

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

March 15, 2021

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster*
City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin*
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*
City of Riverside, Ed Filadelfia*
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog*
City of Riverside, Robert Eland*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Al Javier*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Daniel Thomas*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Doug Edwards*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Matthew Wedeking*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Rachel Gray*
Eastern Municipal Water District, Tom Henderson*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin*
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Adekunle Ojo*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Bob Tincher*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Matt Howard*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Marissa Flores-Acosta*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory Gandara*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Madeline Blua*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
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, Keith Person*
*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
City of Banning
City of Beaumont
City of Redlands
City of Rialto

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 2:32 p.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of February 23, 2021 Meeting Notes

The February 23, 2021 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Usable Groundwater in Storage for the San Bernardino, Rialto-Colton, Riverside, and Arlington Groundwater Basins – Summary Report Presentation

Bob Tincher, of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), provided a PowerPoint presentation called *Usable Groundwater in Storage Estimation for the San Bernardino, Rialto-Colton, Riverside, and Arlington Groundwater Basins*. A study was recently completed to evaluate the groundwater basins in the San Bernardino, Rialto-Colton, Riverside and Arlington areas. The main goal was to confirm the actual amount of water being stored by these basins. Data was collected and used, starting in 1934, to evaluate the relative uses of the water that is stored and can be used throughout the watershed. Until today, all evaluations of the basins have been relative to when we started back in 1934. The basins were listed with the following amounts of storage and current water volume:

- San Bernardino Basin
 - Usable Storage: 5,690,000 acre-feet
 - Current Volume: 4,867,998 acre-feet
- Rialto-Colton Basin
 - Usable Storage: 1,749,000 acre-feet
 - Current Volume: 1,528,121 acre feet

- Riverside Basin
 - Usable Storage: 810,000 acre-feet
 - Current Volume: 722,000 acre feet
- Arlington Basin
 - Usable Storage: 95,000 acre-feet
 - Current Volume: 56,000 acre feet

This evaluation gives value to decision makers in water management allowing more accurate and efficient groundwater processing and responses. Modeling and analyses data assisted in determining groundwater storage levels, identifying the impacts made during dry and wet years, estimating the amount of groundwater that is currently accessible, and estimate the number of years of groundwater in storage. After these scenarios and analyses were reviewed with the Task Force, Bob Tincher, of SBVMWD, presented management zone concepts about how to respond to various levels of the groundwater in the basins. Creating a basic action plan in response groundwater levels, allows for long term sustainability no matter what the future climate holds for the watershed.

Draft Basin Plan Amendment Update

Cindy Li, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), gave an oral status update on the Basin Plan Amendment process. Upper management of the RWQCB is almost finished with reviewing the amendment. Once the Basin Plan Amendment has been reviewed, the document will be formatted to comply ADA requirements in preparation for the public notice and review. The Basin Plan Amendment is tentatively scheduled for the June 11, 2021 RWQCB Board meeting, where Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP will present the updates made in the Basin Plan Amendment for board approval.

Feb. 9th Consultant Technical Workshop Feedback – KSC

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, gave an oral report on the product of the Technical Consultant Workshop hosted on February 9th, 2021. Based on the recommendations and ideas presented at the workshop, she was able to provide an early draft RFP that addresses the needs of the Task Force and previously discussed planning priorities to meet requirements of the Basin Plan, the 2019 Recycled Water Policy, and ever-changing water quality regulations. The Request for Proposal will focus on the following tasks:

- Prepare Updated Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program for TDS and Nitrogen for Reaches 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Santa Ana River
- Prepare Updated Groundwater Monitoring Program for TDS and Nitrogen to be compliant with proposed Basin Plan Amendments and 2019 Recycled Water Policy
- Evaluate and Update Previous Data Analyses that Investigate and Characterize Cause(s) of TDS Exceedances for Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River

The Scoping Committee members reviewed the first version of the draft RFP and were asked to submit comments and feedback, due to Tess Dunham by Tuesday, March 16th. The next draft will be reviewed at the next Scoping Committee Meeting on March 29th, with the anticipated final draft of the RFP being presented to the Task Force for approval at the April Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting. Once approved by the Task Force, the RFP will be posted for responses. Consultant selections/recommendations need to be made and presented to the SAWPA Commission for awarding before the end of June 2021.

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, April 12th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

The next Scoping Committee meeting is March 29th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.