

MSAR TMDL Task Force

Meeting Notes

September 21, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

Nisha Wells, City of Chino Hills
Cordell Chavez, City of Corona
Mike Roberts, City of Riverside
Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Group
Menu Leddy, EEES
Raymond Hiemstra, Inland Empire WaterKeeper
Pat Boldt, Milk Producer's Council
Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau
Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Andrea Macias, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Amy McNeill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

Arlene Chun, San Bernardino Areawide Program
Cynthia Gabaldon, San Bernardino County
Amanda Grey, UC Riverside
Barbara Barry, RWQCB
Kaitlin Diaz, RWQCB
Pamela Ybarra, RWQCB
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith
Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Mark Norton, SAWPA
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 1:32 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 August 23, 2021, MSAR TMDL meeting notes.

Barbara Barry requested that following changes be made:

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

3. Presentation: Phoenix Avenue Storm Drain Diversion Project (RCFC&WCD and City of Riverside)

Amy McNeill and Mike Roberts/City of Riverside presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Phoenix Avenue Storm Drain Diversion to Sewer Project (Project). The Project is now complete. This is the first storm drain diversion to sewer in Riverside County. The system has been online and for the first five days it removed 6,300 gallons of bacteria-laden dry weather runoff to be treated. Discussion ensued on details of the project.

There is a desire to do more storm drain diversion projects, although there are many of factors to consider and the city is still learning from the Project. Sewer capacity is a major factor and may add costs.

A copy of City of Riverside's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Agenda-Item-3.-Phoenix-Ave-Storm-Drain-Diversion-Project.pdf>.

4. Discussion: Next Steps MSAR TMDLs (Tess Dunham/KSC)

Tess Dunham/KSC provided a PowerPoint presentation on the next steps for the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force.

At the previous Task Force meeting, Dunham and CDM Smith were directed to provide additional information on potential studies that may assist Task Force members in reaching compliance with wet weather TMDLs. In response to the previous direction, additional information and discussion occurred on four identified studies.

1. Determine Flow Rates in Impaired Water that Result in High Flow Suspension

a. Purpose

- i. Develop scientific basis for determining size of rain event that would be subject to the wet weather TMDL, versus times when a high flow suspension applies.

2. Quantify Changes in Bacteria Loads Reaching Impaired Waters Since 2005 TMDL Development

a. Purpose

- i. Quantify the bacteria load reduction already achieved through existing stormwater facilities and other changes in facilities as compared to bacteria loads estimate during 2005 TMDL development.

3. Potential to Develop Bacteria Offset Program Related to Clean-up of Homeless Encampments

a. Purpose:

- i. Develop study design for collection of wet weather data to estimate *E. coli* loads attributable to homeless encampments in the MSAR TMDL waters.

4. Characterization of Bacteria Human Marker Loads at MS4 Outfalls

a. Purpose:

- i. Design a study approach to estimate the signal of human associated fecal bacteria and other tracers during wet weather event

Overall, the Task Force discussed the four studies and how they interrelated to each other, pending revisions to the MS4 permits, and the Regional Monitoring Program. Task Force members questioned how useful the studies would be in complying with the wet weather TMDL and future MS4 permit requirements. Barbara Berry/Regional Board responded by stating that it is worth exploring and that it would be good for permit writers to be present to for future discussions on how the information might be used to support offsets. Based on preliminary cost estimates (that did not include monitoring and sampling costs), it was noted that the Task Force likely has available funds to complete Tasks 1, 3, and 4. A memo and budget will be presented to the Task Force in October for further Task Force consideration and approval.

A copy of Tess/KSC presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Agenda-Item-4.-Next-Steps-MSAR-TMDLs.pdf>.

5. Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

- a. The agency is working with Rubidoux High School to implement the *Take Out the Trash* Program fall of this year. Litter from Rubidoux High School students end up at Sunnyslope Creek. RCFC&WCD is working with their assistant principal to bring awareness of this impact on Sunnyslope Creek.

b) SBCFCD

- a. Arlene Chun/SBCFCD stated that we are outside nesting season. Operations are preparing for the upcoming rains.

c) Orange County

- a. No updates to report.

d) Pomona

- a. No updates to report.

- e) *City of Claremont*
 - a. The city is currently working on updating their stormwater ordinances in compliance with the newly adopted Regional MS4 permit.
- f) *Agricultural Operators*
 - a. No updates to report.

6. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Reminder: Task Force invoices for FY 2021-22 were sent out mid-July. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel if you have any questions. The draft budget for FY 2022-23 will be prepared for distribution in November.

7. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be a MSAR TMDL Task Force only meeting and is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19 at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.