

**LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE  
MEETING NOTES**

**April 19, 2021**

PARTICIPANTS

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Kris Hanson  
Dan Cortese  
Carlos Norvani  
Nicole Dailey  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Rae Beimer  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Mike Roberts  
Stormy Osifeso  
Lynn Merrill  
Lauren Sotelo  
Ankita Vyas  
Stefan Awender  
Lenai Hunter  
Sudhir Mohleji  
Richard Boon  
Amy McNeill  
Rebekah Guill  
Abigail Suter  
Andrea Macias  
Lauma Willis  
Barbara Barry  
Yiping Cao  
SueAnn Neal  
Michael Kashak  
Tess Dunham  
Steven Wolosoff  
Michael A Anderson  
Chris Stransky  
John Rudolph  
Richard Meyerhoff  
Garth Engelhorn  
Pat Boldt  
Mark Norton  
Rick Whetsel  
Bruce Whitaker  
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTATIVE

City of Canyon Lake/Wildomar  
City of Hemet  
City of Lake Elsinore  
City of Lake Elsinore  
City of Menifee  
City of Moreno Valley  
City of Perris  
City of Riverside  
City of Riverside  
City of San Jacinto  
March JPA  
Michael Baker/Caltrans  
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
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  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP  
CDM Smith  
U.C. Riverside  
Wood Environmental  
Wood Environmental  
GEI Consultants  
Alta Environmental  
WRCAC  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

**Call to Order & Introductions**

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Mark Norton with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

**Meeting Notes**

Mark Norton /SAWPA asked for any comments on the March 22, 2021 LE&CL TMDL meeting notes. Barbara Barry requested clarification regarding the response by Tess Dunham recommending removal of the “full disclosure of uncertainties and assumptions” language proposed by Regional Board staff. Rick Whetsel responded that he will revise the meeting notes to clarify the response and they were then deemed acceptable.

**Status: TMDL Update (Regional Board)**

a. Nutrient Offset Credit Language

Barbara Barry /Regional Board informed the Task Force that the alternative nutrient offset language prepared by Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP was received and reviewed by Regional Board staff including the Permit managers. Staff had agreed with much of the proposed language but indicated that Regional Board staff plans to retain the language regarding the “full disclosure of uncertainties and assumptions” that pertains to offset credits. Regional Board staff is still reviewing the language as it relates in context to the Basin Plan Amendment in its entirety.

To help Regional board staff understand how the offset credits work, Barbara requested that the Task Force provide additional information or a presentation on how the offset programs are implemented sometime soon.

b. FHAB Monitoring Program

Barbara Barry /Regional Board provided a brief update on the Freshwater Harmful Algae Bloom (FHAB) Monitoring study of Lake Elsinore and Big Bear Lake that Regional Board was recently awarded funding by the State. She informed stakeholders that the project kick-off meeting is scheduled for Wednesday (April 21<sup>st</sup>) and includes representatives from the Task Force.

It is the goal of Regional Board to begin monitoring in mid-May.

Mark Norton /LESJWA asked if Regional Board staff had an update on the schedule for the Regional Board hearing. Barbara responded that she did not have any update to provide. She then let the Task Force know that due to the additional work being taken by Regional Board staff that time to work on the TMDL will continue to be limited.

**AB 377 Update: Rivas Bill (Tess Dunham/KSC)**

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided an update to the Task Force on AB 377 (Rivas), which is pending in the State Assembly.

She informed the Task Force that the Bill has gone through several iterations of amendments, with the most recent set of amendments removing a lot of the language, which was of greatest concern to most of us. These latest amendments removed the language which took away the authority of the Regional Board to implement alternative compliance or deemed in-compliance programs and replaced that language with a report to the legislature that includes a plan for meeting water quality standards for all impaired water bodies by 2050.

While these amendments are helpful, they do not change the underlying issues with the Bill; Nor, do these amendments change the position taken by coalition of agencies, who remain intact in their opposition.

The Bill is scheduled to go before the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Policy Committee on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Tess and Karen Cowan from CASQA have been asked to testify in opposition to the Bill.

**Update: 2020 TMDL Compliance Report (Tess Dunham/KSC)**

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided an update to the Task Force on the 2020 TMDL Compliance Report. Updates to the report are nearly complete and it is expected that the final report including response to comments will be submitted next week.

Tess raised a question to Regional Board staff regarding the need for stakeholders to submit certification statements for this updated version of the 2020 TMDL Compliance report.

Lauma Willis /Regional Board reported that yes, under the Regional Board’s Standard Provisions all submittals require certification Statements from all named parties.

Tess responded that the Task Force will follow the same procedure for collecting the Certification Statements as was done in December. She then noted that there does need to be additional discussion with Regional Board staff regarding Certification Statements from Dairy Operators.

**Update: TMDL Modeling (Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith)**

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith provided an update of the TMDL modeling. This included a review of the modeling Workshops conducted with Regional Board staff and a preview of key items to be addressed in the final two upcoming workshops.

A copy of the CDM Smith Modeling presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LECL-April-2021-TF-meeting.pdf>

**Update: Spring Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force that it is the recommendation of the Task Force consultants to not conduct a Spring 2021 Canyon Lake Alum Application.

This decision was based upon the results of Total Phosphorus monitoring conducted in both February and April 2021, showing average in-lake concentrations of Total Phosphorus to be less than 0.1 mg/L and following the guidance prescribed in the January 2021 memorandum on the Implementation of the Alum Addition Program in Canyon Lake, prepared by Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith, which stated as follows:

*“Certain water quality conditions limit the effectiveness of TP removal with alum additions in Canyon Lake when implemented as prescribed in the CNRP and AgNMP, including 1) applications when water column average TP is less than 0.1 mg/L in the pre-event sample and 2) applications within East Bay in the fall season.”*

Not conducting this alum application results in an addition to the Task Force alum program reserve of approximately \$40,000.

The next Canyon Lake alum application is planned for early fall in September – October prior to the turnover of the Lake.

**Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**Tess Dunham Task Order

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided to the Task Force a review of her proposed scope of work to cover the next two fiscal years (FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23). This included continued support to the Task Force in updating the TMDL, addressing compliance assessment issues and other miscellaneous issues related to LEAMS, and coordinating with Regional Board staff and Task Force members on regulatory policies and reports.

Mark Norton informed the Task Force that a Task Order will be taken before the LESJWA Board for approval on June 21<sup>st</sup> to extend her agreement two additional years.

T. Milford Harrison /SAWPA Board of Commissioners stated that he has been very impressed with Tess Dunham in her filling the shoes of Tim Moore and she has added a lot to what we do.

**Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**Schedule Next Meeting**

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2021 for 9:30 to 11:30 am. as a virtual conference call meeting.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.