

MSAR TMDL/Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Meeting Notes

June 21, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

Kimberly Colbert
Nisha Wells
Cordell Chavez
Kris Hanson
Julie Carver
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Bobby Gustafson
Lynn Merrill
Nicole deMoet
Julian Chang
Pat Boldt
Rachael Johnson
Chris Crompton
James Fortuna
Michael Mori
Abigail Suter
Amy McNeill
Richard Boon
Rebekah Guill
Arlene Chun
Cynthia Gabaldon
Amanda Grey
Ana Quintos
Gary Bosgraaf
Lauma Willis
Barbara Barry
Pamela Ybarra
SueAnn Neal
Tess Dunham
Menu Leddy
Steven Wolosoff
Paul Caswell
Constantine Karos
Richard Meyerhoff
Ryan Kearns
Haley Mullay
Bruce Whitaker
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTING

The Colbert Group for the City of Claremont
City of Chino Hills
City of Corona
City of Eastvale
City of Pomona
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Rialto
City of Upland
City of Upland
Milk Producer's Council
Riverside County Farm Bureau
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
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
UC Riverside
UC Riverside
UC Riverside
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
SAWPA
SAWPA
SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

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

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP asked for any comments on the April 19, 2021, MSAR TMDL meeting notes.

Kris Hanson City of Eastvale requested to be added to the April 19th meeting attendees. Rick Whetsel will make the appropriate revisions and with no further comments the meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting Items:

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

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith presented to the Task Force on several issues relating to the Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring.

This included discussion on the QA/QC Sampling and recommended changes to the Monitoring Plan and QAPP.

Abigail Suter noted to Steve that the number of QA/QC samples collected for the monitoring program appeared to be quite high. It was suggested that CDM Smith revise the language in the QAPP regarding the collection of QA samples to be in line with the recommendations by SWAMP, which recommends QA samples collected at 5% of the total samples annually.

Barbara Barry /SARWQCB agreed that QA sampling consistent with the SWAMP guidelines would be acceptable to Regional Board staff.

Barbara Barry stated that the change to the QAPP would require a formal letter to Regional Board to sign off on the change in procedure. The Task force was in agreement.

Steve continued through the list of recommended changes to the monitoring plan and QAPP

- Incorporate new priority 3 waterbody monitoring sites (San Timoteo Creek, Warm Creek)
- Move Lake Elsinore sampling location to Elm Grove Beach
- Extend monitoring for Serrano Creek (priority 3 water) to assess potential improvements from changing watershed land uses
- Update key players since August 2019
- Update language to address the use of a dashboard to replace quarterly reporting.

Barbara Barry requested that CDM Smith review the process for conducting the source evaluation to identify if improvements could be made. Steve suggested that we review the process at a future meeting.

It was discussed that the review requested by Regional Board staff would not impede the process to address the recommended changes to the monitoring plan and QAPP.

Tess asked if there were any additional comments or concerns regarding the recommended changes to the monitoring plan and QAPP. Hearing none, CDM Smith was directed to prepare a letter to Regional Board formally requesting their approval of the complete list of recommended changes.

Steve then discussed the topic of coliphage water quality criteria development, which is something EPA is working on as an alternative to E. coli and Enterococci.

Steve stated that a coliphage is basically a virus to a bacteria and an indicator of human bacteria. There are some factors about coliphages that make them a better indicator than the actual human bacteria indicator. It is now getting a lot of attention from EPA.

Barbara Barry asked if the signal for a viable coliphage is the same as one destroyed through the wastewater treatment process? Menu Leddy responded that the signals can be differentiated but it depends on the testing method used.

Steve then stated that EPA is expected to publish draft coliphage criteria for peer review in 2021.

Abigail Suter asked if EPA method 1602 was still the current method being used to test for coliphage? Menu Leddy responded that research laboratories not commercial laboratories have modified the EPA method 1602 and that there is a commercial kit available for rapid male specific testing.

Tess added that even if EPA were to adopt the coliphage criteria, we would still need for the State to amend the bacteria standard in the Basin Plan to consider that criteria. However, it could be potentially used as a TMDL target. Barbara concurred.

A copy of CDM Smith's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/062121_CDMSmith_RMPUpdate.pdf

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

Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith introduced Constantine Karos of CDM Smith to provide the Task Force a brief demonstration of the draft RWQM Dashboard.

