

MSAR TMDL/Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Meeting Notes

August 23, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

Nisha Wells
Cordell Chavez
Julie Carver
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Nicole deMoet
Julian Chang
Pat Boldt
Rachael Johnson
Chris Crompton
James Fortuna
Michael Mori
Sarah Chiang
Andrea Macias
Amy McNeill
Richard Boon
Arlene Chun
Cynthia Gabaldon
Amanda Grey
Ana Quintos
Jayne Joy
Barbara Barry
Pamela Ybarra
SueAnn Neal
Tess Dunham
Menu Leddy
Raymond Hiemstra
Steven Wolosoff
Paul Caswell
Constantine Karos
Richard Meyerhoff
Ryan Kearns
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel
T. Milford Harrison
Mike Gardner

REPRESENTING

City of Chino Hills
City of Corona
City of Pomona
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Upland
City of Upland
Milk Producer's Council
Riverside County Farm Bureau
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
OC Public Works
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
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
Inland Empire WaterKeeper
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
GEI Consultants
CWE
SAWPA
SAWPA
SAWPA
SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA asked for any comments on the June 21, 2021, MSAR TMDL meeting notes. There were no comments, and 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)

Paul Caswell /CDM Smith presented an update on the Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring.

This included an update on the 2021 monitoring and recommended changes and additions to the Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program monitoring locations.

A copy of CDM Smith's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/082321_CDMSmith_RMPUpdate-1.pdf.

4. Update: Water Quality Monitoring Dashboard (Constantine Karos & Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith)

Constantine Karos/CDM Smith provided an update on the draft RWQM Dashboard.

Currently, CDM Smith is working to address stakeholder comments and waiting on feedback from Regional Board staff.

Once the dashboard is approved by stakeholders and Regional Board staff the plan is to host it on the SAWPA RWQM TF webpage and to make it available to the general public.

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

Richard Meyerhoff /GEI Consultants introduced Ryan Kearns /CWE to present an overview and status update on the Santa Ana River Watershed Homelessness Water Quality Monitoring Program.

The next steps for the one-year monitoring program include:

- Conduct Second Preliminary Field Visit scheduled for August 26t, 2021
- Conduct First Dry Weather Event in September (~September 16)

A copy of GEI / CWE presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/21-08-19-SAWPA-Homelessness-MSAR-TMDL-TF-Presentation.pdf>.

6. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reminded stakeholders that SAWPA sent out invoices for FY2021-22 in mid-July. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel with any questions.

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

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

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP presented an update on the effort to revise the TMDLs. This included discussion on the Santa Ana Regional Board staffing limitations and a recap of the compliance requirements for the current MSAR TMDL.

Tess informed the Task Force that Barbara Barry will soon be going on leave and that Pamela Ybarra will be filling in for Barbara while she is out. She then reminded the Task Force of the likelihood that any revisions to the MSAR TMDLs are several years out (possibly 2023), due to other higher Regional Board priorities and limited staff resources.

Tess then stated that she thought it important that we keep in mind the timeframe for wet weather compliance, which is coming up in 2025, as well as that the Regional Board is currently in the process of updating the MS4 permits into a regional permit.

With that, Tess wanted to start brainstorming with stakeholders to discuss various activities to assist the Task Force in achieving compliance with the wet weather TMDLs. She then introduced Steven Wolosoff /CDM Smith to present wet weather TMDL alternatives.

Steve presented 5 wet weather TMDL alternatives for discussion with the Task Force. These included investigations into the following:

- High flow suspension with a study to characterize channel hydraulics.
- Existing BMPs to quantify the loads removed.
- Special study to characterize loads of human markers at MS4 outfalls during wet weather (focus on smaller storms that do not trigger HFS).
- In-stream non-MS4 source reduction by collecting wet weather data to quantify non-MS4 loads to level that would serve as basis for a potential offset program.
- Analysis to identify locations for multi-benefit stormwater capture / groundwater recharge BMPs.

Copies of the slides presented by Tess and Steve are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials:

- https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/MSAR-August_23_2021-Task-Force-Meeting.pdf.
- <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/August-2021-MSAR-TF-meeting.pdf>

Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

Amy McNeill /RCFC&WCD informed the Task Force that the District is currently conducting flow measurement monitoring for Kansas Basin, a flow-by basin, to investigate the opportunity to redesign the intake to capture dry weather flow into the Basin. Additionally, the District is currently discussing with EMWD the opportunity for additional wet-weather recharge in the basin.

The District is conducting outreach with Sunny Slope High School to increase awareness regarding the trash in the adjacent Sunny Slope channel. This outreach is being conducted in relation to a pilot project employing structural full capture devices to collect trash from the channel. Outreach will be kicked off with an event at a nearby nature center located downstream near some critical Santa Ana Sucker habitat.

Amy reported that the Phoenix Avenue storm drain diversion project is complete and requested the opportunity to share information to showcase the project to Regional Board. She suggested preparing a 1-page handout to share with Regional Board and if possible, the opportunity to provide a short presentation.

Jayne Joy /Regional Board requested that Amy send her a copy of the 1-page handout and after having the opportunity to take a look at it, she will see what makes sense moving forward, whether that is to include it with the executive officer's report or invite the District to provide a presentation to the Board.

Amy also informed the Task force of an EPA webinar scheduled for September 7th on how to quantify benefits of stormwater capture and reuse. She will send the announcement to Rick Whetsel to share with the Task Force.

Richard Boon /RCFC&WCD reminded the Task Force of the second district homeless solutions collaborative led by County Supervisor Karen Spiegel. A component of the collaborative is a direct homeless intervention working group, which holds regular meetings. At last week's meeting of the working group, Karen Roper, the homeless solutions manager for the City of Corona and co-leader of the working group reported that they effected four large scale river bottom outreach initiatives and engaged with 49 individuals, which they refer to as clients.

Richard stated that although it is recognized that the homeless population is in the hundreds, it appears that this effort is making a real impact on the homeless in the riverbed. To date 33 individuals have been formally assessed, with 14 placed in emergency housing and 13 in a rapid rehousing program.

Richard pointed out one of the real challenges in dealing with the homeless is that many of these individuals do not consider themselves as homeless.

Richard also noted two infrastructure projects that could be very impactful on the management of the homeless in the riverbed. The district is working with the USACE on a major levy rehabilitation project that will require the relocation of the homeless in the vicinity. This project could break ground as early as March or April next year. The gas company has a pipeline project at Van Buren Boulevard taking an overhead gas pipeline and putting it under the riverbed. This will require the use of a large crane and the insurance for the crane requires that there can be no residents within a half mile radius of the crane. This will require the Gas Company to relocate any homeless from the river bottom in the vicinity.

b) SBCFCD

Arlene Chun /SBCFCD informed the Task Force that the district has started another 10-week study in Cucamonga channel. It is expected to be completed by the end of September.

The District is considering a 6-week study in San Antonio Creek. A question was raised if 5 samples should be collected. Barbara noted that to be comparable to the State's bacteria objective a 5-sample geomean would be required.

Lastly, the District is still waiting to implement the modifications to Chris Basin. This effort is still on hold, due to the continued presence of more nesting birds, who have taken up residence in the middle of the basin.

c) Orange County

No updates to report.

d) Pomona

No updates to report.

e) City of Claremont

No updates to report.

f) Agricultural Operators

No updates to report.

8. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reminded stakeholders that SAWPA sent out invoices for FY2021-22 in mid-July. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel with any questions.

9. Other Business

No Other Business was discussed

10. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be a MSAR TMDL Task Force only meeting scheduled for September 21st at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.