

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

May 24, 2021

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson *
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Marissa Flores-Acosta*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory Gandara*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Hannah Erbele *
GEI Consultants, Richard Meyerhoff*
Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
LeClaire & Associates, Joseph LeClaire*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Bruce Whitaker*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Kelly E. Rowe*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, T. Milford Harrison*

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Rick Whetsel*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Haley Mullay*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li*
West Yost, 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 10:02 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of April 12, 2021 Meeting Notes

The April 12, 2021 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Draft Annual Santa Ana River Water Quality Report – SAWPA

Rick Whetsel, of SAWPA, gave update on the status of the Annual Santa River Water Quality Report. All data has been incorporated and the report has been sent over to Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, for review before finalization and submission to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Draft Basin Plan Amendment Update – KSC/Regional Board Staff

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, gave a PowerPoint presentation update on the Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) process. Hope Smythe, Jayne Joy and Cindy Li, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, and Mark Norton, of SAWPA, all met last week to discuss the upcoming Basin Plan Amendment. Suggestions were provided by the Regional Board staff to re-organize the language in the Basin Plan Amendment and the Staff Report. Proposed revisions that were presented to the Task Force to primary text (p. 5-12 through 5-27) include:

- Various clarifying edits
- Removing mineral increment clarification
- Removing GMZ specific discussion to Staff Report
- Expanding GMZ specific discussions for Colton, Riverside A, and Orange County to explain regional board authority for approving renewed permits based on WLAM Predictive Scenario Results
- Removing East Valley Water District – SNRC from Table 5-5

Proposed revisions that were presented to the Task Force for the secondary text (p. 5-37 through 5-42) include:

- Revising due date for Surface Water monitoring program update to August 2022
- Revising groundwater monitoring program requirement language to include additional flexibility
- Revising groundwater monitoring program update as follows:
 - Approach for determining ambient groundwater quality by October 2023
 - Next ambient groundwater quality update by October 2025
 - Frequency of update, minimum of every 5 years

Cindy Li, of RWQCB, mentioned that the proposed change of frequency of the Ambient Water Quality updates may impact permittees, as some have requirements built into their permits on how often these analyses take place. It was requested that stakeholders that hold discharge permits review their discharge permits to let Tess, Cindy and Mark know if their discharge permit dictates triennial ambient water quality monitoring work be conducted. The stakeholders/permittees should get this information to them via email by Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

It is anticipated that the draft BPA will be distributed to the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force for review and comment by May 28, 2021. It is requested that comments and feedback on the revised BPA are provided to Tess Dunham and Mark Norton by June 4, 2021. The Basin Plan Amendment is still hoped to be on the agenda for the August 2021 RWQCB meeting, but will depend on when the BPA is posted for public review and comment.

Review and Approve BMP TF Consultant Review Team Recommendation for Consultant to Conduct Planning Priorities & Implementation Work for FY 21 - 22 – SAWPA/Consultant Review Team

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, reviewed the responses received for the Request for Proposals there were received by the deadline on May 13, 2021. The two consultant proposals that were received Water Systems Consulting, Inc. (including LeClaire & Associates, GEI Consultants and Geosciences) and West Yost. Both proposals were submitted to the Task Force prior to the meeting for review. Interviews with each of the consultant teams were conducted on May 19, with an interview panel consisting of Mark Norton of SAWPA, Kevin O'Toole of OCWD, Jennifer Shepardson of SBMWD/RIX, Joshua Aguilar of IEUA, Al Javier of EMWD. Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares and Conway, LLP, was present for advisory purposes. After a thorough review and discussion of the two proposals, the panel recommended West Yost to the Task Force. There are some negotiations currently taking place to revise the budget and make adjustments where available. There were no questions from the Task Force. This recommendation will be made to the SAWPA Commission at their June 15, 2021 meeting.

MOVED, to approve the recommendation of consultant, West Yost, to the SAWPA Commission to be awarded the contract for the Request for Proposals for Consulting Services to Assist the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Implement 2021-2022 Planning Priorities, contingent on successful negotiations on costs.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: J. Shepardson/E. Tellez Foster

Schedule Future Meetings

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting, which will be conducted virtually due to COVID-19, has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 29th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.