This dashboard is intended to replace the static electronic quarterly reports with an on-line dashboard incorporating an interactive graphical user interface, with complex plots and maps to support analyses of data. This on-line dashboard will provide for a robust data-driven analyses of Santa Ana River regional bacteria data to report on conditions and compliance for key stakeholders in an on-line platform readily accessible to key stakeholders and Regional Board. It will improve upon the previous tabular reports by providing access to historical data to contextualize the current data, as well as facilitate the comparison of data across sites and reporting periods.

Abigail Suter /RCFC&WCD requested that the data be reviewable by quarter. Constantine noted that that is a possibility and will investigate making that revision.

CDM Smith is currently working to update the dashboard, based upon comments from stakeholders and is scheduled to share the updated dashboard with stakeholders on Tuesday, July 13th.

A link to the live dashboard will be available to stakeholders soon.

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

Richard Meyerhoff /GEI Consultants informed the Task Force that in response to the RFP issued by SAWPA, GEI Consultants was selected to conduct the Santa Ana River Homelessness Water Quality Monitoring Program. This work will focus on three areas: Van Buren Blvd, Mission Ave., and Market St. This effort will be coordinated through the RWQM TF and will include additional coordination with efforts being conducted by the City of Riverside and their partners in the SAR River Channel.

Work is to begin shortly with a kick-off meeting with the project partners.

6. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Haley Mullay /SAWPA informed stakeholders that SAWPA will be sending out invoices for FY2021-22 in mid-July. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel with any questions.

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

7. Update: AB377 Rivas Bill (Tess Dunham / Kahn, Soares & Conway)

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP informed stakeholders that AB377 did not make it through the appropriations committee, so it is basically done for this year. However, as it is a two-year bill, it may be brought back next year or reintroduced in a different format.

Currently, AB377 is officially on hold.

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

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP informed stakeholders she has been working with Steven Wolosoff and Richard Meyerhoff on next steps with respect to revisions to the MSAR TMDLs.

She and the team plan to bring some ideas forward to our next meeting in August and present some options with respect to the TMDL criteria and allocations, considering that we are approaching the 2025 wet weather TMDL deadline and what may be happening with the regional stormwater permits.

Lauma Willis /SARWQCB informed the task force that Regional Board staff is continuing discussions with EPA staff, but do not yet set a date for the public workshops on the draft regional MS4 permit.

Barbara Barry informed the Task Force that Regional Board is still in the process of hiring staff to assist with the TMDLs. Currently, Pamela Ybarra will be assisting Barbara with the Task Force efforts.

Tess asked about the timing of the Integrated Report. Barbara responded that Regional Board staff is assisting the SWRCB with data analysis, developing lines of evidence and decision making. The SWRCB will be sending out public notices for workshops starting in the summer of 2022. Barbara does not believe the Hearing will be until 2023.

9. Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

Richard Boon /RCFC&WCD informed the task force there is political interest in relocating the homeless population from the mainstem of the Santa Ana River. There is now the second district homeless solutions collaborative, which is personally being led by county supervisor Karen Spiegel. It meets quarterly and has established a series of highly effective working groups including active participation by elected officials and Executive management from each of the cities along the course of the Santa Ana River in in Riverside County.

Amy McNeill /RCFC&WCD reported on the Phoenix Avenue storm drain diversion project. All the structural components have been constructed. Currently, we are waiting on the electronic SCADA equipment, so that we can get the facility online and functioning.

b) SBCFCD

Arlene Chun /SBCFCD informed the Task Force that the district is still waiting to implement the modifications to Chris Basin. This effort is currently on hold, due to the continued presence of more nesting birds, who have taken up residence in the middle of the basin.

The district is currently looking to gear up to conduct another 10-week study in Cucamonga channel.

c) Orange County

No updates to report.

d) Pomona

No updates to report.

e) City of Claremont

Kimberly Colbert representing the City of Claremont reported the city is focused on the new Regional MS4 permit and revising the City's Watershed Management Plan. She stated that this Watershed Management Plan is focused on bacteria as the limiting pollutant, so by doing this the city will also be addressing their portion of the MSAR TMDLs.

f) Agricultural Operators

Pat Boldt /Milk Producer's Council reminded SAWPA the need to quickly get out the invoice for the Chino Basin Ag / Dairy contribution.

10. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Haley Mulla /SAWPA informed stakeholders that SAWPA will be sending out invoices for FY 2021-22 in mid-July. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel with any questions.

11. Other Business

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP informed the Task Force that she and Steven Wolosoff have been working to update the MSAR TMDL Report Card. The goal is to get an updated Report Card to the Regional Board by the end of the week.

12. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be a Joint RWQM and MSAR TMDL Task Force scheduled for August 23 at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.