Task Force meetings.

5. Presentation: Water Quality Monitoring Dashboard (Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith)

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith presented the concept of an Online Dashboard as an alternative format for quarterly reporting.

The thought behind this dashboard is that it could provide a tool to enable the user to look at a longer period of record of data in greater detail with some additional querying capabilities. Unlike a static quarterly report, the dashboard would be more of a living database that is updated as new data becomes available.

Richard Boon/ RCFC&WCD noted that this is a very current topic and that SCCWRP is working sophisticated dashboard tool for South Orange County. He then asked the question, who is the target audience? Following further discussion, it was recommended that CDM Smith prepare a memorandum for the task Force and Regional Board staff describing the dashboard and its purpose and audience.

6. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

No update at this time.

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

7. Discussion: Revise MSAR TMDLs (Tess Dunham/Kahn, Soares & Conway)

No update at this time.

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP expects to initiate discussion with Regional Board staff on issues related to the MSAR TMDLs in the next few weeks.

Lauma Willis /Regional Board brought up that Regional Board is in the process of assembling data for the upcoming 303(d) integrated report.

Barbara Barry/ Regional Board added that staff is currently taking stock of the data that has been submitted and wants to make sure that all of the important data have been submitted and are properly identified.

Regional Board requested that the Task Force review their data and make sure it is all in CEDEN. Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith will review the Task Force data and report to Regional Board.

The period of record that the Regional Board is interested in spans from around 2010 through 2020.

8. Update: Regional Board Presentation – February 2021 (Tess Dunham /KSC)

Lauma Willis /Regional Board stated that they were initially targeting March 2021; however, with staff's workload that will not be possible. She is hopeful that the Task Force will be able to get on the Regional Board agenda by late summer or early fall.

To support Lauma in this effort, Tess will prepare a summary update outlining the items the Task Force wants to relate to the Santa Ana Water Board regarding the activities that the MSAR Task Force and its stakeholder members have been implementing in regards to the MSAR Bacteria TMDL. Lauma will relay the information and summary to the Executive Officer to see if the Board could just hear about the MSAR efforts instead of all the Region's bacteriological work.

9. Presentation: Magnolia Center Storm Drain Follow-up Investigation (Abigail Suter/RCFC&WCD, Michael Roberts/City of Riverside)

Abigail Suter/RCFC&WCD, Michael Roberts/City of Riverside presented on the Magnolia Center Storm Drain Follow-up Investigation. They were joined by Alexander Schriewer/ Weston Solutions to discuss EPA Method 1696 used for the genetic analysis.

This included discussion of the following:

- Background - 2019 TMDL Synoptic Study
- Special Investigation Purpose
- Study Design
- Monitoring Results
- Key Findings
- Conclusions & Next Steps

A copy of this presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MSAR-Task-Force_Magnolia_SAWPAFinal-Read-Only.pdf

10. Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

Amy McNeill /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD reported on several efforts the District is working on with local partners.

Eastvale Line D and E Diversion Projects – monitoring data collected from the flow monitoring conducted in late summer is being reviewed and findings will be presented at a future Task Force meeting. It may be that additional monitoring will postponed until the proposed Jurupa Community Services Recycled Water Treatment Plant project is completed, because this can provide another opportunity for us to collect more storm water and begin addressing the wet weather objectives.

Phoenix Avenue SD Diversion Project, a pre-construction meeting was conducted in early November, where management made a decision to delay the start of construction, due to the instability of the factory operations due to COVID-19. This will prevent having an open construction during the rainy season while they are waiting on the delivery of unique specialty parts required for construction.

b) SBCFCD

Arlene Chun /SBCFCD informed the Task Force that the sampling for the 10-week monitoring study of Cucamonga Creek including Chris Basin monitoring conducted in coordination with RCFC&WCD is complete and the laboratory results have been received. The District is currently analyzing the Chris Basin baseline study data. This included dye testing to determine residence time with sampling in the morning, afternoon and next day. She noted that it appeared there was a decrease in bacteria levels between the morning and the afternoon. District staff is currently preparing a report and will present to the Task Force in the future.

c) Orange County

No updates to report.

d) Pomona & Claremont

No updates to report.

e) City of Claremont

No updates to report.

f) Agricultural Operators

No updates to report.

11. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Contribution from Ag (Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force of an issue regarding the FY 2021-22 budget.

He has been informed that is likely that the Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool, which has been funding the full contribution of Agriculture will only be funding the portion of Agriculture located in the Chino Basin. It will be the responsibility of the Task Force and Regional Board to pursue the balance of the budget allocation to agriculture primarily located in the Arlington area of Riverside.

Tess recommended that a meeting be setup to discuss the outstanding issue of TMDL contributions from agricultural operations in Arlington area with SueAnn Neal/ Regional Board.

12. Other Business

Barbara Barry/ Regional Board informed the Task Force that State Board TMDL Report Cards are coming up. Regional Board staff wanted to update the MSAR TMDL Report Card; however, Regional Board does not have staff to undertake this effort. She wanted to know if the Task Force was interested in working with the Regional Board staff in taking on this effort, otherwise the Report Card will not be updated this year.

Tess recommended that the Task Force consider, as it does not appear to be a resource intensive effort.

Barbara will share a link to the existing MSAR TMDL Report Card with Tess to share with the Task Force.

13. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be a Joint RWQM and MSAR TMDL Task Force scheduled for April 19 at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.