

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

August 2, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Babcock Labs , Cathy Iijima*	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California , Ai Jia*
City of Beaumont , Thaxton Van Belle*	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California , Carrie Guo*
City of Corona DWP , Jennifer McMullin*	OCSD , Matt Smith*
City of Corona DWP , Korina R.*	OCWD , Crystal Nettles*
City of Rialto , Thomas Crowley*	OCWD , Jason Dadakis*
City of Riverside , Bobby Gustafson*	OCWD , Lily Sanchez*
City of Riverside , Greg Herzog*	OCWD , Patrick Versluis*
City of Riverside , Robert Eland*	RWQCB , Cindy Li*
Division of Drinking Water , Faraz Asad*	RWQCB , Jayne Joy*
EVMWD , Lenai Hunter*	SAWPA , Bruce Whitaker*
EVMWD , Mike Ali*	SAWPA , T. Milford Harrison*
EVMWD , Sudhir Mohleji*	SAWPA , Mark Norton*
EMWD , Al Javier*	SAWPA , Rick Whetsel*
EMWD , Doug Edwards*	SAWPA , Haley Mullay*
Eurofins , Rick Zimmer*	SAWPA , Ana Quintos*
IEUA , Bonita Fan*	SBMWD/RIX , Jennifer Shephardson*
IEUA , Richard Lao*	SBVMWD , Matt Howard*
Irvine Ranch Water District , Jim Colston*	SCCWRP , Alvina Mehinto
JCS D , Marce Billings*	WMWD , Anthony Budicin*
JPW Communications , Annie Pierce*	Yorba Linda Water District , Roseanne Weston*
JPW Communications , Julia Woods*	Yucaipa Valley Water District , Ashley Gibson*
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP , Theresa (Tess) Dunham*	*Participation via conference call

Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of May 3, 2021 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

SWRCB CEC Aquatic Ecosystems Panel Status Report – SCCWRP

Alvina Mehinto, of SCCWRP, provided an update on the Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Aquatic Ecosystems Panel and their work. The panel is reviewing all submitted data regarding concerning emerging constituents and its effects on aquatic ecosystems and will provide a recommendation in the draft report. The State Water Board granted a 6-month extension on the report due to COVID-19, with an approximate completion date of May 2022. The report will be circulated for review and comment before finalization.

Timing and Scale of SAWPA Compilation Watershed POTW PFAS Monitoring Data– SAWPA

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, gave a verbal update on the potential need or desire to complete an additional regional sampling/monitoring report reflecting data collected to assist in looking at the prevalence of PFAS in the watershed, via the Santa Ana River. Tess Dunham, of KSC, reminded the group that if the the POTW PFAS data collection didn't begin in the last quarter of 2021 (those that were granted the one quarter extension) the four quarters of data would be completed at the end of 2021. Any agency that received the one quarter extension should be completed with the data compilation in early 2022. There was an extension letter from State Water Board that contains the list of agencies that had the extension granted to them for loading PFAS monitoring results into Geotracker. It will be referenced to get an idea of when the region would be able to get data collected and compiled.

Overview of Regional Board PFAS Source Investigations – Regional Board

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced Cindy Li, of Regional Water Quality Control Board, to provide the updates on the PFAS Source Investigations.

a. Temescal Creek/Corona Area

From the three specific sites discussed at the last meeting (El Sobrante Landfill, All American Asphalt and 3M sites), there have been additional sampling requests for data from the areas that should provide results before the end of this year.

b. Next steps for airports, landfills, chrome platers investigations in watershed

Active and closed landfills have had source investigations completed (except for the El Sobrante Landfill). The State Water Board will be compiling and analyzing the data to provide a recommendation based on the results. The airports were also a one-time only sampling with some airports still pending those results. Some hot spots worth noting were military bases -- March Air Force Base, Tustin, El Toro, and Los Alamitos to mention a few. Data has been uploaded to GeoTracker as well, the Regional Board can assist with retrieving the data from GeoTracker, if needed.

Regulatory Report and Updates – KSC

Tess Dunham, of KSC, introduced Cindy Li, of Regional Water Quality Control Board, to provide the updates on the PFAS Source Investigations.

a. Any Future Release of Draft PHGs for PFOA and PFOS by OEHHA

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Association released draft Public Health Goals (PHGs) for PFOS and PFOA on July 30, 2021. Comment period on the draft will run through September 28, 2021 and they will be conducting a workshop that will allow for verbal comments to be submitted during that as well. The PHGs are very low compared to previous response and notification levels issued by the State Water Board.

Rick Zimmers, of Eurofins, provided insight on the technical aspect of laboratories and the likelihood of achieving a detection level as low as what is being put forth in the draft PHGs. There is new equipment that will be able to detect to that level, but he added that the issue will be keeping the samples as pure and free from other external PFOS/PFOA exposures throughout the process. They will be submitting comments on the draft reports and levels.

Once OEHHA receives public comments and external peer review comments, then the draft will be revised to address comments and put back out for an additional 30-day window for additional comments. Once this process has been completed, then the final document will be published, including all responses to the comments received. The State Water Board will use the final PHGs as basis to start process for setting Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (Primary MCLs).

b. Any Proposition 65 Developments

No new developments on Proposition 65 since the last EC Task Force meeting.

c. Any New Statewide Investigation Orders

The most recent investigative orders were for refineries and bulk oil distributors, in about mid-March of 2021.

EC Task Force Public Education and Outreach Program – SAWPA/JPW

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced Julia Woods, of JPW Communications, to review analytics and a report for the social media campaigns that they manage for the Your SoCal Tap Water blog and various social media sites. The analytics report will also be sent out to the group after the meeting. The website and posts continue to increase traffic on many posts as well as through the many pages of the individual posts. A request from Julia was to have the agencies continue to share links to the social media landing pages to continue promotion and engagement by new and active followers.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force is scheduled for Monday, November 1st, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.