

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

June 29, 2021

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Beaumont, Thaxton VanBelle*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog*
City of Riverside, Robert Eland*
Eastern Municipal WD, Al Javier*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eddie Lin*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar*
Jurupa Community Services District, Aaron Anderson*
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson *
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory Gandara*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson*
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Madeline Blua*
*Participated via conference call

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Hannah Erbele*
Geoscience Support Services, Lauren Wicks*
Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
LeClaire & Associates, Joseph LeClaire*
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*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person*
West Yost, Samantha Adams*

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

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

Irvine Ranch Water 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 10:01 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of May 24, 2021 Meeting Notes

The May 24, 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. Preliminary draft distributed to the Task Force for review and comment. Any feedback or comments are due back to Rick Whetsel, at rwhetsel@sawpa.org, by close of business on July 13, 2021.

According to current Basin Plan, the annual report is due to the RWQCB by August 5th, (to be updated to August 1st with proposed BPA). Once comments and data are compiled and addressed, the report will be finalized and sent to the Regional Board.

303d Listing Discussion – KSC/SAWPA

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, gave an oral report on the status of the upcoming 303d listings. Data for Region 8 were submitted in October of 2020 and are currently being processed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It's unlikely that a draft report would be available for Region 8 until late in 2022. The 303d listings posted on the SWRCB website pertain to other regions at this time.

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. The following revisions are being discussed in hopes to propose a solution to further along the amendment in the approval process:

- Revising the due date of the Surface Water monitoring program update to August 2022
- Revising the groundwater monitoring program requirement language to include additional flexibility
- Revising the groundwater monitoring program update in regard to approach by August 2022 and completing the next Ambient Water Quality (AWQ) update by October 2023, while also updating the frequency of completing the AWQ on the five-year cycles.

One of the main concerns in moving forward with the Basin Plan Amendment are the revisions concerning the Triennial Ambient Water Quality reports. Unfortunately, the requirement of the monitoring and reporting occurring on the three-year cycles has been written into maximum benefit programs and permits for various permittees throughout the basin.

The updated groundwater monitoring program language (in a Word document showing tracked changes) was distributed via email to the Task Force prior to the meeting. Due to the updated revisions, Tess Dunham asked that the stakeholders provide and comments, questions, or feedback on the changes **to Tess Dunham via email by July 13, 2021.**

Another issue to address is the exceedance of Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) objective provided by Waste Load Allocation Model (WLAM) predictive results for the Colton Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ). Since the Sterling Natural Resource Center's predicted discharge was removed from the scenario, as it is planned that it will no longer be discharging into City Creek, Yucaipa Valley Water District's discharge levels will need to be re-evaluated through the WLAM to assist in avoiding that exceedance at Colton. Geoscience provided a proposal for the supplemental report to help support those changes. Geoscience has approximated that the supplemental report would take about six to eight weeks to prepare. On that timeline, the first possible opportunity of presenting the BPA to the Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting would be in the October timeframe.

Consider Approval of Additional WLAM Modeling Runs for BPA – Geoscience/KSC

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced Lauren Wicks of Geoscience to review the quote and scope of work for the supplemental runs of the WLAM. The scope of work and quote was distributed to the Task Force from Geoscience for the additional work that is needed for the BPA revisions as needed. The runs will focus on three Groundwater Management Zones (Colton, San Timoteo and Bunker Hill-B) that will be affected by the changes in Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) discharge and the removal of the Sterling Natural Reserve Center discharge. There will be iterative runs of the WLAM based on various proposed objective levels to determine what the TIN levels for YVWD would need to be to avoid an exceedance of the TIN level. The findings determined from the additional work by Geoscience will be updated in a supplemental WLAM summary report, text, figures, tables and appendices.

MOVED, to approve new a Task Order with Geoscience for running the Waste Load Allocation Model to support additional work needed for the Basin Plan Amendment revisions, prior to approval for Regional Water Quality Control Board, assuming the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget that was proposed.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: G. Woodside/A. Javier

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, August 24th, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. West Yost to do introductory workshop on the planning priorities.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.