

Joint Regional Water Quality Monitoring/MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting Notes

February 17, 2022

PARTICIPANTS

Unavailable. Contact zramirez@sawpa.org if you participated in this meeting and would like your name listed.

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

2. Approval of the October 19, 2021, MSAR Task Force Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

3. Update: Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program (Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith)

CDM Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation updating the Task Force on the 2021 Sampling Seasons, Cucamonga Creek, and the Monitoring Plan/QAPP. Several key changes were highlighted:

- Updated verbiage and references to reflect changes related to guidance documents and regulatory changes
- Adjustment of the sampling schedule for post-storm samples to 24-, 48-, and 72-hours following start of rain
- Updated figures to be consistent with those used in Annual report and include additional monitoring sites
- Updated location for P1-2 Lake Elsinore to reflect the change of site location from Boat launch to Elm Grove Beach
- Updated Priority 2 tables and figures to include MISSION (Noted as not a TMDL monitoring site in both documents)
- Updated Priority 3 tables and figures to include P3-SBC2, P3-SBC3, P3-SBC4, and P3-RC3
- Removed references to monthly sampling at P4-SBC1 in monitoring plan
- Included quarterly uploads to digital dashboard in both documents
- Updated Babcock and OCPHL SOPs in QAPP attachments
- Updated site descriptions to include P3-SBC2, P3-SBC3, P3-SBC4, and P3-RC3 in Monitoring Plan attachments
- New signature page – SAWPA will distribute for signatures.

A copy of CDM Smith's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Feb-2022-RBMP-Task-Force-CDM-Smith.pdf>.

4. Update: Santa Ana River Homelessness Water Quality Monitoring Program

Richard Meyerhoff of GEI Consultants updated the Task Force on the Homeless Encampment Phase 1A: Water Quality Monitoring and Trash Assessments Program. Currently, there have been four dry weather sampling events completed. The observations from the Trash Assessment were that most sites typically rated as marginal. The E. coli results showed higher concentrations below areas of homeless encampments. The HF183 human fecal marker was observed in some areas especially the Van Buren Bridge encampment area, but always at low levels. There were significant detections of the pig marker in November and January at the downstream Mission Blvd Bridge site and upstream/downstream of the Van Buren Bridge sites.

Next steps will be to finalize the QA/QC of all the data, prepare a draft study report for stakeholder review, and prepare a final report to be submitted no later than June 30, 2022.

A copy of Richard Meyerhoff's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Homeless-Study_MSAR-Task-force_021722.pdf.

5. RWQM Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel said the RWQM budget was approved. Invoices will be distributed in July.

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

Tess Dunham stated that the administrative permit draft for municipal stormwater systems has been released. Regional Board had a workshop on February 4 where Mark Norton of SAWPA provided a background on the TMDLs and the Task Force on behalf the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force. Regional Board is currently accepting written comments. There have been concerns about how the TMDL is incorporated in permit draft. There are potential ramifications on how the Task Force would work and continue forward, and how the Task Force would fit into what is currently being proposed. Ms. Dunham recommended that the Task Force provide comments that are tailored and specific to that concern. She suggested she write the draft letter of comment and provide to the Task Force for review no later than March. This way the comments go be submitted to Regional Board by the week of March 14.

SAWPA Commissioner Bruce Whitaker thanked Ms. Dunham and technical staff for their efforts.

7. Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

Amy McNeil informed the Task Force of the Santa Ana Regional Stormwater Resources Plan Call for Projects. An email was sent to the Task Force with more information and a project submittal form. The call for projects is currently open beginning February 16, 2022 through close of business day March 25, 2022.

b) SBCFCD

Arlene Chun reported that the Chris Basin has been rerouted to the north and western bank of the basin. If all goes well, sampling will commence this summer.

c) Orange County

Nothing to report.

d) Pomona & Claremont

Nothing to report.

e) Agricultural Operators

Nothing to report.

8. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel said the MSAR budget was approved in November. Invoices will be distributed in July.

9. Other Business

Tess Dunham provided a brief updated on Assembly Bill 377 and noted that the Coastkeeper has introduced three different bills this year ab 2106, 2108, and 2113. Ms. Dunham recommended that this topic be discussed at a future meeting.

Steve Wolosof requested the Task Force to look at resurrecting the special studies that were proposed last year and were put on hiatus due to the permit discussions.

10. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be only a MSAR TMDL Task Force scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.